Lt-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence inspects Nama river crossing bridge construction site.—MINA

NAI PYI TAW, 17 May—Lt-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence met with military officers, other ranks and their families at Phaungyin township battalion on 12 May.

Lt-Gen Tha Aye together with Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Myint Soe and officials visited Phaungyin People’s Hospital and provided cash assistance to the patients.

The district chairman briefed on preventive measures against the erosion of Kyunshwewah ward and tasks to be carried out and the commander gave a supplementary report. Lt-Gen Tha Aye gave necessary instructions and oversaw maintenance tasks.

Next, Lt-Gen Tha Aye and party attended the opening ceremony of Konauktaung village No 14 Post-Primary School.

Afterwards, the township chairman, the assistant township education officer and members of school board of trustees formally opened the new school and the commander, the signboard of the school.

Next, Lt-Gen Tha Aye, the commander and officials grew Gankaw and Padauk trees to mark the opening of the new school. Lt-Gen Tha Aye dealt with the emergence of the new school and academic matters resulting from the cooperation of the State and the local people at the ceremony to hand over the new school to the Ministry of Education.

Afterwards, the member of school board of trustees handed over related documents to the Ministry of Education through the division education officer. Next, Lt-Gen Tha Aye presented the stationery for the students through the school head in-charge.

Meeting with local people in Hawsaung village, Lt-Gen Tha Aye made arrangements to fulfill the requirements in the sectors of education, health, social welfare and agriculture.

(See page 8)

Boosting production of quality farm equipment to change from conventional to mechanized farming

Vehicles of field trip teams with loads of farming equipment seen on their departure.
**PERSPECTIVES**

**Monday, 18 May, 2009**

**Government, People and Tatmadaw working in concert to improve public socio-economy**

The opening ceremony of Shweli (1) Hydropower Plant situated near Mantat Village, 17 miles to the southwest of Namkham, Shan State (North), took place on 16 May with an address by Prime Minister General Thein Sein.

From 1988 to date, besides regional hydropower plants, a total of 13 hydropower plants covering the power grids of the whole nation have been built. And there are 35 ongoing hydropower projects.

Out of the three large-scale hydropower projects to be implemented along the Shweli River, the Shweli (1) project is the very first one that has been completed under the cooperation between Myanmar and the People’s Republic of China. This project reflects not only friendship but also mutual cooperation between the two nations.

At present, Shweli (1) Hydropower Plant with 600 megawatts of generating capacity is the largest power station in Myanmar. Up to date, all the hydropower plants across the nation can generate more than 1,400 megawatts of electricity and 35 ongoing projects will generate over 32,900 megawatts.

Generating capacity of the power plants around the nation now accounts for only over three percent of that of the whole nation. On completion of the ongoing projects, Myanmar, in not-too-distant future, will be the nation that will be able to not only fulfill domestic electricity needs but also sell power surpluses to foreign countries.

As the government is striving to satisfy the nation’s increasing demand of electricity, the people on their part are to help develop the national economy by improving their own businesses realizing the goodwill effort of the national economy by improving their own businesses realizing the goodwill effort of the government.

With the government, the people and the Tatmadaw working harmoniously for development of all regions of the Union, the nation have been built.

**63rd Fire Brigade Day marked in Mandalay**

**Commander Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe addresses the ceremony to mark the 63rd Fire Brigade Day in Mandalay.**

**Bangladeshi Foreign Affairs Minister concludes visit**

**Seinlè Shwepyi news journal in circulation**

**Silk Air Travel Fair Programme introduced**
Ambush at Afghan school in ‘Valley of Death’

ALIABAD (Afghanistan), 17 May — The bearded Afghan army officer dropped off bundles of pens and notebooks at the school and asked one boy which he preferred: The Americans or the Taliban?

“I don’t know,” the boy replied. But after a short silence other children in the classroom answered for him: “The Taliban.”

Within minutes the discussion was punctuated by an insurgent ambush and the joint US-Afghan patrol became pinned down in this area with forested mountains, caves and ravines that American soldiers call “the Valley of Death.”

Heavy machine gun fire blanketed the patrol as troops used smoke grenades and cover fire to escape the ambush. No one in the patrol was killed in the firefight Saturday.

The Korengal Valley in eastern Afghanistan’s Kunar Province has a reputation as one of most dangerous areas in the country, where its rugged mountainous terrain makes it a perfect insurgent playground.

The region’s infamy for US and Afghan troops dates back to June 2005, when a four-man team of Navy SEALs was caught in a militant ambush. Three were killed and the fourth was rescued days later by a farmer.—Internet

Two policemen killed in eastern Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 17 May — Two policemen were killed and five people were wounded when a roadside bomb struck a police patrol in eastern Baghdad on Saturday, a well-informed police source said.

The attack took place in a main street in Baghdad’s neighbourhood of Maysal, damaging a vehicle and killing two policemen aboard, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Three policemen and two civilians were also wounded by the blast, the source said.

Earlier in the day, two more policemen were killed in separate roadside bomb explosion near their patrol in Abu Ghraib area, some 15 km west of Baghdad, the police said.

The blast also resulted in the killing of two policemen and the wounding of two others, along with wounding five civilians.—Internet

US soldier killed in combat in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 17 May — A US soldier was killed in a combat action in southern Iraq on Saturday, the US military said.

A military statement did not provide further details about the death of its Multi-National Division - South soldier, but said the incident is under investigation.

Multi-National Division - South, also known as Task Force Mountain, operates in the area south of Baghdad ranging from Najaf toWasit provinces extending to Basra.

Mortar attack kills Iraqi child in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 17 May — A mortar round landed on a house in Baghdad’s Shitte bastion of Sadr City on Saturday, killing a 2-year-old child and wounding two others, an interior Ministry source said.

The attack probably targeted a US military base located just few hundreds meters away from the house, the source said.

Despite the security gains in recent months in Iraq, there are still sporadic bombings, which shape the way back to the Iraqi government.—Internet

Four Americans investigated in Afghan death

KABUL, 17 May — Four US private security guards are being held against their will in Afghanistan by the company formerly known as Blackwater after their involvement in a deadly shooting, their lawyer said on Saturday.

A spokesperson for the company denied the allegation.

The shooting and allegations of forced confinement by the contractors’ lawyer highlights the murky legal world in which private security companies operate in Afghanistan and elsewhere.

Blackwater was involved in a 2007 shooting in a busy square in Baghdad, Iraq, that left as many as 17 Iraqi civilians dead and led to the end of its Baghdad operations this month. It has since changed its name to Xe.

An Afghan died and two others were wounded in the May 5 incident in the capital Kabul, said Lt. Col. Chris Kukh, a U.S. military spokesman.

The family of the dead Afghan man said he and the two others were innocent civilians driving home after work. The lawyer for the suspects said they were insurgents trying to kill his clients.—Internet

Internet

Rockets fired on Kabul, causing no casualties

KABUL, 17 May—Three rockets fired from an unknown location hit a residential area in Kabul but caused no damage, a private television channel TOLO reported on Sunday.

“Three rockets fired Saturday night landed at Diwan Bigi area of the 5th precinct,” TOLO reported in its morning news bulletin.

Quoting Interior Ministry spokesman Zamarai Bashari, the television added, there were no casualties.

This is the first time since the beginning of this year that Kabul came under rocket attack.

Taliban militants, who vowed to intensify activities against Afghan and the US-led forces, have several times sunk into the capital and kept making pressure on the central government.—Internet

Internet

Injured Iraqi police at a hospital in Kirkuk on 13 May, 2009. An Iraqi toddler and five security force members were killed in the latest violence to rock Baghdad on Saturday as the US military captured three men suspected of links with a Syria-based Al-Qaeda leader.—Internet

Abdul Khaliq Ahmed, the father of one-year-old boy Ali who was killed when a mortar struck their home in eastern Baghdad, Iraq, comforts his sister Um Razaq on 16 May, 2009. His two other children aged 4 and 6 were wounded in the attack.—Internet

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Internet

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WASHINGTON, 17 May — As of Saturday, on 16 May, 2009, at least 4,297 members of the US military had died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003.

The figure includes eight military civilians killed in action. At least 3,442 military personnel died as a result of hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.

The British military has reported 179 deaths; Italy, 33; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 21; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Denmark, seven; El Salvador, five; Slovakia, four; Latvia and Georgia, three each; Estonia; Netherlands; Thailand and Romania, two each; and Australia, Hungary, Kazakhstan and South Korea, one death each.

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Internet
Netanyahu may endorse Palestinian
state on US trip

JERUSALEM, 17 May—On the eve of Prime
Minister Benjamin Net-
yahu’s crucial visit to
Washington, his defence
minister suggested Satur-
day the Israeli leader might
endorse a Palestinian state
when he meets with Presi-
dent Barack Obama.

That would be a signifi-
cant shift for Netanyahu,
who has made clear in the
past that he does not think
the Palestinians are ready
to rule themselves. But
that position has put him
at odds with long-stand-
ing US policy that sup-
pports Palestinian state-
hood as the cornerstone of
Middle East peace efforts.

Senior White House
officials said Obama’s
meeting with Netanyahu
Monday is “part of his
commitment that he’s
made since day one of the
administration to pursue
comprehensive peace in
the Middle East, includ-
ing a two-state solution
between Israel and the
Palestinians.”

Israeli Defence Minis-
ter Ehud Barak said he
thought an agreement
with the Palestinians
could be achieved within
three years.

“I think and believe
that Netanyahu will tell
Obama this government is
prepared to go for a po-
litical process that will
result in two peoples liv-
ing side by side in peace
and mutual respect,”
Barak told Channel 2 TV.

However, he did not
use the word state, leav-
ing open other options for
Netanyahu.—Internet

Obama says early to mull
more troops in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON, 17 May—President Barack
Obama says he needs to
see how fast Afghanistan
can be stabilized and led
toward a more democratic
government before decid-
ing whether more troops
are needed.

In an interview with
Newsweek magazine,
Obama said the hardest
thing he has had to do so
far in his administration
was to order 17,000
troops to Afghanistan on
top of an estimated 38,000
that were already in
Afghanistan. The inter-
view was released on the
Web Saturday.

He did not rule out the
possibility of sending
more troops, while stress-
ing such a decision was
premature at this point and
that US military action is
not the only an-
swer to bringing stability
to the region.

“We have to see our
military action in the con-
text of a broader effort
to stabilize security in the
country, allow national
elections to take place in
Afghanistan and then pro-
vide the space for the vi-
tal development work
that’s needed so that a tol-
erant and open, demo-
cratically elected govern-
ment is considered far
more legitimate than a
telestan alternative,”
Obama said.

“My strong view is that
we are not going to suc-
cceed simply by piling on
more and more troops,”
he added. “The military
component is critical to
accomplishing that goal,
but it is not a sufficient
element by itself.”

Gunmen free 53 inmates from Mexican prison

MEXICO CITY, 17 May—An armed
gang freed more than 50 inmates from a
prison in central Mexico on Saturday —
including two dozen with ties to a pow-
erful drug cartel — in a daring raid that
took just five minutes, a state governor
said.

The prison director, 40 guards and
two police commanders who were on
duty at the Cieneguillas prison in
Zacatecas state were detained for ques-
tioning, according to Gov Amalia Garcia
Medina. She said footage from the se-
curity cameras inside and outside the
prison indicates that guards helped the
armed gang, although she did not pro-
vide details.

“It’s clear to us that it was a perfectly
planned operation with inside help be-
cause it lasted just five minutes and not
one shot was fired,” Garcia said at a news
conference. About 20 gunmen arrived at
the prison before dawn in 10 vehicles and
freed 53 prisoners, including at least 27
with ties to the Gulf cartel, she said.

She said the jailbreak may have been
revenge for the recent arrests of drug
gang members and the seizure of guns
and narcotics by the Zacatecas state po-
lice.—Internet

Spain hands 13 suspected pirates to Kenya

MADRID, 17 May—Spain says 13 suspected
Somali pirates captured in the law-
less Gulf of Aden have been handed over to Kenya for a possible trial.

Defence Minister Carme Chacon says the suspects were transferred under in-
ternational agreements signed in March by the European Union and Kenya. The
handover took place Saturday at the Kenyan port of Mombasa.

Judge Fernando Andreu had initially sought to fly the suspects to his court in
Madrid for questioning but backtracked under pressure from the Spanish govern-
ment.

The bedraggled youths were plucked from an overturned hull by a Spanish
navy ship after their boat capsized 6 May while they were allegedly attempting to
hijack a Panamanian-flagged freighter.

Pirate attacks have soared in the Gulf of Aden, one of the world’s most impor-
tant shipping lanes.—Internet

Rescuers search for survivors on the spot of a
collapsed building at the Jiazhou Economic
Development Zone in Lanzhou, capital of
northwest China’s Gansu Province, on 17 May,
2009. Part of the residence building collapsed due
to a landslide on late Saturday in Lanzhou. The
bodies of two victims have been found in the
scene and one injured was rescued.—INTERNET

ElBaradei urges Iran to engage with US

BERLIN, 17 May—Iran
should engage with the
United States and negoti-
ate over its nuclear
programme, Mohamed ElBaradei, chief of the
International Atomic En-
ergy Agency (IAEA), said
in a magazine interview re-
leased on Saturday.

US President Barack
Obama is actively seeking
to engage Iran on a series
of issues, from its nuclear
programme to Afghan-
istan.

“I advise my Iranian
negotiating partners: grasp
the hand that Obama is ex-
tending to you,” ElBaradei
told Germany’s Der
Spiegel magazine.

Asked what he meant
exactly, the head of the UN
nuclear watchdog added:
“I think Freeze for Freeze
is the next realistic step.
The Iranians would install
no more centrifuges, the
West would forego further
sanction measures. During
this time, there would be
intensive negotiations.”

INTERNET

In this image obtained from
NASA video, astronauts work
to service the Hubble space
telescope. Two spacewalking
NASA astronauts assigned to
overhaul the Hubble embark
on a fourth spacewalk on
Sunday to revive a long
inactive instrument aboard
the 19-year-old observatory
that was once used to study
super massive black holes.

INTERNET

Internet
Egypt opens Rafah border for Two days

RAFAH, 16 May—The Egyptian authorities reopened for two days the Rafah land crossing at the border with the Palestinian territory of Gaza Strip on Saturday, a security source at the border said.

The source said 300 Palestinians who hold foreign passports and residence permits of Gaza have been allowed into the impoverished region, adding that some 500 Palestinians have been allowed to cross into Egypt so far. Meanwhile, hundreds of Palestinians are still waiting at the Egyptian side of the border to get the go-ahead.

Sarkozy’s popularity falls slightly in May poll

PARIS, 16 May—French President Nicolas Sarkozy’s popularity has fallen a bit this month while Prime Minister Francois Fillon’s standing is on the rise, a new poll says.

According to a IFOP poll for the Journal du Dimanche published Saturday, 38 percent of those surveyed say they are very or fairly satisfied with Sarkozy, down from 40 percent in April.

About 62 percent of those surveyed said they are somewhat or very dissatisfied. That was an increase from 59 percent in April, the poll said.

The poll said that 50 percent of those surveyed are very or somewhat satisfied with Fillon, up a point from 49 percent in April. But 48 percent are somewhat or very dissatisfied, while 2 percent are undetermined, the poll said. —Xinhua

Russia becomes Turkey’s leading economic partner

MOSCOW, 16 May—Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said on Saturday that his country has become Turkey’s leading trade partner.

Trade turnover between Russia and Turkey reached a record 35 billion U.S. dollars, making Russia one of the most important trade and economic partners of Turkey, Putin said during talks with his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan in the Black Sea resort of Sochi.

The heads of government hailed the cooperation between the two countries. “If several years ago we talked mostly about cooperation in the construction sector, now diversification is very broad,” Putin was quoted as saying by the Itar-Tass news agency.

The premiers agreed to immediately start talks on extending two agreements under which Russia delivered natural gas to Turkey, the third largest consumer of Russian gas after Germany and Italy. Meanwhile, Russian companies are expected to participate in building four nuclear power plants in Turkey.

People leave a hotel in Chengdu, capital of southwest China’s Sichuan Province, on 16 May, 2009. More than 120 people quarantined at the hotel for having close contacts with A/H1N1 flu patient surnamed Bao were allowed to leave the hotel on Saturday after they were lifted out of medical observation. Patient Bao are receiving treatment at the Chengdu Infectious Disease Hospital since on 11 May. —Xinhua

China, Austria to strengthen economic cooperation in face of financial crisis

VIENNA, 16 May—Chinese top legislator Wu Bangguo and Austrian Acting Chancellor Josef Proll met here on Saturday, with both sides agreeing to expand bilateral trade and economic cooperation in the fight against the ongoing world financial crisis.

Wu, chairman of the Standing Committee of China’s National People’s Congress (NPC), said China’s development has provided even greater room for expanding economic and technological cooperation with Austria.

Proll said the financial crisis had incurred a serious impact on Austria’s economy. In the process of addressing the consequences of the financial crisis, the Austrian government places great importance on strengthening economic and technological relations with China.

China witnessed an economic growth of 6.1 percent in the first quarter of this year, while Austria’s economy contracted 2.8 percent in the same period.

Noting that the two economies are highly complementary, Wu said China has a huge market and Austria has advanced technologies in many fields.

He said China is ready to expand cooperation with Austria in such areas as energy efficiency, environment protection, water conservancy, ec-agriculture, auto parts and clean energy, so as to foster new growth spots of both economies.

International show on public safety, security opens in Anhui

BEIJING, 17 May — The 2009 Anhui International Exhibition on Public Safety and Security Thursday opened in Hefei, capital of east China’s Anhui Province.

Some 300 companies from China and abroad displayed their products of alarming, monitoring systems, house security, personal protection, police equipment and firefighting.

Qiao Shiming, company manager says “The exhibition aims at protecting public security with high-tech facilities and creating a safe city. Our company specializes in producing wireless surveillance systems and road monitoring systems, with a comprehensive service line of production, research, manufacturing and sales.”

According to the organizers, the exhibition is aimed to promote public security and its related industry.

Delta Airlines to launch Shanghai-Detroit direct flight

BEIJING, 17 May—The Northwest Airline, a wholly subsidiary of the Delta Airlines, will launch direct flight linking Shanghai and Detroit since 3 June, the company’s Beijing office said Saturday.

Passengers can reach more than 140 cities in north America and major central American cities via Detroit, a US transport hub.

Flight NW 90 will take off at 9:25 am every Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from Shanghai, and reach Detroit at 11:10 am, local time.

Flight NW 89 will leave Detroit at 3:45 pm every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, and arrive in Shanghai at 6:20 pm the next day.

The flight will be undertaken by Boeing 747-400 aircraft.—Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency
Job losses as GM, Chrysler close dealerships

New York, 17 May — Moves by ailing carmakers Chrysler and General Motors to slash their US dealerships will cost tens of thousands of jobs, taking a heavier toll than cuts in production, analysts say.

General Motors, the largest US automaker, said Friday it would seek to eliminate nearly one-fourth of its US dealers, by the end of 2010 as part of its reorganization lets, by the end of 2010 as part of its reorganization to avert bankruptcy.

Chrysler, which has filed for bankruptcy protection, said Thursday it had asked the bankruptcy court to shut down 789 dealers, nearly one-fourth of its sales outlets. For GM, the decision to close the dealerships, which employ about 50 people each, could translate into the loss of as many as 150,000 jobs — representing a 0.2 percent-age point rise in the unemployment rate, Joel Naroff at Naroff Economic Advisors said.—Internet

Four PKK militants killed in southeastern Turkey

Ankara, 17 May — Four militants of the banned Kurdish Workers’ Party (PKK) were killed in a clash in southeastern Turkey, Turkish General Staff said in a statement on Saturday.

The statement said that the Turkish security forces conducted an operation in the region after a village guard died and another one was injured after stepping on a land mine planted by PKK terrorists.

The statement said that one village guard and a soldier was injured in the clash that erupted between the security forces and a group of PKK militants in Yassidag region in Erzurum town of Siirt province, adding that operations in fight against the PKK rebels are underway in the region.

The security forces conduct frequent operations against PKK militants in eastern and southeastern Turkey. The PKK took up arms in 1984 to create an ethnic homeland in southeastern Turkey. Some 40,000 people have been killed in the over-two-decade conflict.—Internet

Zimbabwe road accident kills 12

Harare, 17 May — At least 12 people were killed and 20 injured when two trucks collided near Murehwa in northeastern Zimbabwe, state radio said on Saturday.

Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation News reported that “a seven-ton truck carrying farmers collided with a 30-ton truck last night about 50 kilometres (30 miles) east of Harare.”

The radio station said 10 people died at the scene while the other two were pronounced dead later. It quoted a survivor as saying one of the drivers veered onto the other side of the road to avoid a tractor in front of him.

Roads are poorly maintained in Zimbabwe and littered with gaping potholes, often referred to as “drumholes” because of their size, which often cause accidents.—Internet

Bullet pulled from woman’s head after 42 years

Doctors in southwest China have successfully removed a bullet from a woman’s head 42 years after she was shot, putting an end to decades of increasingly unbearable pain, state media said Friday.

Staff at a hospital in Chongqing municipality extracted the inch-long (2.5-centimetre) bullet from the right temple of He Wenyong, 65, on Thursday, the Chongqing News reported on its website.

She was hit by the ricocheting bullet during a gun battle between warring factions at the start of the Cultural Revolution, which lasted from 1966 to 1976.

Doctors initially told her that her wound was only superficial, but constant headaches and difficulty eating led to an x-ray in 1978 that revealed the bullet lodged near her right jaw and ear, it added.

Four PKK militants killed in southeastern Turkey

Cairo, 17 May — Thirteen factory workers were killed on Saturday when their small pickup truck crashed head on into a large lorry in southern Egypt, a security official said.

The workers were on their way to their factory in Zaafarana, close to the popular Red Sea resort of Hurghada, when the driver lost control of the steering wheel. “The 13, including the driver, died instantly.”

The statement said that one village guard and a soldier was injured in the clash that erupted between the security forces and a group of PKK militants in Yassidag region in Erzurum town of Siirt province, adding that operations in fight against the PKK rebels are underway in the region.

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Ghost hunters inspect 180-year-old NM hotel site

The former owner of a 180-year-old adobe building hears the door of a pot-belled stove opening and wood being stacked inside, but no one is there.

Mysterious whispers echo in the current owner’s ear. Things fall off shelves for no apparent reason. These are just a few of the strange goings-on that artist Josh Bond, owner of the Old Cuchillo Bar in the southern New Mexico ghost town of the same name, has asked the West Coast Ghost and Paranormal Society to investigate on his property.

“The creepiest I had was a voice whispering in my ear,” Bond said. “When things fall in the house, I just sort of write it off.”

When he saw an advertisement about WGAPS, a Phoenix-based nonprofit organization, Bond thought the group could at least explain what was occurring.

This undated photo provided by Josh Bond shows the old stable from the days that the Old Cuchillo Bar was a busy stagecoach stop in Cuchillo, NM. Owner Josh Bond has invited the West Coast Ghost and Paranormal Society to investigate strange noises and falling objects on the 180-year-old property.

Health Tip: Keep medications away from children

Youngsters seem to get into everything — often things they aren’t supposed to, such as medications. Your medicine cabinet is full of dangers for young people, so it’s important to keep medications locked away and out of a child’s reach.

The National Safety Council offers these suggestions:

* Keep all medications in a securely latched medicine cabinet, even if you don’t think your child can reach it.
* Always store medications in containers with child-proof lids, and make sure the containers are securely closed.
* Try not to take medication in front of children, and never act like they are candy or something to play with.
* When you dispose of medications, don’t just throw them in the garbage can. Dispose of them in a way that a child can’t find and swallow them.
Boosting production of quality farm equipment to change from conventional to mechanized farming

Article: Win Naing (Kyemon); Photos: Khin Maung Win

Director U Soe Hlaing of Agricultural Mechanization Department (Head Office).

Farmer U Aung Kyi of Shwepeukpin Village, Kayan Township.

Field trip leader Naw Lay Ma Aye.

Farming implements being displayed on board of the trucks.

...Continued from page 1...

The director said, “In providing farming implements forstorm Narges-hit regions to be able to grow monsoon paddy in time, the factories of Agricultural Mechanization Department manufactured new items of agricultural machinery in accord with the directives of the government as the local farmers requested the department to produce new suitable farming machinery in addition to the present brands of farming equipment. In the past, the department assembled two brands of power-tillers, namely Leyar-16 and Leyar-22. Beginning 2009-2010 financial year, the department is manufacturing eight farming implements namely one-wheel power-tiller, long handle power-tiller, power-tiller for working on slopes, paddy harvester, paddy thrasher, form vehicles and trailers. Moreover, efforts are being made to manufacture sowing machine, paddy transplanting machine, pumps, sprays and combine harvesters.”

Farmer U Aung Kyi from Shwepeukpin Village of Kayan Township who was observing agricultural equipment. He said, “I am growing crops at 14 acres of farmlands with the use of one Leyar-16 power-tiller. I am interested in paddy thrasher. Before buying the power-tiller, I was very tired in working together with a couple of draught cattle. The use of machine saves the farming cost and time and contributes to growing of double crops a year. If water is sufficient at any time, we can cultivate 20-25 baskets of paddy per hour. We can save the time. If the farmers can harvest, thresh and store paddy speedily, they will not be necessary to worry about loss and wastage of paddy.”

Myanmar has fertile soil and favourable climate. In the agriculture sector, the government has built infrastructures for practising the mechanized farming. We firmly believe that the farmers will have the ability to employ the mechanized farming system by substituting the conventional cultivation methods with the modern ones with the aims of developing the agriculture sector and uplifting their living standard.

Translation: TTA

Kyemon: 11-5-2009
Lt-Gen Tha Aye inspects development...

(from page 1)

Upon arrival at Phaungpyin-Pinlebu motor road, the chairman of Katha district, the division senior engineer and the district senior engineer reported on road works to Lt-Gen Tha Aye. After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Tha Aye gave necessary instructions on timely completion of the roads.

After meeting with the local people from Thazi and Khauksin villages along Phaungpyin-Pinlebu motor road, Lt-Gen Tha Aye presented bio battery and related florescent lamps to officials and attended to the needs.

At the briefing hall of Nama river crossing bridge construction site, the assistant engineer of Development Affairs Department reported to Lt-Gen Tha Aye on progress in building the bridge and future tasks to be carried out and the commander gave a supplementary report. After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Tha Aye attended to the needs.

Next, Lt-Gen Tha Aye met with division selected volleyball players and gave encouragement to them.

After meeting with townselders, members of social organizations and the local people in Pinlebu township and Kantbalu township, Lt-Gen Tha Aye paid homage to Maha Shwesigyi Pagoda in Kantbalu township and made cash donations at the pagoda.

MNA

Hlaingbwe Township achieving progress with greater momentum

NAY PYI TAW, 17 May – Lt-Gen Khin Zaw and party viewed rubber sapping production and thriving rubber trees. In Soannahtha Myaingwse Myodaw in Myaingyinngu region, Hlaingbwe Township, they paid respects to Thizzamuni Phayagyi Pagoda and presented gifts to members of the peace groups.

Later they met with officials and townselders at Aung San Hall in Hlaingbwe where the Township Peace and Development Council Chairman presented sector-wise developments. Brig-Gen Zaw Min presented a supplementary report on progress of agriculture, health and education sectors and ongoing tasks.

Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Khin Zaw said that peace had been restored in Hlaingbwe Township which is now achieving progress with greater momentum. He cordially met with local people and presented them gifts.

In Hlaingbwe Station, he met with families of the station.

During the inspection of Htilon village in the township, he heard a report on housing project presented by an official.

MNA

Vietnamese goodwill delegation winds up visit

YANGON, 17 May—The Women’s Vocational Training School of Education and Training Department under the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs in Laos conducted the Domestic Science Course No 50, the Advanced Tailoring Course No 23 and the Wickerwork Training Course No 5 at its hall on 11 May, with an address by Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut.

Altogether 33 trainees are attending at the training courses.

The Domestic Science Course No. 51, the Advanced Tailoring Course No. 23, the Knitting Course No. 10 and the Wickerwork Course No. 4 were opened school in Kengtung, with an address by Chairman of Shan State (East) PDC Commander of Triangle Region Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Phyo.

Altogether 38 trainees are attending the courses. A similar ceremony was held in Loikaw of Kayah State.

MNA

Vocational training courses opened in Lashio, Kengtung, Loikaw

YANGON, 17 May—The Women’s Vocational Training School of Education and Training Department under the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs in Laos conducted the Domestic Science Course No 50, the Advanced Tailoring Course No 23 and the Wickerwork Training Course No 5 at its hall on 11 May, with an address by Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut.

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MNA
A/H1N1 virus in humans has spread to 39 countries

The virus has not been found in Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 17 May -- A/H1N1 has infected 8480 people in 39 countries as from 17 April to date and 72 died of flu. In Asia and the Pacific Region, 30 people have contracted the flu in eight countries namely South Korea, China, Japan, Thailand, Australia and New Zealand, India and Malaysia.

Dr Wantanee Damrongwatanapokin, regional coordinator of Asia and the Pacific Region Cross Border Disease Emergency Control of UNFAO and laboratory expert Dr Sudarat Damrongwatanapokin visited Yangon Diagnosis Laboratory of the Livestock and Veterinary Department on 13 May and took measures such as taking diagnostic tests on common pig diseases and unusual pig diseases, getting disease samples, promoting lab technologies and providing lab chemicals and equipment.

On 14 May, adviser of FAO Dr Murray Maclean and experts of Livestock and Veterinary Department and Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation met with heads of state/division LVDs and discussed matters related to pig diseases, preventive measures and area risk assessment and market chain study.

Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries has issued an announcement that A/H1N1 has not infected pigs at all in Myanmar, that the virus cannot survive if pork and pig products are well cooked at 70 degree centigrade or 160 degree Fahrenheit, and that there will be no infection of the virus if pork and pig products are cooked in a systematically hygienic way.—MNA

News and information on outbreak of swine flu released to people in time

Ministry of Health: There has been no swine flu case in Myanmar up to now

NAY PYI TAW, 17 May--Swine flu A/H1N1 has broken out in the world since 17 April. So far, the swine flu has infected 8480 people and killed 72 and the virus has spread to 39 countries including Mexico said the announcement released by WHO on 17 May.

The Ministry of Health has been taking preventive measures against the outbreak of the swine flu since 25 April as it may be able to transform into global human flu.

The Ministry of Health has carried out preventive measures against the outbreak of the swine influenza (A/H1N1) in Myanmar, made preparations for keeping a constant watch on the virus and medical treatment, provided medicines and medical equipment and laboratory apparatus to the hospital and prepared the special care units and wards at the hospitals for emergency use.

With regard to the situation of outbreak of swine flu, preventive measures are being taken and health knowledge is being disseminated to the people through TV, radio and dailies in time.

Since 29 April, the visitors have been under medical checks at international airports, seaports and borders.

Up to now, the Ministry of Health released information that there is no case of influenza A/H1N1 in Myanmar.—MNA

Training courses opened at Women’s Vocational Training Schools

YANGON, 17 May--The basic domestic science course No. 51 and the advanced tailoring course No. 22 were opened at Women’s Vocational Training School of Education and Training Department in Myeik on 11 May.

Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo delivered an opening address. The courses are being attended by 45 trainees.

On-job Training Course for Law Officers Grade-4 concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 17 May—The On-job Training Course for Law Officers Grade-4 concluded at the hall of the Attorney-General’s Office, here, on 14 May, with an address by Attorney-General U Aye Maung.

Next, the Attorney-General presented prizes to the outstanding trainees.

Jumbo super mosquito coil introduced

YANGON, 17 May--A ceremony to introduce new Jumbo super mosquito coil was held at Traders Hotel here in the morning.

First, Managing Director U Aung Thein of Powerhouse Company greeted the guests and then General Manager U Myo Min and General Manager Mr Ridzuan from Research & Development demonstrated the effectiveness of new Jumbo super mosquito coil and answered the queries.

The new mosquito coil contains new chemical product MctoFluthrin which was invented by Sumitomo Chemical Company and forty times more effective than the normal as it contains small amount of chemicals and reduces the environmental pollution.

Diethelm & Co Ltd distributes the new products across the nation and it is the first of its kind in Myanmar among the Southeast Asian Nations.—MNA
Beautiful and peaceful Taunggyi in Shan State (South)

Article: Win Kyaw; Photos: Tin Soe (Myanma Alin)

Taunggyi Myoma Market.

At the entrance to Taunggyi is a floral map of Myanmar saying “Welcome to Taunggyi”. Director of Shan State Development Affairs Committee U Aung Myint Swe told the Myanma Alin, “The design of this flower bed is not much different from it used to be. As you see, we grow landscaping plants in the triangle-shaped compound of multicoloured brick line to attract the attention of viewers. And at night, we illustrate the area with multicolour lights.”

When asked about the plan to keep the township clean and beautiful, Executive Officer (Deputy Director) U Aung Myint said, “In our township, you can see Union Highway, and east and west circular roads. They are long, but we manage to keep them clean. Our Township Development Affairs Committee hires 105 piecework workers for daily work such as cleaning urban areas and the market, supplying water, and maintaining the flower garden.

“We get over 38 tons of garbage a day; over 20 tons from urban areas and about 18 tons from the market. We throw it systematically into the garbage hole, about two miles from the township to avert environmental damage. We get natural humus from the waste and we use it to grow landscaping plants and enrich the soil. We collect garbage from street to street from the wards.

“We have got a plastic factory to recycle the used plastic to help avoid environmental impact of pollution from the used plastic.”

Regarding the sewage system, he said, “In our township, about 97 per cent of the population use fly-proof latrines. We use vacuum trucks to collect sewage. Then, we treat the sewage we have collected and systematically throw it into the hole near the garbage hole. There is no housing, plantation or watershed area around the sewage hole, and that is important for avoiding environmental damage.”

He added that along the roads in the downtown areas are drains and they let used water flow away through three major canals.

The busy places in the centre of the town and Myoma Market were found clean and tidy. The garden has various species of flowers, and landscaping plants are grown in the garden and on the traffic islands. Taunggyi has a cool climate pattern and it can be seen with greenish Shan mountain range in the background. So, we enjoyed pleasant to view of the township. Being surrounded by mountain ranges, Taunggyi is beautiful and pleasant due to effective systems, and that represents the development of the township.

Translation: MS Myanma Alin: 9-5-2009

Cold water ocean circulation doesn’t work as expected

DURHAM, 17 May — The familiar model of Atlantic ocean currents that shows a discrete “conveyor belt” of deep, cold water flowing southward from the Labrador Sea is probably all wet. New research led by Duke University and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution relied on an armada of sophisticated floats to show that much of this water, originating in the sea between Newfoundland and Greenland, is diverted generally eastward by the time it flows as far south as Massachusetts.—Internet

Medicinal plant Kava safe, effective in reducing anxiety

BRISBANE, 17 May — Researchers at the University of Queensland in Australia have found a traditional extract of Kava, a medicinal plant from the South Pacific, to be safe and effective in reducing anxiety.

To be published online this week in the Springer journal Psychopharmacology, the results of a world-first clinical trial which found that a water-soluble extract of Kava was effective in treating anxiety and improving mood. The Kava was prescribed in the form of tablets.—Internet

Local man making traditional Kava.
WHO Says H1N1 flu cases, death toll rise

ZURICH, 17 May—The number of confirmed cases of the new H1N1 flu has climbed to 8,451, including 72 deaths, the World Health Organization said on Saturday. The number of countries reporting confirmed cases of H1N1, commonly known as swine flu, has risen to 36 with Ecuador and Peru confirming their first cases, the WHO said.

The vast majority of cases have been in Mexico and the United States. The spread of the disease has led the WHO to declare a pandemic as imminent. On 29 April it raised its pandemic alert to 5 on a 6-level scale. WHO Director-General Margaret Chan said on Friday that there remained “great uncertainty” about the new strain, which continues to spread and could pose particular threats in Southeast Asia. US health officials later on Friday announced they were easing their warning on travel to Mexico. MNA/Reuters

Study confirms H1N1 flu virus found in swine same as in humans

OTTAWA, 17 May—The H1N1 flu virus found on infected swine at a Canadian farm is the same as the virus causing illness in humans around the world, Canadian scientists have confirmed.

Scientists at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)’s National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease (NCFAD) have mapped the full genetic sequence of the virus found in swine from Alberta and confirmed that the virus on the infected swine is the same as on humans, the CFIA said in a Press release on its website late Friday.

A portion of a total of 2,300 swine on the farm were found to be infected with the new virus in early May. The virus was believed to have been transmitted by a worker who had returned from Mexico. As scientists are trying to prove this new virus, this development will help scientists around the world better understand the virus and its effects on animals, the CFIA said.

MNA/Xinhua

First woman UN Assistant Secretary-General dies

HELSINKI, 17 May—The first woman assistant secretary-general of the United Nations, Helvi Sipli, died on Friday, May 15 in Helsinki at the age of 94, Finnish media reported on Saturday.

As the first woman to hold the senior position of assistant secretary-general in the world body, Sipli’s specific area of responsibility was the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, where she served from 1972 to 1980.

Among the achievements during her period of office were the first UN International Women’s Year and its related world conference in 1974-75. Later she was appointed chairperson of the Finnish association of the UN Development Fund.

MNA/Xinhua

Turkish forces kill 7 kurdish rebels in southeast

TUNCeli (Turkey), 17 May—Turkish soldiers killed seven members of the outlawed Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) in fighting in the country’s southeast, military sources said on Saturday.

A fighter in the government-armed “village guard” militia, which employs local civilians to combat the PKK, was also killed and three soldiers were wounded after clashes broke out on Friday in a mountainous area of Sirt Province, they said.

MNA/Reuters

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR  Monday, 18 May, 2009

Medvedev says NATO exercises in Georgia aggravate tensions

MOSCOW, 17 May—President Dmitry Medvedev on Saturday criticized the ongoing NATO war games in Georgia for aggravating tensions instead of improving European security.

“We cannot but be concerned by the NATO exercises in Georgia,” Medvedev told reporters after meeting with Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi. “They are causing problems and tensions, and believe they can add nothing good to European security.”

Russia and NATO recently started to improve ties frozen after Russia’s war with Georgia in August but tensions rose again over expulsions of diplomats and the NATO exercises that began last week in Georgia.

Moscow has criticized NATO for taking former Soviet republics and satellites in Central and Eastern Europe as members and has fiercely opposed the alliance’s plan to include Russia’s neighbours Georgia and Ukraine.

Medvedev, talking about the G-8 summit scheduled for July in Italy, said Russia would once again propose to build a new global financial and economic architecture, create a supranational reserve currency, and use the Russian rouble as a reserve currency.

INTERNET
European telescopes on cosmos birth study launched

BEIJING, 17 May—Two European Space Agency spacecraft lifted off this week on a mission to gather fundamental new insights into the nature of the universe. The two spacecraft - an infrared space telescope “Herschel” and a cosmic background mapper “Planck” - were launched Thursday from French Guiana.

The crafts will focus on the darkest, coldest and oldest parts of the universe to study dark matter, and to learn more about the birth of stars and galaxies. They are designed to help scientists unravel the mysteries of the theoretical Big Bang by peaking back into the earliest moments of the universe.

Autopsy inconclusive for boy found buried in park

ALBUQUERQUE, 17 May—A preliminary autopsy failed Saturday to determine the cause of death of a young boy whose body was found buried in sand in a public playground.

“There were no obvious signs or cause of death,” Albuquerque police spokesman John Walsh said Saturday after receiving the autopsy results from the state Office of the Medical Investigator.

Survival chances slim for 11 missing people in sunken ship in NE China

SUZHOU, 17 May—Survival chances are slim for the 11 missing people after a boat sank off the coast in northeast China’s Liaoning Province, a local maritime official said Sunday.

“Survival chances for the 11 missing people are slim 60 hours after the boat sank,” said Xu Hongbin, head of the marine search and rescue center in Huludao.

The boat was a sand carrier, coded Haida No 8 and registered in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, on 15 May, 2009.
Stress direct contributor to teen obesity

AMES, 17 May—Iowa State University researchers say increased levels of stress in teens are associated with a greater likelihood of them being overweight or obese.

Lead author Brenda Lohman, Susan Stewart, Steven Garasky and colleagues analyzed data from a six-year longitudinal investigation and measured the height and weight of the adolescents to determine their body mass index, which was subsequently used to determine weight status based on two widely used classification systems. Adolescent food insecurity status and individual, maternal and family stressors were also determined through interviews, the researchers said. The study of 1,011 adolescents ages 10-15 and their mothers from low-income families living in Boston, Chicago and San Antonio, Texas, found 47 percent of the teen were overweight or obese, but that percentage increased to 56.2 percent among those who were impacted by four or more stressors.

Fame and fortune may make you unhappy

ROCHESTER, 17 May—Many think having money, good looks or the admiration of others can actually make a person less happy, US researchers suggest. University of Rochester researchers tracked and surveyed 147 alumni from two universities during their second year after graduation.

“Even though our culture puts a strong emphasis on attaining wealth and fame, pursuing these goals does not contribute to having a satisfying life,” study author Edward Deci says in a statement. “The things that make your life happy are growing as an individual, having loving relationships and contributing to your community.”

Depressed first-grade kids bullied later

VICTORIA, 17 May—First-grade children with signs of depression, anxiety or aggression are at risk of being victimized by peers by third grade, Canadian researchers said.

Researchers at the University of Victoria asked some 400 Canadian children beginning first grade if they were bullied — such as being hit, pushed and shoved, or being teased and excluded from play.

The children’s teachers were asked to report on the children’s symptoms of depression and anxiety, as well as on their displays of physical aggression.

The study, published in the journal Child Development, found 73 percent of the children showed few symptoms of depression and anxiety over the three years. But 7 percent of the children showed continuously high levels of depressive symptoms. The remaining 20 percent showed moderate symptoms at first, but these increased over time.

Immunotherapy works against brain cancer

SAN DIEGO 17 May—Adding an antibody-based therapy that harnesses the body’s immune system resulted in children living longer with a childhood cancer, US researchers said.

Lead author Dr Alice Yu of the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine, said neuroblastoma, a hard-to-treat cancer arising from nervous system cells, is responsible for 15 percent of cancer-related deaths in children.

The therapy targets a specific glycan — a complex sugar chain found on the surface of cells — on neuroblastoma cells called GD2, which inhibit the immune system from killing cancer cells. The antibody — ch14.18 — binds to this glycan, enabling various types of immune cells to attack the tumor.

Yu and colleagues compared both the percentage of patients who were still alive without experiencing a recurrence after two years as well as overall survival in two groups of 113 patients each.

Nine students confirmed infected with new flu in Japan

TOKYO, 17 May—Nine students from a high school in Osaka Prefecture were confirmed to have been infected with the H1N1 strain of influenza A, the health ministry said Sunday, bringing the total number of infections in Japan to 21.

The nine had no record of overseas travel. The confirmation follows the discovery of Japan’s first eight domestic cases of the new flu in the neighboring Kobe, Hyogo Prefecture, on Saturday.

Japan found the first four cases of infection on travelers who returned from North America. The nine in Osaka Prefecture are from the Kansai Okura Senior High School in the city of Ibaraki. About 110 students at the high school have shown symptoms of influenza since around Monday, according to the school.

The health ministry said the patients are recovering at local hospitals.

A/H1N1 flu continues to spread worldwide

BEIJING, 17 May—Influenza A/H1N1 continued to spread around the world on Sunday as more than 8,450 people in 39 countries have been confirmed to have been infected with the disease with 75 deaths.

Turkey confirmed its first two cases while India confirmed its first case of the flu on Saturday, all involving airline passengers from the United States. Malaysia found its second confirmed case on Saturday and its first on Friday.

They are in addition to the 36 other countries that the World Health Organization says have confirmed cases of the disease.

In China, one confirmed case of the epidemic was reported in Beijing, the Ministry of Health said on Saturday evening.

It is the third confirmed case of A/H1N1 flu on Chinese mainland, according to the ministry. The case involved a 18-year-old Chinese student at a university in the New York State of the United States, and she is currently in stable condition with normal body temperature, the ministry said.
**SPORTS**

**Premier winners Man United ready to bash Barca**

MANCHESTER, 17 May—Sir Alex Ferguson has warned Barcelona that Manchester United are “bouncing” into the Champions League final after wrapping up the Premier League title.

A goalless draw with Arsenal at Old Trafford on Saturday was enough for Ferguson’s side to secure the league for a record equalling 18th time.

Having sealed a third successive title, as well as the League Cup and Club World Cup this season, Ferguson has now set his sights on bringing the curtain down on United’s future with a third successive European Cup triumph when United face Barca in Rome on 27 May.

Before then, United face relegation-threatened Hull in their final league game of the season next weekend, but Ferguson admitted his players were already looking forward to facing the Spanish league leaders.

Barca led for most of the season and their attacking style drew comparisons with Johan Cruyff’s ‘Dream Team’, in which Guardiola played a part. The inexperienced Guardiola, a former Barcelona midfielder promoted from youth team coach, replaced Rijkaard at the young age of 37 and was pitted against Real’s far more experienced coach Bernd Schuster.

**Advantage Bordeaux as French title race ticks down**

PARIS, 17 May—Bordeaux took a step closer to clinching their first French league title in a decade with a hard-fought 3-2 win over Le Mans on Saturday. Coached by former France defender Laurent Blanc, Bordeaux’s 22nd win of the season took them top of the table with a three-point lead over Marseille and two league matches remaining.

That could all change on Sunday if Marseille beat seven-times consecutive champions Lyon, who are already out of the title race. However Eric Gerets’ Marseille side, the only other team who can now win the French league, will be under huge pressure to deliver against Claude Puel’s under-achieving champions.

**Disallowed goal drama as Newcastle face relegation**

NEWCASTLE, 17 May—Australia’s Mark Viduka and Mark Schwarzer were at the centre of a disallowed goal storm as Newcastle’s Premier League future was left hanging by a thread following their 1-0 defeat against Fulham.

Referee Howard Webb ruled out Magpies striker Viduka’s second-half header for a foul by Kevin Nolan on Fulham goalkeeper Schwarzer as Fulham moved a step closer to qualifying for next season’s Europa League and left Alan Shearer’s side in dire trouble.

**Beautiful game prevails as Barca win title**

MADRID, 17 May—Barcelona blew away the cobwebs of the Frank Rijkaard era to lift their first title in two years, triumphing with a swagger and some eye-catching football that left their fans and neutrals purring.

Real Madrid were dreaming of a third successive league title but Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola defied his inexperience using the attacking talents of Lionel Messi, Thierry Henry, Samuel Eto’o to perfection as they gunned down their rivals and helped win a 19th league title.

Barca led most of the season and their attacking style drew comparisons with Johan Cruyff’s ‘Dream Team’, in which Guardiola played a part. The inexperienced Guardiola, a former Barcelona midfielder promoted from youth team coach, replaced Rijkaard at the young age of 37 and was pitted against Real’s far more experienced coach Bernd Schuster.

**Milan defeat hands Inter fourth straight Italian title**

ROME, 17 May—Inter Milan won a fourth straight Serie A title on Saturday despite not playing when nearest challengers AC Milan lost 2-1 at Udinese. Second-placed Milan trail Inter, who host Siena on Sunday, by seven points but the Rossoneri have only two matches left to play.

Milan’s defeat meant that Inter boss Jose Mourinho has won the scudetto in his first season in Italian football after joining in June last year. It is Mourinho’s fifth title in seven years in three different countries having claimed the Portuguese crown with Porto in 2003 and 2004 and the English Premier League trophy in 2005 and 2006 with Chelsea.

Milan went into the game in Udine knowing that they had to get a result to stop their bitter city rivals claiming the title, but they put in one of their worst performances of the season in what could be one of coach Carlo Ancleotti’s final matches in charge with rumours growing that he will join Chelsea next season.

**Mourinho achieves Inter minimum in first season**

ROME, 17 May—When Jose Mourinho arrived at Inter Milan amongst much pomp and fanfare in June last year, he was set a definite target — win the Champions League. Inter were on a run of three straight titles, in no small part thanks to the match-fixing punishment that sent Juventus down to Serie B, and two of their best players into Inter’s colours.

Back then, in the summer of 2006, Inter were known as the country’s perennial underachievers and chokers. But they romped to the 2007 title more by default as points penalties dealt out to AC Milan, Fiorentina and Lazio had robbed Inter of any meaningful challengers.

**Pettersen, Oh lead LPGA tourney after rounds of 69**

CLIFTON, 17 May—Suzann Pettersen and Ji Young Oh seemingly won’t have to worry about three-time defending champion Lorena Ochoa making a run at them in the final round of the Sybase Classic.

There are plenty of other challengers though, including recent major winner Brittany Lincicome, eight-time LPGA winner Paul Creamer and probably the most famous non-winner on tour, 19-year-old Michelle Wie.

Suzann Pettersen of Norway, tees off on the 17th hole during the third round of the Sybase Classic LPGA golf tournament at Upper Montclair Country Club in Clifton, NJ, on 16 May, 2009.
Thousands March in Britain for better protection of jobs

LONDON, 17 May,—As unemployment in Britain rose to more than 2.2 million this week, the country’s biggest union brought thousands of people from across the UK on Saturday to march in defence of their jobs.

The national March for Jobs through Birmingham saw workers from every sector of the economy unite to send a message to the government for better protection of jobs.

Workers from numerous manufacturing companies and from the public and private sectors converged on Britain’s second largest city and manufacturing heartland to demand urgent steps to keep people employed.

**WEATHER**

Sunday, 17 May, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30hr MST:

During the past 24 hours, Southwest monsoon has advanced into the Southern Myanmar areas. Weather has been partly cloudy in Magway Division, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Shan State, lower Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, fairly widespreads in upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and isolated in the remaining States and Divisions with locally heavyfall in lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above May average temperatures in Rakhine, Kayin, Mon States, Magway and Bago Divisions, (5°C) above May average temperatures in Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions and about May average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperature were Chauk and Minbu (41°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (0.78) inch, Nay Pyi Taw (Thapâygon) (2.40) inches Nay Pyi Taw (Tutkon) (1.93) inches, Monywa (1.89) inches and Sagaing (1.54) inches. Maximum temperature on 16–5-2009 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 17-5-2009 was 73°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 17-5-2009 was 77%. Total sunshine hours on 16-5-2009 was (0.7) hrs approx. Rainfall on 17-5-2009 was (Tr) at Mingaladon, (Nil) at Kaba-Aye and (10.04) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (3.54) inches at Mingaladon, (4.61) inches at Kaba-Aye and (5.75) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Southwest at (17:30) hour MST on 16-5-2009.

**Forecast valid until evening of 18th May 2009:** Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Kachin and Shan States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%). State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Gulf of mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Rain or thundershowers in the lower Myanmar areas.

**Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 18-5-2009:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 18-5-2009:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 18-5-2009:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).
Beautiful and peaceful Taunggyi in Shan State (South)

Article: Win Kyaw; Photos: Tin Soe (Myanma Alin)

It was at 3 am on 7 May 2009 when we arrived at Taunggyi on our tour of Shan State (South) to collect facts about regional development, and we were greeted by a shower.

At about 10 am the same day, we went around Taunggyi and saw fine, wide roads, flower beds and beautiful houses. Internal roads of the wards across the town were found clean and tidy, and the road and the beds of various species of flowers and landscaping plants matched together.

The buildings in the urban areas are painted various colours. Despite the dense population and having a large number of buildings, the Taunggyi is clean and tidy due to special programmes to spruce it up.

(See page 10)

String theory: Equivalence principle in space test

BERLIN, 17 May — Since Galileo Galilei and Newton, the assumption is valid that inert and heavy mass are equivalent. This is, however, questioned by new physical theories such as the String theory. Now, the equivalence principle is put to test with so far unachieved accuracy within the scope of the "Microscope" space project - a German-French cooperation. PTB has developed the manufacturing and measuring methods for the test masses which are required for the acceleration experiments in a near-Earth orbit, and has manufactured the first test pieces.

The validity of these acceleration experiments decisively depends on the quality of the test masses used. — Internet

Monsoon enters southern Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 17 May — The monsoon wind that blows from the south-west already entered the southern regions of Myanmar 24 hours ago, it is learnt.

MNA

More critically endangered birds on IUCN red list than ever

AMMAN, 17 May — The latest evaluation of the world's birds reveals that more species than ever are threatened with extinction, according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. BirdLife International, which conducted the research for the IUCN Red List, found 1,227 species (12 percent) are classified as globally threatened with extinction. The good news is that when conservation action is put in place, species can be saved. — Internet