

Senior General Than Shwe receives UN Secretary-General

NAY PYI TAW, 23 May—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe received UN Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon and party at Bayintnaung Yeiktha, here, at 10:30 am today.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Member of the SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Deputy Minister for So-

cial Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Myanmar Permanent Representative to UN Ambassador U Kyaw Tint Swe and Director-General of the Protocol Department U Kyaw Kyaw.

The UN Secretary-General was accompanied by Mr Vijay Nambiar, Senior Adviser, Mr John Holmes, Senior Adviser, Mr Michael Meyer, Director for Communications of EOSG, Mr Bishow Parajuli, Resident Coordinator, Yangon and Mr Daniel B Baker, Representative of the United Nations Population Fund.

MNA



Senior General Than Shwe welcomes UN Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon at Bayintnaung Yeiktha in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe receives UN Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon and party at Bayintnaung Yeiktha in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 24 May, 2008

Strive for sooner completion of rehabilitation tasks

Relief, rehabilitation and long-term disaster preparedness tasks are being carried out in storm-hit regions by the people, social organizations and departments with the contributions of local and international organizations under the leadership of the government.

In that regard, priority is being given to fulfilment of the food, clothing and shelter needs of storm victims and health care services. In the meantime, the Government, the people and the Tatmadaw are fully engaged in reconstruction of the victims' houses and regenerating their livelihoods.

As the second and third phase rehabilitation tasks could take time it calls for technology and assistance of the international community. A co-ordination machinery led by ASEAN is to be formed so as to ensure international assistance and cooperation in rehabilitation of the victims.

Furthermore, a ASEAN-UN conference to pledge the volume of relief supplies donated by international donors will be held on 25 May in Myanmar. This will contribute a lot to the relief and rehabilitation tasks. The contributions of the State, local and international donors have been the new strengths of storm victims and with this they will be able to overcome difficulties encountered.

As the State, the people and the Tatmadaw are engaged in rehabilitation tasks in concert we firmly believe that the drive for rehabilitation of the storm victims will be materialized soonest.

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မော်တော်ယာဉ်မသုံးစွဲရနဲ့

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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

Lt-Gen Myint Swe attends cash and kind donation ceremony for storm victims

YANGON, 23 May — Myanmar Economic Corporation and its related companies at home and from abroad donated cash and kind to the people in storm-hit regions, at the office of MEC in Mayangon Township yesterday afternoon.

It was attended 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, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and Maj-Gen Htin Aung Kyaw of the Ministry of Defence.

Minister Maj-Gen MaungMaungSweaccepted K 500 million and plastic sheets, disposable syringes worth K 121,265,900 donated by MEC, US\$ 250,000 by Tyazhpromexport, US\$ 125,000 by Daricle Corporation, US\$ 100,000 each by Italian-Thai Corporation and Daewoo International Corporation, US\$100,000bySKNetwork Corporation of Myanmar Hyosing Corporation, US\$ 10,000 by Hyosung Singapore Pte Ltd, 5 million yen by Kawasaki Plant Systems Ltd, 2,000 euro by Sinaran Corporation, K 15

million by Dagon Win Win Co Ltd, K 10 million by Ngwe Hsin Co Ltd, K 7.5 million by Grade Nine Co Ltd, K 5 million by Pin Pin Co, K 3 million each by Myanmar Tractors Ltd, YMCC Yunnan and K-Y Kyaw Kyaw Co Ltd, K 2 million each by Zuri Co Ltd, Moon Ray Co Ltd and VSV Asia Co Ltd, K 1.5 million by Superium Interprise Co, K 1.2 million by JFE Co (Yangon Branch), K 1,129,000 by Marubeni Co Ltd (Yangon Branch), K 1.1 million by Sojit Co (Yangon Branch), K 1 million each by Polyice Co, GMT Co, Golden Star Co, Thanlwin Co, U Sein Aye Co, PEG Co, Myanmar Kaido Co, Diethelm Co Ltd and MCM, K 500,000 each by Chem Tech Co and IE Petroleum

Products Co Ltd, K 300,000 each by Danamyay Co, Flying Sun Moon Co and Tractor World Co and 50 bags of rice worth K 900,000 by U Tun Myint-Daw Aye Aye Nyunt (KSS).
Later, the minister spoke words of thanks.
MNA

Lists of donations from abroad and at home, relief goods that have been supplied to storm-hit regions

YANGON, 23 May—The following is the lists of donations from abroad, local donations and relief goods that have been supplied to the storm-hit regions from 21 to 22 May.

**List of donations from international donors
(from 21-5-2008 to 22-5-2008)**

Sr.	Item	Total tonnage	Remarks
1.	Foodstuff	13.278	
2.	Consumer products	110.561	
3.	Construction materials	91.811	
4.	Medicines	33.318	
	Total	248.97	

**List of donations from local donors
(from 21-5-2008 to 22-5-2008)**

Sr.	Item	Total tonnage	Remarks
1.	Foodstuff	26	
2.	Consumer products	16	
3.	Construction materials	192.04	
4.	Medicines	0.42	
	Total	234.46	

**List of distribution of relief supplies to storm victims
(from 21-5-2008 to 22-5-2008)**

Sr.	Item	Foodstuff goods	Consumer materials	Construction tonnage	Total
	<u>Ayeyawady Division</u>				
1.	Pyapon**	2.5	5.5	4	12
2.	Mawlamyinegyun**	9	25	30	64
3.	Bogale**	10	25.2	30	65.2
4.	Labutta**	6.2	10	9	25.2
5.	Dedaye**	1.5	4.5	2	8
6.	Maubin*	1.5	3.5	3	8
7.	Myaungmya*	5	12.7	18	35.7
8.	Wakema*	2	4	6	12
9.	Kyondah	1	1.6	-	2.6
10.	Ngaputaw	2	4	6	12
	Total	40.7	96	108	244.7
	Yangon Division	18	30	40	88

Remarks:	*	Rear camps.
	**	Middle camps.
	***	Forward camps.

MNA

Venezuela to build 50,000 houses for poor families

CARACAS, 23 May — The Venezuelan Government announced Wednesday that it is to build 50,000 houses for poor families in six urban complexes, Housing Minister Edith Gomez said.

The houses will be built by the Housing Ministry in populous

sectors in the capital like Lecuna Avenue, Montalban, La Rinconada, and on the outskirts like Filas de Mariche, Guarenas and Vargas.

An additional 5,000 apartments are under construction in Guatire in the state of Miranda as

part of a project to build 18,000 apartments.

Gomez said the apartments are being built under a government programme called “Mision Villanueva”, in honour of the deceased Venezuelan architect Raul Villanueva.

MNA/Xinhua



Firemen inspect a burnt house in Berriane, 40 km (25 miles) north of Ghardaia, on 18 May, 2008. Hundreds of Algerian security forces were deployed in the town of Berriane on Sunday to try to end three nights of clashes between Arabs and minority Berbers, the worst urban unrest in the OPEC producer in months.—INTERNET



Palestinian truck bomber attacks key border crossing

GAZA, 23 May—An explosives-laden truck driven by a Palestinian suicide bomber blew up on Thursday near an Israeli border crossing with the Gaza Strip but only the attacker was killed in a blast heard 30 kilometres (18 miles) away.

Israeli media reports said soldiers fired at the vehicle as it approached Erez Crossing. An Army spokeswoman said it had exploded on the Palestinian side of the frontier, blowing out windows in nearby buildings. The spokeswoman said two other men involved in the attack were killed when two missiles launched from an Israeli helicopter totally destroyed their getaway vehicle. There were no Israeli casualties, she said. — MNA/Reuters

Palestinians stand near a destroyed vehicle after it was hit by missiles launched from an Israeli helicopter near the Erez crossing in Gaza on 22 May, 2008.

INTERNET

Brown faces political test in northern England

LONDON, 23 May— Britain’s opposition Conservative Party look poised on Thursday to win, for the first time in 26 years, a mid-term parliamentary seat, a victory that would add to Prime Minister Gordon Brown’s woes.

Although only a single seat in the House of Commons is at stake, the by-election in the northern town of Crewe—triggered by the death of the previous incumbent—is

being closely watched as a sign of Brown’s diminishing political fortunes since taking over from Tony Blair a year ago. Brown’s popularity ratings in polls have collapsed since last Autumn after he backed away from calling an early election, leading some in his party to question whether he is the best man to lead it into the next general election due by 2010.

Voters will choose who is to fill a seat held for 34 years by Gwyneth Dunwoody, a popular, no-nonsense traditionalist from Brown’s ruling Labour Party who died last month. Her daughter Tamsin, 49, is fighting to keep the seat for Labour, but Conservative Andrew Timpson, 34, led by 13 points in a poll by the firm ComRes in Tuesday’s *Independent* newspaper.

MNA/Reuters

South Korean farmers participates in a candlelight vigil against US beef imports in Seoul, South Korea, on 22 May, 2008.

INTERNET

Olmert proposes naval blockade on Iran

JERUSALEM, 23 May—Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert proposed in talks with a US congressional leader that a naval blockade be imposed on Iran to try to curb its nuclear programme, an Israeli newspaper reported on Wednesday.

The *Haaretz* daily quoted Olmert as telling Nancy Pelosi that “the present economic sanctions have exhausted themselves” and the international community needed to take more drastic steps to stop Iran’s efforts to obtain nuclear weapons.

A spokesman for Olmert declined to comment on the Israeli leader’s talks on Monday with Pelosi, the speaker of the US House of Representatives, in Jerusalem. —MNA/Reuters

Sarkozy under pressure as French protests escalate

PARIS, 23 May—French President Nicolas Sarkozy will come under renewed pressure on Thursday when trade unions hold a nationwide strike against his pension reform plans.

Workers in transport and various other sectors will take to the streets in cities across France in protest at the plan to increase to 41 from 40 the number of years people must work before being entitled to a state pension.

Port workers have also called for a walkout to coincide with the one-day protest, continuing disruptions to shipping after some fishermen pledged to persist with action over rising diesel costs despite government aid plans unveiled on Wednesday.

MNA/Reuters



Bootleg liquor kills 150 in southern India

BANGALORE (India), 23 May—At least 150 people have died in southern India after drinking bootleg liquor laced with chemicals, and another 88 are seriously ill, police said on Wednesday.

Police said mostly labourers in the southern states of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu bought the liquor, sold in plastic pouches from illegal shops, at the weekend and immediately fell sick. In rural India, poor villagers often buy cheap alcohol, also known as “country liquor”, as they cannot afford to buy bottles from state-approved shops.— MNA/Reuters

Ban hails political accord reached by Lebanese parties

UNITED NATIONS, 22 May — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon welcomed on Wednesday an agreement reached earlier in the day in Doha, Qatar, by Lebanon’s political leaders.

“He hopes this agreement will be the prelude to a lasting period of national reconciliation, political stability, peace

and progress for all of Lebanon’s people and for the future of their country, as well as a stepping stone toward the full implementation of the provisions of the Taif Agreement and the relevant Security Council resolutions,” said a statement issued by Ban’s spokesperson.

Ban also expressed his

appreciation for the “crucial efforts of the government of Qatar and the League of Arab States in facilitating this agreement”.

The agreement followed recent deadly clashes between supporters of the Lebanese Government and anti-government militias in the capital, Beirut.— MNA/Reuters



Russian vehicles transport ‘Topol-M’ missiles through the Ivanovo region on 15 May. Russia’s new President Dmitry Medvedev warned of “an adequate response” to US missile defence plans but said Moscow is still ready to negotiate with Washington.—INTERNET

Obama eyes general election with Iowa celebration

DES MOINES (Iowa), 22 May — Democrat Barack Obama came close to declaring victory in the race for his party’s presidential nomination on Tuesday, looking to November while thanking the state that launched his underdog White House bid.

Obama sounded like a winner without actually claiming the prize in his battle against Hillary Clinton to run against Republican John McCain

in the November 4 general election.

Contests in Oregon and Kentucky handed him a majority of the delegates elected in state-by-state nominating contests.

“We have returned to Iowa with a majority of delegates elected by the

American people,” Obama said, lauding the state that gave him a win in the first nominating contest in January and pushed his candidacy forward at a time when Clinton was the clear front-runner.

MNA/Reuters

A wildfire burns in Corralitos, California, on 22 May, 2008. A wind-whipped wildfire burning out of control threatened several homes in the Santa Cruz Mountains on Thursday, closing schools and prompting some evacuations.—INTERNET

US helicopter strike kills eight Iraqi civilians

BAIJI (Iraq), 22 May— A US military helicopter airstrike on a car on Wednesday night killed eight civilians in Baiji, north of Baghdad, two police officials said on Thursday.

Baiji’s police chief, Colonel Mudhher al-Qaisi, told Reuters the civilians were shepherds who were in a farming area in the town when the strike took place.

“This is a criminal act. It will make the relations between Iraqi citizens and the US forces tense. This will negatively affect security improvements,” said al-Qaisi.

MNA/Reuters

Blast kills two ISAF soldiers, one Afghan civilian

KABUL, 22 May— An explosion in the eastern Afghan province of Ghazni killed two soldiers from the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and one civilian interpreter, ISAF said in a statement on Wednesday.

Taliban militants regularly use roadside bombs to target foreign and Afghan soldiers in a bid to topple the US-backed government and force withdrawal of the nearly 60,000 foreign troops stationed in the country. Tuesday’s incident happened while the soldiers were on patrol.

MNA/Reuters



An Iraqi policeman checks the identity cards of arrested suspects in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, on 22 May, 2008. Some 1,300 people were detained since the start of the Iraqi army operations in Mosul last week. Mosul, 360 kilometres (225 miles) northwest of Baghdad, has been the most prominent al-Qaida urban stronghold in Iraq.—INTERNET

Possible US vice presidential picks to see McCain

IRVINE (California), 22 May— Republican presidential candidate John McCain will spend time this weekend with three politicians who have been mentioned prominently by Republicans as possible vice presidential running mates.

A McCain campaign official said on Wednesday McCain would host former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, Florida Governor Charlie Crist and Louisiana

Governor Bobby Jindal at his ranch in Sedona, Arizona. A total of 10 couples were invited.

“It’s a purely social weekend with friends, something he obviously likes to do from time to time,” said the official.

McCain has clinched the Republican presidential nomination and is anticipating a general election campaign against Democratic front-runner Barack Obama.

Romney, 61, who lost

the Republican nomination battle to McCain, has made clear he would seriously consider a vice presidential offer.

Crist, 51, who took office last year, has been more coy. Picking him could help McCain in the battleground state of Florida. Jindal, 36, who was elected last October as the first Indian-American US governor, has said he likes his current job.

MNA/Reuters



Somali gunmen kidnap two Italian aid workers

MOGADISHU, 22 May— Somali gunmen kidnapped two Italian aid workers on Wednesday in the latest abduction of foreigners in the Horn of Africa country, officials and residents said.

One official said the abducted Italians were a man and a woman. One resident said a Somali aid worker was also seized in the town of Awdigle south of the capital Mogadishu.

Residents said gunmen in three vehicles stormed the offices of an aid group called CNIS, which carries out agricultural projects in the area.

MNA/Reuters

China-Russia energy coop “won’t hurt other countries”

BEIJING, 22 May — Energy cooperation between China and Russia would not hurt other countries’ interests, Assistant Foreign Minister Li Hui told reporters here on Tuesday.

Li made the remarks during a Press briefing on the coming China visit by Russian President Dmitri Medvedev from 23-24 May, his first outside the Commonwealth of Independent States. Russian Ambassador to China Sergey Razov also

attended the Press conference.

He said China and Russia attached importance to energy cooperation that benefits both countries, and that is an important component in the strategic and cooperative partnership.

“China advocates enhancing international cooperation on energy resources to safeguard energy security,” he said. On oil pipeline cooperation, Razov said the Eastern Siberia Pacific Oil

Pipeline was under construction according to plan. Nuclear energy cooperation, Li said, was a core area for cooperation and had been fruitful in the past.

He said the first phase of the Tianwan nuclear power plan between China and Russia has been constructed smoothly, and the preparatory work for the second phase is under way with some agreements being signed.

Xinhua



A man holds an Olympic flag yesterday at the Bund. The Beijing Olympic torch relay will be held in Shanghai on Saturday when traffic limits will be enforced. Century Park and the Shanghai Science and Technology Museum in Pudong will be closed tomorrow.—XINHUA

Vietnam faces shortage of finance, healthcare in manpower

HANOI, 22 May—Vietnam’s financial and banking, healthcare and shipbuilding industries are now in need of qualified employees, local newspaper *Vietnam Economic Times* reported Wednesday.

Banks in Vietnam annually need 15,000 university graduates, but educational and training institutions can churn out only 11,000 each year.

According to the estimation of Vietnam’s Education and Training,

the country’s shipbuilding industry needs 10,000-15,000 new staff each year in the 2008-2015 period, but 40-60 per cent of the manpower demand can be met. Now, over 5,700 local students study shipbuilding at six universities and colleges.

Vietnam, targeting to have 1.5 druggists per 10,000 residents by 2010, currently has only 0.2 druggists per 10,000 people, according to the country’s Health Ministry.

Xinhua

Turkey confirms indirect peace talks between Israel, Syria

ANKARA, 22 May—Israeli and Syrian delegations are holding indirect peace talks with Turkey’s mediation in the Turkish city of Istanbul, Turkish private NTV reported on Wednesday.

“Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert’s chief of staff and diplomatic adviser have been in Turkey since Monday. In parallel, their Syrian counterparts are in Turkey as well,” said the report, adding that indirect peace negotiations had begun between the two nations, with Turkish mediators shuttling between them.

Both Israel and Syria announced on Wednesday that they are holding indirect peace talks

through Turkish mediators, the first official confirmation of contacts between the two countries, which had a bitter dispute over the strategic Golan Heights which Israel captured from Syria in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Xinhua

All Items from Xinhua News Agency

Singapore sets up inter-agency taskforce

SINGAPORE, 22 May — Singapore’s Deputy Prime Minister S. Jayakumar said Wednesday the government will set up an inter-agency taskforce to help businesses strengthen their corporate resilience to overcome crisis.

The taskforce will be led by the Ministry of Trade and Industry, and involves other key agencies, such as the Ministry of Home Affairs as well as the Finance Ministry.

“A strong and resilient corporate sector is critical, especially for a business and financial hub like Singapore,” Jayakumar said at the National Security Dialogue with the business community.

He said, “A terrorist attack, disease pandemic, or a natural disaster can cause huge disruptions in financial services, our information communications, tourism and other sectors of the economy.”

The taskforce will formulate implementation strategies to encourage more companies to adopt the existing national standard, aimed at helping businesses identify contingencies and develop appropriate response plans.

Singapore developed the Technical Reference 19 Business Continuity Management Standard (TR19) in 2005. It was initiated by the Singapore Business Federation and supported by several government agencies.

About 100 companies in Singapore to date have expressed interest in TR19.

Xinhua

Lebanese leaders reach agreement on resolving crisis

BEIRUT, 22 May—Lebanese rival leaders in Doha reached Wednesday an agreement on resolving the political crisis, NBN TV quoted the opposition Parliament member (MP) Ali Hasan Khalil as saying.

The agreement calls for electing a president immediately, forming a government based on a 16-11-3 formula (16 for the majority, 11 for the opposition and 3 to be chosen by the president) and adopting 1960 electoral law, said the report.

“We except the presidential elections on Thursday or Friday,” Khalil, the political assistant of Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, was quoted as saying.

“The official announcement of the agreement will take place at 10 am (0700 GMT) Wednesday” in the Qatari capital city of Doha, where the rival leaders have been negotiating since Saturday aiming at solving the long ongoing political crisis in the country, which turned violent between pro-government and opposition supporters about two weeks ago.

Lebanon is facing the most complicated political crisis since the 1975-1990 civil war. Lebanese political rival groups were unable to achieve a breakthrough to elect a new president for the country since November 24 last year when ex-president Emile Lahoud ended his term.—Xinhua

Unemployment rate continues falling in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 22 May —Brazil’s unemployment rate was 8.5 per cent in April, marking the second fall in a row, as unemployment was 8.6 in

March, down from 8.7 per cent in February, said the Geography and Statistics Institute, or IBGE, Wednesday.

A total of 1.99 million Brazilians were unemployed in April, down 13.9 per cent from the same month in 2007, whereas 21.4 million citizens had a job, up 4.3 per cent from April last year, said the IBGE, adding that the figures did not show significant changes in relation to March.

Xinhua



Citizens and tourists mourn during a silent tribute in Tian'anmen square in central Beijing, capital of China, on 19 May, 2008. China began on 19 May a three-day mourning for the victims of the 8.0-magnitude quake hitting southwest and northwest China on 12 May. —XINHUA

Indonesia, Hungary seek to boost trade volume

JAKARTA, 22 May — Indonesia and Hungary agreed Wednesday to strengthen cooperation in bilateral trade which saw a significant decline over the last five years.

“The economic ties between the two countries are doing fine but we agree to do more because we both enjoy expanding economy,” Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said after a meeting with his

Hungarian counterpart Laszlo Solyom at the Merdeka Palace here.

“The Indonesia-Hungary Joint Commission must be more active in identifying areas where we can achieve more, and the private sector needs to enhance communication to explore concrete opportunities,” he said in a Press conference alongside Solyom.

According to the Indonesian statistics, the

bilateral trade volume sharply fell to 62.3 million US dollars in 2007 from 109.3 million dollars in 2003.

Solyom said his government would encourage small and medium-scale enterprises to hold partnerships with Indonesian companies. He also underlined the need to revitalize the business council between the two countries in order to lure investments.

MNA/Xinhua



A model display of an Airbus A350 XWB is displayed at the Singapore Airshow in Singapore in February 2008. European plane maker Airbus has a weight problem with its next-generation A350 passenger jet, a German press report said on 21 May 2008.—INTERNET

Vietnam issues license to new oil refinery

HANOI, 22 May — Vietnam has issued license to the development of an oil refinery with annual capacity of two million tons of crude oil in southern Can Tho City with investment of 538 million US dollars, a local official told Xinhua on Wednesday.

The project's developer, Can Tho Oil Refinery Company Ltd — a joint venture between a Vietnamese firm and a US partner, is expected to start the construction of the oil refinery, whose products include petroleum, liquefied petroleum gas, diesel oil and naphtha, in the city this year, said Bui Ngoc Vi, chairperson of the Economic Bureau under the Can Tho People's Committee.

To feed the refinery, Can Tho Oil Refinery Company will mainly use crude oil exploited in Vietnam, and import a small amount of the material, she noted.

Vietnam is building its first two oil refineries, Dung

Quat in central Quang Ngai Province and Nghi Son in northern Thanh Hoa Province, whose major investor is state-owned Vietnam National Oil and Gas Group (PetroVietnam).

MNA/Xinhua

EU business gives mixed welcome to new WTO text

BRUSSELS, 22 May — Europe's biggest employers lobby said on Tuesday it was concerned that a revised set of proposals to unblock world trade talks could allow developing countries to protect entire industrial

sectors against imports.

But there seemed to be positive elements in the text released at the World Trade Organization on Monday such as progress on sector-specific deals for deeper cuts in import duties and

lowering non-tariff barriers, a BusinessEurope official said.

“This is very initial as we have only seen the text this morning,” said Carsten Dannoehl, a trade adviser at the Brussels-based European business organization. “Maybe later today we can give a more detailed assessment.”

The WTO's Doha Round of negotiations for a global trade deal was launched in 2001 in a bid to fight poverty and boost the world economy.

But it has been beset by deep differences among rich and poor countries and now risks years of further delay without a breakthrough soon, ahead of the US presidential election.

MNA/Reuters

Unsold 2008 Super Duty pickup trucks sit at a Ford dealership in the south Denver suburb of Littleton, Colo, on 11 May, 2008. Ford Motor Co on 22 May, 2008, said it is cutting North American production of pickups and SUVs as car buyers eyeing record gas prices turn toward more fuel-efficient models.

INTERNET



At the Addis Car Sales lot in Tucker, Ga, Mike Haile points out a few of the features in a 2006 Toyota Corolla CE available for \$10,900, the Corolla is one of the top selling cars available in the current market on 20 May, 2008. Haile sites graduating students, gas prices and efficiency for the increase in small car sales.—INTERNET

Russia to spend \$550b on modernizing transport

SOCHI (Russia), 22 May — Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin on Tuesday pledged nearly 550 billion US dollars to modernize Russia's creaking transport system by 2015.

“We are talking about the biggest investment project ever launched by the Russian Government,” he told a meeting of top transport officials in the Black Sea resort of Sochi.

Putin said that out of the 13 trillion roubles (548.1 billion US dollars), 4.7 trillion roubles (198.1 billion US dollars) would be allocated from the state budget. Putin, who presided

over eight years of economic growth in Russia as president, became Prime Minister this month under his handpicked successor Dmitry Medvedev and promised to make the country one of top six

world's economies by 2020. Infrastructure projects are a key part of the government's efforts to diversify the economy using Russia's new wealth accumulated from high energy prices.

MNA/Reuters

Microsoft not bidding to buy Yahoo

HERZLIYA (Israel), 22 May — Microsoft Corp is not looking to make a bid to buy Yahoo Inc but the company was in talks to make other types of deals with Yahoo, Microsoft Chief Executive Steve Ballmer said on Wednesday. “We are not bidding to buy Yahoo,” Ballmer said at the launch of Microsoft's new research and development centre in Israel.

“Yet, we are trying to have discussions about deals with Yahoo that might create value but not a whole acquisition of the company,” he said without elaborating further. — MNA/Reuters

Ecuador proposes reduction in electricity charges

QUITO, 23 May — Ecuadorean President Rafael Correa has proposed to bring down electricity charges to 8.5 US cents per kilowatt/hour for all subscribers of the electrical system, effective from January 2009.

The proposal was put forward by Correa on Wednesday, during a meeting with the director of the National Electricity Council (Conelec) to

discuss issues related to the Electrification Master Plan 2007-2015 and development strategies for electrical sector production projects, according to the presidency's official website.

Electricity charges currently stand at 8.8 cents per kilowatt/hour. However, electrical sector authorities have pointed out that the real cost is 11 cents.

It was agreed at the meeting that the reduced fee will be confirmed or modified when Conelec presents a technical study on 30 June.

Electricity Minister Alecksey Mosquera said that the implementation of this proposal depends partly on the new Constitution, which will create special articles for electrical services.

MNA/Xinhua

Romania, Serbia sign MoU on environment protection

BUCHAREST, 23 May — Romania and Serbia signed here on Wednesday a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on the cooperation in the field of environment protection, the first document concluded in this sector between the two countries

since 1955.

The sustainable development for the two countries mean a long-term collaboration in the field of environment protection and a mutual support in this sector, Attila Korodi, Romanian Minister of Environment and Sustainable De-

velopment stressed at the signing ceremony.

"The signing of this memorandum is a mutual commendable step and a clear proof that our bilateral relations will materialize and there will be many actions which, so far have been at level of decisions," said Korodi.

The Serbian Minister of Environment Sasa Dragin said Serbia will try to implement as soon as possible the European standards in the field of environmental protection.

In this respect, he stressed that Serbia's priority is the control of pollution, but also the education in the field of environment protection.

MNA/Xinhua

New Zealand pilots land on a wing and a prayer

WELLINGTON, 23 May — Two New Zealand pilots whose plane ran out of fuel landed on a wing and a prayer, literally, local media reported on Wednesday.

Grant Stubbs and Owen Wilson from Blenheim, at the top of the South Island about 50 kilometres (30 miles) south of Wellington, were in a microlight plane when the engine cut out.

"When you're in a microlight if you crash, you usually die. I turned to O B (Wilson) and he said we had no fuel," Stubbs told the *Marlborough Express* newspaper. — MNA/Reuters



Sony Corp's PlayStation 3 (PS3) game controller is pictured at a Sofmap electric store in Tokyo on 14 May, 2008. Apparently, 68% growth just isn't good enough, so investors sold shares of the video game software makers Friday. —INTERNET



Planes on the tarmac at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, on 9 April, 2008. Flight delays could cost US airlines more than \$2 billion in wasted jet fuel this year, according to a congressional report released on Thursday. —INTERNET

Food, medicine delivered to pandas in quake-hit China town

CHENGDU, 22 May — Huge quantities of bamboo plants, apples and drugs have been sent to hungry pandas in the

China Giant Panda Protection and Research Centre based in Wolong, which is only 30 kilometres from the

epicentre of last week's massive earthquake.

The cargo included 4,500 kilogrammes of bamboo, 1,050 kilos of bamboo shoots and apples, soybeans, eggs, milk powder and other foods, the Sichuan provincial forestry

department said on Wednesday.

"There was only water [for the pandas] for a few days after the earthquake," said Xiong Beirong, a wildlife protection official with the forestry department.

MNA/Xinhua

China vows severe measures against shoddy builders

BEIJING, 23 May — China vowed on Wednesday to take severe measures against any state-owned companies found to have built public buildings such as schools which collapsed like houses of cards following the massive earthquake on 12 May.

The government has already begun a probe into the huge numbers of school collapses that killed thousands of children and buried thousands more when many other buildings remained standing.

The quake, which struck the populous southwestern province of

Sichuan, has killed more than 40,000 people, and that number seems certain to climb further as rescuers keep combing through the rubble.

It struck in the middle of the afternoon when many children were at their desks or taking a nap.

Li Rongrong, head of China's state-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission who is in charge of overseeing the country's huge state sector, said generally construction companies under him were very good.

"Their building projects to date have been very good, and these firms have a very good reputation both at home and abroad," Li told a news conference.

"If these buildings (which collapsed) were built by major state-owned firms, we will take severe measures," he added, without elaborating.

Li said that the government had sent three experts to Sichuan to probe this issue.

MNA/Reuters

Oman welcomes inter-Lebanese political agreement

ABUDHABI, 23 May — Oman on Wednesday welcomed the political agreement reached by Lebanese leaders in the Qatari capital of Doha earlier in the day to end the Lebanese crisis, the official *Oman News Agency* reported.

Omani Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs Yousuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah said Lebanon will start a new chapter in its history after suffering from difficulties, political disputes and stress.

The Lebanese leaders have prioritized the interests of Lebanon in inking such a deal, he added.

MNA/Xinhua

Prime Minister hosts dinner to UN Secretary-General

NAY PYI TAW, 23 May — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein hosted dinner to United Nations Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon and party at the Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, here, yesterday.

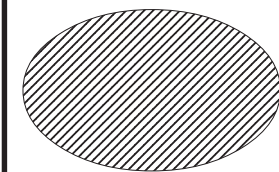
Before the

dinner, the Prime Minister cordially met with the UN Secretary General. Afterwards, the Prime Minister hosted dinner to the guests.

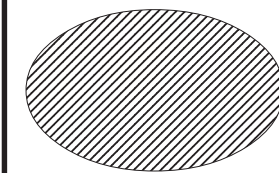
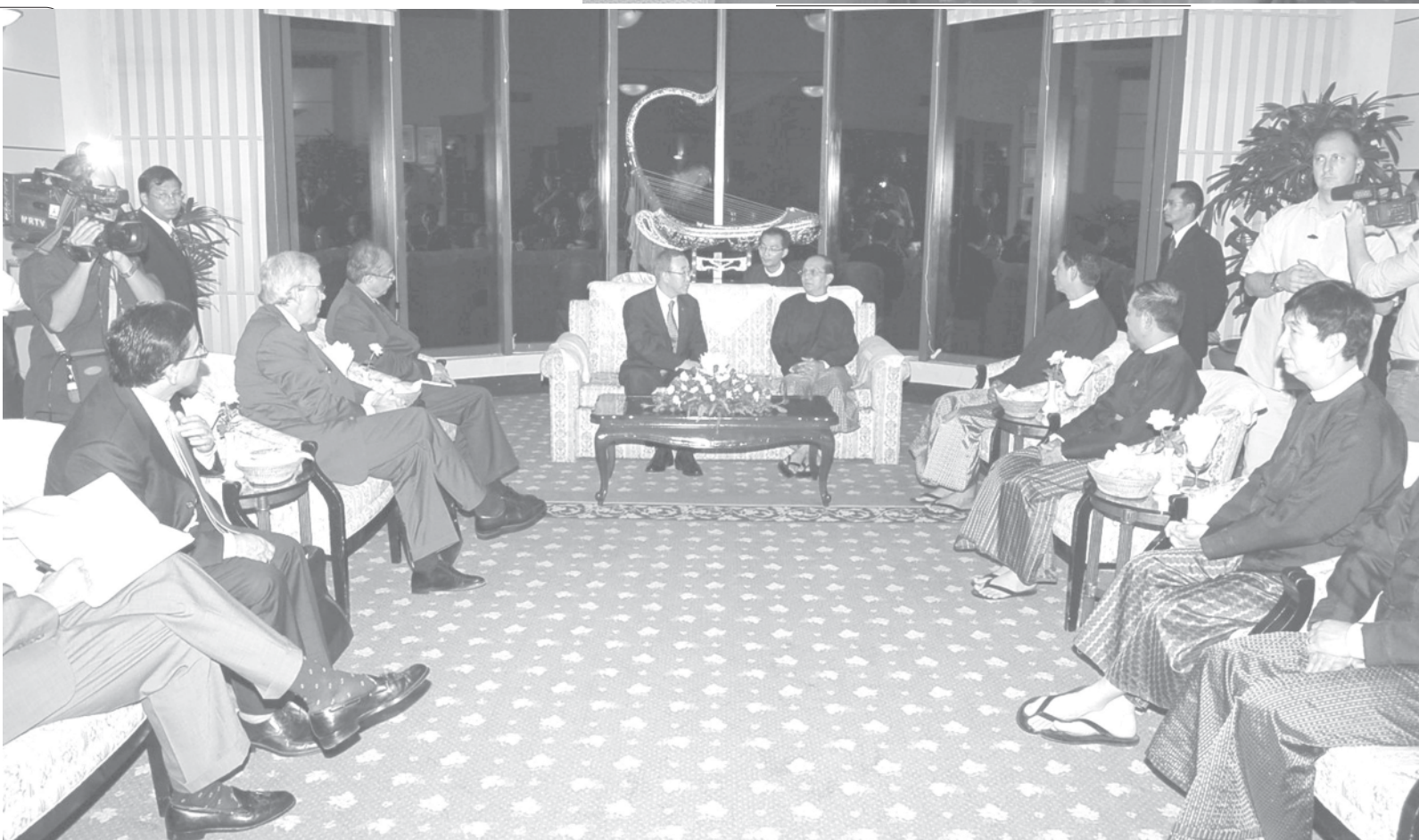
Also present on the occasion were Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Social, Welfare, Relief and

Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Myanmar Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador U Kyaw Tint Swe, Director-General of the Government Office and departmental heads.

MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein meets UN Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon at the Sedona Hotel in Yangon. — MNA



Head of Organizational Department of MWAF presents relief aid to victims in Thanlyin Township

YANGON, 23 May — Head of Organizational Department Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo and party of the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Chairperson Daw Khin Myo Thu of Yangon Division Women's Affairs Organization and officials this morning presented household goods and medicines to storm victims at Shwebo Pariyatti Monastery in Thauktawtwin Ward of Thanlyin Township and comforted them. — MNA



Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo of MWAF presents relief aid to a storm victim in Thanlyin. — IPRD

People from states, divisions donate cash, relief aid to storm victims

NAY PYI TAW, 23 May — Departments members of social organizations, families of Tatmadawmen and wellwishers from states and divisions continued to donate cash and kind and relief aid to storm survivors.

Today's donations for the storm victims were K 17,306,200 by the people from Shan State (North); K 438,200 and relief aids by the people from Shan State (South) and Kayah State; K 6.5 million by the people from Sagaing Division; construction materials and foods worth

K 18,650,000 by the people from Taninthayi Division; 1,500 rice bags worth K 75,650,000, 127 cattle and clothes by the people from Mandalay Division; K 1,622,620 and rice and foods worth K 727,000 by the people from Bago Division and K 14.4 million and relief aids

worth K20,139,800 by the governmental employees and the people from Magway Division. Today's donations including K 694,637,310 were K 850,071,130. The donations of cash and kind up to 23 May reached K 9,382,634,623 in total.

MNA

All this needs to be known

- * Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- * Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- * Do not be softened whenever appeased

Labour Minister inspects factories

YANGON, 23 May — Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi visited Hlinethaya and Shwepyitha industrial zones today and inspected running of some factories which were destroyed by the storm.

Out of 2,830 factories in industrial zones in Yangon, 550 were damaged by the storm on 2 and 3 May. Thanks to the cooperative efforts of owners of the factories, workers and employees of the ministries, 2,757 factories can run at full capacity to date. Almost cent per cent of labourers are working at the factories to boost productivity of the factories. Efforts are being made to run other seventy-three factories which were also damaged by the storm. — MNA



Minister U Aung Kyi inspects running of some factories in Hlinethaya and Shwepyitha industrial zones which were damaged by the storm.—MNA



Diplomats, UN officials and representatives of ASEAN and international organizations visit Bogale Township People's Hospital. —MNA

Diplomats, resident representatives...

(from page 16)

Afterwards, the guests visited Relief Camp No 1 in Pyapon where they looked into health care services and supply of relief goods. They then raised queries. They viewed repairs of No. 5 Basic Education Primary School and No. 1 Basic Education High School by car.

After that, they helicoptered to Satsan Village in Bogale Township and viewed loss and damage and rehabilitation work. They next proceeded to Kyonda Village in

Dedaye Township. At the briefing hall, officials concerned explained matters relating to Kyonda Relief Camp and damage that occurred due to the storm. The diplomats viewed solar power generators, fuel-powered generators, health care services, water purifier, dinning hall and kitchen room. They arrived back in Yangon in the afternoon.

Similarly, Group-2 arrived in Bogale by helicopter. They were welcomed there by No 66 LID Commander Brig-Gen

Maung Maung Aye.

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung explained rescue, resettlement and construction work to the study group and replied to the queries raised by members of the study group.

Members of the study group later visited the People's Hospital of Bogale Township and met the patients there. They went round Bogale in a motorcade.

Next, they flew to Mawlamyinegyun viewing the storm-hit villages—Hlinebon and Kyahon by the helicopter. Lt-Col Tun

Tun briefed the study group on rescue, supply and reconstruction work at the hall of local battalion.

Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt answered queries raised by members of the study group.

The study group went around Mawlamyinegyun and arrived back in Yangon.

Likewise, the study group No. 3 arrived at Myaungmya by helicopter.

The study group

proceeded to the relief camps No. 1 at No. 1 Basic Education High School in Myaungmya, No. 2 at Sasana Beikman, No. 17 at Shwethalayaung Sutaungpyae Pagoda and No. 4 at No 4 BEHS. They observed accommodation, supply of relief supplies, health care services and preparing of meals and chatted with the storm victims.

At Labutta, Col Kyaw Lin Tun of South-West Command explained losses and damages, completion of rescue work and arrangements for recon-

struction and resettlement to the study group and they raised queries at Bayintnaung Yeiktha. Later, the study group went to the People's Hospital in Labutta and observed treatment of the patients there. They viewed accommodations, health care services and supply of drinking water at the relief camp in Yadanadipa Sports Ground.

They viewed the storm-hit villages—Theikpangongyi, Hlinebon, Kyahon on helicopter and arrived back Yangon in the afternoon.—MNA



Diplomats, UN officials and representatives of ASEAN and international organizations view arrival of relief items in Mawlamyinegyun Township. —MNA



Diplomats, UN officials and representatives of ASEAN and international organizations visit a relief camp in Labutta Township. —MNA



More international aids arrive

YANGON, 23 May —IL-76 flight carrying 38 tons of tarpaulins and tents and accessories donated by IFRC, 747 flight carrying 52 tons of construction materials for schools worth US\$ 100,000 donated by Care group in Brunei Darussalam, IL-76 flight carrying 40 tons of biscuit donated by Pakistan, DC-8 flight carrying 33 tons of medicines, blankets, kitchen utensils, beds, tarpaulins, purified bottled water and toilet- used materials donated by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France, three C 130 flights carrying 35 tons of mosquito nets, eggs, rice, blankets,

plywood, purified bottled water and gloves donated by Thai government and people and two C-130 flight carrying 23 tons of tarpaulins and empty bottles donated by the US arrived at Yangon International Airport today. Similarly, TG-303 flight carrying 2 tons of personal goods donated by Red Cross Society of the Republic of Korea, TG-303 flight carrying 2 tons of personal goods donated by Red Cross Society of Switzerland, MI-512 carrying 0.08 ton of medicines donated by Singapore-Myanmar Christian Association,

FD-3770 carrying 0.434 ton of foodstuff and medicines donated by wellwishers from Malaysia, DC-8 flight carrying 18 tons of kitchen utensils donated by Indonesia and IL-76 flight carrying 34 tons of medicines, foodstuff and tarpaulins donated by France Red Cross Society arrived at Yangon International Airport yesterday. Relief supplies donated by wellwishers from foreign countries have been distributed to storm-hit regions by helicopter vehicle and vessel without delay. MNA



Relief aid from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France arrives in Yangon.—MNA



Relief items from Pakistan arrive at Yangon International Airport. MNA

Health Minister meets mobile medical teams bound for Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 23 May — Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint greeted mobile medical teams comprising specialists and health assistance trainees who will provide medical treatment to storm victims in Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and another specialist group led by Rector of University of Nursing (Yangon) Dr Khin May

Ohn who will perform health care in Maubin, Ayeyawady Division at Yangon General Hospital this morning. Next, the minister and party looked into packaging and distribution of medicines by doctors, nurses and health assistants from states and divisions and attended to the needs. The minister

stressed the need to carry out public health care and preventive measures against infectious diseases and urged the officials to fulfill requirements of the mobile medical teams. A total of 73 health assistant trainees from the University of Primary Health (Magway) left for affected-villages in Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions.—MNA

UN Secretary-General arrives in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 23 May — A delegation led by UN Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon currently in Myanmar

arrived in Nay Pyi Taw by special flight at 9 am today. The UN Secretary-General and party were

welcomed at Nay Pyi Taw airport by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and officials. MNA

Foreign Minister hosts luncheon to UN Secretary-General and party

NAY PYI TAW, 23 May — Accompanied by officials concerned, UN Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon and party this afternoon observed the President’s House, the Hluttaw Building, staff housing complexes here and development of Nay Pyi Taw in a motorcade. At 2 pm, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan

Win hosted a luncheon to the UN Secretary-General and party at Shwe Nandaw Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw hotel zone. Also present at the luncheon were Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Tin Ngwe, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and

Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Myanmar Permanent Representative to UN Ambassador U Kyaw Tint Swe and Director-General of the Protocol Department U Kyaw Kyaw. At 3.20 pm, the UN Secretary-General and party left here for Yangon by special flight. MNA

Daw Yin and U Kyin Hline on Airport lane-1 in Sawbwagyigon, Insein Township recently donated K 100,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged through a responsible person of the Home.—MNA



Maj-Gen Tha Aye on inspection tour of Kalainaung Township

NAY PYI TAW, 23 May—Maj-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence together with Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo and officials on 20 May inspected maintenance of Ye-Dawei road section at Mahlwetaung camp in Kalainaung Township and heard reports on progress of road works presented by Senior Engineer U Kyi Soe of Mawlamyine District Public Works and officials.

Next, Maj-Gen Tha Aye gave necessary instructions and looked into Mahlwetaung-Kalainetaung road section at mile posts 68/6 and 63/7.

At the briefing hall of Kanbauk oil palm farm in the township, the Project Director of the farm reported on cultivation and nursery of oil palms and operations of oil-palm factory. Maj-Gen Tha Aye and party inspected thriving oil palm plantations, nursery of 50,000 saplings of oil palm and raw oil palm factory that can produce 10 tons of palm oil per hour. He left necessary instructions.

Later, Maj-Gen Tha Aye met with senior military officers and other ranks and their families at Mawyawady Hall of Kanbauk Station.

MNA

Commander inspects relief camps in Yangon North District

YANGON, 23 May—Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win in this afternoon consoled storm victims at the relief camps in Insein Township.

In Hlinethaya Township, he viewed reconstruction of the two-storey building at Aungmingala Missionary Monastery in Ward 11.

The commander inspected repair of roofs at the monasteries in Hlinethaya and Bahan townships.

MNA

Turkish Ambassador calls on Health Minister

YANGON, 23 May — Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint received Ambassador of Turkey to Myanmar Mr Cinar Aldemir at Yangon General Hospital here today.

At the meeting, Mr Cinar Aldemir said Turkey was willing to provide health care service for storm victims and pledged US\$ 1 million- US\$ 500,000 through UNICEF and US\$ 500,000 through Orcha for the storm victims. Health Minister Dr Kyaw Myint briefed on health care services being provided by Myanmar in cooperation with neighbouring countries. — MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects clearing of debris, sanitation, repair of lamp-posts



Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects clean-up of fallen trees by Tatmadawmen on Hline University Campus.—MNA

YANGON, 23 May—Accompanied by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun, Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence inspected clearing of debris on roads, sanitation for proper flow of drains and repair of lamp-posts in downtown Yangon this morning.

They viewed clearing of debris being carried

out by servicemen of No 77 LID on Hline Campus of Yangon University.

Tatmadawmen of No 11 LID also undertook sanitation tasks along Pyay and Anawrahta roads, repair of lamp-posts and clearing of debris.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party inspected participation of servicemen in clearing debris on roads, carrying out sanitation along drains and re-erecting lamp-posts in Ahlon, Pazundaung, Thingangyun and South Okkalapa townships. — MNA

UN Secretary-General confers with ministers

YANGON, 23 May—Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint held talks with United Nations Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon at the Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, here, at 6.40 pm yesterday.

At the call, the ministers were accompanied by departmental



Ministers U Soe Tha, Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and Dr Kyaw Myint receive UN Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon at Sedona Hotel.—MNA

officials, and the UN Secretary-General, with UN Senior Adviser Mr Vijay Nambiar and Under Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator Mr John Holmes and party.

The UN Secretary-General said that he mourned the victims to the cyclone 'Nargis' and felt sorry for the loss; he was greatly sympathetic to the nation because he witnessed the damage from the helicopter; that rehabilitation tasks after such a severe natural

disaster was a long-term process; that even a developed country facing such a natural disaster was not capable of carrying out rehabilitation works alone; that international community including the UN was willing to provide relief supplies for Myanmar; and that in that regard, it was required to cooperate with the Myanmar government.

The ministers briefed him on the destruction caused by the storm 'Nargis'; relief, supply

and rehabilitation tasks being carried out by the government; health care provided to the victims by local health staff reinforced with health care teams; health care contributed by medical staff from neighbouring countries; and measures coordinated for ensuring systematization in providing health care and carrying out rehabilitation undertakings in co-operation with international organizations.

MNA



Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint receives Turkish ambassador to Myanmar Mr Cinar Aldemir.—MNA

ASHOKA

Reopened for lunch & dinner

709 402 / 727 162

US tourist shoots himself at Cambodian range

PHNOM PENH, 22 May—An American tourist shot himself in the head with a handgun at a Cambodian shooting range in an apparent botched suicide attempt, police said on Wednesday.

Mark Patrick Cody, 33, was said to be in critical condition at Phnom Penh’s main hospital with a bullet entry wound to his chin after the incident on Tuesday evening.

“It seems he wanted to commit suicide, but we don’t know why,” local police deputy Tim Sokun said. “He shot about six or seven rounds at the target, then pulled the trigger on himself.”

MNA/Reuters

Ecuador to build 11 new hydroelectric dams

QUITO, 23 May—Ecuadorean President Rafael Correa announced Wednesday that his government would build 11 hydroelectric dams with a capacity of 1,500 megawatts in the Guayllabamba River’s watershed in the province of Pichincha.

Correa made the announcement in the Carondelet Palace as the National Council of Electricity (Conelec) and the Provincial Counsel of Pichincha signed an agreement to jointly develop and upgrade the hydroelectric projects.

Correa said construction on the Chespi dam with 167 megawatts, Villadora with 250 megawatts and Chontal with 79 megawatts will begin on 5 September. The construction of the other eight will be completed in two years.

Correa said the Coca-

Obama rakes in more cash, Clinton heavily in debt

WASHINGTON, 22 May—New US Federal Election Commission files show Democratic presidential contender Barack Obama collected 31.3 million US dollars in April from more than 200,000 new donors, the *Washington Times* said Wednesday.

The Senator from Illinois now has 37.3 million dollars in cash on hand to spend until the Democratic nomination convention in late August, according to the reports. In contrast, his rival, Senator Hillary Clinton of

New York, is 19.5 million dollars in debt, including 10 million dollars to herself.

She brought in about 22 million dollars in April, and has eight million dollars in cash on hand. All told, Obama has now raised 256 million dollars for the primary election, just behind the 262 million dollars taken in by President George W Bush in 2004. He has already surpassed the 219 million dollars raised by 2004 Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry.

Meanwhile, Senator John McCain, the Republican presumptive presidential nominee, is closing the gap with Obama in campaign financing. He brought in 18.5 million dollars during April, spent only 8.5 million dollars, and started this month with 22 million dollars in the bank. In effect, McCain has whittled down Obama’s financial advantage from nearly 5 to 1 at the start of April to slightly more than 2 to 1 at the start of May.

MNA/Xinhua

Over 40,000 ecstasy pills seized at Rio Airport

RIO DE JANEIRO, 22 May — Brazil’s Federal Police seized 41,000 ecstasy pills, 17,600 LSD tablets and 310 grammes of skunk cannabis at Rio’s Tom Jobim International Airport on Wednesday.

The drugs were found

on Jose Luis Aromatiz Neto, 26, a student at a local private university, as he was trying to smuggle them in from Europe.

It marks the biggest seizure of ecstasy at the airport, said police. The previous record haul was in 2005 when a university student was caught with 33,000 ecstasy pills and 1 kilos of skunk. The drugs are worth between 3 million and 4 million reais (1.8 million to 2.4 million US dollars), according to police estimates. They

were packed in plastic bags covered with carbon paper, and hidden in a sleeping bag, but were detected by the airport’s X-ray machine.

The arrested student faces international drug-trafficking charges. If convicted, he can be sentenced to up to 25 years in prison.

The chief of Federal Police said middle-class youngsters are lured to this kind of crime because synthetic drugs are more expensive in Brazil than in Europe, which allows them to make a lot of money.

MNA/Xinhua

93 kilos of heroin seized at Bulgarian Turkish border

SOFIA, 22 May—Bulgarian Custom officers at the frontier post Malko Tarnovo between Bulgaria and Turkey confiscated over 93 kilogrammes of heroin Monday night, local Press reported Tuesday.

The narcotic drug has been discovered after the selection of a vehicle arriving from Turkey by using the “risk analysis” method, announced the Press-centre of the Regional Customs Agency in the Black Sea port of Burgas.

The heroin packages were discovered in a special hiding place in the car’s ceiling. The vehicle had Bulgarian registration plates. Two Bulgarian citizens, 40 and 28 years old respectively have been detained. Preliminary legal proceedings have been initiated against them while the authorities continue working on the case.

According to the preliminary estimation, the confiscated heroin is valued at over 12 million leva (about 9.6 million US dollars).

MNA/Xinhua

Researchers see flood of “brain-boosting” drugs

LONDON, 23 May—A flood of new “brain-boosting” drugs will emerge in coming decades for diseases like Alzheimer’s, putting pressure on authorities over the drugs potential misuse for non-medical purposes—such as helping students cram for exams, scientists said on Thursday.

“The use of psychoactive drugs by patients and health individuals will become an increasing feature in all our lives,” said Gabriel Horn on Thursday.

Horn, a researcher at the University of Cambridge, chaired the group that issued the report on the drugs that act on the brain to the British Government.

The study from the Academy of Medical Sciences said the government would have to deal with the likely increase of “brain-boosting” drugs that may improve short-term memory or speed of thought.

MNA/Reuters

Crops’ wild relatives need better protection

OSLO, 23 May—Wild relatives of crops such as wheat, rice and potatoes are “dangerously vulnerable” and areas where they grow need more protection to aid world food supplies, the WWF conservation group said on Thursday.

Wild varieties often have natural characteristics that can be bred into food crops to help them resist everything from new pests or diseases to a changing climate.

“Basic food crops dangerously vulnerable,” the WWF said in a headline of a statement about a new WWF map showing that areas in which wild varieties of crops are protected often cover less than 5 per cent of their natural ranges.

“We already have reserves and national parks to protect charismatic species like pandas and tigers, and to preserve outstanding areas of natural beauty,” said Liza Higgins-Zogib, Manager of People and Conservation at WWF International.

“It is now time to offer protection to the equally valuable wild and traditional relatives of the plants that feed the world like rice, wheat and potatoes,” she said. — MNA/Reuters



Colorado Dept of Transportation workers remove debris from a truck that was hit by the roof of a nearby building when a tornado touched down, on 22 May, 2008 in Windsor, Colo. A large tornado tore through several northern Colorado towns on Thursday, killing at least one person and flipping over tractor-trailers, toppling freight rail cars and ripping roofs off buildings.

INTERNET

Russian-Ukrainian rocket sends US satellite into orbit

MOSCOW, 22 May—A Russian-Ukrainian carrier rocket on Wednesday sent a US telecommunication satellite into orbit from a floating launch pad in the Pacific Ocean, the control centre said.

The Zenit-3SLB rocket boosted off at 1:43 pm

Moscow Time (0943 GMT) under an international Sea Launch programme.

The satellite has separated from the booster and entered orbit, *Interfax* news agency reported, citing sources of the control centre near Moscow.

This was the third

successful launch under the Sea Launch programme in 2008. The first and second stages of the rocket are designed and produced by Ukraine and the upper stage by a Russian company, the Energia space rocket corporation.

MNA/Xinhua

Lifestyle diseases may cause huge losses to India

NEW DELHI, 22 May—India will incur an accumulated loss of 236.6 billion US dollars by 2015 on account of unhealthy lifestyles and faulty diet, the *Times of India's* report quoted the World Health Organization's research as saying Tuesday.

Smoking, consuming high-calorie fast food and being a couch potato will not only cut short people's lifespan but will also cost the country dearly, the

report said.

The resultant chronic diseases—heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes and respiratory infections, will severely affect people's earnings.

According to the research, which was released in Geneva on Monday, 35 million people died from chronic disease, representing 60 per cent of all deaths worldwide in 2005. What's worse, around 80 per cent of these

deaths will occur in low and middle-income countries like India.

In India, 10 per cent of adults suffer from hypertension while the country is home to 25-30 million diabetics. Three out of every 1,000 people suffer a stroke. The number of deaths due to heart attack is projected to increase from 1.2 million to two million in 2010, the report said.

MNA/Xinhua



Couples and photo studio staff react immediately after an earthquake struck during a wedding photo shoot at a deserted catholic seminary in Pengzhou in southwest China's Sichuan province on 12 May, 2008. Five couples were having wedding photos taken when the earthquake struck, and all escaped without injury. The century-old seminary was destroyed in the quake, which left tens of thousands dead in Sichuan.—INTERNET

Chirac wins top Russian award

MOSCOW, 22 May—Former French president Jacques Chirac has won a Russian state award for his humanitarian activities, the Kremlin announced on Tuesday.

Chirac, honoured for his “outstanding achievements in the humanitarian sphere”, will be the only foreigner among nine prominent figures to receive the State Award at a Kremlin ceremony on 12 June, according to a presidential decree.

“This is a man who is a brilliant example of how to combine being a statesman and a cultural figure,” Russian media quoted Mikhail Piotrovsky, deputy head of the presidential culture and arts council, as saying.

“This is a man who has done a lot for Russian culture as a whole,” he added, pointing to Chirac's good command of Russian and the fact that as a young man he translated Russian poet Alexander Pushkin's novel in verses “Eugene Onegin” into French.

Yuri Osipov, the head of Russia's Academy of Science, said Chirac had also developed scientific contacts between Russia and France.

Winners of the State Award receive a 5 million rouble (210,800 US dollars) cash prize. — MNA/Reuters



NASA image shows an artist's impression of the Phoenix probe landing on Mars. After a nine-month journey through space, the US probe will land on the arctic surface of Mars on 25 May to dig for ice in a new quest for signs of life on the Red Planet.—INTERNET

Modern-day alchemy turning trash into power in US

BOSTON, 22 May — It's not turning lead into gold, but General Electric Co is working on a form of modern alchemy, converting garbage into electricity.

GE, which aims to make 25 billion US dollars in annual sales from green businesses by 2010, is working to adapt its gasification technology,

used to burn coal more cleanly, to turn municipal waste into a relatively clean-burning gas. The process takes solid material and heats it to temperatures up to 1,400 Celsius (2,552 Fahrenheit) — far hotter than an incinerator — which causes most matter to shift into a gaseous state.

That gas is then

converted into a synthetic fuel called syngas, largely free of pollutants, that can be burned in an electricity-producing turbine.

The materials that do not convert to gas, including some metals and minerals, shift to a liquid state and when they cool turn into slag, a stable rocklike substance.

MNA/Reuters

Chronic diseases top causes of deaths globally

GENEVA, 22 May — Chronic conditions such as heart disease and stroke, often associated with a Western lifestyle, have become the chief causes of death globally, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Tuesday.

The shift from infectious diseases including

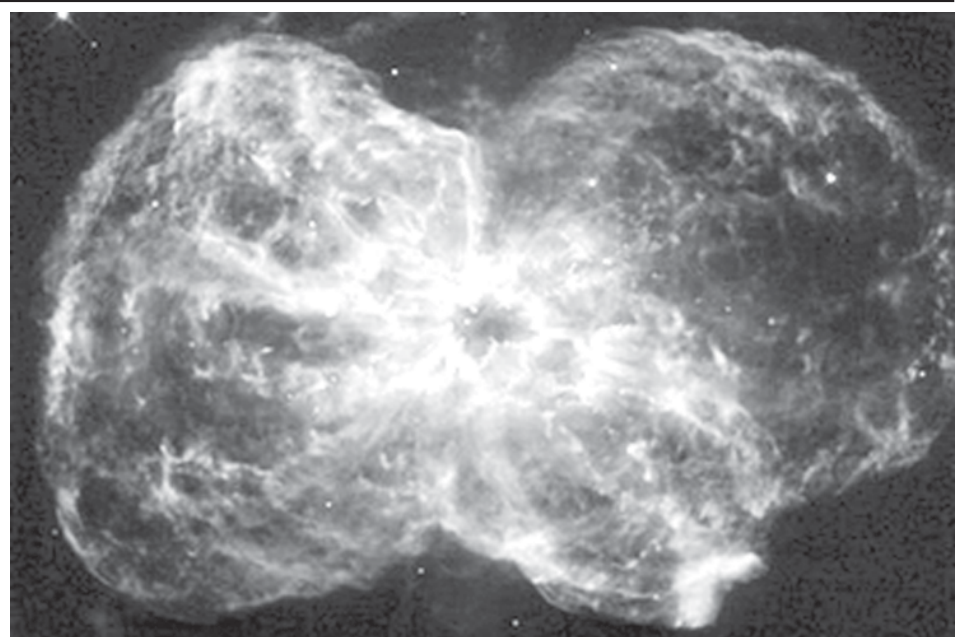
tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and malaria — traditionally the biggest killers—to noncommunicable diseases is set to continue to 2030, the UN agency said in a report.

“In more and more countries, the chief causes of deaths are non-communicable diseases such as heart disease and

stroke,” Ties Boerma, director of the WHO department of health statistics and informatics, said in a statement.

The annual report, World Health Statistics 2008, is based on data collected from the WHO's 193 member states.

MNA/Reuters



This handout image obtained in 2007 and taken by NASA's Hubble Space Telescope shows the colorful “last hurrah” of a star like our Sun. Space shuttle Atlantis will embark on the final repair and maintenance mission to the Hubble Space Telescope on 8 October, instead of the end of August as planned, NASA announced on 22 May, 2008.—INTERNET

SPORTS

Ferguson thanks fate for Champions League triumph

Moscow, 22 May — Alex Ferguson said fate played a big hand on Wednesday as his Manchester United team won the Champions League 50 years after the Munich air disaster, having been watched by some of the survivors.

Harry Gregg, Albert Scanlon, Kenny Morgans, Bill Foulkes and Bobby Charlton were among those in the Luzhniki Stadium where United came back from the brink to beat Chelsea 6-5 on penalties after the match had finished 1-1 after extra time.

Chelsea would have won the trophy had their captain John Terry not slipped and missed his penalty in the shootout and for Ferguson that was not simply a case of luck.

"I said on the eve of the game that we wouldn't let the memory of the Busby Babes down," Ferguson said at his post-match news

conference.

"I think fate played its hand, just as it has all season. We had a cause today and that's important. Causes are hard to fight against. People with causes become very difficult to go up against. Fate played its hand today when Terry slipped."

Those were familiar words from Ferguson.

In 1999, when United staged an astonishing comeback to beat Bayern Munich in the final, Ferguson gave much of the credit to the spirit of Sir Matt Busby, who would have been celebrating his 90th birthday on the night of that game in Barcelona. "I think he was doing a bit of kicking for us up there," Ferguson said at the time. On Wednesday, he was proud to claim his second European Cup -- United's third in all -- and was delighted to win a penalty shootout after tasting defeat on six previous occasions. — MNA/Reuters

Hosts praised after trouble-free Champions final

Moscow, 22 May — Thousands of English soccer fans flew out of Moscow on Thursday praising their Russian hosts for a trouble-free Champions' League Final in which Manchester United beat Chelsea.

Police said there were no serious disturbances and described the atmosphere in Moscow as calm and the fans as well-behaved.

"Most have gone back

home on the buses to the airports," a police spokesman said. "The others have gone to their hotels or are relaxing in bars and restaurants. It's all quiet."

Manchester United beat Chelsea on penalties after the teams drew 1-1 in the first all-English Champions' League Final. United also beat Chelsea to the English Premier League title this season.

MNA/Reuters



McLaren Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton drives at the Monaco racetrack in Monte Carlo. Hamilton dominated second practice session for Sunday's Monaco Grand Prix. —INTERNET



Torchbearer Cao Zhijiang (R) lights the torch for Chen Hong on Shanghai's Nanjing Road during the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games torch relay in Shanghai, east China, on 23 May, 2008. —INTERNET

Proud Grant praises team, tearful skipper Terry

Moscow, 22 May — Chelsea manager Avram Grant praised his team and especially his distraught skipper John Terry after their agonising Champions League penalty shootout defeat by Manchester United on Wednesday.

"I am very proud of my team and what we have done this season and I have told them that," alty, he is a great player, a great captain and was

fantastic today."

Terry might not have been called on to take a spot kick if striker Didier Drogba had not been red carded in extra time and therefore off the field for the shootout.

Grant quickly deflected that idea. Asked if Drogba would have taken a penalty and not Terry he replied tersely: "He was not on the field".

Grant took control of Chelsea in September af-

ter previous coach Jose Mourinho left the club and he guided them to second place in the Premier League behind United.

As well as losing in the Champions League final, their first appearance in Europe's premier competition, they also lost in the League Cup final to Tottenham Hotspur but Grant maintained the club had improved since Mourinho left.

MNA/Reuters

Champions Argentina knocked out of World Team Cup

DUESSELDORF (Germany), 22 May — Argentina's dreams of successfully defending the World Team Cup ended on Wednesday when they lost a tight rubber against a resilient US team.

After splitting the singles rubbers on Tuesday, the Americans wrapped up the tie 24 hours later when Wayne Odesnik and Bobby Reynolds edged past Lucas Arnold Ker and Sebastian Prieto 6-3, 6-7, 10-7.

In the other group tie, Sweden swept aside the challenge of the Czech Republic 3-0. Robin Soderling and Thomas Johansson teamed up to dispatch Michal Tabara and veteran Pavel Vizner 6-4, 7-5 in the doubles.

Sweden and the United States will next face each other to decide which nation will advance to Satur-

day's final. In the Blue Group, Feliciano Lopez kept Spain's hopes of qualifying for the final alive by beating Russia's Igor Andreiev 6-4, 6-4 to give his team an unassailable lead.

Russia won a consolation point after Mikhail Youzhny and Dmitry Tursunov defeated Lopez and Marcel Granollers 6-3, 6-4.

In the group's other tie, Italy notched up two wins to reverse an overnight deficit against Germany for a 2-1 victory.

Simone Bolelli squeezed past Nicolas Kiefer 7-6, 7-6, before combining with Potito Starace to beat the German doubles pairing of Philipp Petzschner and Christopher Kas 2-6, 6-3, 10-4. —MNA/Reuters



Men's 110 meters hurdles world record holder Liu Xiang competes on Thursday night during the China Athletics Open at the National Stadium, nicknamed the Bird's Nest. —INTERNET

Leverkusen sack coach after missing out on Europe

BERLIN, 22 May — Bayer Leverkusen have sacked coach Michael Skibbe after the Bundesliga side finished seventh in the league and failed to qualify for the UEFA Cup, the club said on Wednesday. "Because of recent Bundesliga results and the failure to achieve the season's goal of reaching the UEFA Cup we have decided to part with Michael Skibbe with immediate effect," Managing Director Wolfgang Holzhaeuser said on the club's web site.

MNA/Reuters

Van der Sar the hero in Man Utd shootout win

Moscow, 22 May — Manchester United were crowned kings of Europe for the third time on Wednesday when they beat Chelsea 6-5 on penalties after a breathless all-English Champions League final had finished 1-1 after extra time.

United's 37-year-old goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar, appearing in his third final 13 years after his first with Ajax Amsterdam, saved the decisive spot kick from substitute Nicolas Anelka.

The victory completed a famous double for the Old Trafford team who pipped Chelsea to the Premier League title 10 days ago.

It was an emotional triumph for United, coming 50 years after the Munich air disaster, and there was a huge cheer for one of the survivors, Bobby Charlton, when he joined the team at the presentation of the trophy he lifted in 1968 before Alex Ferguson led the team to a second success in 1999.

"We've had fate on our side all season and I felt that fate played its hand with John Terry slipping," Ferguson said of the Chelsea captain's penalty miss.

MNA/Reuters

သဘာဝဘေးအန္တရာယ်ကျရောက်သောဒေသများရှိ ပြည်သူများအတွက် ကျန်းမာရေးသတိပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်

- ၁။ ရာသီဥတုဒဏ်ခံနိုင်သည့် အမိုးအကာအောက်တွင် နေထိုင်ကြရန်၊
- ၂။ အအေးမမိစေရန် နွေးထွေးသော အဝတ်များကို ဝတ်ဆင်နေထိုင်ကြရန်၊
- ၃။ ရေကိုကျိုချက်သောက်ရန် (သို့မဟုတ်) ကလိုရင်းဆေးခတ်ထားသော ရေကိုသာ သောက်သုံးရန်၊
- ၄။ အစားအစာများကို ယင်မနားအောင် ဖုံးအုပ်ထားကြရန်၊
- ၅။ သန့်ရှင်းလတ်ဆတ်သော၊ ပူနွေးသည့် အစာများကိုသာ စားသုံးကြရန်၊
- ၆။ အတတ်နိုင်ဆုံး သန့်ရှင်းသော ယင်လုံအိမ်သာကို သုံးစွဲကြရန်၊
- ၇။ ကူးစက်ရောဂါများ မဖြစ်ပွားစေရေးအတွက် မိလ္လာနှင့် အမှိုက်သရိုက်၊ အညစ်အကြေးများကို စနစ်တကျစွန့်ပစ်ကြရန်၊
- ၈။ ထိခိုက်မှုအန္တရာယ်မဖြစ်စေရေးအတွက် သတိပြုဆောင်ရွက်ကြရန်၊
- ၉။ ရေကြီးပါက မြေအန္တရာယ်တွေ့ကြုံရတတ်သဖြင့် သတိပြုကြရန်၊
- ၁၀။ ခြင်္သေ့ကိုက်မခံရအောင် သတိပြုနေထိုင်ကြရန်၊
- ၁၁။ တစ်ကိုယ်ရေသန့်ရှင်းရေး ဂရုပြုဆောင်ရွက်ရန်၊ အစာမစားမီနှင့် အညစ်အကြေးကိုင်တွယ်ပြီးတိုင်း လက်ဆေးကြရန်၊
- ၁၂။ သဘာဝဘေးအန္တရာယ်ကျရောက်ပြီးသည့်အခါ အဆုတ်ရောင်ရောဂါ၊ ဝမ်းပျက်ဝမ်းလျှောရောဂါ၊ မြွေဆိုးကိုက်အန္တရာယ်၊ ထိခိုက်မှုအန္တရာယ်နှင့် အခြားကျန်းမာရေးပြဿနာများ ဖြစ်ပွားတတ်ပါသည်။ ဖြစ်ပွားပါက အနီးဆုံးကျန်းမာရေးဌာနသို့ အမြန်ဆုံးသွားရောက်ပြသကြပါရန် သတိပေး နှိုးဆော် အပ်ပါသည်။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

သောက်သုံးရေနှင့်ပတ်သက်၍ သတိပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်

- * မသန့်ရှင်းသောသောက်ရေ၊
သုံးရေများကြောင့် ပြည်သူအများ
ဝမ်းပျက်ဝမ်းလျှောရောဂါအန္တရာယ်
ကျရောက် နိုင်ပါသည်။
- * သောက်ရေ၊ သုံးရေမှန်သမျှကို ကျိုချက်၍
ဖြစ်စေ၊ ကလိုရင်းဆေးခပ်ပြီးမှဖြစ်စေ
သောက်သုံးပါ။
- * ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာနမှ
သောက်သုံးရန်မသင့် ဟု ကြေငြာထားသော
သောက်ရေသန့်များကို မသောက်သုံးသင့်ပါ။
- * ရေသန့်ပင်ဖြစ်လင့်ကစား မသင်္ကာပါက
ရေကိုကျိုချက်ပြီးမှသောက်ပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန



Saturday, 24 May
View on today

7:00 am

1. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်
ဘုရားကြီး၏ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. Musical programme

8:00 am

5. Beautiful and
dauntless

8:45 am

6. International news

11:00 am

1. Martial Song

11:10 am

2. Musical programme

11:30 am

3. Games for Children

11:55 am

4. Round up of the
week's TV local
news

12:45 pm

5. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ
“စစ်သူကြီးဆွန်ကြီး”
(အပိုင်း-၂၁)

1:30 pm

6. Musical programme

1:45 pm

7. Dances of National
Races

2:00 pm

8. Musical programme

2:30 pm

9. International news

4:00 pm

1. Martial Song

4:15 pm

2. Musical programme

4:30 pm

3. မြို့မြို့ကြွကြွယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက

4:45 pm

4. Musical programme

5:00 pm

5. Song to uphold
National Spirit

5:10 pm

6. မြန်မာ့ဓလေ့ရိုးရာလက်ရာ

5:30 pm

7. Games for Children

6:00 pm

8. Evening news

6:30 pm

9. Weather report

6:35 pm

10. အလှူရှာမယ်လှကမ္ဘာဝယ်

7:00 pm

11. Musical programme

7:30 pm

12. Musical programme

8:00 pm

13. News

14. International news

15. Weather report

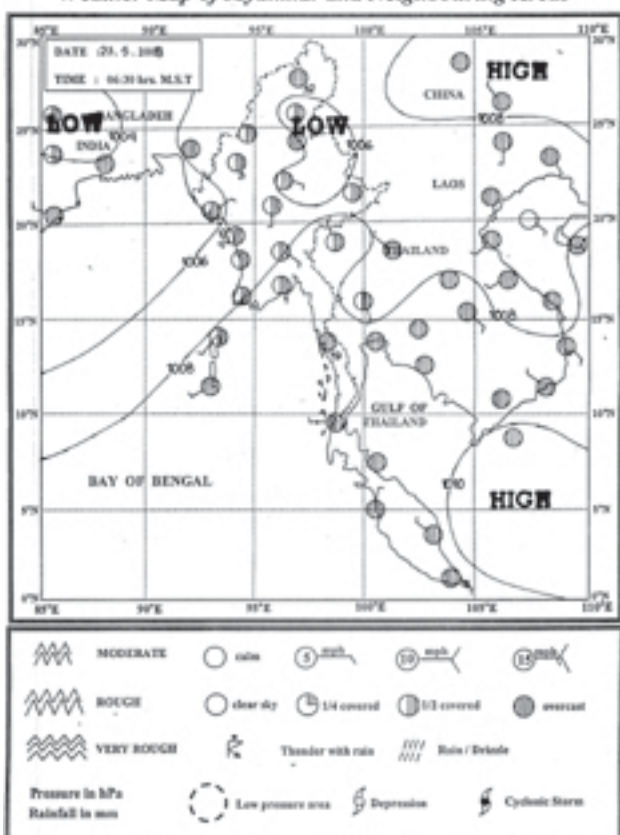
16. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

“မာယာထောင်ချောက်”

(အပိုင်း-၂၃)

WEATHER

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Friday, 23 May, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Rakhine State and Magway Division, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Kachin States, Upper Sagaing Division, fairly widespread in lower Sagaing, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and isolated in the remaining States and Divisions with isolated heavyfall in Mandalay Division. Day temperatures were (4°C) below May average temperatures in Kachin State, (3°C) to (4°C) above May average temperatures in Bago, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions, (5°C) above May average temperatures in Taninthayi Division and about May average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were PyinOoLwin (2.75) inches, Yangon (Central) (2.13) inches, Machanbaw (2.01) inches, Putao (1.46) inches, Dawei (0.75) inch and Bago (0.51) inch.

Maximum temperature on 22-5-2008 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 23-5-2008 was 75°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 23-5-2008 was 79%. Total sunshine hours on 22-5-2008 was (2.4) hours approx.

Rainfall on 23-5-2008 was (Tr) at Mingaladon, (0.04) inch at Kaba-Aye and (2.13) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (27.76) inches at Mingaladon, (32.01) inches at Kaba-Aye and (36.89) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum windspeed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was

(4) mph from Southwest at (13:30) hours MST on 22-5-2008.

Bay inference: Weather is cloudy in the North Bay and monsoon is weak in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 24-5-2008: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Mon State and Taninthayi Division, fairly widespread in Kachin State, upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions, scattered in Shan and Rakhine States, Bago Division and isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of thundery conditions in the Central Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 24-5-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 24-5-2008: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 24-5-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Weather outlook for last weekend of May 2008: During the coming weekend, likelihood of scattered rain or thundershowers in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.

Prime Minister receives UN Secretary-General

NAY PYI TAW, 23 May—General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, received United Nations Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon and party at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyittha in Yangon yesterday morning.

Also present at the call were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Myanmar Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador U Kyaw Tint Swe, Director-General of the Government Office Col Thant Shin and Director-General of Protocol Department U Kyaw Kyaw of Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



MNA Prime Minister General Thein Sein receives United Nations Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon in Yangon. — MNA

Diplomats, resident representatives of UN agencies and ASEAN, donors, officials of int'l organizations tour storm-hit regions

YANGON, 23 May—Local and international diplomats, resident representatives and officials of UN agencies, representatives of ASEAN countries and officials of donor countries and international organizations in three groups viewed damage and rehabilitation work in the cyclone-ravaged re-

gions in Ayeyawady Division this morning.

First, Group-1 arrived in Pyapon by helicopter and they were welcomed by Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing, officials and members of social organizations. Next, they looked into damage and rehabilitation work being carried

out in Pyapon. On arrival at Pyapon Bridge, the group members viewed arrivals and departures of motorboats for mobile health care for the storm victims and reconstruction tasks being carried out in Pyapon. Then they raised questions, which were answered by Minister Maj-Gen Soe Naing and offi-

cials concerned.

In front of Sayar Zawgyi Library, officials concerned explained to the guests matters related to relief and rehabilitation work being carried out in co-operation with UN agencies, INGOs and NGOs. Minister Maj-Gen Soe Naing also briefed them

on loss and damage, availability of relief supplies, medical treatment being given to the victims by mobile medical teams, participation of private companies in reconstruction work and adoption of short- and long-term plans of rehabilitation work.

(See page 9)

Weather Forecast for (24-5-2008)

Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area : Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Yangon and neighbouring area: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Mandalay and neighbouring area : Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).



Diplomats, resident representatives of UN agencies and donor countries visit relief camps in Pyapon. — MNA