

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

Prime Minister inspects repair of West Yangon General Hospital and Central Women's Hospital



NAY PYI TAW, 24 May – Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspected measures taken for making Yangon City clean and pleasant and repair of West Yangon General Hospital and Central Women's Hospital this morning.

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, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, the director-general of the Government Office and departmental officials inspected removal of fallen trees and sanitation work on Baho Road in Ward 7 in Hline Township by Tatmadaw members of No. 77 LID with the use of heavy machinery.

Commander of No. 77 LID Brig-Gen Win Myint and senior military officers reported on sanitation and removal of fallen trees along Baho Road.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein went to the ward near Orthopedics Hospital in Kyimyindine Township where Commander of No. 11 LID Brig-Gen Hla Min reported on removal of fallen trees and sanitation work along the Strand Road in the township.

(See page 8)

Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects clean-up work being done by members of Tatmadaw of No. 77 LID.—MNA

Tatmadaw members of No. 11 LID carrying out clean-up task of rubbish and fallen trees.—MNA



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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 25 May, 2008

Local and foreign medical teams stepping up health care in storm-hit areas

A cyclone hit Myanmar recently, claiming human lives and property in some areas in Ayeyawady and Yangon divisions. Rehabilitation works are now being carried out with added momentum under the leadership of the government and with the assistance of internal and international organizations in the storm-affected areas.

In addition, plans are under way to provide houses and food to the victims who have resettled, to enable them to resume their businesses and livelihoods, and to scale up health care in those areas.

At the invitation of the government, medical teams from India, China, Thailand, Laos, Bangladesh and Singapore have arrived in Myanmar to provide health care.

The teams from the six countries are taking disease control measures and giving treatment with heart and soul to the victims in Pyapon, Bogale, Kungyangon, Myaungmya, Labutta, Kyauktan and Maubin.

At the same time, medical staff from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Defence, medical experts from NGOs, medical teams from private enterprises, individual medical experts, and members of Red Cross, Fire Brigades, and other medical organizations totaling more than 30,000 have been engaged in the relief and rehabilitation works in the storm-affected areas.

Thanks to the continuous supply of medicines and relief aid donated by international community and the donors at home and abroad, and works being carried out in collaboration by the governments of the countries and the people, health care services will be able to be carried out on a wider scale.

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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

Mines Minister inspects salt industry in storm-hit regions

YANGON, 24 May – Member of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Chairman of Salt Industry Rehabilitation and Construction Central Committee Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint met local authorities, salt entrepreneurs and workers of the salt industry at the hall of Labutta Township Peace and Development Council on 21 May.

The minister explained arrangements for running of the salt industry as usual in accord with the guidance of the Head of State.

While in Labutta, Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint discussed the future tasks for rehabilitation and reconstruction with Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Tin Htut and U Zaw Zaw of Max Myanmar Co who are supervising rehabilitation and reconstruction tasks in the storm-hit region of Labutta Township.

Yesterday morning, the minister inspected salt fields, and met salt entrepreneurs at Thahmebyu salt field.

At the office of Ngapudaw Township PDC, the minister met local authorities, salt entrepreneurs and workers and discussed arrangements of the government to provide relief goods to them.

MNA

U Thein Tun-Daw Aye Aye Khine family on 2th street in Lanmadaw Township, Yangon recently donate K 100,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged through a responsible person of the Home. —H

Energy Minister attends supply of relief aid to victims in Kungyangon

YANGON, 24 May – Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi discussed rehabilitation tasks at the relief camp opened in Aung San Thuriya Hla Thaung Sports Ground in Kungyangon Township on 21 May.

At the relief camp of East Kyaunggyi Monastery, the minister accepted US\$ 50,000 donated by Malaysia-based Rinbunam Petrogas Oil Gas, K 50 million by UNOG Co, K 1 million and relief supplies by Myanmar Engineering Society, one Solar Power Supply System worth K 5 million, K 200,000, food and medicines by UE Group and donations from other wellwishers.

The minister viewed supply of relief goods to the victims at Kyaunggyitaik relief camp in Kungyangon. He also viewed donations to older persons at the Home for the Aged in Dedanaw Model Village and provision of relief supplies to the victims at the cental relief camp in Kawhmu Township. — MNA

Health care provided to storm victims in Kungyangon Township

YANGON, 24 May – Under the joint efforts of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation and Myanmar Red Cross Society, a medical team led by Head of Administration Department of MWAFF Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe provided health care to the storm victims in Kungyangon Township yesterday.

The medical team comprising Eye Specialists Dr Nilar Thein, Dr Aung Ne Oo, Dr Yin Kyi Oo and Dr Shwe Wah Aye, Pediatricians Dr Kyu Kyu Win and Dr Zarni Aung, Pathologists Dr Swe Zin Myint (Magway University of Medicine) and Dr Myat Myat Hnin (University of Medicine-2), General Practitioners Dr Kyaw Soe Win, Dr Tin Hnin Thu and Dr Khin San Mu, Dr Nwe New Hlaing and one nurse and three Red Cross Society members performed medical treatment to 244 patients with eyes complaint, 81 children and 464 patients totaling 789 patients at Ashae monastery in the township and presented glasses and medicines. They also presented rice bags, clothes, personal goods and Golden Cow milk powder donated by wellwishers to the In-charge of Kungyangon Township central relief camp and Presiding Sayadaw of the monastery Bhaddanta Bawga.

U Aung Myat (Mother Trading Co), Dr Maung Maung Aye and Daw Khin Mi Mi Hlaing (Moe Htet Kaba Co) and Children Hospital provided the medicines for health care.

MNA

Personnel of Htoo Trading Co Ltd and Air Bagan Co Ltd present relief aid to storm victims of Kyunthaya village on 21 May.

NLM

Russia and China condemn US missile shield plan

BEIJING, 23 May — China and Russia on Friday condemned US plans to set up a missile defence system that would include bases in eastern Europe viewed by Moscow as a threat.

“Both sides believe that creating a global missile defence system, including

deploying such systems in certain regions of the world, or plans for such cooperation, do not help support strategic balance and stability, and harm international efforts to control arms and the non-proliferation process,” Russia and China said in a joint statement.

“It harms the strengthening of trust between states and regional stability. In this respect (Russia and China) express their concern,” it said.

The statement was signed in Beijing by Chinese President Hu Jintao and Dmitry Medvedev, visiting China on his first foreign trip since becoming Russian president this month. —Internet



Russia's President Dmitry Medvedev (L) and Chinese counterpart Hu Jintao shake hands after signing documents in Beijing on 23 May, 2008. Medvedev arrives in Beijing on Friday, offering energy deals and military cooperation by seeking pledges of solidarity with resurgent China at a time when ties with the West are strained.—INTERNET

Russia launches defence satellite

Moscow, 23 May — Russia launched on Friday a carrier rocket with three defence satellites atop, Itar-Tass reported.

The rocket, also carrying the scientific Yubileyny micro-satellite took off from the Plesetsk spaceport at 7:20 p.m. (1520 GMT), Russian Space Forces spokesman Lt. Col. Alexei Zolotukhin was cited as saying. The launch was made successfully at the north Russia's launch pad, he said.—Internet



Workers clean the exterior of the Esplanade Theatre in Singapore on 23 May, 2008. Singapore raised its 2008 inflation forecast for the second time this year and warned that rising prices were a bigger risk than slowing growth, after the economy grew at its fastest pace since 2005 in the first quarter.—INTERNET

Canadians changing driving habits as oil prices soar: poll

OTTAWA, 23 May — More than half of Canadians are either changing their driving habits or thinking about it, as oil prices continue to soar, according to a new poll released Friday.

About a quarter of respondents said the soaring price of gasoline has led them to cut down on gasoline consumption and another 28 percent said they are starting to look for ways to do so, according to the survey done by the Harris Decima polling company.

About 15 percent said they will start to change their habits if pump prices push higher, while a quarter

of respondents said they were unlikely to change the amount of gas they use no matter what the price.

“The recent run-up in price has motivated one in four people to change their behavior, but as people think more pain is yet to come, more behavior will

likely change, too,” said Bruce Anderson, the president of Harris-Decima.

The poll also suggested that Canadians fear oil prices will soar even higher in the next five years and most of them blame gouging by oil companies.—Internet

US military deaths in Iraq war at 4,080

WASHINGTON, 23 May—As of Thursday, 22 May, 2008, at least 4,080 members of the US military have died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. The figure includes eight military civilians killed in action. At least 3,328 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The AP count is two fewer than the Defence Department's tally, last updated Thursday at 10 am EDT.

The British military has reported 176 deaths; Italy, 33; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 21; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Denmark, seven; El Salvador, five; Slovakia, four; Latvia, three; Estonia, Georgia, Netherlands, Thailand, Romania, two each; and Australia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, South Korea, one death each.—Internet

Blair jet faced Israeli warplanes

LONDON, 23 May—Israeli fighter aircraft were scrambled to intercept a jet carrying former UK Prime Minister Tony Blair after its crew failed to identify themselves.

Aircrew used the radio to explain who they were after the two warplanes adopted an attack position, prompting them to peel off and return to base.

Mr Blair was en route to Israel from a World Economic Forum meeting at Sharm el Sheikh in Egypt on Wednesday.

He is the Middle East envoy for the Quartet of major powers.

Mr Blair has been in the role for the last 11 months.

A spokesman for the former prime minister said: “Mr Blair was one of a

number of delegates on a flight back from the World Economic Forum in Sharm El Sheikh.

“We were not aware of any problem at the time, and have not been notified

of any issue with the flight.”

Israel's air defence system is one of the strictest in the world and warplanes are often scrambled for false alarms.—Internet

Performing artists from the French troupe “Ilotopie” perform the piece “Water Fools” on the Singapore River as part of the opening celebrations of the Singapore Arts Festival on 23 May, 2008.—INTERNET



Energy sectors hit by rising oil prices

NEW YORK, 23 May—Stocks on Wall St fell yesterday to round out the worst week in three months as worries about high oil prices hammered energy-sensitive sectors and left investors on edge about inflation.

Economic bellwethers United Technologies and Caterpillar were among the top drags on the Dow Jones industrials. General Motors' shares fell to a 26-year low after the company said strikes had reduced its earnings by \$2.8 billion.

Worries about the impact of high oil prices, which topped \$135 a barrel a day, pressured stocks last week, stoking fears about inflation and weaker consumer spending.—Internet

US airstrike kills eight Iraqis in north of Baghdad

TIKRIT (Iraq), 23 May — An overnight US airstrike hit a village in Iraq’s Salahudin Province, killing eight people, a provincial police source said on Thursday.

The incident occurred when US troops conducted a search operation late on Wednesday in the Mazra’a Village near town Beiji, some 200 kilometres north of Baghdad, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

During the operation, a group of people observed trying to flee the village in a vehicle, prompting a US aircraft to fire a missile on their vehicle, destroying the vehicle and killing all the people aboard, the source said.

Earlier on Wednesday, US ground forces detained seven suspected insurgents and destroyed two of their cars in central Beiji Town, according to the source.

The US military did not confirmed the two incidents which came as US-Iraqi forces are conducting a major offensive in the neighbouring province of Nineveh to uproot al-Qaeda militants from their latest strongholds in Iraq.— Xinhua



A woman looks at jars at a pottery market in Bat Trang, near Hanoi, Vietnam, on 22 May, 2008.—INTERNET

Petrol tanker-convoy collision kills 45 Nigerian troops

LAGOS, 23 May — A petrol tanker collided with a Nigerian Army convoy in the northern part of the country, killing 45 troops and injuring others, the military said on Thursday.

A military spokesman said the convoy vehicles collided with an oncoming

petrol truck in Nigeria’s northeastern Yobe State on Wednesday night, and that several soldiers were also injured in the accident.

Brigadier General Emeka Onwuamaegbu said one officer and 44 soldiers died on the spot.

The others injured in

the accident were receiving treatment, Onwuamaegbu said, adding that the military authorities regretted the unfortunate incident.

Onwuamaegbu also informed that the dead soldiers would be given a state burial. —Xinhua



A policeman sprays gasoline on drugs in the suburbs of Panama city, capital of Panama on 23 May, 2008. Panama authorities burned 4.12 tons of drugs confiscated in the last two months, including 3.6 tons of cocaine, 481 kg of heroin and 13 kg of marijuana Friday.—INTERNET

13 survive capsized boat in eastern Indonesia

JAKARTA, 23 May — A boat carrying 13 people and basic commodities capsized after being smashed by giant waves in eastern Indonesia early on Thursday but all passengers were rescued by another boat.

The Timur Jaya boat

came under attacks from tidal waves off Maluku Province at around 01:00 Jakarta Time (18:00 GMT Wednesday) that caused an engine faulty, prompting panicked boat crew and passengers to abandon the boat and jumped into the water. —Xinhua

All Items from Xinhua News Agency

Two killed, eight wounded in six shootings in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES, 23 May — Six shootings took place one after another overnight in Los Angeles, leaving two people killed, eight wounded, police said on Wednesday.

The Tuesday night shootings showed an unusual spike in violence in parts of Los Angeles, police said. Police officials said they could not recall a crime spike over such a short period in recent memory.

The Los Angeles Police Department said they planned a swift response to the violence,

including a marked increase in police presence. Although they could not give specific numbers, they said the deployment could include dozens of additional officers. Police suspected that some shootings were gang-related and some might be the result of road rage.

Xinhua



Curfew in eastern Nepali city

KATHMANDU, 23 May — The local administration Wednesday clamped indefinite curfew following a violent demonstration against killing of a local youth in eastern Nepal, reported the local media house’s website nepal-news.com. The curfew was clamped in Duhabi area of Sunsari District, some 220 kilometres southeast of Kathmandu as

demonstrators came out in the streets and even attacked the area police office following the murder of a local youth Mohammad Faizu Mian.

Reports say Mian was killed by a local tea-shop owner Tikaram Pradhan, which triggered protest demonstrations that led to the curfew starting from 9:30 am local time (0345 GMT). —Xinhua

The organ first played at the Nuremberg Nazi party rally of 1935 before it was installed, is pictured in a Protestant church built in the mid-1930s to glorify Hitler’s Third Reich in southern Berlin, on 22 May, 2008. From the entrance hall chandelier shaped like an iron cross military medal to the wooden carving of a Wehrmacht soldier on the pulpit standing on the right hand side of Jesus, the atmosphere is heavy with reminders of Hitler’s rule. —INTERNET

Boeing to lay off 750 workers in satellite sector

LOS ANGELES, 23 May — US defence contractor Boeing announced Wednesday that it will lay off 750 employees, mostly in the Los Angeles area, as the company’s satellite manufacturing sector has seen a downturn in business.

The Chicago-based company said in a statement that about 100 employees will receive 60-day layoff notices this week with another 650 to be notified at the end of

June. The job cuts will be “primarily in the area of engineering, but all skills will be affected”, according to the statement.

The reshuffling will leave Boeing Space and Intelligence Systems, the company’s satellite division, with about 6,450 employees by the end of the year. The division currently has 7,200 workers, most of them at its facility in El Segundo near Los Angeles.

Xinhua

Opposition wins seat in blow to UK's Brown

CREWE, England, 23 May — Britain's opposition Conservative Party won a mid-term parliamentary seat from the ruling Labour Party on Friday in a new blow to Prime Minister Gordon Brown's bludgeoned political fortunes.

The Conservatives' win in the northern town of Crewe was the party's first gain from Labour in a mid-term election since 1978, the year before Margaret Thatcher seized victory and thrust the

party into 18 years in the political wilderness.

The election, triggered by the death of the constituency's Labour member of Parliament, is being closely watched as an indicator of Brown's diminishing appeal 11 months after he took over as prime minister from Tony Blair.

The swing of 17.6 per cent from a Labour majority of 7,000 to a Conservative one of nearly 8,000 will be a bitter pill for Brown and his

party to swallow. Turnout was 58 per cent — high for a mid-term election.

Analysts said that if the move was repeated nationally it would give the Conservatives a massive parliamentary majority.

Brown's popularity ratings have collapsed since October after he backed away from calling an early election which many pundits think he could have won but with a reduced majority.

MNA/Reuters



Indian dancers perform during "The Merchants of Bollywood", a dance play based on a true life story, presented at the Theatre of Dance at Durban's International Convention Centre in Durban.—INTERNET

WTO chief sees June turning point for trade deal

PARIS, 23 May — Negotiations for a global trade deal are likely to reach a breakthrough in June before being concluded before the end of the year, the head of the World Trade Organization said in an interview published on Friday.

"I would say June is more likely for an agreement over several essential points in order for the deal to conclude before the end of the year," the WTO's Pascal Lamy told newspaper

Liberation. Political and technical conditions had been aligned on the three key subjects of agricultural subsidies and agricultural and industrial Custom tariffs, he said.

The WTO's Doha negotiations for a global trade deal were launched in 2001 to help poor countries export more and to boost the global economy. But a string of deadlines have been missed due to deep differences over how to lower barriers to exports.

MNA/Reuters



This handout picture released by Indian Defence Ministry shows the launch of the Agni III missile from Wheeler Island, some 180 kilometres (110 miles) north-east of Bhubaneswar on 7 May, 2008. India's military on Friday conducted a successful test of a short-range nuclear-capable ballistic missile, defence sources said.—INTERNET

ROK aims for world's 5th biggest shipping power by 2010

SEOUL, 23 May — South Korea aims to be the 5th biggest shipping power in the world by 2010 with specialized funds and tax benefits that will help local companies expand their fleets, South Korea's Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs said on Thursday.

As of May, local shipping companies have ordered 22 million deadweight tons (DWTs) of ships that will be delivered in the coming

years, which should be sufficient to push up South Korea's overall ranking by at least one notch, said a government official.

There has been a 20-per-cent annual gain in ships in recent years, the official said.

According to the ministry, as of 2007, South Korea ranked sixth among the biggest shipping powers in the world, with 36.80 million deadweight tons (DWT) of registered ships.

MNA/Xinhua

Indonesian Central Bank chief vows good governance

JAKARTA, 23 May — Outgoing Indonesian chief economic minister Boediono was sworn in as the new Central Bank governor Thursday and he said his priority was to promote good governance in the bank.

"We focus on good governance, because that's the very fundamental issue," said Boediono, whose predecessor Burhanuddin Abdullah is being detained by the anti-graft commission.

"We are going to make internal changes to prevent the recurrence of such (graft) cases," he told

a Press conference after the swearing-in ceremony at the Supreme Court building here.

Boediono, 65, was a former Bank Indonesia director before his brief spell as the national development planning minister and then served as the finance minister under the Megawati Soekarnoputri administration (2001-2004).

In late 2005, he was called in by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono to become the coordinating minister for economic affairs.

MNA/Xinhua

Fukuda calls for Asia-Pacific network against disasters

TOKYO, 23 May — Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda delivered a key foreign policy speech Thursday, calling on Asia-Pacific nations to jointly build a network to better prepare for disasters and pandemics such as earthquakes, tsunami and bird flu.

Fukuda said that Japan will take the initiatives to boost further development in the Asia-Pacific Region and pursue a foreign policy on disaster management cooperation in the wake of the devastating earthquake in China and the cyclone that hit Myanmar.

He said that a certain

mechanism, along with the network, should be created to enable immediate and coordinated disaster relief operations in the event of a massive disaster.

The Japanese Prime Minister also made "five commitments" on Asia's development—to support ASEAN's effort to build a community by 2015, reinforce the Japan-US alliance to maintain the stability in Asia and the Pacific, make Japan a peace-making nation, promote human exchanges in the Asia-Pacific Region, and strive to tackle climate change.

MNA/Xinhua



A Swedish police bomb squad arrives at Oskarshamn nuclear power plant in southern Sweden on 21 May, 2008 to disarm an explosive device. Swedish police detained two men on suspicion of planning to sabotage a nuclear power station on Wednesday after one of them was discovered entering it with small amounts of a highly explosive material.—INTERNET

Fidel Castro attacks McCain, Bush in column

HAVANA, 24 May — Cuban leader Fidel Castro blasted Republican presidential candidate John McCain on Friday for his criticism of the Cuban Government this week, saying McCain had shown why he finished near the bottom of his class at West Point.

In his latest newspaper column, Castro also attacked US President George W. Bush for his speech on Wednesday

announcing that US citizens would be allowed to send cell phones to Cuba.

“A deluge of speeches and lies they directed at Cuba,” Castro said in a column published in Communist Party newspaper *Granma*. “How far they are from knowing Cuba and its people.”

McCain, speaking in Miami on Tuesday, vowed to maintain the United

States’ 46-year-long trade embargo against the island until, among other things, the Cuban Government frees political prisoners and holds internationally monitored, multi-party elections.

“McCain, in his book ‘Faith of My Fathers,’ admitted that he was among the last five students in his course in West Point,” Castro wrote. “He’s showing it.”

MNA/Reuters

Mexican army uncovers marijuana haul in Sharp unit

TIJUANA (Mexico), 23 May — Mexican troops on Thursday uncovered more than 1.5 metric tons of marijuana hidden in a truck inside an installation of a unit of Japanese electronics firm Sharp Corp. General Sergio Aponte, in charge of a crackdown on drug trafficking in the northern

state of Baja California, told a news conference the marijuana was in 336 packets behind boxes carrying TV screens bound for Canada.

Sharp’s local lawyer, Marco Antonio Escondo, said the company had no knowledge the drugs and Sharp was not the owner of the truck. He declined to

give the name of the company that had been contracted to move the TV screens.

“The (drugs) cargo belonged to one of our local contractors, the drugs appeared inside the premises,” he said. “What we have to do is to increase security.”

MNA/Reuters

Township attacks chill S African tourism industry

CAPE TOWN, May 23 — A whiff of panic surrounds South Africa’s tourism industry after deadly xenophobic attacks that have prompted travel warnings from Western nations and led some Africans to cancel visits.

Tourism is a cornerstone of the economy, contributing 8 per cent of annual GDP and employing about one million people.

Some 8.4 million

people visited last year, with the number expected to rise to 10 million by 2010, when South Africa hosts the soccer World Cup. “It looks like there is panic among tourists across the globe but mainly from Africa,” said Reynold Thakhuli, spokesman for the Tourism Business Council of South Africa, which is fielding worried calls from major tourist partners overseas.

Germany was among

the first countries to issue a travel advisory after mob rampages that have killed at least 42 African immigrants and prompted more than 15,000 others to flee Johannesburg area shantytowns since 11 May.

The German Foreign Ministry advised visitors to avoid central Johannesburg and outlying townships.

MNA/Reuters

Four die in Russian apartment house blast

MOSCOW, 23 May — Four people died when an explosion rocked an apartment building in the Russian Urals city of Yekaterinburg on Thursday, media reports quoted police as saying.

“A blast shattered an apartment on the fourth floor of a nine-storey

building. Then a strong fire began,” *Interfax* news agency quoted a regional police spokesman as saying. *ITAR-TASS* news agency quoted another police officer as saying four bodies had been found in the fourth floor apartment.

MNA/Reuters

Iraqi TV station says US troops killed cameraman

BAGHDAD, 23 May — An Iraqi television station accused US troops on Thursday of shooting dead one of its cameramen as he walked to his Baghdad home.

The body of a second journalist, Haidar Hashim al-Husseini, a reporter for *al-Sharq* newspaper, was found dumped in a field with nine other corpses in Diyala Province, police

and colleagues said.

Colleagues of Wisam Ali Ouda, of the Afaq television channel, said he was shot dead by US soldiers in eastern Baghdad’s Obaidi District on Wednesday morning.

“We confirm one of our employees was killed by an American sniper,” said Bushra Abdul-Amir, head of public relations at the station. She added that

witnesses had given testimony to the station’s managers.

Hadi Jalu, deputy director of Iraq’s Journalistic Freedoms Observatory, said he had also interviewed witnesses on the scene who had corroborated this, without saying how many. “They all said an American soldier killed him,” he said.

MNA/Reuters



Mourners attend the funeral for a television cameraman in Baghdad on 22 May, 2008. Wisam Ali Ouda, a cameraman for Afaq Television Channel, was among the 11 people killed on Wednesday in the Obaidi district by the US military, the police and a local journalistic organisation said on Thursday.

INTERNET

Rights group attacks US over Iraq child detentions

BAGHDAD, 23 May — Hundreds of children held by US forces in Iraq should be given immediate access to lawyers and have their cases reviewed promptly by an independent judicial body, a rights group said on Wednesday.

Human Rights Watch said US military authorities were holding

513 Iraqi children as of May 12 as “imperative threats to security”.

Since the March 2003 US-led invasion, the United States has detained 2,400 children under the age of 18 in Iraq, including some as young as 10, it said. Child detainees were sometimes interrogated over days or weeks by

military units in the field before being sent to main detention centres and had no real opportunity to challenge their detention, the human rights group said. “The vast majority of children detained in Iraq languish for months in US military custody,” said Clarisa Bencomo, a researcher for Human Rights Watch.

MNA/Reuters



An injured man receives medical attention at the Ramaphosa informal settlement in Reiger Park on the outskirts of Johannesburg. The South African army mobilised in support of embattled police trying to quell a wave of violence against immigrants that has claimed 42 lives and displaced 16,000.

INTERNET

Mobile clinics to provide health care in villages in Ayeyawady Division that are difficult of access

Article by **Yan Gyi Aung**
Photos by **Ko Ko Lay (MNA)**

Under the patronage of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee and under the arrangements of the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Health, three ships of the Inland Water Transport under the Ministry of Transport left Wah Dan Jetty in Yangon for Ayeyawady Division at 8.40 am on 19 May to give medical treatment to



Psychiatrist Dr Soe Min of Thingangyun Sanpya Hospital.

local people in storm-hit areas in Ayeyawady Division.

MV Taing Aye headed for Bogale Township, MV Ta Taing Hmwe, for Pyapon, and MV Vesantara, for Labutta.

When asked about

the programme for providing free medical treatment, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Health under the Ministry of Health Dr Win Myint said, "We will go to all places that are navigable by boat in the designated townships to give medical treatment. We will also go in the boats arranged by local authorities to the villages along the banks of the rivers and creeks where large ships cannot be moored. We will also give treatment to the sick people who visit our ships. That is to say, we will not only go to sick people but also give treatment to sick people who visit us. Under the geographical features, Ayeyawady Division is teeming with rivers and creeks. So, we considered that it is very difficult for the people in some villages along the banks of the rivers and creeks to get to township people's hospitals, health centres and dispensaries. So, we have chosen the mobile clinic pattern and we will go to all places that are accessible for them".

Each ship carries a team comprising about 12 members—specialists, paediatricians, psychiatrists, dental surgeons, general practitioners and male nurses.

"The majority of the members are from the



Dr Kyaw Oo of the Department of Medical Research.

Ministry of Health, and some are from the Myanmar Medical Association. We will provide treatment in those regions as long as they are in need of health care. Under the programme, team members have to stay there for a week in rotation", said Dr Win Myint.

Deputy Director Dr Myo Win of the Central Medical Depot of the Ministry of Health said that the depot issued each ship over one ton of assorted medicines including medicines for treating illness, antibiotics, painkillers, medicines for treating diarrhoea, psychiatric medicines, vitamin tablets, and



Dr Win Myint, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Health.

moored. We plan to go in boats to the areas where the ship cannot reach. To accomplish our mission, we will work together with local authorities, local organizations and storm victims".

together with relevant organizations for the people who need to be hospitalized".

Leader of the team to Labutta Township Assistant Director Dr Kyaw Oo of the Department of Medical Research said that his team was made up of one specialist, one psychiatrist, one paediatrician, one dentist, six general practitioners and one male nurse; that they would go to all places accessible by water in the township to provide health care; and that in addition to health care, they would take preventive measures against disease and give health education talks.



Medicines and medical equipment on board to be used for giving treatment to the people in storm-hit areas in Ayeyawady Division.



medicines for treating injuries.

The team on MV Taing Aye comprises Psychiatrist Dr Hsan Lin of Psychiatric Hospital (leader), one specialist, one paediatrician, one dentist, eight general practitioners and one male nurse.

Dr Hsan Lin said, "We will go to the areas around Bogale that are not accessible by car and to the areas with poor transport. Our ship will get to all places where she can be

MV Ta Taing Hmwe consists of Psychiatrist Dr Soe Min of Thingangyun Sanpya Hospital (leader), an orthopedist, one dentist, seven general practitioners and one male nurse.

Dr Soe Min said, "We plan to give treatment to the sick people under the arrangements of the Ministry of Health and under the assistance of the division, the township Health Department and local authorities. We will cooperate and work

Now, medical teams and local health staff are giving treatment and taking disease control measures with might and main in the storm-hit areas in Ayeyawady Division. Furthermore, the mobile clinic teams are contributing health care in the areas with poor transport. As a result, the people in the storm-affected areas have had easy access to better health care.

Translation: MS



MV Ta Taing Hmwe health staff and medicines on board heading for Ayeyawady Division to give free treatment.



Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects the roofing of the wards of Central Women's Hospital. —MNA

Prime Minister inspects...
(from page 1)

Lt-Gen Myint Swe and Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win gave a supplementary report on the measures taken for making Yangon clean and pleasant and community welfare services by the Tatmadaw members. The Prime Minister fulfilled the requirements and gave instructions on arrangements for systematic disposal of rubbish to the garbage bins. The Prime Minister and party inspected removal of

trees on upper Kyimyindine Road. Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin reported on implementation of the tasks for making Yangon clean and pleasant. They went to West Yangon General Hospital where Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo and Medical Superintendent Dr Richard Bo Ni reported on destruction of the roofs of the wards of the hospital and repair. U Khin Maung Aye of KMA Co reported on construction materials and repair of the hospital. The Prime Minister gave instructions on priority to

repair of roofs of the wards and housing quarters. The Prime Minister and party arrived at Central Women's Hospital and inspected roofing of the wards. Medical Superintendent Dr Aung Win and U Maung Maung Swe of Great Wall Co reported on repair of the hospital. They also inspected removal of fallen trees and sanitation work on upper Pazundaung Road in Mingala Taungnyunt by YCDC staff and sanitation work on Thayettaw Road in Thingangyun Township by Tatmadaw members. —MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects Yangon (West) Technological University. —MNA

Prime Minister oversees...
(from page 16)

Next, Minister Dr Chan Nyein, and Pro-rector Dr Tun Khin reported on loss and damage that occurred on the campus. Public Works Managing Director reported on plans for reconstruction tasks. The Prime Minister

looked into damage to the roofs of lecture halls and repair work. He also inspected the cleaning of the roof tiles and left necessary instructions. Maintenance tasks and repairing of historical buildings of Yangon University and greening and

cleaning tasks are being carried out. At 3 pm, Prime Minister General Thein Sein and party visited Yangon University of Foreign Languages where the minister, the deputy minister and Rector Dr Myo Myint reported on damage to the roof of the main building and repair work being carried out. The Prime Minister attended to the needs.

MNA



The roofs of lecture halls of Yangon University under repair. —MNA



The roofs of lecture halls of Yangon University of Computer Studies under repair. — MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe casts vote in referendum for approval of draft constitution



Lt-Gen Myint Swe casting vote.—MNA

YANGON, 24 May — The referendum for approval of the draft constitution was held beginning 6 am today at the polling booths of 40 townships in Yangon Division and seven townships in Ayeyawady Division. Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay cast vote at the polling station No 2 opened at Anawrahta Hall in Ward-7, Mayangon Township at 7 am.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and wife Daw Mar Mar Wai, servicemen and their family members

also cast vote.

Mayangon Township opened polling station No. 1 at BEMS No. 1 on Thalawady Street in Ward-7, polling station No 2 at

Anawrahta Hall, polling station No. 3 at the Foodstuff and Technological Department on Thalawady Street, polling station No. 4 at No. 972 construction unit (Engineering), and polling station No. 5 at the Religious Affairs Department.

Before opening the booths, polling station officer and members inspected the polling booths, polling lists and ballot boxes and ballot papers. As soon as the polling booths had been closed, 'yes' votes, 'no' votes and cancelled votes were counted and recorded. — MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win casting vote.—MNA

National referendum held in 40 townships in Yangon Division, seven townships in Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 24 May— The State Peace and Development Council is striving together with the people for the emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

In the process, the seven-step Road Map has been laid down and is being implemented. At present, the approval of the constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar by holding national referendum in line with the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles laid down by the National

Convention, the fourth step of Road Map, has taken shape. The National Referendum was held on 10 May for approval of the constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the respective polling stations across the nation at the same time. The national referendum took place at the same time today in 40 townships in Yangon Division and seven townships in Ayeyawady Division where it was postponed due to natural disaster.

At 6 am, the people in queue drew ballot papers and put them into the ballot

boxes. Members of Red Cross and officials aided the sick, the disabled and the old so that they can cast votes in comfort.

Polling station officers and members made arrangements for voters of some polling stations to cast vote although the time of voting was up.

At 4 pm, polling stations were closed, and polling station officers and members counted votes in the presence of officials.

There were 3,147 polling stations—2,437 in Yangon Division and 710 in Ayeyawady Division.

MNA

Referendum in 40 townships in Yangon Div

YANGON, 24 May—The referendum for approval of the constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was successfully held in 278 townships nationwide except 47 townships- 7 in Ayeyawady Division and 40 in Yangon Division on 10 May.

The referendum for approval of the constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was held at the respective polling stations at 6 am in those 40 townships in Yangon Division today.

There are 682 pooling stations in 267 wards and village tracts in 14 townships in Yangon East District, 345 pooling stations in 159 wards and village tracts in 13 townships in Yangon West District, 906 pooling stations in 483 wards and village tracts in 9 townships in Yangon South District and 504 pooling stations in 109 wards and village tracts in 4 townships in Yangon North District

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

As soon as the polling stations were opened at 6 am, voters cast the votes.

Member of the Commission for holding referendum U Thaung Nyunt and U Myat Thu, Chairman of Yangon Division Sub Commission for holding referendum U Hla Soe and Secretary U



People cast votes in Pazundaung Township.

MNA

Khin Maung Thein and members, Chairmen of District Sub Commissions Yangon East District Peace and Development Council U Than Aung, Chairman of Yangon West District PDC U Aung Myin, Chairman of Yangon

persons, the disabled and the elderly person in casting the votes.

At 4 pm, the polling booth officers and the members of polling booths counted the ballot papers in the presence of the voters and they sent the



Polling station officers and members count ballot papers in Kyauktada Township.

MNA

South District PDC U Zaw Win, Chairman of Yangon North District PDC U Thein Naing and members supervised the voting.

Members of Red Cross Brigade and officials helped ailing

ballot papers to the respective sub-commissions.

Members of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club covered news on holding of the referendum in Yangon Division.

MNA



People cast votes in Shwepyitha Township.—MNA



People cast votes in Kyauktan Township.—MNA

Commander-in-Chief (Navy) inspects rehabilitation tasks in Hainggyigyun Region

NAY PYI TAW, 24 May — Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, accompanied by Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe, on 23 May morning airlifted relief supplies from Patheingyi airport to Ottwin Village.

On board the helicopter en route for Ottwin Village, they inspected the rehabilitation of Thongwa, Kyakan, Pauktan, Thingangon and Thetkethaung villages.

Next, they greeted the medical team of Directorate of Medical Services at the relief camps and heard a report presented by an official on accommodation of storm victims of storm victims of Phonedawpyi, Khongyi and Thechaung villages,

Thai health care team gives medical treatment to storm victims

YANGON, 24 May— A health care team of Ministry of Health of Thailand gave health care services to 916 patients from Labutta from 19 May to 21 May. The team is based in Myaungmya under the arrangement of Ministries of Health and Foreign Affairs of Myanmar.

On 21 May, Director Dr Khin Maung Lwin of Ministry of Health, Lt-Col Kyaw Zin Nyunt of medical unit of Ministry of Defence and Dr Kyaw Soe, head of health department of Myaungmya District, discussed cooperation in health care services with health workers led by Dr Pichit of the team.

The Thai team gave medical treatment and health education talks to the patients in the relief camps in the precincts of Shwethalyaung Pagoda and in Myaseinyangtaung U Kuthala hall in Myaungmya Township from 21 to 22 May respectively.—MNA

arrival and delivery of relief supplies and water supply.

After that, they looked into the set-up of shelter boxes for storm victims and attended to the needs. In meeting with the storm victims, they explained relentless efforts made by the government for rehabilitation of storm-hit regions.

On arrival at Didugon Village-tract, they viewed the rehabilitation tasks, water supply and medical treatment given to storm victims by those from Directorate of Medical Services and the Ministry of Health.

Next, they proceeded to Hainggyigyun where they inspected rehabilitation tasks, arrival of construction materials and renovation of Hainggyigyun BEHS and the station hospital.

Vice-Admiral Soe Thein then arrived at Kyonku Village and

observed the rehabilitation of the village.

In the evening, Commander Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe accepted K 7.5 million for purchase of 500 bags of rice donated by Yadanawin (Thonze) Co Ltd.

MNA

UN Secretary-General leaves

YANGON, 24 May — UN Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon and party paid tribute to the tomb of ex-UN Secretary-General U Thant on Shwedagon Pagoda Road here yesterday evening.

Next, the UN Secretary-General met with resident representatives of UN Agencies and staff

members at Sedona Hotel at 5 pm.

At 6.30 pm, he met with correspondents of foreign news agencies in Myanmar, editors and reporters of journals and magazines and held a press conference.

The UN Secretary-General and party left here in the evening, and they were seen off at the Yangon International Airport by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and officials.

MNA

UN Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon meets resident representatives of UN Agencies and staff members in Sedona Hotel.—MNA



States and divisions donate cash and kind to storm-hit areas

NAY PYI TAW, 24 May—Today, wellwishers from Shan State (East) donated K 211,055 to the storm victims through the Funds Accepting and Distributing Subcommittee; from Shan State (South), cash and supplies worth K 1,021,700; from Mon and Kayin states, K 5,025,600 plus supplies worth K 2,850,580; from Taninthayi Division, housing materials, clothes, assorted medicines and foodstuff worth K 17,482,500; from Sagaing Division, K 3,345,545; and from Mandalay Division, 437 bags of rice, clothes, and food worth K 24,151,696. Up to 24 May, the cash and kind from states and divisions is valued at K 9,445,833,299.

MNA

MAWFA donates cash for victims



YANGON, 24 May—Head of International Communication Department of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation and member of the Panel of Patrons of Myanmar ASEAN Women's Friendship Association Daw Myint Myint Soe, wife of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, accompanied by members of the Panel of Patrons of MAWFA, wives of Deputy Ministers for

Daw Myint Myint Soe, wife of the Foreign Affairs Minister, and party donate K 1 million to storm survivors at YGH.

MNA

Foreign Affairs Daw Lei Lei Kyi and Dr Khin Mya Win, and Executive Committee members, wives of departmental heads of the Ministry, and wives of Ambassadors of ASEAN nations in Yangon and members of

the association donated K one million for the storm victims undergoing treatment in Yangon General Hospital to the Medical Superintendent Dr Nu Nu Tha this morning.

MNA



Lao medical team provides health care to storm victims at relief camp in Kyauktan.—MNA



MMCWA donates K 500,000 and relief aid for storm victims in Dedaye Township.—MR

Maj-Gen Tha Aye inspects regional development tasks

NAY PYI TAW, 24 May—Maj-Gen Tha Aye of Ministry of Defence and Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win met departmental officials, members of the social organizations and local people at township

meeting hall in Khawsa on 20 May.

The township officer U Kyaw Moe reported on data of the township and regional development tasks. Maj-Gen Tha Aye called for cooperation of departments concerned for success of five rural development tasks hand in hand with local people.

He presented supplies to departments and social organizations.

They inspected the township hospital and provided cash assistance to the patients.

Next, they donated cash and provisions to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vamsadipa of Khawsa old monastery.

MNA

Maj-Gen Khin Zaw views thriving of rubber plants in Buthidaung Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 24 May—Maj-Gen Khin Zaw of Ministry of Defence, Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Chairman Western Command Commander Maj-Gen Maung Shein and officials concerned inspected thriving of rubber nursery plants at the camp of Myanmar Industrial Crops

Development Enterprise (Perennial Crops) in Buthidaung on 20 May.

At the briefing hall, assistant supervisor U Htun Aye Maung and Manager of Rakhine State Perennial Crops Enterprise U Naing Oo explained thriving of rubber plants in the township and 100,000 acres of rubber plants in Mayyu Hill. Maj-Gen Khin Zaw gave

instructions compilation of the cultivation cost per one acre in a year and minimizing of loss and wastage and attended the needs.

Altogether 1,488 plants have been grown since 2005-06. Efforts are being made for reaching the target of 2,500 acres.

Next, Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and party left for Maungta by motor car and arrived at 4 pm.—MNA

Minister calls for ensuring better telecommunication systems



Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw inspects installation of cables.—MPT

YANGON, 24 May — Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw inspected work at the areas of Bahan Exchange, Mayangon Exchange, Hanthawady Exchange and Insein

Exchange on 22 May.

He attended the meeting for renovating telecommunication machines and lines at the ministry in Yangon yesterday.

He made a speech on the occasion calling for

ensuring better telecommunication systems.

At Hlinethaya Industrial Zone, the minister inspected renovation to damaged telephone lines and attended to the needs. He

proceeded to Shwepyitha Auto Exchange and instructed the officials to make efforts for ensuring better telecommunications links and maintenance of machines.—MNA

Mr Bishow Parajulli presents credentials to FM

NAY PYI TAW, 24 May—Mr Bishow Parajulli, newly appointed Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme and Resident Coordinator of the United Nations to the Union of Myanmar, presented his credentials to U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs, today.

Also present on the occasion were persons concerned from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

MNA

Relief aid from Danish Red Cross and Australian Red Cross arrive in Yangon.

MNA

More international relief supplies arrive

YANGON, 24 May—Over 38 tons of tarpaulin, water purifiers and accessories from Danish Red Cross and Australian Red Cross arrived by IL-

76 at Yangon International Airport at 8.10 am today; over 18 tons of bags, construction materials, water purifiers and tarpaulin from ICRC

based in Indonesia by AN-12 at 9.55 am; over 35 tons of purified drinking water, wood, food, tarpaulin and health care items from the US by C-



Relief aid from ICRC based in Indonesia seen at Yangon International Airport.—MNA



130 at 11 am, 12.20 pm, and 1 pm; about 32 tons of biscuits and assorted foods from the Doctors Without Borders based in Switzerland by DC-8 at 12.45 pm; about 42 tons of plastic, mosquito nets, blankets and kitchen utensils from UAE-based UNHCR by IL-76 at 12.50 pm; and over 23

tons of tarpaulin and water containers from Save the Children of the US by two C-130 at 2 pm and at 2.55 pm.

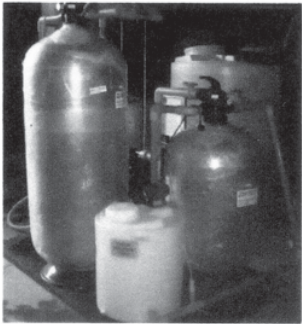
Similarly, about 29 tons of tarpaulin and household utensils from Save the Children of the US arrived at the airport by DC-8 at 9.05 pm yesterday.

International relief supplies are flowing into Myanmar by air and by sea continuously. Respective relief accepting teams are accepting the donations and distributing them by helicopter, by car and by boat as soon as possible to the storm-hit areas.

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Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TEGAP VOYNO (381)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (381) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.5.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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Indonesia raises alert for volcano on Java island

JAKARTA, 24 May — Indonesia has raised the alert level of one of the most active volcanoes on Java, a volcanology official said on Thursday.

The volcanology agency in Bandung raised the alert on Semeru mountain near Malang in East Java late on Wednesday after it shot out some 500-800 degree Celsius clouds, the official said. — MNA/Reuters

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အမှတ် (၁) စက်မှုဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ မြန်မာ့ကြွေထည်မြေထည်လုပ်ငန်း၊ ရောင်းဝယ်ရေးဌာန၊ ရုံးအမှတ် (၄၁)၊ နေပြည်တော်တွင် ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း ဆက်သွယ်စုံစမ်းပြီး တင်ဒါပုံစံများကိုလာရောက်ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။ တင်ဒါပုံစံတရားဝင် ဝယ်ယူမှုအတွက် တင်ဒါကိုသာ လက်ခံပါမည်။ (အသေးစိတ် သိလိုပါက စုံစမ်းရန် တယ်လီဖုန်းအမှတ် ၀၆၇-၄၀၈၂၉၈)				
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Sudan security says senior Darfur rebel arrested

KHARTOUM, 23 May — Sudan said on Thursday a senior member of the Darfur rebel forces that launched an attack on Khartoum killing more than 200 people had been arrested.

State media reported the detention of Abdel Aziz Ashr, describing him as the half brother of Khalil Ibrahim, the leader of the insurgent Justice and Equality Movement (JEM).

The report was confirmed by a security source who said Ashr had been acting as the “field commander” of JEM’s forces.

There were no details of where or when the arrest took place.

No one was immediately available for comment from JEM, which analysts say controls the most powerful military force out of Darfur’s rebel factions.

JEM launched an assault on Khartoum on May 10, travelling across hundreds of miles of desert and scrubland in more than 300 heavily armed vehicles to strike the suburb of Omdurman.

Government forces stopped the rebels at a bridge into central Khartoum, a few kilometres from the Army headquarters and the presidential palace.

It was the first time that rebels from Sudan’s far flung districts had managed to reach the capital in decades.

MNA/Reuters

Chile flooding kills five, forces 13,000 from homes

SANTIAGO, 23 May — Heavy rains and flooding have killed five people and forced about 13,000 from their homes in south-central Chile, some evacuated after rivers swelled and burst their banks, the government said on Thursday.

Two died in landslides, one was struck by a boulder and another was hit by a falling tree. One man died of hypothermia. Television images showed streets turned into rivers in the port town of Valparaiso, where 3.7 inches (93 mm) of rain fell in 24 hours during two storm fronts that began on the weekend.

Nearly 350 people were in shelters, while most of the displaced were staying with friends and relatives, the government said. Parts of Chile experience downpours and flooding every year in the run-up to the Southern Hemisphere winter.

The government’s National Emergency Office said 7,886 people were displaced in the southern region of Bio Bio and 4,997 in the agricultural region of Maule, about 125 miles (200 kilometres) south of the capital, Santiago.

MNA/Reuters

Sri Lankan tourist arrivals drop in April

COLOMBO, 24 May — Sri Lanka's tourist arrivals decreased by about 12 per cent to 29,047 in April from 33,039 in the same month of 2007, the Sri Lanka Tourism Board said on Thursday in a statement.

The arrivals suffered a decline of over 20 per cent compared with the March arrival figure of 38,049, statistics of the government agency showed.

Tourism, a major revenue earner of Sri Lanka, has suffered in the face of the escalation of violence in the island's separatist armed conflict in the north and east.

The six-year-old ceasefire brokered by the Norwegian peace facilitators ended in January. — MNA/Xinhua

Swedish police release two men after nuclear scare

STOCKHOLM, 23 May — Swedish police said on Thursday they had released two men who had been held on suspicion of planning to sabotage a nuclear power station.

Police detained two contract workers on Wednesday after one of them was stopped in a security check at the Oskarshamn nuclear plant, on the southeast coast of Sweden, with traces of a highly explosive material thought to be TATP.

TATP, or triacetone triperoxide, is extremely unstable, especially when subjected to heat, friction and shock.

Police issued a brief statement saying the two would remain under suspicion until after technical experts had concluded an investigation.

“Both men have been cooperative but they deny any wrongdoing and waived the right to legal counsel,” the statement said.

“There was no legal ground to hold them any longer.”

MNA/Reuters

Scientists discover “frogamander” fossil

CHICAGO, 23 May — The discovery of a “frogamander”, a 290 million-year-old fossil that links modern frogs and salamanders, may resolve

a longstanding debate about amphibian ancestry, Canadian scientists said on Wednesday.

Modern amphibians — frogs, salamanders and

earthworm-like caecilians — have been a bit slippery about divulging their evolutionary ancestry. Gaps in the fossil record showing the transformation of one form into another have led to a lot of scientific debate.

The fossil *Gerobatrachus hottoni* or elderly frog, described in the journal *Nature*, may help set the record straight.

“It’s a missing link that falls right between where the fossil record of the extinct form and the fossil record for the modern form begins,” said Jason Anderson of the University of Calgary, who led the study. —MNA/Reuters

FAO says bumper harvests coming but food to stay costly

ROME, 23 May — The world will see bumper harvests this year, but that might not be enough to protect the world’s poorest countries from food bills four times higher than at the start of the decade, the United Nations forecast on Thursday.

Increased plantings and good weather will provide a global wheat crop 8.7 per cent greater than last year, one of the reasons wheat prices have slid some 50 per cent since February, the Food and Agriculture Organization said.

But rice — a staple for more than half the earth’s population — will remain in short supply on global markets, and poor countries that rely on food imports

could see food bills up 40 per cent this year after a similar price hike in 2007.

“The sustained rise in imported food expenditures (for poor countries) ... constitutes a very worrying development,” FAO said in its Food Outlook report. “Their annual food import basket could cost four times as much as it did in 2000.”

MNA/Reuters

Metal statues of Israeli soldiers are seen beyond a sign displaying the distances to Damascus and to the Israeli prime minister’s office on the Golan Heights. Israel and Syria announced they had resumed peace talks through Turkish mediators after an eight-year freeze, with Damascus saying it had a prior Israeli undertaking to return the whole of the occupied Golan Heights.—INTERNET



A handler holds up a green sea turtle at the Turtle and Marine Ecosystem Centre in Rantau Abang in eastern Terengganu state, Malaysia, in 2007. Nearly 900 endangered leatherback turtles were born at the Junquillal beach on Costa Rica’s Pacific coastline in recent months thanks to community workers that scare off poachers and protect the eggs, the World Wildlife Fund for Nature said on 22 May.—INTERNET



A journalist (R) and an employee walk past a structure containing gas recovered from the recycling of organic waste at a recycling plant in Singapore on 8 May, 2008. Untroubled by the festering mounds of pungent tropical garbage that frequently pile up in its less-developed neighbours, clean, green and super-efficient Singapore’s unique rubbish headache stems from its small size and high population density. Picture taken 8 May, 2008.—INTERNET

Two old villagers rescued from isolated quake-hit mountain

BEIJING, 23 May — Chinese armed police on Thursday rescued an elderly couple, aged 92 and 84, after they had been stranded in an isolated mountain in southwestern Sichuan Province for 11 days because of the devastating earthquake.

The childless couple, Tian Yueqing and Cao Shuyun, lost contact with their villagers and were trapped in their cottage in Tai’an Village on top of Qingcheng mountain, which is close to Dujiangyan City.

The Chinese Armed Police rescue team found the couple during a large-scale search and carried them with stretchers to another village at the foot of the mountain. They made the couple a tent and brought them beds, food, water and other daily necessities.

MNA/Xinhua

UN says donors should back Afghan \$50b aid plan

KABUL, 23 May — The international community should back a 50-billion-US-dollar Afghan development strategy at a donors’ conference in Paris next month, but Kabul must also fight rampant corruption, the UN’s special envoy said on Thursday.

Afghanistan depends on aid for 90 per cent of its spending. But international donors have fallen behind in paying what they have already pledged and much of the money goes straight back to donor countries in salaries and profits. Official corruption eats into the remainder.

More than six years after US-led and Afghan forces toppled the Taliban, Kabul and its Western backers are faced with a revived insurgency and a public frustrated by the lack of security and disappointed with the slow pace of development.

MNA/Reuters

44 left dead by tropical storm “Halong” in Philippines

MANILA, 23 May — The death toll from tropical storm “Halong” reached 44 in the Philippines till Thursday morning as it has left the archipelago, the country’s national disaster relief agency said.

The damage to property

has risen to more than 3.743 billion pesos (87 million US dollars), mostly in infrastructure and agricultural crops, the Philippine National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) said in a report posted on its

website.

At least 205,165 families or 1,107,875 persons were affected in 1,176 villages in 61 towns and seven cities in five provinces in the north part of the archipelagos.

MNA/Xinhua



သောက်ရေသန့်များနှင့်ပတ်သက်၍အသိပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်

- ၁။ ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာနသည် အရည်အသွေးစစ်မှန်ကောင်းမွန်ပြီး ဘေးအန္တရာယ်ကင်းရှင်းသော အစားအသောက်များကို အများပြည်သူတို့စာသုံးနိုင်ရန်နှင့် အစားအသောက်များ၏ အရည်သွေးကို စဉ်ဆက်မပြတ် ထိန်းသိမ်းနိုင်ရေးအတွက် စိစစ်ဆောင်ရွက်လျက်ရှိသည်။
- ၂။ ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းအတွင်းရှိ သောက်ရေသန့်စက်ရုံများသည် ဆိုင်ကလုန်းမုန်းတိုင်း “နာဂစ်” ကြောင့်ပျက်စီးခြင်း ရှိ-မရှိနှင့် ကောင်းမွန်သောထုတ်လုပ်မှုကျင့်စဉ်နှင့်အညီ သောက်ရေသန့်များထုတ်လုပ်နိုင်ခြင်း ရှိ-မရှိကို ကျန်းမာရေးဦးစီးဌာနက စစ်ဆေးလျှက်ရှိပါသည်။ စစ်ဆေးပြီး သောက်ရေသန့် လုပ်ငန်းများ အနက် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ သောက်ရေသန့်လုပ်ငန်းများမှာ သောက်ရေသန့်သတ်မှတ်ချက်နှင့်ကိုက်ညီမှု မရှိကြောင်း တွေ့ရှိရပါသည်။

စဉ် သောက်ရေသန့်လုပ်ငန်းအမည်

- ၁။ Sunflower သောက်ရေသန့်
- ၂။ Zest သောက်ရေသန့်
- ၃။ SIP သောက်ရေသန့်
- ၄။ Nawarat သောက်ရေသန့်
- ၅။ Great သောက်ရေသန့်
- ၆။ Fresh Water သောက်ရေသန့်
- ၇။ OSAKA သောက်ရေသန့်
- ၈။ Star H₂O သောက်ရေသန့်

စဉ် သောက်ရေသန့်လုပ်ငန်းအမည်

- ၉။ နေလ သောက်ရေသန့်
- ၁၀။ Comet သောက်ရေသန့်
- ၁၁။ Winner သောက်ရေသန့်
- ၁၂။ PGS သောက်ရေသန့်
- ၁၃။ YOMA သောက်ရေသန့်
- ၁၄။ FIFA သောက်ရေသန့်
- ၁၅။ Golden Cherry သောက်ရေသန့်
- ၁၆။ နေမင်းသောက်ရေသန့်

- ၃။ သို့ပါ၍ သောက်ရေသန့်လုပ်ငန်းများသည် သောက်ရေသန့်သတ်မှတ်ချက်နှင့် ကိုက်ညီကြောင်း ကျန်းမာရေးဦးစီးဌာန၏ ထောက်ခံချက် ရရှိမှသာ ထုတ်လုပ်ဖြန့်ဖြူး ရောင်းချပါရန် အသိပေးအပ်ပါသည်။

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



Sunday, 25 May
View on today

7:00 am

- မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၏ပရိတ်တရားတော် ယောဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ဥပ္ပါတသန္တိပါဠိတော်

7:25 am

- To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

- Morning news

7:45 am

- ပြည်ထောင်စုတိုင်းရင်းသားရိုးရာ အက

8:00 am

- International news

8:15 am

- နေင်းခေတ်တေးပဒေသာ

11:00 am

- Martial Song

11:10 am

- Musical programme

11:25 am

- တစ်ပတ်အတွင်းနိုင်ငံတကာ သတင်း

11:40 am

- ထက်မြက်ပျော်ရွှင်အိမ်ထောင်ရှင်

12:00 pm

- မြန်မာစီဒီယိုဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ရွှေအကြောင်း ဖယောင်းသက်သေ” (လွင်မိုးနန္ဒာလှိုင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကျော်ဇောလင်း(အတွေးပုံရိပ်))

1:50 pm

- ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ(၃၈)ဖြာမင်္ဂလာ

2:00 pm

- Musical programme

2:15 pm

- တံတားအလှပန်းလောင်

2:45 pm

- International news

4:00 pm

- စစ်ချီတေးစစ်သည်တေး

4:10 pm

- Musical programme

4:25 pm

- မျိုးချစ်စိတ်ဓာတ်ရှင်သန်

ထက်မြက်ရေးတေးများ

4:35 pm

- Musical programme

4:50 pm

- ဆိုကြမယ်ပျော်ကြမယ်

6:00 pm

- Evening news

6:30 pm

- Weather report

6:35 pm

- ကြေးမုံရိပ်သွင်တေးနယဉ်

6:50 pm

- ဆိတ်ကျွန်းရေထိန်းတံခါး

7:00 pm

- Musical programme

7:15 pm

- Musical programme

8:00 pm

- News

12: News

- International news

14: Weather report

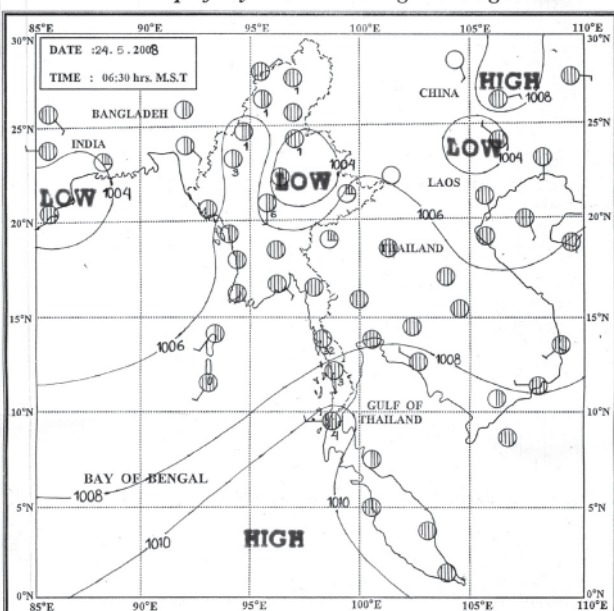
15: နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

“မာယာထောင်ချောက်”

(အပိုင်း-၂၄)

WEATHER

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Saturday, 24 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, fairly widespread in Kachin State and Upper Sagaing Division, scattered in Mon State and Mandalay Division, isolated Shan, Chin, Kayin and Kayah States and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above May average temperatures in Sagaing, Mandalay, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and about May average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperatures was Chauk (41°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Dawei (1.26) inches, Yamethin (1.06) inches, Mindat (0.59) inch, Kalay (0.55) inch and Thaton (0.51) inch.

Maximum temperature on 23-5-2008 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 24-5-2008 was 75°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 24-5-2008 was 88%. Total sunshine hours on 23-5-2008 was (1.4) hours approx.

Rainfall on 24-5-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, at Kaba-Aye and 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 (5) mph from Southeast at (03:30) hours MST on 23-5-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 25-5-2008: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Taninthayi Division, fairly widespread in Kachin State, scattered in Mon and Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Yangon Divisions and isolated in the remaining States and Divisions. 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 25-5-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 25-5-2008: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 25-5-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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Prime Minister oversees universities under repair



Prime Minister General Thein Sein views damages to building roofs and fallen trees at Yangon University.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 24 May — Accompanied by Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence and Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, Prime Minister General Thein Sein visited Yangon University of Computer Studies at 1.30 pm today.

Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung reported to the Prime Minister and party on damage to the roofs and windows of lecture halls; Rector Dr Daw Nilar Thein and Chief Engineer of Max Myanmar U Soe Hlaing on damage to the lecture halls and repair work. The Prime Minister saw to the availability of construction materials and repair work and fulfilled the requirements.

Next, the Prime Minister and party went to Yangon (West) Technological University where Rector Dr Zaw Min Aung reported on damage to the lecture halls, efforts made to repair the halls before the exams and 90 percent completion of repair work.

Afterwards, Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspected the workshops of departments concerned. Minister U Thaung and the rector conducted the Prime Minister around the workshops.

On arrival at Yangon University, the Prime Minister was briefed by Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein, Deputy Minister U Myo Nyunt and

officials on fallen age-old trees on the campus and damage to the roofs of lecture halls. The Prime Minister viewed the fallen trees and damaged roofs. They also

reported on condition of tiles of the Science building and the convocation hall of Yangon University.
(See page 8)



Repairs of main building of University of Foreign Languages (Yangon).—MNA

Myanmar to host IPC for storm victims

YANGON, 24 May—Myanmar will be hosting an International Pledging Conference declaring financial and other forms of assistance from international donors for the victims of Cyclone Nargis that struck Myanmar on the 2nd and 3rd May 2008, at Sedona Hotel here on 25th May 2008.

The ASEAN-UN International Pledging Conference will be attended by the UN delegation led by United Nations Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon, delegations from UN Agencies, International Organizations, International Financial Institutions and Non-Governmental Organizations. The ASEAN Secretary-General and Cabinet Ministers from ASEAN member states, Ministers and Deputy Ministers from China, India, Republic of Korea, Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway, France, Germany, Sweden, United Kingdom and diplomats will also be at the Conference. About 360 participants will be represented at the gathering.—MNA

Weather Forecast for (25-5-2008)

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%).

Significant Rainfall recorded (24-5-2008)

Dawei	(1.26) inches
Yamethin	(1.06) inches
Mindat	(0.59) inch
Kalay	(0.55) inch
Thaton	(0.51) inch