Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.

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

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

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

92.48 percent approve Constitution


The full text of the announcement is as follows:

Union of Myanmar
Commission for Holding the Referendum
Announcement No. 12/2008
7th Waning of Kason 1370 ME
(26 May 2008)

Announcement on results of the referendum held in the whole country
1. The referendum for approval of the draft constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was held successfully in 278 townships out of 325 townships in the whole country on 10 May, 2008 and the commission announced the results of the referendum with the Announcement No. 10/2008 dated 15 May, 2008. In accord with the Announcement No. 8/2008 dated 6 May, 2008, the referendum was held on 24 May, 2008 in 40 townships in Yangon Division and seven townships in Ayeyawady Division that were hit hard by Cyclone “Nargis”. The commission announced the results of the referendum held on 24 May, 2008 with the Announcement No. 11/2008 dated 26 May, 2008.

Over 92 percent in remaining Tps cast “Yes” vote


The full text of the announcement is as follows:

Union of Myanmar
Commission for Holding the Referendum
Announcement No. 11/2008
7th Waning of Kason 1370 ME
(26 May 2008)

Announcement on results of the referendum held in 47 townships in Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions
1. The referendum for approval of the draft constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was held successfully in 278 townships out of 325 townships in the whole country on 10 May, 2008 and the commission announced the results of the referendum with the Announcement No. 10/2008 dated 15 May, 2008.

2. In accord with the Announcement No. 8/2008 dated 6 May, 2008, the referendum was held on 24 May, 2008 in 40 townships in Yangon Division and seven townships in Ayeyawady Division that were hit hard by Cyclone “Nargis”. The commission announced the results of the referendum held on 24 May, 2008 with the Announcement No. 11/2008 dated 26 May, 2008.

3. The commission hereby announces that 3,977,528 of 4,280,015 voters cast “Yes” vote, accounting for 92.93 percent in the referendum held in 47 townships in Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions.

(Aung Toe)
Chairman
Commission for Holding the Referendum

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 27 May, 2008

Speedy rehabilitation of storm-hit regions

The ASEAN-UN International Pledging Conference was held at Sedona Hotel in Yangon on 25 May.

The conference was attended by representatives from 51 countries and officials from 24 international organizations, and the respective countries and international organizations pledged to provide Myanmar with cash and other assistance.

For emergency relief and rehabilitation operation, the government has allocated an initial sum of K 5 billion to start with and so far it has spent to the amount of K 70 billion. The United Nations and its agencies took prompt action to carry out relief and rehabilitation mission with the contributions of international organizations.

Up to now the rescue and rehabilitation tasks have been carried out to some extent. And providing food, clothing and shelters to the victims are to be carried out with the aid of international community while striving for reconstruction of houses, schools, hospitals and dispensaries and resuming agriculture, fisheries and salt industry with the help of skilled workers.

At a time when the Government, the people and the Tatmadaw are making concerted efforts with the contributions of the UN, ASEAN and international community in that regard we firmly believe that the rehabilitation of storm victims will be materialized soonest.

92.48 percent approve…

(from page 1)

2. The population of the country is 57,504,368 and the number of eligible voters is 27,369,957. Due to the severe Cyclone Nargis, 77,738 people were killed and 55,917 went missing totaling 133,655 in Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and Mon State. According to the Data Collecting Committee, 81,130 eligible voters were among the dead and missing. Therefore, the population of the country now stands at 57,370,713 and the number of eligible voters 27,288,827.

3. Therefore, the aggregate result of the referendum held in 325 townships—278 on 10 May, 2008 and 47 on 24 May, 2008—is as follows:

(a) Number of eligible voters in the entire Union 27,288,827
(b) Number of those who cast vote 26,776,675 (98.12 percent)
(c) Number of those who cast "Yes" vote 24,764,124 (92.48 percent)
(d) Number of those who cast "No" vote 1,631,712 (6.1 percent)
(e) Number of cancelled vote 380,839 (1.42 percent)

4. According to the Paragraph 3, the following table shows the voting of 26,776,675 voters in the referendum in the whole country:

(a) Number of those who went to the polling stations to cast vote 22,154,970 (82.74 percent)
   (1) Number of those who cast "Yes" vote 20,215,637
   (2) Number of those who cast "No" vote 1,575,257
   (3) Number of cancelled vote 364,076
(b) Number of those who cast vote in advance 4,621,705 (17.26 percent)
   (1) Number of those who cast "Yes" vote 4,548,487
   (2) Number of those who cast "No" vote 56,455
   (3) Number of cancelled vote 16,763

5. Therefore, 26,776,675 voters out of 27,288,827 eligible voters cast their votes in the referendum held in the Union of Myanmar accounting for 98.12 percent. Out of 26,776,675 who cast their votes, 24,764,124 cast "YES" vote. According to the Section 23 of the Referendum Law 2008, we hereby announce that 92.48 percent of the voters cast "YES" vote for the approval of the draft constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

(Aung Toe)
Chairman
Commission for Holding the Referendum

Giordano provides relief aid to victims in Pyapon

YANGON, 26 May — Personnel of Giordano presented relief aids worth K 5 million to the victims in the storm-affected regions yesterday.

The donation ceremony was held at the library of Saya Zawgyi in Pyapon Township yesterday. The donation was accepted by the Minister of Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing.

Giordano also donated relief items to the victims of Dedaye Township.

Medical team leaves for Bogale, Kyaiklat Tsps

YANGON, 26 May—A 12-member medical unit, led by Dr U Thaw Zin, Director (Research) of Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) of the Ministry of Health, left here for Bogale and Kyaiklat Townships to provide medical treatment and health care services to storm victims there yesterday.
Mexico says US should focus on stemming gun flow

MEXICO CITY, 26 May— The chief of Mexico’s war on drug gangs said Washington should concentrate on halting the flow of arms to Mexican drug cartels rather than haggle over how much aid to give Mexico’s anti-smuggling operation.

Reacting to a vote by US lawmakers to trim an aid package for the drug war, Mexico’s deputy attorney general, Jose Luis Santiago Vasconcelos, said an alternative would be to keep the cash in the United States and use it to curb illegal arms trafficking across the border.

“Some of us were talking, remarking that, well, this sum of money is all very well, but why don’t we tell the Americans they could spend it on their border security forces to stop the flow of arms to Mexico,” said Santiago Vasconcelos in remarks on local radio distributed by his office on Saturday.

Santiago Vasconcelos, the point man in Mexico’s crackdown on drug smuggling gangs, said 97 per cent of the weapons used by Mexican drug gangs came from the United States.

He said Mexico would evaluate whether to accept any US offer of funds and under what conditions.

Mexico is spending seven billion US dollars of its own money to fund its 18-month-old crackdown on the powerful and violent cartels that smuggle Colombian cocaine north to US consumers.

EU employers slam new WTO proposals for Doha

BRUSSELS, 26 May— Europe’s biggest employers lobby slammed a new set of World Trade Organization proposals intended to unblock a global trade deal on Friday, saying they were a “step backwards.”

In a letter to EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson, Business Europe said the proposals for lowering barriers to trade in industrial goods under the WTO’s Doha round would give an “unfair advantage” to competitive sectors in emerging economies.

“We have indicated repeatedly that this deal needs to address the very high barriers to industrial and services market access in emerging countries for all exporters,” the letter, which was distributed to media, said.

“Unfortunately, the latest WTO market access negotiating text is a step backwards for trade liberalization.”

The Doha negotiations for a global trade deal were launched in 2001 in a bid to fight poverty and boost the world economy. But they have been hamstrung by deep differences among rich and poor countries and now risk years of further delay without a breakthrough soon, ahead of the US presidential election.

Roadside bomb kills police officer in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 26 May— A roadside bomb hit the car of a police officer in Pakistan’s northwestern city of Peshawar on Saturday, killing him and his driver, police said.

Hundreds of people have been killed in a wave of bomb and suicide attacks across Pakistan since mid-2007, but violence had tapered off after the government that took office in March called for talks with Islamist militants to end militancy.

Most of the attacks have taken place in the northwest on the Afghan border where militants are very active. Peshawar is the capital of the North West Frontier Province (NWFP).

The latest bomb was the fourth since mid-February. The bomb hit the car of police officer Juma Khan as he was going to work in the morning.

“It was a remote-controlled device. Three passers-by were wounded in the blast,” an official of the police bomb disposal department said. Meanwhile, residents in the North Waziristan tribal region on Friday found a body of an Afghan man, apparently hanged to death, by suspected militants on suspicion of being a spy for the United States. —MNA/Reuters

Polish helicopter crash near Los Angeles kills three

LOS ANGELES, 26 May— A helicopter crashed Saturday on the west end of Santa Catalina Island, about 35 kilometres southwest of Los Angeles, killing three people and injuring three others, authorities said.

The registered to the Ezzedine Al-Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of the Islamist Hamas said in a statement.

“Issraeli Ynet news website confirmed the confrontation, saying that an Israeli soldier was moderately wounded during exchange of fire with Palestinian gunmen in south Gaza Friday morning.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Jihad militant group said two of its fighters were killed by Israeli soldiers in the central Gaza Strip.

Israel Army kills five militants in Gaza

GAZA, 26 May— Five Palestinian militants were killed on Friday by Israeli troops which raided into the Hamas-rule Gaza Strip, according to medical workers and militant groups.

An Israeli air striking east of the southern city of Rafah killed three Hamas militants, according to medical workers.

All the three belonged to the Ezzedine Al-Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of the Islamist Hamas said in a statement.

MNA/Xinhua

Gennai Yanagisawa, 75, of Japan, left, looks on as Gen Corporation employee Yasutoshi Yokoyama, also of Japan, sits on the GEN-H-4 helicopter, the world’s smallest one-man helicopter, in Vinci, birthplace of Renaissance genius Leonardo da Vinci, near Florence, Italy, on 25 May, 2008. —INTERNET

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THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR  Tuesday, 27 May, 2008

Her Royal Highness Princess Marie, held her veil in place with a tiara belonging to her new mother-in-law. The new Princess, whose background is Roman Catholic, has become a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Denmark and has taken Danish citizenship.

Denmark’s Prince Joachim marries for second time

MOEGLETOENDER, 25 May – Denmark’s Prince Joachim married French-born Marie Cavallier on Saturday in a tradition-steeped ceremony in an ancient church.

The second marriage for the second son of Queen Margrethe II and Prince Henrik of Denmark took place in the tiny village of Moegeltoender in southern Jutland, an enclave of just 895 people with one of Denmark’s prettiest high streets.

Joachim’s 32-year-old bride wore an off-white gown with a three-metre-long train designed by David Arasa and Claudio Morelli from fashion house Arasa Morelli. Cavallier, now Her Royal Highness Princess Marie, became a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Denmark and has taken Danish citizenship.

China Saturday announced plans to push forward the reshuffle of its telecommunications industry which will split its smaller mobile operator and give its mobile business to two fixed-line operators.

Philippines to build disaster-resilient school buildings

MANILA, 25 May — The Philippine Government is launching a plan to build disaster-resilient school buildings to make schools less prone to damage during typhoons, said the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) on Sunday.

NDCC deputy chief Anthony Golez told local radio DZBB a school in Camarines Sur Province in the typhoon-frequented central Philippines will be the project’s first beneficiary.

He said an international competition for designs for disaster-resilient school buildings was held recently in Manila and an entry from a Malaysian architect has won.

Golez said the government saw more need to make schools resilient to disasters after Tropical Storm “Halong” damaged more than 70 schools in the northern Luzon one week ago.

He also said earthquake drills for schools may be held in July for the National Disaster Consciousness Month.

UN finds over 100 bodies in east Congo mass graves

KINSHASA, 25 May — United Nations peacekeepers have found over 100 bodies in three mass graves in the east of Democratic Republic of Congo, the country’s UN mission said on Saturday.

A patrol of South African soldiers discovered the graves on Friday near the village of Maboya in troubled North Kivu Province. A UN spokesman told Reuters a preliminary excavation of the site indicated they had not been dug recently.

Palestinian supporters of Hamas evacuate a boy wounded by Israeli fire during a demonstration near Karmi crossing in eastern Gaza city, on 22 May, 2008. — XINHUA

A large order of McDonald’s french fries are shown on 22 May, 2008. McDonald’s has switched to cooking oils free of trans fats in all of its restaurants in the United States and Canada, Chief Executive Jim Skinner said on Thursday. — XINHUA

Obama says Clinton “stirring up” Florida controversy

CHICAGO, 25 May – Democrat Barack Obama accused rival Hillary Clinton on Saturday of “stirring up” a controversy over the disqualified Florida presidential nomination and said he was not too early in the year, in breach of party rules. Clinton, who won both contests, has long argued the delegates should be seated and awarded based on the popular vote.

Obama told reporters on the plane from San Juan, Puerto Rico, to Chicago, adding she had not done so earlier in the race when she did not need the delegates to win.

“Let’s not pretend that we don’t know what’s going on. I mean this is, from their perspective, their last slender hope to make arguments about how they can win, and I understand that,” Obama said.

Neither Clinton nor Obama campaigned in either state before the primary elections, and the Illinois senator removed his name from the Michigan ballot. Obama spent three days campaigning in Florida this week.

Police, locals clash in Naples trash protest

NAPLES, 25 May — Police clashed with demonstrators in a poor quarter of Naples on Saturday after a night of riots over the Italian Government’s attempt to end the chronic rubbish problem by opening new dumps against locals’ wishes.

Witnesses said two police officers and two protesters were hurt when police tried to remove a bus used as a barricade to block access to a landfill site at a quarry in the Chiaiano neighbourhood.

Police said protesters had thrown a petrol bomb.

The location of new dumps was being kept secret but clashes erupted overnight in Chiaiano, on the outskirts of the southern port city, after an official said it would be used for some of the trash piling up in the streets of Naples since the end of last year, when almost all dumps were declared full.

New Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi has made the crisis a top priority and passed a decree this week allowing new landfill sites and making them military zones, to dissuade protests.
UNSG promises to support China’s quake relief efforts

YINGXIU (Sichuan), 25 May—United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon promised on Saturday to mobilize efforts from the United Nations to support China’s quake relief and post-quake reconstruction.

Ban said Chinese leaders have shown outstanding leadership in quake relief, and the United Nations will firmly support China’s relief and reconstruction endeavours.

The UN Chief said the United Nations and people all over the world will stand along with the Chinese people and work together to overcome the earthquake disaster.

He wished Chinese people a victory in quake relief. Ban made the remarks in an open area Saturday noon shortly after his arrival at Yingxiu town of Wenchuan Co-unity, epicentre of the 12 May earthquake, to express his sympathy for those who survived the devastating quake.

Ban won loud applause from the people standing around.

Yingxiu, in Sichuan Province, is one of the zones worststricken by the 8.0-magnitude earthquake, which had claimed 55,740 lives nationwide as of Friday noon, or 55,239 in Sichuan alone as of 7:00 pm Thursday.

Kidnapped South Korean freed in southern Philippines

MANILA, 25 May—Unidentified kidnappers have freed without ransom a 30-year-old South Korean and a Filipino businessman kidnapped in March in a mountainous area in Mindanao, southern Philippines, police said on Saturday.

Senior Superintendent Adap Panares, provincial police chief of Lanao del Sur Province in Mindanao, said 10 heavily armed men released Tae Jung, a South Korean who ventured on chromite mining, and his Filipino business contact Victor Macasieras Friday near Kapai town, Lanao del Sur.

Lightning kills three in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 26 May—Three people, including two siblings, were killed and one was injured in lightning in Bangladesh’s Chapainawabganj District, 245 northwest of capital Dhaka, during heavy rainfall Saturday.

Local sources were quoted by private news agency UNB as saying the brothers were working in a paddy field when thunderbolt struck them at about 12:30 pm local time (06:30 GMT), killing them on the spot.

Meanwhile, a man was killed and a woman injured when lightning hit their house at the same time in the same district.

Four officials punished for neglecting duties in S-W China

BEIJING, 25 May—Four officials in Dujiangyan of southwest China’s Sichuan Province were punished for neglecting their duties during the disaster relief, said Li Chengyun, vice governor of Sichuan, on Friday.

He said that all those officials who failed to observe their duties will be punished.

Three of the officials were removed from their posts, including the former civil affairs official of the city, according to Monday’s Guangzhou Daily website.

The details of the fourth official is still unknown.

The provincial government sent 12 supervision teams to the quake-hit areas, and 96 cases involving illegal market activities were uncovered.

Li also vowed to severely punish those who misappropriated rescue tents, which are urgently needed for sheltering five million homeless quake victims.

Social stability is also a major concern for the Sichuan Provincial Government, which has reinforced security guard on banks and department stores.

US soldier killed in bomb attack south of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 25 May—An American soldier was killed by a roadside bomb attack in south of the Iraqi capital, the US military said on Saturday. The soldier, assigned to Multi-National Division-Centre (MND-C) was killed on Thursday when the bomb detonated in an area, some 20 kilometres southwest of Baghdad, a military statement said without further details.

MND-C, also known as Task Force Marm, is responsible for security zones located along the southern edge of Baghdad and stretches from the border with Saudi Arabia in the west to the Iranian border in the east. The latest death brings the number of US troops killed in Iraq since the March 2003 invasion to more than 4,080, according to media count based on Pentagon figures.

Four officials punished for neglecting duties in S-W China
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Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects clearing of fallen trees and debris, reconstruction of buildings in Yangon

YANGON, 26 May — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence yesterday inspected clearing of fallen trees and reconstruction of buildings ravaged by the storm.

Accompanied by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Hay Win, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and officials, Lt-Gen Myint Swe looked into removing of fallen trees and debris along Kyaukgyi Street, Bo Thura Lane and Yongyi Street in Kyimyindaing Township being carried out by staff of YCDC and Tatmadawmen of No. 11 LID. Lt-Gen Myint Swe stressed the need to replant the fallen trees that can survive, to remove fallen trees and debris as soon as possible and to educate the people to systematically dispose garbage.

On arrival at UWisara Housing compound, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party viewed the clearing of fallen trees and debris by Tatmadawmen of No. 77 LID and heard a report presented by Commander of No. 77 LID Brig-Gen Win Myint on work carried out.

After hearing the report, Lt-Gen Myint Swe gave necessary instructions. Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party looked into the clearing of debris in the compound of No. 1 BEHS and renovation of the school’s roofs Lammadaw Township and were conducted round by Director-General of No. 3 Basic Education Department U Aye Kyu and the school head.

Next, they proceeded to Yangon General Hospital on Bogyswe Aung San Road where they inspected the clearing of debris by Tatmadawmen of Indang Station and repair of the roof of the hospital’s main building.

After that, they inspected the clearing of fallen trees and debris carried out by Tatmadawmen of Hnawbiy Station and Taikkyi Station along Pawhsan Road and Pyithaya Road in Thyanggyuny Township and along Gandoma Road in South Okkalapa Township and gave necessary instructions.

Likewise, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party inspected the removing of fallen trees and debris along streets in Kyimyindaing, Dagon, Lammadaw, Latha, Pabedan, Kyauktada, Pazundaung, Tamway, Thingangyun and South Okkalapa Townships.—MNA

Repair of universities supervised

YANGON, 26 May — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun met senior engineers of Special Construction Groups in Yangon Division and district senior engineers at the head office of Public Works on Pyithaya Road in Bogale Township Peace and South Okkalapa Pyawady Division, on 22 May.

The minister gave instructions on timely completion of repairing the damage of buildings and universities in Yangon Division hit by the storm before their opening day. The managing director, directors-general and chief engineers enterprises and departments under Ministry of Construction reported on their respective sectors.

Afterwards, the minister inspected repair of roofs at Yangon University and the University of Foreign Languages. —MNA

Korean well wisher donates supplies worth $14,000

YANGON, 26 May — Mr Sung Su Yong of the Grand Nation Party of the Republic of Korea donated over two tons of towels and energy milk powder worth 14,000 US dollars to the storm victims at a ceremony held at Yangon International Airport on 24 May. On behalf of the donor, Manager U Huan Tun Aung handed over the donations to Director-General U Myint Tun of the Fire Services Department of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.—MNA

JLC donations for victims in Bogale, Pyayon

YANGON, 26 May — Jewellery Luck Co Ltd (JLC) family and entrepreneurs donated cash assistance to storm victims in Bogale and Pyayon Townships, Ayeyawady Division, on 23 May.

In Bogale, Chairman of Bogale Township Peace and Development Council U Soe Thein accepted K 2,497,150 donated by Jewellery Luck Co Ltd (JLC) family and other entrepreneurs. Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein attended the ceremony.

In Pyayon, the well wishers donated K 15,210,100, clothes and medicines to the victims through Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing.

So far, Jewellery Luck Co Ltd (JLC) has donated cash and rice, medicines, robes, clothes amounting to K 195,907,250 to storm victims.—MNA

Thai medical team giving medical treatment in Myawngya

YANGON, 26 May — Under the arrangement of Ministry of Health and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Deputy Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Health of Thailand Dr Siripon Kanshana, Thai Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr Bansarn Bunthug and party went to Myawngya on 22 May. They handed over 19 kinds of medical appliances sent again from Thailand to medical team of Ministry of Health of Thailand led by Dr Pichit who were giving medical treatment to storm survivors at the relief camp opened in the compound of 250-ton rice mill.

Staff of Ministry of Health, medical team of Dictorate of Medical Services under Ministry of Defence led by Lt-Col Kyaw Zin Nuynt and medical staff of Ministry of Health of Thailand are giving medical treatment to storm victims.—MNA

Director-General U Myint Tun accepts relief aids donated by the Grand Nation Party of Korea.—MNA
Minister for Foreign Affairs meets Japanese Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs

NAY PYI TAW, 26 May – Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win met Japanese Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs Mr Osamo Uno who attended the ASEAN-UN International Pledging Conference at his office this morning. They discussed providing relief and technical assistance for rehabilitation to the storm victims.

Present were Director-General of Political Department U Pe Thann Oo and Deputy Director-General U Kyaw Tin and Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Yasuaki Nogawa.—MNA

Minister U Nyan Win meets Minister of State of Ministry of Commerce and Power of India

NAY PYI TAW, 26 May – Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win met an Indian delegation led by Minister of State of Ministry of Commerce and Power who attended the ASEAN-UN International Pledging Conference at the former’s office this morning. They discussed providing additional assistance for storm victims and other assistance in electric power sector and issues of mutual interest.

Present were Director-General of Political Department U Pe Thann Oo and Deputy Director-General U Kyaw Tin and Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Bhaskar K Mitra.—MNA

Health Minister receives guests from WHO

YANGON, 26 May—Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint received Assistant Director General from Head Office World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva Dr Eric Jaques Larroche and resident representative Professor Adik Wibowo at temporary control department in Yangon People’s Hospital today.

In his speech, the Assistant Director General of WHO said that WHO would continue providing medicines and medical appliances for storm victims and external medical teams providing health care service in Myanmar are to perform in accordance with the standard of health policies of Myanmar.—MNA

Vehicles carrying power tillers head for Ngaputaw, Labutta, Mawlamyinegyun and Bogale townships.

MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe meets Ms Anupama Rao Singh, Regional Director of UNICEF EAPRO.—SOCIAL WELFARE

Minister U Nyan Win meeting with Mr Osamo Uno, Japanese Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs and party.—FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SWRR Minister meets UNICEF regional director

YANGON, 26 May — Member of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe met regional director, Ms Anupama Rao Singh of UNICEF EAPRO based in Bangkok at the Maykhala hall of Fire Services Department (headquarters) in Mayangon Township here this morning.

Also present at the meeting were deputy director-general U Aung Tun Khine of Social Welfare department.

MNA

Minister Dr Kyaw Myint receives Dr Eric Jaques Larroche, Assistant Director-General of WHO in Geneva.—HEALTH
More supplies for storm victims arrive in Yangon

YANGON, 26 May — International communities are providing the storm victims with relief supplies. IL-76 Plane carrying constructional materials, tarpaulins, kitchen utensils, and canvas tents weighing 39.629 tons donated by Malaysia-based IFRC arrived at Yangon International Airport at 8.25 am today.

Similarly, five C-130 planes carrying foodstuffs, plastics, tarpaulins, empty water bottles, life boats, health facilities and water purifiers weighing 44.8 tons donated by US reached the airport at 8.55 am, 10.10 am, 10.55 am, 1.34 pm and 2.45 pm.

Likewise, TG-303 plane carrying 37 packages of personal goods donated by the Republic of Korea’s Red Cross Society got the same airport at 8.40 am, TG-303 plane carrying nine packages of personal goods donated by Switzerland RCS at 8.40 am, 3K-585 plane carrying medicines and 30 bags of variety of foodstuff donated by Myanmar Embassy in Singapore at 9.35 am, 8M-332 plane carrying 23 packages of clothes donated by Baiyoke Hotel Group at 10.48 am, IL-76 plane carrying plastics rolls, blankets, medicines and tarpaulins weighing 37.78 tons donated by Dubai-based UNHCR of UAE at 10.05 am, MH-740 plane carrying 156 packages of personal goods donated by Malaysia RCS at 11.20 am, AN-12 plane carrying 2.64 tons of energy noodle donated by Thailand-based WFP at 11.30 am, PG-701 plane carrying 14 packages of water-purifying tablets donated by Myanmar Embassy in Thailand at 12.20 pm, A-300 plane carrying 900 rolls of plastics weighing 38.9 tons donated by Britain-based Doctors Without Border at 2.10 pm, and DC-8 plane carrying constructional materials weighing 13.61 tons donated by France-based Doctors Without Border at 4.05 pm.

The relief supplies donated by international communities are being distributed to the storm-hit areas for the victims without delay by means of helicopters, motorcars and vessels.

MNA
YANGON, 26 May — The meeting on building and land allotment of new Yadanabon city construction project was held at the minister’s office yesterday.

Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and Minister for Livestock and Fishery Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein made speeches.

The manager of new Yadanabon city construction project reported on allotment of land and investor companies on their investment. The ministers called for timely completion of the buildings in accord with the set standard.

Next, the ministers accepted K 1,45.5 million and US $ 3.713 million donated to the storm-hit areas. The donations were K 10 million donated by Myanma Posts and Telecommunications, K 100 million by Myanmar Teleport, K 10 million by Myanmar Info-Tech, K 10 million by Tarmonye Chantha Tun Wai Tha Company, K 5 million by Myanmar Computer Federation, K 5 million by Myanmar Computer Industry Association, K 3.5 million by computer companies, K 1 million by Computer Professionals Association, K 1 million by Yadanabon Cyber Corporation, US $ 3.5 million for telecom equipment and blankets worth US $ 10,000 by ZTE Co Ltd, emergency car mobile SCDMA system worth US$ 150,000 by FISCA Co Ltd, communication equipment and medicines worth US $ 93,000 by Alcatel Shanghai Bell Co Ltd, communication equipment worth US $ 100,000 by Sum Moon International Pte Ltd and communication equipment worth US $ 60,000 by IPTel Co.
**Quake-damaged railway reopens to traffic in Sichuan**

Chengdu, 25 May — The whole line of quake-damaged Baoji-Chengdu railway reopened to traffic Saturday after 283 hours of closure, allowing batch transport of disaster relief goods to China’s quake-hit Sichuan Province.

No 977 train carrying urgently needed relief goods of tents and medicines passed through the railway’s No 109 tunnel at 9:53 am Saturday, where a 40-car freight train derailed and was trapped, paralyzing the railway in the 12 May earthquake.

The railway, linking Chengdu, provincial capital of Sichuan, with Baoji City in neighbouring Shaanxi Province, is a key north-south route in west China.

Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Dejiang inspected the tunnel’s repair work Saturday, and stressed the importance to ensure an unblocked traffic on the artery line in order to guarantee timely arrival of disaster relief supply to the quake zone.

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**Ecuador records 125 explosions of Tungurahua volcano**

QUITO, 26 May — Ecuador recorded 125 moderate explosions of the Tungurahua volcano in centre of the Andes Saturday, according to the Geophysics Institute (IG) of the National Polytechnic School.

“The volcanic activities continue with a high seismic level, mainly characterized by moderate explosions,” the IG reported. There are also 32 earthquakes inside the mountain and continuous shocks for 17 times.

The ash emissions have caused an ash rain in Pillate and Guadalupe near the volcano. At the same time, those emissions have formed 3-kilometres-high clouds. Tungurahua volcano is 5,029 metres high and located about 135 kilometres south from Quito.

The volcano began its current eruptive process in November 1999 and since then has alternatively frequent activities or calmness. — MNA/Xinhua

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**DRC shuts Belgium embassy following diplomatic spat**

Kinshasa, 25 May — The government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Saturday recalled its Ambassador to Belgium and closed its diplomatic mission there following an ugly diplomatic spat, the local media has reported.

The move was part of a government response to an assertion by Belgian Foreign Minister Karel De Gucht, who was quoted as saying that his country had a “moral right” over its former colony, according to reliable sources.

Earlier this year, in widely published remarks, President Joseph Kabila had told a Belgian newspaper that Belgium would have to choose what kind of ties it wanted with its former colony. “It will have to decide whether it wants old-style master-servant colonial ties or modern relations based on mutual understanding and respect,” said Kabila, accusing the former DR Congo colonial master of having what he described as a “bad attitude”.

“The DR. Congo has also decided to close its consulate in Antwerp,” the government said in a statement at the end of a Cabinet meeting Friday.

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**Carter sees superdelegates prompting Clinton to quit**

LONDON, 26 May — Former US President Jimmy Carter said on Sunday he expects Democratic superdelegates to reveal their choice for presidential nominee soon after the final primary in June and that Hillary Clinton will then have to quit the race.

In an interview with Sky News, Carter said he did not think Clinton was achieving anything by staying in the fight.

“I think not. But of course she has the perfect right to do so,” he said while attending a literary festival in Britain. “I’m a superdelegate ... I think a lot of the superdelegates will make a decision quite, announced quite rapidly, after the final primary on 3 June,” he told Sky News.

“I have not yet announced publicly, but I think at that point it will be time for her to give it up.”

Carter said. — MNA/Reuters
Japan may end Iraq military mission in 2009

TOKYO, 26 May — Japan may end its supply support mission for US-led forces in Iraq next year, partly because of objections from the powerful opposition, according to media reports on Monday.

Japan has about 210 Air Force personnel in Kuwait, from where they airlift supplies to Baghdad and other parts of Iraq.

It withdrew its ground troops — sent to southern Iraq as a gesture of support to Tokyo’s biggest ally, the United States — in 2006.

“Thinking about the state of Parliament, it is extremely difficult to extend” a special law which enabled the country to send troops to Iraq, the Asahi newspaper quoted ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) heavyweight Taku Yamazaki as saying.

Opposition parties have dominated Parliament’s Upper House since an election last July, and have taken advantage of their position to block many government policies.

The divided Parliament clashed earlier this year over military activities, when the ruling bloc pushed through a law which enabled a naval mission in support of US-led forces in Afghanistan by passing it twice in the Lower House with a two-thirds majority.

MNA/Reuters

Cargo plane breaks in two at Brussels airport

BRUSSELS, 26 May — An American Kalitta Air cargo plane slid off the runway at Brussels’s Zaventem airport on Sunday and broke in two but there were no casualties, Zaventem police said. — INTERNET

A view of a cargo plane of the American company Kalitta Air which slid off the runway at the Brussels Zaventem airport on 25 May, 2008. The plane broke in two on Sunday but there were no casualties, Zaventem police said. — INTERNET

Hamas does not accept Abbas forces at Rafah crossing

RAMALLAH, 26 May — A Palestinian official on Saturday denied reports that Hamas accepted the deployment of President Mahmoud Abbas’ forces on a crossing point between Gaza and Egypt for the reopening of the passage. “We have offered to deploy the Palestinian National Authority’s forces on Rafah crossing to implement the 2005 crossings agreement, but actually Hamas doesn’t want any presence for the PNA,” said Yasser Abed Rabbo, a Palestinian negotiator.

He added that Rafah crossing can not be opened without the US-brokered protocol which was signed between the PNA, Israel, the European Union and Egypt when Israel left Gaza Strip in 2005.

The EU monitors and the PNA forces withdrew from the crossing in June 2007 when Hamas fought pro-Abbas forces and seized control of Gaza Strip.

By keeping on its grip on Gaza Strip, Hamas “boosts the Israeli pretext to keep Rafah crossing closed,” Abed Rabbo said, stressing that all the pretexts must be removed to lift the siege on Gaza Strip. — MNA/Xinhua

Colombia quake victims huddle in shelters, 11 dead

QUETAME, Colombia, 26 May — Hundreds of Colombians huddled in makeshift shelters on Sunday afraid to go home a day after a 5.6-magnitude earthquake damaged scores of homes and triggered landslides killing at least 11 people.

In the rural town of Quetame, the most seriously hit, families spent the night sheltered on the town’s football field or in a public building after the quake knocked out water supplies and damaged or collapsed houses and its church.

“People are still terribly scared after a second or third one coming,” Benedicto Enciso said as he sheltered with his companion and two children after their home was damaged. “We’re trying to put up a tent for 20 people.”

Colombia’s Red Cross said at least 11 people died and 54 were injured, with about 5,000 affected by damaged houses and buildings. President Alvaro Uribe visited the affected area, where landslides blocked a major highway from Bogota to Villavicencio near the epicentre, which was 33 miles (54 kilometres) southeast of the capital, the US Geological Survey said. — MNA/Reuters

Lebanese Parl't elects Suleiman as President

BEIRUT, 26 May — Lebanese Parliament on Sunday approved Army chief Michel Suleiman as the new President of the country.

Of the 127 lawmakers casting their ballots, 118 voted for Suleiman’s election, six abstained, and three voted for others, local Naharnet news website reported.

As the consensus candidate of rival Lebanese blocs, Army Commander General Michel Suleiman became the President on Sunday following six months of presidential vacancy.

Parliament Speaker and opposition leader Nabih Berri announced at the parliamentary headquarters that “Michel Suleiman got 118 votes and I declare him president of Lebanon.” — MNA/Xinhua

Colombia Saturday, killing at least seven people and sending thousands of panicked residents into Bogota’s streets, authorities said. — INTERNET

A handcuffed man kneels after the police arrested him in Cape Town. The death toll from two weeks of anti-immigrant violence in South Africa rose to 50 as concerns mounted for an estimated 35,000 people who have been displaced by the backlash. — INTERNET

A quake reading on a seismograph. A strong earthquake struck central Colombia Saturday, killing at least seven people and sending thousands of panicked residents into Bogota’s streets, authorities said. — INTERNET

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Reuters

MNA/Reuters
Ghana plans tax cuts, subsidies to curb food prices

Accra, 25 May—Ghana's president announced a raft of tax breaks and subsidies late on Thursday to help its people cope with surging fuel and food prices which have provoked riots in neighbouring countries in poor West Africa.

In a televised address to the nation, President John Kufuor outlined plans to reduce taxes on some fuels and key grain imports, increase electricity subsidies and reduce operating costs for fishermen and farmers.

The measures require parliamentary approval.

“In many parts of the world, including some neighbouring countries in our sub-region, these harsh trends have led to dislocation of economies, rioting and strikes,” he said.

MNA/Reuters

Tanzania suspends food exports until mid-June

Arusha (Tanzania), 25 May—Tanzania has halted food exports at least until mid-June to boost the country’s supplies and counter skyrocketing commodity prices, the east African country’s Agriculture Minister said on Friday.

Tanzania and many other developing nations are grappling with world-wide hike in commodity and fuel prices that have triggered riots and protests in several countries.

The nation of 40 million people has joined other food-growing countries which have imposed export curbs because of worries about domestic shortages.

“We face a crisis if we allow further food exports,” Agriculture Minister Stephen Wassira was quoted by the state-run Daily News newspaper.

“The aim is to maintain food security. Even major food exporters have suspended exportation of food due to the global shortages. Why not us?”

Tanzania suspended maize exports and waived import duty on the cereal earlier this year to help buy 300,000 tons of maize. But Wassira lamented the slow pace at which the country had imported the grain.

“Due to biting global shortages and subsequent rising prices, the traders have managed to import only 8,070 tons of maize so far ... that is between January and now,” he said.

MNA/Reuters

Thousands march against S Africa xenophobic attacks

Johannesburg, 26 May—Thousands of people marched through South Africa’s biggest city on Saturday, calling for an end to xenophobic violence that has killed over 40 African migrants and displaced tens of thousands.

Thousands of people, carrying placards saying “Xenophobia hurts like apartheid,” and “We stand against xenophobia” brought traffic to a standstill in Johannesburg’s business district.

People in the Hillbrow flatland district, home to many African immigrants, cheered the march, organized by church organizations and labour unions. Police said shootings around Johannesburg were quiet but shops were looted and burnt outside Cape Town late on Friday.

The South African Government has been criticized for its slow reaction to the violence, the worst since apartheid ended 14 years ago, and for not adequately addressing poverty widely blamed for the bloodshed.

The conflict started in Johannesburg’s Alexandra township on 11 May, and has spread to Cape Town and the eastern port city of Durban.

MNA/Reuters

Somali gunmen release Kenyan lecturer in Mogadishu

Mogadishu, 25 May—Somali gunmen released a Kenyan university lecturer on Friday after abducting him in the capital Mogadishu last week, a university staff member said.

Moses (Nyandusi Matundura) is in a Mogadishu hotel then on his way to Kenya,” the staff member, who did not wish to be named, told Reuters.

“He was treated well and is in a good condition.”

Ten days ago, three assailants abducted Matundura after bundling him into a car waiting to take him home from the Mogadishu University campus.

He was believed to have been held in an Islamist stronghold in the north of the capital.

It was not clear if the gunmen were paid a 100,000-US-dollar ransom demanded for Matundura, a public administration lecturer.

MNA/Reuters

Twenty killed in western Ethiopia land clashes

Addis Ababa, 26 May—More than 20 people were killed in three days of clashes over land in western Ethiopia last week, police said on Saturday.

Fighting over grazing and farmland is common in the south and west of the Horn of Africa nation.

“A long-standing dispute over land along the border between Oromia and Benishangule states erupted into violence in a conflict that has claimed the lives of more than 20 people from both sides last week,” police spokesman Damsash Hallue told Reuters.

MNA/Reuters

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The South African Government has been criticized for its slow reaction to the violence, the worst since apartheid ended 14 years ago, and for not adequately addressing poverty widely blamed for the bloodshed.

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MNA/Reuters
BEOING, 25 May — Russian President Dmitry Medvedev on Saturday hailed ties with huge neighbour China as a key factor in global security, and said the sometimes uneasy neighbours were determined to boost cooperation even if it unnerved the West.

Medvedev, sworn in earlier this month, has inherited a country with a booming economy and international ambitions, but locked in disputes with its Western partners, which he implied were suspicious of Moscow’s links with China.

His speech came a day after the two jointly condemned US plans to set up Eastern European bases for a missile defence system, although Washington shrugged off the remarks.

Analysts have said that this maiden foreign trip to ex-Soviet Kazakhstan and China was intended to demonstrate that Russia had other allies to counterbalance strained relations with Europe and the United States and will pursue a balanced foreign policy.

“[Chinese President] Hu Jintao and I agreed that Russian-Chinese cooperation has become a major factor of global security, without which important decisions are impossible,” he told students at the elite Peking University.

Two scuba divers, a British man and an American woman, were rescued on Saturday after drifting for 20 hours off Australia’s Great Barrier Reef after they became separated from their dive party.

A rescue helicopter spotted the divers drifting about 7.8 nautical miles (13.5 kilometres) northwest of Bait Reef, winched them aboard and flew them to a nearby resort island, police said.

Police said the divers survived because they made sensible decisions and remained calm while floating in the ocean overnight.

Sandalwood model Ajuma presents a creation by Paris-based designer Imane Ayssi of Cameroon during the “Fashion for Peace” show in Nairobi, on 24 May, 2008.

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**SPORST**

**José rules out Blues return**

Former boss not planning shock return

José Mourinho has told Sky Sports News he will not be returning to Chelsea as manager. Chelsea are on the lookout for a new manager after the club decided to axe Mourinho’s successor at Stamford Bridge Avram Grant on Saturday.

Grant was sacked following Chelsea’s failure to pick up any silverware last season when they lost in the Champions League final, Carling Cup final and finished second in the Premier League. A host of top names have been linked with the vacant manager’s post including Frank Rijkaard, Guus Hiddink, Mark Hughes and Sven Goran Eriksson.

A sensational return to West London for Mourinho, who left Chelsea last September in shock circumstances, has also been mooted. —Internet

**Engelaar impresses in Dutch 3-0 win**

Rotterdam (Netherlands), 25 May — Netherlands beat Ukraine 3-0 in a Euro 2008 warm-up on Saturday with a solid midfield performance from Orlando Engelaar.

Dirk Kuyt opened the scoring with a well-placed header midway through the first half and playmaker Rafael van der Vaart set up Klaas-Jan Huntelaar seven minutes before the interval to double the lead. After 63 minutes, Van der Vaart showed his brilliance again when a 50-metre pass set up substitute Ryan Babel to score the third goal with a chip over goalkeeper Vyacheslav Kornienko seconds after the winger had come on.

“I am satisfied with the result and some phases we played, good football, although we have to realise that our opponents are not preparing for a major tournament,” coach Marco van Basten told reporters.

In the absence of several key players, Engelaar seized his chance to cement a place in the squad with a good performance as holding midfielder. —MNA/Reuters

**Roma beat Inter to retain Italian Cup**

Rome, 25 May — Goals by Philippe Mexes and Simone Perrotta gave AS Roma a 2-1 win over Serie A champions Inter Milan in the Italian Cup final on Saturday.

Roma retained the trophy and gained some revenge for missing out on the league title after French defender Mexes glided unmarked into the area to smack a David Pizarro corner into the net in the 35th minute. Italy midfielder Simone Perrotta scored after a one-two with Montenegro forward Mirko Vucinic to double Roma’s lead in the 53rd minute.

Inter’s Portuguese midfielder Pele, on as a substitute, pulled a goal back just before the hour with a remarkable shot from 25 metres. Italian President Giorgio Napolitano handed the trophy to Roma captain Francesco Totti, who was unable to play because of injury.

“We shared this festival with our wonderful fans,” Roma coach Luciano Spalletti told a news conference.

“We didn’t need this victory to show that we are not much inferior to Inter. I told the lads before the game that they had done a great championship and they had the chance to make it really great.” —MNA/Reuters

**Agent-Sven to Mexico**

City chief linked with return to international management

Mexico City, 25 May — A prominent South American football agent has claimed Manchester City boss Sven Goran Eriksson is close to accepting an offer from the Mexican FA to coach the national side.

Agent Juan Carlos Padilla believes the Swedish tactician has already concurred on a two-year deal with Mexico, having accepted his tenure at Eastlands is drawing to a close.

Eriksson has also been linked with the Chelsea post vacated by Avram Grant but Padilla is firmly of the opinion that a return to international management is in the offing.

“We already know what the Mexican FA are looking for — we’ll accept their terms if they call us again,” Padilla told Mexican newspaper La Jornada from Manchester.

“If the Mexican FA decide to take him, he will be their coach and the Mexican national team will be his number one choice. “It’s a contract up to and including the next World Cup, after that we’ll see what happens. But for the moment it’s a two-year contract.”

Padilla rubbed suggestions that Eriksson, who has managed in Italy and Portugal, would have trouble adapting to life in Central America. —Internet

**Fergie to quit within 3 years**

United boss reveals plans to quit before he turns 70

London, 25 May — Sir Alex Ferguson has revealed his intention to step down as Manchester United manager within the next three years.

Ferguson continued his outstanding record at Old Trafford by securing a memorable Premier League and UEFA Champions League double in the 2007/08 campaign.

The Scot had previously announced plans to retire at the end of the 2001/02 season; however he made a dramatic U-turn in February 2002, agreeing to stay on at the club. But Ferguson, 66, has now revealed his intention to quit his managerial role at United before he turns 70-70 years-old.

“I won’t be managing here when I’m 70. No, never. I can assure you of that,” Ferguson said.

“I won’t be managing here any more than three years at the very, very, very, very most — no question.

“There is a time when you have to think about time for yourself. You know, my wife is getting older and I have to think about that.” —Internet

**Ireland sneak 1-1 draw on Trapattoni debut**

Dublin, 25 May — Ireland snatched a 1-1 draw with Serbia on Saturday in what new coach Giovanni Trapattoni hailed as a good start to rebuild the team which failed to qualify for Euro 2008. Substitute Andy Keogh equalized in the last minute after Serbia substitute Marko Pantelic had put the visiting side ahead 15 minutes from time in the friendly at Croke Park.

Trapattoni, appointed in February, said the team had improved compared to their performance against Brazil in a 1-0 defeat in Dublin in February and it was a good first step ahead of the qualifiers for the 2010 World Cup.

“I am happy because we didn’t deserve to lose this match,” Trapattoni told a news conference. “We certainly made a step ahead this evening.”

**Capello wants ambitious England**

Three Lions chief in call to players

Capello has set his sights on guiding England to the 2010 World Cup final.

Capello, who took over as England manager from Steve McClaren, is confident he can enjoy success with the national side.

The wily Italian believes England need to be ambitious if they want to achieve success and Capello has called on his players to change their mentality.

Capello told The FA’s official website: “I think we can take England further than Bobby Robson in 1990, why not? I have always wanted to arrive at the top, why should I think differently? “I have been with Roma, Juventus, Milan, Real Madrid and always wanted to go to the very top. I don’t understand why people feel differently. We need to be ambitious.”

“We have good material here and have been competitive against every team. My ambition is to arrive at the top. You have to work to change the mentality.”

“I believe we can do that but the players must also believe. By September I will have the full picture.”

Capello is keen to see build on the success enjoyed by England’s club teams, inspiring the players to bring their domestic form into the international stage.

“England had two teams in the Champions League final and they are ambitious teams. You have to transmit the same ambitions in the England team,” added Capello.

Internet
**WEATHER**

**Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Kayin State and Taninthayi Division, fairly widespread in Mon State and Yangon Division, scattered in Shan State, Sagaing and Bago Divisions, isolated in Chin State and Mandalay Division. Weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions with isolated heavy falls in Mon and Kayin States, Yangon Division. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above May average temperatures in Kachin, Rakhine and Kayah States, Taninthayi Division (5°C) to (6°C) above. May average temperatures in Shan State, Magway, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions and about May average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperatures were Chauk and Magway (40°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Thaton (3.97) inches, Coco Island (3.70) inches, Hpa-an (3.35) inches, Katha (1.42) inches and Namism (0.90) inch.

**Maximum temperature on 25-5-2008 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 26-5-2008 was 75°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 26-5-2008 was 84%. Total sunshine hours on 25-5-2008 was (1.4) hours approx. Rainfall on 26-5-2008 was (0.04) inch at Mingalardon and (Nil) at Kaba-Aye and (Tr) Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (27.30) inches at Mingalardon, (32.01) inches at Kaba-Aye and (36.97) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Southwest at (14:30) hours MST on 25-5-2008.**

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the North Bay and monsoons are weak to widespread in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 27-5-2008: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Mon and Kayin States, Taninthayi Division, scattered to fairly widespread in Rakhine State, Ayeyawady, Bago, and Yangon Divisions and isolated in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Moderate monsoons in the Andaman Sea, South Bay and Central bay of Bengal.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 27-5-2008: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 27-5-2008: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandaly and neighbouring area for 27-5-2008: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).
**Commission for holding Referendum holds meeting (10/2008)**

**Maj-Gen Tha Aye inspects work in Dawei District**

**NPED Minister and Swedish Minister of IDC inspect relief and rehabilitation tasks in Pyapon Township**

Minister U Soe Tha and Ms Gunilla Carlsson, Minister for International Development and Cooperation of Sweden, chat with storm victims at a relief camp in Dedaye. — MNA