

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

92.48 percent approve Constitution

NAY PYI TAW, 26 May— The Commission for Holding the Referendum of the Union of Myanmar today issued Announcement No. 12/2008 dated 26 May, 2008.

The full text of the announcement is as follows:

**Union of Myanmar
Commission for Holding the Referendum
Announcement No. 12/2008**

7th Waning of Kason 1370 ME
(26 May 2008)

Announcement on results of the referendum held in the whole country

1. The referendum for approval of the draft constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was held successfully in 278 townships out of 325 townships in the whole country on 10 May, 2008 and the commission announced the results of the referendum with the Announcement No. 10/2008 dated 15 May, 2008. In accord with the Announcement No. 8/2008 dated 6 May, 2008, the referendum was held on 24 May, 2008 in 40 townships in Yangon Division and seven townships in Ayeyawady Division that were hit hard by Cyclone “Nargis”. The commission announced the results of the referendum held on 24 May, 2008 with the Announcement No. 11/2008 dated 26 May, 2008.

(See page 2)

Over 92 percent in remaining Tps cast “Yes” vote

NAY PYI TAW, 26 May— The Commission for Holding the Referendum of the Union of Myanmar today issued Announcement No. 11/2008 dated 26 May, 2008.

The full text of the announcement is as follows:

**Union of Myanmar
Commission for Holding the Referendum
Announcement No. 11/2008**

7th Waning of Kason 1370 ME
(26 May 2008)

Announcement on results of the referendum held in 47 townships in Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions

1. The referendum for approval of the draft constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was held successfully in 278 townships out of 325 townships in the whole country on 10 May, 2008 and the commission announced the results of the referendum with the Announcement No. 10/2008 dated 15 May, 2008.

2. In accord with the Announcement No. 8/2008 dated 6 May, 2008, the referendum was held on 24 May, 2008 in 40 townships in Yangon Division and seven townships in Ayeyawady Division that were hit hard by Cyclone “Nargis”. The following is the results of the referendum:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| (a) Number of eligible voters | 4,580,393 |
| (b) Number of those who cast vote | 4,280,015 (93.44 percent) |
| (c) Number of those who cast “Yes” vote | 3,977,528 (92.93 percent) |
| (d) Number of those who cast “No” vote | 256,232 (5.99 percent) |
| (e) Number of cancelled vote | 46,255 (1.08 percent) |

3. The commission hereby announces that 3,977,528 of 4,280,015 voters cast “Yes” vote, accounting for 92.93 percent in the referendum held in 47 townships in Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions.

(Aung Toe)
Chairman

Commission for Holding the Referendum

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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 27 May, 2008

Speedy rehabilitation of storm-hit regions

The ASEAN-UN International Pledging Conference was held at Sedona Hotel in Yangon on 25 May.

The conference was attended by representatives from 51 countries and officials from 24 international organizations, and the respective countries and international organizations pledged to provide Myanmar with cash and other assistance.

For emergency relief and rehabilitation operation, the government has allocated an initial sum of K 5 billion to start with and so far it has spent to the amount of K 70 billion. The United Nations and its agencies took prompt action to carry out relief and rehabilitation mission with the contributions of international organizations.

Up to now the rescue and rehabilitation tasks have been carried out to some extent. And providing food, clothing and shelters to the victims are to be carried out with the aid of international community while striving for reconstruction of houses, schools, hospitals and dispensaries and resuming agriculture, fisheries and salt industry with the help of skilled workers.

At a time when the Government, the people and the Tatmadaw are making concerted efforts with the contributions of the UN, ASEAN and international community in that regard we firmly believe that the rehabilitation of storm victims will be materialized soonest.

Minister Maj-Gen Soe Naing accepts rice, food and items worth K 5 million donated by Giordano.—UMFCCI



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

92.48 percent approve...

(from page 1)

2. The population of the country is 57,504,368 and the number of eligible voters is 27,369,957. Due to the severe Cyclone Nargis, 77,738 people were killed and 55,917 went missing totalling 133,655 in Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and Mon State. According to the Data Collecting Committee, 81,130 eligible voters were among the dead and missing. Therefore, the population of the country now stands at 57,370,713 and the number of eligible voters 27,288,827.
3. Therefore, the aggregate result of the referendum held in 325 townships—278 on 10 May, 2008 and 47 on 24 May, 2008—is as follows:
- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| (a) Number of eligible voters in the entire Union | 27,288,827 |
| (b) Number of those who cast vote | 26,776,675 (98.12 percent) |
| (c) Number of those who cast “Yes” vote | 24,764,124 (92.48 percent) |
| (d) Number of those who cast “No” vote | 1,631,712 (6.1 percent) |
| (e) Number of cancelled vote | 380,839 (1.42 percent) |
4. According to the Paragraph 3, the following table shows the voting of 26,776,675 voters in the referendum in the whole country:
- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| (a) Number of those who went to the polling stations to cast vote | 22,154,970 (82.74 percent) |
| (1) Number of those who cast “Yes” vote | 20,215,637 |
| (2) Number of those who cast “No” vote | 1,575,257 |
| (3) Number of cancelled vote | 364,076 |
| (b) Number of those who cast vote in advance | 4,621,705 (17.26 percent) |
| (1) Number of those who cast “Yes” vote | 4,548,487 |
| (2) Number of those who cast “No” vote | 56,455 |
| (3) Number of cancelled vote | 16,763 |
5. Therefore, 26,776,675 voters out of 27,288,827 eligible voters cast their votes in the referendum held in the Union of Myanmar accounting for 98.12 percent. Out of 26,776,675 who cast their votes, 24,764,124 cast “YES” vote. According to the Section 23 of the Referendum Law 2008, we hereby announce that 92.48 percent of the voters cast “YES” vote for the approval of the draft constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

(Aung Toe)
Chairman
Commission for Holding the Referendum

Giordano provides relief aid to victims in Pyapon

YANGON, 26 May — Personnel of Giordano presented relief aids worth K 5 million to the victims in the storm-affected regions yesterday.

The donation ceremony was held at the library of Saya Zawgyi in Pyapon Township yesterday. Member of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing accepted the donations. The personnel of Giordano also donated relief items to the victims of Dedaye Township.

MNA



Medical team leaves for Bogale, Kyaiklat Tsps

YANGON, 26 May—A 12-member medical unit, led by Dr U Thaw Zin, Director (Research) of Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) of the Ministry of Health, left here for Bogale and Kyaiklat Townships to provide medical treatment and health care services to storm victims there yesterday.

MNA

Mexico says US should focus on stemming gun flow

MEXICO CITY, 26 May—The chief of Mexico's war on drug gangs said Washington should concentrate on halting the flow of arms to Mexican drug cartels rather than haggle over how much aid to give Mexico's anti-smuggling operation.

Reacting to a vote by US lawmakers to trim an aid package for the drug war, Mexico's deputy attorney general, Jose Luis Santiago Vasconcelos, said an alternative would be to keep the cash in the United States and use it to curb illegal arms trafficking across the border.

"Some of us were

talking, remarking that, well, this (sum of money) is all very well, but why don't we tell the Americans they could spend it on their (border security forces) to stop the flow of arms to Mexico," Santiago Vasconcelos said in remarks on local radio distributed by his office on Saturday.

Santiago Vasconcelos, the point man in Mexico's crackdown on drug smuggling gangs, said 97 per cent of the weapons used by Mexican drug gangs came from the United States.

He said Mexico would evaluate whether to accept

any US offer of funds and under what conditions.

Mexico is spending seven billion US dollars of its own money to fund its 18-month-old crackdown on the powerful and violent cartels that smuggle Colombian cocaine north to US consumers.

MNA/Reuters

Farmers burn mock-ups of US import beef during a rally against South Korea-US FTA talks and US beef imports near the National Assembly in Seoul, on 22 May, 2008. —INTERNET



Bulgarian students dance during a celebration to mark the Day of Bulgarian Education, Culture and Slavic Letters in Kurdzhali, Bulgaria, on 25 May, 2008. XINHUA

EU employers slam new WTO proposals for Doha

BRUSSELS, 26 May—Europe's biggest employers lobby slammed a new set of World Trade Organization proposals intended to unblock a global trade deal on Friday, saying they were a "step backwards".

In a letter to EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson, Business Europe said the proposals for lowering barriers to trade in industrial goods under the WTO's Doha round would give an "unfair advantage" to competitive sectors in emerging economies.

"We have indicated repeatedly that this deal needs to address the very

high barriers to industrial and services market access in emerging countries for all exporters," the letter, which was distributed to media, said.

"Unfortunately, the latest WTO market access negotiating text is a step backwards for trade liberalization."

The Doha negotiations

for a global trade deal were launched in 2001 in a bid to fight poverty and boost the world economy. But they have been hamstrung by deep differences among rich and poor countries and now risk years of further delay without a breakthrough soon, ahead of the US presidential election.

MNA/Reuters

Helicopter crash near Los Angeles kills three

LOS ANGELES, 26 May—A helicopter crashed Saturday on the west end of Santa Catalina Island, about 35 kilometres southwest of Los Angeles, killing three people and injuring three others, authorities said.

The chartered Eurocopter AS-350 operated by Island Express, a local helicopter tour service, went down about 9:20 am (1720 GMT) amid drizzly weather, according to a spokesman of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

MNA/Xinhua



Gennai Yanagisawa, 75, of Japan, left, looks on as Gen Corporation employee Yasutoshi Yokoyama, also of Japan, sits on the GEN H-4 helicopter, the world's smallest one-man helicopter, in Vinci, birthplace of Renaissance genius Leonardo da Vinci, near Florence, Italy, on 25 May, 2008. —INTERNET

Roadside bomb kills police officer in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 26 May—A roadside bomb hit the car of a police officer in Pakistan's northwestern city of Peshawar on Saturday, killing him and his driver, police said.

Hundreds of people have been killed in a wave of bomb and suicide attacks across Pakistan since mid-2007, but violence had tapered off after the government that took office in March called for talks with Islamist militants to end militancy.

Most of the attacks have taken place in the northwest on the Afghan border where militants are very active. Peshawar is the capital of the North West Frontier Province (NWFP).

The latest bomb was the fourth since mid-February. The bomb hit the car of police officer Juma Khan as he was going to work in the morning.

"It was a remote-controlled device. Three passers-by were wounded in the blast," an official of the police bomb disposal department said. Meanwhile, residents in the North Waziristan tribal region on Friday found a body of an Afghan man, apparently hanged to death, by suspected militants on suspicion of being a spy for the United States.—MNA/Reuters

Israeli Army kills five militants in Gaza

GAZA, 26 May—Five Palestinian militants were killed on Friday by Israeli troops which raided into the Hamas-rule Gaza Strip, according to medical workers and militant groups.

An Israeli air strike east of the southern city of Rafah killed three Hamas militants, according to medical workers.

All the three belonged to the Ezzedine Al-Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of the Islamist Hamas said in a statement.

Israeli Ynet news website confirmed the confrontation, saying that an Israeli soldier was moderately wounded during exchange of fire

with Palestinian gunmen in south Gaza Friday morning.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Jihad militant group said two of its fighters were killed by Israeli soldiers in the central Gaza Strip.

MNA/Reuters



Palestinian supporters of Hamas evacuate a boy wounded by Israeli fire during a demonstration near Karni crossing in eastern Gaza city, on 22 May, 2008.—XINHUA

Denmark’s Prince Joachim marries for second time

MOEGELTOENDER , 25 May – Denmark’s Prince Joachim married French-born Marie Cavallier on Saturday in a tradition-steeped ceremony in an ancient church.

The second marriage for the second son of Queen Margrethe II and Prince Henrik of Denmark took place in the tiny village of Moegeltoender in southern Jutland, an enclave of just 895 people with one of Denmark’s prettiest high streets.

Joachim’s 32-year-old bride wore an off-white gown with a three-metre-long train designed by David Arasa and Claudio Morelli from fashion house Arasa Morelli. Cavallier, now Her Royal Highness

Princess Marie, held her veil in place with a tiara belonging to her new mother-in-law. The new Princess, whose background is Roman

Catholic, has become a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Denmark and has taken Danish citizenship.

MNA/Reuters



China Saturday announced plans to push forward the reshuffle of its telecommunications industry which will split its smaller mobile operator and give its mobile business to two fixed-line operators.—INTERNET

Philippines to build disaster-resilient school buildings

MANILA, 25 May — The Philippine Government is launching a plan to build disaster-resilient school buildings to make schools less prone to damage during typhoons, said the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) on Sunday.

NDCC deputy chief Anthony Golez told local radio DZBB a school in Camarines Sur Province in the typhoon-frequented central Philippines will be the project’s first beneficiary.

He said an international competition for designs for disaster-resilient school buildings was held recently in Manila and an entry from a Malaysian architect has won.

Golez said the government saw more need to make schools resilient to disasters after tropical storm “Halong” damaged more than 70 schools in the northern Luzon one week ago.

He also said earthquake drills for schools may be held in July for the National Disaster Consciousness Month. — MNA/Xinhua

UN finds over 100 bodies in east Congo mass graves

KINSHASA, 25 May — United Nations peacekeepers have found over 100 bodies in three mass graves in the east of Democratic Republic of Congo, the country’s UN mission said on Saturday.

A patrol of South African soldiers discovered the graves on Friday near the village of Maboya in troubled North Kivu Province. A UN spokesman told Reuters a preliminary excavation of the site indicated they had not been dug recently.

MNA/Reuters

Obama says Clinton “stirring up” Florida controversy

CHICAGO, 25 May – Democrat Barack Obama accused rival Hillary Clinton on Saturday of “stirring up” a controversy over the disqualified Florida primary election because it was her last hope of winning their party’s presidential nomination.

Obama, an Illinois Senator, is leading Clinton, a New York Senator, in delegates needed to win the Democratic nomination to face Republican John McCain in the November election. The delegates are awarded in state nominating contests that kicked off in January.

Florida’s and Michigan’s delegates were stripped of their rights to be seated at the party’s

August convention — when the nominee is formally chosen — because their contests were held too early in the year, in breach of party rules. Clinton, who won both contests, has long argued the delegates should be seated and awarded based on the popular vote. She made a trip to Florida this week to press her case.

“The Clinton campaign has been stirring this up for fairly transparent reasons,” Obama told reporters on the plane from San Juan, Puerto Rico, to Chicago, adding she had not done

so earlier in the race when she did not need the delegates to win.

“Let’s not ... pretend that we don’t know what’s going on. I mean this is, from their perspective, their last slender hope to make arguments about how they can win, and I understand that,” Obama said.

Neither Clinton nor Obama campaigned in either state before the primary elections, and the Illinois senator removed his name from the Michigan ballot. Obama spent three days campaigning in Florida this week.—MNA/Reuters

Police, locals clash in Naples trash protest

NAPLES, 25 May — Police clashed with demonstrators in a poor quarter of Naples on Saturday after a night of riots over the Italian Government’s attempt to end the chronic rubbish problem by opening new dumps against locals’ wishes.

Witnesses said two police officers and two protesters were hurt when police tried to remove a bus used as a barricade to block access to a landfill site at a quarry in the Chiaiano neighbourhood.

Police said protesters had thrown a petrol bomb.

The location of new dumps was being kept secret but clashes erupted overnight in Chiaiano, on the outskirts of the southern port city, after an official said it would be used for some of the trash piling up in the streets of Naples since the end of last year, when almost all dumps were declared full.

New Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi has made the crisis a top priority and passed a decree this week allowing new landfill sites and making them military zones, to dissuade protests. —MNA/Reuters



A large order of McDonald’s french fries are shown on 22 May, 2008. McDonald’s has switched to cooking oils free of trans fats in all of its restaurants in the United States and Canada, Chief Executive Jim Skinner said on Thursday.—XINHUA

UNSG promises to support China's quake relief efforts

YINGXIU (Sichuan), 25 May— United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon promised on Saturday to mobilize efforts from the United Nations to support China's quake relief and post-quake reconstruction.

Ban said Chinese leaders have shown outstanding leadership in quake relief, and the United Nations will firmly support China's relief and reconstruction endeavours.

The UN Chief said the United Nations and people all over the world will stand along with the Chinese people and work together to overcome the earthquake disaster.

He wished Chinese people a victory in quake relief. Ban made the remarks in an open area Saturday noon shortly after his arrival at Yingxiu town of Wenchuan Co-unity, epicentre of the 12 May earthquake, to

express his sympathy for those who suffered from the devastating quake.

Ban won loud applause from the people standing around.

Yingxiu, in Sichuan Province, is one of the zones worststricken by the 8.0-magnitude earthquake, which had claimed 55,740 lives nationwide as of Friday noon, or 55,239 in Sichuan alone as of 7:00 pm Thursday.

Xinhua



A Mig-26 helicopter swings an excavator to the barrier lake in Tangjiashan, Beichuan County, southwest China's Sichuan Province, on 26 May, 2008. —XINHUA

Kidnapped South Korean freed in southern Philippines

MANILA, 25 May — Unidentified kidnappers have freed without ransom a 30-year-old South Korean and a Filipino businessman kidnapped in March in a mountainous area in Mindanao, southern Philippines, police said on Saturday.

Senior Superintendent Adap Panares, provincial police chief of Lanao del Sur Province in Mindanao, said 10 heavily armed men released Tae Jung, a South Korean who ventured on chromite mining, and his Filipino business contact Victor Macasieras Friday near Kapai town, Lanao del Sur. —Xinhua

Lightning kills three in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 26 May — Three people, including two siblings, were killed and one was injured in lightning in Bangladesh's Chapainawabganj District, 245 northwest of capital Dhaka, during heavy rainfall Saturday.

Local sources were quoted by private news agency UNB as saying the brothers were working in a paddy field when thunderbolt struck them at about 12:30 pm local time (06:30 GMT), killing them on the spot.

Meanwhile, a man was killed and a woman injured when lightning hit their house at the same time in the same district. —Xinhua



A path of destruction is seen after a severe storm swept through Hugo, Minn on 25 May 2008. —XINHUA

US soldier killed in bomb attack south of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 25 May — An American soldier was killed by a roadside bomb attack in south of the Iraqi capital, the US military said on Saturday. The soldier, assigned to Multi-National Division-Centre (MND-C) was killed on Thursday when the bomb detonated in an area, some 20 kilometres southwest of Baghdad, a military statement said without further details.

MND-C, also known as Task Force Marne, is responsible for security zones located along the southern edge of Baghdad and stretches from the border with Saudi Arabia in the west to the Iranian border in the east. The latest death brings the number of US troops killed in Iraq since the March 2003 invasion to more than 4,080, according to media count based on Pentagon figures. —Xinhua

All Items from Xinhua News Agency

Four officials punished for neglecting duties in S-W China

BEIJING, 25 May— Four officials in Dujiangyan of southwest China's Sichuan Province were punished for neglecting their duties during the disaster relief, said Li Chengyun, vice governor of Sichuan, on Friday.

He said that all those officials who failed to

observe their duties will be punished.

Three of the officials were removed from their posts, including the former civil affairs official of the city, according to Monday's *Guangzhou Daily* website.

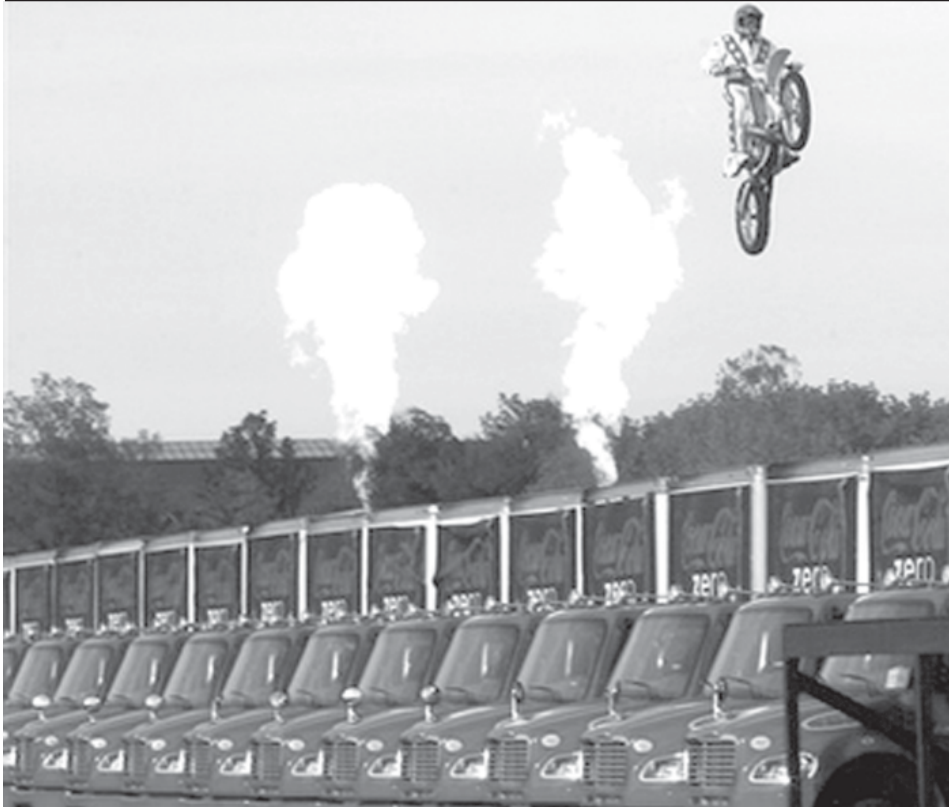
The details of the fourth official is still unknown.

The provincial government sent 12 supervision teams to the quake-hit areas, and 96 cases involving illegal market activities were uncovered.

Li also vowed to severely punish those who misappropriated rescue tents, which are urgently needed for sheltering five million homeless quake victims.

Social stability is also a major concern for the Sichuan Provincial Government, which has reinforced security guard on banks and department stores. —MNA/Xinhua

Daredevil Robbie 'Kaptain' Knievel jumps over 24 delivery trucks, his longest gap ever of 200 feet, at Kings Island amusement park, on 24 May, 2008 in Mason, Ohio. Thirty-three years ago, on 25 Oct, 1975, Robbie's father, Evel Knievel made history when he successfully jumped 14 buses at Kings Island. A crowd of more than 40,000 people witnessed the jump. —XINHUA



Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects clearing of fallen trees and debris, reconstruction of buildings in Yangon



Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence inspects repairing of roof of No. 1 BEHS in Lanmadaw Township.—MNA

YANGON, 26 May — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence yesterday inspected clearing of fallen trees and reconstruction of buildings ravaged by the storm.

Accompanied by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, Chairman of

Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and officials, Lt-Gen Myint Swe looked into removing of fallen trees and debris along Kyaunggyi Street, Bo Thura Lane and Yongyi Street in Kyimyindine Township being carried out by staff of YCDC and Tatmadawmen of No. 11 LID.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe stressed the need to replant

the fallen trees that can survive, to remove fallen trees and debris as soon as possible and to educate the people to systematically dispose garbage.

On arrival at U Wisara Housing compound, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party viewed the clearing of fallen trees and debris by Tatmadawmen of No. 77 LID and heard a report presented by Commander

of No. 77 LID Brig-Gen Win Myint on work carried out.

After hearing the report, Lt-Gen Myint Swe gave necessary instructions.

Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party looked into the clearing of debris in the compound of No 1 BEHS and renovation of the school's roofs Lanmadaw Township and were conducted round by Director-General of No. 3 Basic Education Department U Aye Kyu and the

school head.

Next, they proceeded to Yangon General Hospital on Bogyoke Aung San Road where they inspected the clearing of debris by Tatmadawmen of Indaing Station and repair of the roof of the hospital's main building.

After that, they inspected the clearing of fallen trees and debris carried out by Tatmadawmen of Hmawby Station and Taikkyi Station along Pawhsan Road and

Pyithaya Road in Thingangyun Township and along Gandama Road in South Okkalapa Township and gave necessary instructions.

Likewise, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party inspected the removing of fallen trees and debris along streets in Kyimyindine, Dagon, Lanmadaw, Latha, Pabedan, Kyauktada, Pazundaung, Tamway, Thingangyun and South Okkalapa Townships.—MNA

Thai medical team giving medical treatment in Myaungmya

YANGON, 26 May — Under the arrangement of Ministry of Health and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Deputy Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Health of Thailand Dr Siripon Kanshana, Thai Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr Bansarn Bunnag and party went to

Myaungmya on 22 May. They handed over 19 kinds of medical appliances sent again from Thailand to medical team of Ministry of Health of Thailand led by Dr Pichit who were giving medical treatment to storm survivors at the relief camp opened in the compound of 250-ton rice

mill.

Staff of Ministry of Health, medical team of Directorate of Medical Services under Ministry of Defence led by Lt-Col Kyaw Zin Nyunt and medical staff of Ministry of Health of Thailand are giving medical treatment to storm victims.—MNA

Repair of universities supervised

YANGON, 26 May — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun met senior engineers of Special Construction Groups in Yangon Division and district senior engineers at the head office of Public Works on Shwedagon pagoda Road, here, on 24 May.

The minister gave instructions on timely completion of repairing the damage of buildings and universities in Yangon Division hit by the storm before their opening day.

The managing director, directors-general and chief engineers

enterprises and departments under Ministry of Construction reported on their respective sectors.

Afterwards, the minister inspected repair of roofs at Yangon University and the University of Foreign Languages.

MNA

Korean wellwisher donates supplies worth \$ 14,000

YANGON, 26 May — Mr Sung Su Yong of the Grand Nation Party of the Republic of Korea donated over two tons of towels and energy milk powder worth 14,000 US

dollars to the storm victims at a ceremony held at Yangon International Airport on 24 May.

On behalf of the donor, Manager U Hsan Tun Aung handed over the

donations to Director-General U Myint Tun of the Fire Services Department of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.—MNA

JLC donations for victims in Bogale, Pyapon

YANGON, 26 May — Jewellery Luck Co Ltd (JLC) family and entrepreneurs donated cash assistance to storm victims in Bogale and Pyapon Townships, Ayeyawady Division, on 23 May.

In Bogale, Chairman of Bogale Township Peace

and Development Council U Soe Thein accepted K 82,497,150 donated by Jewellery Luck Co Ltd (JLC) family and other entrepreneurs. Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung attended the ceremony.

In Pyapon, the wellwishers donated K

15,210,100, clothes and medicines to the victims through Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing.

So far, Jewellery Luck Co Ltd (JLC) has donated cash and rice, medicines, robes, clothes amounting to K 195,907,250 to storm victims.—MNA



Director-General U Myint Tun accepts relief aids donated by the Grand Nation Party of Korea.—MNA

Minister for Foreign Affairs meets Japanese Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs

NAY PYI TAW, 26 May – Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win met Japanese Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs Mr Osamo Uno who attended the ASEAN-UN International Pledging Conference at his office this morning.

The minister and the Japanese Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign

Affairs discussed providing relief and technical assistance for rehabilitation to the storm victims.

Present were Director-General of Political Department U Pe Thann Oo and Deputy Director-General U Kyaw Tin and Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Yasuaki Nogawa.

MNA



Minister U Nyan Win meeting with Mr Osamo Uno, Japanese Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs and party .—FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Minister U Nyan Win meets Minister of State of Ministry of Commerce and Power of India

NAY PYI TAW, 26 May – Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win met an Indian delegation led by Minister of State of Ministry of Commerce and Power who attended the ASEAN-UN International Pledging Conference at the former's office this morning.

They discussed providing additional

assistance for storm victims and other assistance in electric power sector and issues of mutual interest.

Present were Director-General of Political Department U Pe Thann Oo and Deputy Director-General U Kyaw Tin and Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Bhaskar K Mitra.—MNA



Minister Dr Kyaw Myint receives Dr Eric Jaques Laroche, Assistant Director-General of WHO in Geneva.—HEALTH

Health Minister receives guests from WHO

YANGON, 26 May—Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint received Assistant Director General from Head Office World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva Dr Eric Jaques Laroche and resident representative Professor Adik Wibowo at temporary control department in Yangon People's Hospital today.

In his speech, the Assistant Director General of WHO said that WHO would continue providing medicines and medical appliances for storm victims and external medical teams providing health care service in Myanmar are to perform in accordance with the standard of health policies of Myanmar.—MNA

Vehicles carrying power tillers head for Ngaputaw, Labutta, Mawlamyinegyun and Bogale townships.

MNA



SWRR Minister meets UNICEF regional director

YANGON, 26 May — Member of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe met regional director, Ms Anupama Rao Singh of UNICEF EAPRO based in Bangkok at

the Maykhala hall of Fire Services Department (headquarters) in Mayangon Township here this morning.

Also present at the meeting were deputy director-general U Aung Tun Khine of Social Welfare department.

MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe meets Ms Anupama Rao Singh, Regional Director of UNICEF EAPRO.—SOCIAL WELFARE

More supplies for storm victims arrive in Yangon

YANGON, 26 May — International communities are providing the storm victims with relief supplies. IL-76 Plane carrying constructional materials, tarpaulins, kitchen utensils, and canvas tents weighing 39.629 tons donated by Malaysia-based IFRC arrived at Yangon International Airport at 8.25 am today.

Similarly, five C-130 planes carrying foodstuff, plastics, tarpaulins, empty water bottles, life boats, health facilities and water purifiers weighing 44.8 tons donated by US reached the airport at 8.55 am, 10.10 am, 10.55 am, 1.34 pm and 2.45 pm.

Likewise, TG-303 plane carrying 37 packages of personal goods donated by the Republic of Korea's Red Cross Society got the same airport at 8.40 am, TG-303 plane carrying nine packages of personal goods donated by Switzerland RCS at 8.40 am, 3K-585 plane carrying medicines and 30 bags of variety of foodstuff donated by Myanmar Embassy in Singapore at 9.35 am, 8M-332 plane carrying 23 packages of clothes do-

nated by Baiyoke Hotel Group at 10.48 am, IL-76 plane carrying plastics rolls, blankets, medicines and tarpaulins weighing 37.78 tons donated by Dubai-based UNHCR of UAE at 10.05 am, MH-740 plane carrying 156 packages of personal goods donated by Malaysia RCS at 11.20 am, AN-12 plane carrying 2.64 tons of energy noodle donated by Thailand-based WFP at 11.30 am, PG-701 plane carrying 14 packages of water-purifying tablets donated by Myanmar Embassy in Thailand at 12.20 pm, A-300 plane carrying 900 rolls of plastics weighing 38.9 tons donated by Britain-based Doctors Without Border at 2.10 pm, and DC-8 plane carrying constructional materials weighing 13.61 tons donated by France-based Doctors Without Border at 4.05 pm.

The relief supplies donated by international communities are being distributed to the storm-hit areas for the victims without delay by means of helicopters, motor cars and vessels.

MNA

A medical team of the Philippines led by Dr Arnelz Rivera and relief items arrive Yangon International Airport.

MNA



Relief supplies of IFRC based in Malaysia arrive Yangon International Airport.—MNA



Relief aids contributed by Doctors Without Borders of France at Yangon International Airport.— MNA





Minister U Soe Tha and Ms Gunilla Carlsson, Minister for International Development and Cooperation of Sweden, console victims at a relief camp in Dedaye. (News on page 16)—MNA



A mobile medical team led by Dr U Thaw Zin seen before leaving for Bogale, Kyaiklatt townships on 26 May.—HEALTH

Fire breaks out at Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok

NAY PYI TAW, 26 May—A fire broke out at the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand, this morning. The fire started due to short circuit on the ceiling of the Myanmar Embassy's two-storey main building. However, with the help of fire engines, the Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand and staff were able to extinguish the fire that caused damage to only the first floor and some office equipment. There was no deaths or injuries, it is learnt. —MNA

Medical team of the Philippines arrives

YANGON, 26 May — A medical team led by Dr Arnelz Rivera of the Republic of the Philippines arrived here by C-130 flight this afternoon. The medical team brought a total of 9.176 tons of drinking water, food, blankets, medicines and medical supplies, clothes and plastic sheets along. They were welcomed by the Philippines ambassador to Myanmar and officials at Yangon International Airport.

MNA

Wellwishers donate cash and kind to storm victims

YANGON, 26 May — The meeting on building and land allotment of new Yadanabon city construction project was held at the minister's office yesterday.

Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and Minister for Livestock and Fishery Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein made speeches.

The manager of new Yadanabon city construction project reported on allotment of land and investor companies on their investment. The ministers called for timely completion of the buildings in accord with the set standard.

Next, the ministers accepted K 1,45.5 million and US \$ 3.713 million donated to the storm-hit areas.

The donations were K 10 million donated by Myanma Posts and Telecommunications, K 100 million by Myanmar Teleport, K 10 million by Myanmar Info-Tech, K 10 million by Tarmonye Chantha Tun Wai Tha Company, K 5 million by Myanmar Computer Federation, K 5 million by Myanmar Computer Industry Association, K 3.5 million by computer companies, K 1 million by Computer Professionals Association, K 1 million by Yadanabon Cyber Corporation, US \$ 3.3 million for telecom equipment and blankets worth US \$ 10,000 by ZTE Co Ltd, emergency car mobile SCDMA system worth US\$ 150,000 by FISCA Co Ltd, communication equipment and medicines worth US \$ 93,000 by Alcatel Shanghai Bell Co Ltd, communication equipment worth US \$ 100,000 by Sum Moon International Pte Ltd and communication equipment worth US \$ 60,000 by IPTel Co.

MNA

CI sheets dedicated to storm victims and monasteries

YANGON, 26 May—Vice-President of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Daw Khin Thet Htay presented 330 CI sheets worth K 1,617,000 donated by MWAFF and wellwishers for storm victims and monasteries at the Ministry of Religious Affairs this afternoon.

CEC member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko accepted the donation.—MNA



Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe accepts power tillers donated by USDA.—MNA

Quake-damaged railway reopens to traffic in Sichuan

CHENGDU, 25 May — The whole line of quake-damaged Baoji-Chengdu railway reopened to traffic Saturday after 283 hours of closure, allowing batch transport of disaster relief goods to China’s quake-hit Sichuan Province.

No 977 train carrying

urgently needed relief goods of tents and medicines passed through the railway’s No 109 tunnel at 9:53 am Saturday, where a 40-car freight train derailed and was trapped, paralyzing the railway in the 12 May earthquake.

The railway, linking

Chengdu, provincial capital of Sichuan, with Baoji City in neighbouring Shaanxi Province, is a key north-south route in west China.

Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Dejiang inspected the tunnel’s repair work Saturday, and stressed the importance to ensure an unblocked traffic on the artery line in order to guarantee timely arrival of disaster relief supply to the quake zone.

MNA/Xinhua



Cannes fire show : Singaporean actor and magician Francis Bosco performs during a photocall for Singaporean director Eric Khoo’s film ‘My Magic’ at the 61st Cannes International Film Festival in Cannes, southern France..—INTERNET

Airbus to announce additional cost cutting measures

PARIS, 25 May — Airbus, a subsidiary of the European Space and Defence Co (EADS), is planning to announce “additional cost cutting measures within the framework of the Power 8 programme” before this summer, the group’s Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Louis Gallois has said.

Gallois, who was speaking Friday afternoon during an interview with the *La Depeche* newspaper, took time to reaffirm his desire to ensure that “the essential activities of Airbus remain in Europe and particularly around the Toulouse region”. Defending the yet to be announced “additional measures,” the EADS CEO said that “their effect would be felt in 2011 and 2012”, and at the same time refuted rumours that tensions were hitting up between the company’s management and labour unions. “As regards employment, there is no tension either among us (airbus) or among the employees of our subcontractors because of the increased workload,” said Gallois. — MNA/Xinhua



A protester attends a rally to “demand Congressional action to stop torture” on Capitol Hill, in March 2008 in Washington, DC. Former US president Jimmy Carter on Sunday called on the next leader of the United States to publicly vow that his country would never again torture prisoners.—INTERNET

Carter sees superdelegates prompting Clinton to quit

LONDON, 26 May — Former US President Jimmy Carter said on Sunday he expects Democratic superdelegates to reveal their choice for presidential nominee soon after the final primary in June and that Hillary Clinton will then have to quit the race.

In an interview with Sky News, Carter said he did not think Clinton was achieving anything by staying in the fight.

“I think not. But of course she has the perfect right to do so,” he said while attending a literary festival in Britain.

“I’m a superdelegate ... I think a lot of the superdelegates will make a decision quite, announced quite rapidly, after the final primary on 3 June,” he told Sky News.

“I have not yet announced publicly, but I think at that point it will be time for her to give it up,” Carter said. — MNA/Reuters

DRC shuts Belgium embassy following diplomatic spat

KINSHASA, 25 May — The government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Saturday recalled its Ambassador to Belgium and closed its diplomatic mission there following an ugly diplomatic spat, the local media has reported.

The move was part of a government response to an assertion by Belgian Foreign Minister Karel De Gucht, who was quoted as saying that his country had a “moral right” over its former colony, according to reliable sources.

Earlier this year, in widely published remarks, President Joseph Kabila had told a Belgian newspaper that Belgium would have to

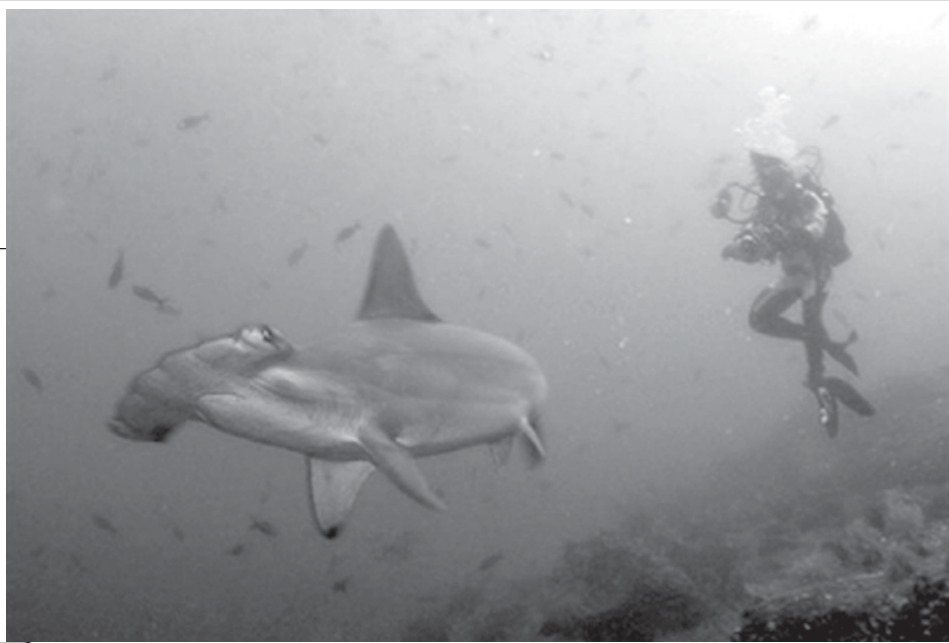
choose what kind of ties it wanted with its former colony. “It will have to decide whether it wants old-style master-servant colonial ties or modern relations based on mutual understanding and respect,” said Kabila, accusing the former DR Congo colonial master of having what he described as a “bad attitude”.

“The DR. Congo has also decided to close its consulate in Antwerp,” the government said in a statement at the end of a Cabinet meeting Friday.

MNA/Xinhua

A diver snaps a hammerhead shark. Two tourists who drifted in shark-infested waters off Australia for 19 hours when a diving trip went wrong have been asked to help pay for their rescue after selling their story.—

INTERNET



Ecuador records 125 explosions of Tungurahua volcano

QUITO, 26 May — Ecuador recorded 125 moderate explosions of the Tungurahua volcano in centre of the Andes Sunday, according to the Geophysics

Institute (GI) of the National Polytechnic School.

“The volcanic activities continue with a high seismic level, mainly characterized by moderate

explosions,” the IG reported. There are also 32 earthquakes inside the mountain and continuous shocks for 17 times.

The ash emissions have caused an ash rain in Pillate and Guadalupe near the volcano. At the same time, those emissions have formed 3-kilometres-high clouds. Tungurahua volcano is 5,029 metres high and located about 135 kilometres south from Quito. The volcano began its current eruptive process in November 1999 and since then has alternatively frequent activities or calmness.—MNA/Xinhua

Japan may end Iraq military mission in 2009

TOKYO, 26 May — Japan may end its supply support mission for US-led forces in Iraq next year, partly because of objections from the powerful opposition, according to media reports on Monday.

Japan has about 210 Air Force personnel in Kuwait, from where they airlift supplies to Baghdad and other parts of Iraq.

It withdrew its ground troops — sent to southern

Iraq as a gesture of support to Tokyo's biggest ally, the United States—in 2006.

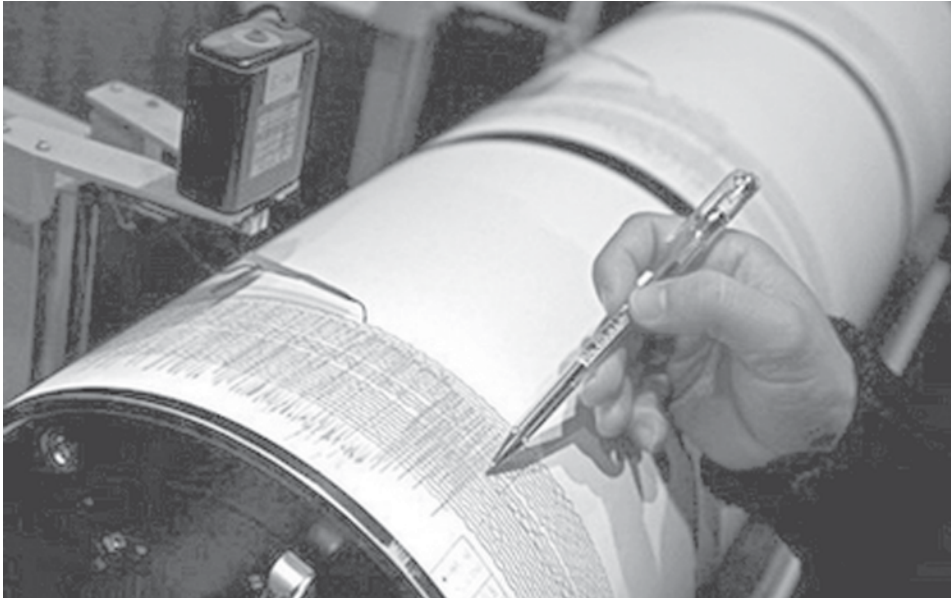
“Thinking about the state of Parliament, it is extremely difficult to extend” a special law which enabled the country to send troops to Iraq, the *Asahi* newspaper quoted ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) heavyweight Taku Yamasaki as saying.

Opposition parties have dominated Parliament's Upper House

since an election last July, and have taken advantage of their position to block many government policies.

The divided Parliament clashed earlier this year over military activities, when the ruling bloc pushed through a law which enabled a naval mission in support of US-led forces in Afghanistan by passing it twice in the Lower House with a two-thirds majority.

MNA/Reuters



A quake reading on a seismograph. A strong earthquake struck central Colombia Saturday, killing at least seven people and sending thousands of panicky residents into Bogota's streets, authorities said.—INTERNET

Colombia quake victims huddle in shelters, 11 dead

QUETAME, Colombia, 26 May — Hundreds of Colombians huddled in makeshift shelters on Sunday afraid to go home a day after a 5.6-magnitude earthquake damaged scores of homes and triggered landslides killing at least 11 people.

In the rural town of Quetame, the most seriously hit, families spent the night sheltered on the town's football field or in a public building after the quake knocked out water supplies and damaged or collapsed houses and its

church.

“People are still really terrified about a second or third one coming,” Benedicto Enciso said as he sheltered with his companion and two children after their home was damaged. “We’re trying to put up a tent for 20 people.”

Colombia's Red Cross said at least 11 people died and 54 were injured, with about 5,000 affected by damaged houses and buildings, President Alvaro Uribe visited the affected area, where landslides blocked a major highway from Bogota to Villavicencio near the epicentre, which was 33 miles (54 kilometres) southeast of the capital, the US Geological Survey said.

MNA/Reuters

Lebanese Parlt elects Suleiman as President

BEIRUT, 26 May — Lebanese Parliament on Sunday approved Army chief Michel Suleiman as the new President of the country.

Of the 127 lawmakers casting their ballots, 118 voted for Suleiman's election, six abstained, and three voted for others, local *Naharnet* news website reported.

As the consensus candidate of rival Lebanese blocs, Army Commander General Michel Suleiman became the President on Sunday following six months of presidential vacancy.

Parliament Speaker and opposition leader Nabih Berri announced at the parliamentary headquarters that “Michel Suleiman got 118 votes and I declare him president of Lebanon”. — MNA/Xinhua



A view of a cargo plane of the American company Kalitta Air which slid off the runway at the Brussels Zaventem airport on 25 May, 2008. The plane broke in two on Sunday but there were no casualties, Zaventem police said.—INTERNET

Cargo plane breaks in two at Brussels airport

BRUSSELS, 26 May — An American Kalitta Air cargo plane slid off the runway at Brussels's Zaventem airport on Sunday and broke in two but there were no casualties, the fire brigade

spokesman said. The Boeing aircraft's five crew all escaped through an inflatable emergency slide, spokesman Francis Boileau said. Four of them had minor injuries.

Boileau did not know

if the accident happened during take off or landing, but said that apart from its cargo of cars and equipment, the jet was full of fuel.

He said the plane came to a halt some 200 metres (650 feet) from the runway and only 10 metres (30 feet) from a railway line.

“There was a danger of an explosion just after the accident because it was full of kerosene, about 100 tonnes of it, and there was a big leakage when it broke,” Boileau said.

The fire brigade had secured the leakage within 30 minutes, he said.

“We see from the large tracks on the runway that the pilot tried to stop the aircraft, because he understood he could not bring it up into the air, and he drove it off the runway,” Boileau said.

MNA/Reuters

Hamas does not accept Abbas forces at Rafah crossing

RAMALLAH, 26 May — A Palestinian official on Saturday denied reports that Hamas accepted the deployment of President Mahmoud Abbas' forces on a crossing point between Gaza and Egypt for the reopening of the passage. “We have offered to deploy the Palestinian National Authority's forces on Rafah crossing to implement the 2005 crossings agreement, but actually Hamas doesn't want any presence for the PNA,” said Yasser Abed Rabbo, a Palestinian negotiator.

He added that Rafah crossing can not be opened without the US-brokered protocol which was signed between the PNA, Israel, the European Union and Egypt when Israel left Gaza Strip in 2005.

The EU monitors and the PNA forces withdrew from the crossing in June 2007 when Hamas fought pro-Abbas forces and seized control of Gaza Strip.

By keeping on its grip on Gaza Strip, Hamas “boosts the Israeli pretexts to keep Rafah crossing closed,” Abed Rabbo said, stressing that all the pretexts must be removed to lift the siege on Gaza Strip. — MNA/Xinhua



A handcuffed man kneels after the police arrested him in Cape Town. The death toll from two weeks of anti-immigrant violence in South Africa rose to 50 as concerns mounted for an estimated 35,000 people who have been displaced by the backlash.—INTERNET

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MCP ROTTERDAM VOYNO (005)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCP ROTTERDAM VOY NO (005) are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived on 26.5.2008 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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Tanzania suspends food exports until mid-June

ARUSHA (Tanzania), 25 May— Tanzania has halted food exports at least until mid-June to boost the country's supplies and counterskyrocketing commodity prices, the east African country's Agriculture Minister said on Friday.

Tanzania and many other developing nations are grappling with a worldwide hike in commodity and fuel prices that have triggered riots and protests in several countries.

The nation of 40 million people has joined other food-growing countries which have imposed export curbs because of worries about domestic shortages.

"We face a crisis if we allow further food exports," Agriculture Minister Stephen Wassira was quoted by the state-run *Daily News* newspaper.

"The aim is to maintain food security. Even major food exporters have suspended exportation of food due to the global shortages. Why not us?"

Tanzania suspended maize exports and waived import duty on the cereal earlier this year to help buy 300,000 tons of maize. But Wassira lamented the slow pace at which the country had imported the grain.

"Due to biting global shortages and subsequent rising prices, the traders have managed to import only 8,070 tons of maize so far ... that is between January and now," he said.

MNA/Reuters

Ghana plans tax cuts, subsidies to curb food prices

ACCRA, 25 May—Ghana's president announced a raft of tax breaks and subsidies late on Thursday to help its people cope with surging fuel and food prices which have provoked riots in neighbouring countries in poor West Africa.

In a televised address to the nation, President John Kufuor outlined plans to reduce taxes on some fuels and key grain imports, increase electricity subsidies and reduce operating costs for fishermen and farmers.

The measures require parliamentary approval.

"In many parts of the world, including some neighbouring countries in our sub-region, these harsh trends have led to dislocation of economies, rioting and strikes," he said.

MNA/Reuters

Thousands march against S Africa xenophobic attacks

JOHANNESBURG, 26 May—Thousands of people marched through South Africa's biggest city on Saturday, calling for an end to xenophobic violence that has killed over 40 African migrants and displaced tens of thousands. Thousands of people, carrying placards saying "Xenophobia hurts like apartheid", and "We stand against xenophobia" brought traffic to a standstill in Johannesburg's business district.

People in the Hillbrow flatland district, home to many African immigrants, cheered the march, organized by church organizations and labour unions. Police said townships around Johannesburg were quiet but shops were looted and burnt outside Cape Town late on Friday.

The South African Government has been criticized for its slow reaction to the violence, the worst since apartheid ended 14 years ago, and for not adequately addressing poverty widely blamed for the bloodshed.

The conflict started in Johannesburg's Alexandra township on 11 May, and has spread to Cape Town and the eastern port city of Durban.

MNA/Reuters

Twenty killed in western Ethiopia land clashes

ADDIS ABABA, 26 May—More than 20 people were killed in three days of clashes over land in western Ethiopia last week, police said on Saturday.

Fighting over grazing and farm land is common in the south and west of the Horn of Africa nation.

"A long-standing dispute over land along the border between Oromia and Benishangule states in western Ethiopia erupted into violence claiming the lives of more than 20 people from both sides last week," police spokesman Demsash Hailue told Reuters.

Demsash dismissed local media reports that the fighting between the Oromo and Benishangule ethnic groups killed more than 100 people.

MNA/Reuters

Somali gunmen release Kenyan lecturer in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU, 25 May—Somali gunmen released a Kenyan university lecturer on Friday after abducting him in the capital Mogadishu last week, a university staff member said.

"Moses (Nyandusi Matundura) is in a Mogadishu hotel then on his way to Kenya," the staff member, who did not wish to be named, told Reuters.

"He was treated well and is in (a) good condition."

Ten days ago, three assailants abducted Matundura after bundling him into a car waiting to take him home from the Mogadishu University campus.

He was believed to have been held in an Islamist stronghold in the north of the capital.

It was not clear if the gunmen were paid a 100,000-US-dollar ransom demanded for Matundura, a public administration lecturer.

MNA/Reuters

Jeong Jang, of South Korea, tees off on the eighth hole during the final round of the LPGA Corning Classic golf tournament in Corning, NY, on 25 May, 2008.

INTERNET





A woman displays a prototype leaf-shaped green coloured flexible organic solar cell modules, jointly developed by Japan's Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), Tokki Corporation and Mitsubishi Corporation, at the Environment Fair in Kobe, western Japan on 25 May, 2008 during the G8 Environment Ministers Meeting.—XINHUA

“Discover China” cultural festival kicks off in Italy

ROME, 25 May — The biggest cultural festival China has ever staged in Italy, “Discover China”, began in Rome Friday, showcasing China’s culture to Italians.

The festival is the largest cultural event between Italy and China since the successful “Year of Italy” in China in 2006. At the opening ceremony, President of Foundation Music for Rome Gianni Borgna expressed deep condolences for the victims of China’s recent mega-quake disaster.

As an ancient country currently undergoing massive economic and cultural changes, he said, China has a lot to show to the Italian audience.

The festival will offer the Italian people a chance to know more about China through music, dance and other arts, he said.

Chinese Vice Culture Minister Chen Xiaoguang said that Italy and China are both ancient countries enjoying a long history and a rich culture, cultural exchanges have become an important part of Sino-Italian relations, pushing bilateral relations forward.

The music festival in Rome will show to the Italian audience China’s rich art and culture through various performances, opening a window for Italians to know more about China, Chen said.

The festival will last till 8 June, during which Chinese artists will present music, opera, drama, dance, martial arts, cooking, Chinese medicine and exhibitions. — MNA/Xinhua

StatoilHydro says oil leaking at North Sea field

OSLO, 25 May — Norwegian energy group StatoilHydro reported a serious oil leak at its Statfjord oilfield in the North Sea on Saturday and said it evacuated all but emergency workers from platform A where oil is still leaking.

“The situation is serious and confused,” StatoilHydro said in a

statement. No one is hurt or missing and clean-up crews have been mobilized to deal with the spill, the company said.

Two workers who were exposed to gas have received medical care and are feeling well after being removed to the B platform, it said.

“Oil is leaking from one or several storage

cells. For safety reasons the oil is now being discharged to sea,” StatoilHydro said.

No information was immediately available on any production impact.

“During work on a pipe on the platform an oil leak occurred in one of the three shafts,” it added.

MNA/Reuters



Kenyan model Ajuma presents a creation by Paris-based designer Imane Ayssi of Cameroon during the “Fashion for Peace” show in Nairobi, on 24 May, 2008.—XINHUA

Russia hails China ties, defies Western critics

BEIJING, 25 May — Russian President Dmitry Medvedev on Saturday hailed ties with huge neighbour China as a key factor in global security, and said the sometimes uneasy neighbours were determined to boost co-operation even if it unnerved the West.

Medvedev, sworn in earlier this month, has inherited a country with a booming economy and international ambitions, but locked in disputes with its Western partners,

which he implied were suspicious of Moscow’s links with China.

His speech came a day after the two jointly condemned US plans to set up Eastern European bases for a missile defence system, although Washington shrugged off the remarks.

Analysts have said that this maiden foreign trip to ex-Soviet Kazakhstan and China was intended to demonstrate that Russia

had other allies to counterbalance strained relations with Europe and the United States and will pursue a balanced foreign policy.

“[Chinese President] Hu Jintao and I agreed that Russian-Chinese cooperation has become a major factor of global security, without which important decisions are impossible,” he told students at the elite Peking University.

MNA/Reuters

Two divers survive 20 hours drifting off Australia

SYDNEY, 25 May — Two scuba divers, a British man and an American woman, were rescued on Saturday after drifting for 20 hours off Australia’s Great Barrier Reef after they became separated from their dive party.

A rescue helicopter spotted the divers drifting about 7.8 nautical miles (12.5 kilometres) northwest of Bait Reef, winched them aboard and flew them to a nearby resort island, police said.

Police said the divers survived because they made sensible decisions and remained calm while floating in the ocean overnight. —MNA/Reuters

Eight giant pandas arrive in Beijing from Sichuan Province

BEIJING, 25 May — Eight giant pandas from the Wolong Nature Reserve arrived at Beijing Capital Airport on Saturday afternoon on a special flight run by China Southern Airlines.

The pandas were removed from the quake-stricken province of Sichuan and will remain here in the capital during the Olympics as part of the event.

The Wolong Nature Reserve is only about 30 kilometres from the epicentre of the 12 May earthquake in southwestern Sichuan that had claimed 60,560 lives nationwide as of Saturday noon. —MNA/Xinhua



Lightning strikes during a storm that produced multiple tornadoes east of Marshall, Okla., Saturday, 24 May, 2008. Several tornadoes touched down Saturday in northwestern Oklahoma. A twister destroyed three barns at a hog farm near Lacey in Kingfisher County, about 75 miles northwest of Oklahoma City, said Michelann Ooten, a spokeswoman for the Oklahoma Emergency Management Department.—INTERNET

SPORTS

Jose rules out Blues return
Former boss not planning shock return



Jose Mourinho

LONDON, 25 May — Jose Mourinho has told Sky Sports News he will not be returning to Chelsea as manager. Chelsea are on the lookout for a new manager after the club decided to axe Mourinho's successor at

Stamford Bridge Avram Grant on Saturday. Grant was sacked following Chelsea's failure to pick up any silverware last season when they lost in the Champions League final, Carling Cup final and finished second in the Premier League. A host of top names have been linked with the vacant manager's post including Frank Rijkaard, Guus Hiddink, Mark Hughes and Sven Goran Eriksson. A sensational return to West London for Mourinho, who left Chelsea last September in shock circumstances, has also been mooted.—Internet

Agent-Sven to Mexico
City chief linked with return to international management

MEXICO CITY, 25 May — A prominent South American football agent has claimed Manchester City boss Sven Goran Eriksson is close to accepting an offer from the Mexican FA to coach the national side. Agent Juan Carlos Padilla believes the Swedish tactician has already concurred on a two-year deal with Mexico, having accepted his tenure at Eastlands is drawing to a close. Eriksson has also been linked with the Chelsea post vacated by Avram Grant but Padilla is firmly of the opinion that a return to international management is in the offing. "We already know what the Mexican FA are looking for - we'll accept their terms if they call us again," Padilla told Mexican newspaper La Jornada from Manchester. "If the Mexican FA decide to take him, he will be their coach and the Mexican national team will be his number one choice. "It's a contract up to and including the next World Cup, after that we'll see what happens. But for the moment it's a two-year contract." Padilla rubbished suggestions that Eriksson, who has managed in Italy and Portugal, would have trouble adapting to life in Central America.—Internet

Fergie to quit within 3 years
United boss reveals plans to quit before he turns 70

LONDON, 25 May — Sir Alex Ferguson has revealed his intention to step down as Manchester United manager within the next three years. Ferguson continued his outstanding record at Old Trafford by securing a memorable Premier League and UEFA Champions League double in the 2007/08 campaign. The Scot had previously announced plans to retire at the end of the 2001/02 season; however he made a dramatic U-turn in February 2002, agreeing to stay on at the club. But Ferguson, 66, has now revealed his intention to quit his managerial role at United before he turns 70-years-old. "I won't be managing



Sir Alex Ferguson

here when I'm 70. No, never. I can assure you of that," Ferguson said. "I won't be managing here any more than three years at the very, very, very most - no question. "There is a time when you have to think about time for yourself. You know, my wife is getting older and I have to think about that."—Internet

Engelaar impresses in Dutch 3-0 win

ROTTERDAM (Netherlands), 25 May — Netherlands beat Ukraine 3-0 in a Euro 2008 warm up on Saturday with a solid midfield performance from Orlando Engelaar. Dirk Kuyt opened the scoring with a well-placed header midway through the first half and playmaker Rafael van der Vaart set up Klaas Jan Huntelaar seven minutes before the interval to double the lead. After 63 minutes, Van der Vaart showed his brilliance again when a 50-metre pass set up substitute Ryan Babel to score the third goal with a chip over goal-keeper Vyacheslav Kozlov. Seconds after the winger had come on. "I am satisfied with the result and some phases we played good football, although we have to realise that our opponents are not preparing for a major tournament," coach Marco van Basten told reporters. In the absence of several key players, Engelaar seized his chance to cement a place in the squad with a good performance as holding midfielder. MNA/Reuters

Roma beat Inter to retain Italian Cup

ROME, 25 May — Goals by Philippe Mexes and Simone Perrotta gave AS Roma a 2-1 win over Serie A champions Inter Milan in the Italian Cup final on Saturday. Roma retained the trophy and gained some revenge for missing out on the league title after French defender Mexes glided unmarked into the area to smack a David Pizarro corner into the net in the 35th minute. Italy midfielder Simone Perrotta scored after a one-two with Montenegro forward Mirko Vucinic to double Roma's lead in the 53rd minute. Inter's Portuguese midfielder Pele, on as a substitute, pulled a goal back just before the hour with a remarkable shot from 25 metres. Italian President Giorgio Napolitano handed the trophy to Roma captain Francesco Totti, who was unable to play because of injury. "We shared this festival with our wonderful fans," Roma coach Luciano Spalletti told a news conference. "We didn't need this victory to show that we are not much inferior to Inter. I told the lads before the game that they had done a great championship and they had the chance to make it really great." MNA/Reuters

Ireland sneak 1-1 draw on Trapattoni debut

DUBLIN, 25 May — Ireland snatched a 1-1 draw with Serbia on Saturday in what new coach Giovanni Trapattoni hailed as a good start to rebuild the team which failed to qualify for Euro 2008. Substitute Andy Keogh equalized in the last minute after Serbia substitute Marko Pantelic had put the visiting side ahead 15 minutes from time in the friendly at Croke Park. Trapattoni, appointed in February, said the team had improved compared to their performance against Brazil in a 1-0 defeat in Dublin in February and it was a good first step ahead of the qualifiers for the 2010 World Cup. "I am happy because we didn't deserve to lose this match," Trapattoni told a news conference. "We certainly made a step ahead this evening."—MNA/Reuters



British Boxer Ricky Hatton (L) and Mexican boxer Juan Lazcano vie during their Light Welterweight Boxing Championship of the world title bout in Manchester. Hatton retained his IBO light-welterweight title after earning a unanimous points victory over Juan Lazcano at the City of Manchester stadium.—INTERNET

Capello wants ambitious England
Three Lions chief in call to players

LONDON, 25 May — England coach Fabio Capello has set his sights on guiding England to the 2010 World Cup final. Capello, who took over as England manager from Steve McClaren, is confident he can enjoy success with the national side. The wily Italian believes England need to be ambitious if they want to achieve success and Capello has called on his players to change their mentality. Capello told The FA's official website: "I think I can take England further than Bobby Robson in 1990, why not? I have always worked to arrive at the top, why should I think



Fabio Capello

differently? "I have been with Roma, Juventus, Milan, Real Madrid and always wanted to go to the very top. I don't understand why people feel differently. We need to be ambitious." "We have good material here and have been

competitive against every team. My ambition is to arrive at the top. You have to work to change the mentality." "I believe we can do that but the players must also believe. By September I will have the full picture." Capello is keen to see build on the success enjoyed by England's club teams, inspiring the players to bring their domestic form into the international stage. "England had two teams in the Champions League final and they are ambitious teams. You have to transmit the same ambitions in the England team," added Capello. Internet

သတိပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်

ယခုရာသီကာလသည် ဝမ်းလျှောဝမ်းပျက်ရောဂါဖြစ်ပွားတတ်သည့်အချိန်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။ မသန့်ရှင်းသော ရေသောက်သုံးခြင်းနှင့် မသန့်ရှင်းသော အစားအသောက်များစားသုံးခြင်းတို့ကြောင့် ဝမ်းလျှောဝမ်းပျက်ရောဂါများ ဖြစ်ပွားနိုင်ပါသည်။

သို့ဖြစ်ပါ၍-

* ဝမ်းလျှောဝမ်းပျက်ရောဂါကို ကာကွယ်နိုင်ရန်အတွက်

- ကလိုရင်းဆေးခပ်ထားသောရေ(သို့) ကျိုချက်ထားသော ရေကိုသာလျှင် သောက်သုံးကြရန်၊
- သန့်ရှင်းလတ်ဆတ်သော ပူနွေးသည့်အစာများကိုသာ စားသုံးကြရန်၊
- ယင်နားစာမစားရန်နှင့် အစာများကို ယင်မနားအောင် ဖုံးအုပ်ထားကြရန်၊
- ကလေး၊ လူကြီးအားလုံး သန့်ရှင်းသော ယင်လုံအိမ်သာကို သုံးစွဲကြရန်၊
- အစာမစားမီနှင့် အညစ်အကြေးကိုင်တွယ်ပြီးတိုင်း လက်ကို စင်ကြယ်အောင်ဆေးကြောကြရန်၊
- အညစ်အကြေးများကို စနစ်တကျ စွန့်ပစ်ကြရန်၊

(ထုံးဖြူးခြင်း၊ မြေဖုံးခြင်း၊ မီးရှို့ခြင်းများကိုဆောင်ရွက်ရန်)

* ဝမ်းပျက်ဝမ်းလျှောရောဂါဖြစ်ပွားပါက အနီးဆုံးကျန်းမာရေး ဌာနသို့အမြန်ဆုံးပြသရန်နှင့် လူနာများတွေ့ရှိက ကျန်းမာရေးဌာန သို့ အမြန်ဆုံးသတင်းပေးပို့ကြပါရန် နှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

သောက်သုံးရေနှင့်ပတ်သက်၍

သတိပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်

- * မသန့်ရှင်းသောသောက်ရေ၊ သုံးရေများကြောင့် ဖြည့်သူအများ ဝမ်းပျက်ဝမ်းလျှောရောဂါအန္တရာယ် ကျရောက်နိုင်ပါသည်။
- * သောက်ရေ၊ သုံးရေမှန်သမျှကို ကျိုချက်၍ဖြစ်စေ၊ ကလိုရင်းဆေးခပ်ပြီးမှဖြစ်စေ သောက်သုံးပါ။
- * ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာနမှ သောက်သုံးရန်မသင့်ဟု ကြေငြာထားသော သောက်ရေသန့်များကို မသောက်သုံးသင့်ပါ။
- * ရေသန့်ပင်ဖြစ်လင့်ကစား မသက်သာပါက ရေကိုကျိုချက်ပြီးမှ သောက်ပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Asleep in Jesus

Miss J Elizabeth Laban

Age 68 years

Assistant, Embassy of India (Retired)

D/O Late Mr J Laban and Mrs J Esther Laban sister of Lycia Grace+B K George, (Clara)+S Krishna Moorthy, and J Samson Laban (a) Sam+Kokila. Aunt of 12 nieces and nephews fell asleep in Jesus on Monday, 26.5.08 at 5:45 pm. The funeral cortege will leave 125th Street at 12:00 noon on Tuesday, 27.5.08 for entombment at Yayway Christian Cemetery.

Bereaved family



Tuesday, 27 May
View on today

7:00 am

1. တောင်တန်းသာသနာပြုဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၏ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. ချစ်စရာအရွယ်ကကြီးသွယ်

8:00 am

5. Song of national races

8:30 am

6. International news

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Musical programme

4:30 pm

3. Songs of yesteryears

4:45 pm

4. Songs to uphold

National Spirit

5:00 pm

5. Sings and Enjoy

6:00 pm

6. Evening news

6:30 pm

7. Weather report

6:35 pm

8. ကြယ်ပွင့်များရဲ့ရင်ခုန်သံ

6:50 pm

9. သုတစုံလင်ရွှေညောင်ရှင်

7:00 pm

10. နာဂစ်စံဆိုင်ကလွန်းမုန်တိုင်းအပြီး မြန်မာအစိုးရ၏ ကယ်ဆယ် ကူညီပေးရေးနှင့် ပြန်လည် ထူထောင်ရေးဆောင်ရွက်မှုများ

7:20 pm

11. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ချစ်တယ်---ချစ်တယ်” (အပိုင်း-၂၃) (ဇာတ်သိမ်းပိုင်း)

8:00 pm

12. News

13. နာဂစ်စံဆိုင်ကလွန်းမုန်တိုင်းအပြီး

- မြန်မာအစိုးရ၏ ကယ်ဆယ် ကူညီပေးရေးနှင့် ပြန်လည် ထူထောင်ရေးဆောင်ရွက်မှုများ

14. International news

15. Weather report

16. မြန်မာ့ဒီယိုဇာတ်လမ်း

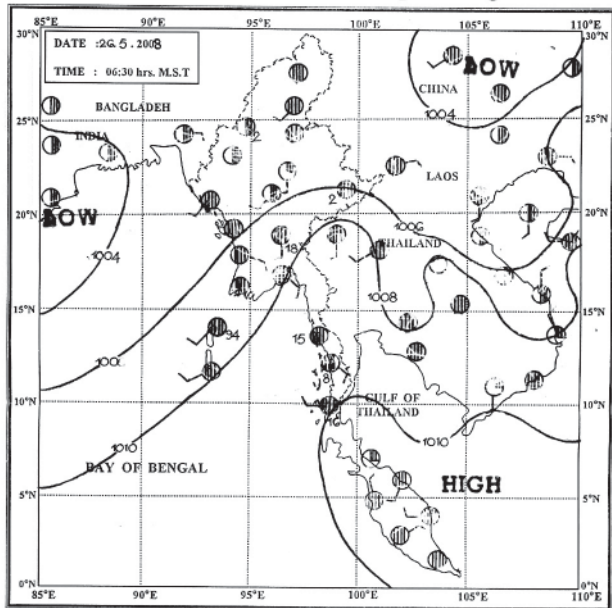
“စံပျော်ရစ်စေ”(အပိုင်း-၂)

(လူမင်း၊ သုတစုံ၊ ထက်ထက်၊ နီနီ)

(ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဟိန်းစိုး)

WEATHER

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Monday, 26 May, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours

MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Kayin State and Taninthayi Division, fairly widespread in Mon State and Yangon Division, scattered in Shan State, Sagaing and Bago Divisions, isolated in Chin State and Mandalay Division, weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions with isolated heavyfalls in Mon and Kayin States, Yangon Division. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above May average temperatures in Kachin, Rakhine and Kayah States, Taninthayi Division (5°C) to (6°C) above May average temperatures in Shan State, Magway, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions and about May average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperatures were Chauk and Magway (40°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Thaton (3.97) inches, Coco Island (3.70) inches, Hpa-an (3.35) inches, Katha (1.42) inches and Namsam (0.90) inch.

Maximum temperature on 25-5-2008 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 26-5-2008 was 75°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 26-5-2008 was 84%. Total sunshine hours on 25-5-2008 was (1.4) hours approx.

Rainfall on 26-5-2008 was (0.04) inch at Mingaladon, and (Nil) at Kaba-Aye and (Tr) Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (27.80) 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 Southwest at (14:30) hours MST on 25-5-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 27-5-2008: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Mon and Kayin States, Taninthayi Division, scattered to fairly widespread in Rakhine State, Ayeyawady, Bago, and Yangon Divisions and isolated in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times 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: Moderate monsoon in the Andaman Sea, South Bay and Central bay of Bengal.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 27-5-2008: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 27-5-2008: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 27-5-2008: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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Commission for holding Referendum holds meeting (10/2008)



Chief Justice U Aung Toe addresses the meeting of Commission for holding Referendum (10/2008).
MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 26 May—The meeting (10/2008) of Commission for Holding Referendum for approval of draft constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was held at the meeting hall of the Commission for Holding Referendum at Building No 22 here this morning.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Commission for Holding Referendum Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Secretary, Joint-Secretary and members of the Commission.

The Chairman of the Commission for Holding Referendum presided over the meeting and Secretary U Win Ko acted as master of ceremonies.

First, the Chairman delivered a speech.

Next, those present touched upon work done and took part in the discussions on matters relating to holding referendum for approval of the draft constitution.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the Chairman of the Commission.—MNA

Maj-Gen Tha Aye inspects work in Dawei District

NAY PYI TAW, 26 May — Maj-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence and Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo inspected physic nut plantation and rubber plantation of Kanbauk station on 21 May.

Maj-Gen Tha Aye met servicemen of Kanbauk station and provided cash assistance for them.

He paid homage to Kalein Aung Pagoda, made cash donation and inspected renovation to the pagoda. He also visited Yanaung Myin Pagoda.

Maj-Gen Tha Aye met with departmental officials and staff at Township Administration Department. Officials reported on regional food sufficiency and development and the commander gave supplementary reports.

At Kalein Aung station, he met families of

Tatmadawmen and rendered cash assistance to them.

Later, Maj-Gen Tha Aye visited Oil Palm Factory of Kaung Htet Co Ltd in Yayphyu Township. At the construction site of three-story main building of Technological University (Dawei), Principal Dr Tun Naing Htwe and the project engineer reported on teaching and learning, and construction of the university. Maj-Gen Tha Aye called for timely completion of the university. Technological University (Dawei) lies near Maungme Shaung village on Yangon-Dawei highway in Dawei. It is the kind of three-story building and nearing completion. Over 3,000 students can learn there.

Maj-Gen Tha Aye also met with servicemen of Aung San station and their families, and presented cash assistance to them.

MNA

Mandalay Div PDC provides storm victims with 100 power tillers

NAY PYI TAW, 26 May—Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Tin Ngwe on 14 May morning inspected power tillers, cargo motorcycles, threshers and Htawla-Gs displayed at the Mandalay Power Tiller Plant of Good Brothers Co Ltd in Industrial Zone-1, Pyigy Tagun Township, Mandalay.

At the briefing hall, Marketing Manager U Myo Hsaung reported on work power tillers to the commander who gave necessary instructions.

Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council purchased 100 units of power tillers worth K 70 million. The power tillers will be delivered to storm-hit regions.

The power tillers can be used for generating electricity. They can be used for other purposes such as water pumping. The company offers free services under its two year-guarantee.

MNA

NPED Minister and Swedish Minister of IDC inspect relief and rehabilitation tasks in Pyapon Township

YANGON, 26 May — Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for International Development and Cooperation of Sweden Ms. Gunilla Carlsson and Swedish Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr. Lennart Linner and party left Yangon International Airport for Pyapon by helicopter this morning.

In Pyapon, Minister U Soe Tha together with Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing inspected health care services for the storm victims at

the clinic jointly opened by India-Myanmar mobile medical teams and they consoled them.

Next, Minister U Soe Tha, Minister Ms. Gunilla Carlsson and party consoled the storm victims at No 1 relief camp in Pyapon and Kyonda village relief camp.

They inspected the measures for relief and rehabilitation tasks.

They also inspected storm-hit Kungyangon and Twante Townships by helicopter and came back to Yangon.—MNA



Minister U Soe Tha and Ms Gunilla Carlsson, Minister for International Development and Cooperation of Sweden, chat with storm victims at a relief camp in Dedaye.—MNA