Senior General Than Shwe felicitates President of Argentina

NAY PYI TAW, 25 May—Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to H.E. Madam Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, President of the Republic of Argentina, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Argentina which falls on 25 May, 2009.—MNA

Maj-Gen Ko Ko looks into water supply facility in Sittway

NAY PYI TAW, 25 May—At Kandawgyi of Sittway on 22 May, Maj-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence heard reports on water supply tasks to the urban area from Kandawgyi in Sittway, extension of the lake and storage of water presented by the director of Rakhine State Development Affairs Committee.

Maj-Gen Ko Ko and party inspected extension of the lake, supply of water through the conduit, water source of Hsatoekya Creek and digging of ponds near the creek, installation of water meters at the residences being supplied water from pump station Nos 1, 2, and 3, and use of water from the wells.

In meeting with officials and members of Sittway power supply committee, Maj-Gen Ko Ko gave instructions on use of paddy husk-fired generators.

At the site for construction of Sasana Beikman, the head of Rakhine State Settlement and Land Records Department conducted Maj-Gen Ko Ko and party round the site.

On arrival at Aungdaing Lake, one more water source for Sittway, the Director of Rakhine State Development Affairs Committee reported on storage of water and supporting of water from Aungdaing Lake to Kandawgyi. After hearing the reports, Maj-Gen Ko Ko instructed officials to supply water to other urban areas and save the costs.

Yesterday, Maj-Gen Ko Ko met with servicemen and family members at Sittway station hall and presented cash assistance and gifts to them.—MNA

Alzheimer’s discovery could bring early diagnosis, treatment closer

MONTREAL, 24 May—A discovery made by researchers at McGill University and the affiliated Lady Davis Research Institute for Medical Research at Montreal’s Jewish General Hospital offers new hope for the early diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer’s disease. In a study published in the Journal of Biological Chemistry on May 15, Dr. Hernant Paudel, his PhD student Dong Han and postdoctoral fellows Hamid Qureshi and Yifan Lu, report that the addition of a single phosphate to an amino acid in a key brain protein is a principal cause of Alzheimer’s.—Internet

Giant balloon to catch cosmic rays

STOCKHOLM, 24 May—University of Delaware researchers in Sweden have launched a giant balloon taller than a football field that is now flying at the edge of space to collect data on cosmic rays—the most super-charged particles in the universe.

The balloon, which is 396 feet tall and 459 feet in diameter when fully inflated, was set aloft at 4:34 a.m. on May 17 from Esrange Space Center near Kiruna, Sweden, in the Arctic Circle. It is flying at a speed of more than 40 knots and an altitude of nearly 27 miles.

Its payload of cosmic ray detectors, housed in a pressurized shell, will be cut free in northwestern Canada and float back down to Earth on a parachute, and then secured and recovered, likely by helicopter.—Internet

Four political objectives

• Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, 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
PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 25 May, 2009

For people to take good care of their health to become good citizens

Good health is an invaluable asset to humans, and fitness of the people is of the greatest benefit to the State as well.

Ministry of Health is striving for health and fitness of the people by setting two objects – ensuring the longevity of each and every citizen and ensuring the people to be free from any disease.

Worldwide, more than 1.5 billion people are suffering from hypertension. A person needs to eat healthy food to be free from hypertension. Healthy food contains energy, protein and vitamins essential to the human body without much fat and salt.

By eating too salty, sweet and oily foods, a person can get obese and overweight, thereby suffering from hypertension. Having more cholesterol and sugar in blood than necessary can surely cause hypertension.

Being obese, overweight or paunchy is detrimental to one’s health. And an obese person is likely to suffer from hypertension two to six times higher than a person with average weight.

Having a healthy, balanced diet and doing regular physical exercise are the best way to prevent against being obese and overweight.

Therefore, in order to live long and to be free from any disease, all the people are urged to eat wholesome food and take good care of their health contributing to their health. Only then, will they become good citizens who are physically and mentally fit and strong to serve the best interests of the State.

Prizes awarded to winners in swimming competition

YANGON, 24 May — Myanmar Swimming Federation President’s Cup U-18 Men’s and Women’s Competition was held at National Swimming Pool yesterday.

A total of 27 swimming events were held in the competition. After the competition, Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htun, Secretary of Central Work Committee for Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation Daw L Khin Yi, and Patrons of MWF Daw Mo Myint and Daw Khin Swe Myint, President Dr Khin Shwe, Vice-Presidents U Zaw Lin and U Cho Maung, General Secretary U Kyaw Oo and officials presented prizes to the winners.

A total of 58 swimmers participated in the competition and United Pharma Co Ltd gave away Vicene, Bio-Gesic and Revicon medicines to all swimmers. —NLM

Road and bridge construction inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 25 May — Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein inspected progress in construction of Yasudine (1) bridge in Mawlamyine, Mawlamyine-Hlaebone-Thitpote-Kwinpauk-Pymalui road section and Kwinpauk-Hteelaythein bridges along the road. —MNA

Basic fire fighting course opened

YANGON, 24 May — The basic fire fighting course No. 1/2009, supervised by Yangon Division Fire Services Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and conducted by Thanlyin Township FSD, was opened at Yangon South District Peace and Development Council this morning.

Altogether 40 trainees are attending the two-week course that will last up to 7 June. —MNA
**Afghan president leaves for trilateral summit in Iran**

KABUL, 24 May — Afghan President Hamid Karzai left for Iran on Sunday morning to attend the trilateral summit with the neighbouring states, a press release issued by his office here said.

“In the trilateral summit matters pertaining security of the region, enhancing cooperation and rebuilding Afghanistan come under discussion,” the press release said.

During his stay in Iran, the Afghan leader will also hold talks with Iran’s supreme leader Ayatollah Khamenei, President Ahmadinejad and Pakistan’s President Asif Ali Zardari who will also attend the summit.

Hosted by Tehran, the summit among Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan was supposed to be held on 19 May but postponed until Sunday. — Internet

**Green Zone killing heightens security fears**

BAGHDAD, 24 May — An American was found dead in Baghdad’s fortified Green Zone, the US military said Saturday, the apparent victim of an unprecendented slaying that occurred at a time when blast walls are coming down and Iraqi forces are assuming greater control.

Another American, believed to be a civilian driver, was killed on Friday night when a rocket struck the Green Zone near the US Embassy, the military said. It was believed to be the first fatal rocket attack there this year. Those deaths have raised concerns about security before the 30 June deadline for all US combat troops to pull out of Baghdad and other cities. At least 66 people were killed nationwide in a two-day string of bombings this week.

Iraq assumed control of the Green Zone on 1 Jan under a US-Iraqi security agreement, taking primary responsibility from the Americans for searching vehicles and checking identity papers as entry checkpoints. The Iraqis have begun removing some of the protective blast walls and checkpoints.

The latest death raised the toll of the US soldiers killed in Iraq to 4,300 since the US-led invasion in Iraq in March 2003, according to media count based on Pentagon figures. — Internet

**US soldier dies in Iraq**

BAGHDAD, 24 May — A US soldier died of a non-combat related cause in Iraq, the US military said on Saturday. The soldier died on Friday in Baghdad, a military statement said without providing details about how and where exactly the incident occurred.

However, it said the victim is assigned to Multi-National Corps-Iraq, which is a tactical unit responsible for command and control of operations in Iraq. The unit deploys in the huge military base of Camp Victory, which occupies the area surrounding the Baghdad International Airport.

The statement also said that the incident is being investigated and has withheld the identity of the deceased pending notification of relatives.

The latest death raised the toll of the US soldiers who have been killed in Iraq to 4,300 since the US-led invasion in Iraq in March 2003, according to media count based on Pentagon figures. — Internet

**Airstrike kills construction worker, wounds 18 others near Afghan capital**

KABUL, 24 May — An airstrike of international troops on Friday night killed a road construction worker and wounded 18 others in Afghanistan’s Wardak Province, some 70 km west of the capital Kabul, an official said on Saturday.

“The war plane of international troops attacked a garden near a road construction company in Chak district, killing one and injuring 18 other workers,” Hajji Hazrat Janan, head of the provincial council, told Xinhua. He also said five of the wounded were in critical condition and had been transferred to a hospital in Kabul. The others were still receiving treatment in local hospital.

Janan said seven vehicles belonging to the local firm were also damaged in the incident. — Internet

**Two ANA, two Taliban fighters killed in Afghanistan**

**Fresh fighting kills five in Somali capital**

Mogadishu, 24 May — At least five civilians died and over a dozen wounded on Saturday as Somali government forces clashed with Islamist rebels they are trying to flush out of the war-riven capital, witnesses said.

Fighting resumed late afternoon in two districts of the oceanside capital Mogadishu after a brief morning skirmish.

“One of my neighbours and two other civilians have died,” said Asha Olow, speaking to AFP by telephone. “Fighting is still going on in our neighbourhood.”

In southern Mogadishu, two others were killed when a mortar shell landed near a cafe in the Bakara area, an insurgent stronghold.

“We ran away from the area to escape the mortars which were falling randomly,” said Farah Yusuf, another witness.

Ali Musa Mohamed a medic with an ambulance service said they had collected at least 13 wounded civilians.

An AFP reporter earlier heard an exchange of mortar and artillery fire in areas close to the presidential palace.

At least 31 people were killed on Friday, most of them civilians trapped in the crossfire or claimed by mortars in the deadliest of most days since fighting broke out a fortnight ago. — Internet
Foreign services help US grab terror suspects

WASHINGTON, 24 May—Acting on US tips, foreign intelligence services currently capture, interrogate and detain for the United States most terrorism suspects found outside the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan, The New York Times reported on its website.

Citing unnamed current and former US government officials, the newspaper said only the highest-level suspects represent an exception.

In the past 10 months, about a half-dozen mid-level financiers and logistics experts working with the Al-Qaeda terror network have been captured and are being held by intelligence services in four Middle Eastern countries, the report said.

They were seized after the United States provided information that led to their arrests by local security services, noted the paper, citing an unnamed former US counterterrorism official.

In addition, Pakistan's intelligence and security services captured a Saudi suspect and a Yemeni suspect this year with the help of American intelligence and logistical support, the report said.

India’s aviation sector caught in ‘perfect storm’

NEW DELHI, 24 May—India’s airlines are caught in a “perfect storm” of big losses, high debt and falling demand, and need urgent help from the new government to make them high-flyers again, says an industry report.

The struggling sector was once a vibrant symbol of India’s economic progress but it has seen its fortunes nosedive due to over-expansion, costly fuel and cutthroat competition.

“The industry now is at a very critical stage,” said Kapil Kaul, India head of the Sydney-based Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation, the consultancy which authored the report entitled Aviation Agenda for The Next Indian Government.

Sector losses for the fiscal year just ended in March 2009 are expected to nearly double from last year to 1.75 billion dollars, Kaul said.

That’s a fifth of the losses of airlines globally of 8.5 billion dollars estimated by the International Air Transport Association.

“India’s contribution to this (loss) is significantly higher than the two percent of world air traffic for which it accounts,” said the report.

The Indian industry’s woes are highlighted by a slump in passengers. In April, the number of domestic passengers fell by 591,000 or 15.2 percent year-on-year, the fourth straight month of declines.

11 injured in school bus crash at Ohio speedway

COLUMBUS, 24 May—Two school buses have crashed into a restraining wall at a demolition derby-style race in Ohio, injuring at least 11 spectators.

Witnesses say the accident occurred as the buses were racing in figure eights around the Columbus Motor Speedway track at around 10:30 pm on Saturday. The race was one of several taking place during the Crash-A-Rama event.

Spectator Tiffany Estep says she had to shield her 18-month-old daughter from flying debris and saw people get hit by chunks of concrete from the 4-foot-high wall.

Columbus Fire Captain Scott Krummel says 11 people were taken to hospitals with mostly cuts and bruises and some ankle injuries.

Hainan Airlines loses 208m US dollars in 2008

BEIJING, 24 May—Shanghai-listed Hainan Airlines Co, Ltd (HNA) reported a 1.42 billion yuan (208 million US dollars) net profit loss last year due to high oil price and waning passenger demands.

The company attributed the losses to the rising oil price in the first half of last year and the declining market demands brought by the global economic downturn in the second half of 2008, according to its 2008 annual report released on Saturday.

The net profit of the airline company stood at 627 million yuan in 2007.

The local airline company based in China’s southernmost Hainan Province flew a total number of 118,854 flights in 2008, down 19.1 percent from 2007, according to the report.

An Afghan elderly man pushes his cart as he uses an umbrella during hot hours of the day in the city of Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar Province, east of Kabul, Afghanistan, on 23 May, 2009.—INTERNET

A girl runs in front of a real size monument of Russian space rocket Soyuz at the Russian-leased Baikonur cosmodrome, in Kazakhstan.—INTERNET

Seven arrested in connection with deadly Cairo blast

CAIRO, 24 May—Seven people suspected of ties to an al-Qaeda-linked cell have been arrested in connection with the bombing of a Cairo bazaar that killed a French teen, Egypt said on Saturday.

The seven were members of a previously unknown group calling itself the Palestinian Islamic Army and had received training across the Egyptian border in Gaza, an unidentified security official said in a statement issued by the Interior Ministry.

The group, led by two wanted Egyptians, plotted further attacks at other tourist sites and oil installations in Egypt and in France, the statement said. One of the seven arrested confessed that the cell was behind the bombing in February at Cairo’s Khan el-Khalili bazaar, said the statement.

The blast went off in the main square of the sprawling market, which was packed with tourists and Egyptians — including more than 40 high school students from suburban Paris.

The government said the bomb was placed under a stone bench at a café where the French students were sitting in the square, next to one of Cairo’s most revered shrines, the Hussein mosque. The blast killed a 17-year-old among the group of students.

Internet

Internet
California budget crisis expected to bring lasting economic harm

Los Angeles, 24 May—The deepening California budget crisis would not only cause short-term pain but could also bring lasting harm to the state’s 1.8-trillion-US-dollar economy, a newspaper report said on Saturday.

“The short-term pain of budget cuts could pale next to a long-term loss of companies and academic talent,” the Los Angeles Times noted.

Corporate leaders and Wall Street investors, watching the daily festival of seeming incompetence, political partisanship and governmental dysfunction, could be persuaded to limit or eliminate their investments here, the paper said. “We lose competitive advantage by being the state that can’t solve its problems,” economist Stephen Levy said in remarks published by the paper. “Regardless of what we think the solution is, the fact is we can’t find a solution.”

The budget crisis threatens to further weaken the state’s job market, which lost 63,700 more jobs last month, said the paper, quoting figures released on Friday. —Xinhua

Dassault continues talks with Emirates on jet fighters

Paris, 24 May—The French manufacturer Dassault Aviation is continuing negotiations with the United Arab Emirates on the sale of Rafale fighters, but no contract will be signed before 4 p.m. (2300 GMT).

The visit “will move the negotiations forward significantly,” the French media said.

Charles Edelstenne, CEO of Dassault Aviation, will accompany Sarkozy during the two-day visit.

Analysts expect Dassault will sign a contract involving a Middle East buyer in June during the Paris Air Show or in November in Dubai.

France and the Emirates have been linked by a defense agreement since 1995. —Xinhua

Chinese people visit one make of German Wiesmann Limousine 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

4.7-magnitude earthquake hits central California

Los Angeles, 23 May—A 4.7-magnitude earthquake struck central California on Saturday, and there were no immediate reports of casualties or major damage.

The US Geological Survey said the quake occurred at a depth of just 100 m, and it was centered around 11 km from the town of Keeler, and 320 km north of Los Angeles.

According to the agency, the temblor struck just before 4 p.m. (2300 GMT). —Xinhua

Moderate earthquake hits West Papua, Indonesia

Jakarta, 24 May—An earthquake measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale jolted the eastern Indonesian Province of West Papua early Sunday, but there was no immediate report of damage or casualties.

The epicentre of the quake which struck at 01:04 a.m. local time was located 97 km southwest of Manokwari in West Papua, the Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency (BMKG) said on its website.

The quake’s depth was 37 km below the sea level.

A powerful earthquake with a magnitude of 7.6 rocked West Papua on January 22, killing at least four people and injuring tens of others. A series of aftershocks with different intensities occurred since then. —Xinhua
Fierce storm causes chaos in New Zealand

WELLINGTON, 24 May — Wild winter weather conditions bashing Cook Strait and Wellington, the capital, have seen ferry crossings cancelled, houses damaged and roads closed on Saturday.

The ferry sailings linking North and South islands have been cancelled as high winds and big swells affect the Cook Strait. Meanwhile, the MetService has issued a severe weather warning for southerly gales, heavy snow and heavy rain around the country.

Falling trees and debris had knocked out power to houses in Ngaurnga, Johnsonville and Plimmerton. High winds also had closed a road near Upper Hutt. A number of power poles on Blue Mountains Road had been damaged and had blocked the road to all traffic, police said. Emergency services and council workers had been working to clear the area. Power poles were also reported to have been knocked down in the suburbs of Naenae and Petone, while there was a report of downed telephone cables in Titahi Bay. However, up to 1,200 households have had power restored after outages caused by overnight weather. Radio New Zealand reported on Saturday.

Rains and flooding kill 250 people in Afghanistan

KABUL, 24 May — Rains and flooding have claimed the lives of over 200 people in Afghanistan since mid-March, a local newspaper writes on Saturday.

“Floods have left 250 people dead and injured 180 others in the 10 provinces in north and northeastern Afghanistan,” Daly Arman-e-Milie reported offering an official with the Directorate of Counter-Natural Disaster. The daily without mentioning the name of the official added that the floods have ruined 1 million acres of farmlands.

It added that parliamentarians have called on the government and aid agencies that delay in dispatching humanitarian aid may deepen catastrophe. Fragmental rains, began last month, have caused flooding and played havoc in parts of Afghanistan.—Internet

Two climbers summit Mt Cho-Oyu from Nepali side after 31 years

KATHMANDU, 24 May — Denis Urburko and Boris Dedeshko both from Kazakhstan conquered Mt Cho-Oyu to become the first climbers in 31 years to scale the peak from Nepali side.

An Austrian and a German team had scaled the mountain in 1978. According to Saturday’s The Kathmandu Post, the whole journey was a rocky ride for the two, who spent 45 days at the base camp due to unfavorable weather conditions. They finally started their way up on 7 May and summited the 8,201-meter peak on 11 May.

The ascent is quite difficult from the Nepali side due to lack of proper road connection to the base camp. The same journey from the China’s Tibetan side takes relatively less time and energy due motorable roads.—Internet

Worker packs roses at a farm in Naivasha northwest of Nairobi. Fresh-cut flowers, Kenya’s flagship export crop, have taken a battering from the global financial storm and erratic weather conditions which have made earnings wilt by around a third this year.—INTERNET

UK mother gives birth to sextuplets

A British hospital says a mother in Northern Ireland has given birth to sextuplets. The babies, four girls and two boys, are the first sextuplets born in the United Kingdom more than 20 years.

Neonatal consultant Dr Clifford Mayes said on Friday that the children were born through Cesarean section within five minutes of each other.

Mayes said the babies were being cared for in intensive care in Belfast.
Sharing experience of scaling Mount Phonkanrazi

As part of efforts for development of Putao region of Kachin State, national races and eco-tourism industry, a 51-member team comprising stewards and stewardesses of Air Bagan Ltd and staff of Htoo Foundation arrived in Putao on 5 May to start the climbing of 11,250 feet high Mount Phonkanrazi, 51 miles from Putao. On 6 May morning, they left for Upper Hsankhaung Village, 11 miles upstream of Putao by car. Upper Hsankhaung Village was designated as the gathering point. They proceeded to Wahsadam Village. They went to Wahsadam Village from Upper Hsankhaung Village by passing over 5200 feet high Kyauksein Hill along eight miles long uphill road and four miles long downhill road. They spent a night in Wahsadam Village on 6 May. In the morning of 7 May, they left for Ziyadam Village which is in the northwesternmost of Myanmar, 10 miles from Wahsadam Village, through a natural forest.

They continued the trip to Thitpingyi Camp, nine miles from Ziyadam where they spent a night. They faced the very narrow pavement, thick forest and danger of poisonous sand-flies. With the diligence, they passed through over 6000 feet high hills one after another. At 3 pm on 8 May, they arrived at the climbing camp. On 9 May, they proceeded to 9000 feet high Yekhesat Camp from Thitpingyi Camp. They overcame difficulties along seven-mile rough route. At 5 pm, all the team members arrived at Yekhesat Camp.

After spending a night at Yekhesat Camp, they scaled the peak of the mountain on 9 May morning. They faced difficulties of falling showers and snow and slippery surface of the route. At 10.30 am, altogether 51 team members were able to climb the 11,250 feet high Mount Phonkanrazi, located in the northwesternmost part of the country.

At 6:30 am, they climbed down to Khantaukmyit Camp. They went down to the camp along the slippery route. A stewardess slipped into the ravine and she was hanging in the air, and other team members lifted her onto the route. They arrived at Khantaukmyit Camp at 10 pm. Beginning early morning of 10 May, they went down to 2900 feet high Ziyadam Village from 6918 feet high Khantaukmyit Camp. Then, they came back to Wahsadam Village on 12 May.

On 13 May morning, the 51-member team was divided into two groups—one 34-member group and another 17-member group. The 17-member group returned to Putao along 22 miles long Wahsadam-Upper Hsankhaung-Putao route by passing over Hsangan Peak of Kyauksein Hill.

The 34-member group left Wahsadam Village for Mulashidee Village of Putao along 50 miles long route with the use of four rubber rafts. Along the two-day-one-night trip, they passed natural waterfalls and Namlan Creek, Phonkan Creek and Mulashidee Creek by searching tourist attractive beauties. After going down the over 1000 feet route in showers, they arrived at Putao by 6 pm on 14 May. The 51-member team comprising 36 stewards and stewardesses of Air Bagan Ltd and 15 staff of Htoo Foundation successfully scaled 11,250 feet high Mount Phonkanrazi from 5 to 14 May. During the trip, they performed development of Putao region in Kachin State and national races of the region.

They provided K 50,000 each for three months to every household of the national races from Wahsadam, Awadam (1), Awadam (2) and Ziyadam villages. They distributed tea, walnut, pepper and coffee seeds to the local people for avoiding the destruction at the natural beauties of the forests and mountains and the cutting of trees. They pledged the locals to help the sale of agricultural produces. The team members donated traditional costumes to every household of four villages for maintaining the traditional culture of the national races.

They assisted the children of the local people to pursue education up to high school level in Putao. Moreover, the students will be provided with accommodation and food. Arrangements will be made for those outstanding students for their further studies at foreign universities. For the health sector, the team donated medicines and served them with the health plans. With a view to ensuring better transport, arrangement was made to construct the 50-mile Putao-Ziyadam motor road by spending a large amount of a money. Above all, they set the plan to establish a national wildlife park and natural orchid garden to attract the tourists to Putao.

While successfully climbing 11,250 feet high Mount Phonkanrazi with diligence by overcoming many difficulties, the stewards and stewardesses of Air Bagan Ltd and staff of Htoo Foundation undertook development of Putao region in Kachin Sate and enhancement of ecotourism.

Translated: TTA

Kyemon: 24-5-2009

Arsenic in irrigation water is transferred to crops

From the University of Valladolid (UVA) and the Salamanca Institute of Natural Resources and Agrobiology (IRNASA-CSIC) has shown that potatoes irrigated with arsenic-rich water contain this element at levels up to 35 times higher than crops on which this water was not used.

The scientists have also confirmed the impact of water with high arsenic content on beet, carrot and wheat crops.

Cell phone viruses pose serious threat

Different mechanisms of virus transmission between mobile phones. A Bluetooth virus can infect all phones found within Bluetooth range of the infected phone, its spread being determined by the owner’s mobility patterns.

The Internet

Kyemon: 24-5-2009

Facts about the infection may reveal why this is true.—Internet

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**THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR**
Monday, 25 May, 2009

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**Sharing experience of scaling Mount Phonkanrazi**

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Training courses conclude at Nationalities Youth Resources Development Degree College (Yangon)

YANGON, 24 May—The course No. 8 of Nationalities Youth Resources Development Degree College (Yangon) concluded at the college in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township this afternoon.

On behalf of Secretary of Central Committee for Progress of Border Areas and National Races Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Thaha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt delivered an address on the occasion. The minister said that in accord with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, two Nationalities Youth Resources Development Degree Colleges were established with the aims of turning out the human resources for the border areas and producing qualified intellectuals and intelligentsia. Today is the 8th graduation day for the DegreeCollege(Yangon), he added.

The minister noted that the graduates and diploma holders will have to discharge duties for regional development in their respective areas. The outstanding students will also discharge duties in the remote areas after completion of their further studies. He said that the border areas and national races development plan was adopted and the Central Committee and Work Committee for Progress of Border Areas and National Races were formed for systematically implementing the plan. From 1989 to date, the government had spent over K 240,142 million on development of the border areas, he said.

The minister continued to say that at a time when the education opportunities has been increasing for the children in the border areas, two Nationalities Youth Resources Development Degree Colleges were set up in Yangon and Mandalay in 2000 to turn out intellectuals and intelligentsia that can maintain the development infrastructures.

Up to 2008, the minister said that a total of 719 arts and science graduates and 279 engineering diploma holders, totalling 998 produced from two degree colleges are discharging duties as government personnel in States and Divisions. Of them, he added that MA degree had been conferred on 20 graduates, MSc degree on 37 graduates, ME on three graduates, BE on 59 graduates and BTech on 122 graduates. The minister noted that four graduates are attending the PhD thesis course, one MPhil course, 96 MA/ MSc courses, 24MA/MSc qualification courses, 10 ME course, 37 BE course and 60 BTech course.

In the 2008-2009 academic year, the Nationalities Youth Resources Development DegreeCollege(Yangon) turned out 12 BA graduates, 71 BSc graduates and 46 AGTI diploma holders, totalling 129 while the degree college of Mandalay also produced 15 BA graduates, 49 BSc graduates and 36 AGTI diploma holders, totalling 100.

Nowadays, he said that all the national people are joining hands for development of the nation and for restoring peace and stability. Therefore, he continued to say that the people of the entire nation including those of remote areas are enjoying fruits of prevailing peace and stability and development of economic and social sectors year after year. The minister urged the trainees to guard against the various dangers posed by internal and external destructive elements, with patriotic spirit and Union spirit.

In conclusion, the minister urged the graduates to try hard to achieve higher efficiency and discharge duties in their assigned regions of the Union conscientiously; to serve the interest of the State as qualified government services in building a modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation; and to strive for development of regions they were posted.

The minister presented prizes and certificates of honour to Pa-O national Maung Khaing Zaw Lin of Phekho Township of Shan State in the arts subject, Shan national Maung Sai Pun of Dimawhso of Kayah State in the science subject and Kayin national Saw Aung Nay Lin of Kya-in-seikkyi Township of Kayin State in the engineering subject. The minister also awarded prizes to outstanding students in the Abhidhamma (ordinary) and (honorary) examinations organized by the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

In the 2008-2009 academic year, the Nationalities Youth Resources Development Degree Colleges (Yangon) produced 12 BA graduates, 71 BSc graduates and 46 AGTI diploma holders, totalling 129. Those graduates were one Kachin national, nine Kayah nationals, 13 Kayin nationals, 28 Kayin nationals, 11 Chin nationals, one Khumi national, six Khami nationals, two Palaung nationals, eight Pa-O nationals, 24 Mon nationals, one Mro national, 12 Rakhine nationals, 10 Shan nationals, one Thet national and two Akha nationals, totalling 129.

Also present on the occasion were deputy ministers, directors-general, managing directors and departmental officials, the principal of the degree college (Yangon), faculty members, students and their parents.—MNA

Research shows efficiency of Huelva-grown shrub in recovery of polluted soil

SEVILLE, 24 May — Researchers of the University of Seville and IRNASE (Institute of Natural Resources and Agrobiology), of the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) have verified in controlled trials the efficiency of Erica andevalensis, or heather from Andévalo — an endemic shrub from the province of Huelva and the Portuguese area of the Alentejo — in the recovery of soils contaminated with heavy metals. This shrub is characterized by growing in acidic soils and areas with high mining activity. The research group of the Faculty of Medicine of Seville University, led by Professor Benito Valdés, has validated this natural recovery model in an article published in journal Science Total Environment.

Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt delivers an address at the course No. 8 of Nationalities Youth Resources Development Degree College (Yangon).—MNA

Researcher Dr. Sabina Rossini with the vegetal species Erica andevalensis.

Pa-O national Maung Khaing Zaw Lin of Phekho.—MNA

Shan national Maung Sai Pun of Dimawhso.—MNA

Kayin national Saw Aung Nay Lin of Kya-in-seikkyi Township.—MNA

Research shows efficiency of Huelva-grown shrub in recovery of polluted soil
NAY PYI TAW, 24 May—Informed by a duty-conscious public member that a 2.5” x 2.5” bomb wrapped up in green tape was planted in the roof of the lavatory of upper-class carriage No (5) of Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon down train No. (32) at platform (1) in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Station at about 3.50 am today, station security members defused the bomb at 7.15 am. It was a time bomb improvised with two detonators, a TNT explosive block with a small hole in the middle of it, two 1.5-volt national brand dry cells, one dry cell cover, and a table clock. Information has been received that terrorists-cum-insurgents are resorting to various means to commit bomb blasts in such cities as Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay to provoke public panic and casualties of the people.

Similarly, according to the information, ABSDF, which has been declared a terrorist group, formed the Committee for Promoting People Activities (CPPA). It is now plotting to commit subversive acts such as attaching anti-government posters to the walls of buildings around Insein Market and in other busy places in Insein Township, Yangon; and planting mines with the intention that they will explode if the posters are taken off. And it has sent two bombers into the nation for destructive acts.

Apart from ABSDF, other insurgent groups are planning to incite mass protests, and explode bombs in the crowds.

ABSDF behind the destructive campaigns is a member group of FDB (Forum for Democratic in Burma), which is organizing members of anti-government groups for explosive courses and anti-government courses. Authorities concerned are taking measures in cooperation with the people to expose the two bombers.

Authorities today reminded the people that they should give information in time if they notice someone suspicious in their societies, environs and work places.

FDB (Forum for Democratic in Burma) masterminding terrorist plots

Free eye care services provided to patients with eye complaints in Hpa-an

YANGON, 24 May—Under the supervision of the Ministry of Health, Kayin State Peace and Development Council and Union Solidarity and Development Association, the local social organizations sponsored the free eye care services at Hpa-an General Hospital from 19 to 22 May.

A medical team from Yangon comprising 17 eye surgeons, two optometrists and two engineers from Alcon Co led by eye specialists Professor Dr U Tin Win, Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe and eye specialist Dr Nilar Thein participated in the eye care services.

The eye specialist team provided free eye care services to 5,252 patients with eye complaints from Hpa-an, Hlaingbwe, Thandaung, Papan, Myawady, Kawkareik, Kyain-seikkyi, Myaingggyingu, Thamanya, Thingan Nyinaung, Kyondoe, Kyaikkaw and Myainggale and performed surgical operations on 602 patients. After checking 2071 patients, they donated spectacles to 1700 patients.

On 22 May, a ceremony to honour those who contributed to the eye care services was held at KanthaU Hall in Hpa-an. Chairman of Kayin State PDC Brig-Gen Zaw Min presented gifts to those who participated in the eye care services. Brig-Gen Zaw Min and Professor U Tin Win spoke words of thanks.

Officials of Kayin State PDC and Hpa-an Station, Head of Kayin State Health Department Dr U Htay Naung, Medical Superintendent Dr U Hla Tun of Hpa-an General Hospital and officials, townswelders and social organizations provided necessary assistance for the eye specialist team. Kayin State PDC and wellwishers sponsored the eye care services.—MNA

Eye specialists and nurses present spectacles to the patients with eye complaint from townships of Kayin State.

MNA

Photo shows a time bomb.—MNA

The time bomb seen after being defused.—MNA
Preventive measures should be taken systematically against New Influenza A/H1N1, said health officials

Article: Maung Maung Myint Swe; Photos: Tin Soe (Myanma Alin)

Professor Dr Soe Lwin Nyein, Director (Infectious Disease Control).

Infected with the disease thanks to the systematic preventive measures; and that was the result of the cooperative drive of the government, the Health Ministry, social organizations and the entire people launched as a national task. The professor continued to say that bird flu broke out in the world in December 2003. Again we were successful in controlling the disease. After the outbreak of the flu, global health experts predicted that a new kind of flu that will infect human beings will occur. The Health Ministry has been taking necessary measures to prevent such diseases from spreading to the nation and minimize infection and death toll.

During the 20th century, the world saw the outbreak of the epidemic three times. Those outbreaks brought a lot of deaths and social and economic destruction. He said that actually, A/H1N1 is a totally new disease which is a combination of four different germ species. Its infection among humans is high. Since 24 April 2009 the date on which the virus started to break out in Mexico, the Health Ministry began its A/H1N1 prevention campaign. In the process, public warnings are being issued constantly through radio, TV and newspapers. And surveillance work is being carried out in international airports, seaports and border gates. Moreover, influenza-like cases are under surveillance in the hospitals of states and divisions and preventive measures are being taken in cooperation with the disease-control organizations.

Now, separate wards are reserved and necessary medicines, medical equipment and laboratory apparatuses are stockpiled in Waibagi hospital in Waibagi division, Yangon International airport in Mandalay to give treatment if there is a possible outbreak of the disease.

He said, “The symptoms of the disease are high fever, having a running nose, sneeze, cough, having a sore throat, muscular pains, headache, loss of appetite, and occasional vomiting, and stomach upset. Severe signs and symptoms are difficult breathing, suffocation, difficulty with drinking liquid, severe fever and faint. If a man is suffering from those complaints, he should be admitted to a hospital in Mandalay to get treatment if there is a possibility of outbreak of the disease.”

He said, “In order to prevent the spread of flu virus to others, we should not get away from his home and must wear a surgical mask. He has to cover his mouth and nose with a facial tissue, handkerchief or a surgical mask whenever he coughs and sneezes, and then wash his hands thoroughly with soap. And he should have nutritious soft food and drink a plenty of liquid. He should stay in a well-ventilated place and take treatment in a health care centre. A person should wear a surgical mask if occasion arises to go to a busy place. He said, “Every individual and family should follow the directives the Ministry of Health has issued for prevention of the disease.”

Professor Dr Ne Win, Director (Laboratory), Department of Health.

Laboratory under the Ministry of Health Professor Dr Ne Win said, “If there is a person suspicious with flu-like symptoms, a sample tissue from inside his nose or palate must be tested in our laboratory. We have distributed necessary laboratory apparatuses to Waibagi hospital in Waibagi division, Yangon, Kandawadi hospital in Mandalay and all the general hospitals of the states and divisions.”

He said, “the National Influenza Division of the National Health Laboratory can identify the flu virus that is spreading in some countries. The department has been certified by the World Health Organization, and it is also the department representing Myanmar at the world flu surveillance network.”

Dr Hla Myint, Head of Yangon Division Health Department.

He said, “If a family member is sick with flu, he should stay in his own private room, and not stay in a busy place. If a house does not have a well-ventilated room or private room, the patient must be kept at least six feet away from other family members. He must wear a surgical mask and have a person to care him. The carer must wear a surgical mask and gloves in nursing the sick member. The sick person should not be let meet guests and his friends. If he coughs or sneezes, he must use tissue paper, handkerchief or surgical mask, and the used things must be thrown away systematically. While washing the dresses of the sick, a person must wear a surgical mask and gloves and cover his chest with a chest lining. And the clothes must be pasteurized before washing them. And the washed clothes should be exposed to the sun and they need some ironing before used.”

He suggested that in order to avoid being infected the virus a person should wash his hands thoroughly with soap and water, cover his mouth and nose with a facial tissue, handkerchief or surgical mask and go to a nearby hospital for some treatment if we have flu-like signs and symptoms.”

Surveillance tasks are being carried out in Yangon International Airport to prevent spread of A (H1N1) to Myanmar.
Turkey lost more water out of dams to Iraq

BAGHDAD, 24 May—Turkey has boosted the flow of the Euphrates River passing through its dams upstream of Iraq to help farmers cope with a drought after Iraqi complaints, but it is still not enough, a top Iraqi lawmaker said on Saturday. Iraq is mostly desert and its inhabitable areas are slaked by the Tigris, which comes down from Turkey, the Euphrates, also from Turkey but passing through Syria, and a network of smaller rivers from Iran, some of which feed the Tigris. Iraq accuses Turkey, and to a lesser extent Syria, of choking the Euphrates by placing hydroelectric dams on it that have restricted water flow, damaging an Iraqi agricultural sector already hit by decades of war, sanctions and neglect.

The dispute is a delicate diplomatic issue for Iraq as it seeks to improve ties with its neighbours and Turkey is one of Iraq’s most important trading partners.

Saleh al-Mutlaq, leader of a Sunni Arab bloc in Parliament, said he flew to Turkey on Friday and met Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan and President Abdullah Oul to ask them to release more water from the river, which has been depleted by a drought.

“They have since increased the quantities of water coming to Iraq by 130 cubic metres per second,” he said.

“It’s not enough, but it has partly solved the water problems preventing our farmers from planting rice,” he said.—MNA/Reuters

New alloys offer alternative to chrome

SCIENCE DAILY, 24 May—Ever since the 1940s, chrome has been used to add a protective coating and shiny luster to a wide range of metal products, from bathroom fixtures to car bumpers. Chrome adds beauty and durability, but those features come at a heavy cost.

Though it’s cheap to produce and harmless to consumers, the industrial process to create it is dangerous for workers and pollutes the environment. “People have been trying to replace it for a very long time,” says Christopher Schuh, MIT associate professor of materials science and engineering.

“The pro-blem is that it’s the science and engineering. Professor of materials Schuh, MIT associate professor of materials science and engineering.

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India Govt to push for budget by 31 July

NEW DELHI, 24 May—The new Indian Congress-led UPA government on Saturday said it will strive to pass the Union Budget for 2009-10 by 31 July to restore the growth momentum of the economy reeling under the impact of the global financial meltdown.

“We hope we will be able to pass the full Budget by 31 July,” Cabinet Minister P Chidambaram told reporters after the first meeting of the new Cabinet, which lasted for about half an hour. In case the government is unable to get the Budget passed by Parliament by 31 July, he said, “It may be necessary to take another vote-on-account for a very short period.”

The government through an interim budget in February sought the approval of Parliament to withdraw money from consolidated fund to meet necessary expenditure until July 31. The vote-on-account, which is approved by Parliament, allows government to spend money from the exchequer only a specified period of time.

Outlining the priorities of the new government Friday, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had said, “(The) first task is to restore the economy and its growth momentum...There is global recession, we have to protect our growth.” At Saturday’s cabinet meeting also Singh told his colleagues to focus on the economy. “We have made number of promises and we have promises to keep,” Chidambaram said quoting Singh.—MNA/PTI

Maliki pledges no restrictions on Iraqi media

BAGHDAD, 24 May—Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki pledged Saturday that there would be no restrictions on Iraqi media unless they support terrorism.

“There will be no restrictions on media work as long as they don’t support or incite terrorist activities and religious hate,” Maliki told a conference of International Federation of Journalists in Baghdad, which attracted over 60 leaders from different world Press federations and organizations.

“Iraq is the best country in the region when it comes to media freedom,” he said, adding that “We are proud of that there are no journalists in our prisons because of Press freedom”.

For his part, Aidan White, Secretary-General of the International Press Association said in his speech that he would carry out a three-year programme to support and qualify Iraqi media workers through training courses. He also said that he is expected to sign several agreements with Iraq integrity commission and election agencies aiming at promoting Press freedom and democracy in Iraq. However, the international watchdog Reporters Without Borders Without Borders listed Iraq as the most dangerous country in the world for journalists and media workers, who have been regularly targeted by militants.

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A shoe is discarded at the scene of a collapsed fence, after eleven people were killed and about 30 injured, in a stampede by the audience at the end of a music concert by the Moroccan singer Abdelaziz Stat, at the Hay Nahda stadium early Sunday, on 24 May, 2009. The concert was part of Rabab’s eight days Mawazine music festival, which also included shows by international stars like Kylie Minogue, Alicia Keys and Stevie Wonder.
At least 12 killed in ferry mishap off N Philippines

MANILA, 24 May—At least 12 people were killed when a ferry sank off the northern Philippines on Saturday, the police said. The passenger boat, named MB Commando 6, was carrying about 69 people off Verde Island in Batangas Province at noon when the sea tragedy took place near Verde Island some 130 kilometers south of Manila, said regional police director Luisito Palmera.

The vessel capsized on its way from Batangas Province to Puerto Galera, a popular beach resort town in Oriental Mindoro Province. Twelve bodies have been recovered while 57 others—including five crew members—were rescued, Palmera said. It is unclear whether there are passengers missing.

Among those killed was a Japanese national identified as Hosotani Shoji. Three children died in the capsizal, aged from 2 to 3. Palmera said the boat sank because one of its outriggers broke.

He said that efforts are still underway to find more possible survivors. A distress call was immediately sent out following the accident to ask various groups nearby to join the rescue operations. MNA/Xinhua

Nepali parties begin work on cabinet formation

COLOMBO, 24 May—UN Kathmandu, 24 May—After the legislature Parliament elected the Communist Party Nepali-United Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML) leader Madhav Kumar Nepal as the new Prime Minister Saturday, three largest parties of the new alliance have intensified discussions for distribution of ministries and selection of their leaders to represent in the government.

According to Sunday’s Nepalnews.com, the Nepali Congress (NC), CPN-UML and Madheshi Janadhikar Forum have agreed to take one ministry each out of home, water resources and finance ministries, it is learnt. The distribution of other ministries has not been finalized.

The CPN-UML standing committee met Sunday morning to decide on the names of other ministers. MNA/Xinhua

Israel to expedite UAV production for Russia

JERUSALEM, 24 May—Israel will facilitate the production of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) for Russia as Moscow declared last week it had decided to halt the sale of advanced M-31j fighter jets to Syria. Jerusalem Post reported on Sunday.

Russia signed a deal worth of 50 million US dollars in April with Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI). This is the first Israeli sale of military platforms to Russia, which would include some of Israeli second-tier UAVs, including the Bird-Eye 400 mini-UAV, the I-view MK/JSO tactical UAV and the Searcher MK II medium-range UAV, according to the report.

The delivery of the UAVs to Russia would begin by the end of the year. Russian Deputy Defence Minister Vladimir Popovkin is expected to visit Israel in the coming weeks to get a look at production, said the report. Moscow had agreed in 2007 to sell eight M-31j fighter jets to Damascus for 500 million US dollars, but called off the deal in April. —Internet

Singh, Obama have telephone conversation

NEW DELHI, 24 May—Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and the United States President Barack Obama held a telephone conversation on Saturday, one day after Singh was sworn in as prime minister for a second term, according to a report of the Indo-Asian News Service on Sunday.

Obama congratulated Singh for winning his mandate in the general elections and the two leaders “resolved to work together on global challenges, including terrorism,” according to the report. Obama also said he looked forward to continuity in the India-US strategic partnership, the report quoted a key aide to Singh as saying.

The US president invited Singh to visit Washington soon, while Singh also reiterated his invitation to Michelle and Barack Obama to visit India, said the report. Singh and Obama met for the first time on the sidelines of the Group of 20 Summit in London in early April. —Internet

Four people sentenced for virtual property theft

SHENYANG, 24 May—Four young men were convicted of and sentenced for theft of virtual facilities and coins of online games, according to sources with a local court in Shenyang, capital of northeast China’s Liaoning Province.

Wang Xiaoyuan received three years’ imprisonment and his three accomplices received re-tried sentences, each of the four was fined 5,000 yuan (about 735.3 US dollars), according to a verdict statement of the People’s Court of Dongling District on Saturday.

Wang started to play online games in an Internet bar in 2008. “He was often ‘bullied’ when playing games because of simple virtual facilities,” said the statement. Wang then found that a netizen named “Shenyang fellow” was rich in virtual property, and he was in the same bar and won most games he had played.

Wang then asked for virtual properties from “Shenyang fellow”, but was declined, which triggered the idea of “robbery”, Wang’s three friends beat, coerced and forced “Shenyang fellow” to transfer to 100,000 yuan worth of QQ coins, a kind of virtual money, and a large amount of virtual facilities to Wang.—Internet

Police officers unload the body of a victim in Porto Seguro, state of Bahia, Brazil, on 23 May, 2009, after being recovered from the site where a twin-engine plane crashed on Friday. A British-born Brazilian businessman and nine family members were among the 14 people killed when their twin-engine plane crashed and exploded near a coastal resort in northeastern Brazil, a spokesman for his company said on Saturday.—INTERNET

Truck crash killed one, six injured

BEIJING, 24 May—One person was killed and 6 others were injured on Thursday when a truck fell off a viaduct in Harbin City, in northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province. In Harbin’s Hulan District, Xinhu correspondent reported found a 4-metre-long breakage on the west side of the viaduct’s guard-rail, where the truck fell off. The truck was carrying ceramic tiles.

Soundbite: Zhang “It just crash over the guard-rail and fell down the viaduct. It is said that there were 5 persons in the truck but I wasn’t sure. Definitely there was one death, he was lying on the ground. The others were sent to hospital right after the incident.” The cause of the accident is being investigated.
Alternative energy alone won’t meet US needs

WASHINGTON, 24 May—A GOP senator from the nation’s leading coal-producing state contends Democrats will increase energy costs and make the US more dependent on foreign oil if they focus solely on alternative energy.

In the party’s weekly radio and Internet address on Saturday, Sen John Barrasso, R-Wyo, said Republicans support a more comprehensive energy plan that would increase funding for energy research, develop US oil and gas resources and promote clean coal and nuclear power.

“Democrats have focused solely on what they call green jobs. Those are jobs from alternative energy. I support green jobs, but why discriminate?” Barrasso said. “American energy means American jobs, which is why I support red-white-and-blue jobs.” He said renewable energy such as wind and solar power is important, noting that Wyoming has world-class wind resources. But Barrasso said wind and solar only account for about 1 percent of US electricity, far below what is needed to meet the nation’s energy needs.

Wyoming is the nation’s leader in coal production, and coal mining contributes hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue each year to the state. —Internet

Scent of Dragon Boat festival

BEIJING, 24 May—The Dragon Boat Festival is just around the corner and while the making of zongzi has been around for years, some mums still follow the custom of embroidering scent bags for their kids and other family members. The belief is that these small bags stuffed with various herbs can ward off disease and evil. Their pleasant fragrance helps refresh the mind, prevent colds, and improves the appetite.

In the past, people from noble families would often be seen with a silk fan covered with calligraphy or landscape paintings, and a small embroidered sweetly-scented bag hanging from his or her belt.

The tradition can be traced back to the Tang Dynasty (AD 618-907) when Princess Tongchang decorated her sedan or her belt. The report said seven people remain hospitalized. The report said the stampede includes two minors. The other victims were five women and four men. Most of the injured have been treated and released from the hospital.

In a report on Sunday, MAP quotes regional authorities as saying those killed included two minors. The other victims were five women and four men. Most of the injured have been treated and released from the hospital.

The report said seven people remain hospitalized. The report said the stampede took place at Rabat’s Hay Nahda stadium shortly after midnight Saturday.

Two more Australians confirmed with A/H1N1 flu

CANBERRA, 24 May—Two more people, including a boy, have been diagnosed with A/H1N1 flu in Australia’s state of Victoria. This brings to 11 the number of confirmed A/H1N1 flu cases in Victoria and to 16 in the country. The 15-year-old boy’s school in Melbourne’s north will be closed for one week, Victorian Health Minister Daniel Andrews said on Sunday.

“A person filling in a health form due to the alert over swine flu and bird flu at Melbourne Airport on 3 May, Australia has defended its escalation of swine flu protection measures as global health chiefs said a vaccine could be ready as early as June and worldwide cases continued to rise.” —INTERNET

18 US soldiers with swine flu have left

KUWAIT CITY, 24 May—A Kuwait health official says all 18 US soldiers infected with swine flu have recovered and left this oil-rich US ally.

The official, Youssef Mandakar, said on Sunday the soldiers entered Kuwait by air and didn’t have any contact with the local population. He said their cases were “mild” and they have all left the country. He wouldn’t say where they came from or their destination. Kuwait announced on Saturday that a number of American soldiers passing through the country were infected, but it didn’t say how many. The US Embassy and the military also had declined to give any details other that they were being treated.—Internet

Chain collision kills five injures 32 in E China province

FUZHOU, 24 May—A chain collision of 14 vehicles left five dead and 32 others injured on Saturday, in Ningsde city of east China’s Fujian Province, local traffic police said on Sunday. The accident occurred at 10:10 pm when a bus collided with a truck on the Ningsde section of the Shenyang-Haikou highway which links northeast Liaoning Province to southernmost Hainan Province, and caused a total of 14 vehicles collided, with six of them destroyed. Five people died on the spot and 32 others were injured and sent to a nearby hospital. An investigation into the cause is underway.

Morocco 11 killed in stampede at concert

RABAT, 24 May—Morocco’s official MAP news agency says 11 people have been killed and about 30 injured in a stampede at a concert in the capital, Rabat.

In a report on Sunday, MAP quotes regional authorities as saying those killed included two minors. The other victims were five women and four men. Most of the injured have been treated and released from the hospital.

The report said seven people remain hospitalized. The report said the stampede took place at Rabat’s Hay Nahda stadium shortly after midnight Saturday.

Cambodia finds three passengers travelling with A/H1N1 virus

PHNOM PENH, 24 May—Cambodian health authorities have found three passengers who arrived here on the same flight with a woman who was later confirmed to have A/H1N1 virus, a health official here said on Saturday.

The three, all Cambodian-Americans, were found on Friday, and one of the old man now stays in Battambang Province while the two others, a father and his daughter, in Kampot Province, according to Sok Touch, director of the epidemi disease department at the Ministry of Health.

“We have got their samples and sent to the Pasteur Institute in Phnom Penh for testing A/H1N1 virus. The results would be available later today,” he told reporters, adding that “three’s health are normal with no influenza symptoms now.”

Sok Touch said that the Health Ministry has not took isolation measure to them, but asked them to have a self-isolation, and not to visit relatives as well as go to the public places in the next seven days.

MNA/Xinhua
Spanish First Division President Angel Maria Villar (R) presents the championship trophy to Barcelona's captain Carles Puyol as Barcelona's president Joan Laporta (L) applauds at Nou Camp stadium in Barcelona on 23 May, 2009. Barcelona were gifted their 19th Liga title without kicking a ball on 16 May when second-placed Real Madrid were beaten 3-2 at Villarreal.—INTERNET

Champions Barca celebrate despite Osasuna defeat
PARIS, 25 May—Osasuna completed the notable task of beating Barcelona at the Nou Camp but the result failed to dampen the spirits of the Catalan fans who are in full party mood and watched the players lift the league trophy after the match. A Walter Pandiani goal gave Osasuna a 1-0 win against a Barca side made up largely of reserves with Pep Guardiola resting players ahead of the Champions League final on Wednesday.

It was a disappointing night for Barca youngster Marc Muniesa who was dismissed for a crude challenge and Palmeiras extend goalkeeper's contract
RIO DE JANEIRO, 24 May—After his game-winning performance last week for the Libertadores Cup, Palmeiras' goalkeeper Marcos was presented on Saturday with homage and a new contract. According to the team's president, Luiz Gonzaga Belluzzo, Palmeiras has a new contract ready for Marcos to sign that will keep him there for another two years.

In last week's match-up between Sport and Palmeiras in the Libertadores Cup round of 16, Marcos was the hero for Palmeiras, blocking three of Sport's penalty kicks in overtime. By doing so, Palmeiras advanced to the quarterfinals of this year's continental tournament where they will face the Chilean club, Colo-Colo.—INTERNET

Barcelona extended goalkeeper's contract
París, 25 May—Barcelona's goalkeeper has extended his contract with the team's president, Joan Laporta, in an agreement that will keep him with the club for the next two years. The goalkeeper, who has been one of the key players in Barcelona's succesful run in the Champions League this season, has agreed to a new deal that will keep him at the club until 2012.

Zvonareva out of French Open with injury
PARIS, 25 May—Six-seeded Vera Zvonareva of Russia has pulled out of the French Open due to an ankle injury. The Russian was forced to withdraw the season's second Grand Slam after failing to recover from the injury sustained last month in the French Open. With six Grand Slam singles titles to his name, Nadal, the 22 years old from Spain, has never lost an official match at the French Open. He faces qualifier Marcos Daniel of Brazil in the first round.

Wolfsburg crowned 1st Bundesliga title
BERLIN, 24 May—Wolfsburg claimed its first ever top title of German Bundesliga on Saturday after they swept Werder Bremen 5-1 at home during the last round of this season's Bundesliga game. This is the first time for the Volkswagen-backed “Wolves” to become the champions of Bundesliga. Defending champions Bayern Munich edged Stuttgart 2-1 on the day, ending up as runners-up, while the latter finished third in the Bundesliga table. Bielefeld, Karlsruhe were relegated. Wolfsburg turned over Werder Bremen 5-1 for their 16th home victory in 17 games to crown an unforgettable season with the Bundesliga title.

A sell-out 30,000 crowd applauded team captain Josue when he raised aloft the championship plate after the match, before the team headed off to Wolfsburg city hall, where the celebrations were set to continue. Wolfsburg were aiming for their third league title in four seasons.

Bordeaux edges close to French title
PARIS, 24 May—Girondins Bordeaux moved closer to the Ligue 1 title on Saturday after securing a 1-0 win at home to Monaco with three points clear of Olympique Marseille with just one game left to play.

Bordeaux, who were last crowned champions 10 years ago, are on 77 points after extending their winning streak to 10 league games. They will visit strugglers Caen next Saturday. Marseille, second on 74 points, secured automatic entry to the Champions League with a 2-1 win at Nancy before they host Stade Rennais for their last game.

Olympique Lyon are now certain to end the season in third, and will go through to Champions League qualifying, after a 3-1 home victory against Caen gave them 70 points, seven ahead of fourth-placed Toulouse, who won 2-0 at Nice. Bordeaux struggled throughout the game but prevailed thanks to a first-half header from Morocco striker Marouane Chamakh from a Yoann Gourcuff free kick.—INTERNET

Nadal beaten by world 109th on eve of tournament
PARIS, 24 May—World number one Rafael Nadal, who believes himself gets ready for the defence of his Roland Garros title, was beaten in a pre-French Open match in Paris Saturday by the world 109th. According to local reports, Nadal went down 7-5 to Argentinean Brian Dabul in a one-set exhibition match on the eve of the tournament. With six Grand Slam singles titles to his name, Nadal, the 22 years old from Spain, has never lost an official match at the French Open. He faces qualifier Marcos Daniel of Brazil in the first round.

Sabbatini, Mallinger lead after 3 rounds at Nelson
IRVING, 24 May—Rory Sabbatini has already won at Hogan's Alley. Now he shares the lead going into the final round at Byron Nelson's tournament. “Anything associated with his name would be an absolute honor,” Sabbatini said after a 5-under 65 Saturday to keep a share of the lead at the Byron Nelson Championship. Two years after his last victory, at the Colonial where Ben Hogan's larger-than-life statue is prominent, Sabbatini is in position to win again after five birdies in a seven-hole stretch midway through his third round.—INTERNET

John Mallinger tees off on fifth hole during the third round of the Byron Nelson golf tournament at TPC Four Seasons, on 23 May, 2009, in Irving, Texas.—INTERNET

Borussia Dortmund's goalkeeper Roman Weidenfeller punches the ball away during their German first division Bundesliga soccer match against Werder Bremen in Wolfsburg, on 23 May, 2009. Wolfsburg won their last match of the season against Werder Bremen 3-2, on 23 May, 2009.—INTERNET

Hogan's Alley. Now he shares the lead going into the final round at Byron Nelson's tournament. “Anything associated with his name would be an absolute honor,” Sabbatini said after a 5-under 65 Saturday to keep a share of the lead at the Byron Nelson Championship. Two years after his last victory, at the Colonial where Ben Hogan's larger-than-life statue is prominent, Sabbatini is in position to win again after five birdies in a seven-hole stretch midway through his third round.—INTERNET

Zhu claims 4th consecutive title in Milan shooting World Cup
MILAN, 24 May—Chinese sharpshooter Zhu Qinan came from behind to clinch the fourth consecutive title of the men’s 10-meter air rifle here on Saturday at the Milan Shooting World Cup. German veteran Sonja Pfeilschifer grabbed her first gold medal of the season. Zhu, the gold medalist of the Athens Olympics in 2004 and runner-up at the Beijing Games 2008, shot down his second gold medal of the season with an advantage of 0.3 points from the 10-shot final round. “It’s my fourth win here in Milan consecutively, so I am happy,” said Zhu, raising four fingers after the final. “However, the scores are not very good. I won thanks to others’ mistakes.”—INTERNET

Answers to yesterday's Crosswords Puzzle

SNAIL SPACE FAL H RL DIVULGE ED E ANS AP H ULE AS S UM ED T E S OR E Y A PRI S O AB E A L G O R I S SOE R AL PARIS A BAND ON E UEN E N K M ITH STOOL
Colombian police seize 582 kilos of cocaine

BOGOTA, 24 May—Colombian police said on Saturday they have seized some 582 kilos of highly-purified cocaine in a van.

The drugs were found hidden in the vegetable and fruit in a van on a road in the northern Colombian Province of Cesar.

The drugs were valued at some 14 million US dollars on the black market, said the police.

The driver was arrested, and an investigation was underway.

Colombia is said to be the world’s largest supplier of cocaine with an annual output of some 600 tons.

MNA/Xinhua

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<td>* Inside Keng Tong</td>
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<td>* Beautiful Taninthayri</td>
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<td>* Flying over Mrauk-U</td>
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MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (25.5.2009) (Monday)

Tourists watch the “Life footmarks” fossil expo at makeshift tents in Mexico City, capital of Mexico, on 22 May, 2009. The “Life footmarks” fossil expo shows the fossils of dinosaurs and human skulls and fish.—XINHUA

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring areas

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, Southwest monsoon has advanced into Deltaic areas, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Bago, Yangon and Ayeawady Divisions, fairly widespread in Kayin, Chin and Mon States, Taninthayri Division, scattered in Rakhine State, Upper Sagrau and Mandalyal Divisions, isolated in Shan and Kayah States, Magway Division and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (5°C) above May average temperatures in Kachin, Shan and Kayin States, upper Sagrau and Mandalyal Divisions, (5°C) below May average temperatures in Yangon Division and about May average temperatures in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Yangon (Central) (2.52) inches, Yangon (Kaba-Aye) (2.61) inches, Pyayon (1.92) inches, Bhamo (1.77) inches, Moekki (1.65) inches, Yangon (Mingaladon) and Naungcho (1.42) inches each and Hmolain (0.99) inches.

Maximum temperature on 23-5-2009 was 81°F. Minimum temperature on 24-5-2009 was 72°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 24-5-2009 was 100%. Total sunshine hours on 23-5-2009 was (2.0) hrs approx. Rainfall on 24-5-2009 was (1.42) inches at Mingaladon, (2.16) inches at Kaba-Aye and (2.52) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (8.98) inches at Mingaladon, (12.36) inches at Kaba-Aye and (15.47) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (10) mph from Southeast at (13.50) hour MST on 23-5-2009.

Bay inference: According to the observations at 12:30 hrs M.S.T today, the cyclonic storm over Northwest Bay has moved to North wards slowly and Centered at about (300) miles South of Kotalat (India), (330) miles Southwest of (Sittway). The maximum wind speed will be (50) to (70) m.p.h near the center of the cyclonic storm. It is likely to move towards Northerly direction. It is forecast cross the West Coast of Bangladesh during the next (36) hours. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the North Bay and Monsoon is moderate to strong in the Andaman Sea elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 25th May 2009: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Rakhine State, Yangon and Ayeawady Divisions, fairly widespread in Mon, Kayin States and Taninthayri Divisions, isolated to scattered in the remaining States and Divisions and likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Rakhine State, Yangon and Ayeawady Divisions, Degree of certainty is 80%.

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at time off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Increase of rain in the Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 25-5-2009: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 80%.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 25-5-2009: Some rain. Degree of certainty is 80%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 25-5-2009: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 60%.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Monday, 25 May, 2009
Myanmar rejects Alternate ASEAN Chairman
Thailand’s statement which is not in conformity with ASEAN practice, incorrect in facts, interfering in the internal affairs of Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 24 May—Thailand, currently the alternate chairman of ASEAN, on 18 May, 2009, issued the press statement of the alternate chairman of ASEAN. In response to it, Myanmar issued a statement rejecting it. The statement says—

1. The Government of the Union of Myanmar, for ensuring stability of the State and in the interest of the people, had to issue restriction order and place Daw Aung San Suu Kyi under restriction at her house in accord with the Law to Safeguard the State Against the Dangers of Those Desiring to Cause Subversive Acts.

2. Whilst the restriction order was in effect, in May, 2009 an intruder Mr. John William Yettaw who is a United States citizen entered the house of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and she permitted him to stay, communicated, gave him food and shelter and thus there was no option but to open legal proceedings in accordance with law.

3. Basing on the action taken against her, Thailand, who is currently the alternate chairman of ASEAN, issued the Chairman’s Press Statement dated 18-5-2009.

4. Action against Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is taken in accordance with the normal practice in every state and it is merely the internal affairs of Myanmar. Therefore, the statement of Thailand issued as the alternate chairman of ASEAN deviates from the principles of the ASEAN Charter and is tantamount to interfering in the internal affairs of Myanmar.

5. To issue statements including the chairman’s statement, ASEAN needs to prepare a draft at the level of Senior Officials Meeting and then submit it to the Foreign Ministers level to seek approval. The statement is to be issued only after consensus. Although the issuing of the statement coincides with the Senior Officials Meeting, Thailand did not allow it to be discussed. It informed the Foreign Ministers only after the issue of the statement and thus it unilaterally deviated from the ASEAN practice having issued not in good faith but in accord with its own wishes. Such an act may cause an undesirable tradition in ASEAN. Moreover, the statement expression of “concerned about the health of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi due to action against her” is incorrect. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is provided with adequate health care and she is in good health. Thus, it is sadly noted that the Alternate ASEAN Chairman failed to preserve the dignity of ASEAN, the dignity of Myanmar and the dignity of Thailand.

6. Whateover it may be, this statement issued by the Alternate ASEAN Chairman, which is not in conformity with ASEAN practice, incorrect in facts, interfering in the internal affairs of Myanmar is strongly rejected by Myanmar, it is learnt.

MNA

Preventive measures should be taken systematically against New Influenza A/H1N1, said health officials

As in other world countries, the Ministry of Health of Myanmar under the supervision of the government has been taking measures to prevent A/H1N1 from spreading to the country. A/H1N1 is a new subtype of highly-infectious influenza that is occurring in some other countries. Our media team from the Myanmar Alin daily met with officials of the Health Ministry taking an anti-A/H1N1 campaign. During the interview, Professor Director Dr Soe Lwin Nyein of Central Infectious Diseases Control Department of the Health Ministry told Myanmar Alin that an epidemic called SARS broke out in some Asian countries in 2003; that no one in Myanmar was affected by SARS; that no one in Myanmar has been infected by new subtype of highly-infectious influenza that is causing panic and fear in some other countries. He said—

“Thus, to prevent A/H1N1, preventive measures should be taken systematically against New Influenza A/H1N1 to safeguard people from its spread.”

He added—

1. Action against the New Influenza A/H1N1 should be taken in accordance with the normal practice in every state and it is merely the internal affairs of Myanmar. Therefore, the statement of Thailand issued as the alternate chairman of ASEAN deviates from the principles of the ASEAN Charter and is tantamount to interfering in the internal affairs of Myanmar.

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MNA

Cyclone warning

NAY PYI TAW, 24 May—The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology today announced that according to the observations at 5.30 pm MST, the cyclonic storm over the northwest part of the Bay of Bengal had moved northwards. It is now centered in the sea about 260 miles south of Kolkata of India and 310 miles southwest of Sittway of Myanmar, and is moving northwards. It is forecasted to pass India and the west coast of Bangladesh in next 36 hours after the observation time.

The storm is now only at the yellow level, and it is forecast that it is unlikely to move towards the coastal region of Myanmar. Due to the influence of the cyclonic storm, squalls and moderate and rough seas are likely to be widespread sometimes in the same period in the delta, along Rakhine coast, and off and along the Myanmar coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 40 mph. Moreover, the tidal waves may rise by two to three feet along the northern coast of Rakhine State.

Therefore, the department warned that offshore and deep-sea trawlers, motorboats and vessels plying in the sea off Maungtaw coast leave the area in next 36 hours from the observation time.—MNA

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall

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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Yangon (Central)</td>
<td>2.52 inches</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yangon (KabaAye)</td>
<td>2.16 inches</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pyapon</td>
<td>1.92 inches</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bhamo</td>
<td>1.77 inches</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mogok</td>
<td>1.63 inches</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yangon (Mingaladon)</td>
<td>1.42 inches</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nawngghkio</td>
<td>1.42 inches</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homalin</td>
<td>0.99 inch</td>
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An emergency ambulance is standing by at Yangon International Airport.