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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, 24 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 Hsatyoekeya 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

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

Maj-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence inspects Kandawgyi which supplies water to the wards in Sittway.—MNA



Alzheimer's discovery could bring early diagnosis, treatment closer



A discovery offers new hope for the early diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's disease.

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. Hemant 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



Launch of high-altitude balloon carrying cosmic ray detectors over Kiruna, Sweden, on 17 May, 2009.

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

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 the citizens who are physically and mentally fit and strong to serve the best interests of the State.

People's Desire

- * Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- * Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- * Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- * Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

FAO, Myanmar sign three project papers



Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo speaking at signing ceremony of three projects.—A&I

NAY PYI TAW, 24 May—Three project papers to be implemented with the assistance of Italian government by the Food and Agriculture Organization were endorsed at the Chatrium Hotel in Yangon yesterday morning.

Italian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr Giuseppe Cinti delivered an introductory speech.

FAO Resident

Representative Dr Shin Imai on behalf of the FAO expressed thanks.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo dealt with ongoing programmes for development of the agricultural, meat and fish, and forestry sectors of Myanmar, and effective use of the aids.

The Italian Ambassador, the FAO Resident Representative

and Acting Director-General of the Fishery Department under the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries U Khin Ko Lay signed and exchanged the documents on 'Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries and Aquaculture Livelihoods in Coastal Mangrove Ecosystems'; and the Italian Ambassador, the FAO

Resident Representative and the Agriculture Planning Department U Tin Htut Oo, the documents on 'Support to Special Rice Production', 'Support to the Immediate Rehabilitation of Farming, Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture Livelihoods in the Cyclone Nargis-Affected Areas of Myanmar'.—MNA

Road and bridge construction inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 24 May — Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein inspected progress in construction of Yasudine (1) bridge in Mawlamyinegyun, Mawlamyinegyun-Hlainebone-Thitpoke-Kwinpauk-Pyinsalu road section and Kwinpauk-

Hlainebone road section and cyclone shelters in Thitpoke and Poelaung villages. The Deputy minister oversaw the construction of Daniseit-Petpye Nyaungpeak and Hteelaythein bridges along the road.—MNA

FM sends message of felicitations to Argentine counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 25 May—U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to H.E Mr. Jorge Taiana, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Argentina, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Argentina, which falls on 25 May, 2009.—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

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 Htaik, Secretary of Central Work Committee for Myanmar Women's Sports

Federation Daw L Khun Yi, Patrons of MWF Daw Moe Wut Yi 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 winners.

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



General Secretary U Kyaw Oo (Assistant Director of SPED) of Myanmar Swimming Federation awarding the winners.—NLM



Afghan president leaves for trilateral summit in Iran

KABUL, 24 May — Afghanistan 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



Map locating the Afghan Province of Herat where the influence of Iran has been a source of tension between Shiites and Sunnis.

INTERNET

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



An Iraqi soldier inspects a blood stained vehicle following a suicide bombing in Kirkuk. —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 unprecedented 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 contractor, 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 falls around the Green Zone — part of a campaign to restore a sense of normalcy as violence in the city has waned. —Internet

UN chief visits Manik farm Tamil camp

COLOMBO, 24 May — UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on Saturday asked Sri Lankan Government to immediately initiate steps for a “political process of dialogue, accommodation and reconciliation” with its Tamil minority as he visited refugee camps to see first hand the plight of 300,000 displaced people.

“Families must be reunited and people must be able to begin rebuilding their lives” Ban said after a 90 minutes visit to the sprawling Manik farm camp near Vavuniya, 160 kilometres from here, which Tamil activists and groups have likened to a “concentration camp”. For the first time journalist accompanying UN Secretary General were allowed to go to these camps as well as flown over the areas in Mullaitivu war-zone, where the Tamil tigers made their last stand.

MNA/PTI

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

Two ANA, two Taliban fighters killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, 24 May — Recent clashes between Afghan security forces and Taliban militants have claimed the lives of two Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers and two militants, according to a Defence Ministry statement issued here on Saturday.

“One ANA soldier was killed and two others sustained injuries last Thursday as a mortar fired by rebels exploded near their convoy, in Chaqhato district of Central Wardak Province, where nine assault rifles were found by ANA in a cleanup operation,” the statement said.

According to the statement, an ANA soldier was also killed in a direct firefight with anti-government militants in Balamurghab district of northwestern Badghis Province last Thursday. —Internet

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



A man claiming to be a relative carries a young child who was wounded during clashes between Islamic fighters and government soldiers. —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 gov-

ernment 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.

Internet



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

Interrogation techniques

Newly released US Justice Department memo details interrogation techniques that the CIA proposed in 2002 for use on a top Al-Qaeda detainee



Graphic showing interrogation techniques detailed by the CIA. The CIA director strongly rejected accusations the agency had misled US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi about alleged torture of detainees amid a political uproar over the conduct of the "war on terror."—INTERNET

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.—Internet

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 cut-throat 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.—Internet



Seven arrested in connection with deadly Cairo blast

CAIRO, 24 May—Seven people suspected of ties to an al-Qaida-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 cafe 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

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.

Internet

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

All items from Xinhua News Agency



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*

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 finalized in the coming days, a spokesman for Dassault said on Saturday.

According to French media, Dassault could soon win a contract for the sale of 60 Rafale fighters, which so far have found no buyers outside France.

President Nicolas Sarkozy and Minister of Defence Herve Morin will visit the United Arab Emirates on Monday to in-

augurate a new French military base in Abu Dhabi.

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 could 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*



Dragon boat athletes prepare for the competition on the Donghu Lake of Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei Province, on 23 May, 2009. About 80 dragon boat teams participated in a dragon boat competition held in Wuhan to greet the coming Dragon Boat Festival, which was observed annually on the fifth day of the fifth month in Chinese lunar calendar.—*XINHUA*

AU Commission president calls for unity in Africa

LUANDA, 24 May—Visiting Chairman of the African Union (AU) Commission Jean Ping at the weekend called for reinforcing unity among African countries.

Meeting with African diplomatic corps based in Angola, the AU official said he is happy to see the democratization process in the African continent

through general elections and improvement of Africa's economic situation.

He said regional integration is very important and regional groups such as the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Economic Community of Central Africa

(ECCAS) are playing important roles in regional integration. Jean Ping, who arrived in Angola on Friday for a four-day visit, also expressed concern on the political situation and developments in some African countries, including Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, Guinea Conakry, Zimbabwe and Madagascar.

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 4 January, killing at least four people and injuring tens of others. A series of aftershocks with different intensities occurred since then.—*Xinhua*



Troops of people march on the walking festival opened in Dalian, a coastal city of northeast China's Liaoning Province, on 23 May, 2009. The 7th Dalian International Walking Festival was launched on Saturday and would last for two days. Walking terms including 30 kilometres, 20 kilometres, 10 kilometres and 5 kilometres were available for participants.

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 canceled, houses damaged and roads closed on Saturday.

The ferry sailings linking North and South islands have been canceled 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 Ngauranga, Johnsonville and Plimmerton. High winds had also 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.

Internet



Workers pack 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

Sichuan quake sites to open to tourists

BEIJING, 24 May — Sections of streets, schools and bridges destroyed during last year's massive earthquake in southwestern China will soon be open to tourists, state media said on Saturday.

Ruins from the 12 May quake centred in Sichuan Province that left almost 90,000 people dead or missing have become a draw for visitors, especially during national holidays, the *Xinhua News Agency* reported.

"There is a huge tourism market in the ruins," Wu Mian, deputy director of the Sichuan provincial tourism department, was quoted as saying. "We cannot block the tourists out," he said. "We also hope the tourists watch their behavior and not hurt the quake survivors' feelings."

He said the sites will include "schools, bridges, factories and streets" in devastated areas such as Dujiangyan, Pengzhou, Mianzhu and Yingxiu, a town in Wenchuan county, the epicentre of the magnitude-7.9 quake.—Internet

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," Daily Arman-e-Millie reported quoting 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.—Xinhua

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 to motorable roads.—Internet

NEWS ALBUM



A Chinese craftsman of Miao ethnic minority showcases how to make traditional silver ornament at a gathering in Fenghuang county, central south China's Hunan Province, on 23 May, 2009. The gathering is aimed to promote the culture of China's Miao ethnic minority, especially their tradition of wearing different designs of silver ornament.

Pa man nabbed twice in three hours on DUI charges

Police said they arrested a Pittsburgh-area man twice within three hours on a charge of driving under the influence of prescription drugs. Police said they first pulled over a 26-year-old man about 8:30 pm on Friday.

They said he had muscle relaxers and another type of pills used to help people withdraw from opiates in his car after he failed a field sobriety test.

Police say they dropped the man at his mother's house telling him DUI charges would be mailed to him.

About 11:15 pm, police said the man came to the police station seeking medication seized from his car. Police said the man told them he got a ride to the police station, but they pulled him over when they saw him try to drive away.

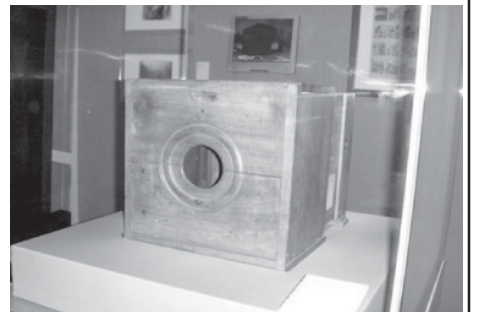


World's first camera on display in Macao

Entitled "The Invention of Photography and the Earliest Photographs of Macao, China", an exhibition showcasing old photos and cameras, including the world's first camera, was opened on Friday at the Macao Museum.

The exhibition, which will last till 23 August, was co-organized by the Macao Museum and the Nicéphore Niepce Museum in France. A total of 250 photography antiques and 180 old photos, which were collections lent by the Nicéphore Niepce Museum and 12 other museums, cultural institutions and private collectors in France, the UK, the US and Macao, according to the Cultural Institute of the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR), which runs the Macao Museum.

The world's first camera, a sliding wooden box, along with over 20 cameras



The world's first camera, a sliding wooden box, along with over 20 cameras of early times is on display.

of early times were borrowed from the Nicéphore Niepce Museum. As for photos, some of Macao's earliest photos, such as "A- Ma Temple, Macao", "Praia Grande", and other landscape shootings on daguerreotype, were on display in the exhibition.

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 in 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.

In this photo, David Traver, left, and Bob Gengler talk in Anchorage, Alaska about the upcoming 2009 World Beard and Moustache Championships coming to Anchorage. More than 200 competitors from 12 countries, including Germany and Austria, will compete in the event hosted by the South Central Alaska Beard and Moustache Club.



Sharing experience of scaling Mount Phonkanrazi

Article: A member of mountaineering climbers team

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 Kyaukse 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 Khamtaukmyit 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 Khamtaukmyit Camp at 10 pm. Beginning early morning of 10 May, they went down to 2900 feet high Ziyadam Village from 6918 feet high Khamtaukmyit 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



Stewards and stewardesses of Air Bagan Ltd and staff of Htoo Foundation celebrate success after climbing Mount Phonkanrazi.

returned to Putao along 22 miles long Wahsadam-Upper Hsankhaung-Putao route by passing over Hsangan Peak of Kyaukse 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 at 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 State and enhancement of ecotourism.

Translated: TTA

Kyemon: 24-5-2009

Arsenic in irrigation water is transferred to crops

MADRID, 24 May — from the University of A team of researchers | Valladolid (UVA) and the



Potatoes field in the study area.

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.

Internet

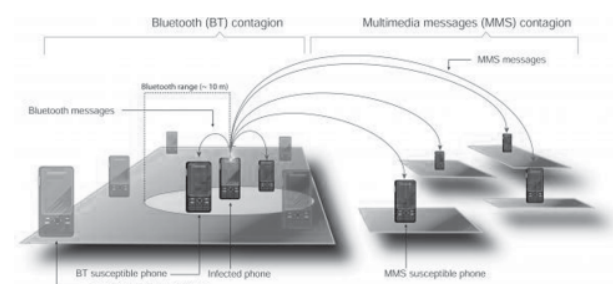
Cell phone viruses pose serious threat

SCIENCE DAILY, 24 May— If you own a computer, chances are you have experienced the aftermath of a nasty virus at some point.

In contrast, there have been no major outbreaks of mobile phone viral infection, despite the fact that over 80 percent of Americans now use these devices.

A team headed by Albert-Laszlo Barabasi, director of the Center for

Complex Network Research at Northeastern University, set out to explain why this is true.—Internet



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.



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 Thiha 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 Degree College (Yangon), he added.

The minister noted



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

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, 24 MA/MSc qualification courses, 16 ME course, 37 BE course and 60 BTech course.

In the 2008-2009 academic year, the Nationalities Youth Resources Development Degree College (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 Phekhon 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 Kayan nationals, 28 Kayin nationals, 11 Chin nationals, one Khumi national, six Khami nationals, two Palaung nationals, eight Pa-O nationals, 24 Mon nationals, one Mron 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



Pa-O national Maung Khaing Zaw Lin of Phekhon.—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

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 acid soils and areas with a 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*.

Internet



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



Time bomb in express train exposed at Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Station

FDB (Forum for Democratic in Burma) masterminding terrorist plots

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.

MNA

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

MNA

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, Papun, Myawady, Kawkaeik, Kyain-seikkyi, Myainggyingu, Thamanya, Thingan Nyinaung, Kyondoe, Kyaikkaw and

Myainggale and performed surgical operations on 602 patients. After checking 2071 patients, they donated spectacles to 1700 patients.

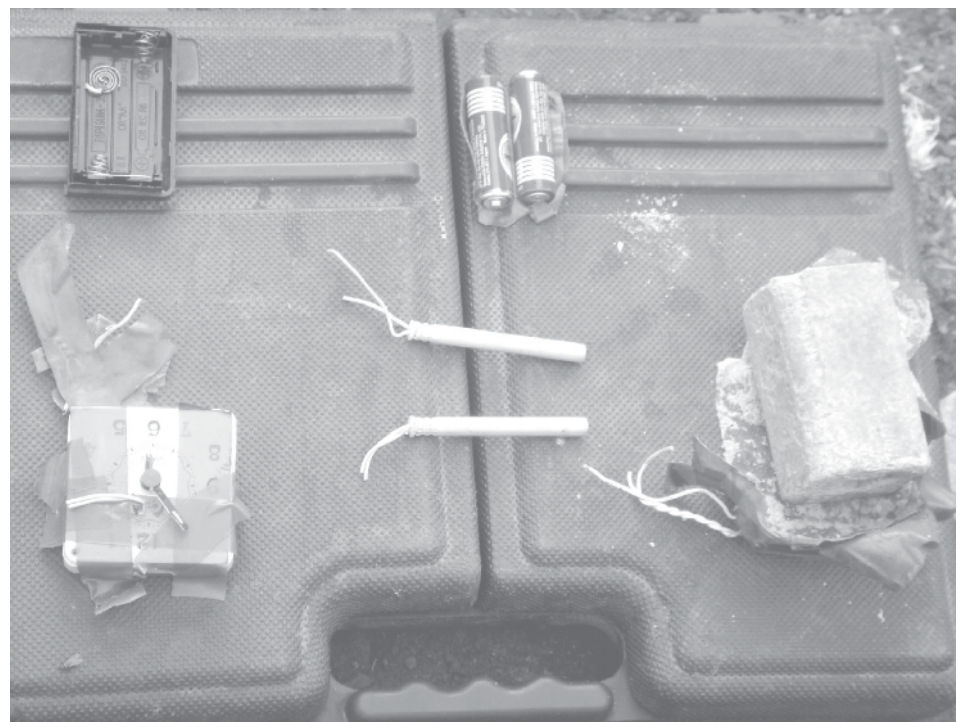
On 22 May, a ceremony to honour those who contributed to the eye care services was held at KanthaU Hall in Hpa-an. Chairman of Kayin State PDC Brig-Gen Zaw Min presented gifts to those who participated in the eye care services. Brig-Gen Zaw Min and Professor U Tin Win spoke words of thanks.

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, townselders and social organizations provided necessary assistance for the eye specialist team.

Kayin State PDC and wellwishers sponsored the eye care services.—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).

(from page 16)

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 flu 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 Yangon and Kandawnadi hospital 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 health care centre for immediate institution of proper medical treatment."

New Influenza A (H1N1) is due to respiratory infection. A (H1N1) virus can spread mainly through the coughs and sneezes of people who are sick with the virus. A person can be infected if he touches the objects contaminated with the virus such as books, currency notes and railings.

"In order to prevent the infection of the disease, we should keep ourselves clean for personal hygiene; we should cover our mouths and noses with a handkerchief when we cough or sneeze; we should

wash our hands thoroughly with soap; we should take enough time to sleep; we should have nutritious foods; we should take regular exercise; we should generate a good ventilation system; we should avoid going to crowded places; we should wear a surgical mask; and we should go to a nearby hospital for some treatment if we have flu-like signs and symptoms," he added.

If a person suffers from flu, he should stay in his home for about 10 days from the day he starts to pick the illness for quick

recovery and averting spread of flu virus to others. Moreover, he 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.

He suggested that in order to avoid being infected with the virus a person should wash his hands thoroughly with soap

be disposed systematically. 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."

Director (Laboratory) of the National Health

If there is a suspicious person with signs of the flu, he will be rushed by a private ambulance to any of the general hospitals in Yangon Division and other states and divisions. Then, he will be diagnosed, and if he is found infected with the flu virus, preventive measures will be taken to prevent



Dr Hla Myint, Head of Yangon Division Health Department.

recovery and averting spread of flu virus to others. Moreover, he 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.

He said, "If a family member is ill with flu, he must stay in a private room. And 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,

every time after touching things, when the working hours are over or in break time, before meeting his family members, when he gets home from outside, after nursing a flu patient, when he takes off his surgical mask, before and after meals, and after using water closet. While wearing a surgical mask, he should not touch it, and he should not put the used surgical mask into his pocket. If the surgical mask is wet, it must be replaced with a new one, and the used surgical masks must

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 department. We have distributed necessary laboratory apparatuses to Waibagi hospital in Yangon, Kandawnadi 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."

spreading to other people, and a team formed with well-trained doctors will give health care to the patient.

"Respective township health departments take the addresses of the visitors who arrive in the nation through international airports, seaports and border gates and keep them under constant surveillance for 10 days from arrival to find out whether they carry the virus. Up to now, we have not found any suspicious person," said Dr Hla Myint.

Thanks to the directives of the government, the hard work of the Ministry of Health and the participation of social organizations, Myanmar has not seen any New Influenza A (H1N1) cases.

Translation: MS
Myanma Alin: 24-5-2009



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



Surveillance tasks are being carried out in Yangon International Airport to prevent spread of A (H1N1) to Myanmar.



Turkey lest 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 Gul 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



In this 20 May, 2009 photo Tustin Mains, 6, is seen, in North Platte, Neb. Police say Tustin Mains, grabbed the wheel of his family's pickup truck on 17 May, 2009, when his father passed out from low blood sugar, keeping the vehicle from crashing until an officer could bring it to a halt. The kindergartner steered the truck several blocks, even turning around when he entered a neighbourhood he didn't recognize, until he was spotted by police.

INTERNET

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 problem is that it's the only plated metal coating that has all of these properties—hardness, long-lasting shine and corrosion protection."—Internet



An Indian security official stands in front of the engine of a Boeing 777 aircraft in Hyderabad.

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.

INTERNET

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 Nuri 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 Iraqi integrity commission and election agencies aiming at promoting Press freedom and democracy in Iraq. However, the international watchdog Reporters Without Borders listed Iraq as the most dangerous country in the world for journalists and media workers, who have been regularly targeted by militiamen.

MNA/Xinhua



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 Stati, at The Hay Nahda stadium early Sunday, on 24 May, 2009. The concert was part of Rabat's eight days Mawazine music festival, which also included shows by international stars like Kylie Minogue, Alicia Keys and Stevie Wonder.

INTERNET



The photo taken on 22 May, 2009 shows a scene of the music dance "Prosperous Dynasties" staged in Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei Province. Created by the Opera House of Hubei Province, the music dance "Prosperous Dynasties" tells about the historic stories of different prosperous dynasties like Han, Tang and Song in ancient China. —INTERNET

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 kilometres 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 capsizing, 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 Nepal-Unified 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

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 Xiaoquan received three years' imprisonment and his three accomplices received reprieved 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

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 *MiG-31* 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 MK150 tactical UAV and the Searcher MK II medium-range UAV, according to the report.

ing 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 *MiG-31* 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

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, *Xinhua* correspondents 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.

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





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 in-

crease 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



The newly renovated coal burning, US Capitol Power Plant is seen in April 2009 on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC US dependence on fossil fuels and a vulnerable electric grid pose a perilous threat to the country's national security, retired military officers warned on Monday in a report.—INTERNET

Scent of Dragon Boat festival



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.—INTERNET

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 with five-colour perfume bags, leaving a distinct aroma wherever she went. It soon spread to the masses who attached the small bag to their wrists.—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 Ningde 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 Ningde section of the Shenyang-Haikou highway which links northeast Liaoning Province to southern-

most 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.

Internet

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.

Internet

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.

"The action was prompted after a second student from the school, a 15-year-old boy, tested positive last night," Australian Associated Press quoted Andrews as said. "The student is a friend of the 12-year old student who fell ill last week," he said.—Internet



A passenger 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 world wide cases continued to rise.—INTERNET

Cambodia finds three passengers travelling with A/H1N1 virus

PHNOM PENH, 24 May—Cambodian health authorities have found the 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 epidemic 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 "the 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

18 US soldiers with swine flu have left

KUWAIT CITY, 24 May—A Kuwaiti 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 than they were being treated.—Internet

SPORTS



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, 24 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 Guardiola himself was sent off minutes later for protesting. Despite the win though it was not enough to see Osasuna move out of the bottom three. A 90th minute strike from Diego Perotti gave Sevilla a 1-0 win over Deportivo la Coruna which assures the Andalusian side of Champions League football next season.—INTERNET

Palmeiras extend goalkeeper's contract

RIO DE JANEIRO, 24 May—After his game-winning performance last week against Sport 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

Answers to yesterday's Crosswords Puzzle



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. Wolves wasted no time in ensuring they would not trip up at the final hurdle.—INTERNET



Vfl Wolfsburg's team captain Josue (C) and his team mates present the German soccer champion trophy after their German first division Bundesliga soccer match against Werder Bremen in Wolfsburg, on 23 May, 2009. Wolfsburg won their last match 5-1.—INTERNET

Zvonareva out of French Open with injury

PARIS, 24 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, organizers announced on Saturday, a day before the red-clay tournament begins at Roland Garros.

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

BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE

(24-5-2009)

Arsenal	4 - 1	Stoke City
Aston Villa	1 - 0	Newcastle
Blackburn	0 - 0	WBA
Fulham	0 - 2	Everton
Hull City	0 - 1	Man Utd
Liverpool	3 - 1	Tottenham
Manchester City	1 - 0	Bolton
Sunderland	2 - 3	Chelsea
West Ham Utd	2 - 1	Middlesbrough
Wigan Athletic	1 - 0	Portsmouth

Bordeaux edges close to French title

PARIS, 24 May—Girondins Bordeaux moved closer to the Ligue 1 title on Saturday after secured 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 Rennes 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.

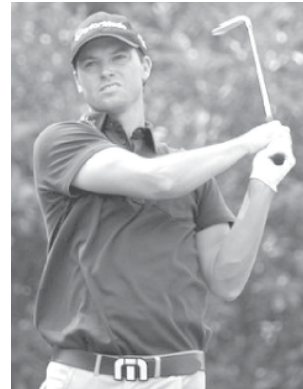
According to local reports, Nadal went down 7-5 to Argentinean Brian Dabul in a one-set exhibition match on the eve of the tournament. With six Grand Slam singles titles to his name, Nadal, the 22 years old from Spain, has never lost an official match at the French Open. He faces qualifier Marcos Daniel of Brazil in the first round. The French Open starts on May 24 at Roland Garros, Paris.—INTERNET

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



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, estimated to value some 14 million US dollars on the black market, were likely to be destined to the United States, 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



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

MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (25.5.2009) (Monday)

Transmissions	Times
Local	- (09:00am ~ 10:00am) MST
Europe	- (15:30pm ~ 23:30pm) MST
North America	- (23:30pm ~ 07:30am) MST

Local Transmission

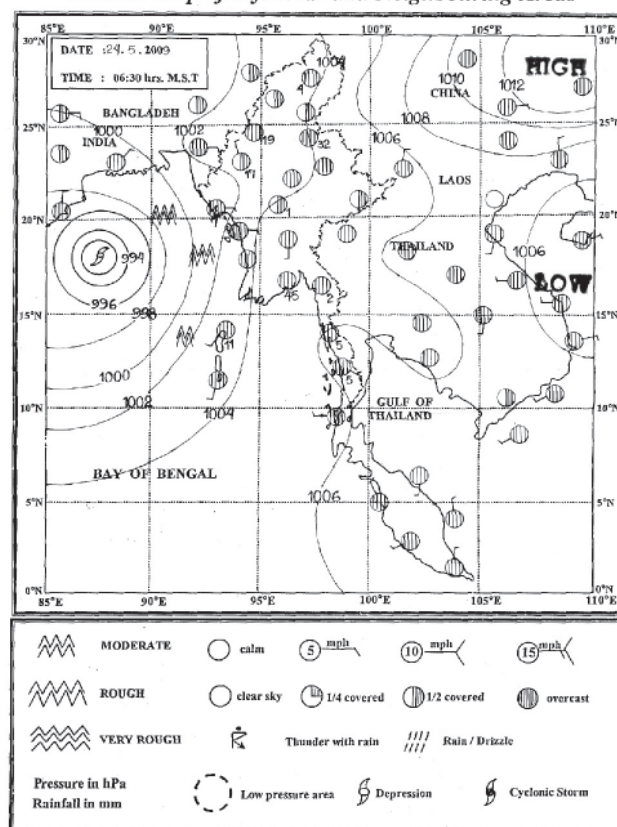
- * Signature Tune
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- * Inside Keng Tong
- * A Wonderful Trip to Ngwe Hsaung
- * Beautiful Tanintharyi
- * Traditional Matrimony of Ra Wan Nationals
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Europe/ North America Transmission

- * Signature Tune
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- * Arts of Myanmar Traditional Tapestry
- * Strive together for Harmonious Development across the Nation
- * Traditions and Customs of Inlay Thingyan
- * Flying over Mrauk-U
- * Panning Gold in Thabeikkyin Township
- * Sculpturing Contest
- * Myanmar Traditional Marionette
- * Myanmar Modern Song
- * Inside Keng Tong
- * A Wonderful Trip to Ngwe Hsaung
- * Beautiful Tanintharyi
- * Traditional Matrimony of Ra Wan Nationals
- * Taunggyi; An Environmentally Sustainable City
- * The Beauty of Ingyin Fossils From Chindwin River
- * Uniquely.....Artistic Straw Paintings of Myanmar
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Sunday, 24 May, 2009

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 Ayeyawady Divisions, fairly widespread in Kachin, Chin and Mon States, Taninthayi Division, scattered in Rakhine State, Upper Sagaing and Mandalay 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 (4°C) above May average temperatures in Kachin, Shan and Kayin States, upper Sagaing and Mandalay 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) (2.16) inches Pyapon (1.92) inches, Bhamo (1.77) inches, Moekok (1.65) inches, Yangon (Mingaladon) and Naungcho (1.42) inches each and Homalin (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) hours 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 Kocalutta, (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 Ayeyawady Divisions, fairly widespread in Mon, Kayin States and Taninthayi Divisions, isolated to scattered in the remaining States and Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State, Yangon and Ayeyawady 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%).



Monday, 25 May
View on today

7:00 am

1. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၏ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. Nice and sweet song

7:50 am

5. Cute little dancers

8:05 am

6. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:15 am

7. Musical programme

8:25 am

8. ခင်မွန်ရေလှောင်တံ

8:30 am

9. International News

8:40 am

10. "ကျွမ်းတိုင်းမကြမ်းနဲ့"

(လျှမ်းထက်၊ သတ္တိ
ပြီးမောင်မောင်၊ သင်
နန်းဆရာတော်၊ စုချစ်ဇော်)
(ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဇော်လူထက်)

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:05 pm

2. Dance variety

4:15 pm

3. Song of National Races

4:25 pm

4. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား

4:40 pm

5. တေးဂီတအစီအစဉ်
(မြန်မာ့အသံခေတ်ပေါ်တေးဂီတ
အဖွဲ့ဖျော်ဖြေခန်း)

4:50 pm

6. အဝေးသံတက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး
ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ
တတိယနှစ် (ဗီပွားနေပညာ
အထူးပြု) (ဗီပွားနေပညာ)

5:05 pm

7. Song to uphold National Spirit

5:10 pm

8. "ကျန်ရစ်ခဲ့သောခြင်ထောင်လေး
တစ်လုံး"
(ဖိုးသောကြာ၊ အိုင်းရစ်လေပြေဦး၊
ဒေါ်ခင်လေးဆွေ)
(ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဆွေဇင်ထိုက်)

5:20 pm

9. Musical programme

5:30 pm

10. စူပါတေးသံရှင်ရွှေချယ်ပွဲ
(အပိုင်း-၄)

6:00 pm

11. Evening news

6:30 pm

12. Weather report

6:35 pm

13. Sing & Enjoy

7:15 pm

14. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ
"သမက်အလိုရှိသည်"
(အပိုင်း-၇)

8:00 pm

15. News

16. International news

17. Weather report

18. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ
"ချစ်သူသံစဉ်"
(အပိုင်း-၁၈)



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. Whatsoever 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

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

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

(See page 10)



An emergency ambulance is standing by at Yangon International Airport.

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 Kolkatta 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 Myanma 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 Maungtau coast leave the area in next 36 hours from the observation time.—MNA

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall

Yangon (Central)	2.52 inches
Yangon (KabaAye)	2.16 inches
Pyapon	1.92 inches
Bhamo	1.77 inches
Mogok	1.65 inches
Yangon (Mingaladon)	1.42 inches
Nawngkhio	1.42 inches
Homalin	0.99 inch

