Today is time to totally end doubts and to strive for development of nation utilizing land, water and human resources

Prime Minister General Thein Sein unveils obelisk to mark opening of runway at Sittway Airport

Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects progress in building of railway near Taungpauk Pagoda entrance to Ponnakyun town.—MNA

Four political objectives
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- National reconsolidation
- Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives
- Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives
- Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

NAY PYI TAW, 21 May—Prime Minister General Thein Sein, accompanied by Maj-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Thaung Aye, the ministers, the deputy ministers, the director-general of the Government Office and departmental heads, arrived at Paddy Husk Cement Plant of Western Command yesterday morning.

The Prime Minister and party viewed the production process of the cement. After hearing the reports of the commander, (See page 8)
Friday, 22 May, 2009

Extend networks of railways for regional development

Better transport is a basic requirement of regional development. The better the transport, the quicker the trade in the region and the more the production and service industries will improve. At the same time, the economic, social, education and health sectors will become more developed.

Because of mountain ranges and rivers, Rakhine State in the southwest part of the Union, was difficult of access though not far away from other regions. Therefore, the government has given top priority to transport in the state.

In Rakhine State, Yangon-Sittway, Yangon-Kyaunkphyu and Minbu-An motor roads have emerged and the Sittway-Minbu-An railroad is under construction. Moreover, Sittway and Thandwe airports are being upgraded for easy and smooth transportation of passengers.

Pyidawtha-Yaychanbyin section of Sittway-An-Minbu railroad being built by the Ministry of Rail Transportation was opened on 19 May. The newly-opened section is over 11 miles long and there are 21 bridges, three stations and three halts along the way.

Myanma Railways is also extending the network of railroads to enable people to travel easily by train. Moreover, efforts are being made to be able to produce freight and passenger carriages at home. Kyangin-Pakokku, Katha-Bhamo, Pyaybwe-Natmauk-Magway, Namsang-Kengtung, Dawei-Myiek and Sittway-An-Minbu new railroad projects are also being implemented.

Nowadays, the government is building networks of roads, railroads, creek- and river-crossing bridges and airports in all regions, including Rakhine State, to ensure easy and smooth transport across the Union. Therefore, it is necessary for regional organizations and people to continue taking part in all endeavours for regional and national development.

Deputy Minister inspects road/bridge constructions

NAY PYI TAW, 21 May — Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein inspected maintenance of Pyinmana-Pinlaung Road and Lainle bridge being built at mile post (47/3) on 12 May.

The deputy minister gave instruction on timely completion of construction works, worksite safety, and minimizing wastes.

Then, he inspected progress of road construction along Pinlaung-Tonehone-Nanpan-Mongthauk-Nyaung Shwe road, instructed to go on with the maintaining works in the rainy season and fulfilled the needs.—MNA

Commander assigns duties to grow Chi-6 long staple cotton

NAY PYI TAW, 21 May—Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe delivered a speech at the coordination meeting for regional food sufficiency held at the meeting hall of Mandalay Division PDC office on 15 May morning.

In the afternoon, the commander also made an opening speech at the ceremony to assign duties to grow Ngwe Chi-6 long staple cotton held at the same place. The commander assigned the duties to each department. MNA

Some townships of Mandalay Division flooded due to heavy rains

NAY PYI TAW, 21 May—Due to heavy rains from 14 to 17 May, some rivers and creeks overflowed in Mandalay Division. Some areas were inundated in Kyaukse Township, Singaing and Myittha townships in Kyaukse District and Wundwin Township in Meiktila District and some households were evacuated to the safe places. Some farmlands and some acres of summer sesame were flooded. One person went missing and some cows and goats drifted with the current.

The inundations occurred in some villages of Kyaukse Township in Kyaukse District due to overflow of Samon River, some villages of Singaing Township due to overflow of Panlaung River, some villages in Myittha Township because of overflow at Sittagon canal of Kinda left main canal, some villages in Natogyi Township of Myingyan District and some villages in TadaU Township due to overflow of Mezali Creek. Some households affected by the floods were evacuated to the safe places.

The incessant rains caused the flash flood of a creek near West Thabyetha Village of Myittha Township on 15 May. U Hla Tin, 71 years, of the village was swept away in the flood and missing. Four houses, three cow sheds, two cows and about 70 goats from the west village drifted in the current.

Some areas of the motor road linking Pyinsi and Myittha villages in Natogyi Township, Myingyan District, were destroyed. Some farmlands on both sides of the motor road were inundated. Thinpyin Creek overflowed and inundated some acres of summer sesame in Wundwin Township of Meiktila District.

As water has receded in these townships, local authorities, social organization members including members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and officials are providing assistance for health, accommodation and food requirements of the households who were recently evacuated to the safe places.

Officials of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, the Ministry of Construction and the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries are making field trips to the flooded regions for providing necessary assistance for the flood victims.—MNA

All this needs to be known

- Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- Do not be bolstered whenever flat-tered
- Do not be softened whenever appeared
Car bomb blast kills 41 in northwest Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 21 May — A car bomb exploded on Wednesday near several restaurants in a Shiite neighbourhood of northwest Baghdad, killing 41 people and injuring more than 70, police and hospital officials said.

No group claimed responsibility for the horrific blast but the style and location of the attack suggested it was carried out by Sunni extremists, such as al-Qaeda in Iraq, in an apparent bid to rekindle sectarian warfare as the US draws down forces in the capital.

The blast appeared timed for maximum civilian casualties, going off about 7 pm when many Baghdad residents take advantage of cooler evening temperatures for shopping and dining in outdoor kebab restaurants.

It was the first major car-bombing in the capital since 6 May, when 15 people were killed at a produce market in south Baghdad and the deadliest in the city since twin car blasts killed 51 people in another Shiite neighborhood, Sadr City, on 29 April.

Nearly 200 people were killed in major bombings in Baghdad alone last month — mostly against Shiite targets. That has raised concern about security in the capital ahead of a 30 June deadline for the US to remove all combat forces from Baghdad and other Iraqi cities.

Police said the blast happened in Shula, a sprawling neighbourhood which had been a stronghold of Shiite militias including the Mahdi Army during the height of sectarian fighting two years ago.

Witnesses said the blast occurred about 300 yards (meters) from an Iraqi security forces checkpoint. —Internet

Nearly 25 percent of Iraqis live in poverty

BAGHDAD, 21 May — Nearly one in four Iraqis lives below the poverty line, according to a study released on Wednesday by an Iraqi government agency.

The Central Statistics Authority study offered another window into the challenges confronting Iraq, as the country sitting atop the world’s third largest crude oil reserves struggles to rebuild after the 2003 US-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein.

CSA spokesman Abdul-Zahra Hendawi said 23 percent of the country’s 27 million people live in poverty, most of them in the rural areas. The three self-ruled Kurdish provinces in the north had the lowest poverty rates.

Hendawi said the study blames failing infrastructure, corruption and high unemployment for the spread of poverty, which was defined as living on $2.50 or less per person, per day. He said the food ration system has played a role in minimizing poverty.

“We expected a higher percentage of poverty, but apparently the ration system is helping the poor to cope with the situation,” he told The Associated Press. Under the system, all Iraqis are issued ration cards allowing them to buy 10 items — sugar, flour, rice, powdered milk, cooking oil, tea, beans, baby milk, soap and detergent — for a nominal fee.

The system has long been a subject of debate in Iraq. —Internet

Eight Iraqis killed in suicide bombing in Kirkuk

KIRKUK, 21 May — A suicide bomber killed eight Iraqis and wounded 30, police said Thursday, blowing himself up among Arabic-speaking villagers in the Kirkuk town of Shulayl, about 125 miles east of the capital.

Police said the attacker was wearing a beautiful woman’s dress and was carrying a bag of explosives.

The attack came a day after a car bombing near a popular restaurant in the Shuala neighborhood in northwest Baghdad, killing at least 34 people and wounding some 72 others. —Internet

A wife sits next to her husband in a hospital after he was wounded in Wednesday’s car bomb blast at Shula in Baghdad, Iraq, on 21 May, 2009. A car bomb exploded Wednesday near several restaurants in a Shiite neighbourhood of northwest Baghdad, killing 41 people and injuring more than 70, police and hospital officials said. —Internet

Iran tests missile with range that can hit Israel

TEHERAN, 21 May — Iran tested its longest-range solid-fuel missile Wednesday — a launch that displayed Tehran’s reach and burnished the president’s hardline reputation ahead of next month’s election.

The missile was said to be capable of striking Israel, US Mideast bases and Europe.

Defence Secretary Robert Gates confirmed the test, which was announced by President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. The launch raised concerns about the sophistication of Tehran’s missile program and Pentagon officials cautioned that it leaves Iran at a crossroads.

“They can either continue on this path of continued destabilization in this region or they can decide that they want to pursue relationships with the countries in the region and the United States that are more normalized,” said Bryan Whitman, a Pentagon spokesman. —Internet

Soldiers from the US-led international coalition survey the wreckage of a vehicle after a blast outside Kabul on 20 May, 2009. —Internet

US says only 30 Afghan civilians died in bombing

KABUL, 21 May — Video evidence recorded by fighter jets and the account of the ground commander suggest no more than 30 civilians were killed in a two-day battle in western Afghanistan this month, the US military said Wednesday, a stark contrast with Afghan claims that 140 civilians died.

The footage shows insurgents streaming into homes that were later bombed, said Col Greg Julian, the chief US military spokesman in Afghanistan. He said ground troops observed some 300 villagers flee in advance of the fighting, indicating that not many could have been inside the bombed compounds.

The figures, which the Americans called preliminary, are far lower than the numbers villagers provided to an Afghan government commission days after the May 4-5 battle in the villages of Gerani and Ganjabad in Farah province.
**German woman beaten up over asparagus prices**

**Berlin, 21 May** — German police are searching for a motorist who beat a 24-year-old woman selling white asparagus because he was upset about her asking price for the coveted springtime vegetable, police said on Monday.

The prices for white asparagus, sometimes called "edible ivory" in Germany, fluctuate wildly during the short springtime season, peaking early in the season at 10 euros per kilo. The man screeched at the woman that her asparagus was overpriced. He then punched her in the face and threatened to unleash his attack dog at her. She fled and called police.

"The motorist said her prices were totally over the top," said Dietmar Keck, police spokesman in the Havelland district west of Berlin, without saying how much she was asking. Prices for asparagus now range from 1 to 5 euros per kilo, he said. Some 55,000 tons valued at 175 million euros are harvested annually. 

**Couple withdraws money, flees after bank error**

**Wellington, 21 May** — Police are looking for a New Zealand couple who disappeared after a bank mistakenly put 10 million New Zealand dollars ($6.1 million) into their account.

The couple, who ran a gas station in the northern city of Rotorua, applied to Westpac Bank for a NZ$10,000 ($6,000) overdraft and had 1,000 times that amount paid into their account. The two then withdrew some of the money and disappeared, Detective Senior Sgt David Harvey said.

Harvey said Interpol has been contacted for help, suggesting authorities believe they may have fled abroad with the sum of money stolen, but declined further comment. Massey University banking lecturer Claire Matthews said the "lucky" recipients likely would not get away with the cash. 

**Flash flooding, winds whip Australia’s northeast**

**Sydney, 21 May** — Tens of thousands of homes were without power and hundreds of schools closed on Thursday as a wild storm front lashed Australia’s northeast coast.

A state of emergency was declared overnight in Queensland state, which was pounded by gale-force winds exceeding 100 kilometres (62 miles) an hour and torrential rains.

A 46-year-old was killed when freak winds ripped a sheet of metal from a building on the Gold Coast tourist strip and it smashed through his office window, police said.

Up to 75,000 homes and businesses suffered blackouts as gusting winds felled trees and power lines, and the region received one-third of its annual rainfall in a single day. Enough rain fell over 48 hours in Brisbane, the state’s capital, to supply drinking water for more than a year.

The state’s premier Anna Bligh said it was likely to be among the highest damage bills Queensland had ever seen, with the worst flooding since 1974. 

**Singapore economy shrinks 14.6 pct in 1st quarter**

**Singapore, 21 May** — Singapore’s economy shrank less in the first quarter than first estimated, suggesting the island’s hard-hit manufacturing and finance sectors improved in March.

Gross domestic product fell an annualized, seasonally adjusted 14.6 percent in the first quarter from the previous quarter and slid 10.1 percent from a year earlier, the Trade and Industry Ministry said on Thursday.

The ministry said last month that GDP plunged 19.7 percent from the previous quarter and 11.5 percent from a year earlier based on preliminary data, largely from January and February.

"The data should convince skeptics that the most pessimistic scenario has been kept at bay, and a more nuanced view is warranted," said Kit Wei Zheng, an analyst with Citigroup in Singapore.

**UN Secretary-General’s Message on The International Day for biological Diversity**

**22 May 2009**

The following is Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon’s message for the International Day for Biological Diversity, to be observed on 22 May:

"The global decline in biodiversity remains alarming, despite agreement at the World Summit on Sustainable Development to significantly reduce the rate of loss by 2010. The main causes include deforestation, changes in habitat and land degradation, often linked to the growing impact of climate change. Another threat to the focus of this year’s observance of the International Day for Biological Diversity is the spread of invasive alien species. An unwanted by-product of globalization, non-native species, is harming ecosystem services, livelihoods and economies throughout the world. The Government of South Africa alone is spending as much as $60 million per year in an attempt to eradicate plants, such as wattles, that are invading valuable farmland, river systems and economically important tourist sites such as the Cape Floral Kingdom.

In the Great Lakes of North America, zebra mussels are affecting shipping, fisheries and electric power generation. Throughout the islands of the Pacific Ocean, rats from foreign ships are exterminating indigenous birds. In many countries in Africa, water hyacinth is clogging lakes and rivers, to the detriment of aquatic wildlife and the communities and industries that profit from it.

There are many other examples of how invasive alien species can affect native biodiversity, agriculture, forestry, fisheries and even human health. Such threats tend to be exacerbated by the other drivers of biodiversity loss, and climate change in particular. The implications for poverty reduction, sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals are profound.

The Convention on Biological Diversity is addressing the threat of invasive alien species by setting global priorities and guidelines, sharing information and expertise, and helping to coordinate international action. The most cost-effective and feasible method of control is prevention. To be successful, this strategy requires collaboration among Governments, economic sectors and non-governmental and international organizations. A country can only prevent invasions if it knows which species may invade, where they may come from and the best management options for dealing with them.

Individuals, too, have a responsibility. Abiding by local and international quarantine and customs regulations will prevent the spread of insect pests, weeds and diseases. A simple rule applies: leave living organisms in their natural habitats and bring home only memories.

Next year is the International Year of Biological Diversity. Highlights include a high-level segment of the United Nations General Assembly and the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in Nagoya, Japan. These events will help to shape future strategies to preserve the planet’s ecosystems. Controlling invasive alien species and addressing the other causes of biodiversity loss is an increasingly urgent task. I urge all Governments, organizations and individuals to renew their efforts to protect life on Earth."
China urged to invest more in Africa

HARARE, 21 May — China should look at Zambia as its centre-piece for development co-operation in Africa because the country is more psychologically and strategically prepared to accept China as an investment partner, President Mutsvangwa said.

“China should look at Zambia as its centre-piece for development co-operation in Africa because the country is more psychologically and strategically prepared to accept China as an investment partner,” Mutsvangwa said.

Mutsvangwa said Zambia’s problems with the West also stem from the advances it had made in dealing with emerging powers like China and India. “No African country is advanced in thinking as Zimbabwe,” he said.

He encouraged more Chinese investment in Zimbabwe, saying Zambia was not a basket case, but a case for the future of Africa. — Xinhua

Soil and land conservation reduces sand washed into China’s second longest river

YINCHUAN, 21 May — Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, an arid area in northwest China, has reported marked reduction of soil erosion over an area of 19,500 square kilometres, or 40 percent of the region’s total, as of the end of last year, and mud and sand washed into the Yellow River had been reduced by 40 million tons annually since 2003, said an official with local water resources department on Thursday. “The regional government spent more than 4 million yuan (about 590,000 US dollars) on average each year to harness soil erosion,” said Zhang Ning, an official with local soil and water conservation bureau of the regional Water Resources Department.

He said the investments were used to build new dikes, reinforce existing dikes and plant trees along the river. The areas along the middle and upper reaches of the Yellow River suffer the most serious soil erosion in the world, with a total eroded area of 454,000 square kilometres. — Xinhua

Researchers create next-gen DVDs with huge massive storage

LONDON, 21 May — Australian researchers reported Thursday that they have developed so-called “five dimensional” discs with a storage capacity 2,000 times that of current DVDs.

James Chon of Swinburne University of Technology in Melbourne, Australia and colleagues described in the British journal Nature that how they were able to use nanoscopic particles to exponentially increase a disc’s data capacity while keeping its physical size intact. Discs currently have three spatial dimensions, but the new five-dimensional optical recording technique used wavelength of light and its polarization as the two additional dimensions. The researchers, who have already signed an agreement with Samsung, described the so-called spectral or colour dimension as well as polarization dimension as the key to creating ultra-high capacity discs. — Xinhua

Lula in China for talks cementing partnership

BEIJING, 21 May — Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva spent his second day in Beijing in meetings with Chinese leaders Tuesday, which analysts said will cement bilateral partnership. Lula da Silva began the day by opening a Brazilian studies centre at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, the country’s top research body. “In 2009, China became Brazil’s first trading partner. Now we still face the challenge of exploring the full potential of investments that our economies can offer to each other,” Lula da Silva told an audience of around 200 officials and scholars. — Xinhua

Eight leftist rebels killed in S Philippines clash

MANILA, 21 May — Government forces raided a lair of the leftist New People’s Army (NPA) in the southern Philippines Thursday morning, killing at least eight of the scores of rebels in the camp, the military said.

Lt Col Dennis Godfrey Gammad, commander of the Army’s 36th Infantry Battalion, said his men swooped on the rebel lair at a Cabantaw village in Agusan del Sur province, triggering off a fierce firefight with about 50 rebels inside.

In a phone interview, Gammad said his men were able to trace the rebel lair after a recent wedding of an NPA leader, one Tapa from the NPA’s North Eastern Mindanao Regional Command. “Our troops discovered that they were harboring in the area after a lot of people attended the leader’s wedding. Our troops later assaulted the area. It’s a base camp, a satellite camp,” the Army commander said.

Gammad said the troops saw at least eight enemy bodies being dragged by their withdrawing comrades. Besides, he said the soldiers have recovered an AK-47, an M16 and a shotgun during initial clearing operations in the area. — Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency
Ancient handle with Hebrew text found in Jerusalem

Jerusalem, 21 May—A team of archaeologists excavating in Jerusalem’s Mount of Olives has discovered a nearly 3,000-year-old jar handle bearing ancient Hebrew script, a find significantly older than most inscribed artifacts unearthed in the ancient city, an archaeologist said.

The Iron Age handle is inscribed with the Hebrew name Menachem, which was the name of an Israelite king and is still common among Jews.

The inscription also includes a partly intact Hebrew script, a find significant among Jews. The inscription refers to the king himself. The name and similar variants have been found on Egyptian pottery dating back 3,500 years, and the Bible lists Menachem Ben Gadi as an ancient king of Israel. But this is the first time an artifact bearing the name has been unearthed in Jerusalem, Beeri said. “It’s important because it shows that they actually used the name Menachem during that period,” Beeri said. “It’s not just from the Bible, but it’s also in the archeological record.”

Based on the style of the inscription, he dated the handle to around 900 BC, the time of the first Jewish Temple in Jerusalem as recounted in the Bible.

Scientists investigate Mexican town’s flu mystery

Mexico City, 21 May—No one has identified ground zero in the swine flu epidemic. Just where or when the new strain of influenza first jumped from a pig and began infecting people is a scientific mystery—one that a group of flu detectives is determined to solve.

Scientists are returning next week to La Gloria, a pig-farming village in the Veracruz mountains where Mexico’s earliest confirmed case of swine flu was identified. They hope to learn where the epidemic began by taking fresh blood samples from villagers and pigs, and looking for antibodies that could suggest exposure to previous swine flu infections.

Some experts say it’s pointless to worry about what happened in La Gloria now that the swine flu virus has spread around the world. But others argue that a thorough investigation could be key to preventing future epidemics.—Internet

Sherpa climbs Mount Everest for record 19th time

Kathmandu, 21 May—A Nepali Sherpa carrying a banner reading “Stop Climate Change” climbed Mount Everest for his 19th record 19th time on Thursday, improving his own record set last year, officials said.

Apa Sherpa, 49, who lives in the United States and wants their vows in a tongue other than French, Italian, Spanish or English, The Cincinnati Enquirer reported Saturday.

Judge to offer multi-language weddings

A judge says she will marry couples in five languages in a special ceremony in Cincinnati this coming Sunday.

Hamilton County Municipal Court Judge Nadine Allen said she is also open to working with interpreters if couples want to get married in something other than French, Italian, Spanish, Swahili or English, The Cincinnati Enquirer reported Saturday.

“If anyone speaks another language and wants their vows in a tongue other than the five,” Allen said, “we will be glad to work with an interpreter. All languages are welcome.”

Allen, nicknamed the marrying judge, will be showing off her ability to conduct a wedding ceremony in five languages at Cincinnati’s Theodore M. Berry International Friendship Park Pavilion.

Those taking part also will be serenaded by Allen’s take on the 1964 song "Chapel Of Love," the Enquirer said. “I’ll only sing ‘Chapel of Love’ in English," the judge added regarding her offered services.
the positive changes in those countries’ policies.

Japan and European nations are reviewing their policies too. Minister U Nyan Win expressed his opinion that, at a time when US, Japan and European nations all over the world including US, Japan and Suu Kyi and the American citizen are in good health. Well-qualified doctors and specialists are available to them.

The court will decide according to the law. Both Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and American citizen were given the right to defend her case in consulting with her lawyer. The American citizen was also allowed to get lawyers and granted consular access to her. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was also given the right to travel abroad.

In his statement, prosecution witness Manager U Kyaw Thu of Beauty Land Hotel said that the hotel address was No. (188/192), 33rd Street, Kyauktada Township; that Mr. John William Yettaw put up at the hotel two times — one time from 7 November to 3 December 2008 and the other on 2 May 2009; that he stayed there only for one day and paid for the room for five days; that at about 10 p.m. on 3 May he said that he was going to spend the night at his friend’s house and left the room key; that he did not come back to the hotel on 4 and 5 May; that at about 10 a.m. on 6 May, Police Captain Sa Kyaw Win and witnesses Ward PDC Chairman U Myo Thein and head of hundred houses U Htay Oo arrived at the hotel and the hotel room Mr. John William Yettaw stayed in was shown to them; that some clothes and a big bag were found on the wardrobe in the room; that there were altogether 61 items including the items in the bag; that he signed the search form as the one who handed over the seized objects; that Police Captain Sa Kyaw Win and police members went back to the hotel at 6.20 p.m. the same day and asked permission to search again the room that Mr. John William Yettaw had stayed in; that together with Chairman of Ward Peace and Development Council U Myo Thein and Head of 100-house U Htay Oo, he went to the room; that they went back there to check three hundred dollar notes in the cover of telephone directory as said by Mr. John William Yettaw; that he signed the search form in the presence of the witnesses as the one who handed over the dollar notes.

In questioning another prosecution witness U Khin Nyunt, Chairman of Kyaukkares Ward PDC in Bahan Township, it was revealed that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi stayed with her in the residence of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi; that police searched Daw Aung San Suu Kyi’s house at twelve noon on 12 May; that they got permission to enter the house at 7.20 a.m.; that when the police captain asked Daw Aung San Suu Kyi whether she knew the man in the photo showing her a photo and a paper she replied that she knew him; that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi replied in the affirmative when the police captain asked her if there were some objects the foreigner left; that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi told the police that the foreigner left some clothes and a bag on the wardrobe in the room; that there were 23 items; that some of the 23 seized items as far as he remembered were two black chadors usually worn by Muslim women, two skirts, three pairs of sun glasses; one red torch light; that she was responsible for those things and signed in the search form; that, when Police Captain Tin Zaw Tun asked whether those things were Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said that they were given to her as presents; that, at the request of Police Captain Tin Zaw Tun, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi’s house at twelve noon on 12 May; that they got permission to enter the compound of the house at about 1 p.m. that they happened to see Daw Win Ma Ma coming out of the house, carrying a pillowcase, a white plate, a spoon and fork, two pasok (sarasongs), a T-shirt and a large towel; that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi handed over those things, saying they were the things the foreigner used during his stay at her house.

The prosecution witness Police Major Aung Htut Kyaw was examined. He stated that he was in charge of the computer section of overseas division; that Police Captain Maung Maung Myint handed over to him the things said to be Mr. John William Yettaw’s; that they were a Canon camera and six memory cards, that there were 331 photos and one video file filmed by Mr. John William Yettaw himself in Daw Aung San Suu Kyi’s house; that the video file and photos showed flippers, different stages of using flippers. Mr. John William Yettaw trying them on, Mr. John William Yettaw in disguise, the downstairs sitting-room of the house and photos taken during his stay. The various items in the residence were also reviewed in the room there; and his photos taken by himself on his arrival at Daw Aung San Suu Kyi’s house at night. Police Major Aung Htut Kyaw showed the photos with the help of a computer. In the video file, Mr. John William Yettaw said that he was in Daw Aung San Suu Kyi’s house and asked for her permission to take her photos and upload them on YouTube website; that he thought she refused because she was frightened; that he had caused her a lot of trouble on 30 November 2008; that he left his family behind; that he believed God was with him and protect him; that he admired Daw Aung San Suu Kyi; that he did not blame her for not allowing him to take her photos; that she would have to face lots of hardships in future; that he prayed that he might be able to help her; that he spent the previous night at the house; that today was 6 May; that he had been hoping the whole night to go back to Thailand; that he felt delighted and proud of staying there. The proceedings were adjourned until 10 a.m. on 22 May to examine the rest of prosecution witnesses. — MNA
Discarding localism and racism, it is necessary to focus on regional development with economic outlook.

Today is time to totally end doubts and to strive...

(from page 1)

the Prime Minister gave necessary instructions. With low density, Paddy Husk Cement can be used in constructing one-storey houses and brick walls, smoothing the walls and building of light concrete blocks and decorating brick blocks. Paddy Husk Cement can resist the acidity more than normal type of cement. Therefore, paddy husk cement can be used together with the standard cement in building the concrete floors of the factories and laboratories that use acids. The use of equal ratio of the factory cement and paddy husk cement can save about 35 percent cost of the cement.

On arrival at Ponnagyun, the Prime Minister and party viewed progress of ground work on the railroad section near Taungpauk Pagoda. In meeting with township level departmental officials and local people at Ponnagyun Railway Station, the Prime Minister said that the national unity was weak and Myanmar lagged behind in development for many years due to suspicions arising from racism and localism instigated by the colonialists. He continued to say that today is time to totally end doubts and to strive for development of the nation utilizing the land and water resources and human resources. He stressed the need to efficiently use the sound infrastructures and human resources and favourable conditions. Discarding localism and racism, it is necessary to focus on regional development with economic outlook, he added.

At the hall of Ponnagyun Station, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min reported on progress in construction of Sittway-An-Minbu Railroad Project. The Prime Minister gave necessary instructions. Sittway-An-Minbu Railroad will be 257 miles long. The railroad includes 26-mile Sittway-Ponnagyun railroad section, 34-mile Ponnagyun-Kyauktaw railroad section, 23-mile Kyauktaw-MraukU railroad section, 16-mile MraukU-Minbya railroad section, 76-mile Minbya-An railroad section, 54-mile An-Padan railroad section and 28-mile Padan-Minbu railroad section.

At Sittway, the Prime Minister and party attended the demonstration on production of bio-fuel from Thinwin seed (Milletia pendula). They viewed production process of Thinwin bio-fuel and use of the fuel for lighting, cooking and driving of power-tiller.

At Sittway Airport, the Prime Minister and party attended the opening ceremony of the upgraded runway of the airport. Maj-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence, the commander and Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe formally opened the new runway.

The Prime Minister and party posed for documentary photo together with local national people and students. The Prime Minister unveiled the stone plaque and sprinkled scented water on it together with Maj-Gen Ko Ko, the commander and the ministers.

At the lounge of the airport, Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe reported on the location of the airport, the brief history and development tasks of the airport.

(See page 9)
Prime Minister General Thein Sein cordially greets departmental personnel and local people at Ponnagyun Railway Station. — MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan visits Pyinnya Sanyaytwin self-reliant library in Kywite Village, Sittway Township. — MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein unveils the obelisk at opening ceremony of upgraded runway of Sittway Airport. — MNA

Today is time to totally end doubts and to strive…

(from page 8)

After hearing the reports, the Prime Minister gave necessary instructions. Sittway Airport was constructed for the military use in 1947. In 1960, the 6000 feet by 150 feet tarred runway was constructed at the airport. Commencing 2001-2002, the preparation tasks were carried out at the airport such as repaving of the four-inch thick asphalt concrete on the 6000 feet by 150 feet runway, construction of the shoulders of the runway, extension of the 120 feet by 60 feet airport building to the 220 feet by 60 feet facility, construction of 600 feet by 300 feet apron, fencing of the airport compound, installation of lightings along the runway and signal lights along the approach roads. Therefore, F-28 aircraft with the load of 73,000 lbs can land at the airport.

Arrangements are being made to extend the installation of 1500 telephone lines at auto-exchanges in Kyauktaw, MraukU, Mawlamyine, Mmaungtaw, Taungup, Kyauktaw and Gwa of Rakhine State. So far, the towns have been installed with 16,750 telephone lines.

The auto-exchanges in Sittway, Ngapali (Shwewachaing), Aung San Suu Kyi, MraukU, Mawlamyine, Mmaungtaw, Taungup, Kyauktaw and Gwa of Rakhine State. So far, the towns have been installed with 16,750 telephone lines.

In Sittway, An, Kyaukpyu, Thandwe, MraukU, Mawlamyine, Mmaungtaw, Taungup, Kyauktaw and Gwa of Rakhine State. So far, the towns have been installed with 16,750 telephone lines.

GSM and CDMA-450 mobile telephones are being installed in Sittway, An, Kyaukpyu, Thandwe, MraukU, Mawlamyine, Mmaungtaw, Taungup, Kyauktaw and Gwa of Rakhine State. So far, the towns have been installed with 16,750 telephone lines.

The auto-exchanges in Sittway, Ngapali (Shwewachaing), An, Taungup, Thandwe, MraukU, Mawlamyine, Mmaungtaw and Kyaukpyu have been installed with 5526 telephone lines.

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These days, I happen to read articles of journals. In the articles, the writers made their opinions in a frank way. So, I thank them for their works that inspired me to write this article.

In addressing any form of issues, there must be correct views, correct thoughts, correct actions and correct decisions. One will never get along with others so long as one does not have right views. One will have to exercise caution and broaden one’s horizons if one wants to have right views. Moreover, being Buddhists, the people have to believe in wholesome and unwholesome actions and good and evil results of actions. Here, I do not mean a person has to give up his efforts just as fortune does not smile on him, but he has to do some activities that can help him have an element of luck in pursuing his goals.

We the people were born of parents of various national races in Myanmar owing to the good deeds we did in our past lives. We should not put blame on our parents and the results of our past deeds for our being born in Myanmar. Instead, we should highlight the strong points of being born here in various spheres including religious, social, economic and health aspects.

There are so many points reflecting that Myanmar, our country where Theravada Buddhism shines, is definitely worth living. In the hereafter, human beings will be born in celestial and higher celestial abodes or in the hell. Myanmar is exactly the sole land where people can study and follow the Teachings of the Buddha to aver suffering in the hell and to attain Nirvana.

Recall the prayers and religious verses you learnt from your parents and grandparents in your youth, and you will all notice that the prayers and religious verses comprise many methods to lead a peaceful and healthy life, do business, and get along with family members and societies. If in doubt, say the prayers and verses of Buddhism, and then you will come to know well and believe that there are so many satisfactory things in life.

In addition, the lifestyle of Myanmar people is endowed with a lot of worldly values. Traditional festivities and festivals are celebrated in each of the Myanmar months. We Myanmar people can easily enjoy the loving-kindness of our parents and grandparents, obey the sermons of venerable monks, and enjoy pervasive delight, ecstatic and insight at meditation centres. Surely, Myanmar people have the unique opportunity to visit and pay reverence to the Shwedagon Pagoda.

There is no reason that those Myanmar citizens who are in foreign countries for various reasons can disregard and betray the motherland. I want every such citizen to come back to the mother country without fail after making further studies and profits. They all have the rights to return home. I wish all the Myanmar people would make provision in line with the Teachings of the Buddha for their hereafter, leading a peaceful life in the motherland till their last days.

I have been to some foreign countries, embracing many kinds of opportunities, but I have no words to fully express the delights that came from the bottom of my heart when I arrived back at Yangon International Airport of the mother country. For me, Myanmar, the country where there are my residence and family, is exactly the land I love and cherish most.

Our country is not a developed one yet, so what should we do, then? We all have to work harder and harder till we achieve our goal. We have to strive for generating better opportunities for youngster generations. Instead of speaking ill of Myanmar through anti-government foreign radio stations, some Myanmar people living abroad should send relief supplies to Nargis victims. Make self criticism if you have provided relief aid such as snacks, some money, medicines and household utensils. Myanmar youths living in foreign countries should provide relief for the victims, instead of giving just lip service. If they had donated US dollars, yuans, yen and pounds saving at the rate of one unit a week, they would have provided a lot of aid for the victims by now, a year after the cyclone.

There are a large number of orphanages, homes for the aged and youths training centres in Myanmar to which they can make significant contributions. Edible oil cannot be produced by milling a sesame grain only, after the cyclone. Providing a lot of aid for the victims by now, a year after the cyclone, they would be able to start a new life and realize that Myanmar is a pleasant and lovely land. For me, I love the motherland beyond words.

Besides, I wish they would understand that Myanmar is a land where they can seize golden opportunities such as they will come to be brave enough to cope with their deaths and ups and downs by making some religious provision; they can practise concentration and meditation and perform meritorious deeds to cease their sufferings in next existences, they can share joys and sorrows with their beloved spouses, children and grandchildren, and they can deal with true friends and relatives in peace.

- Myanmar expatriates would love the motherland,
- those with painful experiences and negative attitude would view the objective conditions as they really are by following the Teachings of the Buddha for some time,
- they would return to their motherland and serve national interests,
- they would share the experiences and knowledge they have gained in foreign countries,
- they would be able to demonstrate their nationalistic spirit and skills in the international community,
- they would enjoy the traditions and customs of the nation,
- they would import good methods, concepts and technical know-how of other countries,
- they would come to love and serve the interest of the motherland with a prosperous future,
- they would be able to safeguard pleasant and peaceful Myanmar,
- they would work hard joining hands to enable the motherland to exist perpetually and stand tall in the global community,
- they would love the mother country with a sense of serving the national interests and adoration and reliance on the country.

Translation: MS
Inter-District Road (2) to improve living conditions of rural folks

Article: Myint Maung Soe; Photos: Maung Maung Thant

Gravel road section at mile post No. 100/4 of Inter-District Road (2) in Thazi Township.

The government is pouring huge funds into the Inter-District Road (1) and the Inter-District Road (2) projects. Inter-District Road (1) is between Tadàl Township in Mandalay Division and Hmawby Township in Yangon Division, with a length of 400 miles and one furlong. Due to such prudent projects, the rural areas along inter-district roads will be able to enjoy better transport and then progress in economic, social, education and health sectors.

Translation: MS Kyemon: 18-5-2009

Summer season computer course of Ocean Gate concludes

YANGON, 21 May — A summer season computer course of Ocean Gate Training School concluded today. At the concluding ceremony held at Myanma Medical Association here, Vice-President of the training school Daw May Phyu Thwe honored an outstanding trainee who received an award for learning computer science for one year free at the school. A responsible person of the training school briefed on the new programme for sustainable learning of computer science and course instructors presented completion certificates to trainees. A lucky draw programme followed the ceremony.

According the new programme which is scheduled to launch from July, the private school has planned to conduct the training for school children at weekends. School children may learn technological subjects while enjoying them-selves, the school said. More information are available at Ocean Gate, No 355, Room No. 206 on Theinbyu Road, Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Ph: 380130. — MNA

Vice-President of Ocean Gate training school Daw May Phyu Thwe honoured an outstanding student Maung Myint Mo Chan Myae Ko Ko who received ICDL Image Maker at summer season computer course. — MNA
India gives more Munich attack evidence to Pakistan

NEW DELHI, 21 May — Responding to Pakistan's queries, India on Wednesday handed over to the third dossier of evidence on Mumbai attacks, which included certified DNA report and statement of the lone arrested terrorist A jmal A mir K asab.

The voluminous documentation, comprising replies to 10 queries made by Pakistan and 15 booklets, were handed over by a senior official of the Ministry of External Affairs when he called a senior diplomat of the Pakistan High Commission to the Ministry here.

"MEA today handed over to the Pakistan High Commission additional information and details related to the Mumbai terror attack sought by Pakistan," a statement by the Ministry said.

The documents handed over to Pakistan included the certified report of K asab's DNA report, sources said. India had given DNA reports of the 10 terrorists involved in the attack on Pakistan on March 13. However, two DNA reports were of the same person, and the report of K asab was missing due to a clerical error. The fresh dossier handed over to Pakistan also included a certified statement of K asab made before a Mumbai court, which was being persistently sought by Islamabad to pursue its own investigations into the case.

Statements of witnesses made in the court and other documents related to it were also included in the 15 booklets which ran into 1,500 pages. Such documents could not be handed over earlier because of legal issues, as the permission of the court was required.

Germany

Dachshund 'Bessi', right, acts as guardi- an to a five- days-old yet nameless tiger cab at a zoo in Stroehen, northern Germany, on 17 May 2009.

Russia halts plans for Syria fighter sale

MOSCOW, 21 May — Russia has halted plans to sell MiG-31 fighters to Syria because of pressure from Israel, the Kommersant daily reported on Wednesday citing an unidentified source in Russia's defence industry.

Russia in 2007 agreed to supply Syria with eight MiG-31 fighters, known in the West by NATO codename Foxhound, for about 400-500 million US dollars, the paper said.

Kommersant quoted an unidentified person close to Russia's state arms exporter as saying that M oscow had halted the contract due to pressure from Israel. The paper quoted another source in an unidentified Russian ministry as saying that the contract had been halted because Syria could not find the money to pay for the fighters. The MiG-31 is a supersonic, high-altitude fighter. It has a maximum speed of 3,000 kilometres per hour (1,860 miles per hour) and a combat radius of 720 kilometres (450 miles). Russia's state arms exporter, Rosoboronexport, declined to comment on the report. A spokesman for the Syrian Embassy in Moscow was unavailable for comment.

China urges rich nations to cut emissions by 40%

BEIJING, 21 May — Rich nations should cut their greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40 per cent by 2020 to 2030 from 1990 levels as part of a new global climate change pact, China said on Thursday, spelling out an ambitious target ahead of discussions ahead of next month's UN conference in Copenhagen.

Developed countries should also give 0.5 to 1.0 per cent of their annual economic wealth to help other nations cope with global warming and curtail greenhouse gas emissions, China said in the document, laying down demands for a conference in Copenhagen in December meant to seal a new climate change pact.

The pact must ensure wealthy nations "take on quantified targets to drastically reduce emissions", said the statement, issued by the National Development and Reform Commission (www.ndrc.gov.cn), which steers China's climate change policy.

The Copenhagen conference is looking to agree on a treaty that will build on the current Kyoto Protocol. The Chinese document also pointedly demands that a new treaty "ensure developed countries that have not ratified the Kyoto Protocol assume corresponding and comparable emissions reduction commitments".

Japan

Ph: 723043

Tin Ohmmar Tun B.A. (LAW) L.I.B, LL.M. (U.K.) P.O.Box 109

MNA/Reuters

Samsung remains at top in global TV market ranking

SEOUL, 21 May — South Korea's top electronics company Samsung Electronics Co came in as the top global TV seller in the first quarter of 2009 for the 13 consecutive quarter, a market researcher said Wednesday.

Samsung Electronics took up 21.5 per cent of the market share in terms of US dollar-based revenue in the January-March period, according to DisplaySearch, a market intelligence company based in Austin, Texas. Sales of the company fell to 41.1 per cent, according to the researcher.

MNA/PTI

Obama warns US may face long-term joblessness

WASHINGTON, 21 May — Americans could face higher unemployment for years if the White House pushes ahead with its ambitious economic recovery plan, President Barack Obama warned on Wednesday, underscoring the tough challenges the country faces even as the economy shows signs of stabilizing.

Obama, speaking to a meeting of his 16-member Economic Recovery Advisory Board headed by former Federal Reserve chief Paul Volcker, said he was encouraged by "signs of normalcy" in the financial markets and hints the economy was stabilizing — though he remained concerned in the long run.

"One of the things that we're wrestling is how do we deal with job creation and employment," Obama said, "The concern that we have is that even in a stabilizing situation there is the prospect of higher unemployment for some time to come," Obama said, noting the decline of US manufacturing and changes in the global economic picture. The US unemployment rate rose to 9.8 per cent in April, the highest since 1983, following months of heavy job losses stemming from the global financial crisis.

MNA/Reuters

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rations for personal hygiene (other than toiletries); deodorants other than for personal use; dietary sub-

stances adapted for medical use, food for babies; plas-

ters, materials for dressings; material for stopping teeth, dental wax; disinfectants; preparations for de-

stroying vermin; fungicides, herbicides." (International Class 05)
New contraceptive blocks HIV transmission

NEW YORK, 21 May — A new contraceptive device may also effectively block the transmission of the HIV virus that causes AIDS, New York researchers said. The new device is a vaginal ring that releases multiple types of non-hormonal agents and microbicides, which would prevent conception as well as the sexually transmitted human immunodeficiency virus.

"This device is a new approach to birth control, because it avoids the long-term use of hormonal methods that have been associated with increased risk of certain cancers," Dr. Brij Saxena of Weill Cornell Medical College, the lead author, said in a statement. "At the same time, this is the first device to simultaneously offer the possibility to prevent unintended pregnancy and HIV transmission."

The vaginally inserted ring is incorporated with multiple antiviral drugs that prevent HIV infection and are time-released over a period up to 28 days, which, when combined, were found to block infection in human cells exposed to the virus in a laboratory setting.

"The combination of these antiviral drugs has proven to be potent agents that may block infection by the HIV virus," Saxena said. The study, published in the journal AIDS, said the ring is also incorporated with compounds that prevent conception by arresting sperm motility, raising vaginal mucus viscosity, and sustaining the acidity of the vagina in which sperm do not survive.

Man has third kidney transplant

NEW DELHI, 21 May — The third time around may be lucky for Jaswant of Jalandhar, India, who recently underwent another kidney transplant surgery after the first two failed. Counting his own two, the 33-year-old photographer has had five kidneys thus far. Jaswant (last name not provided) had his third transplant surgery 40 days ago and is determined to "make it this time," the Times of India reported from Jalandhar in northern Punjab state.

He is fourth such patient in the country to successfully undergo three renal transplants, doctors who performed the surgery told the newspaper.

Finding kidney donors within the family has not been a problem for Jaswant. It was his older sister who "made it this time," the report said. He is fourth such patient in the country to successfully undergo three renal transplants, doctors who performed the surgery told the newspaper.

A second language makes a third easier

EVANSTON, 21 May — People who already speak two languages are more adept at learning a new foreign language than their monolinguals, US researchers say.

Study co-authors Viorica Marian of Northwestern University and Margarita Kau-shanskaya of the University of Wisconsin-Madison said the bilingual advantage persists even if the new language they study is completely different from the languages they already know.

The researchers said their findings could lead to widespread changes in HIV treatment, particularly for patients diagnosed at an advanced stage.

Gene may explain why more boys have autism

LOS ANGELES, 21 May — A variant of a gene called CACNA1G may increase a child’s risk of developing autism, particularly in boys, US researchers suggest.

Researchers at the University of California in Los Angeles say classic autism strikes boys four times more often than girls. However, if including the entire spectrum of autism disorders, such as the milder Asperger syndrome, boys are diagnosed 10 times more often than girls.

Dr. Stanley Nelson of the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and colleagues zeroed in on a region of Chromosome 17 that previous studies have tied to autism.

The research team scoured the DNA of 1,046 members of families with at least two sons affected by autism for common gene variants, Nelson says.

Mutant genes found in childhood leukemias

MEMPHIS, 21 May — US medical scientists say they have identified mutant genes involved in high-risk childhood leukemias, possibly leading to a new therapeutic target.

Researchers said they pinpointed a new class of gene mutations that identify cases of childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia that have a high risk of relapse and death.

The scientists said their finding suggests specific drugs that could treat the high-risk leukemia subtype in children, particularly because such drugs are already in clinical trials for similar blood diseases in adults.

"We have made such great progress in curing children with ALL that the main challenge is now the remaining high-risk patients," St Jude Scientific Director Dr James Down- ing said. "We still do not know how to accurately identify these patients and effectively treat them to provide the highest chance for a cure."

AIDS patients helped by early retrovirals

STANFORD, 21 May — US medical researchers say they’ve determined AIDS patients with serious complications benefit from early antiretroviral treatment.

Scientists at the Stanford University School of Medicine said a multicenter trial they led determined patients testing positive for the human immunodeficiency virus who don’t seek medical attention until they have a serious AIDS-related condition can reduce their risk of death or other complications by half if they get early antiretroviral treatment.

Two sands artists work at their sand sculpture ‘Ephemeral heroes’ in the garden of the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, Switzerland, on 19 May, 2009. This sculpture is a homage to illustrious sportmen from antiquity until now.

Gene may explain why more boys have autism

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**SPORTS**

Shakhtar Donetsk prevail in UEFA Cup finale

**ISTANBUL , 21 May** — A n extra-time goal from Brazilian midfielder Jadson earned Shakhtar Donetsk a 2-1 victory overWerder Bremen in the UEFA Cup final here on Wednesday to clinch the Ukrainian side’s first European title. Jadson’s 15-yard shot slipped through the grasp of Werder goalkeeperTimo Wiese in the 97th minute after the teams had been locked 1-1 at the end of normal time.

The Germans thought they had snatched an equaliser in the last minute of the additional period, only for on-loan Chelsea striker Claudio Pizarro’s bundled effort to be ruled out for a foul on Dmytro Chygrynskiy.

**Eduardo back for next season after more surgery**

**LONDON , 21 May** — Arsenal’s Croatian strikerEduardo Da Silva, who suffered a horrific leg break last year, has undergone fresh surgery but should be fit for the start of next season, the club said on Wednesday.

The operation, carried out in Amsterdam, involved the removal of metal screws that were placed in his left ankle following the injury. “Eduardo underwent simple revision surgery on his left ankle,” Arse nale said in a statement. “The operation went well and Eduardo will follow a dedicated rehabilitation programme throughout June.”

**Sharapova happy to be back in business**

**WARSAW , 21 May** — Maria Sharapova insisted on Wednesday the long hours she spent recovering from a crippling shoulder injury will reap rich rewards with more Grand Slam titles to add to the three she’s already captured.

The former world number one showed no signs of rust, and a dazzling array of powerful groundstrokes, as she stormed into the quarter-finals of the Warsaw claycourt tournament with a 6-2, 6-0 thrashing of Darya Kustova of Belarus.

**Nadal cautious ahead of French Open**

**MADRID , 21 May** — World number one Rafael Nadal was cautiously optimistic Wednesday as he left for Paris where he has the chance to become the first man to claim five successive French Open titles.

“|I expect to play well. And we will see if I am ready to win or not, but of course it would please me very much to win it for the fifth consecutive time,” he told reporters at the airport for Palma de Ma jorca. “If I play at my best level, I think I can have a good result in Paris, and if this is not the case, I must take it calmly because this has been a good year for me.”

**Moscow heartache the spur for Park**

**BERLIN , 21 May** — Park J-Sung has admitted that missing out on last season’s Champions League final was more painful than either of the two serious knee injuries he has suffered in his career. And the Korean ace is desperate to make up for it by ensuring he is on Sir Alex Ferguson’s team-sheet for this year’s final, against Barcelona in Rome next week.

Ferguson has described the decision to leave Park out of the 18-man matchday squad for last season’s final win over Chelsea in Moscow as one of the hardest he has made in more than three decades as a manager. But Park has continued to perform consistently for United this season and has been regularly involved in key games for the Old Trafford club.

Earlier in the season, Ferguson insisted that Park would be in his starting line-up if United reached the Champions League final again.

**Heynckes plays down Bayern title hopes**

**BERLIN , 21 May** — Bayern Munich’s caretaker coach Jupp Heynckes on Wednesday said that he does not think his side can overhaul league leadersWolfsburg to win the German title.

“I can’t see anyone taking the title off Wolfsburg,” Heynckes told the Rheinischen Post in an article to be published on Thursday. Going into the final day of the Bundesliga season onSat urday, Bayern are two points behind Wolfsburg in second place.

In order to win what would be their 22nd German title, Bayern must beat third-placed Stuttgart, with whom they are level on points, and hope

*Internet*
Philippine officials seize 3.5 tons of elephant tusks

MANILA, 21 May—Philippine Customs authorities have seized an estimated 3.5 tons of elephant tusks from two containers sent from Tanzania, one of the largest such consignments found in the country, officials said on Wednesday.

The consignment arrived in Manila in March and immediately drew suspicion because it was said to contain plastic, said Customs police chief Nestorio Gualberto. “What kind of plastic material does Tanzania produce?” he said. “We suspected right away that these were elephant tusks”. No one came to claim the consignment and there have been no arrests.

Officials said some of the tusks weighed as much as 25 kilos each. They valued the consignment at over two million US dollars, although that appears to be a conservative estimate given that in some countries prices are at or above 1,500 US dollars per kilo.—MNA/Reuters

WEATHER

Thursday, 21 May, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST:

During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Taninthayi Division; fairly widespread in M on State and Ayeyawady Division; scattered in Rakhine State, Sagaing and Bago Divisions; isolated in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Bago Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfall in K Mon State. Day temperatures were (5°C) to (6°C) above May average temperatures in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above May average temperatures in Shan and Rakinh State, Ayeyawady, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and about May average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant day temperature was Chaung (42°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Belin (6.34) inches, Pyayon (2.01) inches, Hinthada (1.34) inches and Gwa (0.79) inch. Maximum temperature on 20-5-2009 was 35°F. Minimum temperature on 21-5-2009 was 71°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 21-5-2009 was 72%. Total rainfall on 20-5-2009 was 3.64 R per hour approx. Rainfall on 21-5-2009 was (0.51) inch at Mingaladon, (0.04) inch at Kaba-Aye and (Ni) at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (4.17) inches at Mingaladon, (4.69) inches at Kaba-Aye and (6.42) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (7) mph north at (15:30) hour MST on 20-5-2009. Bay inference: on moderate in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weather is partly cloudy to cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 22nd May 2009: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in M on State and Taninthayi Division, scattered in Rakhine State, Bago, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions and isolated in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at time Deltaic, Gulf M Ottama, off and along M on Taninthayi Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph. Seas will be slight to moderate elsewhere in M yanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of thundery conditions in the Deltaic areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 22-5-2009: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 22-5-2009: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 22-5-2009: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).
Inter-District Road (2) to improve living conditions of rural folks

**Article:** Myint Maung Soe; **Photos:** Maung Maung Thant

Now, the government is implementing the Five Rural Development Programmes to improve the living standard of rural people: smooth transport, supply of safe water, promotion of education, better health care and economic growth.

Surely, the programme for smooth transport will help improve the socio-economic life of the people of rural areas that lag behind other regions in development. As part of the drive, the government is now building inter-village, inter-township, and inter-district roads.

Under the arrangements of Chairman of Thazi Township Peace and Development Council U Pauk Kyaw and officials of the township Development Affairs Committee, our media team from the

(See page 11)

Gravel road section at mile post No. 100/4 of Inter-District Road (2) in Thazi Township.

Love your mother country

Our country is not a developed one yet, so what should we do, then? We all have to work harder and harder till we achieve our goal. We have to strive for generating better opportunities for younger generations.

Robotic therapy holds promise for cerebral palsy

“Robotic therapy can potentially help reduce impairment and facilitate neuro-development of youngsters with cerebral palsy,” says Hermano Igo Krebs, principal research scientist in mechanical engineering and one of the project’s leaders. Krebs and others at MIT, including professor of mechanical engineering Neville Hogan, pioneered the use of robotic therapy in the late 1980s, and since then the field has taken off.

“We started with stroke because it’s the biggest elephant in the room, and then started to build it out to other areas, including cerebral palsy as well as multiple sclerosis, Parkinson’s disease and spinal cord injury,” says Krebs.

Area of brain that makes a ‘people person’ discovered

Oulu, 21 May — Cambridge University researchers have discovered that whether someone is a ‘people-person’ may depend on the structure of their brain: the greater the concentration of brain tissue in certain parts of the brain, the more likely they are to be a warm, sentimental person.

Whether someone is a ‘people-person’ may depend on the structure of their brain, researchers have discovered.

Significant day temperature

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Noteworthy amounts of rainfall

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