Ongoing hydropower projects to help satisfy domestic electric power demand

**Article:** Thaung Khin Oo

Kengtawng Hydropower Plant in Langkho Township, Shan State, was inaugurated as a gesture of hailing the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day on 21 March 2009. Prime Minister General Thein Sein graced the ceremony with his presence and formally opened the facility. With three 18-megawatt turbines, the plant can generate 377 million kilowatt hours a year. Now, it has begun supplying electricity to the electric power network. (See page 7)
Train new generation youths well for the future of the nation

In the 21st century, the nations of the world, especially the developing nations, are making large investments in education to turn out highly-qualified human resources, realizing that they will be able to bring about their development and keep pace with other nations only through effective utilization of both natural and human resources.

Since 1988, the government has been making reforms in the higher education sector and has built an arts and science university or a college, a technological university and a university of computer studies in each of the 24 special development regions.

The government is spending a great deal of money on education in order that the youths of the Union will be able to pursue higher education in their own regions. Moreover, measures are being taken to enable the youths to specialize in many different branches of study and to raise their qualifications.

New generation youths should have a good knowledge of both Myanmar and world history and national politics because, as intellectuals and intelligentsia, they will have to play a major role in education, organization and leadership.

The education sector is an important foundation for bringing about national development and making people’s beliefs and convictions matured. The intellectuals and intelligentsia produced by the higher education sector will have to take the lead in various fields for the Union to be able to keep abreast of other nations.

Realizing that national education duties they are carrying out for the future nation are noble and great, teachers should train the new generation youths well so that they will be able to shoulder the responsibilities of the future nation most competently.

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Pennant-shaped vane, diamond orb hoisted atop Myo-Oo-Aung Pagoda in Kyaukpaduang

NAY PYI TAW, 14 May—A ceremony to hoist the diamond orb and pennant-shaped vane atop Myo-Oo-Aung Pagoda was held at the platform of the pagoda in Kyaukpaduang Township on 9 May.

Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung and wife, Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun and wife, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Aung Ko and wife, Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tun Ngwe, Brig Gen Myint Soe of local station and wife officials attended the ceremony.

They hoisted turrets of umbrella, pennant-shaped vane and diamond orb atop the pagoda. Well wishers and officials also hoisted pennant-shaped vanes and diamond orbs atop the encircling zedis.

Members of the Sangha consecrated the pagoda. Next, pigeons, sparrows and fish were released as saving lives. Later, meals were offered to the Sayadaws.

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List of scholarship winners announced

YANGON, 14 May—Tun Foundation Bank Ltd announced the list of students taking first year courses for 2008-2009 academic year at various universities, who have been awarded grants.

- Ma Zin Mar Bo of Yangon University of Medicine (1), Maung Aung Lin, Maung Zeyar Aung, Ma Khine Sandi Win and Ma Yi Cho Hnin of Yangon University of Medicine (2), Ma Nan Phyo Phyo Thant and Maung Myat Noe Oo of Mandalay University of Medicine, Ma Aye Kyi Phyu, Ma Phyo Thinayar Khin, Maung Aung Thihka, Ma Saw Eindra, Ma Ei Ei The and Maung Zaw Htet Aung of Magway University of Medicine, Maung Htin Lin Kyaw of Dental Medicine University (Yangon) and Maung Hnin Kyaw Toe of Dental Medicine University.

University of Economics, Ma Shwe Yi Win of Monywa University of Economics, Ma Hin Hnin Ei Win, Ma Yin Yin Aye and Ma Thwe Thwe Aung of Yangon Institute of Education and Ma Htet Htet Aye Myein and Maung Myo of Sagaing Institute of Education are awarded K 50,000 each per month.

University of Economics, Ma Shwe Yi Win of Monywa University of Economics, Ma Hin Hnin Ei Win, Ma Yin Yin Aye and Ma Thwe Thwe Aung of Yangon Institute of Education and Ma Htet Htet Aye Myein and Maung Myo of Sagaing Institute of Education are awarded K 50,000 each per month.

Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun share merits gained at diamond orb and pennant-shaped vane hoisting ceremony of Myo-Oo-Aung Pagoda.—MNA

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Old students of BEHS No. 1 (Hline), who studied from 1986 to 1994 academic year, held respect paying ceremony and get-together at Bayintnaung Hall of the school on 1 May. After paying respect to the teachers, Headmistress Daw Nwe Nwe delivered an address.—MNA
**Taleban step up attacks as weather gets warm in Afghanistan**

**KABUL, 14 May—** Taleban militants fighting Afghan and US-led forces based in Afghanistan have stepped up activities as they have carried out a series of suicide and roadside attacks since last weekend.

In the new wave of violence which targeted a US military base outside Khost City, capital of Khost Province in east Afghanistan, Wednesday morning, at least seven people were killed and 21 others injured. All the victims were civilians.

Taleban purported spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid who claimed sending over 30 suicide bombers to Khost province, in talks with media from unknown location said on Wednesday that a Taleban fighter Zukria carried out the bombing, inflicting huge casualties on the troops.

According to Taleban claim, Zukria rammed his explosive-packed car into the gate of US military base in Sahra Bagh area leaving over three dozen foreign and Afghan troop-ers dead, a claim rejected by troops as utterly groundless.

The bloody incident follows the multiple suicide attacks against government buildings in Khost City Tuesday killing nine people, including four policemen, and wounding some 30 others.

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**New threat for Iraqi military: Drop in oil prices**

**BAGHDAD, 14 May—** Lower oil prices are threatening Iraq’s efforts to build a military capable of defending the country, raising the possibility that the Iraqis will need substantial US help for years after the Americans leave by 2012.

The budget crunch not only affects ground forces but also the air force.

All that is forcing US and Iraqi planners to make tough choices during the countdown to the withdrawal of all American troops by the end of 2011. With the Obama administration shifting resources to Afghanistan, the US is not in a position to finance the Iraqi budget shortfall.

“Realistically, as we look out to 2011, this year’s budget will not keep them on track they need to be on,” said Army Lt Gen Frank Helmick, the American officer in charge of training the Iraqi security force.

These ministers in defence and interior are having to make very, very difficult decisions, having to prioritize their requirements.”

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**British soldier shot in Afghanistan dies in hospital**

**WASHINGTON, 14 May—** A soldier shot in Afghanistan died in the UK after being flown back for treatment, the Ministry of Defence said on Wednesday.

The officer with the 1st Battalion the Welsh Guards died in Birmingham’s Selly Oak hospital on Tuesday with his family by his bedside.

He was shot in Haji Halem, Helmand Province, on Saturday. Medics treated him on the ground and at a field hospital before he was flown back to the UK for specialist treatment.

The death means 158 British troops have been killed in Afghanistan since operations began in 2001.

Last Thursday four soldiers were killed in separate incidents during one of the bloodiest days for UK forces in the country.

More than 8,000 British troops are based in Afghanistan, most of them in the southern province of Helmand.

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**Afghan suicide attack kills one policeman**

**KANDAHAR, 14 May—** A suicide attacker blew up a car bomb at an Afghan police station about 500 metres (yards) from the Pakistan border Thursday, killing one policeman and wounding four, a commander said.

It was the third deadly suicide attack in as many days in Afghanistan, where Taleban militants warned last month they would step up attacks on Afghan officials and the local and international security forces.

The driver of the car had been trying to enter a border police compound at the town of Spin Boldak, the border police commander for southwestern Afghanistan, Sayfullah Hakim, told AFP.

“Police became suspicious of the vehicle and would not let it in. They took cover. The attacker detonated and wounded five border policemen,” he said. One of the wounded later died. The attack was similar to scores carried out by Taleban militants but there was no immediate claim of responsibility.—Internet
GM, Chrysler to cut up to 3,000 dealers

DETROIT/WASHINGTON, 14 May—General Motors Corp and Chrysler aim to drop as many as 3,000 US dealers and are expected to begin sending notifications as early as Thursday, three people briefed on the still developing plans said.

GM, facing a US government-imposed deadline of 1 June to restructure or file for bankruptcy, is expected to send termination notices to up to 2,000 dealers—a third of its roughly 6,000 US dealers, the sources told Reuters.

Chrysler, which filed for bankruptcy on 30 April, will also tell up to 1,000 of its 3,189 US dealers it is terminating their franchise agreements, according to the sources who asked not to be identified because the controversial closure plans have not been yet announced.

Sing Tel says Q4 profit down 17.3 percent

SINGAPORE, 14 May—Singapore Telecommunications (SingTel) said Thursday fourth quarter net profit fell 17.3 percent and warned that the weak economic environment would continue to hit earnings.

Net profit in the three months ended March totalled 903 million Singapore dollars (619 million US), down from 1.09 billion dollars in the same period a year ago.

However, the figure was better than the 851.8 billion dollar average net profit forecast by analysts in a Dow Jones Newswires poll.

And the largest telecommunications firm in Southeast Asia will see earnings impacted further as regional economies such as Australia are likely to slow this year due the global slump, said chief executive Chua Sock Koong.

“If you look at the economic data that continues to be released, we’re still seeing a downturn,” she told a media briefing.

“There is no doubt that we are still in a recessionary period, which will continue into next year,” she said.

US Continental Airlines to cut 500 jobs, shut reservation centre amid weak economy

HOUSTON, 14 May—US Union's top airfrained said Wednesday it will cut about 500 reservation agent positions company-wide and close a reservations centre in Tampa, Florida, on grounds that the economy is weak and more passengers prefer online reservations.

The job cuts and centre closure will be completed by 19 July this year in “response to reduced call volumes caused by a customer shift towards Web self-service and the global economic recession,” the Houston-based carrier said in a bulletin to its more than 43,000 employees. “We must make these changes to adapt to changing customer preferences toward the Web,” Continental’s Reservations and eCommerce Vice President Martin Hand said.

Spain to reward airlines for increased passenger numbers

MADRID, 14 May—In a move to boost its flagging tourist industry, Spain announced on Wednesday that airlines that increase passenger numbers in the first half of the year would receive tax breaks in the second half.

Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero told parliament the measure was aimed at “supporting the tourism sector.”

He said airlines that increase passenger numbers in the first six months of 2009, compared to the second half of 2008, would see airport taxes cut by 100 percent for the rest of the year.

Economic crisis ‘life and death’ for Africans

DAKAR, 14 May—The global economic crisis is a matter of “life and death” in the world’s poorest continent, the African Union’s top official said Wednesday.

Jean Ping told the African Development Bank (AfDB) annual meeting on Wednesday.

“If in developed countries, the crisis is being felt in terms of job losses, in ours it is a question of life and death, with the risk of more conflicts, in particular,” said Ping, who is head of the AU Commission and a former foreign minister of Gabon.

Ping was speaking at the opening of AfDB’s 44th annual assembly. According to the bank, the effects of the crisis will create 72 million new poor in Africa in 2009.

“The risks of the crisis are weighing heavily on the democratic advances which we have made recently,” Ping said.

The downturn “threatens state of law, human rights, threatens the shared values that we are trying to promote on the continent. This concerns everyone,” he said.

Ping said another threat to the world economy was piracy off Somalia, a country which Ping said had been forgotten, neglected, abandoned for 18 years, and was the home of pirate ships that were now seen as a threat to global trade.

Chairman of the Commission of the African Union
Jean Ping.

INTERNET
Bangladesh, Russia sign MoU on nuclear power plant

DHAKA, 14 May—Bangladesh and Russia Wednesday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) here to enhance cooperation between the two countries in peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Main purpose of the MoU signed between the state-owned Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) and the Russian State Atomic Energy Corporation-Rosatom, is to take necessary steps for setting up a 600-1000 MW power plant in Bangladesh, officials said. “This is a great moment for us. Through signing of this agreement, we are moving forward to implement our election commitment to build up a nuclear power project,” Science and ICT State Minister Yeafesh Osman said at the signing ceremony.

NN Spasky, Deputy Director General of Rosatom, who signed the agreement on Russian part, said, “This agreement will enable us to provide avenue for cooperation in peaceful use of nuclear energy. But one thing is in our mind to design and build Bangladesh’s first nuclear power plant.”

BAEC acting chairman Mosharraf Hossain signed the MoU on behalf of his organization. Both sides, however, termed the MoU a very preliminary stage of the MoU on behalf of his organization. Both sides, however, termed the MoU a very preliminary stage.

China-Russia partnership enjoys all-round, fast growth

MOSCOW, 14 May—China’s top legislator Wu Bangguo said here Wednesday the strategic partnership of cooperation between China and Russia is currently showing a momentum all-round and rapid growth, as high-level contact remains frequent.

Wu said in recent years, China-Russia relations have been lifted to new stages as cooperation in all fields reached an unprecedented high level.

Wu made the remarks as he met with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev Wednesday afternoon. Wu, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPC) arrived here for an official goodwill visit Wednesday.

Wu conveyed Chinese President Hu Jintao’s greetings to Medvedev. He highly appreciated frequent contact between leaders of the two countries, saying Medvedev’s visit to China last year contributed to the continuous growth of the strategic partnership between the two countries on a high level.—Xinhua

Reports say Nigerian militants warn oil firms to pull staff out

LAGOS, 14 May—Nigerian major militant group warned oil companies in the Niger Delta to pull their staff out, according to agencies’ reports on Wednesday.

“Oil companies operating in the area are advised to evacuate their staff within the next 24 hours to avoid them being part of the statistics of an emerging civil war,” the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) said in a statement. The Nigerian military clashed with MEND in southern Delta State Wednesday morning.

Military spokesman Col Rabe Abubakar said the security forces accidentally encountered the militants, sparking a gunfight.

However, MEND said the military attacked its camps in the region, but it had destroyed two military boats and inflicted several security force casualties. “At about 0930 hrs today, 13 May, 2009, the Nigerian armed forces launched an unprovoked attack on two major MEND camps in Delta state hoping to overwhelm them with the element of surprise,” MEND said in the statement reaching here on Wednesday.

“Unfortunately for the raiders, we were waiting for them, a bloody battle is ongoing and two gunboats belonging to the army have already been sunk by mines with several casualties on the side of the army,” it said. The statement said other freedom fighters in the Niger Delta have been placed on alert to defend their positions and unleash a horrible toll on the oil industry and the Nigerian economy.

MEND, one of the main militant groups in the Niger Delta Region, had rejected Nigerian President Umaru Yar’Adua’s offer of an amnesty to rebels in the region in April this year.

It has been the mastermind behind most kidnappings in the Nigeria, and it always uses kidnapping and hostage taking as a source of fund raising, while over 200,000 US dollars is usually the ransom per head.—Xinhua

UN says dozens of civilians killed in DR Congo over weekend

KINSHASA, 14 May—The United Nations has said that dozens of civilians were killed in an attack over the weekend in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo), according to media reports reaching here.

In a statement on Wednesday, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs cited local sources as saying that the attack claimed the lives of at least 90 people in North Kivu Province of the country.

The Rwandan Hutu rebels were blamed for the attack.

Ten immigrants dead after boat sinks off Florida

HOUSTON, 14 May—Ten immigrants are dead and 17 rescued on Wednesday after an overloaded boat carrying immigrants sank off the coast of the southern US state of Florida, local media reported.

The search for survivals is underway and local officials say they do not know exactly how many people were aboard the boat, said Coast Guard Captain James Fitton, quoted by the reports.

Fitton believed around 30 were dumped into the sea. The boat “apparently left Bimini in the Bahamas” on Tuesday night and “apparently” carrying immigrants of Haiti, the reports added.

All items from Xinhua News Agency

A survivor from a capsized migrant boat is brought to shore by the US Coast Guard and first responders in Riviera Beach, Florida, on 13 May, 2009.

Xinhua
Severe storms hit three states, kill Missouri woman

KIRKSVILLE, 14 May—Violent storms that spawned at least one tornado left a path of destruction in northern Missouri on Wednesday, killing a woman and damaging dozens of buildings.

The city of Kirkville apparently took the hardest hit. Police Det Sgt Ron Celian said about 30 to 40 homes were damaged, one was destroyed and an auto dealership sustained significant damage.

Two people were injured near the dealership when their car was blown off the road. Kirkville police Det Sgt Ron Celian said.

Sullivan County Emergency Management director Rick Gardner A truck sits in the driveway of a badly damaged house after a tornado hit the area on 13 May, 2009, in Kirkville. Mo Multiple tornadoes hit the area as severe storms tore through the state. Internet

said a woman was killed when what appeared to be a tornado struck a mobile home east of Milan. Her name had not been released late Wednesday.

Gardner said the woman’s husband and another man survived unharmed in a workshop next to the mobile home.

Julie Adolphson, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service office in Pleasant Hill, said a tornado hit Kirkville and Noyving, both in Adair County.

Knox County emergency dispatcher Jeanette Randall said a storm hit Edina on Wednesday evening, with storm spotters reporting multiple funnel clouds. No injuries were reported, but a barn was destroyed and power lines were damaged, she said.

30 twins were born in the village.

Spanish ticket wins 126 million euros in lottery

A lottery player in Spain has won 126 million euros (112 million pounds), the biggest ever European jackpot for a single ticket, lottery organizer EuroMillions said Saturday. The winner of the on Friday night draw conquered odds of 76 million to one to snare the windfall which ballooned after the jackpot was not won in the previous six weekly draws.

“The record for a single win in EuroMillions is believed to have been broken when on Friday’s sixth-rollover draw was won by a single ticket holder,” EuroMillions said on its website about the game which pools stakes from nine European lotteries.

Over 500 twins in one Indian village

Doctors are studying a unique village in the southern Indian state of Kerala that has over 500 twins in just 2,000 households, the local Hindu daily Danak Bhaskar said Thursday. While twin births in the village has been observed for at least three generations, the number of twins born in village Kodinhi is increasing every year, said the report.

Dr. Krishan Sribhuj, who has been studying the village for the last two years, said while number of registered twins stood at 500, the actual number of twins exceeded 600.

The doctor has ruled out environmental causes or pollution as a factor, saying all twins are healthy and without any disorders. He suspected that the phenomenon is related with the feeding habits of the villagers, who have 45 twins for every 1,000 people, six times higher than average. In 2008 alone, 30 twins were born in the village.

Pirates coordinating attacks off Somalia

BRUSSELS, 14 May—Searches of captured mother ships operating off the Somali coast have revealed for the first time that pirate gangs are coordinating their attacks against commercial shipping, the commander of the European Union’s naval task force said on Wednesday.

British Rear Admiral Philip Jones said that in recent weeks his flotilla had captured four of the mother ships used to resupply the small pirate speedboats that operate far offshore in the Indian Ocean.

“We do fairly extensive trawls of all the vessels we capture to look for ... evidence we can use to work (out) ourselves what the pirates tactics are,” Jones told reporters. Internet

Pan-Asian free trade deal could generate $260bn in extra income

MASSILA, 14 May—A free-trade agreement covering both East and South Asia could generate around 260 billion US dollars in additional income and trade benefits could be shared more evenly between the fast growing economies and the disadvantaged ones in the region, a book released on Wednesday by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) finds.

The ADB said East and South Asia have been at the forefront of the global drive to establish free-trade agreements in recent years, with around 20 either signed, under negotiation, or proposed by the two regions as of January last year.

Trade between East and South Asia soared by over 114 billion US dollars between 2000 and 2007. Despite that progress, the benefits of the trade were limited and spread unevenly, the ADB said. Internet

20 armed militants surrender to Gov’t in N Afghanistan

KABUL, 14 May—Nearly two dozen Taliban fighters laid down their arms and joined government in Baghlan Province north of Afghanistan, police said on Thursday.

“Twenty armed rebels under the command of Mullah Abdul Jabbar handed in arms in Jilga district and vowed to defend the government and work for peace,” Police spokesman in the province Ahmad Jawed Basharat told Zinhau.

With the surrender of these people, he added, that Jilga district and surrounding areas would have peace and stability.

Jilga and neighboring Birkota districts have seen escalating Taliban activities over the past couple of months. Militants just weeks ago raided Birkota district and after killing three police took away eight others but set them free later. Internet

Viking ship found on Swedish lake bottom

Divers stumbled on the wreck of a Viking ship this week on the bottom of the largest lake in Sweden. Archaeologists say the ship is the first from the Viking era found underwater in Sweden, The Local reported. Previous Viking ship discoveries have been used for land burials.

The boat was in the midst of an island group in the centre of Lake Vanern. Most of the wreck was covered with 3 feet of mud with a single rib sticking out of the ooze, the divers said Roland Peterson, an archaeologist with the Vanern Museum, said that a sample of the ship’s wood and iron from a sword and shield found in the wreck are being tested to determine the age of the vessel. But he said the sword resembles those from other Viking-era sites. The divers discovered six more shipwrecks within 300 feet of the Viking ship, including three in the same spot. Peterson said the age of those wrecks is still completely unknown. Vanern, which lies west of Stockholm, is one of a chain of lakes in the Gota Canal system, connecting the capital and Gothenburg. The lake is the third largest in Europe.

A member of the Oxford Archeological team holds part of an Australian soldier’s uniform from the Fromelles Memorial Park in Fromelles, northern France, on 4 May, 2009. The remains of up to 400 Australian and British World War I soldiers, which were discovered in May 2008, are to be recovered and re-inted in individual graves. The soldiers fought in the Battle of Fromelles, which took place between 19-21 July, 1916.

Wilbaer, left, a 16 months old polar bear, plays with his mother Corinna in the Wilhelma zoo in Stuttgart, Germany. Wilbaer, who was born in this zoo, will leave his mother in the next weeks and move to the bearpark Orsa in Gorenklitt, Sweden.

Internet
Ongoing hydropower projects to help satisfy domestic electric power demand

Generating capacity of the nation
On 16 May 2006, the Ministry of Electric Power was reconstituted into the Ministry of Electric Power (1) and the Ministry of Electric Power (2). The Ministry of Electric Power (1) is responsible for conducting feasibility study to find out water resources, constructing hydropower plants and power stations, and generating electricity. The Ministry of Electric Power (2) takes responsibilities for building an electric power network system, supporting electricity to the grids, and distributing electricity to the people. Generation of electric power will be on sharp increase in several years due to the harmonious cooperation of the two ministries.

The following 15 hydropower plants are under the Ministry of Electric Power (1).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Hydropower Plant</th>
<th>Megawatt</th>
<th>Year of completion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Baluchaung (2)</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>1974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Kinda</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>1985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Hsedawgyi</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Baluchaung (1)</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Zawgyi (1)</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Zawgyi (2)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Zaungtu</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Thaphanseik</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Mone</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Paunglaung</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Tikyit (coal-fired)</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Kengtawng</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Shweli (1)</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1441</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Shweli (1) Hydropower Plant is due to be equipped with six 100-megawatt generators. So far, five of them have started generating electricity, and the last one will be installed in the plant soon.

The generating capacity the hydropower plants under the Ministry of Electric Power (1) totalled 1441 megawatts. Up to 1988, the ministry had only two hydropower plants: Baluchaung (2) Hydropower Plant (168 megawatts) and Kinda Hydropower Plant (56 megawatts), totalling 224 megawatts.

So far, the generating capacity of the hydropower plants under the Ministry of Electric Power (2) has reached 723.62 megawatts, and all the hydropower plants are gas-fired and steam ones. Up to 1988, the nation had only seven gas-fired and steam power stations with generating capacity of 268.2 megawatts in total.

The greater economic growth the nation achieves, the higher the demand of electric power will be year by year. As mentioned above, Shweli (1) Hydropower Plant will be able to generate 100 more megawatts if the last generator is installed. By 2010, Yeywa (790 megawatts), Kunchaung (60 megawatts), Pyuchaung (40 megawatts) and Shwegyin (75 megawatts) will have been completed. If so, the generation of hydropower will increase by 1065 megawatts. By then, the nation's generating capacity will increase to 3229.62 megawatts.
Information Minister inspects Sub-printing House (Mandalay), Aungmyethazan Township IPRD

Nay Pyi Taw, 14 May — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan on 12 May afternoon met with staff of Sub-printing House (Mandalay) of News and Periodicals Enterprise in Pale Ngweyaung Ward of Aungmyethazan Township and inspected the sub-printing house.

The minister viewed the documentary photos on maintenance of the press during the Myanmar New Year holidays. After inspecting the presses, the minister instructed officials to systematically carry out daily and monthly maintenance of the presses.

He also gave instructions on minimizing loss and wastage in producing newspapers and training the workers for uplift of their efficiency. At Upper Myanmar (Mandalay Branch) of Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise, the minister met with the staff.

At Aungmyethazan Township Information and Public Relations Department, the minister looked into the information works at the wall magazine and visited TV room and reading room. He attended the furniture and books donation ceremony for self-reliant libraries and and Editor-in-charge Daw Khaing Wady Aye of Mann Taung Yeik journal.

Next, the minister stressed the need for all to actively participate in striving for durability of the self-reliant libraries. After the ceremony, the minister cordially greeted the wellwishers, guests and staff. —MNA

ICT Development and Application course concludes

Yangon, 14 May — A ceremony to conclude the ICT Development and Application course (2/2009) jointly conducted by No. 3 Basic Education Department of the Ministry of Education and Soft Guide Company Ltd was held at the computer training hall of the department, here, today.

Director-General of Aungmyethazan Industrial Raw Materials Trading; various kinds of books for 26 libraries by Township Union Solidarity and Development Association Secretary U Kyaw San; and copies of journals by U Sithu Lwin of the Myanmar Times, Administrator U Myo Min of Ahct Myanmar News journal and Shwe Mandalay journal, Chief Editor U Swe Naing Sit of Namnynyi journal, Chief Reporter U Than Zin Tun of the Mandalay Times Department of the Ministry of Education and Soft Guide Company Ltd were presented to U Aye Kyu of the department.

The 10-day training course was attended by 100 trainees. —MNA
Ayethaya Industrial Zone of Taunggyi assembling import-substitute automobiles

Article: Maung Maung Htwe (MNA); Photos: Tha Nyan (MNA)

U Saw Naing, owner of Mongton Automobile Industry of Ayethaya-Mongton Industrial Co Ltd.

SSMT-light trucks assembled according to orders placed by departments concerned.

SSMT-light truck is built with the use of products from Mongton Industry. The automobile is equipped with 2C turbo engine/gear box, power steering, Town Ace 4x2, 4x4 axel, servo brake system, and 165x70x13 sized tyres.

The automobile can drive 45 kilometres (45 kilometres) per hour, he said.

The new crew observed the assembling of automobiles at Thitsar Oo Light Truck Industry. Hence the development of private industries is a significant drive for progress of the industrial sector of the State and building of the industrialized nation. Therefore, all are to harmoniously strive for the development of the industrial zones including Ayethaya Industrial Zone.

Photo shows import-substitute spare parts of automobiles manufactured by Ayethaya-Mongton Industrial Co Ltd.
Lt-Gen Tha Aye inspects... (from page 1) fluorescent lamps to the local people and exercise books and stationery to the schools in Phakant Township. Lt-Gen Tha Aye and the commander visited Phakant Township and gave instructions on proper flow of water in Whaykha and village.

Illegal medicines, narcotic drugs seized in Shan States (East) and (South), Mandalay, Sagaing and Yangon Divisions

YANGON, 14 May—Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Command Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt and Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung attended the opening ceremony of Kyaw Hlaing-Thidaw village Basic Education Middle School (Branch). The Chairman of Township PDC, the acting township education officer and ministers attended the new school building handing over ceremony at Kyaw Wai village Basic Education Middle School (Branch).

Commander, Ministers open roads, bridges, schools at Ayeyawady Division

Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt and Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung open Kyawthaung-Zibukon bridge in Ingapu Township.—MNA

Next, Col Thein Nyunt attended Zalun Township attended Zalun Township road inauguration ceremony.

Commander, Ministers, open roads, bridges, schools at Ayeyawady Division

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Commander, Ministers, open roads, bridges, schools at Ayeyawady Division

Illegal medicines, narcotic drugs seized in Shan States (East) and (South), Mandalay, Sagaing and Yangon Divisions

NAT PYI TAW, 14 May—The authorities of Kengtung Special Anti-Drug Squad searched Kengtung-Monga-run white colour Huilis with number plate Pa/7404 driven by Zaw Hlaing Win together with bus conductor Win Kyaw on 12 May and seized 41 packets of illegal medicines made in Thailand with the brands of Triprone, Trioned, Sulidine, Siam, Bated, Pomedina’s, B. Sinysal/SPO, CO, GXCTZ, ML, PaU and MP in a plastic bag from two noodle boxes. According to the investigation, owners of illegal medicines were Sai Pan, Shwe of Haungleik, Ward of Tachileik, Driver Zaw Hlaing Win and bus conductor Win Kyaw are under investigation, and the authorities are trying to arrest Sai Pan Shwe.

At 4.30 pm on 6 May, the authorities of Mandalay Special Anti-Drug Squad searched the house at No. 27/61 to 66 on Sanyua Road in Sethmu Ward 1 of Pyigyidagun Township. They saw Kyaw Kyaw Maung from No. A/7-107 of Ward 8, and seized 2250 cards of Pseudoephedrine from a polyethylene bag. According to the investigation, Kyaw Kyaw Maung confessed that he carried the drugs sent by Shwe Pwint Buu by bus gate clerk Kyaw Zin Myint of Tamu to a medicine shop of Yangon. Kyaw Kyaw Maung is under investigation and the authorities are undertaking to arrest the related drug possessors.

Officials of Pinlaung Police Station and Taunggyi Special Anti-Drug Squad searched the house at No. 37/16 to 88 on Sanpya Road in Sethmu Ward 1 of Pyigyidagun Township. They saw Kyaw Kyaw Maung from No. Ah/7-107 of Ward 8, and seized 12290 cards of Pseudoephedrine from a polyethylene bag. According to the investigation, Kyaw Kyaw Maung confessed that he carried the tablets by bus gate for Kyaw Wai. The authorities are undertaking to arrest the related drug possessors.

At 10.30 am on 8 May, the authorities of Mongya Special Anti-Drug Squad searched Myint Aung of Yeuyinguaung Village of Sagaing Township at Saw Nyinaung Tea Shop in Myothi Ward of Sagaing and seized 480 WY brand stimulant tablets from his bag. According to the investigation, the authorities seized 500 more WY brand stimulant tablets from the house of Sein Tun on 13th Thiri Mingala Street in East Ywama Ward of Insein Township. While investigating the police, the authorities are undertaking to arrest the related drug possessors.

At 3.30 pm on 9 May, the authorities of Yangon (East) Special Anti-Drug Squad searched the house of Thet Khaing Oo at Ma-24 (B) on 20th Street in Ward 3 of Latha Township and arrested Thet Khaing Oo, Sein Tun (a) Maung Oo and Aung Myo Thant together with 29 WY brand stimulant tablets and one mobile telephone. According to the investigation, the authorities seized 500 more WY brand stimulant tablets from the house of Sein Tun on 13th Thiri Mingala Street in East Ywama Ward of Insein Township. While investigating the police, the authorities are undertaking to arrest the related drug possessors.

At 6 pm on 10 May, the authorities of Taunggyi Special Anti-Drug Squad searched Loikaw-Pinlaung run Huilis with number plate Nya/5247 driven by Kyaw Soe together with bus conductor Than Naing at Yinhmee toll gate in Pinlaung Township. They seized five packets of morphine weighing one kilo from a polyethylene bag covered with blankets at the rear. Driver Kyaw Soe and bus conductor Than Naing are under investigation, and the authorities are undertaking to arrest the related drug possessors.
Russia to charge NASA $51M per space flight

MOSCOW, 14 May—Russia will charge US astronauts 51 million US dollars per return trip to the International Space Station (ISS) from 2010 and will resume selling seats to space tourists, Russian news agencies reported on Wednesday.

NASA needs to use the Russian Soyuz capsule because its own Space Shuttle will be retired next year after nearly three decades in service and a replacement is not due until 2014 at the earliest.

Russia’s own plans for a new spacecraft are running behind schedule, with the planned unveiling of a mock-up now delayed by a year to 2010, Interfax quoted Anatoly Perminov, head of Russian space agency Roskosmos as saying. “We’ve agreed with our American partners the sum of 51 million US dollars, — quoting Anatoly Perminov, head of Russian space agency Roskosmos as saying. “We’ve agreed with our American partners the sum of 51 million US dollars, starting in 2011,” Perminov was quoted as saying by ITAR-TASS news agency.

He did not specify how much astronauts will be charged between 2010 and 2012, but in 2006 Russia charged the United States 21.8 million per US dollars return flight to the ISS. Since then the price for a space tourist ticket to the ISS has climbed to 35 million US dollars from 20 million US dollars. — MNA/Reuters

China willing to enhance education co-op with other ASEM members

HANOI, 14 May—China is willing to strengthen education cooperation with other Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) members in a wide range of areas, said Chinese Vice Education Minister Hao Ping here on Thursday. Hao made the remarks in his speech at the Second Asia-Europe Education Ministers’ Meeting that opened in Hanoi on Thursday.

The meeting, within the framework of ASEM, drew minister-level officials and education specialists from 39 ASEM members and international organizations. He expected strengthening cooperation in “curriculum development, language learning, scientific research, training for school teachers and principals, and more sharing of information and resources”. 

Hao highlighted the needs to develop vocational education as the key to sustainable development of human resources. During the two-day conference, participants discussed credit recognition and transfer in ASEM and sustainable human resources development for ASEM future needs.

Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung delivered opening remarks at the meeting, calling for closer Asia-Europe education cooperation to combat negative social impacts of the current financial and economic crisis. — Internet

Ban urges collective action against human trafficking

UNITED NATIONS, 14 May—UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon Wednesday called for united and real efforts from all member countries to combat human trafficking. In a address to a thematic debate of the General Assembly on human trafficking held on Wednesday, Ban said trafficking in weapons, drugs and blood diamonds has long been on the UN agenda, “now we must add people to that list”.

Ban said millions of people, most women and children are “brought and sold like chattel” in a number of countries from Asia, Africa, across to the Americas, to Europe. “Human trafficking is indeed one of the worst forms of violence against women and girls,” he told the meeting.

Noting that UN member states are starting to shoulder a greater share of responsibility and UN organizations and NGO community are raising awareness, Ban said those efforts need “greater coherence”, “We have to take a tougher line against this crime,” the Secretary-General said. Describing the meeting “a call for action.” Ban said human trafficking should be criminalized, urging all countries must ratify the UN anti-trafficking Protocol. — MNA/Xinhua

140 Afghans dead in US airstrike last week

KABUL, 14 May—Ninety-three children and 25 adult women are among a list of 140 names of Afghans who villagers say were killed in a battle and US airstrikes last week, causing a crisis between Washington and its Afghan allies.

The list, obtained by Reuters, bears the endorsement of seven senior provincial and central government officials, including an Afghan two-star general who headed a task force dispatched by the government to investigate the incident. Titled “list of the martyrs of the bombardment of Bala Buluk District of Farah Province”, it includes the name, age and father’s name of each alleged victim.

The youngest was listed as eight-day-old baby Sayed Musa, son of Sayed Adam. Fifty-three victims were girls under the age of 18, and 40 were boys. Only 22 were men 18 or older. The US military continues to dispute the toll and a military spokesman said some of the names could be fake.

The dispute over the number of dead has worsened tension between Washington and Kabul, despite apologies President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton made during a visit to Washington by President Hamid Karzai last week. — MNA/Reuters

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MCP VIENNA VOY NO (165)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCP VIENNA VOY NO (165) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.5.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANNA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS INTERASIA LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV GENIUS MARINER VOY NO (25)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV GENIUS MARINER VOY NO (25) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.5.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANNA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: EASTERN CAR LINER LTD
Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV FREE MAVERICK VOY NO (9015)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV FREE MAVERICK VOY NO (9015) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.5.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANNA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: KOOK YANG SHIPPING CO., LTD
Phone No: 256908/701-702, Traders House, Yangon, Union of Myanmar, ulm.ky@ptmail.com.mm

Doctors warn climate change biggest threat to global health
BEIJING, 14 May—Global health is at greater risk in the 21st century because of the increase in greenhouse gases, senior UK doctors said on Thursday. The first major report—compiled over a year by The Lancet medical journal and experts from the Institute for Global Health at University College London—investigating the effects of climate change on people’s health was published Wednesday.

A panel of doctors said rising global temperatures would have a catastrophic effect on human health through floods, droughts and rising sea levels.

"Even the most conservative estimates are profoundly disturbing and demand action," said the doctors.

"Climate change is the biggest global health threat of the 21st century. It’s a threat that’s been completely neglected, marginalised, ignored, by not just the global health community, by doctors, nurses and other health professionals, but also by policy-makers. And yet, in terms of our well-being, in terms of our survival over the next 100 years, it is absolutely the top political issue that we should be talking about," said the doctors.
Dying oceans ‘life and death issue’

MANADO, 14 May — The destruction of the world’s oceans due to climate change and overuse is a “life and death issue” for humanity, Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said on Thursday.

“We must come to the rescue of the oceans. We must save them from the ravages of abuse and over-exploitation by humankind, from the havoc due to pollution and dire effects of climate change,” Yudhoyono said at a global conference on oceans.

“This is a life and death issue for the community of nations, including Indonesia, who prides itself on being the world’s largest archipelago,” Ministers and officials from more than 70 countries are meeting in the Indonesian city of Manado for the World Ocean Conference, the first global meeting on the relationship between oceans and climate change.

—— Internet

UN says 5,900 languages risk extinction

LAGOS, 14 May — The United Nations (UN) said on Tuesday that 5,900 languages worldwide may become extinct before the end of the 21st century if measures to protect them are not introduced, the News Agency of Nigeria reported Tuesday.

The United Nations, in a statement issued by the UN Information Centre (UNIC) in Lagos, urged countries to introduce measures to secure their languages, noting that only 600 of the world’s 6,500 languages would survive.

“There are at present 6,500 languages in the world and by the end of the century, only 600 of them will survive through technological documentation,” the statement said.

The United Nations said that languages remain critical to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on education, urging that children should be taught their dialects at an early age.

“Governments should introduce policies that would promote speaking of mother tongue,” the United Nations statement said.

Meanwhile, the Nigerian federal government has declared an alert and ordered all educational managers will recommend their dismissal, the state media said. Drivers found carrying their phones on duty face a 10-day suspension for a first offense. If it happens again, they will be suspended for a month and face a dismissal recommendation.

The tough new rules were imposed after two trolley cars collided in a Boston tunnel on Friday, injuring 49 people, one of whom died after a month and managers will recommend

—— Internet

Confirmed A/H1N1 flu cases in US rise to 3352

WASHINGTON, 14 May — The number of confirmed human A/H1N1 cases has risen to 3352 in 45 US states, with three deaths, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported Wednesday.

According to the CDC, the state of Illinois has 592 confirmed cases of the A/H1N1 flu, followed by 496 in Wisconsin, 293 of Texas, 221 of California and 211 of New York.

—— Internet

First case of A/H1N1 flu confirmed in Belgium

BRUSSELS, 14 May — Belgian Health Minister Laurette Onkelinx said here Wednesday that a case of A/H1N1 flu had been confirmed in Belgium.

This made Belgium the 16th country in Europe and the 34th country in the world which was affected by the disease.

The 28-year-old patient, who is from the northern Belgian city of Ghent, fell ill Monday after returning from a two-week trip in New York and Chicago in the United States, Onkelinx said.

—— Internet

All 147 passengers with exposure to Sichuan A/H1N1 flu case found

BEIJING, 14 May — All the 147 passengers who came into contact with the confirmed A/H1N1 flu patient surnamed Bao in Sichuan Province on the flight NW029, had been contacted by Beijing Health Department, said the department on Wednesday.

As of 5:30 pm all the 147 had been found, mostly foreigners, in different provinces or regions, which had brought difficulties to the searching job, said the department.

—— Internet

Bird flu hits another province of Vietnam

HANOI, 14 May — Another Southwestern province Dong Thap of Vietnam was confirmed of being hit by bird flu, said the Vietnem’s Department of Animal Health under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on Thursday.

The bird flu broke out in a local farm on 10 May, killing 49 out of a flock of 142 ducks, said the report.

—— Internet

File photo shows a chemical tanker, loaded with toxic acid, beginning to sink in the English Channel having collided with another cargo ship.

—— Internet

Mexico’s A/H1N1 flu death toll rises to 60, infected toll to 2,446

MEXICO CITY, 14 May — Mexico’s Health Minister Jose Angel Cordova Villalobos raised the confirmed death toll from new strain A/H1N1 flu to 60, and the total confirmed infected to 2,386 at Wednesday morning press conference.

Cordova also said that the most recent death confirmed as from the new virus — which causes breathing difficulties, headaches, high body temperature and muscular pain — was around a week old, and that 56 of the 60 confirmed deaths were infected before 23 April, when the Mexican government declared an alert and ordered all educational institutions closed.

“There are still two states which have no confirmed cases and 89 percent of the municipalities in Mexico still do not have any confirmed cases,” Cordova said.

He added that the disease has turned out to be mostly in poor urban areas, because populations tend not to be so dense in the countryside.

—— Internet

Massachusetts stops drivers carrying mobiles

BOSTON, 14 May — Massachusetts on Wednesday banned drivers of trains, street cars and buses from using or even carrying mobile phones at work, the toughest such measure imposed by a US state transit agency.

Any driver working for the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority caught talking or text messaging on a mobile or similar device will be suspended for a month and

—— Internet

Sudanese refugees carry food and water near a refugee camp in eastern Chad.

Climate change will present the greatest threat to health this century, amplifying the risk of disease, malnutrition and homelessness through floods, drought and rising sea levels, a medical panel has said.

—— Internet

Internet hacking popular among teenagers

LOS ANGELES, 14 May — Two-thirds of teens polled in a recent survey admitted that they have tried to hack into a friend’s Instant Messaging (IM) or social networking accounts of friends, according to the survey by Panda Security, which is based in Glendale, Los Angeles.

The survey of 4,000 adolescents between the ages of 15 and 18 found that 17 percent of the young computer users claim to have advanced technical knowledge and can find hacking tools on the Internet.

—— Internet
**AZ Alkmaar’s El Hamdaoui named Dutch Player of Season**

**BRUSSELS, 14 May —** Dutch premier league champions AZ Alkmaar forward Mounir El Hamdaoui has been named Dutch Player of the Season, brushing aside challenges from Groningen keeper Luciano and Twente attacker Eljero Elia. Dutch media reported on Wednesday.

El Hamdaoui will receive the Golden Boot at a gala event on 31 August. The Rotterdam-born Moroccan international was in superb form throughout the season, which saw AZ Alkmaar win their first ever Dutch title in 28 years. He was the top scorer of the league, scoring 23 goals.

He is the first AZ player to win the Golden Boot, which is awarded on the basis of assessments by former Dutch internationals throughout the course of the season.

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**Stuttgart stay in German title race with win at Schalke**

**BERLIN, 14 May —** Stuttgart remained in the Bundesliga title race on Wednesday after Romanian striker Ciprian Marica scored the winner in a 2-1 win at Schalke to stay two points behind leaders Wolfsburg with two games left.

Stuttgart are fourth in the table, but only two points separate the top four teams with Wolfsburg, Bayern Munich and Hertha Berlin - who all won on Tuesday still in contention to be crowned champions when the season ends on 23 May. — Internet

**Schalke’s goalkeeper Manuel Neuer(R) goes for the ball ahead of Stuttgart’s Romanian forward Ciprian Marica during their German first division Bundesliga football match in Gelsenkirchen. — Internet**

**UEFA names 4 Polish Euro 2012 hosts, 1 in Ukraine**

**BOUKAREST, 14 May —** UEFA chose four cities in Poland to host matches at the 2012 European Championship on Wednesday and said tournament co-host Ukraine could win up with only two venues unless it makes major infrastructure improvements in the next six months.

UEFA said Warsaw, Gdansk, Wroclaw and Poznan will host games, while reserve cities Krakow and Chorzow were both scratched. Meanwhile, UEFA issued a warning to Ukraine by confirming only Kiev as a host city and holding off on previous plans to stage the final in the Ukrainian capital. — Internet

**Four-star Barca crush Bilbao to lift Kings Cup**

**MADRID, 14 May —** Barcelona stayed on course for an historic treble by crushing Athletic Bilbao 4-1 at the Mestalla Stadium on Wednesday to lift the Kings Cup for the first time in over a decade. Gazika Toquero headed Bilbao into a ninth-minute lead, but Yaya Toure equalised with a great solo goal and then Barca blitzed their rivals with three goals from Lionel Messi, Bojan Krkic and Xavi in 12 minutes to lift the cup for the first time since 1998.

It was coach Pep Guardiola’s first trophy as a manager and Barcelonan’s first piece of silverware in two seasons although the Spanish league title could soon follow with only a point needed at Real Mallorca on Sunday to secure a 19th championship.

“We hope it’s an historic week and we will go for the second title this weekend,” said defender Gerard Pique.

“We just want to enjoy this win first and then concentrate on trying to win more titles.” — Internet

**Winless Wie still wants to compete with the men**

**CLIFTON, 14 May — Sixteen-year-old golfing phenom Michelle Wie still wants to compete with the men after winning the LPGA SBS Open at the Turtle Bay Resort in Kahuku, Hawaii. — Internet**

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**Irishman O’Connor selected for Golf Hall of Fame**

**BALTRAY, 14 May —** Christy O’Connor of Ireland has been selected for the World Golf Hall of Fame for his 24 victories on the European Tour and his 10 appearances in the Ryder Cup. O’Connor was chosen through the Veterans Category and will be inducted 2 Nov at the World Golf Village in St Augustine, Fla.

“This is a fantastic honor, not only for myself and my family, but for the whole of Ireland, and in particular, all my friends in professional golf ... who helped me enjoy a wonderful career in the game,” O’Connor said. He will be the second Irishman in the Hall of Fame. The late Joe Carr was inducted as part of the 2007 class.

O’Connor’s career spanned four decades, with two victories in the British Masters and 10 victories in the Irish PGA. — Internet

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**Nadal shrugs off moans in Madrid tennis opener**

**MADRID, 14 May —** World number one Rafael Nadal shrugged off his moans over blue courts and high altitude on Wednesday to reach the Madrid Masters third round with a 6-3, 6-1 mauling of Austria’s Jurgen Melzer.

The top seed, who criticised initial plans to use blue clay, the 500m altitude, which was speeding up the ball, as well as the organisation of this combined ATP and WTA event, came out and did what he does best.

“I did well today, I’m very happy with this match,” said Nadal. “I’m very pleased with how I’ve started the tournament. It’s always a special pleasure to play in Spain. I played much better than I trained.”

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**Spanish Rafael Nadal returns a backhand to his opponent Austrian Jurgen Melzer during their ATP Madrid Open claycourt tournament match. — Internet**

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“I did well today, I’m very happy with this match,” said Nadal. “I’m very pleased with how I’ve started the tournament. It’s always a special pleasure to play in Spain. I played much better than I trained.”

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**Spanish Rafael Nadal returns a backhand to his opponent Austrian Jurgen Melzer during their ATP Madrid Open claycourt tournament match. — Internet**
Nepal to host world fair trade conference

KATHMANDU, 14 May—Nepal will host the World Fair Trade Organization Global Conference 2009 from May 17 to May 21. Around 250 international delegates from 30 countries or regions will participate in the conference being organized by the World Fair Trade Organization and Fair Trade Nepal, local news website Myrepublica reported on Thursday.

The conference will cover issues like climate change, the transformative power of social business, creation of sustainable business models, the current recession, and fair trade as both a coping strategy and a long-term solution, says a press release issued Thursday.

“The conference is expected to contribute towards the consolidation of the global Fair Trade movement and the establishment of a sustainable fair trade economy,” the release states.

WEATHER

Thursday, 14 May, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:00hr MST:

During the past 24 hours, water has been partly cloudy in Chin and Rakhine States, Magway and Ayeyawady Divisions, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Mandalay Division, scattered in Mon and Kayah States, Sagaing, lower Sagaing, Bago and Yangon Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfall in lower Sagaing Division. Day temperatures were 3°C to 4°C above May average temperatures in Kachin and Rakhine States, Mandalay, Magway, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, 5°C to 6°C above May average temperatures in Shan State and upper Sagaing Division and about May average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Nyaung U and Minbu (42°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Belin (2.83) inches, Dawei (2.64) inches, Khayan (2.52) inches, Kawkayeik (2.36) inches, Myawaddy (1.93) inches, Kanbalu and Taunggu (Aviation) (1.65) inches each.

Maximum temperature on 13-5-2009 was 96°F. Minimum temperature on 14-5-2009 was 68°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 14-5-2009 was 100%.

Summary of observations recorded at 09:00hr MST:

Rainfall on 14-5-2009 was (0.83) inch at Mingaladon, (0.99) inch at Kaba-Aye and (2.67) inch at Central Yangon. Rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (3.43) inch at Mingaladon, (3.67) inch at Kaba-Aye and (5.67) inch at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (10) mph from Southwest at (23:30) hour MST on 13-5-2009.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Central Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 15th May 2009: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread in Shan, Mon, Kayin States and Taninthayi Division, scattered in Kachin, Chin, Rakhine and Kayah States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago and Yangon Divisions and isolated in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slightly to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of continuation of rain or thundershowers in the Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 15-5-2009: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 15-5-2009: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 15-5-2009: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).
Lt-Gen Khin Zaw on inspection tour of Kyain-seikkyi Township

NAY PYI TAW, 14 May—Accompanied by Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win and Chairman of Kayin State PDC Brig-Gen Saw Min, Lt-Gen Khin Zaw of the Ministry of Defence met with the peace group members led by U Saw Tha Mu He at the local station hall in Kayin-seikkyi Township on 12 May morning.

After presenting gifts and clothes, Lt-Gen Khin Zaw fulfilled their requirements.

At Thura Ngwe Tun Hall, he met servicemen and family members. After providing aid for regiments and units, he viewed agriculture and livestock breeding tasks of the station.

He presented cash assistance to the patients at Township Peoples’s Hospital (25-bed).

At Zami Hall, Lt-Gen Khin Zaw met with township level departmental officials. The chairman of Township PDC reported on progress of the township.

At the briefing hall of Dali Bridge Project, Lt-Gen Khin Zaw inspected construction site.

In Mudon, Lt-Gen Khin Zaw and party viewed weeding and fertilizer broadcasting at Mon State physic nut plantation and fed the plants with fertilizer.

Later, they inspected Myaing Yadana 4-storey modern market in Mawlamyine.

MNA

MPF manages to arrest armed robbers in seven days

NAY PYI TAW, 14 May—The Myanmar Police Force managed to arrest in a week the four men who robbed a jewellery shop in Myoma Market in Yamethin, shot a motorcyclist to death, and shot a sales assistant and other one.

Three men on a bicycle arrived at Ngwe Yadana Aung jewellery shop at No (28/29), Building No (10) of Myoma Market in Yamethin at about 4.10 pm on 6 May. Then, they broke the counter with a long-barrel gun and took about five viss of gold necklaces and one viss of gold bracelets worth about K 240 million and drove away. Sales assistant Daw Cho Pyone, who stopped the men from taking jewellery, sustained gunshot injuries in her left knee, and U Myo Thant of a nearby drug store, in his right shoulder. The three robbers shot to death Maung Maung Swe, 24, motorcyclist, son of U Myint Swe, of Hsegyi Village, near Hsegyi Village, about one mile east of Yamethin. And they took the motorcycle and drove to Theingon Village and left it at the village.

Copies of the police sketches of the robbers were distributed to the state/division Police Forces to catch the culprits at large, and the measure led to the arrest of the two brothers: Ko Lay (a) Myo Win Zaw and Khin Maung Htwe (a) Gyapu at about 1 pm on 7 May who stayed hiding near Yinmabin Village; Nyi Nyi Naing and Khaing Zaw Win, who helped steal small arms, at Myo Nhaung railways staff quarter in Chamnanthazi Township at about 11.30 am on 13 May; and first-degree culprit Nyi Nyi Naing at his house in Mawhat Village in Kutkai Township at about 11.59 pm on 13 May. The five small arms Nyi Nyi Naing and Khaing Zaw Win had stolen from a regiment in Yesagyo from 6 to 14 May, and two viss, three ticals and three annas of the six viss of gold necklace and bracelets were recovered. Investigation is under way to file a lawsuit against them.—MNA

Ayethaya Industrial Zone of Taunggyi assembling import-substitute automobiles

Factories and industries of Ayethaya Industrial Zone seen with Shan mountain range in the background.

While visiting Taunggyi, we had an opportunity to observe the development of Ayethaya Industrial Zone.

In the time of the Tatmadaw Government, the private industries with potential for development scattered in many townships. With a view to emerging the reliable industries for the State, the Government systematically gathered the same industries in groups and set up the industrial zones.

So far, a total of 18 industrial zones have been established in major cities in States and Divisions. At present, the industries are successfully assembling quality import-substitute products such as power-tillers, paddy thresher, paddy harvester, machines and spare parts, transport vehicles, and producing personal goods, foodstuff and raw materials on a large scale. The wood and finished wood factories, foundry plants and general industries are also functioning well.

(See page 9)