

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 General Thein Sein attends ASEAN-UN International Pledging Conference

Myanmar warmly welcomes any assistance and aid presented with genuine goodwill from any country or organization, provided that there are no strings attached nor politicization involved

YANGON, 25 May – The following is the full text of address delivered today by Prime Minister General Thein Sein at the ASEAN-UN International Pledging Conference. Excellency Mr Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations



Prime Minister General Thein Sein addresses ASEAN-UN International Pledging Conference.—MNA

Excellency Mr George Yeo, Chairman of the ASEAN Standing Committee

Distinguished Ministers

Excellency Dr Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary-General of ASEAN

Delegates from donor countries

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

May I, first of all, say that the Government and the people of Myanmar extend our warmest welcome to all of you. May I also on behalf of the people of Myanmar, would like to express our deep

appreciation to all of you for your presence and your readiness to provide aid and assistance to cyclone victims at this critical time.

I would also like to reiterate our gratitude to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Foreign Ministers of the ASEAN member countries, Ministers and delegates from donor countries, Secretary-General of ASEAN and United Nations Agencies, representatives of INGOs and international community, for their presence today at the ASEAN-UN International Pledging Conference.

The Cyclone Nargis

that hit Myanmar on the 2nd and 3rd May, was of unprecedented intensity in our history. The radius of the storm was about 200 miles wide and the wind speed at the eye of the storm ranged from 120 to 150 miles per hour. The strong wind was accompanied by surging tidal waves that ranged from 7 to 12 feet in height.

Consequently, 7 townships in Ayeyawady Division and 40 townships in Yangon Division were severely affected. The strong winds and the accompanying high tidal waves have caused heavy losses of human lives, farming cattle, livestock as well as extensive damages to properties. Some of the villages were completely wiped out due to the storm and the tidal waves.

According to the data collected to date, 77,738 people were confirmed dead, 55,917 were still missing and 19,359 were injured and there were huge loss in properties and material damaged. I won't be going in details of the damages caused by the

(See page 8)



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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 26 May, 2008

Reconstruction of hospitals and schools speeded up

A cyclonic storm struck wards, villages and townships in Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions early this month. The loss and destruction of buildings in those areas were very massive.

Efforts are being made for reconstruction of towns and villages in the storm-affected areas and preparedness and prevention against natural disaster in the long run with the assistance of local and international organizations under the leadership of the government.

In the storm-hit areas reconstruction of hospitals, schools, departmental offices and houses is now under way. Priority is being given to rebuilding of people’s hospitals and schools.

The roofs of the West Yangon General Hospital and Central Women’s Hospital were blown off during the storm. Repair work is being carried out with greater momentum in cooperation with the respective companies.

The repair work is being carried out as the roofs and tiles of Yangon University of Computer Studies, West Yangon Technological University, Yangon University and the Convocation Hall were blown off during to the storm.

Renovation of historical buildings in Yangon University and tasks for keeping its campus clean are being undertaken step by step.

Reconstruction tasks are being implemented speedily for opening of the schools destroyed in the townships in storm-hit areas with the assistance of wellwisher companies.

Reconstruction work will be completed soon with the assistance of the government hand in hand with private companies.



Mr Charanjit Singh of Alkema Co Ltd presents K 20 million to Bogale Township PDC Chairman U Soe Thein.—NLM

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

Damage, repair of buildings under Ministry of Information inspected



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspects damaged warehouses of Printing and Publishing Enterprise in Insein Township.—MNA

YANGON, 25 May—Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspected damage of departments under the ministry and progress in reconstruction tasks.

This morning, the minister inspected damage of roofs at the press factory and warehouses under Printing and Publishing Enterprise in Aung San, Insein Township.

On 22 May, the minister viewed damage and reconstruction of buildings at Myanmar Radio and Television on Pyay Road.

On 23 May, he looked into repairing of buildings at Feature Film of Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise

in Bahan Township and attended to the needs.

At the New Light of Myanmar daily in Botahtaung Township, the minister inspected repair of the buildings and publishing of the newspaper daily and storage of newsprint rolls at the warehouses.

At Myanma Alin daily in Tamway Township, the minister oversaw damage of buildings and repair works, publishing of the newspaper daily, repairing of Photolitho Press and its warehouses of Printing and Publishing Enterprise.

Later, he inspected damage of warehouses of PPE and NPE on Dhammazedi Road in Bahan Township and gave necessary instructions.—MNA



Relief aid donated by WFP arrives Yangon International Airport. —MNA

Royal Thai Armed Forces presents relief item to victims

YANGON, 25 May—A ceremony to donate 61 tons of relief aids contributed by Royal Thai Armed Forces to storm victims was held at Michaunggon Monastery in Myawady on 23 May.

At the donation ceremony, the commander of of 3rd Army Area of Royal Thai Armed Forces made a speech.

Brig-Gen Aung Naing of the local station accepted the relief items and spoke words of thanks. The relief aids were 19 tons of rice, 18 tons of purified water, 7 tons of clothes, 8 tons of noodle and 9 tons of

canned fish, sugar, soft-drinks and fried snail. MNA

Earthquake Report

NAY PYI TAW, 25 May—A moderate earthquake of intensity (5.8) Richter Scale with its epicenter outside Myanmar (the People's Republic of China) about (1200) miles northeast of Kaba-Aye Seismological Observatory was recorded at (14) hrs (58) min (34) sec M.S.T today.

MNA

Hillary Clinton: ‘I’m sorry for offence’

WASHINGTON, 24 May —US presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton has been forced to apologise after her critics claimed she used the 1968 assassination of Robert Kennedy inappropriately in her campaign.

Calls have been made for Senator Clinton to step down from the Democratic Party’s



Hillary Clinton

candidate race because her comments have caused outrage in some quarters

of America.

When asked why she was continuing her campaign into the summer - despite increasingly long odds - Mrs Clinton used Bobby Kennedy as an example, saying he was still running into June, only cut short by his death.

She told a gathering of people of South Dakota: “My husband did not wrap up the nomination in 1992 until he won the California primary somewhere in the middle of June, right?”

“We all remember Bobby Kennedy was assassinated in June in California,” she said, dismissing the idea of abandoning the race.

Supporters of her rival, and front-runner, Barack Obama also claimed the comment implied Mr Obama could be assassinated.—*Internet*

76-year-old man oldest to scale Mount Everest

KATHMANDU, 24 May— Mountaineering officials say a 76-year-old Nepalese man has scaled Mount Everest to become the oldest person to climb the world’s highest mountain.

Nepal’s Tourism Ministry official Ramesh Chetri says Min Bahadur Sherchan reached the 8,850-metre or 29,035-foot summit early Sunday morning with his climbing guides.

He is in good health and was safely coming down the icy slopes. Sherchan beat the record set last year by Japanese climber Katsusuke Yanagisawa, who scaled the peak at age 71.— *Internet*



Smoke is emitted from a factory area in Kobe, western Japan on 25 May, 2008. Japan urged rich countries on Sunday to take the lead in the fight against global warming by setting bold national targets to cut greenhouse gas emissions by well over 50 percent by 2050.—INTERNET

Teen actor in upcoming ‘Harry Potter’ film killed

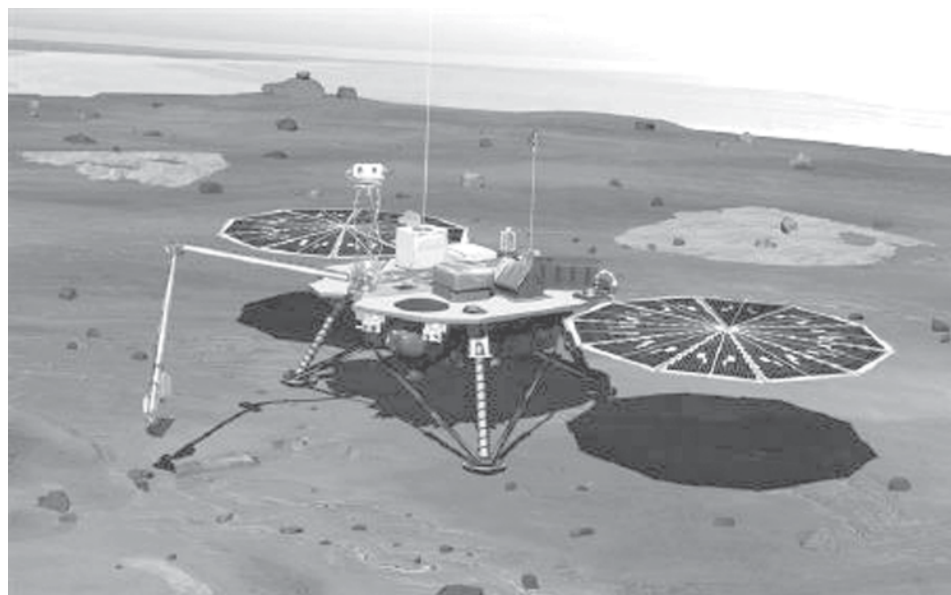
LONDON, 24 May— A British teenage actor playing a minor role in the upcoming “Harry Potter” film was stabbed to death during a brawl in London on Saturday, police said.

Rob Knox, 18, was stabbed after he got caught up in a fight outside a bar in southwest London early Saturday, London’s Metropolitan Police said in a statement.

Knox plays Ravenclaw student Marcus Belby in the upcoming film “Harry Potter And The Half-Blood Prince,” the sixth installment of the popular series set for release in November.

Warner Bros, the studio that is producing the film, said it was shocked by the news.

Internet



This artist’s conception shows NASA’s Phoenix Mars Lander as it monitors the atmosphere overhead with a laser radar and reaches out to the soil below with the spacecraft fully deployed on the surface of Mars. —INTERNET

Malaysian police rescue four babies from traffickers

KUALA LUMPUR, 24 May— Malaysia’s police seized four infants from an baby-trafficking ring that purchased newborns from poor mothers and sold them to childless couples, an official said Sunday.

Authorities acting on a public tip detained 23 people, including customers seeking to buy babies, during raids on an illegal abortion clinic and four homes Thursday, said

a police official in southern Johor state.

The traffickers persuaded poor, unmarried women who sought abortions to deliver their children instead and sell them, the official said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to make public statements.

Others arrested included a gynecologist and a government employee who allegedly

forged identification documents for the infants, the official said. *The Star* newspaper said three Singaporeans were held.

The *New Straits Times* newspaper reported the syndicate paid at least 700 ringgit (\$200) for each baby and sold them for up to 20,000 ringgit (\$6,000). Ethnic Chinese babies were the most popular, it said.

Internet

At least six killed in Colombian earthquake

BOGOTA, 24 May— At least six people were killed when a shallow, 5.6-magnitude earthquake hit Colombia on Saturday, destroying homes and shaking buildings in the capital Bogota, where panicked residents fled into the streets.

Three people, including a small baby, were killed when an avalanche crushed their car and three more died in landslides. The quake blocked a highway out of Bogota and flattened ten houses and a church near the epicentre, authorities said.

“They died trapped by landslides,” President Alvaro Uribe told a community meeting where he updated the death toll.

At least eight other people were injured by the quake, which was centred 33 miles (54 km) east-southeast of Bogota at a depth of 6.2 miles (10 km), the US Geological Survey said.

The USGS earlier measured the quake at 5.7 magnitude at a depth of 2.2 miles (3.5 km).

Bogota Mayor Samuel Moreno told local radio some buildings in the city were slightly damaged, but there were no reports of victims in the Andean country’s capital.

“The report we have so far is that it was strong and some structures have suffered damage,” Moreno said.— *Internet*



A US military helicopter fires flares while flying over the outskirts of Baghdad, Iraq, on 25 May, 2008.

China, Russia pledge to maintain global energy security

BEIJING, 24 May — China and Russia on Friday vowed joint efforts to maintain global energy security. The pledge was made in a Sino-Russian joint statement on major international issues, signed by Chinese President Hu Jintao and Russia’s new President Dmitry Medvedev on Friday.

Both sides called on

countries around the world to enhance energy dialogues and coordination, based on equality and mutual benefits, so as to stabilize international energy markets.

The two countries support building a mutually beneficial and cooperative new energy security concept featuring diversified development and coordinated guarantees, the statement said.

They also called for speeding up research and popularization of new technologies for environmental protection.

Concerning global climate change, the two countries reiterated their determination to fulfill obligations under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and Kyoto Protocol, the statement said.

MNA/Xinhua



People look into an art installation named the “Telectroscope” near Tower Bridge in London on 23 May, 2008. The device is mirrored by another underneath the Brooklyn bridge in New York and was created by conceptual artist Paul St George. —INTERNET



People take part in a carnival in central St Petersburg as they mark the 305th anniversary of the city, on 24 May, 2008. INTERNET

Former professional Swiss military pilot Yves Rossy, known as the “Fusion Man,” flies with a jetpowered single wing over the Alps in Bex, Switzerland, on 14 May, 2008. INTERNET



US border cop pleads guilty to drug trafficking

PHOENIX, 24 May — A US Border Patrol agent has pleaded guilty to trafficking more than one tonne of marijuana and using his patrol vehicle to transport it, prosecutors said on Thursday.

Agent Juan Luis Sanchez, 31, pleaded guilty at the US District Court in Tucson, Arizona, to possession with intent to distribute 1,000 kilogrammes or more of marijuana, the US Attorney’s office said in a

news release.

Sanchez admitted he used his patrol vehicle on six separate occasions to transport marijuana in the area around Nogales, in southern Arizona on the border with Mexico, and to accepting 45,000 US

dollars in bribes.

The agent also pleaded guilty to worker’s compensation fraud charges relating to an injury he received in a vehicle accident while on duty.

MNA/Reuters

Veteran Swiss climber dies on Mount Everest

KATHMANDU, 24 May— Veteran Swiss mountaineer Uwe Gianni Goltz died on his way to the summit of Mt. Everest, local media reported Friday.

According to a leading website, THT Online report, Goltz, 44, was attempting to climb Mt Everest from Nepali side without the aid of artificial oxygen, Nepal Mountaineering Association said.

However, the exact cause for Goltz’s death and

when it happened remained unclear. Goltz had previously climbed Mt Cho Oyu, Manaslu and Dhaulagiri as well as other peaks elsewhere. Goltz was from Val Maggia in southern Switzerland.

MNA/Xinhua

Fire destroys missiles at Russian air base

ST PETERSBURG (Russia), 24 May— A fire ripped through a military depot in northwestern Russia on Friday, destroying hundreds of air-to-air missiles, local media reported.

The fire destroyed the depot at an air base housing Sukhoi Su-27 fighter jets near the town of Lodeinoye Pole, some 240 kilometres (150 miles) northeast of Russia’s second city of St Petersburg, Russian news agencies reported. —MNA/Reuters

supplies. Oil prices have struck all-time high above 135 US dollars a barrel this week.

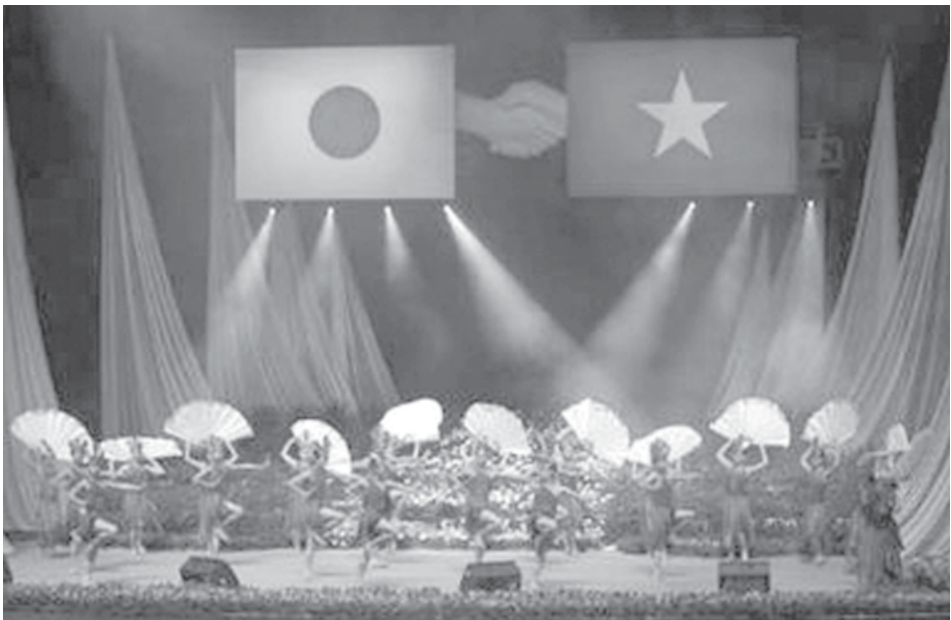
While gasoline supplies are relatively ample, diesel remains tight, making the hike in diesel prices higher than petrol. — MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia says to cut emissions 17% by 2025

TOKYO, 24 May — Indonesia plans to cut greenhouse gas emissions from its energy sector by 17 per cent by 2025, its Environment Minister said on Friday, a move that could boost pressure on rich countries to set bold targets of their own.

If Indonesia makes the reduction a formal target, it would be a rare decision by a developing nation to set a unilateral goal of an absolute cut in emissions for a key sector. “I’d like to voice my concerns that if the issue is not carefully managed, it will threaten the existence of humanity in Asia in particular, and the world in general,” said Indonesian Environment Minister Rachmat Witoelar.

MNA/Reuters



Vietnamese artists perform at a Vietnam-Japan music gala in Hanoi on 24 May, 2008, as part of an event to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the establishment of bilateral relations between Vietnam and Japan.—INTERNET

Investors urged to shore up Palestinian economy

BETHLEHEM (West Bank), 24 May — The Palestinian economy is poised for rapid growth if Israel eases stifling restrictions and investors ready to take risks could reap big profits, the World Bank and Palestinian officials said on Thursday.

Palestinian entrepreneurs are hoping such foreign investors, many from Gulf countries awash with oil wealth, will stump up 2 billion US dollars at an investment conference in Bethlehem this week to support local business plans, from tourism to technology.

“While there are risks, there can also be significant returns for businesses willing to get into the elevator on the ground floor,” World Bank Managing Director Juan Jose Daboub told the conference.

Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad, who was appointed last year after President Mahmoud Abbas dismissed Hamas Islamists from government in a move that ended trade sanctions, said “an investment in Palestine is an investment in peace”.

MNA/Reuters

Turkey, Switzerland agree to avoid double taxation

ANKARA, 24 May — Turkey and Switzerland have signed an agreement to avoid double taxation, the semi-official *Anatolia* news agency reported on Thursday.

Turkish Finance Minister Kemal Unakitan and his Swiss counterpart Hanz-Rudolf Merz signed the agreement aimed at making the two countries more attractive to businessmen by ending double taxation stemming from increasing economic relations.

The agreement, which also enables Turkish and

China provides vehicles, office equipment for Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 24 May — The Cambodian Ministry of Relations with Parliament and Inspection on Thursday received a batch of vehicles and office equipment donated by the Chinese Government.

Chinese Ambassador to Cambodia Zhang Jinfeng and Cambodian Minister of Relations with Parliament and Inspection Men Sam On signed the documents for the handover of van car,

pickup truck, desktop computers, laptop computers, printers, projector and copy machines worth over 70,000 US dollars.

“This shows again that both governments and peoples possess brotherly affection and friendship,” said Men Sam On, adding that the Cambodian side very much appreciated China for its help. “And, we would like to share China’s disaster and agony as we were brotherly countries,” she said.

The Chinese Government presented excellent performance while carrying out its relief

works against the recent earthquake in Sichuan Province, she said.

“This is worth of our admiration,” she added.

Meanwhile, Zhang Jinfeng expected the donation to facilitate the ministry’s daily work and help improve its level of office automation.

Both sides would enhance their cooperation in various fields and further improve their strategic cooperative partnership during the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries, she added. — MNA/Xinhua

Police chase looters during an outbreak of anti-foreigner violence in Cape Town’s Khayelitsha township on 23 May, 2008. South Africa’s security chief on Friday accused rightwingers linked to the former apartheid government of fanning xenophobic violence that has spread to Cape Town, the second largest city and tourist centre.—INTERNET



Thailand committed to supplying Philippines with rice

MANILA, 24 May — Thai Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej has assured Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of his country’s willingness to supply the Philippines with rice, Philippine Agriculture Secretary

Arthur Yap said on Thursday.

During the meeting between the visiting Thai Prime Minister and the Philippine President in Manila, the former offered assurances that “if the Philippines needs rice, Thailand will be

willing to supply” the staple grain, *Philippine Daily Inquirer* said in a report posted on its website, quoting the agriculture chief. Samak started his two-day visit on Thursday.

However, Yap said there was no discussion about the volume or price of rice Thailand was willing to ship here.

Thailand is one of the main sources of the country’s rice imports. The other is Vietnam.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore Q1 GDP grows less than advance estimate

SINGAPORE, 24 May — Singapore’s economy grew less than the advance estimate in the first quarter while inflation rate expanded at the fastest pace in 26 years.

Gross domestic product (GDP) grew by

6.7 per cent year-on-year in the first quarter, up from the 5.4-per-cent gain in the preceding quarter, but less than the government’s 10 April estimate of 7.2 per cent, the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) said in a statement on

Friday. On a quarter-on-quarter seasonally adjusted annualized basis, real GDP expanded by 14.6 per cent, after declining by 4.8 per cent in the previous quarter, the ministry said.

MNA/Xinhua



Trains are derailed as a tornado passed through Windsor, Colo, on 22 May, 2008 A second tornado touched down in the area near Johnstown, 8 miles southwest of Greeley, the National Weather Service reported. There were no immediate reports of injuries. All of northeastern Colorado was under a tornado watch through Thursday evening, the National Weather Service said.—INTERNET

Prime Minister receives Deputy PM of SRV



NAY PYI TAW, 25 May —Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein received Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Pham Gia Khiem of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and party at the Ahlon Hall of Sedona Hotel on Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road, here, this morning.

Also present on the occasion were Minister for

Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Director-General Col Thant Shin of Government Office, Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Vietnamese Ambassador Mr Tran Van Tung.—MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein receives Mr Pham Gia Khiem, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Vietnam, and party at Sedona Hotel.—MNA

Prime Minister receives ASEAN Standing Committee Chairman and party



Prime Minister General Thein Sein meets Mr George Yeo, Chairman of ASEAN Standing Committee, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Singapore, at Sedona Hotel.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 25 May —Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein received Chairman of the ASEAN Standing Committee Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore Mr George Yeo and party at the Ahlon Hall of Sedona Hotel on Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road, here, this morning.

Present also at the call were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Director-General Col Thant Shin of Government Office, Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Singaporean Ambassador Mr Robert Chua Hian Kong.—MNA

Saudi King donates relief supplies to storm victims

YANGON, 25 May — A ceremony to hand over relief supplies for storm victims donated by the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz al Saud of Saudi Arabia was held at

the lounge of Yangon International Airport at 3 pm today.

Present on the occasion were Director-General of Fire Services Department U Myint Tun and departmental

officials, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Myanmar Mr Turki Bin Naji Al Ali and officials.

The Saudi Arabian Ambassador explained the purpose of the donations and handed over the list of

relief supplies to the director-general who expressed thanks.

The donations include various kinds of foods, gram, blankets, plastic

bags and medicines weighing 73.04 tons.

More relief supplies from Saudi Arabia will continue to arrive here, it is learnt.—MNA



Relief aids from Saudi Arabia at Yangon International Airport.—MNA



Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Mr Turki Bin Naji Al Ali hands over relief items to Director-General of Fire Services Department.—MNA

Prime Minister receives Chinese FM

NAY PYI TAW, 25 May — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein received Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Yang Jiechi of the People's Republic of China and party at the Ahlon Hall of Sedona Hotel on Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road, here,

this afternoon.

Present also were Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint and departmental heads and Chinese Ambassador Mr Guan Mu.

MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein receives Minister for Foreign Affairs of PRC Mr Yang Jiechi at Sedona Hotel.

MNA



Prime Minister receives Indian Minister of State of Ministry of Commerce and Power

NAY PYI TAW, 25 May — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein received Minister of State of the Ministry of Commerce and Power Mr Tairam Ramesh of the Republic of India at the Ahlon Hall of Sedona Hotel on Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road, here, this afternoon.

Indian Ambassador Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra.

MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein receives Mr Tairam Ramesh, Minister of State of Ministry of Commerce and Power of India, at Sedona Hotel.

MNA



More relief supplies from abroad arrive at Yangon International Airport

YANGON, 25 May — DC-8 flight carrying 40 tons of plastic roll provided by Dubai based UNHCR Office of UAE,

A-310 flight carrying seven tons of solar system lights, tents, emergency health equipment, mosquito nets, water purifier and its related materials by Germany, IL-76 flight carrying 38 tons of blankets, kitchen utensils and tarpaulin by Malaysia-based IFRC, AN-12 flight carrying 12.29 tons of tents, water purifiers and its related equipment and nitric acid by Thailand-based WFP, AN-12 flight carrying 14.9 tons of 1,662 packages of foodstuff by Sri Lanka, five C-130 flights carrying 65 tons of plastics sheets, water bottles, bottles of purified drinking water, foodstuff, tarpaulin and health

equipment by the US, MD-11 flight carrying 73 tons of food and medicines by Saudi Arabia and AN-12 flight carrying 2.64 tons of energy dried noodles by Thailand arrived at Yangon International Airport today.

Likewise, two AN-12 flights carrying 24 tons of kitchen utensil, medicines and health equipment and tarpaulin provided by Thai-based UNHCR arrived at the same airport yesterday evening.

Officials systematically accepted the relief supplies and promptly sent them to the storm-hit regions without delay.

MNA

MWAFF donates rice bags to storm victims

YANGON, 25 May — Head of International Relations Department of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Daw Myint Myint Soe, wife of the minister for Foreign Affairs, and Daw Lei Lei Kyi, wife of deputy minister for Foreign Affairs, and members donated 20 bags of rice worth K 500, 000 to storm victims of ward-17 in Dagon Myothit (South) this morning.

MNA

Relief supplies contributed by Germany arrive at Yangon International Airport.

MNA





Prime Minister General Thein Sein and the participants stand in one minute silence to mourn for the loss of lives of people in the storm.—MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein attends ...

(from page 1)

Cyclone Nargis as Minister U Soe Tha of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development will be giving a briefing on this later.

On 3rd May, the same day when the storm made its landfall, an emergency cabinet meeting was held presided by me and we rushed to the storm hit areas to carry out immediate rescue operations. On 4th May, at the supervision of the cabinet ministers many homeless victims totaling 1,064,623 were rescued and evacuated to temporary shelters at 12 front-line camps, 15 transit camps and 5 base camps. Emergency relief items such as food and drinking water are also delivered by using helicopters and boats, to some villages.

Up to now the emergency search and rescue measures have completed to some extent and we are currently carrying out relief and rehabilitation measures by providing food, clothing and shelters to the victims. Our efforts were greatly benefited from the large amount of humanitarian assistance that has poured

in from local and international wellwishers. To date, we have received 3273.20 tons of humanitarian supplies delivered by 221 cargo flights from international wellwishers from various countries and organizations. I would like to take this opportunity to convey my deep appreciation to donor countries and organizations for their goodwill and assistance in various ways. The material supplies that have been delivered by international donors were immediately distributed by using motorized boats, ships and helicopters to the victims of the cyclone.

While we are able to provide the storm victims with basic requirements such as food and clothing, the monsoon season is approaching and our present concern is to provide adequate temporary shelters for the victims, to enable them to resume their daily economic activities. We are now providing victims with shelters built using locally available bamboo and timber and using tarpaulin and plastics sheets as roofing materials. We are using the tents, tarpaulins and plastic sheets do-

nated from home and abroad to provide the necessary shelters.

For emergency relief and rehabilitation, the Government has allocated initial expenses of 5 billion Kyats to start with and so far the government has spent to the amount of 70 billion Kyats. Once again, I would like to reiterate our profound thanks to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for his leadership in taking prompt action enabling the United Nations and its agencies to expeditiously and effectively assist in our relief and rehabilitation efforts.

Our appreciations also go to other donor Governments, International NGOs, NGOs and individual wellwishers for their financial and material contributions.

As we are able to carry out to a certain extent the first phase, which is the rescue, relief and providing temporary settlement, as a second step we are now at the same time implementing measures to assist the survivors to enable them to resume their livelihoods in agriculture, fisheries and salt productions; rebuilding of houses,

schools and dispensaries. For the survival for the cyclone victims we will need to provide them with cattle, hand and power tillers, paddy seedlings, fishing boats and gears and to rebuild salt production facilities.

The storm affected areas are not only important for providing food supply to Myanmar, but also contribute to international food supply. Due to the impact of cyclone, some farmlands and paddy fields have been damaged and can affect rice production. There will be sufficient supply of rice for Myanmar but will weaken the ability to contribute to world food supply. In order to remedy the situation, we will need to boost the rice production in other areas. For that purpose, we may need a large amount of fertilizer. Additionally, we may also need more fuel and hand and power tillers in rice cultivation to replace the cattle lost in the storm.

For the recovery of another major occupation in the storm-hit areas, the fishing industry, we also need fishing boats and vessels, fishing gear and fuel oil. Likewise, in the salt production, we will need to rebuild salt facilities, buildings and provide water pumps and to regroup skilled-workers. These measures are necessary in ensuring both domestic and international food supply.

In the rehabilitating phase, we need to rebuild houses, schools, dispensaries, religious and public buildings which were destroyed by the cyclone. We do have adequate supply of building materials such as wood, bamboo, cement, brick, sand, etc. and skilled

construction workers and business entrepreneurs within the country. Currently, over 6586 construction workers are already undertaking repair and construction works in the storm affected areas. In this regard, our priority requirements will be corrugated iron sheets for roofing materials and nails. It will greatly benefit the victims of the cyclone if such materials could be provided.

In line with the policy of the Government that achievements can be made with the close collaboration of the Government, people and members of the armed forces, under the leadership of the Government, the general public, businessmen, members of Tatmadaw (Armed Forces), police, members of Red Cross and Fire Brigade including the international non-governmental organizations are now joining their hands and striving their best in carrying out rescue, relief and rehabilitation efforts to bring back normalcy in the storm affected areas in the shortest possible time.

In carrying out these tasks, we would warmly welcome any assistance and aid which are provided with genuine goodwill from any country or organization, provided that there are not strings attached nor politicization involved. Donation of relief supplies for the cyclone victims in Myanmar will be accepted through land route, by sea or by air. For the relief supplies coming by sea, I wish to inform that these supplies can be sent by civilian ships to the port of Yangon. For the storage of relief supplies we will allow storage at

the warehouses at the Yangon Airport and the port of Yangon which are designated as a transportation hubs. From there the government will facilitate transportation of these supplies to the affected areas. We will also facilitate those who wish to visit the cyclone stricken areas. For those groups who are interested in rehabilitation and reconstruction, my government is ready to accept them in accordance with our priority and the extent of work that need to be done. They will also be permitted township-wise separately.

I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to our neighbours China, India, Bangladesh and ASEAN members such as Thailand Laos and Singapore that have dispatched medical teams to provide medical care to the victims in order to prevent epidemics that we usually encounter in the aftermath of natural disaster. We will accept additional medical teams from other countries in an orderly and systematic manner.

In closing, I would like to invite experts and wellwishers to extend their help in our preventive measures such as raising the levels of embankments, building temporary shelters in high grounds and paving causeways through swampy areas linking villages etc in order to minimize casualties and damages in the event of such severe cyclone in the future. With your assistance I feel confident that we will be able to successfully overcome the challenge should we encounter similar cyclones.

I thank you all.—MNA



Mr John Holmes, Under Secretary-General of UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, briefs on donation of aid from UN and ASEAN.—MNA



Members of panel of chairmen Minister U Nyan Win, ASEAN Secretary-General Dr Surin Pitsuwan and Mr John Holmes, Under Secretary-General of UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, at ASEAN-UN International Pledging Conference.—MNA

Myanmar hosts ASEAN-UN ...

(from page 16)

the expectations of the international community, which sincerely wants to help the government of Myanmar overcome this national calamity.

I am heartened to be joined today by so many distinguished leaders and experienced relief experts from around the world. Cyclone Nargis devastated Myanmar's "rice bowl" and the heart of its fishing industry. More than 130,000 are dead or missing.

A few days ago, I visited the area and saw for myself the human toll of this disaster—homes and villages and roads washed away, fields flooded, so

Experts and experienced international relief workers, in addition to the medical teams from neighbouring countries, must have unhindered access to the areas hardest hit by the disaster. Extra transport assets, including helicopters and boats, are urgently required. Whatever is needed to build an effective aid and logistics pipeline must be quickly put in place and be well-coordinated, both with Myanmar authorities and international aid agencies.

I am encouraged by my discussions with Myanmar's leadership in recent days. They have agreed on the need to act

join in a proposed tripartite coordination mechanism led by ASEAN.

I have said repeatedly that our immediate challenge is humanitarian. Our focus should be saving lives and helping Myanmar rebuild. There is good reason to hope that aid to the worst affected areas of Myanmar will increase significantly in the coming days. We have many generous bilateral and multilateral contributions, in cash and in kind, as well as pledges.

We may need US\$201 million to assist roughly 1.5 million survivors of Cyclone Nargis with emergency relief for the next

son begins. Millions of people depend on this next harvest, at a time when food prices are soaring around the world.

Next, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore Mr George Yeo made a speech. He said that the today's meeting is to focus on providing storm victims with food, shelter and medical attention. In that regard, more helicopters, road vehicles and boats are in urgent need. In the months ahead, they will need seeds, farm machines, houses, schools and many other things in order to rebuild their lives.

Therefore, we agreed that an ASEAN-led coordinating mechanism should be set up for this purpose. This mechanism would work closely with the UN and with international and regional agencies. The ASEAN foreign ministers tasked Secretary-General Mr Surin Pitsuwan to lead an ASEAN Task Force that would work with the UN and Myanmar's central coordinating body. I was heartened by Senior General Than Shwe's agreement to let in aid workers from all countries, and thank the UN Secretary-General for working tirelessly to get us all together. At the meeting, we all should pay attention to how to provide storm victims with necessary assistance and must avoid politicizing the aid that we give.

Next, the damages and loss to Myanmar caused by the storm and rehabilitation tasks being carried out were shown with the audio-visual aids. Next, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U

Soe Tha reported on the government's measures on relief and rehabilitation work in the aftermath of the storm, start of the storm Nargis, storm-hit areas, the government's efforts, launching of relief, care and rehabilitation programmes, disease prevention and treatment, assistance from home and abroad, delivery of supplies to the storm-hit areas, death toll and missing and injured people, destruction and requirements for rehabilitation. Under Secretary-General of the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Mr John Holmes reported on international assistance in cooperation with the UN and ASEAN.

ASEAN Secretary-General Dr Surin Pitsuwan reported on coordination system led by ASEAN.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein hosted dinner in honour of the UN Secretary-General, Under Secretary-General of the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, ASEAN Secretary-General, deputy prime ministers and the ministers of the nations of the world.

The conference resumed at 2.25 pm. Chairman of ASEAN Standing Committee Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore Mr George Yeo presided over the conference with Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, ASEAN Secretary-General Dr Surin Pitsuwan and Under Secretary-General of the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Mr John Holmes as members of Panel of Chairmen.

The ministers and the deputy ministers, ambassadors, Charge d's Affairs ai

of Indonesia, the People's Republic of China, Malaysia, Denmark, Vietnam, Cambodia, Sweden, Laos, Thailand, India, Britain, Brunei Darussalam, Germany, the Netherlands, Japan, Norway, the Philippines, Australia, the USA, Singapore, the Republic of Korea, France, Turkey, Slovenia, Ireland, Switzerland, Finland, Israel, Brazil, Spain, Luxembourg, Belgium, EU, Canada, Czech Republic, Italy, New Zealand, South Africa, Nepal and the Russian Federation, delegates of WFP, IOM, World Bank, ADB, ICRC and Save the Children pledged financial and other assistance.

Next, Prime Minister and the UN Secretary-General arrived at the hotel and attended the conference at 5.15 pm.

The conference ended at 5.30 pm with concluding remarks by Chairman of ASEAN Standing Committee Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore Mr George Yeo.

After the conference, the Prime Minister cordially greeted the participants.

Next, Under Secretary-General of the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Mr John Holmes, Chairman of ASEAN Standing Committee Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore Mr George Yeo, ASEAN Secretary-General Mr. Surin Pitsuwan and Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win met journalists from local and foreign countries and they replied to the queries raised by journalists at the press conference.

MNA



Minister U Soe Tha explains relief and rehabilitation works being carried out by the Government.

MNA



ASEAN Secretary-General Dr Surin Pitsuwan.—MNA

many livelihoods destroyed. But I also saw homes- and lives- being rebuilt.

The people of the country have shown extraordinary courage and resilience in trying to save their fellowmen and to rekindle hope shattered as a result of this cruel blow. From all I have seen, the government, with the help of the international community, has put in place a functioning relief program.

urgently.

I expect the relief effort will run for several months, probably six months at least, as we feed and care for those who have lost everything. In parallel, our efforts must also turn to rehabilitation, recovery and reconstruction. Farmers and fishermen must be helped to resume their livelihoods.

Destroyed infrastructure must be rebuilt. That is why I warmly welcome the government's agreement to

three months. To date, we have contributions amounting to some 30 percent of that amount, with a further 20 percent pledged.

I urge you to be more generous today. The needs remain acute — from clean water and sanitation to shelter, medical supplies and food. I am especially concerned about the lack of safe drinking water.

Remember, also, that only a few weeks remain until the rice planting sea-

China rejects US accusation it a threat in space

BEIJING, 24 May — China on Thursday hit back at comments by a senior US military official that China was a growing threat in space, saying Beijing was resolutely opposed to an arms race in space.

China is “aggressively” honing its ability to shoot down satellites along with other space and counter-space capabilities, Army Brigadier General Jeffrey Horne of the US Strategic Command said on Tuesday.

Such know-how had big implications for Beijing’s potential to curb access in the Taiwan Strait “and well beyond,” he told the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission, a congressionally created advisory group.

But Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Qin Gang said Horne was wrong.

“I have noticed this report. We cannot accept such statements. Our position and attitude on this question is consistent and clear,” Qin told a regular news conference in Beijing.

“China consistently upholds the peaceful use of space, and opposes any form of weaponization of space or an arms race in space. China has never and will never get involved in any form of arms race in space. We hope related US officials can make more efforts that are beneficial to increasing mutual understanding,” he added.

MNA/Reuters



People witnessed a solar halo in Lhasa, Tibet at about 12 pm on 20 May, 2008. The solar halo lasted several hours. —INTERNET

Argentine government, farmers clash again over tax

BUENOS AIRES, 24 May — Argentine farm leaders said they felt cheated at a Thursday meeting with the government to try to end a three-month conflict over

soy export taxes, but government officials said talks were fruitful.

It was the second time since March that both sides have started talks to try to

resolve a political crisis over the new soy tax.

Farm protests paralyzed grain exports from Argentina — a major world supplier of corn, soy, wheat and beef — in March and part of May.

“The meeting was bad. The (government) attitude is to put off an answer,” said Eduardo Buzzi, head of the Argentine Agrarian Federation, one of the four farm groups that met with top government officials for 90 minutes.

MNA/Reuters

ITU deploys satellite terminals in quake-hit China

GENEVA, 24 May — The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has deployed 100 satellite terminals in China to help restore vital communication links in the aftermath of the severe earthquake that hit on 12 May, the UN agency said on Thursday.

The 8.0-magnitude quake in the southwest Sichuan Province killed tens of thousands of people and also destroyed infrastructure and telecommunications lines, disrupted electricity and

transport.

The mobile satellite terminals are easily transported by road and air to be used both by humanitarian workers and the victims of this disaster.

MNA/Xinhua

Pakistani journalist killed near Afghan border

KHAR (Pakistan), 24 May — Gunmen shot dead a Pakistani journalist on Thursday in the Bajaur region on the Afghan border where al-Qaeda linked militants have been

known to operate, his company and residents said.

Mohammad Ibrahim, a reporter with the Express News private television channel, was attacked when returning from an interview with a spokesman for Pakistani Taliban militants, they said.

“He was on a motorcycle and the gunmen sprayed bullets at him just outside Khar. They took away his camera and bike,” said another reporter in the area, Sahibzada Bahasuddin, referring to the region’s main town. The motive for the attack was not clear, though journalists working on the volatile Afghan border have faced violence from both militants and authorities, Press freedom groups say. — MNA/Reuters



St Paul's Cathedral is seen in the background, as a freerider performs at a competition during the “Long Weekend” events at the Tate Britain in London on 24 May, 2008. —INTERNET

Armed men torch buses in Philippines

MANILA, 24 May — Ten gunmen, self-alleged members of the rebel New People's Army (NPA) barged into a transportation terminal and torched five passenger buses Wednesday night near the Philippines’ capital, media reports said on Thursday. The men said they were guerillas, said Alexander Ranola, a security guard at the Victory Liner terminal in the suburb of Metro Manila.

Some of the men said the bus company’s owner failed to pay them “revolutionary taxes”, Philippine TV network ABS-CBN News citing Ranola reported. The intruders took Ranola’s service firearm and proceeded to pour gasoline on five buses before setting them on fire. A bus was gutted by flames while four others were slightly damaged. No one was injured in the attack.

Aside from Ranola, the intruders also took the firearms of other security guards in the terminal. While some of the armed men were setting the buses on fire, others attackers threatened the bus terminal’s employees.

Responding policemen and bomb experts inspected the bus terminal’s premises to locate explosives that may have been planted by the attackers. The search turned out negative. — MNA/Xinhua

A woman takes a photo of “Tama”, a nine-year-old female tortoiseshell cat wearing a formal stationmaster’s cap of the Wakayama Electric Railway, as the feline sits on a ticket gate at Kishi station on the Kishigawa line in the city of Kinokawa, in Wakayama prefecture, on 22 May.

INTERNET



G-8 environment chiefs discuss biodiversity conservation

KOBE (Japan), 25 May — Environment ministers from the Group of Eight (G-8) held their first session on biodiversity conservation Saturday, highlighting biodiversity and climate change are not isolated but closely related issues.

During the session, environment chiefs reached a consensus on the importance of biodiversity and the adoption of effective measures to significantly hold down the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010.

Achim Steiner,

executive director of the United Nations Environment Programme, said that climate change and biodiversity are not isolated from each other, they should thus be addressed and examined as relevant issues.

His remarks were echoed by most delegates present, who argued that the issue of forest best reflects the close relations between biodiversity and climate change. They said that illegal deforestation is one of the factors that speed up the shrinking of forest area.

The environment chiefs also stressed the important role that systematic monitoring and sustainable exploitation have played in maintaining biodiversity.

During a bilateral meeting held on the sideline of the conference, Japan and the United States agreed to set up a multilateral “clean technology fund” to promote the development of technology aimed at curbing greenhouse gas emissions to combat global warming.

MNA/Xinhua



A policeman stands guard near the burning drugs in the suburbs of Panama City, capital of Panama, on 23 May, 2008. Panamanian 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



A woman displays a disc of boardgame “Eco-Othello”, made of recycled coffee beans, at the Environment Fair held during the G8 Environment Ministers Meeting in Kobe, western Japan on 25 May, 2008. —INTERNET

Suspected insurgents kill police officer in Thai south

BANGKOK, 25 May — Suspected insurgents shot and killed a 54-year-old police officer in Thailand southern province of Pattani Saturday morning, local media reported.

The incident was reported at 7:00 am (0000 GMT) in Pattani's Yaring District, where two persons approached Police Sergeant-Major Tuanachi Tuansulong outside his home and shot at him from point blank range, the newspaper *Bangkok Post's* website quoted police as saying.

The victim was immediately taken to hospital after the attack but died from wounds.

The attack has sparked a police manhunt for the suspects.

Thailand's far south region, mainly comprising the three southernmost provinces of Thailand — Pattani, Yala and

Narathiwat, has been stricken by a resurrected surge of insurgent violence since early 2004, in which over 3,000 people have been killed.

MNA/Xinhua

US court sentences Jamaican drug boss to 37 years

MIAMI, 25 May — A Jamaican designated by the White House as an international drug kingpin was sentenced to nearly 37 years in prison on Friday for conspiring to smuggle cocaine into the United States, prosecutors said.

Leebert Ramcharan led a sophisticated smuggling ring that received in Jamaica as much as 15 metric tons of cocaine from Columbia between 1998 and 2004, prosecutors said. The cocaine was transported by speedboat and airplane to the Bahamas and ultimately to the US market.

MNA/Reuters

French labour unions agree to promote social dialogue

PARIS, 25 May — Five of the eight leading French labour unions, which officially represent over 65 per cent of public sector employees, have entered into an agreement with the government to promote social dialogue, the French media reported Saturday.

“This is the first agreement that is a result of negotiations on social dialogue and its organization within the Civil Service since its founding in 1946,” the French budget and public service said in a statement Friday, describing the agreement as “historic”.

Coming only a day after a massive labour strike, the agreement, according to observers, represents a major coup for President Nicolas

Sarkozy's government which has so far refused to cave in to pressure from the unions to shelve its pension reforms.

Led by CGT, the single-largest public sector union, the five associations signed the agreement Friday at a ceremony that was attended by union and government officials, said

the statement. Welcoming the fact that “negotiations with the government had finally taken place” regarding the subject of civil service, the unions said that the provisions of the agreement are “going in the direction of strengthening democracy and greater legitimacy among associations”.

MNA/Xinhua

21 killed in bus accident in west Iran

TEHERAN, 25 May — A bus collided with a truck in Iran's western province of Hamadan, killing 21 people and wounding another 11, Iran's Press TV reported on Saturday. The incident occurred at around midday (0730 GMT) on Friday between the towns of Hamadan and Malayer in the west of the country.

The bus was speeding at the time of the collision when the truck was overtaking illegally.

The bus was travelling from Kermanshah in the west to the southern port city of Bandar Abbas, local police said. — MNA/Xinhua



Dima Bilan of Russia celebrates on stage after winning the Eurovision Song Contest in Belgrade on 24 May, 2008.—INTERNET

ASHOKA

Reopened for lunch & dinner

709 402 / 727 162

China Red Cross earmarks \$71.9m for survivors’ shelter

BEIJING, 24 May — The Red Cross Society of China will earmark 300 million yuan (71.9 million US dollars) worth of donations to build temporary shelters for quake survivors, the society said on Thursday.

The decision reflects the country’s overall quake relief deployment, it said.

The 8.0-magnitude quake in southwest Sichuan Province destroyed 5.36 million rooms of housing and damaged 21.43 million others, according to the Ministry of Civil Affairs.

Tents and other temporary shelters were in dire need, the ministry said.

As of 6 pm on Wednesday, the Red Cross in China had received 4.108 billion yuan worth of donations in cash and relief supplies, of which 1.34 billion yuan were sent to the quake areas, according to the society.

MNA/Xinhua

Philippines to remove import tariff, on oil

MANILA, 24 May — The Philippine Government will remove the tariff on petroleum products by 1 June to alleviate the impact of surging oil prices, a high-ranking energy official said on Thursday.

“We’re reducing the tariffs on imported crude and the refined products to zero per cent,” said Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes, adding that the zero tariff will be effective on 1 June. It should lead to a half-peso (1.16 US cents) reduction in pump prices, Philippine TV Network ABS-CBN citing Reyes reported.

The tariffs were at 1 per cent, down from the previous 3 per cent. The energy secretary also said, however, that the reduction may end up not being felt by consumers if world oil prices keep rising.

Reyes also said short-term measures to cushion the impact of expensive oil, such as conservation measures, are being discussed at the national level.

The reduction was made in a bid to cut pump prices here, with the public already experiencing the pinch from rising inflation.

While the zero tariff would “not be felt immediately” by the public, Reyes said he had talked to oil refiners and told them it should “affect pump prices” soon. The Philippines is a net importer of oil. — MNA/Xinhua

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1.	Special Grade Calcined Bauxite	357 Tons	26.5.2008	9.6.2008
2.	Fibre-4T (FE)	700 M/T	26.5.2008	23.6.2008
3.	Stainless Steel Rod & Carbon Steel	7 Items	26.5.2008	23.6.2008
4.	Air Compressor Spares (42m³/min)	27 Items	26.5.2008	23.6.2008
5.	Hammer For Crushing Plant	40 Nos	26.5.2008	23.6.2008

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မြန်မာ့ကြွေထည်မြေထည်လုပ်ငန်း

Olmert says Israel to pursue both negotiation tracks

JERUSALEM, 24 May — Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert on Thursday said his country will push forward the parallel peace talks with Syria and the Palestinians.

He told visiting French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner that Israel intends to conduct negotiations on both tracks, with neither coming at the expense of the other, said a statement from the Prime Minister’s Office.

Olmert reiterated that the talks with the Palestinians “are serious and important” and Israel “aspires to reach peace with the Palestinians in the coming year”. While Israeli Government spokesman Mark Regev told Xinhua that “the coming year” might be a mistranslation and it should refer to the current year of 2008.

Man charged in Russian skater date rape drugging

LOS ANGELES, 25 May — Police in Southern California issued an arrest warrant on Friday for a man charged with giving Russian Olympic ice skating gold medalist Pasha Oksana Grishuk a date rape drug.

Grishuk, 36, who won gold medals for ice dancing at the 1994 and 1998 Winter Olympics, said she began to feel woozy and noticed a dissolving pill in her drink during a business meeting with the man at a hotel in Dana Point, California, in April.

She poured out the rest of the drink, called emergency services and later tested positive for a drug similar to Rohypnol, which is commonly used as a date rape drug.

Police in Orange County on Friday named the man as James Halstead, 61, charged him with administering a drug with the intent to commit sexual assault, and issued an arrest warrant for him.

Grishuk, who now lives in Orange County, told reporters she met Halstead about two years ago and was working with him to try and launch a vitamin products line.

MNA/Reuters

Drive safely

Commenting on the Syrian track, Olmert said “the Syrians know what we want and we know what they want”, without elaborating.

With Israeli-Palestinians talks plodding ahead toward a pledged peace deal within 2008, Israel on Wednesday officially confirmed it has begun indirect peace talks with the northeast neighbour Syria after an eight-year break-off.

Defence Minister Ehud Barak on Thursday said Israel and Syria need to make “painful” sacrifices in their renewed peace process and they “still have a long way to go”.

Also on Thursday, Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni said Syria must renounce its “support of terror” in order to realize peace with Israel, while her Syrian counterpart Walid Moallem reiterated Syria’s demand for Israel’s full withdrawal from the Golan Heights the Jewish state seized from Syria in 1967.

MNA/Xinhua

Bangladesh confirms first human bird flu case

DHAKA, 24 May — Bangladesh’s Health Ministry Thursday confirmed the country’s first human case of bird flu as tests on a sixteen-month-old female baby proved H5N1 positive.

A Health Ministry release said the girl aged 16 months was attacked by the virus in the capital Dhaka in January this year. She developed respiratory problem but got cured through normal treatment.

The child recovered after 14 days of treatment, a senior official of the Health Ministry told Xinhua.

Officials of the Health Ministry have confirmed that the child is now doing well.

However, doctors suspected the case and her blood sample was sent to the Centre for Disease Control (CDC), Atlanta, the United States, the release said.

The CDC Wednesday reported to the Bangladesh Government that it is a confirmed case of H5N1, a deadly strain of the bird flu virus.

As per World Health Organization rules, the Bangladesh Government announced the detection within 24 hours of the medical finding.

Earlier totally 3,736 people were suspected to have been infected by bird flu virus, but tests on them all proved negative. — MNA/Xinhua

US killer spared from death hours before execution

ATLANTA, 24 May — The parole board in the US state of Georgia spared a convicted killer from execution hours before he was due to die by lethal injection on Thursday and commuted his sentence to life in prison.

The Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles made its decision less than three hours before Samuel David Crowe, 47, was to be executed, according to a spokeswoman for the state’s prisons. “After careful and exhaustive consideration of the requests, the board voted to grant clemency. The board voted to commute the sentence to life without parole,” the parole board said.

Crowe’s death would have marked the third execution since the US Supreme Court lifted an unofficial moratorium on the death penalty last month.

Crowe was not present at the parole board hearing in Atlanta. He had already eaten his last meal and was preparing to enter the execution chamber at the prison in Jackson, Georgia, Mallie McCord of the Georgia Department of Corrections said.

MNA/Reuters

Nest vault : An athlete competes in the women’s pole vault final during the China Athletics Open at Beijing National stadium also known as the “Bird’s nest”.—INTERNET



Fireworks light the sky over the Palace of Justice in Putrajaya outside Kuala Lumpur during the “Colours of Malaysia 2008” festival on 24 May, 2008.
INTERNET

China’s says no major epidemic reported in quake zone

BEIJING, 24 May — No major outbreak of epidemic diseases or other public health threats have been reported in quake-stricken areas so far, the Ministry of Health said here on Thursday.

The ministry began to use a mobile phone-based epidemic reporting system on Thursday to replace its direct reporting network, which was damaged in the quake.

The ministry also sent 549 epidemic prevention workers to the quake-hit areas in Sichuan Province, which brought the total number of the ministry’s health and epidemic prevention workers there to 3,558.

There were another 1,194 health supervisors deployed in the region, according to the ministry.

Figures showed that the ministry and local Sichuan

health agencies had dispatched 73,518 workers to conduct disease prevention work in quake-hit villages in Sichuan.

They have entered all the affected villages in Chengdu, Guangyuan and Mianyang, 60 per cent of the villages in Deyang, and half of the villages in the hard-hit Wenchuan, Maoxian and Lixian counties in Aba Prefecture.

MNA/Xinhua

Four, involved in robbery slaughter, shot dead in Philippines

MANILA, 24 May — Four suspects have been shot dead by the Philippine police in shootouts after a robbery slaughter taking place last week in which ten were killed inside a bank, the police said on Thursday.

The police shot dead three men on Thursday, said police officer David Quimio, quoted by the Philippine TV network ABS-CBN News.

A radio report quoted Quimio as saying that they received an intelligence report that one of the suspects was involved in the bank robbery and execution of employees of a Rizal Commercial Banking Corp branch in the Laguna Province last Friday.

Nine bank employees died on the spot during the

robbery while the tenth fatality passed away over the weekend.

Investigators said the robbers were already inside the bank branch when the employees reported for work Friday morning. Police said the robbers lined up the 10 victims and shot them in the head one-by-one.

MNA/Xinhua



Cyclists pedal by a poppy field during the 12th stage of the 91st Giro d’Italia from Forli to Carpi. Italy’s Daniele Bennati won the stage while country fellow Giovanni Visconti kept the pink jersey of the overall leader.
INTERNET

No truce if Israel refuses Palestinian conditions

GAZA, 24 May — Deposed Hamas premier Ismail Haneya on Thursday insisted the Palestinian factions will not abide by ceasefire in Gaza Strip unless Israel meets their demands.

“The Palestinians will not lowly give the lull and will not stick to it unless

Israel lifts the siege, reopens the crossings and stops the aggression,” Haneya said as he participated in a religious conference in Gaza City.

Hamas and other Palestinian groups accepted an Egyptian offer for a six-month truce with Israel in the Gaza Strip.

Egypt’s Intelligence Chief Omar Suleiman presented the offer to Israel and a delegation from Hamas is returning to Gaza Thursday after hearing Israel’s response to the proposal.

Reports say that Israel will not take the whole Egyptian offer and demands the release of its soldier Gilad Shalit from the Gaza Strip in order to abide by a full ceasefire. Hamas has held the soldier in Gaza since he was captured in June 2006.

MNA/Xinhua

McCain rejects pastor’s backing after Hitler remark

STOCKTON (California), 24 May — Republican US presidential candidate John McCain on Thursday rejected the endorsement of a Texas preacher after the pastor was discovered to have made “crazy” comments about Adolf Hitler and Jews.

“Obviously, I find these remarks and others deeply offensive and indefensible, and I repudiate them,” McCain said of the remarks by John Hagee. “I did not

know of them before Reverend Hagee’s endorsement, and I feel I must reject his endorsement as well.”

McCain’s rejection of the Hagee endorsement drew comparisons to controversy surrounding the longtime pastor of Democratic front-runner Barack Obama. Obama cut ties with the Reverend Jeremiah Wright last month over his former pastor’s racially charged remarks.—MNA/Reuters



In this photo distributed by the official Chinese news agency Xinhua, pandas eat food at the China Wolong Giant Panda Protection and Research Centre in southwest China’s Sichuan Province, on Friday, 23 May, 2008. Three of ten pandas that went missing after the 12 May earthquake have not been found, Xinhua said.—INTERNET

Ukraine mine explosion kills one, six missing

DONETSK (Ukraine), 24 May — One miner was killed and six others are missing after a methane explosion on Friday at a coal mine in Ukraine, local officials said on Friday.

Ukraine’s Mining Inspectorate said the

explosion occurred overnight at a depth of 330 metres. Around 400 miners were underground, and 10 were in the immediate area of the blast. Three of those walked out unharmed.

Rescue crews are

searching for the missing men, a spokesman for inspectorate said.

Deadly accidents regularly strike the ex-Soviet state’s collieries, many of which date from the 19th Century.

MNA/Reuters

SPORTS

Africa stadiums get FIFA all-clear ahead of qualifiers

JOHANNESBURG, 24 May — All the African stadiums under threat in recent months of being barred from hosting World Cup qualifying matches have been passed after a second round of FIFA inspections, world soccer's governing body said on Friday.

Stadiums in Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Gambia, Namibia, Sierra Leone, Swaziland and Zambia will be allowed to host matches in the next few weeks after having upgrades or starting improvements demanded by FIFA.

But soccer's ruling body has warned it might clamp down again if the improvements ordered are not in place by the start of the second phase of group qualifiers in November. —MNA/Reuters



Jeong Jang, of South Korea, tees off on the 14th hole during the third round of the LPGA Corning Classic golf tournament in Corning, NY, on 24 May, 2008. INTERNET

Ten-man Monterrey held despite another Suazo goal

MEXICO CITY, 24 May — Ten-man Monterrey were held to a 1-1 draw at home by Santos Laguna in the first leg of their Mexican championship semi-final after taking an early lead through leading scorer Humberto Suazo. The Chilean international put Monterrey ahead after nine minutes of Thursday night's game when he latched onto Walter Erviti's pass and chipped the ball over Santos goalkeeper Oswaldo Sanchez for his 15th goal of the competition.

Monterrey were reduced to 10 men and gave away a penalty nine minutes later when Severo Meza handled in the area and was shown a second yellow card.

MNA/Reuters

Answers to yesterday's Crossword Puzzle

1	A	R	R	A	Y	8	8	S	O	U	R	C	E
	B	8	A	8	E	8	8	S	8	R	8	E	8
9	R	A	D	I	A	N	T	8	8	C	A	M	E
	U	8	I	8	R	8	8	R	8	A	8	A	8
11	P	R	O	W	8	8	12	E	N	D	U	R	E
	T	8	8	8	13	F	E	W	8	I	8	K	8
8	14	P	L	E	A	8	8	8	16	A	P	S	E
17	W	8	U	8	N	8	18	D	I	N	8	8	19
20	A	B	R	I	D	G	E	8	8	21	S	22	C
	R	8	K	8	A	8	8	F	8	W	8	A	8
24	D	E	I	G	N	8	25	E	X	A	M	P	L
	E	8	N	8	G	8	8	R	8	N	8	E	8
26	R	E	G	I	O	N	8	8	27	D	A	R	E



Lyon's players celebrate with the trophy after beating Paris during their French Cup final football match Paris vs. Lyon at the Stade de France in Saint-Denis, outside Paris. Lyon won 1 to 0.—INTERNET

Sterjovski strike gives Australia win over Ghana

BRISBANE, 24 May — Midfielder Mile Sterjovski scored 45 seconds into the second half to give Australia a surprise 1-0 win over Ghana in a friendly in Sydney on Friday.

Sterjovski seized on a mistake by Ghana captain John Mensah, who lost possession just outside the penalty box, to slam the ball home from 20 metres and stun the visitors.

Until that point Ghana had been in control with the impressive Laryea Kingston at the hub of their superior passing game and Junior Agogo always dangerous up front.

MNA/Reuters

Kaka undergoes knee surgery, doubtful for Argentina

RIO DE JANEIRO, 24 May — Brazil and AC Milan playmaker Kaka underwent surgery on his left knee on Friday and is doubtful for next month's World Cup qualifiers against Paraguay and Argentina.

Brazil team doctor Jose Luis Runco said the arthroscopy operation had gone well but did not want to estimate how long the World Player of the Year would be out of action. "The result was very positive but I don't want to make a prediction," Runco told reporters. "The certainty is that he's out of the friendlies. We'll think about the World Cup qualifiers later."

MNA/Reuters

Villarreal sign Brazilian Edmilson from Barcelona

MADRID, 24 May — Villarreal have agreed to sign Barcelona's Brazilian midfielder Edmilson on a two-year contract, the Primera Liga club said on Friday.

The versatile 31-year-old, who helped Brazil win the 2002 World Cup in Japan and South Korea, started his career with Sao Paulo and Olympique Lyon before moving to Barcelona in 2004.

He helped Barca win the Champions League two years ago but withdrew from his country's 2006 World Cup squad with a knee injury. He only made five starts for the side last season and his contract expires in June.

Villarreal were runners up to Real Madrid in the Primera Liga earlier this month, finishing ahead of third-placed Barca, to earn automatic qualification to the Champions League for next year.

MNA/Reuters

Ferguson slams Real over Ronaldo speculation

MANCHESTER (England), 24 May — Alex Ferguson told Real Madrid on Friday that Manchester United would not be bullied into selling Cristiano Ronaldo.

Ferguson's comments came as Ronaldo, who scored in United's Champions League final win over Chelsea, spoke to reporters in Lisbon to deny media speculation he had agreed to join Real and to say there could be news on his future in two weeks.

"Real Madrid are not the only club interested in Ronaldo, but other clubs are not saying so," Ferguson told reporters.

MNA/Reuters

Romanian FA rejects Euro 2008 bonus offer

BUCHAREST, 24 May — The Romanian Soccer Federation (FRF) has rejected an offer from Steaua Bucharest owner Gigi Becali to give the national team bonuses of up to 5.5 million euros (8.65 million US dollars) if they are successful at Euro 2008.

"We don't need any bonus from Becali, who could invest his money to improve Steaua's performance or help his club's junior teams," FRF general director Ionut Lupescu told reporters on Friday ahead of the tournament in Austria and Switzerland.

He said Romania coach Victor Piturca, whose team have been handed a tough draw in Group C with world champions Italy, World Cup runners-up France and the Netherlands at next month's Euros, agreed with the FRF decision not to accept any bonus.

Earlier this week, Becali told the local Sport.ro TV station that he would offer 500,000 euros if Romania got past the group stage, add two million more if they reached the final and pay out 5.5 million if they became European champions. —MNA/Reuters

Russia crush Kazakhstan 6-0 in warm-up match

MOSCOW, 24 May — Russia began their Euro 2008 preparations in style by crushing Kazakhstan 6-0 in a Moscow friendly on Friday.

Striker Pavel Pogrebnyak put the home team ahead with a 26th-minute penalty and winger Vladimir Bystrov added a second just before the interval.

Konstantin Zyryanov, Pogrebnyak's Zenit St Petersburg team mate, made it 3-0 on the hour before Diniyar Bilyalitdinov, Dmitry Torbinsky and Dmitry Sychev added three more in the final five minutes against an experimental Kazakh side. In was the first of three friendlies for the Russians before the start of the Euro 2008 finals on 7 June. They are in Group D with European champions Greece, Spain and Sweden.

MNA/Reuters



Spain's Anabel Medina-Garrigues reacts after defeating Slovenia's Katarina Srebotnik, unseen, during the final match of the Strasbourg International Tournament, in Strasbourg, eastern France, on 24 May, 2008. Medina-Garrigues won 4-6, 7-6, 6-0.—INTERNET

သောက်ရေသန့်များနှင့်ပတ်သက်၍အသိပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်

- ၁။ ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာနသည် အရည်အသွေးစစ်မှန်ကောင်းမွန်ပြီး ဘေးအန္တရာယ်ကင်းရှင်းသော အစားအသောက်များကို အများပြည်သူတို့စာသုံးနိုင်ရန်နှင့် အစားအသောက်များ၏ အရည်သွေးကို စဉ်ဆက်မပြတ် ထိန်းသိမ်းနိုင်ရေးအတွက် စိစစ်ဆောင်ရွက်လျက်ရှိပါသည်။
- ၂။ ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းအတွင်းရှိ သောက်ရေသန့်စက်ရုံများသည် ဆိုင်ကလုန်းမုန်းတိုင်း “နာဂစ်” ကြောင့်ပျက်စီးခြင်း ရှိ-မရှိနှင့် ကောင်းမွန်သောထုတ်လုပ်မှုကျင့်စဉ်နှင့်အညီ သောက်ရေသန့်များထုတ်လုပ်နိုင်ခြင်း ရှိ-မရှိကို ကျန်းမာရေးဦးစီးဌာနက စစ်ဆေးလျက်ရှိပါသည်။ 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။ နေမင်း သောက်ရေသန့်

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

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

သောက်သုံးရေနှင့်ပတ်သက်၍ သတိပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်

* မသန့်ရှင်းသောသောက်ရေ၊

သုံးရေများကြောင့် ပြည်သူအများ

ဝမ်းပျက်ဝမ်းလျှောရောဂါအန္တရာယ်

ကျရောက်နိုင်ပါသည်။

* သောက်ရေ၊ သုံးရေမှန်သမျှကို ကျိုချက်၍

ဖြစ်စေ၊ ကလိုရင်းဆေးခပ်ပြီးမှဖြစ်စေ

သောက်သုံးပါ။

* ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာနမှ

သောက်သုံးရန်မသင့် ဟု ကြေငြာထားသော

သောက်ရေသန့်များကို မသောက်သုံးသင့်ပါ။

* ရေသန့်ပင်ဖြစ်လင့်ကစား မသင်္ကာပါက

ရေကိုကျိုချက်ပြီးမှသောက်ပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန



Monday, 26 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. အကပဒေသာ

8:00 am

5. Musical programme

8:30 am

6. International news

4:00 pm

1. Martial Song

4:20 pm

2. Musical programme

4:30 pm

3. ချစ်စရာအရွယ်ကကြီးသွယ်

4:40 pm

4. မြန်မာ့အသံခေတ်ပေါ်

တေးဂီတအဖွဲ့၊ ဖျော်ဖြေခန်း

4:55 pm

5. ပြည်ထောင်စုတိုင်းရင်းသားရိုးရာ
တေးသံသာ

5:00 pm

6. Musical programme

5:15 pm

7. မျိုးချစ်စိတ်ဓာတ်ရှင်သန်

ထက်မြက်ရေးတေးများ

5:25 pm

8. “စက်မှုတပ်ဆင်လုပ်ငန်းတွင်”

5:30 pm

9. Musical programme

6:00 pm

10. Evening news

6:30 pm

11. Weather report

6:35 pm

12. အလှူရှာမယ်၊ လှူကမ္ဘာဝယ်

6:55 pm

13. ကြေးမုံရိပ်သွင်တေးနယဉ်

7:00 pm

14. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ
“ချစ်တယ်---ချစ်တယ်”
(အပိုင်း-၂၂)

8:00 pm

15. News

16. International news

17. Weather report

18. မြန်မာဒီဒီယိုဇာတ်လမ်း

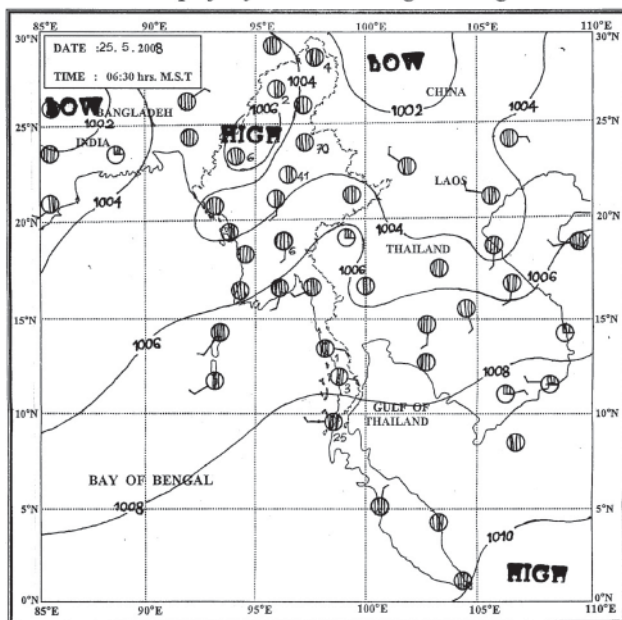
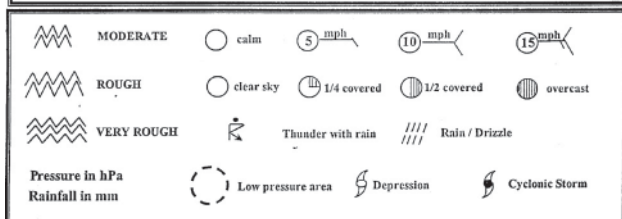
“စံပျော်ရစ်စေ”(အပိုင်း-၁)

(လူမင်း၊ သူထူး၊ ထက်ထက်မိုးဦး)

(ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဟိန်းစိုး)

WEATHER

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Sunday, 25 May, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours

MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Kachin and Mon States, Taninthayi Division, scattered in Upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, isolated in Shan and Kayah States, Lower Sagaing, Bago and Yangon Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions with isolated heavyfall in Mandalay Division. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above May average temperatures in Eastern Shan, Rakhine States, Bago, Magway, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and about May average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperatures was Chauk (42°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Bhamo (2.80) inches, Thaton (2.68) inches, Mandalay (1.62) inches and Kawthong (0.98) inch.

Maximum temperature on 24-5-2008 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 25-5-2008 was 76°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 25-5-2008 was 93%. Total sunshine hours on 24-5-2008 was (1.8) hours approx.

Rainfall on 25-5-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, and Kaba-Aye and (0.08) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (27.76) inches at Mingaladon, (32.01) inches at Kaba-Aye and (36.97) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Southeast at (13:30) hours MST on

24-5-2008.

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 26-5-2008: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kayah State, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, scattered in Chin and Kayah States, Upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, fairly widespread in Shan, Kachin and Rakhine States and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with modespread to rough seas are likely Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of advancement of South-west monsoon in the Central Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 26-5-2008: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 26-5-2008: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 26-5-2008: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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ASEAN-UN International Pledging Conference in progress.—MNA

Myanmar hosts ASEAN-UN International Pledging Conference

YANGON, 25 May—Prime Minister General Thein Sein addressed

ASEAN-UN International Pledging Conference held at the Sedona Hotel on

Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here at 11 am today. It was attended by UN

Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon, Under Secretary-General of the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Mr John Holmes, ASEAN Standing Committee Chairman and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore Mr George Yeo, ASEAN Secretary-General Mr Surin Pitsuwan, ministers and deputy ministers of the government of the Union of Myanmar, Deputy Prime Ministers, ministers, deputy ministers, ambassadors, special envoys and high-ranking officials of Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Canada, the People's Republic of China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Laos, Luxemburg, Malaysia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Russia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, Britain, Ukraine, Nigeria, Brazil, Spain, Hungary, the US

and Vietnam totaling 51 nations and officials of the UN Headquarters, ASEAN Secretariat, 24 international organizations such as EU, UNFPA, WHO, FAO, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNODC, WFP, ILO, UNDP, UNOPS, UNIC, IOM, IFRC, ICRC, WORLD BANK, ADB, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UN-Habitat, UNHQ, OCHA, WMO, and MBC and Myanmar Business Coalition on AIDS.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein chaired the conference and UN Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon and Under Secretary-General of the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Mr John Holmes, ASEAN Standing Committee Chairman and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore Mr George Yeo acted as members of panel of chairmen.

The Prime Minister and the attendees paid a one-minute silent tribute to mourn those who died in the storm.

Next, the Prime Minister made an opening speech. *(The speech of the Prime Minister is reported separately).* UN Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon made a speech. He

said: I am very much encouraged by the Prime Minister's remarks. They are fully in line with the agreement we reached with Myanmar's leadership in recent days. I believe they herald a new spirit of cooperation and partnership between Myanmar and the international community.

The government has agreed to allow all international aid workers into the areas devastated by Cyclone Nargis, without bureaucratic hindrance and regardless of nationality so long as the mission is purely humanitarian. There should not be any serious obstacle to organizing effective aid and assistance operations. We also agreed, among other things, to establish several forward logistics hubs in the affected areas, so that aid may be speedily distributed to those most in need.

The government appears to be moving to implement these accords. Some international aid workers and NGOs have already gone into the regions of the Ayeyawady delta without problem. All this will go far to meet *(See page 9)*



UN Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon delivers an address at ASEAN-UN International Pledging Conference.—MNA



Chairman of ASEAN Standing Committee Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore Mr George Yeo addresses ASEAN-UN International Pledging Conference. —MNA