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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

Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing cast votes in Referendum for Approval of the Constitution

***Senior General Than Shwe casts vote in Referendum for Approval of the Constitution at No 1 Polling Station in Nay Pyi Taw.* —MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 10 May – The Referendum for Approval of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar 2008 was held at polling stations across the nation beginning 6 am today.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing cast votes at No 1 Polling Station in Anawrahta Ward of Nay Pyi Taw at 8.15 am.

Next, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San cast votes.

SPDC member General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet also cast votes.

Afterwards, Prime Minister General Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win cast votes.

Secretary-1 of the SPDC Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin cast votes.

SPDC members Lt-Gen Maung Bo and wife, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and wife, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and wife, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and wife, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and wife and Lt-Gen Tin Aye and wife cast votes.

Next, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein and wife, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein and wife, Lt-Gen Myint Hlaing, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and their wives cast votes.

Likewise, servicemen and their family members cast votes at the polling stations.

In Nay Pyi Taw, No 2 polling station was opened at Khayay Yeiktha in Anawrahta Ward, No 3 polling station at No 1 Basic Education Middle School, No 4 polling station at Magyiyeik beauty salon, No 5 polling station at Magyiyeik welfare shop, No 6 polling station at Kyansittha Yeiktha and No 7 polling station at the Works Company.

Before opening the polling stations , the polling station officers and members of the station checked the polling station, voting rolls, ballot boxes and ballot papers.

At 6 am when the polling stations were opened, directors, senior military officers, servicemen and family members of the Ministry of Defence systematically cast votes under the supervision of respective members of the Sub-commission for Holding Referendum, the polling station officers and members of the polling stations.

After the eligible persons have cast votes cent per cent, the polling station officers and members of the polling stations systematically and accurately counted votes-in-favour, votes-against and cancelled votes and registered the voting rolls at the record books.

MNA

***Daw Kyaing Kyaing, wife of Senior General Than Shwe, casts vote in the Referendum for Approval of the Constitution at No 1 Polling Station in Nay Pyi Taw.*—MNA**

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 11 May, 2008

Public health care notices to keep victims free from diseases

The government is now spending huge funds and manpower in the relief and resettlement undertaking in the areas hit hard by the natural disaster, while local and foreign well-wishers are contributing humanitarian assistance. The relief accepting teams are accepting the supplies systematically and transporting them to the affected areas promptly.

Members of the Tatmadaw and social organizations, and well-wishers from states and divisions are donating relief supplies with nationalistic spirit as well as contributing voluntary service towards the relief and rehabilitation tasks.

The buildings hit by the storm will be rebuilt phase by phase. In this regard, priority will be given to construction of schools, hospitals, monasteries, government offices and housings.

Yeku, Gyobyu, Hlawgar, and Ngamoeyeik (Ahtayu) Waterworks in Yangon that were temporarily closed due to the storm are now serviceable again following the resumption of power supply.

The Ministry of Health has released public notices on health care for the victims to be able to keep themselves free from diseases. Particularly, the people in the disaster affected areas have to stay in the shelters that are resistant enough to bad weather, wear warm clothes in order to avoid catching cold, and use clean fly-proof latrines.

Natural disasters such as strong winds and floods are followed by health problems including TB, diarrhoea, and snake bites. Therefore, the victims should take care in their day-to-day activities.

At a time when the government is energetically carrying out relief and resettlement works in the storm-hit areas, the people have to follow the public health notices in order that they may keep themselves free from the diseases that are common in the natural disaster-struck areas.

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**

Referendum for Approval of Constitution held in Mandalay Div

NAY PYI TAW, 10 May—The referendum for the Approval of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was held at the polling stations in 31 townships in Mandalay Division beginning at 6 am today.

A total of 3824 polling stations were prepared to cast votes in the division. At 6 am, the people cast votes systematically and the voting process came to an end successfully at 4 pm.

Members U Tin Maung and U Sai San Tin of Commission for Holding Referedum, Chairman of Mandalay Division Sub-commission U Khin Maung Than and members visited Polling Station No 1 in Pyigyi Myathman ward, Polling Station No 2 in Pyigyi Myatshin ward, Polling Station No 4 in Aungnan (East) ward and Polling Station No 1 in Yanmyolon ward in Chanayethazan Town-ship, Polling Station No 1 in NanOoLwin ward in Patheingyi Township, Polling Station No 5 in Dawnabwa ward and Polling Station No 1 (Nanmyo) in Upokdaw ward of Aungmyaythazan Township, Polling Station No 1 in Tampawadi ward in Chanmyathazi Town-ship, Polling Station No 2 in Industrial Zone in Pyigyi-dagun Township, Polling Station No 3 in Tagundaing ward, Polling Station No 1 in Laysu ward in Amara-pura Township, Polling Station No 2 in Myitnge Myoma ward.— *MNA*

***People casting votes at the polling booth.*—MNA**

Referendum for Approval of Constitution held in Kayin State

YANGON, 10 May–The Referendum for Approval of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was held at the polling stations in wards and village-tracts of Hpa-an, Hlaingbwe, Papun, Thandaunggyi, Kawkareik, Kya-in-seikkyi and Myawady Townships in Kayin State at 6 am today.

In the presence of eligible persons, the polling station officer and members inspected the station and opened the station at 6 am. Next, the eligible persons cast votes.

Members of Com-mission for Holding Referendum U Saw Ba Hlaing and U Lan Zone, Kayin State sub-commission Chairman U Maung Maung and members, Deputy Director U Ba Hla Aye of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladeshi Defence Attaché Brigadier-General A N M Shawkat Jamal and Cambodian Counsellor Mr Mao Van observed casting of votes and activities carried out by sub-commission members, polling station members in line with the Referendum Law. — *MNA*

Diplomats observe Bago Division Referendum

YANGON, 10 May— Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam Pehin Dato Mohammad Yosof Abu Baker, Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines Mr Noel C Cabrera and Military Attaché Mr Wichai Chaimongkhon of the Royal Thai Embassy met members of the Commission for Holding Referendum, the Chair-man of Division Sub-commission and members at Shwe Wah Tun Hotel in Bago this morning.

Next, they observed voting processes at Polling Station No 1 at Leikpyakan ward in Bago from 8 am to 9.30 am.

MNA

***Brunei Ambassador Pehin Dato Mohammad Yosof Abu Bakar, Philippines Ambassador Mr Noel C Cabrera and Thai Military Attaché Mr Wichai Chaimongkhon observe a polling station in Bago.*—MNA**

BBC admits holding on to charity money

LONDON, 10 May — The BBC admitted on Friday it had failed to pay 106,000 pounds which should have gone to charity from viewers' calls to premium rate phonelines, the latest such scandal to hit broadcasters.

The BBC Trust, the body which oversees the broadcaster, ordered the corporation to apologize on air to viewers and to take disciplinary action against some staff.

An independent review found that Audiocall, a subsidiary company, had retained all money raised from telephone calls when voting lines were closed, including sums that should have gone to charity.

The practice, which took place from October 2005 until September 2007, involved small individual sums, but collectively the amount that should have gone to charity was 106,000 pounds.

That was the equivalent of 1.3 per cent of all money raised for charity by the BBC using premium rate phonelines in that period.

"The sums due to charity have now been repaid with interest. We would like to apologise to viewers and to the charities for this serious error," the BBC said in a statement.

MNA/Reuters

People walk through the Lebanese-Syrian border after pro-government loyalists blocked the main road to the border with Syria in Masna'a area in eastern Lebanon on 8 May, 2008.—INTERNET

In this 2 Aug, 2007 file, is surrounded by her children and husband Jim Bob, third from right after the birth of her 17th child in Rogers, Ark. The Duggars announded on 9 May, 2008 that they are expecting their 18th child.—INTERNET

OPEC crude oil price near $117

VIENNA, 10 May — The price of crude oil produced by the Organization of the Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC) set a new record of 116.93 US dollars per barrel (dpb), OPEC said Friday.

OPEC crude oil price has kept rising for five consecutive trading days since 1 May and stood at 116.93 dbp Thursday, up 90 cents from the previous day. OPEC General Secretary Abdullah Salem El-Badri said on Thursday that the rise of oil prices should be attributed to volatility on financial markets and lots of speculations aroused by depreciation of the US dollar.

He insisted the oil market was well-supplied, saying some OPEC member countries even could not find buyers for part of their oil.

The 13-member OPEC currently produces about 32 million barrels per day, which is about 40 per cent of the global crude output.

MNA/Xinhua

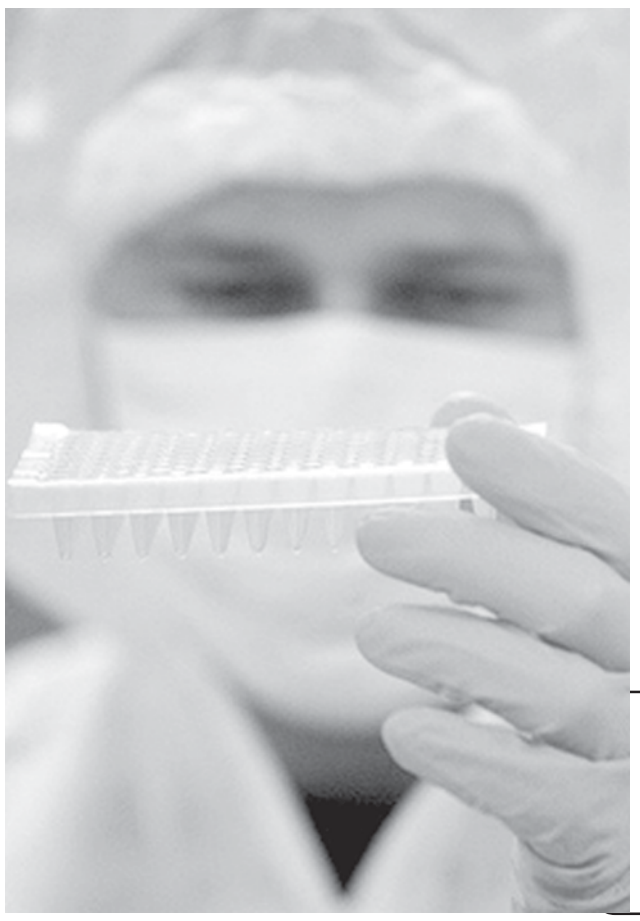
50 Guatemalan workers arrested for striking

MEXICO CITY, 10 May — Guatemalan police on Thursday arrested 50 cargo transport workers for going on strike in protest against the government's restrictions on transit schedules, according to news reaching here from Guatemala City.

The arrests followed Guatemalan President Alvaro Colom's announcedment on Wednesday night that he will not tolerate such protests involving roadblocks.

A Guatemalan Inferior Ministry official said the workers, arrested under the state of prevention law, will be inprisoned for 30 days.

MNA/Xinhua



A lab worker looks at DNA samples. Researchers in Philadelphia have localized the genetic variations that cause a common and often fatal form of childhood cancer, neuroblastoma, according to a study published on Wednesday.—INTERNET

UK's ruling Labour suffers new low in poll ratings

LONDON, 10 May — A new opinion poll published on Friday puts Britain's Conservative Party 26 per cent ahead of the ruling Labour.

The rating for Gordon Brown's Labour Party is reportedly down to the lowest since records began in the 1930s, the *Daily Telegraph* reported.

A YouGov poll puts the Conservatives at 49 per cent with Labour trailing at 23 per cent and the Liberal Democratic Party at 17 per cent.

The Conservatives last got a bigger lead in 1968, said the report.

The poll results have added to Labour's poor performance during the local elections last week when it received only 24 per cent of the vote, ranking a poor third behind the Tories and the Liberal Democrats.

MNA/Xinhua

Venezuela seizes 500 kilos of cocaine

CARACAS, 10 May — Venezuelan authorities Thursday seized 500 kilos of cocaine in the northwestern state of Corcobado, officials said.

The National Anti-Drugs Office director Nestor Reverol said in a statement that the cocaine had been hidden in false bottoms of 49 aluminium pots.

The seizure took place in Puerto Cabello on Thursday morning. The shipment was bound for Antwerp port in Belgium, Reverol said.

During the operation, a Colombian citizen was detained, he said.

The find was made during a routine check by the Venezuelan Naational Guard at Puerto Cabello's Customs checkpoint.

MNA/Xinhua

*DPRK Ambassador Mr Kim Sok Chol presents US$ 20,000 for the storm victims to Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu. —*MNA

DPRK Ambassador donates cash to storm victims

YANGON, 10 May—Ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to Myanmar Mr Kim Sok Chol donated US$20,000 to storm victims through Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu at ministry, here this morning.

The Korean ambassador also conveyed a message saying the DPRK government wished people from the storm-hit areas overcome the hardships soonest.

MNA

Tatmadawmen clearing debris near 7th-mile on Pyay Road.— MNA

Donations may be made for storm victims

YANGON, 10 May — Donations are invited for storm victims, and local and foreign well-wishers who wish to donate cash and kind are to directly contact Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe at the office of the Central Bank of Myanmar under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue (Tel 09-8600109), Vice-Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Maung Maung Win (Tel 09-8600102), Director U Maung Maung (Tel 01-543757) and Deputy Director U Kyaw Win Tin (Tel 01-543765).

MNA

Announcement of Meteorology and Hydrology Department

YANGON, 10 May — According to the broadcast of a foreign broadcasting station, the news of a storm moving towards Myanmar is spread among the people. According to the observations at 9.30 am today, it is found that there was no storm moving towards Myanmar. Due to the typhoon formed near the Philippines, only rain clouds are moving towards Myanmar. They cannot be formed as a storm. The news was not released by an official meteorological organization and it was wrong, it was announced by Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

MNA

*Tatmadawmen clear downed trees at the entrance to the Tooth Relic Pagoda on Kyaikwaing Pagoda Road. —*MNA

More relief supplies for Labutta, Bogale and Mawlamyinegyun

YANGON, 10 May—Ships have been carrying relief aids for victims to storm-hit regions of Ayeyawady Division from Phonegyi street jetty. Carrying bags of rice, instant noodle packages, clothes and relief supplies 120 tons each, Moe Oo ship to Labutta, Balayazar ship to Bogale and Balakyawswa ship to Mawlamyinegyun left here this evening.

MNA

*Storm victims receiving relief supplies in Thakayta Township.—*MNA

Tatmadaw members clean roads

YANGON, 10 May—Over 1,000 Tatmadaw members of Taikkyi Station under Yangon Command removed fallen trees and cleared debris at the junction of Kyaikwaing Pagoda Road and entrance to Tooth Relic Pagoda in Mayangon Township, on Insein Road near Yangon Technological University and along Pyay Road, Tatmadaw members of regiments and units under No 77 LID along U Wizara Road, staff of Yangon City Development Committee on Parami Road near Hline University, staff of Shwetaung Co along Pyay Road from Hledan junction to Myainghaywun junction, staff of Yangon Division Public Works on Inya Road near No 2 Basic Education High School, Chindwin Road, in the compounds of Seinle Kantha State Guest House, Kaba Aye Pagoda and the Pyithu Hluttaw and along Shwedagon Pagoda Road.

MNA

Relief goods sent to Pyapon

YANGON, 10 May–Eleven trucks carrying 500 men's and women's clothes, 250 blankets, 250 basins 3,800 T-shirts, 337 packages of tarpaulin, 57 tents, 100 packages of canned fish, one bag of salt, 10 barrels of edible oil, one chainssaw and 6,450 CI sheets for the people in storm-hit Pyapon left warehouse of Central Fire Station in Mayangon Township for Pyapon this morning.—*MNA*

Aid workers carrying relief supplies of the People's Republic of China.

MNA

Relief goods from India arrive at Yangon International Airport.

MNA

An aircraft carrying relief supplies from Thailand arrives at Yangon International Airport.—MNA

Relief items donated by Russian Federation being unloaded from an aircraft.—MNA

Relief aid from Singapore arrive at Yangon International Airport. —MNA

International relief supplies continue to arrive in Yangon

(from page 16)

carrying 5670 boxes of Ovaltine, 30 bags of tarpaulin, 3 generators, 20 water purifiers, 0.2 million water purifying tablets, 97 sets of different kinds of tents, 500 bags of first aid kits, 1 million baht and other materials donated by the Princess of Thailand , her friends and Thai Red Cross Society, IL-76 aircraft carrying 35.8 tons of 180 tents, 2000 corrugated fibre sheets and different kinds of medicines donated by India, SILK Air MI-518 aircraft carrying altogether 2.4 tons of tarpaulin, blankets, and biscuits donated by Singapore arrived at Yangon International Airport today.

Relief supplies donated by well-wishers from abroad have been arriving continuously by air and by sea. The groups for accepting the relief aids are distributing them to the storm-hit areas by helicopter, by car and by boats without delay.—*MNA*

Volunteers unloading airlifted emergency aid for storm victims sent by WFP at Yangon International Airport.— MNA

Myanmar holds referendum for emergence of modern developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation

NAY PYI TAW, 10 May—The State Peace and Development Council has been working hand in hand with the people for the emergence of a modern developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

In implementing this task in compliance with the seven-step Road Map, it has now reached the fourth step which is to seek the approval of the Constitution drafted in line with the basic principles and detailed basic principles adopted by the National Convention.

The referendum for ratification of the constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was held at the respective polling stations at 6 am today.

The referendum was held successfully in the whole country except 7 townships in Ayeyawady Division and 40 townships in Yangon Division totalling 47 townships, with massive turnout of the citizens.

Prior to the opening of the polling stations, polling station officers and members inspected the polling booths, the lists of voters and ballots. Exactly at 6 am, the referendum began.

Diplomats from embassies in Yangon accompanied by personnel visited the referendum being held in Mandalay, Taunggyi and Hpa-an.

Chairman of the Commission for holding referendum for approval of the State Constitution U Aung Toe , members of the Commission and State, Division, District, and Township sub-commissions inspected casting of vote by the people at the respective polling booths.

Members of Red Cross Society and responsible persons helped ailing persons and disabled persons to cast votes in convenience.

Although the polling booths were to close at 4 pm, polling station officers and members arranged eligible persons who had not cast vote to be able to cast vote in some places.

After the polling stations were closed at 4 pm, polling station officer and members counted votes in the presence of the responsible persons.

Reporters from Myanmar Foreign Correspondents club and editors and reporters from journals and magazines went around the polling stations and gathered news and took photos.

There were altogether 25837 polling stations in the referendum held today.

MNA

People casting votes at polling stations in Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon.

MNA

***Polling station members counting ballot papers in a polling station in Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon.*—MNA**

Referendum for Approval of Constitution held in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 10 May – The referendum for the approval of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was held at the ward/village-tract polling stations in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Townships at 6 am today.

First, the polling station officers and members inspected ballot boxes, voting rolls and ballot papers in the presence of the people.

As soon as the polling station opened at 6 am, the people cast the votes.

Chairman of Commission for Holding Referendum U Aung Toe and commission members, the chairmen and members of township/ ward/ village-tract sub commissions supervised the voting processes at No 1, 2, 3 and 4 polling stations in Zeya Theikdi ward, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 polling stations in Bawga Theikdi ward, No 1 polling station in Mingala Theikdi ward, No 1 and 2 polling stations in Shwechi ward and the polling stations of villages and village-tracts in the township. Patron of the diplomatic corps of the Union of Myanmar Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Tran Van Tung and Military Attaché Senior Colonel Fan Lianfeng of the People's Republic of China together with Commission member Dr Tun Shin and members observed the polling stations.

Members of Red Cross Society and officials assisted the ailing persons and the handicapped to cast vote conveniently.

Although polling hours was up to 4 pm, the polling station officer and members took measures systematically for enabling some latecomers to cast vote at some polling stations.

After closing the polling station at 4 pm, the polling station officer and members, before the voters and officials, opened the polling boxes and counted the ballot papers.

The polling station officer packed the votes-in-favour, votes-against, cancelled voters, remaining ballot papers and the voting rolls into separate bundles, and handed them over to respective ward/village-tract commissions.

A total of 206 polling stations were opened at Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township.

Similarly, the referendum was held at the polling stations of wards and village-tracts in Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon Township.

Chairmen of sub commissions and officials supervised the voting processes at the polling booths in the township.

One hundred polling stations were opened at Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon Township.

Likewise, the referendum was held at the polling stations of wards and village-tracts in Nay Pyi Taw Lewe Township. Chairmen of subcommissions and officials supervised the voting processes at the polling stations in the township.

A total of stations polling booths were opened at Nay Pyi Taw Lewe Township.—*MNA*

Referendum held in 19 Townships of Ayeyawady Div

YANGON, 10 May—The referendum for approval of the Draft Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was held at 19 townships in Ayeyawady Division at 6 am today.

At the referendum in Ayeyawady Division, 57 polling stations were opened at 15 wards in Pathein, 642 polling station at 484 village-tracts of six townships in Pathein District and 2492 polling stations at 1543 village-tracts of 19 townships in Ayeyawady Division. Eligible cast vote unanimously.—*MNA*

Referendum for approval of the constitution held in Shan State (North)

YANGON, 10 May—The referendum for approval of the constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was held at 6 am at the respective polling stations in wards and village-tracts in Lashio, Lashio District, in Shan State (North) today.

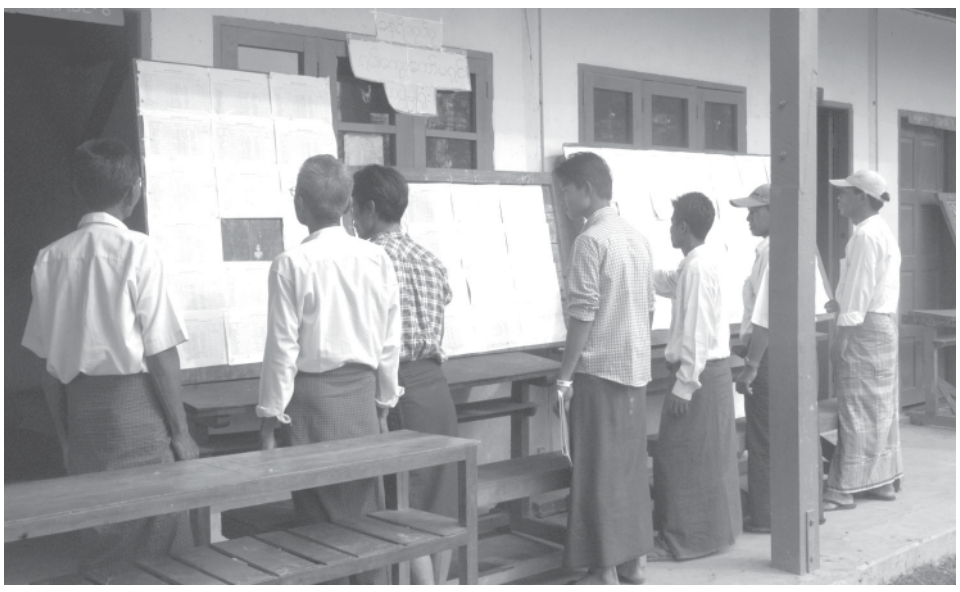
The respective polling stations were at No 6 Basic Education Primary School in Ward 1, No 5 BEMS in Ward 2, BEPS in Ward 4, No 2 BEMS Ward 7, No 19 BEPS in Ward 4 and Ward-8, Ward-9, Ward-10, Ward-12 and village-tracts.

When the polling stations were opened, voters cast the votes.

Members of Red Cross Brigade and social organizations helped ailing persons and the disabled in casting the vote.

Voters cast the vote at the respective polling stations in wards and village-tracts in Muse, Kunyu, Laukkai and Kyaukme Districts in Shan State (North) from 6 am to 4 pm today.

MNA



Local people view announcement of voting rolls at polling station in Hmawby Township.

MNA

***Polling station members issuing ballot papers to eligible voters at a polling station in Hlegu Township.*— MNA**

Polling station members issuing ballot papers to eligible persons at a polling station in Myitkyina.

MNA

Referendum held in Kachin State

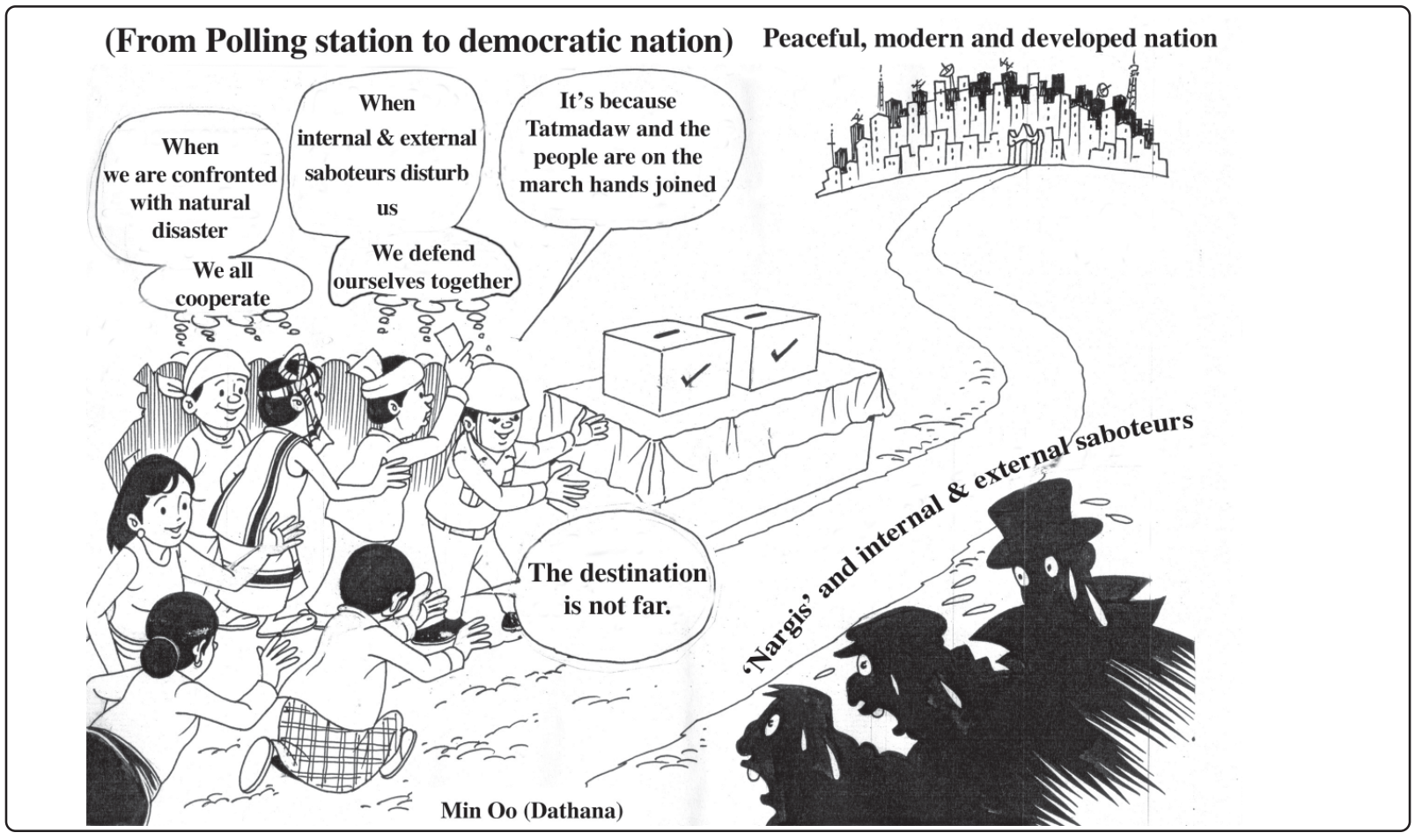
YANGON, 10 May—Eligible people cast votes at respective polling stations in Kachin State this morning.

First Secretary Ms Satoko Toku of the Japanese Embassy, Member of the Commission for Holding Referendum Dr Tin Aung Aye, Chairman of Kachin State Sub-commission U Maung Maung Win and party, chairmen of district and township sub-commissions and Head of Branch-1 U Aung Myint of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, observed vote casting of eligible people at polling stations E-ya, Shansumyauk, Aungnan, Dukahtaung and Naungnan Village and Ward 1 and Naungtarlaw Village in Waingmaw Township.

They also observed the books on Referendum Law, Rules and directives and tasks of the polling station officers and members.

Eligible people cast votes at 1,069 polling stations in Kachin State.

MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San cast votes at No 1 Polling Station in Nay Pyi Taw. (News on page 1)—MNA

People from all walks of life cast votes in the Referendum

Referendum held in Shan State (East)

YANGON, 10 May – The Referendum for Approval of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar 2008 commenced at districts, townships, wards and villages in Shan State (East) at 6 am today.

Eligible national people, Tatmadawmen and members of social organizations cast votes at the polling stations.

Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing and wife cast votes at the polling stations. Likewise, servicemen and family members cast votes at the respective polling stations.

Yesterday, Charge d'Affaires ai of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Mr Rsai Bub Reemau and diplomat Mr Jeremy Ettdweu of the US Embassy arrived at Kengtung and met with officials of the Shan State (East) Sub-commission for Holding Referendum. Today, they together with Deputy Director U Chan Aye of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs visited the polling stations. The Chairman and officials of the Shan State (East) Sub-commission conducted them round the polling stations.

Eligible local people cast votes at 411 polling stations in 10 townships.—*MNA*

Prime Minister General Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win cast votes at No 1 Polling Station in Nay Pyi Taw. (News on page 1)—MNA

Diplomats observe polling stations in Bago Division (West)

YANGON, 10 May – Minister-Counsellor Mr Chung In Gyun of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea and First Secretary Mr Vosiluc of the Vietnamese Embassy, accompanied by Member of the Commission for Holding Referendum U Chit Hla, member of Bago Division Sub-commission U Maung Maung Aye, Liaison Officer U Tin Han of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chairman of Pyay District Sub-commission U Aung Khin, visited No 2 and No 3 polling stations opened at No 5 Basic Education High School in Khittaya Myothit Ward of Pyay this morning.

The diplomats observed announcement of voting rolls, inspection of the voting rolls, issuing of ballot papers, keeping of ballot boxes and casting of votes at the polling stations.

They also visited No 1 polling station at BEHS No 1 in Hsandaw Ward, No 2 polling station at Pabedan BEPS in Shwegu Ward and No 1 polling station at Affiliated BEMS in Htamagauk Village-tract.

MNA

Diplomats observe casting of votes at a polling station in Taikkyi Township.

MNA

Union of Myanmar holds Referendum

Referendum held in five townships in Yangon Division

YANGON, 10 May – The Referendum for Approval of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was held at 6 am at the respective polling stations in wards and village-tracts in Cocogyun, Hlegu, Hmawby, Taikkyi and Htantabin Townships in Yangon Division today.

First, polling station officers and members and officials inspected polling stations, ballot boxes, voting rolls and ballot papers.

As soon as the polling stations were opened at 6 am, voters cast the votes. Chairman of Yangon Division Sub-commission for holding referendum U Hla Soe and members supervised the voting.

Members of Red Cross Brigade and officials helped ailing persons, the disabled and the elderly person in casting the votes. Most of the sick and the elderly cast the votes in advance the day before.

At 4 pm, the polling station officers and the members of polling stations counted the ballot papers in the presence of the voters and they sent the ballot papers to the respective sub-commissions.

In Yangon Division three polling station were opened in Cocogyun Township, 119 in Hlegu Township, 125 in Hmawby Township, 116 in Taikkyi Township and 59 in Htantabin Township.

MNA

General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet cast votes.—MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin cast votes.—MNA

Polling station members issuing ballot papers to eligible voters.—MNA

People casting votes at a polling station in Hmawby Township.—MNA

Korean Minister Counsellor and Vietnamese First Secretary observe a polling station in Pyay. –MNA

LPDR Deputy Defence Attaché observes referendum in Taunggyi

YANGON, 10 May — Deputy Defence Attaché of Lao People's Democratic Republic Captain Xayasone Keonhothi together with Assistant Director U Maung Maung Myint of Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs arrived at Heho Airport to observe casting vote for the approval of Draft Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on 9 May. They were welcomed at the airport by the chairman of Taunggyi District sub-commission and party. They met member of Commission of Holding Referendum U Sai Tun Mya and Chairman of Shan State sub-commission U Khin Maung Gyi at Taunggyi Hotel.

On 10 May, the deputy Defence Attache visited polling station No 1 opened at Taunggyi Basic Education High School No 1 and observed the polling booth and casting votes. When asked by the deputy Defence Attaché, the people said that they were happy to vote. He also observed the voting rolls and the ballot papers.

At Polling Station No 1 opened at No 3 BEMS in MingalarU ward, he greeted an 80-year-old man and 82-year-old woman. He viewed educative pamphlets, voting rolls and the people casting votes.

He found that like the processes that have been carried out in Lao, the referendum held and the voting processes carried out in Taunggyi meet the international level, he said, adding that and arrangements are designed for convenience of the voters.

MNA

Diplomats conducted around polling stations in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 10 May—Vietnamese Ambassador Mr Tran Van Tung and Chinese Military, Navy and Air Attaché Senior Colonel Fan Lianfeng this morning arrived at the polling station of Bawga Theiddi Ward opened at Nay Pyi Taw No 6 Basic Education High School. They were welcomed and conducted voting processes around the station by Commission for Holding the Referendum member Dr Tun Shin and Joint Secretary U Than Aung, and members of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana District Commission.

They were also conducted around Bala Theiddi Ward polling station at Nay Pyi Taw No 8 BEHS, Nyana Theiddi Ward polling station at Nay Pyi Taw No 9 BEHS, Thukha Theiddhi Ward polling station at Nay Pyi Taw No 10 BEHS, Wunna Theiddi Ward polling staion at Nay Pyi Taw No 11 BEHS, Pyinnya Theiddi Ward polling station at Nay Pyi Taw No 1 football ground, and Pyankapyay Village-tract polling station at Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmama Township No 140 BEMS.

At 4 pm, the diplomats visited Nyana Theiddi Ward polling station. They were welcomed there by Commission member Dr Tun Shin and Joint Secretary U Than Aung, and Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana District Commission members. They viewed the counting of the votes before the witnesses by the polling station officers and officials concerned.

MNA

Referendum for approval of constitution held in Mandalay Division

YANGON, 10 May – The referendum for approval of the constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was held at 6 am at the respective polling stations in 31 townships in Mandalay Division today.

Polling station officers, members of polling station and officials inspected polling stations, polling boxes, voting rolls and ballot papers.

At 6 am, the polling stations were opened. Voters drew the ballot papers and cast the votes. Chairmen of Division, District and Township Sub commissions for holding referendum and members went to the polling stations and supervised the voting there.

At 4 pm, the polling station officers and the members of polling stations counted the ballot papers in the presence of the voters and officials concerned and they sent the ballot papers to the respective sub-commissions.

In Yangon Division there are 3,824 polling stations. There are 582 polling stations in seven townships- Patheingyi, Aungmyethazan, Pyigyidagun, Maha Aungmye, Chanmyathazi, Chanayethazan and Amarapura.

Laotian Ambassador Mr Kouily A Souphakhet, Consul-General of the People's Republic of China in Mandalay Mr Tang Ying and Third Secretary Ms Natsu Ko Ito of Japanese Embassy and Ms Zhaotong of Consulate-General of the PRC in Mandalay observed the voting at the polling station.—*MNA*

Referendum held in Dawei

YANGON, 10 May — The referendum for ratification of the constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was held in townships, Dawei District, Taninthayi Division this morning.

People cast votes at 245 polling stations in Dawei, Yephyu, Loung-lon, Thayetchaung, Kaleinaung and Mitta townships in Dawei District.

The district. township, ward and village sub-commissions and responsible persons supervised the casting of votes by the people.

MNA

Diplomats observe vote casting, counting of ballot papers in Taikkyi, Hlegu

YANGON, 10 May – To observe systematic vote casting of eligible voters and counting of ballot papers at polling stations in townships of Yangon Division in the Referendum for Approval of the Draft Constitution 2008 of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Ambassador of Nepal to Myanmar Ms Guna Laxmi Sharma, Counsellor of the Lao People's Democratic Republic Mr Thongkhoun Sengphachan, diplomat Mr Maxim Tumanin of the Embassy of the Russian Federation and Consular of Saudi Arabia Mr Nafi Qaed M Al-Hantushi, accompanied by members of the Commission for Holding Referendum U Thaung Nyunt, U Myat Thu and party, visited No 1 polling station in Bawdikon Ward of Taikkyi Township and No 2 polling station in Pyidawtha Ward of Hlegu Township today. —*MNA*

Referendum for approval of Constitution in progress in Dawei.

MNA

Buses and cars running along a road in downtown Yangon on 10 May.—MNA

Ministers supervise relief task in Pyapon Township

YANGON, 10 May — Members of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, together with Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing, discussed relief, rehabilitation and health care services for the victims from Pyapon at the control office in Pyapon this morning.

Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and Minister Dr Kyaw Myint flew along the onshore area of Pyapon Township. In Amar, they handed over food, medicines and water purifying tablets to officials.

In Kadonkani Village, they provided relief supplies to local people. The ministers also presented relief aid to the locals in Ayeyaw Village of Pyapon Township and explained arrangements for providing relief items and health care services.

Next, the ministers took four patients to be undergone medical treatment in Yangon by helicopter. —*MNA*

USDA members clear debris in Mayangon Township

YANGON, 10 May— Under the ar-rangement of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, 150 members of the USDA from Mon State and Kayin State, 500 members of the USDA from Latha, Seikkan, Lanmadaw, Kyimyindine, Thakayta, Thingangyun, Pazundaung and Mingalar Taungnyunt Townships in Yangon Division totaling 650 members cleared debris and rubbish along Parami Road from Kaba Aye Pagoda Road and Parami junction to Parami overpass in Mayangon Township today.

MNA

Parami Road cleared

YANGON, 10 May— Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected the removing of the downed trees by Union Solidarity and Development Association members and YCDC staff along Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here yesterday.

This morning, he inspected the removing of the debris and rubbish along Parami Road.

MNA

Tatmadaw vehicles carry relief items for storm-hit regions.— MNA

More vehicles for relief tasks continuously

YANGON, 10 May- The Government is using helicopters, vehicls, speed boats and powered boats for transporting relief aid to storm-hit ares of Ayeyawady Division. More vehicles will be added to the transport of relief goods to carry out works effectively .

MNA

Volunteers unloading emergency aid and foodstuff from a helicopter.

MNA

Navy performs health care in Tada, Kayan Townships

YANGON, 10 May — The team comprising medical specialists, health staff of Naval Hospital in the station, officers and other ranks of Defence Services (Navy) and wellwishers led by Commander Moe Aung of Thanlyin Station yesterday provided relief items and medicines worth K 3 million and K 1.5 million for the storm victims in seven villages four wards of Tada Township in Yangon South District and performed health care services.

The specialists gave medical treatments to 229 patients and injected preventive medicines for lockjaw to the injured. The team presented K 500,000 for the medical funds and medicines worth K 350,000 for the storm victims at the office of Kayan Township Peace and Development Council. — *MNA*

Relief supplies distributed to storm victims in Thakayta Township

YANGON, 10 May — Rice, edible oil, corrugated iron sheets, detergent liquid and detergent powder were distributed to storm victims from wards of Thakayta Township this morning.

The chairmen of Township and Ward Peace and Development Councils and townselders systematically distributed relief aid to the victims.

Staff of the Township Health Department and members of Township Red Cross Brigade provided health care services to the victims at three relief camps in Thakayta Township.

MNA

Rescue operations in Ayeyawady Delta

YANGON, 10 May — Rescue operations are being carried out by three Tatmadaw helicopters in Ngaputaw, Labutta, Mawlamyinegyun, Pyapon, Kyaiklatt and Dedaye townships and Hainggyi island, Pyinsalu and Amar in Ayeyawady Division.

An eight-member well-trained team led by staff officer U Thaung Htaik of Fire Services Department are carrying out rescue operations in Pyapon, another eight members led by staff officer U Tin Thein of FSD in Bogale Township and another eight members led by staff officer U Thein Myint of FSD in Labutta Township.

Drinking water, instant noodles and tents were sent by helicopter to Kansu Village in Labutta Township in Ayeyawady Division.—*MNA*

Berlusconi becomes Italian leader for third time

ROME, 9 May — Silvio Berlusconi was sworn in as Prime Minister of Italy on Thursday, returning to power after nearly two years in opposition faced with the arduous task of spurring an economy slowing towards stagnation.

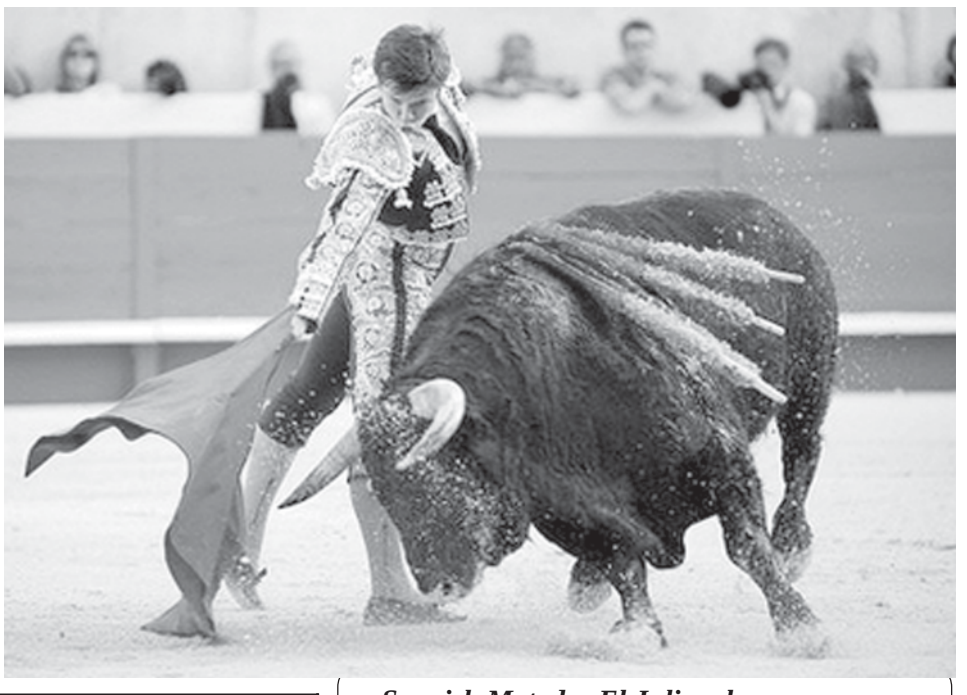
The 71-year-old media tycoon, who won last month's general election, took his oath of allegiance at the presidential palace along with government ministers, including members of the anti-immigration Northern League in key posts.

"There's a lot of work to do," Berlusconi told crowds of supporters outside the Prime Minister's office.

Berlusconi, already prime minister between 2001 and 2006 and briefly from 1994 to 1995, has promised to fight crime, solve the trash crisis which has dogged the city of Naples and crack down on illegal immigration.

But within hours of taking office, he already faced a diplomatic problem when Libya, which is upset about his appointment of a minister who has insulted Muslims, said it would no longer cooperate in controlling illegal immigration.

MNA/Reuters



***Spanish Matador El Juli makes a pass on a Garcigrande fighting bull in the bullring of Nimes, southern France.*—INTERNET**

At least 62 killed by heavy rainfall, floods in Ecuador

QUITO, 9 May — At least 62 people have been killed and nine have gone missing due to heavy rainfall and floods in Ecuador since early 2008, the Civil Defence said on Wednesday.

In its most recent report, the Civil Defence said over 20,000 houses, 185 highways and 41 roads have been damaged by rainfall and floods, while up to 90,310 families were affected. Ecuadorean officials said the rainfall and floods were the strongest in the past decade in the country. Coastal regions were the hardest hit, although serious damage was also reported in the Andean mountain region. —*MNA/Xinhua*

China announces e-savings bond issue

BEIJING, 10 May — The Ministry of Finance (MOF) announced here on Thursday that it will start issuing the first electronic savings bonds of the year starting on 16 May.

The three-year e-savings bond issue, which could be as large as 30 billion yuan (4.3 billion US dollars), has a fixed annual interest rate of 5.74 per cent. The issue will end on 31 May, with interest to be calculated from 16 May and paid annually, said the ministry in a statement on its website.

The bond will be sold at branches of the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, the country's biggest lender, and six other banks.

Only individual investors can buy these bonds, the MOF said. The first such bonds were issued in June 2006.

The bearer treasury bond, which China began to issue in 1994, is another variety of savings bond. It has since become a popular investment tool for the public and an important channel for the government to raise funds for major construction projects.

Compared with bearer bonds, the MOF said the e-savings bond is more convenient for investors. For example, interest will be paid by direct deposit into the investor's account. For bearer bonds, investors must visit bank counters to be paid their interest.

The MOF has said that further e-savings products will be introduced.

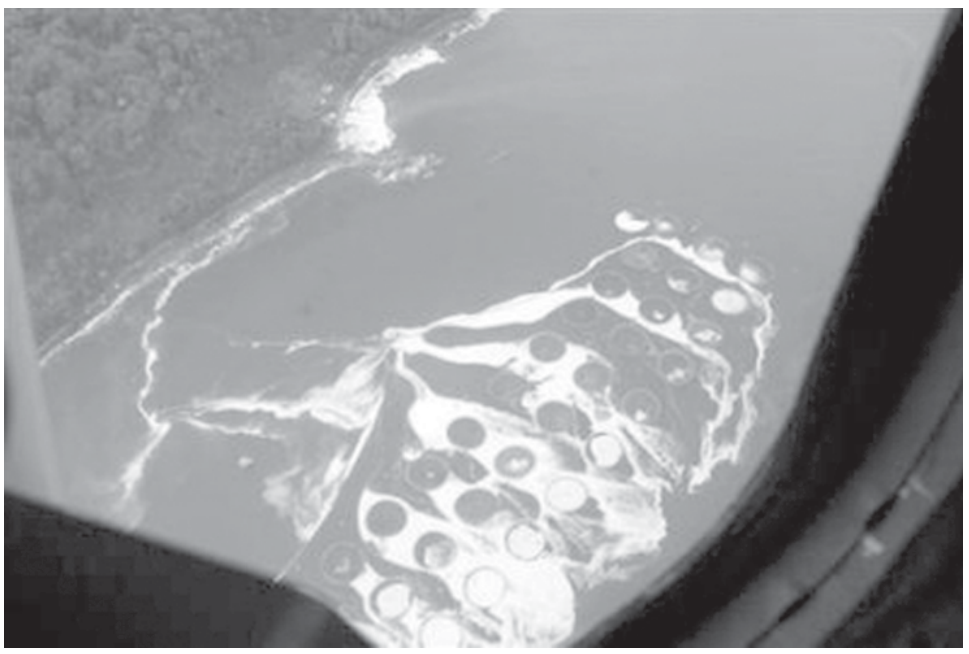
MNA/Xinhua

"Reuters" photographer detained in Zimbabwe

JOHANNESBURG, 9 May — A *Reuters* photographer covering the aftermath of Zimbabwe's elections has been detained for three days for allegedly using a satellite phone to transmit pictures, the global news and information company said on Thursday.

Reuters called for the immediate release of Howard Burditt, a Zimbabwean national, who has been held by police in Harare since Monday. He has not been charged. "As part of its pan-African news operations, *Reuters* has long had a legitimate and fully accredited bureau in Harare, and has always complied with Zimbabwean regulations with the aim of accurately reporting the news," a company statement said.

MNA/Reuters



A salmon hatchery is destroyed by ash that fell on the region from the erupting Chaiten volcano in southern Chile, on 7 May, 2008.
INTERNET

Indonesia to hike oil price by less than 30%

JAKARTA, 9 May — Indonesian Vice-President Jusuf Kalla said on Wednesday that the government would hike the prices of subsidized oil by less than 30 per cent. "The hike will not exceed 30 per cent in a bid not to increase people's burdens," the Vice President told reporters on the side line of a seminar at the Four Season Hotel in the capital.

On Monday, a Cabinet meeting decided to raise the prices of subsidized-oil in a bid to secure the state budget from a pressure of mounting subsidies following the soaring global oil prices.

To reduce the social impact, the government would provide incentives for the low income group, he said. Similarly, the Vice-President said that half of the funds resulted from the decrease of the subsidies would be allocated to the low income group. So far, government subsidies on oil were enjoyed by high income group rather than by that of low income group, said Kalla. "The price hikes are actually to transfer subsidies from the high income group to the low income group," he said.

MNA/Xinhua

46 bodies recovered in Brazilian boat accident

BRASILIA, 10 May — Brazilian rescue workers have recovered 46 bodies after an overloaded boat sank on Sunday in the Solimoes River in the country's northern state of Amazonas, official sources said on Thursday.

Forty-five of the retrieved bodies have been identified.

About 70 passengers survived the accident, officials said.

Packed beyond capacity with revellers returning from a party, the boat capsized in the face of strong winds and was dragged by currents for 20 kilometres.

MNA/Xinhua

Police, drug traffickers clash kill four in Mexico

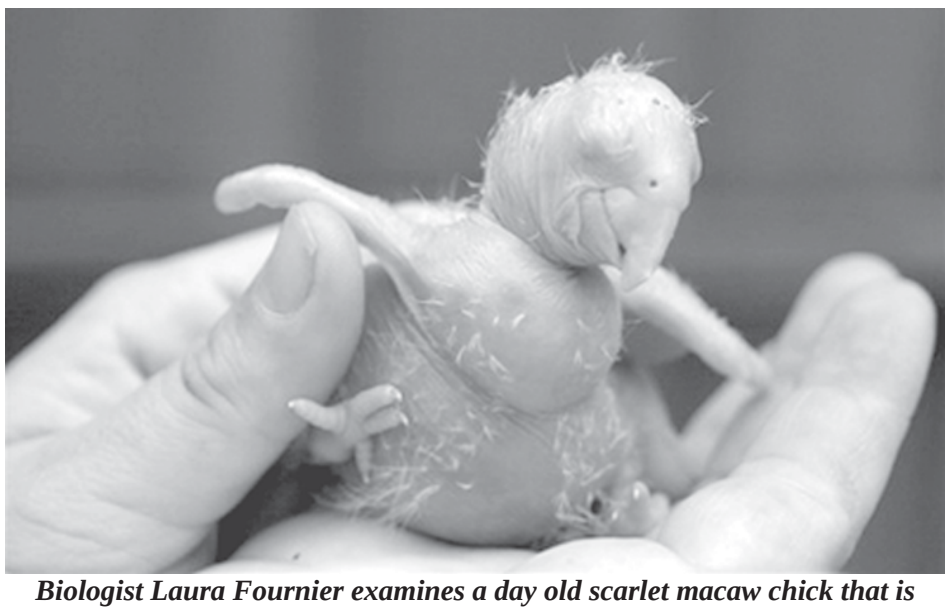
MEXICO, 10 May — At least four people died Thursday in a clash between police and drug traffickers in the central Mexican state of Morelos, the Federal Public Security Ministry (SSPF) said.

The clash occurred on the Cuernavaca-Acapulco federal highway in the municipality of Xoxocutla in Morelos, the SSPF said in a statement.

Nine people were detained during the clash, it added.

The detainees were linked to a large drug-trafficking organization led by Arturo Beltran Leyva known as "El Barbas," the statement said.

MNA/Xinhua



Biologist Laura Fournier examines a day old scarlet macaw chick that is part of a breeding programme at the ZooAve Center for the Rescue of Endangered Species in La Garita, Costa Rica, last month. Endangered scarlet macaws born in captivity are reproducing in the wild for the first time in Costa Rica's southern Pacific coast.—INTERNET

Chinese students chalk up higher mean score in TOEFL

PRINCETON (New Jersey), 9 May — Chinese students are making "strong progress" in mastering the communicative English skills, as Educational Testing Service (ETS) reported that the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) scores for Chinese test takers increased to match the worldwide average in 2007, ETS officials said here on Wednesday.

Citing figures from ETS' TOEFL Test and Score Data Summary, which contains data on the performance of examinees who took the TOEFL Internet-based test in 2007, the officials said that the mean score for Chinese test takers was 78 in the year, a two-point increase over 2006, matching the worldwide average of 78.

"The results show that the (Chinese) students are making strong progress in mastering the communicative English skills necessary to succeed at the world's leading universities," the officials said.

"These results show that the hard work of intensive study of English and practice by Chinese test takers has had positive results," Paul Ramsey, Senior Vice President of ETS Global, noted at a Press conference especially arranged for foreign journalists.

MNA/Xinhua

Over one million people die of malaria per year

JAKARTA, 9 May — The World Health Organization said that more than one million people out of 500 million cases die of malaria per year, Subhash R Salunke, the organization representative to Indonesia, said here on Thursday.

The representative said that malaria had become a major health problem in the world, particularly in Africa and some Asian countries.

"So it is a serious public health problem now," he told *Xinhua* after a commemoration of the World Malaria Day conducted by the Indonesian Government here in the capital of Jakarta. "The death toll could be more than one million people per year in the world," said Salunke.

The representative said that the infectious disease always attacked those in remote areas, in which the data of casualty and cases could not always be recorded.

MNA/Xinhua

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait evacuate nat'ls from Lebanon

BEIRUT, 10 May — Saudi Arabia and Kuwait on Friday began evacuating their nationals from Lebanon, where riots sweeping the country have left at least eight dead over the past three days, local New TV reported

Kuwaiti Embassy in Lebanon evacuated the first batch of Kuwaiti nationals residing or studying in troubled Lebanon by land to neighbouring Syria on Friday, said the report.

Up to 150 Kuwaiti citizens including 30 students boarded large buses heading toward the Lebanese-Syria border, it added.

On Thursday, a total of 70 Saudis were evacuated bySaudi Embassy via Syria too, the report said, adding that more Saudi nationals were leaving Friday through the arrangement of the embassy.

MNA/Xinhua

California promotes researches on stem cells

LOS ANGELES, 9 May — The California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) awarded 12 academic and non-profit institutions on Wednesday with funds worth 271 million dollars to promote researches on human embryonic stem cells. The institutions will use the grants to build research facilities throughout the state. "This will go a long way toward medical research that could save lives and improve them for people with chronic diseases," Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger said. "But also, this kind of public-private investment in a growing jobs sector is exactly the kind of good news our economy needs right now." The largest grant went to Stanford University, which received 43.6 million dollars. The San Diego Consortium for Regenerative Medicine received 43 million. The other three major recipients are the University of California in Irvine (UCI), the University of Southern California (USC) and the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA).

USC officials said the money would go toward a five-storey laboratory building. "The new centre at USC will be an important addition to our campus as we create new research space for discoveries that will eventually translate to patient care," said Dr Carmen Puliafito, dean of the Keck School of Medicine at USC.

UCLA officials said the money will help fund research labs and career-development space for clinical faculty.

MNA/Xinhua

Creation of health insurance in poor nations urged

PARIS, 9 May — France has called for the creation of health insurance systems in poor countries, particularly in the African continent, where millions of people were still without access to essential healthcare services, the French media reported on Thursday.

However, the representatives of non-governmental organizations, who attended an international health care conference in Paris, vehemently defended their calls for the provision of free healthcare to the world's poor.

The conference, bringing together representatives of 55 countries, international institutions, non-governmental organizations and private companies, stressed the need to diversify sources of funding, in particular through the private sector to establish health insurance systems in developing countries.

MNA/Xinhua

Chile gives volcano holdouts ultimatum to flee

PUERTO MONTT/ FUTALEUFU, (Chile), 9 May — Chile on Thursday ordered holdout residents to flee from an erupting volcano in the remote region of Patagonia and vowed to force them out if they refuse to obey.

The military evacuated a small contingent of troops and journalists from near Chaiten Volcano in southern Chile before dawn on Thursday after it spat out fiery material.

But some civilians refused to leave two villages near the volcano that began erupting last week for the first time in thousands of years. It has spewed ash that has reached the Atlantic seaboard and the Argentine capital, Buenos Aires.

A strong smell of sulfur hung in the air around the village of Chaiten, just six miles (10 kilometres) from the volcano. —*MNA/Reuters*

An elephant calf walks around in the elephant enclosure of Hanover Zoo, northern Germany,on 7 May, 2008. The unnamed elephant was born on Tuesday.
INTERNET

SPORTS

Bernard Langer of Germany blasts out of a sand trap on the ninth hole during second round play of The Players Championship at TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra, Florida on 9 May, 2008.—INTERNET

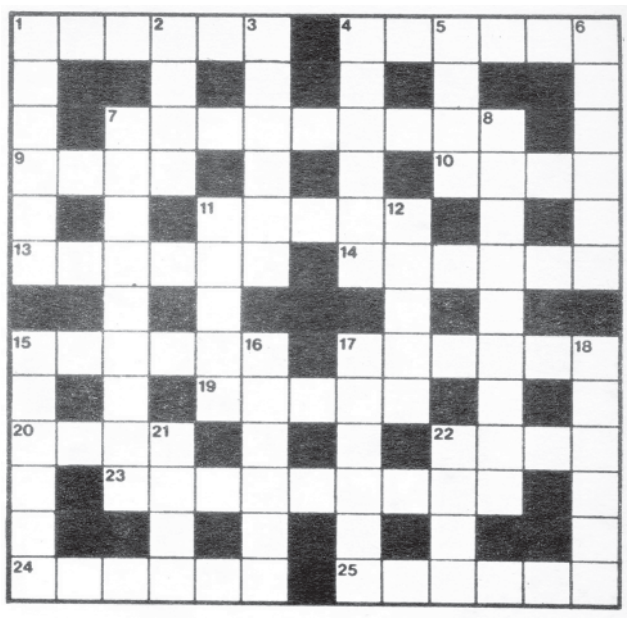
England earn extra place in UEFA Cup

LONDON, 10 May—An additional English club will qualify for next season's UEFA Cup after England topped Europe's fair play rankings. UEFA said on Friday.

The place will be awarded to the best believed team in the English Premier League that has not already qualified for European competition next season.

MNA/Reuters

CROSSWORDS PUZZLE



ACROSS

1 Financial agent
4 Viewing aperture
7 Blizzard
9 Taunt
10 Legend
11 Boring tool
13 Honest
14 Christian festival
15 Small point
17 Fail to agree
19 Giant
20 Hindu teacher
22 Elimination contest
23 Bound
24 Cane
25 Of the tips

DOWN

1 Northern sea
2 German philosopher
3 Recompense
4 Australian national flower
5 Average
6 Castrated ram
7 Written name
8 Puzzled
11 Single number
12 Roman language
15 Short sword
16 Tree alga
17 OT book
18 Sell to public
21 Army detachment
22 Medicinal plant

Nine-men San Lorenzo hit back to knock out River

RIO DE JANEIRO, 10 May — San Lorenzo, trailing 2-0 and down to nine men with half an hour left produced an extraordinary fightback to draw 2-2 with River Plate and reach the Libertadores Cup quarter-finals on Thursday.

Santos completed the line-up for the last eight by winning 2-0 away to Cucuta, Colombia's struck twice in four minutes to give San Lorenzo an improbable draw at fellow Argentines River and a 4-3 aggregate win on another night of drama in the South American equivalent of the Champions League.

Their performance followed an equally unlikely comeback by America on Wednesday when, needing a three-goal win away to Brzil's Flamengo at the Maracana, the Mexicams got the result they needed to qualify 5-4 on aggregate.

Matias Abelairas put River ahead after 12 minutes when his free kick eluded the San Loreno defence and bounced into the net.

San Lorenzo had Drego Rivero sent off for a second bookable offence after 43 minutes and their hopes appeared to have evaporated completely after an astonishing moment from defender Jonathan Bottnielli.

Having comfortably held off Radamel Falcao Garcia in his own penalty area and passed the ball back to goalkeeper Agustin Orion, Bottnielli then elbowed his opponent in the neck.

He was sent off and River were awarded a penalty, converted by Sabastian Abreu in the 62nd minute.

MNA/Reuters

Rosicky to Miss Euro 2008 through injury

LONDON, 10 May— Injured Czech Republic midfielder Tomms Rosicky has been ruled out of Euro 2008, his English Premier Leauge club Arsenal said on Friday.

"He is progressing well but he is definitely out of the European Championship." Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger said.

MNA/Reuters

Eriksson gives no clubs to his future

MANCHESTER (England), 10 May — Sven-Goran Eriksson refused to comment on his future in football on Friday as he prepared for what looks likely to be his final game in charge of Manchester City.

Portuguese club Benfica confirmed on Thursday that they had held talks about a possible return to the Stadium of Light for the former England coach, who according to widespread media reports is expected to be sacked by City after their game at Middlesbrough on Sunday.

Eriksson told reporters: "I have no comment about that I don't deny it and I don't confirm it. I refuse to answer questions about my future.

"I know there has been a lot of speculation but that's speculation. The facts will be known, probably next week."

"It has no meaning talking about if. It's better to talk about 'today' when things are sorted."

Eriksson believes he has overseen a successful first season in charge of City, who are set to finish no lower than ninth in their premier league after battling against relegation last season.

However, the Swede does not believe that club owner Thaksin Shinawatra shares that view, which means Sunday's game looks set to be his last.

MNA/Reuters

Tommy Robredo of Spain returns the ball to Andy Roddick of the US during their quarter final match in the Italy Masters Series tennis tournament in Rome on 9 May, 2008.—INTERNET

Guardiola good choice as Barcelona coach

MADRID, 10 May— Barcelona's appointment of Pep Guardiola to replace Frank Rijkaard as coach after the end of the season, has been backed by midfielder Xuvi.

President Joan Laipotta confirmed the decision on Thursday, a day after Barca were hammered 1-1 in the Primera Liga by arch-rivals and champions Real.

MNA/Reuters

Annika Sorenstam, of Sweden, chips up to the 11th green during the second round of the Michelob Ultra Open LPGA Golf tournament at Kingsmill Resort in Williamsburg, Va., on 9 May, 2008.—INTERNET

Man City's homesick sure longs to return home

BANGKOK, 10 May — Manchester City's Thai International Suree Sukha, on loan at Grasshoppers Zurich, wants to leave to club because he is homesick and lonely.

The unlucky fullback, offloaded to the Swiss side after being denied work permit in Britain, said he would return to Thailand and let City decide where to sent him next.

He has been unable to play in the Grasshoppers first team and sand the reserve side is substandard.

"I don't know anything about my future," a dejected Suree told the *Bangkok Post*.

"It's difficult for me to improve because the standards of the reserve side are similar to that of a third division club in Thailand," he said, adding that he was "very lonely".

MNA/Reuters

သဘာဝဘေးအန္တရာယ်ကျရောက်သောဒေသများရှိ ပြည်သူများအတွက် ကျန်းမာရေးသတိပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်

၁။ ရာသီဥတုဒဏ်ခံနိုင်သည့် အမိုးအကာအောက်တွင် နေထိုင်ကြရန်၊
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၈။ ထိခိုက်မှုအန္တရာယ်မဖြစ်စေရေးအတွက် သတိပြုဆောင်ရွက်ကြရန်၊
၉။ ရေကြီးပါက မြွေအန္တရာယ်တွေ့ကြုံရတတ်သဖြင့် သတိပြုကြရန်၊
၁၀။ ခြင်ကိုက်မခံရအောင် သတိပြုနေထိုင်ကြရန်၊
၁၁။ တစ်ကိုယ်ရေသန့်ရှင်းရေး ဂရုပြုဆောင်ရွက်ရန်၊ အစာမစားမီနှင့် အညစ်ကြေးကိုင်တွယ်ပြီးတိုင်း လက်ဆေးကြရန်၊
၁၂။ သဘာဝဘေးအန္တရာယ်ကျရောက်ပြီးသည့်အခါ အဆုတ်ရောင်ရောဂါ၊ ဝမ်းပျက်ဝမ်းလျောရောဂါ၊ မြွေဆိုးကိုက်အန္တရာယ်၊ ထိခိုက်မှုအန္တရာယ်နှင့် အခြားကျန်းမာရေးပြဿနာများ ဖြစ်ပွားတတ်ပါသည်။ ဖြစ်ပွားပါက အနီးဆုံးကျန်းမာရေးဌာနသို့ အမြန်ဆုံးသွားရောက်ပြသကြပါရန် သတိပေး နှိုးဆော် အပ်ပါသည်။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Models stand next to a 148-foot-long (45m) cigar rolled this week in Cuba during the tourism fair in Havana on 9 May, 2008. —INTERNET

Special weather news

(Issued at 09:00 hrs MST on 10-5-2008)

According to the observations at (08:30) hrs MST today, a typhoon "RAMMASUN" has formed over Western North Pacific near Philippines. Under the influence of this typhoon, waves of low pressure area are moving from East. Due to these waves, rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread to widespread in Kayin, Kayah and Mon States, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Southern Bago Divisions with temporary heavyfalls within (24) hours commencing this morning. Temporary squalls with rough sea are likely at times Gulf of Mottama and off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach about (40) mph.

Storm "Rammasun" moves northward off Philippines

MANILA, 10 May —Tropical storm "Rammasun" locally called "Butchoy", continued to gain strength Friday as it was moving northward in the high seas east to the Philippines, the Philippines Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said.

As of 2:00 am local time (1800 GMT) PAGASA tracked the storm east of Samar Island in central Philippines and was moving north to Luzon at 11 kilometres per hour (kph).

Late Thursday night the centre of the storm was placed at 500 kilometres east of Hinatuan, Surigao det Sur in southern Philippines, packing maximum sustained winds of 85 kph near the centre and gustiness f up to 100 kilometres per hour.

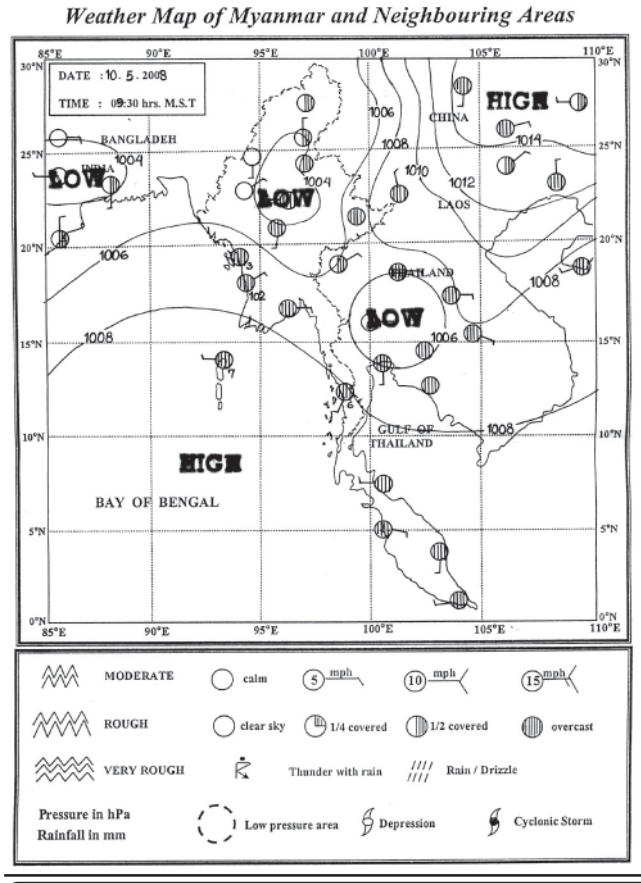
The weathe bureau forecast the storm to be 620 kilometres northeast of Hinatuan Friday night and 700 kilometres east of Borongan. Eastern Samar Saturday evening.

PAGASA said that despite the weather disturbance's intensrfied activity, no storm warring signal has been raised.

MNA/Xinhua

WEATHER

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Saturday, 10 May, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Taninthayi Division, scattered in Shan, Rakhine States and Mandalay Division, isolated in Sagaing and Yangon Divisions with isolated heavyfall in Rakhine State and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (3°C) above May average temperatures in Sagaing, Magway and Taninthayi Divisions, (3ºC) below May average temperatures in Eastern Shan State and about May average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Myingyan, Chauk and Minbu (42ºC) each and Monywa (41ºC). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Thandwe (4.02) inches and Dawei (2.36) inches.

Maximum temperature on 9-5-2008 was 94ºF. Minimum temperature on 10-5-2008 was 76ºF. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 10-5-2008 was 85%. Total sunshine hours on 9-5-2008 was (6.7) hours approx.

Rainfall on 10-5-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (19.41) inches at Mingaladon, (21.77) inches at Kaba-Aye and at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Southwest at (17:30) hours MST on 9-5-2008.

Bay inference: Weather is cloudy in the Andaman Sea and East Central Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 11-5-2008: Weather will be partly cloudy in Sagaing and Magway Divisions, rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kachin and Chin States, scattered in Rakhine and Shan States, Mandalay Division and fairly widespread to widespread in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 11-5-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in the afternoon or evening. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 11-5-2008: One or two rain ro thundershowers in the afternoon or evening. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 11-5-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in the afternoon or evening. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Sunday, 11 May, 2008

Relief goods delivered right to storm victims

PM visits relief camp in Hlinethaya

***Prime Minister General Thein Sein meets storm victims of Padan Village accommodated in the tents donated by the People's Republic of China.*—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 10 May —Chairman of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Prime Minister General Thein Sein, accompanied by Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and party visited relief camp in Hlinethaya this morning.

The Prime Minister cordially met storm victims and gave necessary instructions to officials concerned.

The Prime Minister and party in a motorcade along Yangon-Pyay Road, Insein Road and on Aungzeya Bridge at the entrance to Hlinethaya inpected plying of passenger buses and cargo trucks and business at the markets and the people travelling in buses.

They arrived at the relief camp on Padan Kyaung Street in the township. The storm victims of Padan Village were accommodated in the tents provided by the People's Republic of China.

In meeting with the victims, the Prime Minister said being under the shelter of tents they don't need to worry about the elements. He assured that relief items provided by the State, international organizations and wellwishers would be delivered right to them. And temporary tanks will be built for safe drinking water, he added.

The Prime Minister told the officials to build temporary toilets and provide buckets to the victims.

MNA

Relief aid sent to disaster-hit regions of Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 10 May —Relief items were transported from Yangon to disaster-hit areas in Ayeyawady Division by Tatmadaw helicopter from this morning to evening.

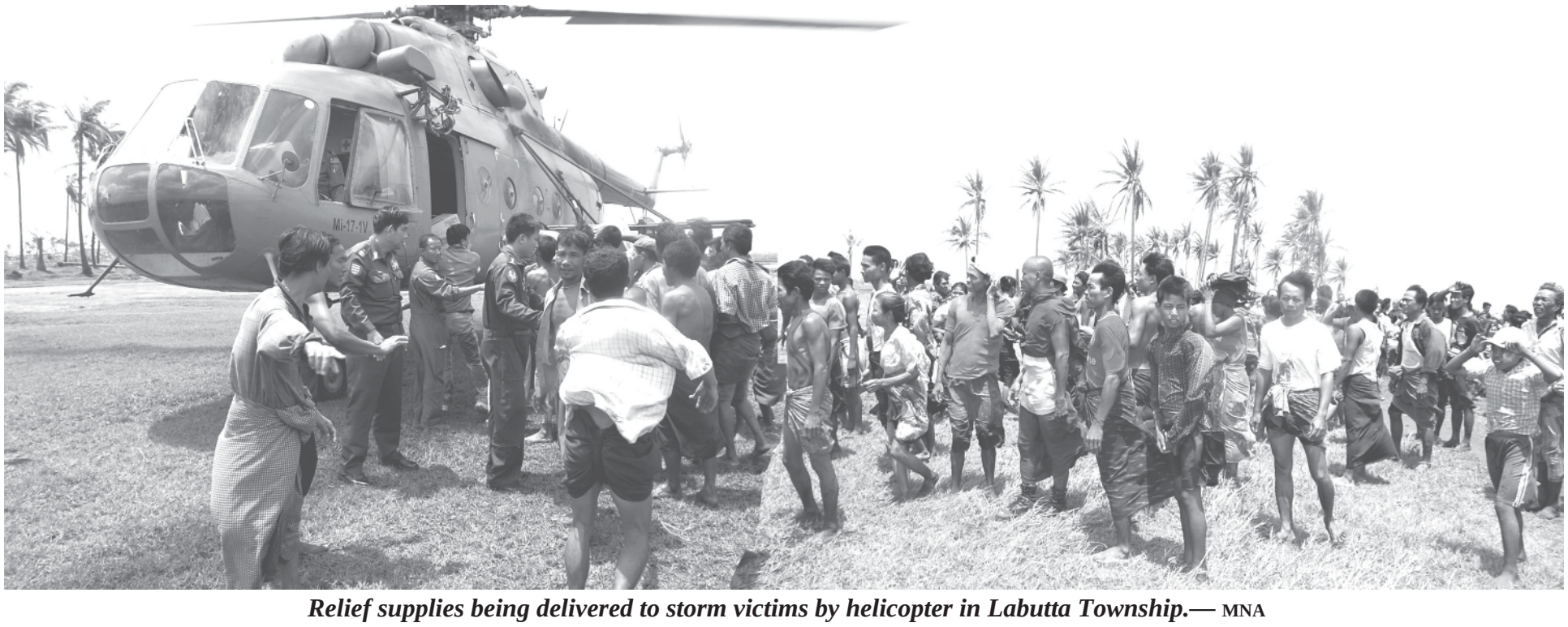
Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint and officials left for the disaster-hit regions to supervise relief tasks.

One cargo plane and six helicopters transported medicines and medical equipment, dry rations, clothes, tents, soft drinks, relief aid and bottles of purified drinking water for ten times to Maubin, Wakema, Myaungmya, Pathein, Mawlamyinegyun, Labutta and onshore areas. — *MNA*

International relief supplies continue to arrive in Yangon

YANGON, 10 May—As international community have been donating relief supplies to storm-hit areas, IL-76 aircraft carrying altogether 30 tons of 2000 packages of blankets and 135 tents donated by Russian Federation, SILK Air MI-511 aircraft carrying 146 packages of tents and plastic ground sheets donated by Singapore, DC-8 and IL-76 aircraft carrying altogether 70 tons of medical equipment, plastic sheets, mosquito nets, blankets, utensils and relief aids donated by WFP, Jade Cargo-747 carrying altogether 58.3 tons of pumps, water proof tents, medicines and towels donated by People's Republic of China, two C-130 aircraft

(See page 5)



***Relief supplies being delivered to storm victims by helicopter in Labutta Township.*— MNA**