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Monday, 5 May, 2008

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

Relief measures taken in Nargis-hit areas

NAY PYI TAW, 4 May — There were losses, damages and casualties in some places of Yangon Division, Ayeyawady Division, Bago Division, Mon State and Kayin State that were hit by the severe

cyclonic storm (Nargis).

The National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee led by Prime Minister General Thein Sein held a meeting yesterday morning and left here for Yangon to pro-

vide relief aids.

At present, members of NDPCC led by Prime Minister General Thein Sein are supervising the tasks for clearing the debris, restoration of power and water supply, communications and

transport, reopening of motor roads and rail roads and relief measures in Yangon Division and other states and divisions.

Likewise, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein of the Min-

istry of Defence together with the Prime Minister are supervising the relief measures in Yangon Division by helicopter.

In the meantime, Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, Com-

mander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, members of NDPCC Ministers Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, (See page 8)



Prime Minister General Thein Sein surveys the damage caused by the cyclonic storm Nargis. — MNA

Government of the Union of Myanmar issues Announcement No 1/2008

NAY PYI TAW, 4 May — The Government of the Union of Myanmar today issued Announcement No 1/2008. The following is the full text of the announcement.

Government of the Union of Myanmar

Announcement No 1/2008

14th Waning Day of Oo Tagu 1370 ME
(4 May 2008)

1. The Government of the Union of Myanmar is much surprised by the Security Council Presidential Statement on 2 May 2008 even though the situation in Myanmar does not threaten regional as well as international peace and security.
2. The Government of Myanmar has announced that a referendum for the draft constitution will be held on 10 May 2008 and that multi-party democracy general election will be held in 2010 in accordance with a new constitution. The referendum is going to take place in a few days time and the entire people of the country are eagerly looking forward to that.
3. Myanmar is a sovereign Member State of the United Nations. The referendum to approve the draft constitution is a matter to be decided solely by the people. Moreover, the holding of a referendum is a matter which falls within the domestic jurisdiction. The draft constitution can be adopted and transition to democracy can be materialized through the holding of such referendum.
4. The Government of Myanmar will continue to implement together with the people the seven-step Road Map which has been welcomed by countries of the world including neighbouring countries and ASEAN countries.

By Order,

(Signed) Thant Shin
(Colonel)

Secretary

Government of the Union of Myanmar

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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 5 May, 2008

Work in accordance with announcements to prevent against loss of crops

Nargis brought a lot of rain to various parts of Myanmar a few days ago.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has issued a number of announcements for farmers in enabling them to continue their work smoothly.

The announcements reminded farmers to convey their grain to shelter in time and to sun-dry their produce as soon as the rain stopped and to use machines in winnowing and drying paddy.

The ministry also announced proper ways for farmers growing summer sesame to nurture, harvest and store their crop.

The announcements suggested farmers cultivating beans and pulses to dig drainages in their fields and to conduct land preparation work in time.

Farmers are urged to take pest preventive measures and to contact the branches of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and division, district and township agriculture coordination committees soonest.

Hence farmers will have to strive in accord with the announcements the respective departments have been issuing in time to prevent against loss of crops due to the cyclone.

Motor vehicles running on the crossroad of Sule Pagoda Road and Anawrahta Road in Yangon.—MNA



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

Cyclone Nargis weakens
No severe strong wind and another storm in Yangon and neighbouring areas



Members of the Tatmadaw, MPF, social organizations and YCDC staff remove the fallen trees.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 4 May —Cyclone Nargis struck in Myanmar from 2 to 3 May continued to move north eastwards and it gradually weakened.

During the storm there were damages and losses in Shwelinban industrial zone and industrial zone section 5. Trees fell down and the roofs of some buildings were thrown away in some areas.

Hostels for nurses and doctors, out patient ward, cardiac ward and Urosurgical unit and cancer unit of Yangon

General Hospital in Latha Township were destroyed. An ambulance and a private car were destroyed by the fallen trees and the roofs.

In Lanmadaw Township, the roofs of Winthaza Shop the west part of the gym, one warehouse of Township Cooperatives Society and the labour office on the top floor of Nyaungbinlay Market were also destroyed by the severe storm.

In Insein Township, the roofs of three housing quarters for staff in Taungthugon Ward were thrown away. Seventy per cent of the trees fell down

in other townships in Yangon Division.

In Bago, Thanatpin, Kawa and Waw Townships in Bago Division, telephone lines and lamp-posts fell down. There were some destruction but there was no injury.

In Ayeyawady Division, the wall of the building in golf course in Patheingyi, the archway and the compound wall of Patheingyi University and a private car were destroyed.

In Ngaputaw Township, the roofs of Zay and Myoma bridges, the main hall of Ngaputaw Basic Education High School

were collapsed. The township gym, fisheries department office, two housing quarters, some lamp-posts and some buildings in Shwemyintin Pagoda compound and some houses were destroyed.

Three houses in Thabon and three houses in Chaungzon Township, Mon State and telephone lines and some lamp-posts in Pha-an Township in Kayah State were destroyed.

Relief camps were opened for the victims and necessary arrangements are being made for resettlement.

MNA



Damaged wharf at Botahtaung jetty.—MNA



A man carries a child who was wounded during an air strike into a hospital in Baghdad's Sadr City on 1 May, 2008. —INTERNET

Palestinian newspaper in Gaza appears again

GAZA, 4 May—A three-month ban in the Gaza Strip of a Palestinian newspaper critical of a Hamas leader expired on Wednesday and authorities said it was free to publish in the territory again.

“Al-Ayyam can resume distribution from tomorrow,” said Hassan Abu Hasheesh, Deputy Information Minister in the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip.

“We have told (the newspaper) it needs to respect Palestinian law and work in accordance with the standards of neutrality and professionalism.”

Gaza distribution of the newspaper, which is printed in the occupied West Bank, was halted by court order after Hamas authorities took issue with what they said was defamation by Al-Ayyam of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh.— MNA/Reuters

Ten US diplomats ordered to leave Belarus

MINSK, 4 May—Ten US diplomats were ordered to leave Belarus within 72 hours on Wednesday, intensifying a row over sanctions and human rights.

US Charge d’Affaires Jonathan Moore, speaking to reporters after being summoned to the Foreign Ministry, said the embassy would abide by orders from the ex-Soviet state’s authorities.

Belarussian President Alexander Lukashenko, in power since 1994, has long been accused of crushing freedom of speech and assembly. He has been barred from both the United States and European Union on allegations he rigged his 2006 re-election. Moore said he believed new sanctions would be introduced if Belarus did not release all detainees deemed to be political prisoners. “Yes. I believe it will be soon,” he said.

Belarussian authorities said Washington had failed to comply with a demand to reduce its embassy's staff, the second this year.

“The Foreign Ministry provided a list of 10 diplomats which must leave the country in the course of 72 hours,” Moore said. He said 15 diplomats were now in Minsk.

“We will do everything possible so that the US diplomats leave the country within the required time limit.” Belarus’s Foreign Ministry earlier said it had issued a list of US diplomats it said had to leave over Washington's failure to cut staff at its embassy.— MNA/Reuters

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Boats collide in Sydney Harbour, five dead

SYDNEY, 4 May—Five people were killed and nine injured early on Thursday when two boats collided in Sydney Harbour, police said.

A small cruiser with 14 on board, almost twice its legal capacity, and a fishing trawler heading out to sea, collided near Bradley’s Head at about 2:40 am (1640 GMT on

Wednesday).

“One was heading out to sea and one was coming in. The trawler was heading out to sea. The small boat was out on a social activity,” a police spokesman told a news conference.

Passers-by helped those in the water to reach shore and rescue boats and helicopters rescued

survivors within an hour.

“It was pitch black, it was quite cool, we did have a helicopter which had been deployed to the scene to assist and manage the patients,” an ambulance official said.

“At that early stage, it was extremely difficult case in trying to determine how many patients we did have.” —MNA/Reuters



A man on a New South Wales state government maritime vessel retrieves a piece of debris from the water near the scene of a collision between two boats on Sydney Harbour on 1 May, 2008. —XINHUA

US foreign intelligence wiretaps rose in 2007

WASHINGTON, 4 May—Wiretaps approved by a secret US court overseeing foreign intelligence rose last year, even as Congress was debating a Bush Administration request for more authority to fight terrorism.

The Justice Department said on Wednesday that government applications to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court for wiretap approval rose to 2,371 in 2007, from 2,176

a year earlier.

The court’s approval is required to intercept a call involving an American or calls routed through the United States. It was the fifth annual increase in wiretap approvals since the 11 September attacks in 2001 spurred President George W Bush’s Administration to incorporate foreign intelligence wiretaps into its strategy to fight global terrorism.

Civil liberties groups and

other opponents, angered by a secret warrantless domestic wiretapping programme have urged sharp restrictions and oversight of the wiretaps.

The latest figures were released as the Justice Department announced it was reorganizing its national security division, which represents the government before the secret court, to cope with the increased workload and staff.—MNA/Reuters



Security personnel place warning cones in front of the closed gates at the entrance to the Port of Los Angeles on 1 May, 2008. —INTERNET

US West Coast ports on strike over Iraq war

SAN FRANCISCO, 4 May — About 10,000 longshore workers that handle cargo along the West Coast of the United States stayed away from work on Thursday in a one-day protest against the war in Iraq, union officials said on Thursday.

The International Longshore and Warehouse Union reported that traffic had virtually come to a halt across the regions' ports including the largest, the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. Oakland, Seattle and other ports along the coast between

the Canadian and Mexican borders were also affected.

Union officials say many of the big shipping companies are profiting off the war. "It's supposed to be quiet," said union spokesman Craig Merrilees. "When people don't go to work the docks are quiet." —MNA/Reuters



An Afghan girl takes water from canal in front of her house as Coalition forces search for Taliban fighters in the village of Siah Choy west of Kandahar in Zhari district early 1 May, 2008.—INTERNET

Putin promises Iran continuity in relations

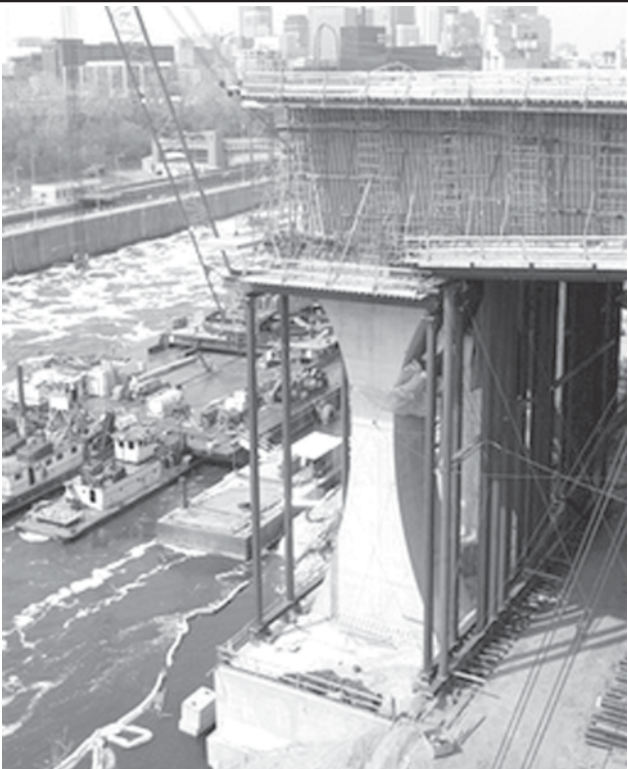
Moscow, 4 May — President Vladimir Putin has assured his Iranian counterpart there will be continuity in Russia’s relations with Teheran, *RIA* news agency quoted a senior Russian official as saying on Wednesday. The official delivered the message in Teheran a few days before world powers, including Russia, are expected to meet in London on Friday to discuss Iran’s disputed nuclear plans. Russia says there is no

evidence that Iran is trying to make bombs but has pushed it to be more open about its nuclear work. “An oral message from Russian President Vladimir Putin was conveyed to Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad at a meeting,” *RIA* quoted Valentin Sobolev, acting secretary of Russia’s National Security Council, as saying in the Iranian capital. “The substance of it is that Russia confirms the principles of mutual

relations (with Iran) and her policy will not depend on who is in power,” he said. Putin’s successor Dmitry Medvedev will be sworn in as president next month. Sobolev, who heads a high-level Russian delegation visiting Teheran for discussions on Iran’s nuclear programme, had talks with Ahmadinejad on Wednesday and said the Iranian President had sent his greetings to both Putin and Medvedev. *MNA/Reuters*

Iran complains to UN about Clinton comment

UNITED NATIONS, 4 May— Iran complained to the United Nations on Wednesday about US presidential candidate Hillary Clinton’s comment the United States could “totally obliterate” Iran in retaliation for a nuclear strike against Israel. Iran’s Deputy Ambassador to the United Nations sent a letter to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the president of the Security Council expressing Iran’s condemnation of “such a provocative, unwarranted and irresponsible statement”. Clinton made the remarks last week while campaigning for the Democratic presidential nomination. The New York Senator said she wanted to make clear to Teheran what she was prepared to do if she becomes president in the hope that this warning would deter any Iranian nuclear attack against the Jewish state. “I want the Iranians to know that if I’m the president, we will attack Iran (if it attacks Israel),” Clinton said in an interview on ABC’s “Good Morning America”. “In the next 10 years, during which they might foolishly consider launching an attack on Israel, we would be able to totally obliterate them,” she said. *MNA/Reuters*



The Minneapolis skyline rises in the background as construction continues on the new Interstate 35 W bridge over the Mississippi River on 1 May, 2008, nine months to the day after the 1 Aug, 2007 collapse of the old bridge which claimed 13 lives and injured more than 100 others.—INTERNET

Brown admits mistakes over 10% tax band

LONDON, 4 May — Prime Minister Gordon Brown admitted making mistakes over the abolition of the 10-per-cent tax rate in a radio interview on Wednesday. The change left five million of the poorest families worse off and sparked a rebellion by Labour backbenchers ahead of local elections across England and Wales on Thursday. Many MPs feared that voters would punish Labour over the issue when they go to the ballot box. The government was forced to promise a number of concessions to ease the impact in order to pacify dissident MPs who

threatened to vote down its key finance bill. “We made two mistakes,” Brown told BBC radio about the tax change, announced last year and in force from this month. “We didn’t cover as well as we should have, that group of low-paid workers and low-income people who don’t get the working tax credit and we weren’t able to help the 60 to 64-year-olds who don’t get the pensioners tax allowance,” he said. —*MNA/Reuters*

Civilians flee Mogadishu following fierce clashes between rebels and Somali troops on April 2008. Ethiopian officials and rebels have said that the United States carried out an air strike in Somalia which killed at least 12 people, including Al-Qaeda’s military leader in the war-torn country. INTERNET

Russia to fly Superjet in first half of May

Moscow, 4 May — Russia’s long-delayed test flight for its first all-new airliner since the fall of the Soviet Union will take place in the first half of May, a source in Russia’s state aircraft holding told *Reuters* on Wednesday. Sukhoi’s *Superjet 100*, the fruit of almost a decade of efforts by Russia’s largest warplane maker, is Moscow’s biggest hope for returning to the global market for jetliners. The first flight was originally planned for late 2007 but then moved to the first months of 2008. “It will be in the first half of May,” the source at United Aviation Corporation said. “The last stage of testing is going on at the moment.” The regional *Superjet* is part of President Vladimir Putin’s bid to revive Russia’s once mighty aviation industry, which collapsed after the fall of the Soviet Union. *MNA/Reuters*

US deaths in Iraq at seven-month high in April

BAGHDAD, 4 May — The death toll for US troops in Iraq reached a seven-month high in April, with the reported deaths of three more soldiers on Wednesday bringing the monthly total to 47, the highest since last September. US and Iraqi forces have been engaged in intense fighting over the past month with Shiite militia fighters in Baghdad’s tightly packed Sadr City slum. US forces said they killed another six fighters overnight in gunfights, tank battles and strikes

from drone aircraft, following heavy fighting on Tuesday in which they killed 34. Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, who launched a crackdown against the Mehdi Army militia a month ago in the southern city of Basra, said on Wednesday the government would disarm the fighters by force if they refuse to lay down their weapons. —*MNA/Reuters*



Israel urged to improve Palestinians' living conditions

AMMAN, 4 May— Jordanian King Abdullah II on Wednesday urged Israeli Prime Minister Olmert to work towards improving the daily living conditions of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

According to a statement released by the Jordanian Palace, Abdullah met with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, who paid a short visit to Jordan as part of

the King's efforts to support the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations.

During the meeting, the King stressed the need for negotiations to lead to an agreement based on the two-state solution before the end of this year, as per commitments made by the parties at the Annapolis conference in November 2007.

The agreement, he added, should address all final status issues and

result in the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

Abdullah added that achieving peace requires advancing negotiations within clear mechanisms and specific timelines.

The statement said Olmert briefed Abdullah on the negotiations with the Palestinian side and expressed appreciation for the King's efforts to ensure progress and achieve peace between the Palestinians and Israelis.

Egypt has been brokering a ceasefire deal between Israel and the Palestinians.—Xinhua

Floodwater covers a neighborhood in the north end of Fredericton, New Brunswick, on 1 May, 2008. Melting snow and heavy rain resulted in the St John River flooding low lying communities throughout the province.—XINHUA



Susilo calls for public energy saving

JAKARTA, 4 May— Amid fears that soaring world oil price will affect the state budget and the country's economy, Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono called on his people to save energy, the *Jakarta Post* daily reported on Thursday.

"I instruct all government institutions to reduce energy consumption such as fuel for office cars, and electricity," Yudhoyono said in a speech televised nationwide Wednesday night.

He also expected entertainment clubs, shopping malls and individuals to follow suit.

Oil price has skyrocketed to 120 US dollars per barrel, causing fears that it would increase fuel subsidy in the state budget.—Xinhua

"Bollywood Oscars" to be unveiled in Bangkok

BANGKOK, 4 May — The International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards, a Bollywood version of Oscars and an annual event since 2000 aimed to promote India films worldwide, will be unveiled in June in Bangkok, organizers announced at a news conference Wednesday here.

The IIFA Awards on 8 June are a part of the IIFA Weekend to take place in Bangkok 6-8 June this year.

Xinhua

Scientists discover secret of saline-tolerant wheat

BERLIN, 4 May — German scientists said Wednesday they have discovered the secrets of saline tolerance in wheat.

The Technical University of Munich said the team led by Professor Urs Schmidhalter had identified the features in certain organs of the wheat plant and at its various stages of growth, according to German news agency DPA.

The discovery thus holds out the promise that new varieties of wheat can be bred to grow in salty desert soils.

Schmidhalter was quoted as saying that the upper two leaves of a salt-tolerant wheat plant had a different sort of surface and different concentrations of sodium and calcium from normal wheat plants.—Xinhua

China sees mobile phone production growth slow in Q1

BEIJING, 4 May—China witnessed a significant slowdown in mobile phone production in the first quarter of this year, as a result of the ongoing upgrading of product build-up.

The Ministry of Industry and Information said on Tuesday that between January and March, 141.29 million mobile phones were produced, a growth of 6.7 per cent on the same period of last year. But the growth rate was 27.8 percentage points lower than the year-earlier level.—Xinhua



A vehicle drives on the world's longest cross-sea bridge, Hangzhou Bay Bridge, in Haiyan, east China's Zhejiang Province, on 1 May, 2008. The 36-kilometer bridge spanning the Hangzhou Bay was opened to traffic on a trial basis Thursday.—XINHUA

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Singapore has ability to buffer from US recession

SINGAPORE, 4 May— Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said Wednesday that his country still expects to grow by 4-6 per cent this year but must be prepared for the US recession.

Delivering his May Day Message, Lee said, "we must watch closely how the situation in the United States unfolds, and

be ready to respond if things take a turn for the worse. We have the resources and the ability to do so".

The country is strengthening ties with the vibrant Asian economies and tapping new areas of growth, Lee said, adding that "Industries like tourism, construction and marine engineering continue to do well, and will buffer us from the effects of a US recession".

He noted that the first priority is to keep the economy competitive and growing, which means

continually upgrading and diversifying the economy, making it more resilient to external shocks.

And with continued growth this year, Singapore's labour market will remain tight, "the vast majority of workers with useful skills and qualifications will have no difficulties getting a job".

Lee said another major issue is the rising cost of living. Singapore is affected by higher global inflation, and its inflation rate hit a 26-year high of 6.6 per cent in March.

Xinhua



An injured Palestinian boy awaits treatment at the Rafah hospital in southern Gaza Strip on 30 April, 2008. One Palestinian was killed and three others wounded on Wednesday afternoon during an Israeli airstrike on a metal workshop in southern Gaza Strip, Palestinian medics and witnesses said.—XINHUA

Iran dumps US dollars in oil transactions

TEHERAN, 4 May — Iran had totally removed US dollars in the country's oil transactions, an Oil Ministry official said on Wednesday.

"The dollar has completely been removed from our oil trade.... Crude oil customers have agreed with us to use other currencies (in the trade)," Oil Ministry official Hojjatollah Ghanimifard was quoted as saying by the state television.

"We make our transactions with euros in Europe, but yen in Asia," he added.

Due to the tensions with Washington in the past years over the nuclear

disputes and the latest depreciation of dollars, Iran has vowed to decrease the greenback in its foreign trade. Iran Central Bank also has reduced dollars in the country's foreign reserves.

In last November's summit of the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Saudi Arabia, Iran proposed that it was necessary to replace the US dollar with other major hard currencies in oil trading.

But some Arab allies of the United States showed few support to Teheran's advice.

MNA/Xinhua

The Tokyo skyline. Japanese financial institutions together lost more than 14.4 billion US dollars in the year to March because of the US subprime mortgage crisis, a report said.—INTERNET



A Chinese construction in Shanghai. Australian iron ore miner Murchison Metals denied it was in takeover talks with Sinosteel Thursday amid market rumours it was the next resources firm on the Chinese state-owned giant's shopping list.—INTERNET

Japan evacuates hundreds after latest gas suicide

TOKYO, 4 May— Hundreds of people were evacuated from their homes in northern Japan on Thursday over fears about hydrogen sulphide gas produced by a man who used it to commit suicide, the latest in a series of such cases.

A family member called emergency services after finding a 24-year-old man collapsed at his home in the city of Otaru in the northern island of Hokkaido in the early hours of the morning, local police said. He taken to hospital but later declared dead.

The man's 58-year-old mother was also taken to hospital suffering from the effects of the gas, the police spokesman said.

Television showed about 350 people being evacuated in the dark from

their homes in the area to the grounds of a local primary school. They were allowed to return home later.

Suicides by hydrogen sulphide, which can be made from household detergent, are a growing problem in Japan. At least 40 cases have been reported this year, public broadcaster NHK said last month, citing the Japan Suicide Prevention Association.

Japan has the second-highest suicide rate in the Group of Eight nations after Russia, according to the World Health Organization.

The annual number of suicides has been above 30,000 for nine years in a row, police figures showed last year.

MNA/Reuters



Some 170 kilos of heroin seized in N-W Turkey

ANAKARA, 4 May — Turkish police seized 170 kilos of heroin in a truck in northwestern Turkey on Thursday, the semi-official *Anatolia* news agency reported.

The anti-drug team stopped a truck near Korfez town in northwestern province of

Kocaeli. The sniff dogs found the heroin hidden in the vehicle, said the report, adding that the driver of the truck was detained.

Turkey is a key transit route for smuggling drugs from Asia and the Middle East to Western European markets.

According to Turkey's security department, security forces have seized a total of four tons of heroin, 22 tons of hashish and 710 kilos of cocaine from rebellious groups during their operations against illegal trafficking from 1983 to 2007.

MNA/Xinhua

Four US soldiers killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 4 May— The US military said on Thursday that four of its soldiers were killed on Wednesday in bomb attacks across Iraq, bringing the number of US soldiers killed in April to 50. Two soldiers assigned to Multi-national Division-Baghdad were killed

when a roadside bomb hit their patrol at about 4:15 p.m. (1330 GMT) in southern Baghdad, a military statement said.

A third soldier assigned to the same unit died as a result of wounds sustained from a roadside bomb explosion during a foot patrol in northern

Baghdad last night, another statement said.

A fourth soldier assigned to Multi-national Division-North was killed due to an explosion took place near his patrol in an area in the Nineveh Province in north of Baghdad, the military said.

MNA/Xinhua

Up to 1,073 Iraqis killed in April

BAGHDAD, 4 May— The death toll of Iraqis across the country climbed to 1,073 people mostly by fierce clashes between Sadr's followers and US-backed Iraqi security forces, a security source said on Thursday.

Figures compiled by Iraqi Interior, Defence and Health ministries, showed that 966 civilians and 107 security members were killed nationwide, the source told *Xinhua* on condition of

anonymity.

April's death toll roughly lower than in March which showed 1,082 Iraqis killed, compared with a total of 721 killed in February.

Most of the deaths were recorded in fierce clashes between Shiite militiamen loyal to radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr and US-backed Iraqi security forces which broke out in late March and continued in April.—MNA/Xinhua

Nepal bans food export

KATHMANDU, 4 May— The Nepali Government has decided to impose a ban on export of paddy, rice and wheat to combat the looming food crisis and to maintain stock of essential foods, *The Kathmandu Post* reported on Thursday.

According to the daily, the decision, effective from Wednesday, came in a bid to tame rising prices and maintain adequate food stocks in the domestic market in the backdrop of skyrocketing food prices and export of wheat to Bangladesh from Nepal.

India has already imposed ban on export of rice, paddy and wheat from last year responding to the rising food deficit in the country.

MNA/Xinhua

Jake Gilbert, a production assistant at Warner Bros. pays a lower cash price of \$3.83 for regular unleaded gasoline at a Shell gas station on 1 May, 2008 in Burbank, Calif. Rising food costs, soaring energy prices and falling employment have pushed consumer confidence to its lowest levels in five years.

INTERNET



Two Ministers provide cash and kind to storm victims of Mawlamyinegyun

YANGON, 4 May — Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, accompanied by officials, left here this afternoon by Tatmadaw helicopter and arrived in Mawlamyinegyun, Ayeyawady Division at 4 pm.

Next, they proceeded to the

Township USDA Office where the temporary relief camp for storm victims are being opened and heard a report presented by Chairman of the Township Peace and Development Council U Aung Kyaw Khine on storm-hit areas, relief measures taken, opening of the relief camp, health care services being provided to injured persons and losses and damages.

After giving necessary instructions, the ministers presented relief

aids, clothings, personal goods, medicines and K 1 million provided by the State for storm victims through the Chairman of the Township PDC and officials.

On arrival at the Township People's Hospital, the ministers and party inquired after the warded storm victims and fulfilled the requirements.

The minister left Mawlamyinegyun by Tatmadaw helicopter and arrived back here at 5.45 pm. —MNA

Roads re-cope with vehicles

YANGON, 4 May—Due to the cyclonic storm (Nargis) that occurred here yesterday, roads in Yangon were blocked with fallen trees, lamp posts and billboards. Under the supervision of the officials concerned, Tatmadawmen, police-

men, fire brigade members, members of social organizations, staff of Yangon City Development Committee and local people are clearing the blocked roads.

Now, small vehicles can run on Strand Road,

Merchant Street, Maha Bandoola Street, Anawrahta Street, Bogyoke Aung San Street, Bayintnaung Street, Yangon-Insein Road, Pyay Road, U Wisaya Road, Ahlon Street, Kaba Aaye Pagoda Road and some side streets.—MNA

Relief aids arrive in Hainggyi

NAY PYI TAW, 4 May — Cyclone Nargis destroyed nearly 20,000 homes in Hainggyi Island, Ayeyawady Division, on 2 May and left 92,706 persons homeless.

A team led by

Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and Commander of South-West Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe left Patheingyi for Hainggyi this

morning and organized relief works there.

A ship carrying relief aids arrived at the island and has been distributing cloths, medicines and food to local people. — MNA



Yangon returns to normalcy after clearing of debris caused by cyclone Nargis.—MNA



Measures coordinated for normalcy of communication services

YANGON, 4 May—A meeting took place at the overseas communication centre here today to coordinate for repairing communication lines destroyed by the cyclonic storm (NARGIS).

Chairman of the Emergency Communication Subcommittee of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Minister for Communications, Posts

and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw in response to the reports by the chief engineers instructed them to launch repairing works as soon as possible for convenience of the people. He inspected Toegyaukalay ground satellite station and attended to the needs for internal and external communications links to return to normalcy. General Manager of Myanma Posts and

Telecommunications inspected the International Underground Cables Station in Pyapon and fulfilled the requirements.

Despite the storm, there was no damage to communication machines. Some trunk call lines were cut off and communication was temporarily unavailable in some places. Officials concerned are now repairing the damaged lines.—MNA



Heavy machinery at work to clear fallen trees.

MNA



Tatmadaw and MPF members and local people take part in clearing debris.—MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects the damage caused by the cyclonic storm in Yangon Division.—MNA

Relief measures taken in Nargis-hit areas

(from page 1)

Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Maj-Gen Aung Kyi, Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Col Zaw Min, Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Myint Thein, Brig-Gen Phone Swe and Dr Mya Oo made a field trip for supervising the relief measures.

Similarly, Tatmadaw members under No 11 LID and No 77 LID,

members of Myanmar Police Force, Tatmadaw members under Yangon Command, members of USDAs in Yangon Division, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Red Cross, Fire Brigade and War Veterans Organization were participating in the tasks.

Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Adjutant-

General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Commander Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe, members of NDPCC Ministers Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Brig-Gen Thein Aung and Col Thein Nyunt also made a field trip in Ayeyawady Division for supervising the reconstruction and relief measures, using Tatmadaw aircraft whenever necessary. Also taking part in the clearing and

relief measures were Tatmadaw members under No 66 LID and South-West Command, MPF members, USDA members, Women's Affairs Organization, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Red Cross, Fire Brigade and War Veterans Organization in Ayeyawady Division.

Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko, members of NDPCC Ministers Maj-Gen Aung Min and Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Deputy Ministers Thura U Thaung Lwin and U Ohn Myint made a field trip in Bago Division for the clearing and relief measures in which Tatmadaw members of Southern Command, MPF members, USDA members, Women's Affairs Organization, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Red Cross, Fire Brigade and War Veterans Organization in Bago Division took part.

In Mon State, Maj-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win and members of NDPCC Ministers Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung made a field trip for supervising the clearing and relief measures in which Tatmadawmen of South-East Command, MPF members, USDA members, Women's Affairs Organization, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Red Cross, Fire Brigade and War Veterans Organization in Mon



Members of the Tatmadaw, MPF, social organizations and YCDC staff remove the fallen tree.—MNA



Motor vehicles running in front of Bogyoke Aung San Market.

MNA



Members of the Tatmadaw, MPF, social organizations and YCDC staff remove the fallen trees.—MNA

State took part.

According to the information so far received, there were 19 dead—8 men and 11 women—in Yangon Division and 222 dead in Ayeyawady Division—

117 in Maw-lamyinegyun Township, 32 in Khatta Island, Ahma Township, 17 in Thaunggyidan Village, 2 in Einme Township, 1 in Labutta Township and 53 in Hainggyi Island.—MNA

Z-crafts of IWT resumed

NAY PYI TAW, 4 May—The Pansodan-Dalla ferry line of the Inland Water Transport that was temporarily closed due to the storm "Nargis" was resumed at 10 am, and Lanmadaw-Hsapachaung and Lanmadaw-Seikkyi Khanaungto ferry line, at 11 am today.

However, the Z-crafts cannot be plied yet as many runs as they should due to the damage to the wharfs. Plans are under way for the Z-crafts to meet the usual number of runs.

NMA



Motor vehicles running in the centre of Yangon.—MNA

Storm news

NAY PYI TAW, 4 May—The Meteorology and Hydrology Department today announced that according to the observations conducted at 9.30 Myanmar Standard Time today, the storm “Nargis” that existed as a small land storm in the northeast of

Yangon yesterday evening moved to the northeastward. Now, it is getting weaker and has entered the northern part of Thailand.

The forecasts of the meteorology and hydrology camps show that weather conditions are observed to be improving

at observatory of Myanmar, and the pressure, the cause of the storm, is getting high. So, the storm “Nargis” is no longer centered in Myanmar and it is impossible that it can re-enter Myanmar and there will be an aftershock storm soon.—MNA

Death toll after storm Nargis

NAY PYI TAW, 4 May—According to the data and figures collected at 5 pm today, the cyclonic

storm ‘Nargis’ that hit Yangon, Ayeyawady and Bago divisions and Mon and Kayin States on 2 May

left 109 people dead in Haigyikyun Township, one in Nyaungdon Township.—MNA



Tatmadaw and MPF members remove fallen trees.—MNA



YCDC staff remove fallen trees.—MNA

Commander provides victims in disaster-hit areas with food and medical supplies

YANGON, 4 May – A coordination meeting on relief and resettlement in natural disaster-hit regions in Bago Division was held at development and training centre for irrigation in Bago this morning.

Present were Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko, CEC members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, military and civilian officers, departmental officials, members of social organizations and guests.

First, the commander

delivered a speech.

Chairmen of Township Peace and Development Councils in Bago district reported on the measures taken for the townships and departmental concerned on arrangements for disaster-hit regions and plans to be carried out. The commander fulfilled the requirements.

CEC members of the USDA Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min took part in the discussions.

The commander and party inspected the removal of trees fell down on the roads by the Tatmadaw members, members of Myanmar Police Force, the USDA and social organizations.

In the afternoon, the

commander, his wife, the minister and party visited the relief camps opened in Datkhinathakha Monastery in Bago and Basic Education High School in Thanatpin Townships and provided the victims with personal goods, food and medicines.

They also went to the relief camp in Mingala KandawU Pariyatti Sarthintaik in Kawa and paid obeisance to the Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw and provided the victims with personal goods, food and medicines.

The commander and party provided personal goods, food and medicines to the victims in Ohnhne Village and township hall in Kawa Township.- MNA

External and domestic flights will operate regularly beginning 5 May

YANGON, 4 May—Yangon International Airport temporarily closed on 3 and 4 May as power and electronic communications were cut

due to cyclonic storm Nargis hit in Myanmar.

Aviation communication devices and power cut at the airport and the damage of the

airport terminal have now been repaired. External and domestic flights will operate regularly beginning 5 May.

MNA



Travelling people on the road in Yangon.—MNA



Collective efforts are being made in clearing fallen trees.—MNA



Clearing of debris under way in Myenigon, Yangon.—MNA



Members of a debris-clearing team in action.— MNA



Maha Bandoola Street crowded with cars and people. —MNA

Serbia, Fiat sign memorandum on joint investment

BELGRADE, 4 May — Serbia and Italian carmaker Fiat signed on Wednesday a memorandum of understanding, which envisages strategic cooperation and joint investment to produce new cars in Serbia's state-owned Zastava car plant.

"Fiat has ambitions to start production of a completely new model in

Zastava by 2009," said Serbian Minister of Economy Mladjan Dinkic, who signed the memorandum with Fiat's Vice President Alfredo Altavilla.

Dinkic said the deal envisages an investment by Fiat of up to 700 million euros (some one billion US dollars) in the Zastava plant in Kragujevac, 120

kilometres southeast of Belgrade.

According to the memorandum, Fiat intends to begin manufacturing in Kragujevac by the end of 2009 a completely new model of Class A vehicles, and the envisaged scope of production is 200,000 cars per year.—MNA/Xinhua

Venezuela to renegotiate Dutch investment treaty

CARACAS, 4 May — Venezuela plans to renegotiate a bilateral investment treaty with the Netherlands because oil companies have started "abusing" the agreement, Energy Minister Rafael Ramirez said on Wednesday.

Ramirez said companies ranging from Norway's Statoil to China National Petroleum Company (CNPC) have registered in the Netherlands to take advantage of legislation that provides extensive protection for companies.

"What was created as a mechanism to preserve investment capital has become a shortcut for companies to protect themselves under legislation in the Netherlands that is much more liberal," Ramirez told reporters.—MNA/Reuters

Eight killed when tourist bus catches fire in Egypt

ISMAILIA (Egypt), 4 May — Eight people were killed and 20 injured when a bus carrying Canadian, Italian, Russian and Ukrainian tourists overturned and caught fire in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula on Thursday, police sources said.

The bus was travelling from the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh to the capital Cairo and

overturned on a sharp bend in the road near Ras Sidr, about 50 kilometres (30 miles) south of the city of Suez, they said.

The bodies of the dead were badly burned and no one has yet been able to identify them, they added. The injured are in three hospitals on the west coast of the peninsula and three of them are in serious condition.—MNA/Reuters

Scientists
say
world's
largest
lake
warming
rapidly

NEW YORK, 4 May — Siberia's Lake Baikal has warmed faster than global air temperatures over the past 60 years, which could put animals unique to the world's largest lake in jeopardy, US and Russian scientists said.

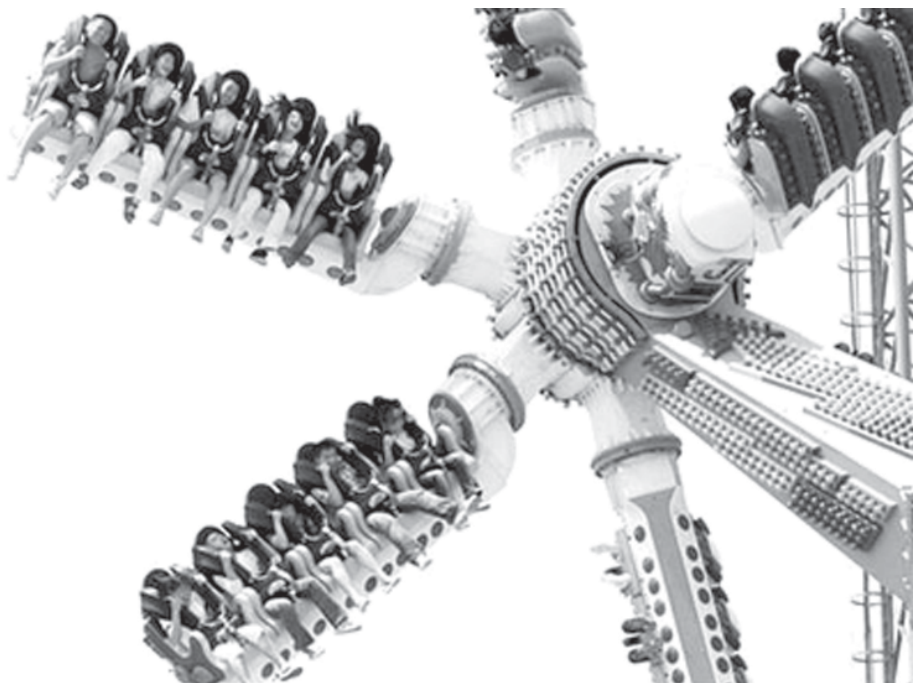
The lake has warmed 1.21 degrees Celsius (2.18 degrees Fahrenheit) since 1946 due to climate change, almost three times faster than global air temperatures, according to a paper by the scientists to be published next month in the journal *Global Change Biology*.

"The whole food web could shift," Marianne Moore, a biology professor at Wellesley College in Massachusetts and one of the authors of the paper, said in an interview. The frigid lake, which holds 20 per cent of the world's freshwater, boasts 2,500 species, most of them found nowhere else, such as the world's only exclusively freshwater seal.

In potentially bad news for that animal, the paper found that the lake's annual days of ice cover had fallen an average of 18 days over the last 100 years and could drop two weeks to two months more by the end of the century.

The findings could foreshadow the vulnerability of smaller lakes to global warming because Baikal's great volume of water had been thought to protect it from rising temperatures, the paper said.

Moore said Baikal's seal, which raises its pups on the ice, could suffer because the animal has several onshore predators. If ice caves the pups are raised in melt, Asian crows could also eat the pups, she said.—MNA/Reuters



In this photo released by the Chinese news agency Xinhua, tourists entertain themselves at the Suzhou Amusement Land in Suzhou, a tourist resort in east China's Jiangsu Province, on 2 May, 2008, the second day of the three-day May Day holidays.—XINHUA



Gymnasts perform at the opening ceremony of the Hong Kong leg of the Olympic Torch Relay on 2 May, 2008.

INTERNET



Kite passion : Animals shaped kites fly over Pornichet beach, western France, during the 17th "Passion-Cerf-Volant" (kite passion) festival.

INTERNET

Images
of
the
Day



In this photo released by the Chinese news agency Xinhua, a parrot slam-dunks during a performance at the Laohutan Ocean Park in Dalian, a port city in northeast China's Liaoning Province, on 2 May, 2008.—XINHUA



Boxer Firat Arslan from Germany, left, and Darnell Wilson of the US pose during the weigh-in for their WBA world championship cruiserweight fight in Stuttgart, on 2 May, 2008. —INTERNET

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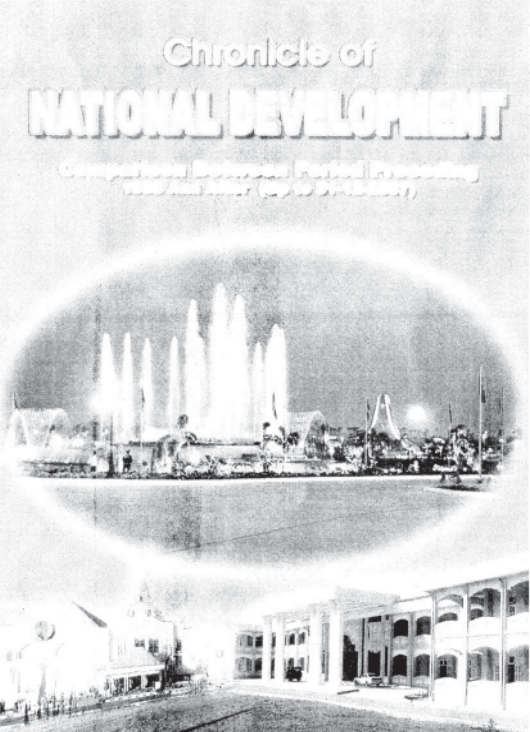
Bush contracting official resigns amid scrutiny

WASHINGTON, 4 May— A Bush Administration official under scrutiny for interfering with federal spending and offering to help Republican candidates has resigned, the General Services Administration said on Wednesday.
Lurita Doan had been under pressure to step down as head of the 12,000-employee agency, which oversees US Government buildings, after an independent investigation last year found she offered to help Republicans get elected, a violation of federal law.
She was also accused of trying to improperly steer a contract to a friend, and renew another contract over the objections of agency officials.
MNA/Reuters

Blast near Italian embassy in Yemen

SANAA, 5 May—An explosion shook an area near the Italian Embassy in the Yemeni capital Sanaa early on Wednesday, but there were no casualties, police said.
The explosion targeted the customs authority, which is adjacent to the Italian Embassy, police said, adding it was not yet clear what type of explosive device was used. Streets around the embassy were cordoned off, witnesses said.—MNA/Reuters

Chronicle of
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
*Comparative Economic and Social Development
Preceding 1988 and After*



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ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရန် ချိပ်ပိတ်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း

စဉ်	ပစ္စည်းအမျိုးအမည်	အရေအတွက်	တင်ဒါခေါ်ရက်	တင်ဒါပိတ်ရက်
1.	Concrete Pole (Ks)	2 Items	2.5.2008	26.5.2008
2.	Electrical Spare Parts (Ks)	29 Items	2.5.2008	26.5.2008
3.	H-Beam & U Channel (Ks)	12 Items	2.5.2008	26.5.2008
4.	Steel Wire Mesh (Ks)	2 Items	2.5.2008	26.5.2008
5.	Carbide Disc (Ks)	6 Nos	2.5.2008	26.5.2008
6.	Refractoriness Under Load Tester(Ks/FE)	1 No	2.5.2008	26.5.2008
7.	Proportioning Car & Shuttle Kiln Accessories (Ks/FE)	1 Lot	2.5.2008	26.5.2008
8.	Electrical & Machinery Equipment For Pottery Plant (Ks/FE)	1 Lot	2.5.2008	26.5.2008
9.	Electrical & Machinery Equipment For Tile Plant(Ks/FE)	1 Lot	2.5.2008	26.5.2008
10.	Die For Tile Plant (Ks/FE)	4 Items	2.5.2008	26.5.2008
11.	Ceramic Roller For Roll Crusher With Shaft & Bearing (Ks/FE)	1 Set	2.5.2008	26.5.2008
12.	Spare Parts For Polishing & Cutting Machine (Ks)	1 Lot	2.5.2008	26.5.2008
13.	Renovation of Over Head Crane (Ks/FE)	1 Lot	2.5.2008	26.5.2008
14.	Renovation of Clinker Transportation System (Ks/FE)	1 Lot	2.5.2008	26.5.2008
15.	Renovation of Kiln Temperature Scanning Sytem (Ks/FE)	1 Lot	2.5.2008	26.5.2008
16.	Renovation of Air Separator(Ks/FE)	1 Lot	2.5.2008	26.5.2008

အမှတ် (၁) စက်မှုဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ မြန်မာ့ကြွေထည်မြေထည်လုပ်ငန်း၊ ရောင်းဝယ်ရေးဌာန၊ ရုံးအမှတ် (၄၁)၊ နေပြည်တော်တွင် ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း ဆက်သွယ်စုံစမ်းပြီး တင်ဒါပုံစံများကို လာရောက်ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။
တင်ဒါပုံစံတရားဝင် ဝယ်ယူမှုအတွက် တင်ဒါကိုသာ လက်ခံပါမည်။
(အသေးစိတ် သိလိုပါက စုံစမ်းရန် တယ်လီဖုန်းအမှတ် ၀၆၇-၄၀၈၂၉၈)
မြန်မာ့ကြွေထည်မြေထည်လုပ်ငန်း

Drive
with
care

Obama hurt by furor over ex pastor

WASHINGTON, 4 May — Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama's loss in the Pennsylvania primary and the political firestorm over his former pastor have cut into his lead over rival Hillary Clinton among Democratic voters, according to polls released on Wednesday.
According to a New York Times/CBS News poll, 51 per cent of Democratic voters now say they expect Obama to win their party's nomination. That's an 18 point-slide from a month ago when 69 per cent said they expected Obama to take

on Republican John McCain in the November presidential election.
The latest survey found that 48 per cent of Democrats believe Obama, an Illinois Senator, has a better chance of beating McCain than Clinton, a New York Senator, versus 56 per cent a month ago.
The poll was conducted Friday through Tuesday, before Obama strongly denounced his former pastor, Reverend Jeremiah Wright, for making racially charged comments that roiled the Illinois Senator's presidential campaign.
MNA/Reuters

Families of E China fire victims to receive \$54,300 each

WENZHOU (Zhejiang), 4 May—Families of the 21 killed in an apartment block fire last December in east China's Wenzhou City will soon each receive 380,000 yuan (about 54,300 US dollars) in compensation by the local government, said local authorities on Monday.
The compensation is promised by Zhu Xiuling, the legal representative of Duoduoxian Flower Company Ltd., accused as a major suspect of the fire.
The fire broke out at about 8:20 am in the flower company on the first floor of the 28-storey Wenfu Mansion building on 12 December, 2007. It spread to upper floors rapidly as the company had no fire controlling facilities.
The fire killed two people in the shop and 19 others on the second floor who were attending their morning exercise class in a ballroom.
However, the amount of money will be temporarily paid by the government of Lucheng District in Wenzhou city, Zhejiang Province, and later be paid by Zhu, said an official with the municipal procuratorate.
Local authorities froze the flower shop owner's bank account soon after the fire, the official said.
MNA/Xinhua

Iraq has most unsolved journalists' murders

UNITED NATIONS, 4 May—Iraq has the worst record for failing to solve murders of journalists but some countries at peace such as the Philippines, Mexico and India also scored poorly, a journalism watchdog said on Wednesday.
There are 79 cases of unsolved murders of journalists in Iraq and most of them had been targeted because of their work, not caught in crossfire, the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) said in a report released at the United Nations.
The CPJ worked out its "Impunity Index" by compiling the number of unsolved journalist murder cases between 1998 and 2007 and dividing it by the size of a country's population.
Iraq became the world's most dangerous country for the Press after the 2003 US-led invasion that overthrew dictator Saddam Hussein and sparked insurgency and sectarian strife, the CPJ said. Most of the victims have been Iraqis.
MNA/Reuters

Ancient wreck off Namibia yields treasure trove

WINDHOEK, 4 May — Namibia's diamond company, Namdeb, said on Wednesday it had discovered a 500-year-old shipwreck containing a treasure trove of coins, ivory, copper and weapons during mining operations at sea.

The company came

across the wreck on 1 April during operations in the Atlantic after finding some copper ingots and the remains of three bronze cannons, company spokesman Hilifa Mbako said.

"The site yielded a wealth of objects including six bronze

cannons, several tons of copper, more than 50 elephant tusks, pewter tableware, navigational instruments, weapons and thousands of Spanish and Portuguese gold coins, minted in the late 1400s and early 1500s," Mbako said.

MNA/Reuters



Archaeology workers hold a Spanish gold coin, three Portuguese silver coins and a pair of brass dividers, discovered near the remains of a 500-year-old shipwreck found during mining operations at sea off Namibia in this handout picture released on 30 April, 2008. —INTERNET

Nordic scientists start trial on nicotine vaccine

STOCKHOLM, 4 May — Nordic scientists have launched a trial on a vaccine designed to help smokers kick the world's deadliest habit by depriving them of one of its chief pleasures, the firm that own the vaccine said on Tuesday.

Independent Pharmaceutica, a private company

based at Stockholm's Karolinska Institute and founded in 1997 by Professor Torgny Svensson, joins a growing line-up of biotech companies seeking to develop an anti-nicotine shot.

Its researchers say the vaccine eliminates the quick high smokers relish by creating antibodies that bind to nicotine molecules, making them too bulky to enter the brain.

Once the high is gone,

the argument goes, so is the main cause of addiction.

In the Phase II study on 400 people in three Nordic countries, researchers will measure the effect of the vaccine on those who have quit smoking and want to avoid relapse.

But they may use it in future to help active smokers quit, according to Independent Pharmaceutica. —MNA/Reuters

Indonesian boy dies of bird flu

JAKARTA, 4 May — A three-year-old boy from Indonesia's main island of Java has died from bird flu, pushing the country's total confirmed human cases to 108, a Health Ministry official said on Tuesday.

Lily Sulisty-owati, the ministry's spokeswoman, said in a statement that the boy from Manyaran Village, Central Java, died on 23 April after suffering from respiratory problems.

MNA/Reuters



World's first cloned horse gives birth in Italy

ROME, 4 May — The world's first cloned horse Prometea has given birth to a foal in Italy's northern city Cremona, Italian news agency ANSA reported on Tuesday.

Italian animal-cloning pioneer Cesare Galli, who created the foal's mother Prometea in 2003, said both parent and child were doing well, according to ANSA.

"The foal is called Pegasus, he was born over a month ago and is grow-

ing well," said Galli. "Prometea is also healthy and is showing no difficulties," he added.

Conceived by artificial insemination, Pegasus was born on March 17 after a natural, trouble-free birth. He was fathered by a stallion named Abendfurst, who is also a Haflinger breed like Prometea.

Galli said he hoped the birth would lay to rest concerns about the health of cloned animals, sparked by the short lifespan of the

Dolly sheep, that died at the age of six.

"Since she was born five years ago, Prometea has turned out to be an absolutely normal animal in excellent health," said Galli, who works at the laboratory for reproduction technology at the Cremona Consortium for Livestock Breeding in northern Italy. So far about 10 horses have been cloned, including Prometea and Pieraz.

MNA/Xinhua



A woman returns to her bicycle after casting her vote during the local elections at Wellington Day Centre in Hounslow, west of London. A high-profile battle for control of London dominated local elections on Thursday seen as a key test for embattled Prime Minister Gordon Brown. —INTERNET

Pendleton County Sheriff Craig Peoples, left, and Deputy Todd Dennie investigate the damaged school bus that collided with a truck near Falmouth, Kentucky, on 1 May, 2008. Several students were injured and one student was killed in the accident.

INTERNET

Tokyo's panda dies; chance for China diplomacy

TOKYO, 4 May — The last giant panda at Tokyo's main zoo has died, raising the question of whether Chinese President Hu Jintao might engage in some panda diplomacy when he visits next week.

Ling Ling, a 22-year-old male giant panda popular among zoo visitors, died overnight at the Ueno Zoo in Tokyo, an official at the zoo said on Wednesday.

An official at Japan's Foreign Ministry said possible panda loans from China had been raised previously through diplomatic channels, as Ling Ling aged.

MNA/Reuters

Volkswagen sees earnings jump

BERLIN, 4 May — German carmaker Volkswagen confirmed on Wednesday that its operating profit rose by 21 per cent to 1.3 billion euros (around two billion US dollars) in the first quarter of the year.

Volkswagen, Europe's biggest carmaker attributed the profit jump to the rise of delivery of new cars across the world.

In the first three months, the grant had delivered 1.57 million vehicles worldwide increased by 7 per cent.

The Wolfsburg-based giant also said its profit after tax climbed by about 26 per cent to 929 million euros (around 1.443 billion US dollars) in the first three months of this year. —MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Ajax beat Heerenveen 2-1

AMSTERDAM, 4 May — Ajax Amsterdam beat Heerenveen 2-1 in the first leg of their semifinal playoff for a Champions League third qualifying round ticket on Thursday. John Heitinga grabbed the winner in the 76th minute to make amends for a defensive blunder that allowed Gerald Sibon to head the equalizer six minutes earlier.

Ajax dominated the match and wasted a number of first-half chances before goalkeeper Maarten Stekelenburg's long punt set up Luis Suarez to open the scoring after an hour.

The second leg is on Monday in Amsterdam.

Twente Enschede beat visitors NAC Breda 3-0 on Tuesday in the other semifinal ahead of the return on Saturday.

PSV Eindhoven have already secured the Dutch berth in the Champions League group stage by winning the league title.

In the UEFA Cup playoff between teams finishing seventh to 10th, Groningen's Yevgeny Levchenko salvaged a 2-2 draw in stoppage time at Utrecht in their semifinal, first leg. — MNA/Reuters

Rijkaard to leave Barca at end of season

MADRID, 4 May — Frank Rijkaard will leave Barcelona at the end of the season, a close colleague of the Dutch coach said on Thursday.

Jil van Eyle, who works with Rijkaard in a fundraising initiative known as 'teaming', said he was looking for another sponsor because of his imminent departure from the club.

"I work for Frank Rijkaard who has given me a lot of time to work on 'teaming' but as Frank will be leaving FC Barcelona in a few weeks my work with him will come to an end," Van Eyle said on his Web page (<http://blog.teaming.info/>) on Thursday. — MNA/Reuters

Zenit crush Bayern 4-0 to reach UEFA Cup final

ST PETERSBURG (Russia), 4 May — Russia striker Pavel Pogrebnyak scored twice as Zenit St Petersburg stunned favourites Bayern Munich 4-0 on Thursday to reach the UEFA Cup final.

Zenit, who won the semifinal tie 5-1 on aggregate against four times European champions Bayern, will meet either Fiorentina or Rangers in the May 14 final at the City of Manchester Stadium in England.

Pogrebnyak, however, will miss the club's first European final through suspension after picking up a yellow card in the second half.

First-half strikes from Pogrebnyak and Konstantin Zyryanov put

FLORENCE (Italy), 4 May — Spaniard Nacho Novo scored the decisive spot-kick as Fiorentina beat Rangers 4-2 on penalties on Thursday to join Zenit St Petersburg in the UEFA Cup final.

Fiorentina's Fabio Liverani and Christian Vieri missed their spot-kicks, which were needed after the semifinal second leg ended 0-0, like the first leg, and stayed goalless after extra time.

Rangers captain Barry Ferguson had his opening penalty saved by Fiorentina keeper Sebastien Frey, but Steven Whittaker, Sasa Papac, Brahim Hemdani and forward Novo made no mistake.

Midfielders Zdravko Kuzmanovic and Riccardo Montolivo converted their spot-kicks for the home side.

Rangers had 65th minute substitute Daniel Cousin sent off for a second yellow in the second period of extra time after he bored his head into Fabio Liverani's temple.

The game followed the same plot as the first leg, with Fiorentina dominating possession but unable to find a way past the dogged defending of an unadventurous opponent. Montolivo had the first shot on target in the 20th minute, but his strike was too central to trouble Rangers keeper Neil Alexander, as was a weak Adrian Mutu effort shortly after.

Rangers win shoot-out to reach UEFA Cup final

The visitors then survived some scares when Alexander fumbled a Massimo Gobbi cross, Papac cleared a dangerous Montolivo ball into the box and Mutu had a sweet strike charged down.

Fiorentina continued to make the running after the break. — MNA/Reuters



Fiorentina's Adrian Mutu (L) jumps for the ball as Ranger's Brahim Hemdani watches during their UEFA Cup semi-final, second-leg soccer match in Florence on 1 May, 2008. —INTERNET

America coach Romano quits after 10 weeks

MEXICO CITY, 4 May — America's crisis took another twist when Ruben Omar Romano became the second coach this year to leave the club, resigning after Wednesday night's 4-2 home defeat by Flamengo in the Libertadores Cup. "I just want to tell you that I'm stepping aside, this was our last dream and I think it's more sensible if I leave and somebody else comes in to reverse the situation," the Argentine told reporters after the third round, first leg game.

"We gave it our best shot, there's no hard feelings but things didn't work out." Romano had replaced his compatriot Daniel Brailovsky, who was fired in February after taking over the previous October. — MNA/Reuters

Nadal makes it 100 out of 101 on clay with Lopez win

BARCELONA, 4 May — Rafael Nadal took his remarkable record to 100 wins in his last 101 matches on clay by beating fellow Spaniard Feliciano Lopez 6-4, 6-3 on Thursday to reach the Barcelona Open quarterfinals.

The top seed, chasing his fourth consecutive title here, appeared unaffected by strapping on his left shoulder as he eased through.

Nadal's run of victories on clay dates back to his first Monte Carlo title in 2005, with his only defeat on the surface in that time coming against world number one Roger Federer in the final of the Hamburg Masters last May. — MNA/Reuters



Rafael Nadal of Spain returns the ball to compatriot Feliciano Lopez during their third round match in the Barcelona Open tennis tournament on 1 May, 2008. —INTERNET

Edelman resigns as Arsenal managing director

LONDON, 4 May — Arsenal's managing director Keith Edelman resigned on Thursday, the Premier League club said.

Edelman quit as director of Arsenal Holdings PLC but will be retained by the north London club for 12 months to ensure a smooth transition takes place. During his eight years at Arsenal, he oversaw the club's move to the Emirates Stadium from Highbury in 2006 and said he was now ready for a new challenge.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Arsenal," he said in the club's statement. "I am proud to have contributed to the club's many off-field achievements ... not least the Emirates Stadium project.

"Now that we have completed our second season at Emirates, I believe it is the right time to seek pastures new and embark upon fresh challenges."

MNA/Reuters

Brondby beat Esbjerg 3-2 to win Danish Cup

COPENHAGEN, 4 May — A Martin Retov strike in the 85th minute gave Brondby a 3-2 victory over Esbjerg in the Danish Cup final on Thursday.

Retov controlled a deflected cross with his knee before blasting the ball into the lower left hand corner.

It was the sixth cup win for the club from a working class suburb of Copenhagen, salvaging some pride from an otherwise disappointing season. Brondby lie ninth in the 12-team Danish league with six matches to go.

Samuel Holmen opened the scoring for Brondby in the 15th minute and Soren Rieks equalised in the 62nd.

Max von Schlebrugge put Brondby ahead again seven minutes later only for Rieks to strike again with an acrobatic volley in the 80th minute.

MNA/Reuters

Hong Kong bus accident kills 12, injures 49

HONG KONG, 4 May—A bus packed with elderly Christian worshippers struck a roadside barrier and overturned in Hong Kong, killing 12 people and injuring 49 others, officials said on Thursday.

The bus, with seats for 55, was carrying around 65 passengers at the time of the accident, police said.

TV pictures showed rescuers pulling victims out of the wreck through a small gap in the roof

with the collapsed upper half of the bus wedged against a high roadside barrier in Sai Kung, Kowloon.

“The bus has been seriously damaged; the roof has been badly crushed which pressed down on the passengers inside making it very difficult for emergency services and firemen to carry out our rescue work,” said Ho Chak-kan, an acting police super-intendent of Traffic in Kowloon East.

MNA/Xinhua



Officials inspect the site where a shuttle bus carrying 65 passengers overturned in Hong Kong, China, on 1 May, 2008. The accident happened on Thursday morning, claiming 12 lives and injuring 49 others, Hong Kong police and the government information department said. —XINHUA

Arctic Sea ice forecast another record low in 2008

WASHINGTON, 4 May—Arctic Sea ice, sometimes billed as Earth’s air conditioner for its moderating effects on world climate, will probably shrink to a record low level this year, scientists predicted on Wednesday. In releasing the forecast, climate researcher Sheldon Drobot of the University of Colorado at Boulder called the changes in Arctic sea ice “one of the more compelling and obvious signs of climate change”.

If that prediction holds true, it would be the third time in the past five years that Arctic Sea ice retreated to record lows, the scientists said in a statement. That retreat is caused by warming temperatures and the spread of younger, thinner, less hardy ice in the region.

Based on satellite data and temperature records, the researchers forecast a 59-per-cent chance the annual minimum sea ice record would be broken again in 2008. In the past decade, Arctic sea ice declined by roughly 10 per cent, with a record drop in 2007 that left a total minimum ice cover of 1.59 million square miles (4.1 million square kilometres).

MNA/Reuters

Ancient meteorite goes unsold in NY as dung sells

NEW YORK, 4 May — Some dinosaur dung was snapped up at auction in New York even as a 4.5-billion-year old meteorite which was supposed to top the sale went unsold. The two chunks of 130-million-year-old coprolite, otherwise known as fossilized dinosaur dung, fetched 960 US dollars at Bonhams in New York on Wednesday, the auction house said.

The Jurassic-era rocks were sold for more than double their maximum estimate, said spokes-

woman Staci Smith. A 4.5-billion-year-old meteorite, on which a Chinese desert hiker habitually ate lunch

before he discovered it was valuable, failed to meet the minimum reserve however.

MNA/Reuters

“Storm News”

(Issued at 14:00 hours MST on 4-5-2008)

According to the observations at (12:30) hrs MST today, the land depression which has moved into Thailand, near Kayin and Kayah border States, Myanmar has moved into Eastwards today evening and weakened slowly as a low pressure area. It is centered near the town of SAKON NAKHON center Thailand.

According to the observations at (12:30) hrs MST this afternoon today, improve weather conditions are observed at observatory of Myanmar and the occurrence of strong wind and heavy rain has decreased substantially.

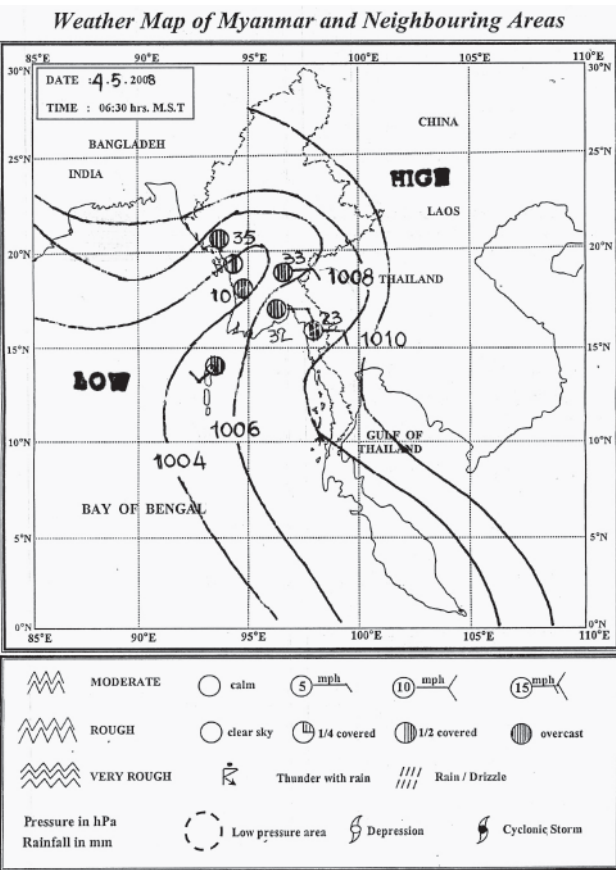
US Grand Canyon wildfire 60% contained

PHOENI, 4 May — A wildfire burning out of control toward the Grand Canyon was largely contained late on Wednesday, forest service officials said.

Fire crews with trucks, bulldozers and aircraft achieved “60 per cent containment” of the so-called X Fire that blazed a trail through the Kaibab National Forest in northern Arizona toward the Grand Canyon, the forest service said.

The blaze, which broke out on Tuesday, had burned 2,030 acres (820 hectares) of pine forest, grassland and sage brush, fanned by strong winds and dry conditions. Firefighters contained the fire more than a mile (1.6 kilometres) south of the Grand Canyon National Park boundary and were preparing to begin “mopping up” on Thursday, the forest service said in a news release.—MNA/Reuters

WEATHER



Sunday, 4 May, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours MST:

During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kachin and Chin States, Sagaing and Magway Divisions, scattered in Mandalay Division fairly widespread in Shan States, widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavy fall in Bago Division. Day temperatures were (3°C) below May average temperature in Kachin State, (5°C) to (7°C) below May average temperatures in Shan State, Mandalay, Magway, Taninthayi Divisions, (9°C) to (10°C) below May average temperatures in Bago, Yangon Divisions and Kayah State (13°C) below May average temperatures in Kayin State and about May average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant day temperature were Chauk (42°C), Monywa (41°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Bago (4.76) inches, Shwekyin (4.44) inches, Kengtung (2.99) inches, Phaang (2.68) inches, Loikaw (2.20) inches, Gwa (2.09) inches, Pinlaung (1.57) inches, Mawlamyine, Myinmu (1.50) inches each, Nansam, Nay Pyi Taw (1.42) inches each, Sittwe (1.38) inches, Tounggu (1.30) inches, Kaba Aye, Zaung Tu (1.26) inches each.

Maximum temperature on 4-5-2008 was 82.4°F. Minimum temperature on 5-5-2008 was 69.8°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 5-5-2008 was 100%. Total sunshine hours on 4-5-2008 was Nil.

Rainfall on 5-5-2008 was (Tr) at Mingaladon, (1.26) inches at Kaba-Aye and 1.26 at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (9.76) inches at Mingaladon, (1.26) inches at Kaba-Aye and (21.46) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed

at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from East at (07:30) hours MST on 4-5-2008.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (12:30) hrs MST today, the land depression moved into Thailand Kayin, Kayah States, Myanmar, has moved into eastwards today evening and weakened slowly in a low pressure area and centered near the town of SAKON NAKHON center Thailand. Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 5-5-2008: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Shan, Mon, Kayin, States and Taninthayi Divisions, fairly widespread in Rakhine, Kayah States, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady Divisions, scattered in Kachin State and Mandalay Division, isolated in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (100%).

State of the sea: Occasional squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely Gulf of Mottama off and along Mon, Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph. Sea will be moderate else where in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of continuation of isolated rain or thundershower in the Southern Myanmar areas.

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

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

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

Let's go to the polling booth to cast vote.



Prime Minister General Thein Sein visits cyclone victims in Dagon Myothit (North).—MNA

Prime Minister supervises relief works in Yangon Division

NAY PYI TAW, 4 May — Chairman of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Prime Minister General Thein Sein surveyed the damage caused by cyclone in Yangon Division this morning.

The Prime Minister also made coordination with officials to clear road blockages caused by

fallen trees and lamp-posts and debris.

He held a meeting at Yangon Command to carry out rescue and resettlement works. The Prime Minister made coordination with the respective ministries, NGOs and entrepreneurs to render assistance to the best of their ability in soonest restoration of city

electricity supply, providing power with generators, ensuring clean water supply, selling fuel to commuter buses, private cars and taxis, helping domestic airlines, trains and city rail services to restart regular runs and facilitating the work of repairing damaged buildings.

MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein presenting relief aid to cyclone victims in Yangon.—MNA



Provision of relief aids under way

NAY PYI TAW, 4 May—Chairman of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Prime Minister General Thein Sein this morning inspected cyclonic storm (NARGIS) hit-areas and gave instructions on timely taking relief and resettlement measures to officials concerned.

Chairman of NDPCC Prime Minister General Thein Sein, accompanied by Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and De-

velopment Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, the Director-General of the Government Office, heads of department and officials at 7 am inspected the participation of Tatmadaw members, MPF members, staff of YCDC, members of social organizations and local people in the clearing of fallen trees and lamp posts that were struck by the storm along Parami Street, Yankin Township in a motorcade.

Afterwards, Prime Minister General Thein Sein and party proceeded to Pyigy Chantha Maha Pagoda (MyoU Pagoda) in Dagon Myothit (North) and met with 525 local people of 110 households at Thantithukha Dhammayon and spoke words of encouragement.

Next, Prime Minister General Thein Sein heard reports presented by Secretary of Yangon Division Peace and De-

velopment Council U Hla Soe and Chairman of Yangon East District PDC U Than Aung on assistance provided to storm victims and resettlement measures and Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement on providing six different kinds of relief aid.

In response to the reports, Prime Minister General Thein Sein spoke of the need for officials concerned to provide clothing, rice, edible oil, gram and drinking water to the storm victims in time and make arrangements for opening of temporary clinics to provide health care services for the victims.

Next, the Prime Minister presented rice, edible oil and cash assistance to the victims.

Next, the Prime Minister and party looked into fallen trees and lamp-posts, houses, buildings, factories, warehouses and workshops whose roofs were destroyed and clearing and relief measures being taken by Tatmadaw members, MPF members, members of social organizations and the people in a motorcade.

MNA