YANGON, 23 May—A ceremony to honour 90 monks who passed the 61st Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination—one Tipitakadhara monk, one Mula Abhidhammakovida monk, four Dighanikayakovida monks, one Dighabhanaka monk, one Vinayakovida monk, 25 Vinayadha monks, seven Ubhato Vibhangakovida monks and 49 Ubhato Vibhangadhara monks—was held at Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill in Mayangon Township this morning, attended by Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San.

Also present on the occasion were Secretary of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Nyaungdon Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maga Ratthu Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa and member Sayadaws, Ovadacariya Sayadaws of the examination, Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Sayadaws, supervisory Sayadaws of the examination and the monks who passed the examination, members of the Sangha, Prime Minister General Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, Secretary-1 of the SPDC General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, SPDC member Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Lt-Gen Myint Sve, Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, Lt-Gen Myint Hlaing and Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Chairman of Yangon Division PDC Commander of (See page 16)
Harness water resources in an efficient way

Myanmar is gifted with a great number of water sources where fish and prawns are abundant such as offshore and deep sea fisheries, rivers, creeks, large tributaries and lakes. The government is working hard to boost production and export of marine products and through effective exploitation of the water resources.

Owing to the world’s growing population, not only sea fishing but also fish breeding are carried out on a wider scale in order to help satisfy the increasing demand of meat and fish. Myanmar is a land where there is abundant supply of freshwater and saltwater fish and prawns. So, the nation can enjoy greater economic growth if fish and prawns are produced on a commercial scale.

So far, Myanmar has more than 200,000 fish ponds. Mandalay and Sagaing divisions as well as lower Myanmar run fish breeding. Myanmar raises diverse species of freshwater fish inclusive of carp, river catfish, snake-head fish, white Hamilton’s carp, yellow Hamilton’s carp and tilapia along with freshwater prawns. In addition to freshwater fish, the nation has to breed seawater fish extensively.

Myanmar’s fisheries comprise rivers, creeks and fishery lakes. The nation has over 3000 fishery lakes, so it is required to carry out fishing in a systematic way for sustainable progress of fishery lakes and creeks and similar such freshwater prawns lay eggs in large quantities. The Fishery Department reminds that fishes and prawns, fingerlings and shrimps should not be caught and they should be given sanctuaries till the end of Myanmar month Nayon.

Breeding freshwater and seawater fish and prawns is a lucrative business. The Myanmar Fishery Federation and related organizations and livestock entrepreneurs should raise pedigree species of fish and prawns scientifically. Simultaneously, they should harness the water resources expeditiously in the Myanmar waters, rivers and creeks in order to help boost exporting marine products.

Managing Director Mr Gerard Geraets of Dumex (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd extends greetings.

MMA, Mo Asia Co Ltd (Dumex) organize medical seminar

YANGON, 23 May—A medical seminar jointly-organized by Children Health Education Department of Myanmar Medical Association and Mo Asia Co Ltd (Dumex) took place at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road here in this morning.

Managing Director Mr Gerard Geraets of Dumex (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd extended greetings.

Next, Managing Director U Peter Moe Kyaw of Mo Asia Co Ltd (Dumex) presented K 200,000 each for MMA and CHED to MMA Vice-Chairman Dr S Kyaw Hla and Professor/Head of Children Health Education Department Dr Daw Kyu Kyin. The Vice-chairman spoke words of thanks.

Then the medical seminar followed. Prof Dr Daw Kyu Kyin presided over the seminar and Prof Dr Jacques G Bindels gave talks on Immune-Modulating Effects of Prebiotic Oligosaccharide, Paediatrician Dr Kyaw Lin, on Current Approach to Children with Afebrile Abdominal Pain in Children.

Next, they replied to queries raised by those present.—MNA
Singh sworn in for second term as Indian PM

NEW DELHI, 23 May—Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was sworn in for a second term Friday, even as talks broke down between his party and a key coalition partner.

President Pratibha Patil, dressed in an elaborate white, green and gold sari, administered the oath of office to Singh and his new Cabinet in a formal ceremony at New Delhi's imposing red-stone presidential palace.

Only 19 senior ministers were sworn in with seven more expected to take the oath next week in a second ceremony, according to a statement from Singh's office.

The delay was apparently to allow Singh's Congress party time to complete coalition negotiations with some of its allies. The DMK, a regional party from southern India, walked out of talks after Congress failed to agree to its demands, said TR Baalu, a senior party member. Party leader M Karunanidhi and his large entourage packed their bags and flew out of New Delhi early Friday.

Iran’s President vows to keep anti-West stance

TEHRAN, 23 May — Iran’s President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad who is seeking re-election in the upcoming presidential race vowed on Friday to keep anti-West stance.

“The Iranian nation will not accept domination of the bullying powers,” Ahmadinejad told thousands of his supporters at an indoor stadium in Tehran, “we are even ready to direct the future of the world that is contrary to the wish of some countries.”

He said that the past five years, since he took up the presidential post, was the most difficult, important and sensitive juncture both in Iran’s history and in the post-Islamic Revolution victory.

“During these four years, the West put much pressure on us and tried to put more pressure over our head by threatening to carry out more sanctions,” he said.

“We have buried the sanctions in the cemetery of history,” he said, adding that he has also deflected pressures from groups inside Iran to abandon the controversial nuclear programme. He criticized ex-president Mohammad Khatami’s policy of de-
Spirit stuck on Mars, Opportunity rolls on

ITHACA, 23 May—Six years after landing on Mars, the rover Spirit is bogged down in Martian soil, researchers at Cornell University said, but Opportunity carries on.

“The vehicle (Spirit) seems to be in a unique combination of soft, sandy material and slopes that we haven’t encountered yet,” said Jim Bell, professor of astronomy and leader of the mission’s Pancam color camera team. “We’re not calling this purgatory for Spirit yet, but it has that potential,” Bell said.

Spirit and its twin, Opportunity, have continued operating years after scientists predicted they would give up and quit in the harsh and corrosive atmosphere of Mars. Spirit is stuck in Gusev Crater, while Opportunity is on the other side of the planet ending a two-year exploration of Victoria Crater which showed Mars once had water, Bell said.

British economy at weakest for 30 years

LONDON, 23 May—Britain’s economy is contracting at its sharpest pace in almost three decades amid the worst global downturn since the 1930s, official data showed Friday. —Internet

The data was unchanged from an initial estimate it gave last month. GDP shrank 4.1 percent in the first quarter compared with the first three months of 2008, also unchanged from preliminary data, the ONS added. Both figures matched analysts’ consensus forecasts.

“The good news is that it is looking highly likely that the first quarter will have marked the deepest rate of contraction in this recession,” said Howard Archer, chief Britain economist at IHS Global Insight. —Internet

Earthquake of 5.9 magnitude shakes Mexico City

MEXICO CITY, 23 May—An earthquake of 5.9 magnitude on the Richter scale shook on Friday Mexico City, without reports of victims and damages so far.

The National Seismologic Service (SSN) said that the epicenter was located 26 kilometres south to Chiautla de Tapia municipality in the state of Puebla, centre of Mexico.

The earthquake occurred at 2:24 pm local time (1924 GMT) and it lasted 15 seconds. It was mainly felt in Tehuacan municipality, Puebla.

Civil Protection Secretary from Mexico City said that helicopters from the Condro Group flew over Mexico City, and to the moment they have not reported victims or material damages. People in many buildings in the Historical Center, like the Senate of the Republic, the Public Education Ministry (SEP) and some insurance agencies, were evacuated. —Internet

People gather outdoors after the earthquake in Mexico City, capital of Mexico, on 22 May, 2009. An earthquake with a magnitude of 5.7 jolted Mexico on Friday afternoon. According to the US Geological Survey (USGS), the tremor had its epicenter in Mexico’s Puebla region, some 140 km southeast of Mexico City, with a depth of 97.3 km. —Internet

25,000 restaurant staffs lose jobs in Mexico City in flu suspension

MEXICO CITY, 23 May—Some 25,000 people lost their jobs due to the previous closure of more than 2,500 restaurants in Mexico City amid the A/H1N1 flu fears, authorities said on Friday.

President of the National Chamber of the Restaurant Industry and Seasoned Food (Canirac), Francisco Mijares, said the slow reactivation of the economic activities in Mexico City was not felt in restaurants despite reopening two weeks ago.

The global financial crisis has affected the tourist and restaurant sector, but “the final shoot” was the suspension of the services for 10 days due to the A/H1N1 flu, Mijares said. —Internet

Job losses up in 44 states as recession drags on

WASHINGTON, 23 May—All but six states lost jobs in April and double-digit unemployment persisted in every corner of the country as companies squeezed by the recession slashed payrolls.

For the fifth straight month, California led the nation in net job losses, with 63,700 jobs disappearing in April. Among the handful of winners were Arkansas, Montana and Florida — a state battered by the housing collapse and badly in need of good news.

Michigan, the heart of the teetering American auto industry, posted the highest unemployment rate in the nation, 12.9 percent, the Labour Department said Friday. Oregon came in at 12 percent, South Carolina at 11.5 percent and Rhode Island at 11.1 percent.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke has said the epicenter was located 26 kilometres south to Chiautla de Tapia municipality in the state of Puebla, centre of Mexico.

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A group of combined harvesters reap wheat in the wheat field, at Yantu District, Yuncheng City, north China's Shanxi Province, on 21 May, 2009. The local agricultural department mobilizes some 3,000 combined harvesters and other farming machinery to launch on the massive summer seasonal harvesting to over 4.8 million mu of wheat plantation, in addition to the voluntary maintenance service to the bulky number of farm machines operating in the fields. — Xinhua

EU-Russia summit falls short of increased trust

PRAGUE, 23 May—The latest European Union (EU)-Russia summit has not radically increased mutual trust mainly due to the EU Eastern Partnership project involving six post-Soviet countries and disputes on Russia’s gas supplies to Europe via Ukraine, political scientists here said Friday.

Martin Larsy took issue with the view of Czech President Vaclav Klaus, who chaired the two-day EU-Russian summit ending Friday in Russia’s Khabarovsk on behalf of the EU presidency.

Klaus told journalists after the summit that the talks “increased our mutual trust, which is very much needed and very important.”

Another political scientist Petr Just said the summit showed Russia’s gas supplies to Europe remained a key question and the main source of disputes between the EU and Russia.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev at the summit warned the EU against the possibility of a new dispute with Ukraine over gas supplies if Ukraine was unable to pay Russia for gas.

Medvedev suggested the EU would only be able to ensure reliable gas supplies from Russia to Europe via Ukraine by lending money to Ukraine to help it pay for gas.

The EU will now have more motives to look for alternative sources, which would lower its dependence on Russia,” Just said. — Xinhua

California’s poor to be hard hit by budget cuts

LOS ANGELES, 23 May—With a huge budget deficit set to balloon, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is considering a plan to slash California’s safety net for the poor, a newsaper report said on Friday.

As part of the plan, Schwarzenegger will eliminate the state’s main welfare programme, health insurance for low-income families and cash grants to college students, according to the Los Angeles Times. The stark proposal surfaced in testimony by the administration at a joint legislative hearing on Thursday that followed the governor’s decision to withdraw a week-old plan to borrow 5.5 billion dollars to help balance the budget, the paper said.

California’s deficit may already have ballooned from 15.3 billion dollars to 24 billion after Tuesday’s voter rejection of nearly six billion dollars in funding measures proposed by the governor to close the budget gap, state officials said. The state runs short of the cash it needs to pay bills in July. To balance the books, Schwarzenegger is eyeing the dismantling of the state’s CalWorks programme, which serves more than 500,000 poor families with children, as well as the elimination of Healthy Families, which provides medical coverage to 928,000 children and teens, according to the paper. — Xinhua

Singapore firm produces “black box” for ships

SINGAPORE, 23 May—A Singapore company has put on the market a data recorder, the “black box” for ships to prevent maritime accidents, local media reported on Friday.

According to TV broadcaster Channel NewsAsia, the Voyage Data Recorder, which is said to be the first for Singapore as well as for Southeast Asia, is designed by local firm Pamarine and supported by a government agency SPRING.

The equipment is said to have passed various international standards, which include being able to withstand high impact, high temperatures, a simulating situation of a disaster at sea.

The report said that the company has received five orders from ferry operators. — Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Air crash kills 11 in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 23 May — Eleven people were killed when a small plane crashed Friday night in northeast Brazil, local media reported.

The plane crashed near a private air strip in the northeastern seaside resort of Trancoso, killing all eight passengers and three crew members on board, the Estado de Sao Paulo newspaper reported on its website. — Xinhua

A Subaru Forester presents a performance for Chinese visitors at the 7th Central China International Auto Show held in Wuhan, capital city of central China’s Hubei Province, on 22 May, 2009. Some 300 autos of 60 home and abroad brands were showcased for visitors from China, one of the world’s leading potential markets of car consumers. — Xinhua

Hypersonic test vehicle flies in Australia

CANBERRA, 23 May—Scientists have successfully completed a hypersonic flight trial in southern Australia, with the test vehicle traveling faster than five times the speed of sound.

The May 7 flight, seen as a step toward building next-generation air vehicles that could dramatically reduce intercontinental travel times, was the first of up to ten planned flight experiments to be conducted at Woomera, the Australian Department of Defence said on its website.

The flights are part of a joint research programme between the Australian Defence Science and Technology Organization (DSTO) and the US Air Force Research Laboratory. This trial has successfully tested the flight and mission control systems that will be used in future experiments,” said Minister for Defence Science and Personnel Warren Snowdon in a statement released Friday. — Xinhua

Chinese explorers in the Sahara Desert, on 22 May, 2009. Two Chinese explorers Jin Feibao and his partner geologist Fei Xuan re-established contact with home on Wednesday after reportedly disappearing in the Sahara Desert for three days. — Xinhua

A hypersonic test vehicle flies in Australia

Hypersonic test vehicle flies in Australia

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Man killed in Australian floods

SYDNEY, 23 May — A man died when his car was swamped by raging floodwaters in northeastern Australia, where tens of thousands of homes have been cut off by wild weather, according to officials.

The 70-year-old’s body was found near his submerged vehicle around midnight at Cooffs Harbour, 540 kilometres (340 miles) north of Sydney, police said, bringing the death toll caused by the floods to two.

Emergency services estimated 21,500 people were isolated by the flooding, which has left two Australian states as disaster zones and forced wide-spread evacuations.

Freak winds flung a sheet of metal through an office block window killing a 46-year-old man Wednesday on Queensland’s Gold Coast tourist strip, while torrential rains deluged coastal towns.

“We could be talking weeks of inundation for some areas, if not longer,” an emergency service spokesman told the AAP newswire.

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd said he would visit affected areas next week, and offered his condolences to the family of the storm’s latest victim.

The extreme weather was easing but there was a risk of further flash-floods, while ocean swells of up to ten metres were pounding the coast, the weather bureau said.

“Rainfall totals today are not expected to be as high as those recorded over the last couple of days, and will continue in a decreasing trend,” it said. — Internet

Floods in Haiti kill 11 people, destroy homes

PORT-AU-PRINCE (Haiti), 23 May — Floods have killed at least 11 people this week as heavy rains swamp towns still rebuilding from last year’s hurricanes, Haiti’s civil protection department said Friday.

Most of the victims were swept away by swollen rivers or died when their flimsy homes collapsed, officials said. Five of the deaths were reported in the rice-growing Artibonite Valley.

Rains that began a week ago have been heaviest on the southern peninsula near Les Cayes and Camp Perrin, where 1,000 homes have been flooded. Some areas received nearly 3 inches (74 millimeters) of rain Thursday night, Haiti’s meteorological office said.

A giant tortoise weighing over 20 kg grazes on the grass, at Jiuj Township, Qionghai City, south China’s Sichuan Province.

Blaze guts 11 fire engines at fire school

A fire in a workshop at a British Fire Service College gutted 11 fire engines in England Saturday.

The blaze did not spread beyond one building at the training institution in Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire, the BBC reported. But the engines alone were worth 1.3 million pounds (almost $2 million).

Scores of firefighters from Gloucestershire and two other counties battled the fire. “The fire service is used to dealing with emergencies,” Charlie Hendry, head of the Chief Fire Officers Association, said.

A Japanese astronaut tested a “flying carpet” in outer space, folded laundry and used eye drops as part of a series of zero-gravity challenges submitted by the public. Standing on a white sheet, Koichi Wakata was gliding smoothly through a cabin of the International Space Station, as if snowboarding, in a video clip posted online by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency.

Woman charged with beating husband

A 78-year-old woman has been charged with beating her 84-year-old husband because she believed he was unfaithful several times during the marriage.

Prosecutors said the Lynnwood woman hit her husband with a bowl, pipe and carpet sweeper. She suffered broken ribs, pelvis and a wrist.

The woman was charged Thursday with second-degree assault after her arrest late last month. She will remain in jail on $70,000 bail.

“I beat him again,” the woman wrote in the diary, which was recovered by police. “I told him it would be worth going to jail just to watch him bleed to death,” she wrote.

A witness told police the woman believed her husband had an affair 35 years ago, according to court documents.

A man competes in a hot dog eating contest in Fort Worth, Texas in 2008.

Over-eating, not a lack of exercise, is to blame for the American obesity epidemic, a new study claimed, warning that physical activity could not fully compensate for excess calories.

Michigan teacher spends 65 hours in tree

David Buth is rewarding the tree-mendous fundraising efforts of his Michigan middle school students by spending 65 hours in a perch 40 feet above ground.

It’s all part of a deal the part-time science teacher at Rockford Christian School made with the students, who earned and collected thousands of dollars for a trip this summer to Teton Science Schools in Jackson, Wyo.

He calls it Operation Squirrel. Buth used ropes and pulleys on Mondays to ascend a tree on school property. The Grand Rapids Press says he took along his hammock, a tarp and some other items.

On Wednesday, he’ll descend 30 or so feet to fulfill his teaching responsibilities while still in the tree. Operation Squirrel concludes Thursday morning.
Maj-Gen Ko Ko inspects progress of Saidin Hydropower Project

NAV Pyi Taw, 23 May—Maj-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Thaung Aye and departmental officials, on 20 May heard a report on progress of Saidin Hydropower Project presented by the project in-charge at the project worksite in Sittway Township.

After viewing the sample stones and the site for construction of the power plant, Maj-Gen Ko Ko gave necessary instructions. On 21 May morning, Maj-Gen Ko Ko and party met with servicemen and family members at the hall of Buthidaung Station and presented gifts to them. They viewed major maintenance to the tunnel on Buthidaung-Maungta Road.

At Thiri Mingala Hall in Maungtau Township, Maj-Gen Ko Ko met departmental officials and townelders. Maj-Gen Ko Ko, the commander and Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe presented medicines, uniforms for fire fighters, journals, teaching aid and bio-batteries to departmental officials and townelders. At Ale Thankyaw Station Hospital, Maj-Gen Ko Ko comforted the patients and presented cash assistance and foodstuff to them. After visiting the operation theatre and the medical store, he presented gifts to the station doctor and nurses.

Later, they viewed Maungtaw-Ale Thankyaw-Angumaw rural development road in a motorcade.

Maj-Gen Ko Ko of Ministry of Defence inspects Saidin Hydropower Project in Sittway Township.—MNA

Symposium on Healthy Environment, Healthy Children on 30 May

YANGON, 23 May—The Department of Microbiology, University of Medicine (1), Yangon, under the auspices of the Microbiology Society, Myanmar Medical Association, will hold a symposium on “Healthy Environment, Healthy Children” on May 30, 2009 (Saturday), 9:00 AM to 12 noon at Auditorium (A), Myanmar Medical Association, Theinbyu Road.

The speakers will be Head of the Department of Microbiology, University of Medicine (1) Professor Dr. Kyi Kyi Thinn, Professor Dr. Wah Win Htike and Associate Professor Dr. Kyi Kyi Win.

All those interested are cordially invited to attend.—MNA

Myanmar, Thai entrepreneurs to meet for trade promotion

YANGON, 23 May—A meeting between a delegation of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and a delegation of Thai business persons will take place at the UMFCCI office at 10.30 am on 27 May.

At the meeting, 43 companies from Thailand selling construction materials and machinery, pipes and accessories, sanitary equipment, motorboat parts, batteries for cars and motorcycles, electric wires, cosmetics, clothing, consumer products and other products will show samples of their products to Myanmar and Thai entrepreneurs. Therefore, Myanmar economic entrepreneurs will have the opportunity to deal with Thai entrepreneurs for mutual trade. —MNA

Myanmar Belle Co. Ltd introduces new product

YANGON, 23 May—A ceremony to introduce a new product of Myanmar Belle Co. Ltd was held in conjunction with press meet at Parkroyal Hotel on Alamya Pagoda Road in Dagon Township here this afternoon.

Managing Director U Ye Myint Maung of the company made an opening address and Brand Manager Ma Hnin Pwint Phyu gave accounts of skin problem and supreme products. Film stars Soe Myat Thuza and Mya Pwint Phyu and May Thu, wife of Actor Lwin Moe, gave talks at the Skin Talk Show.

Next, Actor Lwin Moe presented gifts to shop owners and responsible persons of shopping centers.

Myanmar Belle Co Ltd has introduced supreme skin care, a new skin care series of Kose for customers in Myanmar. Supreme Skin Care consists of five stages namely cleansing cream, washing cream, refining lotion (1.2), moisturizer (1.2) and it is available at supermarkets and Kose cosmetic shops.—MNA

Film stars give talks at Skin Talk Show of Myanmar Belle Co Ltd. —MNA

Russian language course (Intermediate Level) in June

YANGON, 23 May—Under the arrangement to of the Union of Myanmar Travel Association, Russian language course No 2 (Intermediate Level) will be opened in mid-June 2009.

Graduates majoring in Russian, tour guides and interpreters may take the course. A Russian instructor will teach four days a week and experienced instructors of UMTA every Wednesday. The course lasts three months. As there are limited seats, those wishing to attend the course are to enroll at UMTA (Ph: 559672, 559673) not later than 30 May 2009.—MNA

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased
Secretary of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Nyaungdon Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rathha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa delivers Ovadakahta of SSMNC Chairman Magway Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rathha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Kumara.—MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye donates alms to a Sayadaw who passed Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination.—MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein donates alms to a Sayadaw.—MNA

Lt-Gen Tin Aye offers Vinayadaya title and certificate to a Sayadaw.—MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, wife Daw Mya Mya San... (from page 16)

Minister for Religious Affairs supplicated on the religious affairs.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye offered Tipitakadhara title and certificate to Ashin Viriyananda of Tipitaka Monastery of Dagon Township and Mula Abhidhammakkovida title and certificate to Ashin Cakkinda of Tipitaka Monastery of Dagon Township.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein also offered Mula Abhidhamma title and certificate to Ashin Vicittalankara of Tipitaka Monastery of Dagon Township, Dighanakkakovida titles and certificates to Ashin Khemavamsa of Mongthauk Tawya Monastery of Nyaungshwe Township.

and Ashin Vilasa of Mingun Tipitakanikaya Monastery of Sagaing.

Secretary-1 General Thha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo presented Dighanakkakovida titles and certificates to Ashin Gambhirananda of Mingun Tipitakanikaya Monastery of Sagaing and Ashin Osadhalankara of Thein Than Yadana Monastery of Moguang Taik of Chanayethazan Township, Dighabhanganaka title and certificate to Ashin Pahhavam-salankara of Tipitaka Maha Gandawin Nikaya Monastery of Dagon Myothit (East) Township.

SPDC member Lt-Gen Tin Aye also offered Vinayakkovida title and certificate to one monk, and Vinayadhara title and certificate to one monk.

Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Nyan Tun offered Vinayadhara titles and certificates to three monks, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein two monks, Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence five monks, Maj-Gen Ohn Myint of the Ministry of Defence five monks, Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thura Myint Aung three monks.

(See page 9)
Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, wife Daw Mya Mya San...

(from page 8) mons, Lt-Gen Myint Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence three monks, and Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence three monks and the commander, bhangadhara titles and certificates to three monks, Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung five monks, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung five Gen Aung Thein Lin five monks.

The Secretary Sayadaw delivered a sermon, and Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, wife Daw Mya Mya San and the congregation bhangadhara titles and certificates to three monks, Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung five monks, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung five Gen Aung Thein Lin five monks.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye offers a title and certificate to a Sayadaw.—MNA

Daw Mya Mya San, wife of Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, offers alms to a Sayadaw.—MNA

Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of Prime Minister General Thein Sein, offers alms to a Sayadaw.—MNA

Ubhatovibhangakovida titles and certificates to three monks. Chief Justice U Aung Toe presented Ubhatovibhangakovida titles and certificates to three monks, Attorney-General U Aye Maung Ubhatovibhangadhara titles and certificates to three monks, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi Ubhatovibhangadvika title and certificate to one monk and Ubhatovibhangadhara titles and certificates to two monks, Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein Ubhatovivibhangadhara title and certificate to one monk and Ubhatovibhangadhara titles and certificates to two monks, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein four monks, Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi four monks and Yangon Mayor Brig-

shared merits gained. After the ceremony, the monks who passed the Tipitakadhara Tipitakavadika Selection Examination left Maha Pasama Cave along the passage. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, wife Daw Mya Mya San and party donated alms to the Sayadaws. MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein offers a title and certificate to a Sayadaw.—MNA

Secretary-1 General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo offers a title and certificate to a Sayadaw.—MNA

Lt-Gen Tin Aye offers provisions to a Sayadaw. MNA
Sittway (Pyidawtha-Yaychanbyin) Railroad Section put into service

(from page 16)

Some time later, Prime Minister General Thein Sein and entourage arrived at the site, receiving a warm welcome from the local attendees. It had been a long time since local residents started to wait for such an auspicious day. Now, they have had their requirement of a transport facility fulfilled by the government, and so the facility will help improve the living and working conditions for them. Some elderly women were found with their eyes filled with tears of joy, having a steady gaze at the train.

The departure of the train was followed by the inauguration of Pyidawtha-Yaychanbyin Railroad with the accompaniment of thunderous applause from the attendees. That reflected the facility helped the people equip themselves with a sense of Union Spirit more than ever. Some students from Sittway were on the train, singing such songs as Zartiman (nationalistic spirit), National Anthems, and Myanmar’s School in chorus. Hearing the songs, I felt the railroad, a result of Myanmar people’s nationalistic fervour, would be long-lasting due to the sense of Union Spirit of local people.

Likewise, the first train was accorded with rousing welcome from local people at the villages and stations along its route including Sittway University, Dahpaing, Zawbugyar, Meizaligon and Yaychanbyin. Local people will be able to enjoy progress in the transport, trade and social affairs in future thanks to the railroad. For local people, they fell as though the railroad was a gifted facility. So, I did not think any local people having a look at the train could not help waving their hands to it.

Some young women of local national races in the first train.

Yaychanbyin Station.

Previous governments could not work effectively for development of Rakhine State. In contrast, the Tatmadaw government is paying a careful attention to the plans for development of the state.

The railroad did find the satisfaction and recognition of local people. Now, the railroad has been built, but not an easy way. Rakhine State is composed with seaside regions, and it has many mountainous areas and swamp areas. In the state, the area of plains and hard parts is small. Therefore, to build a railroad in Rakhine State is a really uphill task. Due to such huge challenges, the project called for a large workforce. The British government, the founder of the railroad service in Myanmar, deliberately failed to build a railroad in Rakhine State, visualizing no benefits to it if there would be a railroad in the state. So, at that time local people except those who had traveled to other regions had never seen a train, but only on TV and in photos and paintings. It has made it clear that the government has carried out formidable tasks to help Rakhine State enjoy such a remarkable development.

Rakhine State, a multicultural region, has an area of more than 14,000 square miles and a population of over three million and is constituted with four districts and 17 townships. Owing to geographical barriers such as mountain ranges, rivers, creeks and the sea, it was difficult to travel from and to Rakhine State. So, the poor transport served as a great hindrance to the relations between Rakhine State dwellers and the people of other regions.

Previous governments could not work effectively for development of Rakhine State. For instance, it launched Yangon-Sittway Road, which passes through many heights and swamp areas, in 1996 in order that the state will be easily accessible from any other part of the nation. The road was put into commission in February 2000. The State Peace and Development Council is implementing a large number of projects for suitable development of all parts of the country. As part of the drive, it is building a network of roads and railroads covering the whole nation. In order to contribute towards the lofty goal, the Myanma Railways under the Ministry of Rail Transportation is building more and more railroads across the nation. In the process, it is working hard to complete a network of railways covering Myitkyina and Bhamo in the northern part, Myeik in the southern part, Kengtung in the eastern part, and Sittway in the western part of the nation.

In compliance with the guidance of the Head of State, the Myanma Railways is now building Sittway-An-Minbu section linking Minbu in Magway Division and Sittway in Rakhine State in Kyangin-Pakokku Railroad with the aim of expediting the development of Rakhine State. Sittway-An-Minbu section is designed to link Rakhine State and Magway Division in order to help complete the national railway network.

(See page 11)
Sittway (Pyidawtha-Yaychanbyin) Railroad Section put into service

(from page 10)

Sittway-An-Minbu section is 257 miles long with 51 stations, and 1285 bridges: 24 above-100-foot and 1261 under-100-foot bridges along it. The maximum bend in the section is at 6 degree.

Now, groundwork and construction of bridges are in progress in 26 miles long Sittway-Punnagyun section of Sittway-An-Minbu railroad. The construction of Pyidawtha-Yaychanbyin section of Sittway-Punnagyun railroad was launched on 15 February and completed on 13 May 2009, and was put into service on 19 May.

Pyidawtha-Yaychanbyin section is consisted of 21 large and small bridges, four block stations and three halts along it. The sharpest bend in the section is at 6 degree. Groundwork amounted to 16.5 million cubic feet of earth, and the largest rapine in the section is as deep as 12 feet. To build such a railroad is an onerous task, so the facility reflects the goodwill the MR shows to the people.

Moreover, the MR is planning to complete other sections of Sittway-An-Minbu railroad such as Minbu-Padan section (28 miles), Padan-An section (54 miles), Minbya section (76 miles), MraukU-MraukU section (16 miles), MraukU-Kyauktaw section (23 miles) and Kyauktaw-Punnagyun section (34 miles).

When Sittway-An-Minbu railroad is completed, the dwellers of Rakhine State will be able to travel by train to various parts of the nation. Then, they will be able to carry out economic, social and transport activities effectively.

The present railroad project is the first-ever one in Rakhine State. So, heavy machinery, rails, accesso-
rives, trolleys, locomotives and carriages were trans-
ported from Yangon to Sittway. Up to now, we have transported machinery units by sea freight for eight times. In one time, we can transport 800 to 1000 tons of heavy machinery. In Sittway port, we had to unload the ma-
chinery in a hurry in order that we could lay rails be-
fore the rain. And we had to load and unload the machin-
ery all-day round. It is very risky, so we had to take great care. In building the rail-
road, we work in rotation, but all of the machinery is operated all the time. It takes us about two days to travel by land along Okshinpin-Padan-An-Taungup road. The road is full of slopes and the region has a high rain-
fall, so it is very challenging for us to make a good head-
way. Now, we have sent four bulldozers, eight exca-
vators, 17 tipper lorries, 20 miles of rails, locomotives, carriages and concrete sleep-
ers. We get rock and wood for us to make a good head-
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Up to 1988, Myanmar had 1976.35 miles of railroads. In the time of the Tatmadaw government, the Myanma Railways has built 1261.70 miles of railways including the newly-inaugu-
 rated Sittway (Pyidawtha-Yaychanbyin) Rail-
road. So, the length of the railroads of the nation has increased to 3238.05 miles, and the number of the railway stations, to 821.

When Sittway-An-Minbu railroad is completed, the dwellers of Rakhine State will be able to travel by train to various parts of the nation. Then, they will be able to carry out economic, social and transport activities effectively.
Hawaiian beach tops 10 best list

MIAMI, 23 May—“Dr. Beach,” a professor at Florida International University, has identified a 2-mile strip of palm-fringed sand in Hawaii as the best US beach.

Stephen Leatherman, director of the Laboratory for Coastal Research, put Hanalei Bay in Kauai at the top of his 2009 Top 10 list. Leatherman, in a news release, said he considers 50 criteria when he puts the list together, as he has every year since 1991. Hawai’i, Florida and New York each had two beaches on the list. While Leatherman called Hanalei his “favorite Hawaiian getaway,” he put Hamoa Beach on Maui at No. 5. Siesta Beach in Sarasota, Fla., came in second and Cape Florida State Park on Key Biscayne was ninth. Both New York beaches are on the eastern tip of Long Island: Coopers Beach in Southampton in third place and Main Beach in East Hampton in sixth.

Also listed were Coronado Beach in San Diego; Cape Hatteras on the Outer Banks of North Carolina; Coast Guard Beach on Cape Cod, Massachusetts; and Beachwalker Park, Kiawah Island, South Carolina. —Internet

Preschool charged for picnic grass use

LONDON, 23 May—A London local council charged a preschool $185 to use a patch of grass for its annual picnic due to fear the festivities could harm the lawn.

Parents and teachers at the Norwood Grove preschool in London’s Croydon borough said they have used the patch of grass outside of the school gates for their picnics for the past 16 years free of charge, but this year the Croydon Council demanded $185 to cover potential damage to the grass, The Daily Telegraph reported Friday. The school serves a total of 37 students between the ages of 2 and 5. “This is a little party in the park — we are not going to have loud music playing,” principal Joan Runcorn said. “It is always well supervised by me and my staff, with the parents here as well. What I want to know is what do we get for that money we pay the council?”

A council spokesman defended the decision to charge the school. “For fairness, and in the best interests of public safety, it is essential that we treat all applications even-handedly, with appropriate charges being made and checks in place to ensure that event organizers have the necessary risk assessments and insurance,” he said. —Internet

Europe’s amphibians, reptiles vanishing

PARIS, 23 May—Pollution, climate change, invasive species and habitat destruction are killing Europe’s native reptiles and amphibians, wildlife experts said.

Fifty-nine percent of all European amphibians and 42 percent of reptile species are declining and face even greater risk than European mammals and birds, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature said.

In all, 23 percent of Europe’s amphibian species and 21 percent of its reptile species have been classified as threatened and added to the European Red List of endangered species, said the European Commission.

“Natural habitats across Europe are being squeezed by growing human populations, agricultural intensification, urban sprawl and pollution. That is not good news for either amphibians or reptiles,” said Helen Temple, co-author of a conservation risk study.

Europe is home to 151 species of reptiles and 85 species of amphibians, many of which live nowhere else in the world. —Internet

Giraffes remember where crackers come from

APPLE VALLEY, 23 May—Two giraffes, returning to the Minnesota Zoo for the first time in three years, remembered where they used to get fed by visitors, zoo staffers say.

Sweta and Zawadi were released last week into the Africa! Exhibit, a summer attraction first opens to the public Saturday, an attempt to replicate an African savanna, complete with zebra, gemsbok and other herbivores. The two 15-foot-tall giraffes are a major lure for the public. Visitors can pay $5 for two crackers to feed the giraffes, giving them a close look at their large, strong tongues, which can strip tough leaves from trees.

Fisher said that in 2006 the giraffes took about two weeks to realize there was food available in the centre of the exhibit. The giraffes came from a herd in Colorado Springs, Colo., but the zoo bought them after the 2006 exhibit because they had trouble getting along with their former mates after a summer away. They now spend most of the year at the Henry Vilas Zoo in Madison, Wis., which has year-round giraffe housing. —Internet

Italian warship arrests nine pirates off Somalia

NAIROBI, 23 May—An Italian warship arrested nine pirates after helping a US-flagged container vessel and another ship evade brigands off the coast of Somalia on Friday, a naval spokesman said.

An Italian naval spokesman said sailors onboard the warship Maestrale captured the nine pirates in the Gulf of Aden after they fired on the Maria K, a ship from St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The pirates tried to flee in their skiff but stopped after warning shots were fired from the helicopter, the spokesman said.

The Maersk Virginia is owned by Norfolk-based Maersk Line Ltd. The company is owned by Danish container shipping and oil group AP Moller-Maersk.

A wounded woman on a wheelchair waits for medical treatment at a hospital after a bomb attack in Baghdad’s Doura district on 21 May, 2009. —Internet

Samsung recalls ‘Jitterbug’ cell phones

WASHINGTON, 23 May—The US Consumer Product Safety Commission announced a voluntary recall of Samsung “Jitterbug” cell phones that fail to reach emergency 911 in some areas. About 160,000 of the phones made by Samsung Telecommunications America of Richardson, Texas, were sold nationwide from March 2008 through May 2009 for about $150.

The “Jitterbug” cell phones with model numbers SPH-a110 and SPH-a120 with version BB14 software can fail to reach emergency services when needed, the commission said in a statement. Consumers were advised to contact Samsung for a free software upgrade on the phones. —Internet

European Commission.

Europe is home to 151 species of reptiles and 85 species of amphibians, many of which live nowhere else in the world. —Internet

Internet

The exhibit, which features a herd in the year at the Henry Vilas Zoo of the exhibit. The giraffe housing. —Internet

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Three alleged pirates are pictured on 1 May, 2009. Italian navymen on Friday arrested nine Somali pirates who were trying to seize a Libyan-owned merchant ship in the Gulf of Aden, a naval press spokesman said. —INTERNET

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Internet
New York City closes 40 schools to slow spread of A/H1N1 flu

NEW YORK, 23 May—New York City has so far closed 40 schools in an attempt to slow the spread of A/H1N1 flu within the school community, according to a press release issued by the city’s Health Department on Friday.

The Health Commissioner Thomas R Frieden and Schools Chancellor Joel Klein on Friday discussed the rationale behind closing individual New York City schools in response to the presence of the A/H1N1 virus in New York City.

26 new A/H1N1 cases confirmed in Europe

STOCKHOLM, 23 May—A total of 26 new A/H1N1 flu cases were reported in European countries within the last 24 hours, the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) said on Friday.

Half of the new cases, 13 of 26, were confirmed in Spain, and the other new cases were reported respectively from Britain, Italy, Germany, Switzerland and Belgium, the ECDC said in its daily situation report.

The cumulative number of confirmed cases of the A/H1N1 flu virus in the EU (European Union) and EFTA (European Free Trade Association) countries increased to 316, with 126 cases in Spain, 117 in Britain, 17 in Germany, 16 in France and 14 in Italy, the ECDC said.

11 of the 13 newly confirmed cases in Spain are students of a military academy, the ECDC added.

The ECDC publishes a daily situation report about A/H1N1 flu cases in the EU and EFTA countries based on official information from these countries.
Osasuna look to exploit under-strength champions

MADRID, 23 May—With the league title now assured Barcelona can be forgiven for turning their attention to the Champions League final but for Osasuna, their opponents this weekend, it remains a crucial match. Barcelona became champions without even taking to the field as second-placed Real Madrid lost away at Villarreal last Saturday. The following day coach Pep Guardiola sent out a team largely of reserves against Mallorca but while they lost that did not dampen the celebrations. This Saturday, Guardiola will be without Andres Iniesta and Thierry Henry, who hopes will be fit for the Champions League final next Wednesday against Manchester United, while he is also likely to rest a number of others including Lionel Messi.

For Osasuna they dropped into the relegation zone after drawing with Sevilla and now they face the monumental task of saving themselves against Barcelona and Real Madrid in the last two weeks of the season.—INTERNET

CROSSWORDS PUZZLE

ACROSS
1 Gastropod
2 New
3 Diease
5 Squeeze
6 Enchanted
7 Modity
8 Evergreen conifer
9 Prepared
14 Fasten tightly
16 Milk-white gem
18 Speaker’s platform
20 Taverns (anag.)
21 Fruit of vine
23 Commenced
24 Empty
26 Attack
28 Wild West show

DOWN
10 Reveal
11 Dodge
12 Rhythmic throbbing
13 Taken for granted
15 Tender
17 Not limp or flabby
19 Apart
22 Competent
25 Fried meat cake
27 Rustic
29 French capital
30 Forsake
31 Farrier
32 Backless seat

Ferguson pledges to play strong team at Hull

MANCHESTER, 23 May—Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson hit back at claims he will field a weakened team at Hull on Sunday by insisting he would never damage the reputation of the Premier League. The newly-crowned champions will travel to Rome next week to begin preparations for their Champions League final against Barcelona on Wednesday. And speculation has been rife that Ferguson could put out a severely weakened side on the last day of the league season against Phil Brown’s relegation-threatened team.—INTERNET

Sabbatini, Mallinger share Nelson lead

IRVING, 23 May—Rory Sabbatini had just finished detailing his four consecutive birdies when wife Amy reminded him about the hole before the streak that put him in the lead at the Byron Nelson Championship. “My par on No. 3 was better than any of the birdies,” Sabbatini said. “I drove it in the water, then hit a 5-iron on the right greenside bunker, then holed it. Just a regulation par.”

That 96-foot par-saving bunker blast at the 528-yard third hole, his 12th of the day, and the birdie quartet came in his season-low round of 6-under 64. Sabbatini matched John Mallinger (65) at 8-under 132, a stroke ahead of five players. Mallinger eagled both par 5s on the TPC Four Seasons. Holding a 45-foot shot from the greenside bunker at No. 7 and sinking a 14-footer put at No. 16. He also had three bogeys and four birdies, the last a 15-footer at No. 18 for a share of the lead.—INTERNET

Shearer confident ahead of Newcastle’s last gasp

NEWCASTLE, 23 May—Alan Shearer expects Newcastle to avoid relegation with a victory in the biggest match in the club’s history at Aston Villa on Sunday. Shearer’s side will drop out of the Premier League for the first time in 16 years if they lose at Villa or if Hull and Sunderland win their fixtures against Manchester United and Chelsea respectively. It is a dire situation for one of England’s best supported clubs, who routinely pull in crowds of over 50,000 despite not winning a major trophy since 1969. The cost of relegation would be measured in pounds notes as well as pride at St James’ Park. The financial damage of relegation is estimated at around 60 million pounds in television revenue and commercial spin-offs, which would be a major blow to the value of a business in which owner Mike Ashley has invested a total of around 250 million pounds.—INTERNET

Serbia to face hosts Germany in World Cup final

DUESSELDORF, 23 May—Serbia will face hosts Germany in the final of the World Team Cup after seeing off Italy on Friday as the debutants finished the round-robin stage undefeated. The Serbian doubles pairing of Viktor Troicki and Nenad Zimonjic ensured their team’s place in Sunday’s final against the Germans by beating the Italians Francesco Piccari and Andreas Seppi 6-0, 7-6 (7/5).—INTERNET
Singapore, Malaysia seek to build new bridges

SINGAPORE, 23 May—Singapore and Malaysia will consider literally building new bridges to improve an often uneasy relationship, their leaders said on 22 May, 2009.—INTERNET

An undated artist impression of a proposed bridge to replace the existing causeway linking Malaysia and Singapore, but was scrapped in 2004. Singapore and Malaysia will consider literally building new bridges to improve an often uneasy relationship, their leaders said on 22 May, 2009.

Lee said his government could also support the Iksanad Malaysia project, a planned economic zone in Johor that would be Southeast Asia’s rival to Iskandar Malaysia project, a planned economic zone in Johor.

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Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, wife Daw Mya Mya San…
(from page 1)

Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint, ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Yangon Mayor and their wives, deputy ministers, directors-general of the SPDC Office and the Government Office, departmental heads, local authorities, staff of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, members of religious associations, disciples and wellwishers.

Departmental officials of the Ministry of Religious Affairs ushered the Sayadaws into the designated places.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, wife Daw Mya Mya San and party received the Five Precepts from Chairman of the Ovadacariya Committee of the examination Presiding Nayaka of Mandalay Paukmyaing Monastery Agga Maha Apandita Bhaddanta Aggavamsabhivamsa.

Secretary of SSMNC Abhidhaja Maga Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa read the Ovadakatha of Chairman of SSMNC Magway Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Kumara.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein congratulates Indian PM on his re-election

NAY PYI TAW, 23 May—General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Dr. Manmohan Singh, on his re-election as the Prime Minister of the Republic of India on 22 May 2009.—MNA

Sittway (Pyidawtha-Yaychanbyin) Railroad Section put into service

Article: Tin Htwe (MNA)

The newly-built straight railway stood magnificently, as if it was awaiting its inauguration. In the morning sunshine was a vast crowd of local people near the site from which the first train was about to leave Pyidawtha Station together with the opening ceremony. They were excited and could hardly wait to witness the launch of the train. Without any doubt, their hearts were filled with pervasive joy and felt very grateful to the government for the transport facility because they had never dreamt of a railroad in their region. (See page 10)

Cyclone Warning

NAY PYI TAW, 23 May—The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology today announced that according to the observatory at 4.30 pm MST, a small storm, which had occurred at the central west of the Bay of Bengal, has moved fast in a direction towards north and more intensified as a tropical storm. It is centered at 340 miles east-southeast of Vishakhapatnam of India. It is forecast to get intensified and become a Cyclone storm within the next (72) hours.

The storm is at the yellow level, and it is forecast that the direction of the storm is not towards the coastal region of Myanmar.

Because of the storm, there will be scattered rain with lightning in and along the Myanmar coastal region from this evening to next 24 hours with heavy rains in some places. During the storm wind, the likelihood of surface wind speed will be 40 mph, and the waves will be higher.—MNA