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The New Light of Myanmar

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Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Lt-Gen Myint Swe supervises clearing of fallen trees and debris, reconstruction of buildings

YANGON, 28 May — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, 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, inspected repair of power lines, reconstruction of the damaged buildings and clearing of trees uprooted during the storm in downtown Yangon this morning.

They viewed substitution of lamp-posts along Parami, Yangon-Insein and Mindhamma Roads and reinstallation of 33 KV power lines.

They also looked into clearing of fallen trees undertaken by Tatmadawmen from Taikkyi Station in the compound of Kamayut Basic Education High School No. 1, clearing of debris carried out by workers of YCDC along New University Avenue and Aungzeya Road and sanitation task being carried out at Kyaikkasan Pagoda and Mingala roads in Thingangyun Township by Tatmadawmen from Hmawby Station.

Later, Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspected clearing of debris and reconstruction of buildings in Thingangyun Township and left necessary instructions. — *MNA*

Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects removal of fallen trees in the compound of No. 1 BEHS in Kamayut Township. — MNA

INSIDE

Everybody may make donations at will

In practice, every well-wisher may freely make donations. There is no restriction, in this regard. Well-wishers may present their donations right to the hands of the victims and go right down to any storm-hit area at will. Local authorities do not impose any restrictions on any forms of donation at all.

PAGES 8+9

KYAW YE MIN

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 29 May, 2008

Speed up development of storm-hit areas in cooperation with companies

Ayeyawady, Bago and Yangon Divisions are major rice producing areas and they provide not only local consumption needs but also international food requirements.

Over one million acres of cultivable lands were flooded with sea water in seven townships in Ayeyawady Division, three in Yangon Division, two in Bago Division and three in Mon State during the storm earlier this month. Moreover, over 200,000 cattle were lost.

Many paddy fields and farmlands were destroyed. Seeds, fertilizers, cattle, fuel and power-tillers are needed for production of paddy.

In order to restart agricultural work, companies, associations and industrial zones provide power-tillers. Moreover, the government will provide necessary assistance for fisheries and salt industries in the storm-affected areas.

Power-tillers arrived in Dedaye, one of the storm-hits townships and the farmers will reclaim the land by using the power-tillers in their fields with the help of drivers of Agricultural Mechanization Department.

Necessary assistance is being provided for livelihood of the people in some worst-hit areas in Ayeyawady Division. In addition, the tasks for rebuilding of towns and villages and houses are being implemented and the needs for education, transport, food and health care services are being provided to the villages.

Regional development will be brought about in storm-hit regions through the assistance of the government and cooperation of local and foreign donors including companies.

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**

Wellwishers invited to donate construction materials

YANGON, 28 May — Monasteries and religious buildings in Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions were damaged in the storm.

Those wishing to donate cash, CI sheets and construction materials for reconstruction of the damaged monasteries and religious buildings may contact Director U Zarni Win of Religious Affairs Department (Ph: 0986-00115 and 0951-35837), Ministry of Religious Affairs (Yangon Branch) on Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road and Deputy Director U Soe Naing of Yangon Division Religious Affairs Department (Ph: 01-726088 and 0951-91507).

MNA

Sports Minister looks into reconstruction tasks in Kawhmu Township

YANGON, 28 May — Member of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint on 26 May met responsible persons from Thawdawin Construction Co, local authorities and school heads of Basic Education Middle School and seven BEPSs at Yekyaw Village BEMS in Kawhmu Township.

They discussed reconstruction tasks of the villages. The minister presented relief supplies to the storm victims.

At Kyaikhtaw BEHS, the minister held a meeting with responsible persons from the company, local authorities, officials of the station hospital and school heads of one BEHS and seven BEPSs, and they discussed reconstruction tasks in the villages.

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presents relief supplies to storm survivors in Yekyaw Village in Kawhmu Township. —SPED

After fulfilling the requirements, the minister gave relief goods to the storm victims.

The medical team that accompanied the minister provided health care services to 136 people in Yekyaw Village and 150 in Kyaikhtaw (North) Village. Apart from the relief supplies provided by the government, Thawdawin Construction Co donated 500 bags of rice, 1,000 CI sheets, 600 bottles of purified drinking water, 30 packages of dried noodle and 20 viss of nail to the victims.

MNA

U Kyaw Naing and Academy Daw Swe Zin Htaik hand over relief aid to U Myint Thein Pe, U Khant Sithu and U Aung Khaing.

MNA

Supplies for 400 households donated

YANGON, 28 May — Wellwishers handed over cash and kind for the storm victims to the group comprising Myanmar Motion Picture Association and film stars who are performing relief tasks for the storm victims in Ayeyawady and Yangon divisions yesterday afternoon.

At the office of MMPA in Bahan Township, U Kyaw Naing, Excellent Performance for Social Field (Third Class) award winner, and Academy Daw Swe Zin Htaik handed over blankets, clothes, soaps and water purified tablets worth K 2 million for 400 households donated by Dr Ebrahim and Dr Rohani (Sheiphia Holding Co Ltd/ Malaysia), U Kyaw Naing (Managing Director of Kyaw Naing Associates, U Kan Myint (Gandama Kan Myint Construction) U Zaw Min (Zaw Min Trading), U Ba Tun (A-1), U Zaw Win (Just Fashion), U Win Htoo (Milano Fashion), U Sein Pan (52nd Street) and Academy Daw Swe Zin Htaik (Managing Director of CSG Co Ltd).

Chairman of MMPA U Myint Thein Pe, actor Khant Sithu and Academy Aung Khaing accepted the donations and spoke words of thanks. —*MNA*

Russia warns US on missile defence

Moscow, 28 May—A top Russian general warned on Tuesday that the military will respond to US missile defense plans with countermeasures, and said Washington's trust-building proposals have bogged down in diplomatic arguments.

Lt Gen Yevgeny Buzhinsky told reporters that Russia was thinking about "asymmetrical" steps if the United States deploys missile defense elements in Europe. He said Moscow has no intention of building a similar missile shield, but refused to elaborate on what specific measures the military might take.

Buzhinsky said Russia appreciated US proposals intended to soothe Russian concerns, but added they were not enough to change Moscow's perception that the US system would undermine its security.

Washington has promised to delay activating the planned new sites in Poland and the Czech Republic unless Iran proves itself an imminent threat to Europe. It also offered to let Russian officers monitor the sites to make sure they are not directed against Russia.

Internet

***Gas flows from the crater surrounded by hot mud in Porong, Sidoarjo district. An Indonesian "mud volcano" that has oozed sludge for two years is collapsing under its own weight, worsening an environmental disaster that has displaced thousands, a study said on 28 May 2008.—*Internet**

British submarine hits rocks in Red Sea, no casualties reported

London, 28 May—A nuclear-powered submarine of Britain's Royal Navy hit rocks beneath the surface of the Red Sea, but there were no casualties and the vessel has now safely surfaced, the Ministry of Defence said Tuesday.

The collision occurred Monday when the HMS Superb was diving in the northern Red Sea, the ministry said in a statement.

The Swiftsure-class attack submarine, which does not carry nuclear weapons, remains watertight and its nuclear reactor was "completely unaffected," it added.

A ministry spokesman refused to reveal the vessel's current mission in the area, which he said was being reassessed as its sonar was damaged.

An investigation into the cause of the accident is underway, the ministry said.—*Internet*

Iraqi men flee the site of a roadside bomb after it exploded, in Baghdad, Iraq, on 26 May, 2008.

Internet

Spain rescues 67 immigrants from sea, two dead

Madrid, 28 May—Spanish Coast Guard boats rescued 67 immigrants, including two corpses, from the sea near the Canary Islands on Sunday, an emergency services spokesman said. The immigrants were in a bad state and three have been taken to hospital with hypothermia, a Red Cross spokesman told state radio.

Thousands of illegal immigrants attempt the journey from Africa to Spain's Canary Islands every year in open-topped wooden boats. Many die trying to reach Europe in search of work. Most choose to set sail in the summer when conditions are less treacherous for the crossing to the Spanish islands, which lie hundreds of miles from the African coast.

MNA/Reuters

US military deaths toll in Iraq war at 4,085

Washington, 28 May—As of Tuesday, 27 May, 2008, at least 4,085 members of the US military have died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003, according to an *Associated Press* count.

The figure includes eight military civilians killed in action. At least 3,328 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The *AP* count is two higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated Tuesday at 10 am EDT.

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

Oil prices drop below $129

New York, 28 May—Crude futures dropped sharply to below 129 US dollars a barrel Tuesday as the demand concern began to weigh on the market.

Light, sweet crude for July delivery settled at 128.85 dollars a barrel, trading down 3.34 dollars, on the New York Mercantile Exchange. And the price continued to fall as low as 128.18 dollars a barrel in the after-hour electronic trading. A series of supply warnings sent oil prices skyrocketing to an all-time high of 135.09 dollars a barrel on Thursday.

Speculative traders were heavy sellers Tuesday, cashing in profits from last week's oil price rally. Some analysts believed that investors pulled back on the concern that the soaring oil and gas prices have hurt demand for fuel during the normally busy summer driving season.

A rising dollar, which gained ground against the euro on Tuesday, also contributed to the fall of oil prices.

In London, Brent crude futures for July delivery fell 4.06 dollars to settle at 128.31 dollars a barrel on the ICE Futures Exchange.

Internet

Aftershock damages, destroys almost 4,000 homes in NW China

Xi'an, 28 May—A seismic aftershock that struck Ningqiang County of northwest China's Shaanxi Province on Tuesday left one person injured, 860 houses destroyed and 3,100 damaged, said a provincial government official.

As of 12:30 am on Wednesday, no other casualties or losses had been reported in other parts of Shaanxi, said a spokesman of the provincial emergency management office.

The 5.7-magnitude aftershock hit the county in Hanzhong City at about 4 pm on Tuesday.

The province set up a quake relief headquarters in Hanzhong immediately after the tremor and ordered residents in neighboring counties to be evacuated from dilapidated houses or buildings withcracks.—*Internet*

***A mechanic installs a bottle of compressed natural gas into a vehicle at a garage in Bangkok on 27 May, 2008. —*Internet**

*Workers vamp the inner of the Zhongshan Warship Museum with the historical cruiser "Zhongshan", salvaged out of the Yangtze River on 28 January, 1997, well placed on its preset berth, as its relocation project passed formal appraisal, at Jinkou Town, Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei Province, on 26 May, 2008. —*XINHUA

Iran conservatives support ex-N-chief for post of speaker

TEHERAN, 28 May— Iran's majority conservatives on Sunday elected Ali Larijani, former top nuclear negotiator, as the candidate for speaker in the new Parliament.

The conservatives chose Larijani by 161 votes against 50 for the outgoing speaker Gholam Ali Haddad Adel, the official *IRNA* news agency reported.

Larijani quit as top nuclear negotiator last year and was elected to Parliament in March.

Conservatives secured a majority in the new Parliament, winning 69 per cent of the 290 seats in elections in March.

The new parliament will hold its first meeting on Tuesday, but it is not clear whether the speaker would be officially elected the same day.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi troops seize weapons in Baghdad Shiite bastions

BAGHDAD, 28 May— Iraqi soldiers seized Friday three large weapon caches in a mosque and a hospital during clearing operations in Shiite militia strongholds in Baghdad, the US military said on Sunday.

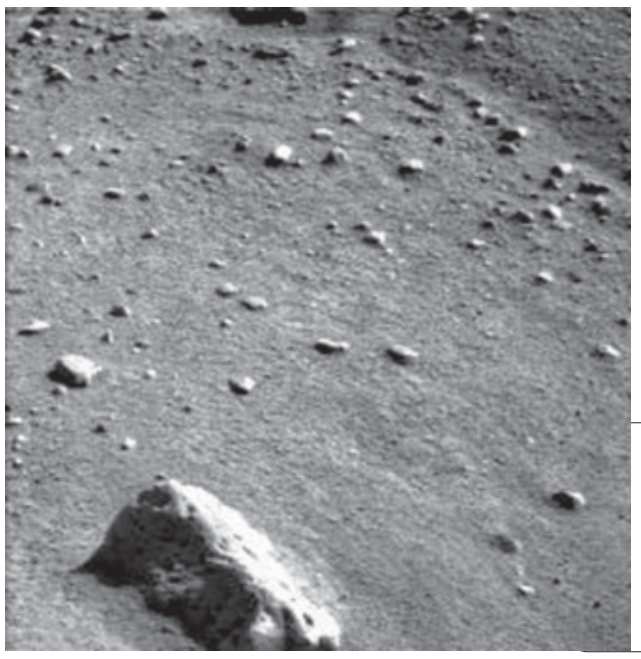
Two caches containing more than 360 *AK-47* assault rifles, 12 sniper rifles, anti-tank mines, 100 rocket-propelled grenade rounds and multiple RPG launchers, were seized from inside and just outside a mosque in the Shu'lah neighbourhood in northern Baghdad, a military statement said.

The troops also discovered remains of a woman and two men at the site, the statement said.

A third weapons cache was found in a hospital in Baghdad's eastern Shiite slum of Sadr City, it said.

The cache contained more than 100 rocket-propelled grenade rounds, 60 home-made grenades, explosives and ammunition, it added.

According to the military, US and Iraqi troops seized up 38 caches in Sadr City since Sadr's Mahdi Army militiamen struck a deal in May 10 with the Iraqi Government that let the troops to enter Shiite neighbourhoods and have a greater control of the streets. — *MNA/Xinhua*



*This image provided by NASA/JPL-Caltech/ University of Arizona shows a view of Martian northern polar region made by the Surface Stereo Imager Right on NASA's Phoenix Mars Lander.—*INTERNET

Prime suspect to stand trial in Siemens bribery scandal

FRANKFURT, 28 May — One of the main suspects in a corruption and bribery scandal that shook German engineering group Siemens will stand trial on Monday at a Munich court on charges of embezzlement. Reinhard Siekaczek, who worked at Siemens for almost four decades, is accused of expanding a system of funds for bribes to win contracts and setting up a network of front firms to facilitate the transfer of cash.

The scandal, which resulted in one of the biggest bribery investigations in German corporate history and prompted the departure of the company's chairman, Heinrich von Pierer, as well as its chief executive, has tarnished the image of a German industrial icon.

The court, which has allotted 15 days for the trial, is expected to hear testimony from von Pierer and Thomas Ganswindt, who used to run Siemens's telecoms business.

MNA/Reuters

US company to train Nigerian pilots, engineers

LAGOS, 28 May— The Boeing Aircraft Manufacturing Company has concluded arrangements to train Nigerian pilots and engineers on the changing trends in aircraft piloting, according to local reports on Monday.

Sam Adurogboye, Media Assistant in the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), told newsmen Sunday in Lagos that the programme would focus on flight operators and pilot training.

Adurogboye said the training became necessary because Boeing had 70 per cent of the air crafts flying Nigeria's airspace.

He said the programme would be sponsored by the company, in partnership with the NCAA.

MNA/Xinhua

Nigeria ruling party wins two re-run elections

LAGOS, 28 May— Nigeria's ruling party has retained the governorships of the oil-producing state of Bayelsa and of northern Sokoto in re-runs of elections last year that were condemned as not credible, officials said on Sunday. The courts had annulled the election of nine state governors after polls in April last year which foreigner observers said were flawed.

The People's Democratic Party (PDP) has won all four state re-runs so far held, with victories in central Kogi state in March and in northeast Adamawa state last month.

The national electoral body said on state television that Aliyu Wamakko polled 562,395 votes in the election in Sokoto to defeat his closest rival Maigari Dingyadi of the Democratic Peoples Party, who had 124,046 votes.

In Bayelsa, Timipre Slyva scored a landslide against Ebitimi Amgbare of the opposition Action Congress Party, electoral officials said.

The rerun governorship polls on Saturday were generally peaceful, but turnout was low, local media said.

The April 2007 elections were billed as a democratic landmark in Africa's top oil producing nation, marking the first transfer of power from one elected leader to another since independence from Britain in 1960.

MNA/Reuters

*A team of Australian archaeologists are seen working in an excavation site in Fromelle, northern France, Wednesday, May 28, 2008, the scene of a World War I battlefield.—*INTERNET

Rising food prices hurting poorest in war zones

GENEVA, 28 May—Millions of people already suffering because of armed conflicts are likely to be particularly hard hit by the current increase in food prices, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) warned on Tuesday.

"The recent rise in food and fuel prices is making life even harder for poor people already struggling to cope with the effects of war and internal violence," said ICRC President Jakob Kellenberger in a statement.

"This is especially the case in countries such as Chad, Somalia, Yemen, Afghanistan and Haiti," he said.

In its annual report on 2007, which was released on Tuesday, ICRC announced a total expenditure of 944 million Swiss francs (about 917 million U.S. dollars), with 45 percent of field expenditure last year going to Africa and 21 percent to the Middle East.

The welfare of people forced by fighting to flee their homes continued to be a priority for the ICRC.

In 2007 it assisted more than 4 million internally displaced people—around half a million more than in 2006—especially in places not covered by other organizations on security grounds.

Kellenberger expressed concern that in many armed conflicts, civilians are being specifically targeted, with effects that devastate the lives of millions of men, women and children.

"This report draws attention to the countless violations of international humanitarian law that we witnessed throughout the world last year and it documents the ICRC's efforts to put a stop to those violations," he said.

"Greater respect for the law would mean fewer civilians being killed or wounded, fewer women and girls being raped, and fewer people forced to leave their homes," he added.

Internet

Shoppers pick up vegetables in a supermarket in Hanoi,Vietnam, on 27 May, 2008. Rising food and construction costs drove Vietnam's inflation rate to 25 percent in May, the highest rate in more than a decade.—INTERNET

Iran says ElBaradei report approves its peaceful use of nuke program

VIENNA, 28 May—Iranian Ambassador to IAEA Ali Asghar Soltanieh said here Tuesday the report of the IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei approved that all atomic programs of Iran are for peaceful use and no nuclear-related military programs were found.

He reaffirmed that Iran had clarified all unresolved problems, saying that "we have made necessary explanations" to all questions and Iran would continue "cooperating with IAEA."

However, some media pointed out that ElBaradei's latest report, which was circulated Monday evening to the UN Security Council and the IAEA Board of Governors still showed serious concern on the nuclear programs of Iran.

Therefore, the agency would require "substantive explanations" from Iran to support its statements on the alleged studies and other information with a possible military dimension.

Some media even said the report mentioned Iran's uranium enrichment facilities were still on increase.

So far the report has not been published. However, according to media in Vienna, this draft report was a development on the report which was published on 22 Feb, and said Iran did not offer enough explanation on some problems, especially those ranged over high explosives testing and the missile re-entry vehicle project as well as uranium-related components.

Internet

243 aftershocks monitored in quake zone from Tuesday noon to Wednesday noon

BEIJING, 28 May—A total of 243 aftershocks were monitored in quake-affected zones between Tuesday noon and Wednesday noon, according to the China Seismological Bureau.

The aftershocks included a magnitude 5.7 tremor centering on Ningqiang County of northwest China's Shaanxi Province at 4:37 pm Tuesday, and a magnitude 5.4 jolt which struck Qingchuan County of Sichuan Province around 4:03 pm Tuesday.

They also included three aftershocks measured above magnitude 4,and 238 very feeble shocks below magnitude 3.9, sources with the bureau said.

As of Wednesday noon, 8,911 aftershocks had been monitored in the quake-hit areas, according to the bureau.

A devastating earthquake measuring 8 on the Richter scale rocked Wenchuan County of Sichuan on 12 May, leading to 68,109 deaths nationwide as of Wednesday noon.

Internet

Heavy snowstorm kills 21 in Mongolia

ULAN BATOR, 28 May—At least 21 people were frozen to death in a heavy snowstorm which swept through seven provinces in Mongolia since Monday, said the Mongolian General Authority for Emergency Management (GAEM) Wednesday.

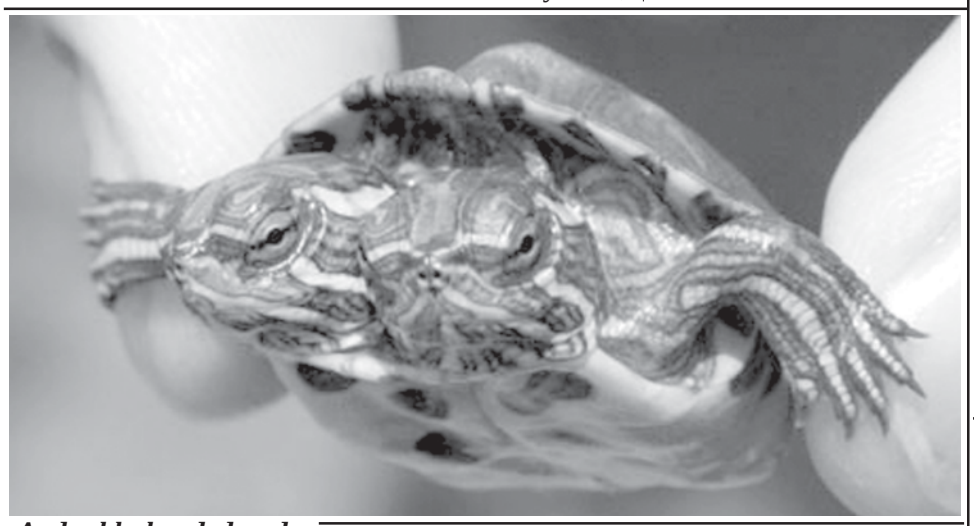
Now the GAEM is still in search of 51 people who got lost in the snowstorm.

In the eastern province of Suhbaatar, the wind speed had once reached 40 meters per second.

The snowstorm has also caused damage to buildings and electronic infrastructure, according to the GAEM.

Snowstorms usually occur in spring in Mongolia.

Internet



A double-headed red-eared slider turtle "Takara," named after a boy who found it at a park nearby and meaning "treasure" in Japanese, is shown in Moriyama, western Japan 27 May, 2008. Researchers say it is very rare for such a turtle to be found alive and added that it is highly unlikely that the cause was due to pollution but rather a natural phenomenon. —XINHUA

Indonesia finds large offshore gas reserve

JAKARTA, 28 May—A survey team has discovered a major gas deposit with estimated reserve of 10 trillion cubic feet in Indonesia's West Timor Sea off East Nusa Tenggara province, local press said Wednesday.

The survey was conducted by Inpex Masela Ltd, which established partnership with state-run oil and gas firm Pertamina, reported the national Antara news agency, citing government officials.

Ferdi Tanoni, who leads a working group on the offshore exploration in the West Timor Sea, urged the government to order Inpex Masela to begin exploiting the gas deposits for immediate benefits.—*Internet*

A traditional wind tower is seen on top of a building, in the old quarter of Dubai's Bastakiya, on 15 May, 2008.—INTERNET

Nay Pyi Taw observes enrollment day ceremony

NAY PYI TAW, 28 May—A ceremony to observe School Enrollment Day for 2008-09 academic year was held at No 6 Basic Education High School, here, yesterday morning.

Students sang school enrollment song at the ceremony. Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin made a speech.

Chairman of Central Leading Committee for Enrollment of All School-Age Children Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein also spoke.

The commander presented stipend for Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon, Nay Pyi Taw Lewe Townships in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana District to chairmen of township Peace and Development Councils.

The minister also presented textbooks for kindergarten in three townships to the respective township education officers.

Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt accepted cash donations from the wellwishers and donors.

Next,the commander and party inspected measures taken for school enrollment for 2008-09 academic year.

MNA

***Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin presents stipend for students in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana District. —* MNA**

***Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo receives Deputy Director-General Mr He Chaung Chui and Acting Resident Representative Mr Leon Gouns of FAO. —* A & I**

A & I Minister receives WHO officials

YANGON, 28 May—Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo received Deputy Director-General of Food and Agriculture Organization and Resident Representative for Asia and Pacific Region Mr He Chaung Chui and Acting Resident Representative of FAO to Myanmar Mr Leon Gouns at Irrigation Department in Yankin Township on 25 May.

They cordially discussed matters relating to works to be done for regenerating of farming in storm-hit areas and programmes for boosting of rice production in other regions in order to save rice production decline in storm-affected areas.

MNA

***Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint accepts slippers worth K 17.5 million donated by a wellwisher. —* MNA**

Slippers donated to storm victims

YANGON, 28 May—Waidi Shoe Store and Lily Shoe Collection family donated 2,050 pairs of foreign-made slippers worth K 17.5 million to storm victims at Maykhalar Hall of Fire Services Department (Head Office) in Mayangon Township yesterday afternoon. Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint accepted the slippers and thanked the donors.—*MNA*

Seven schools in Labutta Tsp restored

YANGON, 28 May—A total of seven schools including Nos 1 and 2 Basic Education High Schools and BEPSs have already been repaired in Labutta.

The schools in the township were destroyed by the storm.

The damaged schools are being repaired by earnest efforts of Naing-Ngan Thar Companies under the close supervision of Member of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Tin Htut.

The roof-damaged schools are also being renovated village-wise. The repair tasks have to be completed before the school season.

MNA

***A truck is loaded with power-tillers to be sent to Ayeyawady Division. —*MNA**

Relief aids shipped to Bogale, Mawlamyinegyun

YANGON, 28 May — Shwenady ship, carrying relief aids, shipped to Bogale and Mawlamyinegyun from Phonegyi Street No 1 jetty, here yesterday afternoon.

The ship was loaded with 140 tons of foodstuff, clothes, tarpaulin rolls, generators, water purifiers, blankets, drinking water bottles and medicines donated by local and foreign donors.

MNA

President of MWAF Daw Khin Khin Win accepts K 1 million donated by Myanmar Dental Centre.

MNA

Cash donated to MWAF

YANGON, 28 May— A ceremony to donate cash to the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation took place at the federation today.

President of the federation Daw Khin Khin Win accepted the donations and presented certificates of honour to the donors.

Vice-President Daw Khin Thet Htay and CEC members were among the attendees.

DENT Myanmar Dental Centre presented K 1,000,000 and Dr Tun Min Latt-Dr Win Min Soe of Allure Group, K 1,000,000 to the federation.—*MNA*

Painting Exhibition to be held to raise funds for storm victim artists

YANGON, 28 May— The executives' meeting of Myanmar Traditional Artists and Artisans Organization (Central) was held at the meeting hall of Bogyoke Market recently, attended by Vice-Chairmen U Thant Sin (a) Bagyi Hla Tin Tun, U Saw Hlaing, U Aung Thein, Secretary U Kyi Win (Today), Joint-Secretary U Mya Lwin and executives.

The meeting decided to organize a painting exhibition to raise funds for storm victim artists at the office of the organization from 17 to 26 June. Those wishing to participate in the fund-raising painting exhibition are to deliver their paintings to the office not later than 10 June.

CEC member artist U Min Wai Aung and wife Daw Than Than Maw (New Treasure Art Gallery) and U Htay Aung of Intha Gallery donated rice and cash for the first time. Those wishing to donate may contact the organization (Central).

H

Deputy Minister consoles storm victim patients

YANGON, 28 May – Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo met with the deputy directors-general, directors and deputy directors of Health Department at the meeting hall of Central Medical Store Depot this morning and gave instructions on sending medical teams, storage of medicines, systematic providing of medicines and preventive measures against diarrhoea and infectious diseases.

The deputy minister inspected storage of medicines and medical equipment donated by international community and distribution and packaging processes.

Next, the deputy minister and party visited Yangon General Hospital and consoled the storm patients who are undergoing treatments at the operation theaters and surgical wards. The deputy minister presented cash assistance to midwife Daw Khin Mar Aye from Pyapon Township and attended to the needs. – *MNA*

Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo comforts storm victims receiving treatment at Yangon General Hospital. — MNA

Supplies from abroad arriving at Yangon International Airport

YANGON, 28 May — AN-12 flight carrying 13.601 tons of empty bottles for purified water, water purifiers and equipment, water purifying tablets, mosquito nets, stoves, tarpaulins and health equipment donated by Thai-based WFP, IL-76 flight carrying 38.925 tons of blankets, mosquito nets, plastic rolls and kitchen utensils by Dubai-based UNHCR of UAE, C-130 carrying 11.9 tons of eggs, dried noodle and clothes by U Aung Myaing and U Lin Kyi of Thailand through the office of Myanmar Military Attaché Office four C-130 flights carrying 36 tons of mosquito nets, dried noodle and eggs by the US, A-300 flight carrying 38.58 tons of plastic rolls by Reletx Relief Supplies of the UK, two MD-11 flights carrying 149.96 tons of foods, medicines, milk and tents by Saudi Arabia and DG-8 flight carrying 36.99 tons of health equipment and empty plastic drums of the Doctors Without Border based in Indonesia arrived at Yangon International Airport today.

The relief supplies donated from abroad for the storm victims have been arriving by air and by sea. Officials accepted the donations at the airport and ports systematically and distributed them to the storm-hit regions without delay.

MNA

Volunteers unloading relief aids from a plane at Yangon International Airport.

MNA

Everybody may make donations at will

Kyaw Ye Min

Myanmar has been hit by the cyclone 'Nargis'.

The storm is the severest of its kind in the course of Myanmar history. So, it destroyed houses and buildings in seven townships in Ayeyawady Division and 40 townships in Yangon Division and triggered tidal waves, killing a huge number of human beings and animals. Some villages, farm huts and fishery huts were swept away.

So, the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee steered by the Prime Minister held an emergency meeting during the period of the storm on 3 May, Then, rescue and relief tasks were launched as soon as possible. Rescue and resettlement works were carried out with might and main at the national level. As a result, a large number of the homeless people had been rescued and more than 1,064,000 homeless people could be evacuated and accommodated in five base camps, 15 transit camps and 12 forward camps. Moreover, drinking water and food supplies were distributed by motorboat and by helicopter in the storm-hit areas stretching to the far-flung areas.

Now, rescue tasks have been carried out to a certain degree. And food supplies, water, clothes and shelters have been provided for the victims to continue to survive. The success is largely due to the donations made by internal and international donors. It is common knowledge that the relief supplies are being delivered by car, by helicopter, by motorboat, by vessel and by naval ship as soon as possible to the victims.

Now, the victims have an easy access to food and clothes. Huts are being built for enabling them to resume their agricultural works in the upcoming monsoon. In the process, some huts are built of wood and bamboo and some, of tarpaulin sheets and plastic sheets donated by well-wishers. Plans are under way to roof schools, hospitals, departmental offices and houses with corrugated zinc sheets. In doing so, the donations of local and foreign donors play a dominant role, and we are deeply grateful to them.

The government spent initially five billion kayts on the relief and rehabilitation tasks. So far, it has spent 70 billion kyats. The amount of the cash assistance and relief aid donated by foreign countries, INGOs, NGOs, the United Nations and its agencies, and individual donors is also very huge. The people's significant contribution of cash and kind, and voluntary service well reflects their generosity and deserves recognition.

The pace of rescue and resettlement has picked up momentum. As the second phase, it is required to fulfil their requirements for enabling to resume their farming, fishery, salt farming, as well as to reconstruct houses, schools, hospitals and saltern kilns, and to provide cattle, tractors, paddy seeds for cultivation, trawlers, fishing nets and saltern kilns. In this connextion, the ASEAN-UN International Pledging Conference was held in Yangon very recently. The international and local relief aid will continue to play an important role.

We Myanmar people by nature are never hesitant to make donations due to the religious teaching. We are ready not only to donate cash and kind but also to sacrifice life and limb, if necessary, as evidenced by the generous donations being made continuously by the people from the four corners of the nation to the victims to the cyclone 'Nargis'. The amount of cash and kind donated by the people is very encouraging. It is very heartening to hear the generous donations and I have sympathetic joy for the victims accepting the supplies.

Nonetheless, these days, certain foreign radio stations are airing repeatedly some news stories as though the government has forbidden donations to the storm victims, and donors are not in a position to donate supplies to the victims freely, with the intention of misleading the people into misunderstanding the situations. In fact, those news stories are groundless. Such news stories are absolutely unacceptable to Myanmar, a Buddhist country, whose people are very generous to others.

In practice, every well-wisher may freely make donations. There is no restriction, in this regard. Well-wishers may present their donations right to the hands of the victims and go right down to any storm-hit area at will. Local authorities do not impose any restrictions on any forms of donation at all. Now, even well-wishers are invited to donate things to the storm-affected areas, let alone imposing restrictions on the donors. The more the people provide supplies, the greater benefit the victims will enjoy.

Here, I would like to present what I have heard from some witnesses and the stories relayed by some people so that well-wishers and donors can weigh the rumours. As far as I am concerned, in some regions, the people dropped snacks and things from the moving vehicles, and as a result, a large number of people were waiting along the roads for supplies. Maybe some of them were storm-victims, whereas some were opportunists. No one can know exactly where those waiting for vehicles along the roads are from and who they are.

Supposing they were victims, the people should recognize the status of the victims. The victims along the roads were in a scramble to get the dropped things from the vehicles. I would say that can tarnish the image of the country and the people, and downgrade the status of the victims. In addition, that can have adverse effects on the generosity of the donors. Indeed, the donors should show their respect in presenting their donations, while the victims should accept the donations in all modesty. There might be conflicts between victims, jostling each other for the supplies from the moving vehicles. If the conflict between two victims grows into that between two villages, and then between two village-tracts, it will not be worth it for the donors. Moreover, the donors may get evil consequences, rather than fruitful benefits. That is a notable point.

Another possible point is that the victims gather into a large crowd and they might stop the vehicles by force for things. And they might not allow a car to move on if the passengers do not make any donations to them. If so, charity may grow into a robbery without violence. There should not be such incidents. Some said that they had witnessed such incidents. I learnt that in their trip to the areas to donate things, some donors had to spare some of their supplies to present to the people waiting along the roads in order to avoid possible hostility. Donors were embarrassed in their trips to the storm-hit areas.

(See page 9)

Now, some persons are trying to exploit the natural disaster for political gains. I do not want any unnecessary restrictions on the people who are willing to make donations. Therefore, it is required of the donors to be vigilant against the real purposes of so-called donors trying to attain political gains.

Everybody may make donations at will

Kyaw Ye Min

(from page 8)

It is also learnt that township level authorities going around the township concerned warned with the use of loudspeakers that some people were dropping things from the vehicles to the victims, thereby arousing the covetousness of non-victims; and that donors were requested not to make donations along the roads and to cooperate with respective relief committees to donate things. I would like the donors to understand and accept that dropping things from moving vehicles to the victims along the roads may harm the character of local victims.

Some of such donors are making donations designed for political gains. In some cases, such people in disguise of donors incited a riot by provoking the outrage of the crowd on the road. Some shot the scenes in which people were in a scramble to get money and things dropped from moving vehicles and sold the tapes and photos to foreign media at the expense of the image of the nation and the people. If foreigners, watching those tapes and looking at those photos, misunderstand the status of our country, the image and dignity of the nation and the people will go down the drain. That is food for thought.

Now, some persons are trying to exploit the natural disaster for political gains. I do not want any unnecessary restrictions on the people who are willing to make donations. Therefore, it is required of the donors to be vigilant against the real purposes of so-called donors trying to attain political gains.

I would like to present a true story. A team made up of the chairman of Pathein NLD, the secretary and members gave away a one-thousand kyat note each to the victims at the relief camp in Pathein Basic Education High School (3). After giving away 34 notes, they engaged in conflict with local authorities. So, they stopped giving away the notes. If their donation was based on goodwill, they should present all the notes to the victims. Some of the victims who had not got a one-thousand kyat note left the camp to show their dissatisfaction. So, officials concerned had to meet and organize them and make arrangements for their convenience to proceed to their destinations. Indeed, it is NLD that incited the outrage of the victims under the pretext of donation. Officials had to address the issue crated by the NLD.

The government and the people are now working in collaboration in carrying out rehabilitation tasks at the national level. International community is making significant contribution towards the drive. In such a situation, NLD is trying to exploit the situation politically, instead of cooperating with the people. That event was a profound evidence that NLD is attempting to incite the outrage of the victims and problems, and to make the public outrage go into riots. I would say that evidence showed the selfishness and coarse manners of NLD.

In conclusion, remarkable success will be achieved in the rescue, resettlement and rehabilitation tasks and supply of relief aid in the camps only if the government, the people and the Tatmadaw work hard in harness. In this regard, the contribution of the people is greater than that of the other two. The people's donations of funds, relief and voluntary service play a crucial role. So, every citizen is urged to make donations to the victims. They may present cash or kind right in the hands of the persons and may go down to any storm-hit area of their choice. However, they should take care in doing so in order that unscrupulous persons cannot exploit the situations for political gains, and their donation may not tarnish the image of the nation and the people.

Translation: MS

Myanma Alin + Kyemon (27-5-2008)

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Every well-wisher may freely make donations. There is no restriction, in this regard.

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Local authorities do not impose any restrictions on any forms of donation at all.

Now, even well-wishers are invited to donate things to the storm-affected areas, let alone imposing restrictions on the donors.

Wood Craft Int'L Pte Ltd donates 16.6 tons of rice

YANGON, 28 May —Wellwishers are donating cash and kind continuously to the storm victims. On 17 May, Singapore-based Wood Craft International Pte Ltd donated 350 bags of rice weighing 16.6 tons to storm victims in Bogale.

MNA

***Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe accepts US $ 100,000 donated by Dr Yang Junchen (GM) of Kingbao Mining Ltd to storm victims on 28 May, 2008.*—MNA**

MMCWA donates relief supplies in Maubin

YANGON, 28 May — Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association donated relief supplies to pregnant women, students and children victims at relief camps in Maubin township, Ayeyawady Division on 26 May.

Secretary of MMCWA Dr Daw Wai Wai Tha, CEC member Dr Daw Nilar Thaw, Chairperson of Ayeyawady Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Win Win Maw and responsible persons handed over diapers, vitamins and iron tablets for pregnant women, uniforms and stationeries for students and snacks for children at all relief camps.

Later, Chair-persons of district and township MCWAs accepted K 0.5 m donated by MMCWA to Maubin township MCWA and presented certificates of honour.

MMCWA also donated medicines to the maternity clinic of general hospital.—*MNA*

***Secretary of MMCWA Dr Daw Wai Wai Tha and CEC member Dr Daw Nilar Thaw present cash to Maubin Township MCWA.*—MNA**

Dem lawyers: Fla, Mich can't be fully restored

WASHINGTON, 28 May — A Democratic Party rules committee has the authority to seat some delegates from Michigan and Florida but not fully restore the two states as Hillary Rodham Clinton wants, according to party lawyers.

Democratic National Committee rules require that the two states lose at least half of their convention delegates for holding elections too early, the party's legal experts wrote in a 38-page memo.

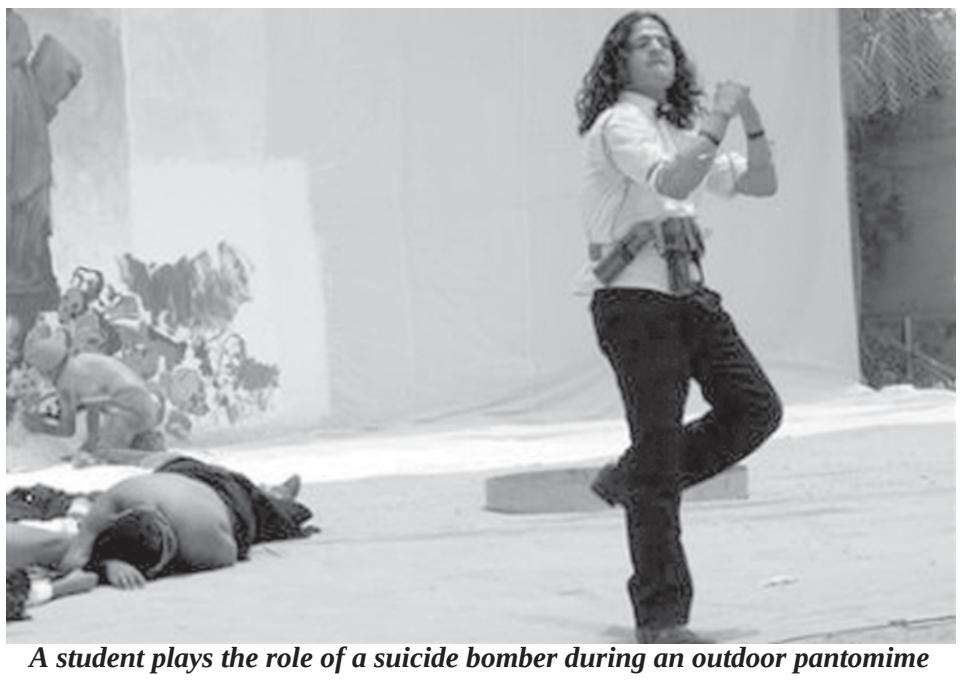
The memo was sent late Tuesday to the 30 members of the party's Rules and Bylaws Committee, which plans to meet Saturday at a Washington hotel.

The committee is considering ways to include the two important general election battlegrounds at the nominating convention in August, and the staff analysis says seating half the delegates is "as far as it legally can" go.

Saturday's meeting is expected to draw a large crowd, with Clinton supporters among those encouraging a protest outside demanding that all the states' delegates be seated. Proponents of full reseating have mailed committee members Florida oranges and pairs of shoes to get their attention.

DNC officials are concerned about a potentially large turnout at the "Count Every Vote" rally outside the event and have asked the hotel staff to increase security to keep everyone safe.

Internet



A student plays the role of a suicide bomber during an outdoor pantomime play in Baghdad, on 25 May, 2008. Fine arts students from Baghdad University took part in a play about the security situation in Iraq before an audience in Baghdad.—INTERNET

Indonesia gains support for virus sharing proposal

JAKARTA, 28 May — Indonesia's proposal for a virus-sharing mechanism to benefit developing nations has gained a major boost, with 112 countries throwing their weight behind the idea, a senior official has claimed.

The support was expressed at the recent Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Health Ministers Meeting which was attended by representatives of 193 countries, Health Minister Siti Fadilah Supari was quoted Monday by major newspaper *The Jakarta Post* as saying.

Siti said the supporting participants praised Indonesia's Responsible Virus Sharing and Benefits Sharing proposal as "more transparent, fair and equal" for developing countries.

"We received moral and political support from health ministers from England, Russia, Iran and Australia," she said.

"Russia, for example, offered cooperation in the field of healthcare, such as by providing training for medical workers, and with the production of medicines and a new avian flu vaccine."

MNA/Xinhua

Russian policemen guard the area where a Russian An-12 cargo plane crashed in 2007, four kilometres from Domodedovo airport, outside Moscow. A cargo plane crashed as it prepared to land in the city of Chelyabinsk in the Urals region of Russia on Monday, killing all nine people aboard, a spokeswoman for the emergency situations ministry said.—INTERNET

Pakistan talks lead to more Afghan attacks

KABUL, 28 May— Peace talks between the Pakistani Government and Taleban militants have already led to an increase in insurgent attacks in Afghanistan, NATO said on Sunday.

Faced with a wave of suicide attacks, Pakistan has begun negotiations with Taleban militants who control much of the mountainous region on its side of the border with Afghanistan and thinned out the number of its troops in the area.

Whatever the results of the talks, Pakistani Taleban leader Baitullah Mehsud on Saturday vowed to carry on fighting Afghan and foreign forces in Afghanistan.

"We have seen increased activity in the eastern part of the country especially, which we believe can only be attributed to the de facto ceasefires and a reduction of Pakistani military activity," NATO's civilian spokesman in Afghanistan Mark Laity told a news conference.

MNA/Reuters

Displaced immigrants at a temporary camp set up outside the Primrose Methodist Church, east of Johannesburg, prepare for the day ahead on 25 May, 2008. While the violence was dying down, thousands of displaced people remained in camps and foreigners were streaming back home.—INTERNET

Nepali parties agree on criteria for 26 CA members

KATHMANDU, 28 May — The three Nepali largest parties have agreed to share 26 seats to be nominated by the Cabinet from amongst nine political parties which have secured at least seven seats in the Constituent Assembly (CA).

According to Monday's The Kathmandu Post, this agreement was made during a meeting of the Nepali Congress, the Communist Party Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML) and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) (CPN-M) leaders held in Kathmandu on Sunday.

According to the agreement, the CPN-Maoists will recommend nine names, NC and CPN-UML five each, Madheshi People's Rights Forum two and one each by other five parties.

Out of the 26 members, the parties will nominate 10 members from the ethnic communities recommended by the Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN). The NEFIN has been demanding at least 13 seats for the 22 communities that have gone unrepresented in the CA.

MNA/Xinhua

Man sentenced to death over killing Mayor of Nagasaki

TOKYO, 28 May— A gangster accused of shooting Nagasaki Mayor Itcho Ito to death last April was convicted and sentenced to death penalty on Monday by the Nagasaki District Court.

Tetsuya Shiroo, 60, shot the mayor twice in the back with a pistol during the mayor's campaigning for re-election in front of the city's central railway station on the evening of 17 April, 2007. The mayor died the next morning in hospital due to loss of blood.

Prosecutors said Shiroo committed the crime due to grievance over the municipal government's policy which put him in financial trouble. Prosecutors said the crime was an act of terrorism and the ultimate violence against authorities.—*MNA/Xinhua*

G-8 ministers announced 3R action plan at Kobe meeting

KOBE (Japan), 28 May—The G-8 environment ministers issued "Kobe 3R Action Plan" Monday in a bid to promote the efficient use of resources and the harmonization of the environment and the economy.

By promoting sustainable consumption and production, the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) activities can contribute to increases in resource productivity and decoupling resource consumption and environmental degrada-tion caused by economic activities, said the plan, which was released toward the conclusion of the G-8 environment ministers meeting.

Calling for high priority to waste reduction and concrete actions such as reducing the use of disposable plastic bags and other single-use consumer products, the plan also advocated effective utilization of waste as one of the alternative sources of energy to fossil fuel resources by developing and utilizing technologies that help generate heat and power from organic and other wastes.

It is of great significance to collaborate to improve 3Rs capacity in developing countries by helping them develop databases, information sharing and monitoring mechanisms, 3Rs-related institutional design and policy planning.

The 3Rs, along with biodiversity and climate change, was one of the three major themes discussed at the three-day ministerial meeting.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Palestinian fishermen take fish out of their nets at sunrise to Gaza City. on 26 May, 2008. Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert told lawmakers Monday that Israel would not agree to open a key Gaza crossing explicity rejecting a chief condition Hamas militants have set for any truce with Israel.— INTERNET

Visitors look at the a sculpted work named as Labyrinth and Enticement, among 45 pieces of sculptures by graduate and postgraduate students of China Academy of Art at their schooling conclusion year of 2008 on an exhibition at Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province, on 27 May, 2008. — INTERNET

Obama competitive against McCain with key voters

WASHINGTON, 28 May — Barack Obama has done poorly in the Democratic primaries with women, Catholics and others who will be pivotal in this fall's presidential election. Yet early polling shows that with several of these groups, he's competitive when matched against Republican John McCain.

A look at voters who have been closely contested in recent presidential elections ó or veered from one party to the other, making them true swing groups ó shows a significant number have leaned toward Obama's rival, Hillary Rodham Clinton, in the primaries. Besides women and Catholics, these include the elderly, the less educated and suburbanites, leading Clinton to argue that this makes her the Democrats' stronger candidate for the fall campaign.

Yet Obama's performance with these voters in the primaries doesn't necessarily mean he'd do poorly with them in the general election, assuming he nails down the last few convention delegates he needs to win the nomination.

Polls this month show the Illinois senator leading McCain among women, running even with him among Catholics and suburbanites and trailing him with people over age 65. Results vary by poll for those without college degrees. And though Obama trails decisively with a group that has shunned him against Clinton ó whites who have not completed college ó he's doing about the same with them as the past two Democratic presidential candidates.

Internet

Iran may limit cooperation with nuclear watchdog

TEHERAN, 28 May — Iran's new parliament speaker warned Wednesday that Tehran could impose new limits on its cooperation with the U.N. nuclear watchdog after a critical report from the agency.

Ali Larijani, formerly the country's top nuclear negotiator, was overwhelmingly elected as parliament speaker Wednesday. Moments later, he told parliament that a new report by the International Atomic Energy Agency was "deplorable."

The unusually strongly worded report issued Monday said Iran may be withholding information needed to establish whether it tried to make nuclear weapons.

"We recommend them not to clandestinely keep passing Iran's nuclear dossier between the IAEA and 5-plus-1 group. This parliament won't allow such deception," Larijani told an open session of parliament broadcast live on state-run radio.

He was referring to IAEA reports and permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany. The council has imposed three sets of sanctions against Iran for its refusal to halt enriching uranium ó a process that can be used to generate electricity or nuclear arms.

"Should this behavior continue, the parliament ... will set new limits on cooperation with the IAEA," Larijani said.

Internet

Asia's biggest colourless diamond sold for $6.2m

HONG KONG, 28 May — A 101.27-carat diamond the size of a squash ball and the largest colorless stone to be auctioned in Asia, has fetched $6.2 million at a Christie's sale in Hong Kong on Wednesday.

The gem, which is internally flawless but rated VVS1 (very very slightly imperfect 1st degree) for clarity was sold after patchy bidding for HK$48.5 million including the buyer's premium, a relatively low per-carat price and at the low-end of its pre-sale estimate.

The diamond is the largest colorless diamond to appear at auction in 18 years and one of only three colorless diamonds of over 100-carats ever to be auctioned, Christie's said. It was also the biggest colorless diamond ever to be sold in Asia.

While rare polished diamonds achieved all-time highs per carat at sales in Geneva late last year, a much-hyped 72.22 carat "D" flawless white diamond failed to sell at a Sotheby's Hong Kong auction in April, suggesting demand for top stones may be waning due to a weakening world economy.—*Internet*

Thousands seeking refuge near Cape of Good Hope

CAPE TOWN, (South Africa), 28 May — One of South Africa's most famous beauty spots is now a scene of disgrace. Just out of sight of the tour buses that flock to the Cape of Good Hope, more than 2,000 foreigners are crammed into a makeshift refugee camp on the shores of the Atlantic, seeking protection from xenophobic attacks that have killed more than 50 people across the country and devastated South Africa's image as a haven of stability.

Nearly 19,000 people are in shelters after fleeing Cape Town over the weekend as the violence spread from Johannesburg to the so-called Mother City, which prides itself on tolerance and is the jewel in South Africa's tourist crown.

"These attacks threaten to negate the gains we have made since the end of apartheid," Chief Justice Pius Langa told a somber crowd in Cape Town's cathedral on Tuesday.

"Are we as a society going to allow ourselves to be sabotaged?" said Langa, who like many in the congregation wore a T-shirt emblazoned with the word "foreigner."

Internet

ADVERTISEMENTS

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Yangon, Union of Myanmar
Dated **29 May 2008** utm.kcy@mptmail.com.mm

MYANMAR IVANHOE COPPER COMPANY LIMITED (TENDER NOTICE)

TENDER NO. (IFB No. CCS-03-08)

Sale of an estimated (4,000 metric tones) of copper cathode from MICCL S&K Mine site in Monywa, Myanmar.Interested buyer may quote for the whole 4,000 metric tonnes or for a minimum quantity of 1,000 metric tonnes.

CLOSING DATE & TIME: 12th June 2008 at 12:00 noon

Tender documents are available at the following address or can be accessed at www.miccl.com.mm. Any queries can be done between 10 am to 4pm at MICCL Yangon office before the tender closing date.

Myanmar Ivanhoe Copper Company Limited
70(I) Bo Chein Street, Pyay Road, Hlaing Township
Yangon, Myanmar (Tel: (95) 1-514194 to 7/ Fax: (95) 1 514208/ Email: miccl@miccl.com.mm)

Protests banned as Nepal set to abolish monarchy

KATHMANDU, 28 May—Nepal has banned demonstrations in and around the royal palace and King Gyanendra's private home in Kathmandu, fearing trouble two days before a special assembly is due to formally abolish 239-year-old monarchy.

Supporters of the former Maoist rebels, who have led the campaign against the monarchy, are expected to gather in the streets to celebrate the expected assembly decision on Wednesday.

But royalists say the decision to abolish the monarchy should not be taken in a haste.

"This is to control all types of provocations," said Peace and Reconstruction Minister Ram Chandra Poudel about the move to ban gatherings at key places in Kathmandu.

"Any one could try to take the advantage of the sensitive situation and create trouble."

Authorities have also banned demonstrations at the official residence of the Prime Minister and the convention centre where the assembly will meet.

The assembly elected in April is scheduled to turn Nepal into a republic, a key part of a peace process ending a decade-long civil war which killed more than 13,000 people.

"We have urged the people to come to the streets on that day to celebrate the republic day," said Dinanath Sharma, a senior Maoist leader.

"This will mark the formal end of the feudal monarchy. It is a historic day."

Hindu-majority Nepal has remained a monarchy all through its history and the king was traditionally revered as an incarnation of Lord Vishnu, the god for protection.

MNA/Reuters

Six killed, thousand injured as strong aftershock hits China

HANZHOU (Shaanxi), 28 May—A 6.4 magnitude aftershock on Sunday has killed six people and injured nearly one thousand in southwest and northwest China, according to local government sources.

Four people were confirmed dead and 20 others were seriously injured in Hanzhong City of the northwestern Shaanxi Province, said mayor Hu Runze on Monday.

Hu said all the four dead were in a paddy field of Xixiang County when the aftershock occurred.

He said investigation had started for detailed losses caused by the aftershock, the strongest tremor since the 8.0-magnitude 12 May quake.

In Qingchuan County of Sichuan, the epicentre of the aftershock, one was killed and more than 700 people had been injured while nine villages and towns suffered telecommunication cutoff, according to the disaster relief headquarters in the county.

MNA/Reuters

A hippo swims in the surf at Thompsons Bay, about 50 km (31 miles) from Durban, 27 May, 2008. It is thought that the lone young male hippo has wandered from its habitat in Richards Bay.
XINHUA

African models, designers promote peace in Kenya

NAIROBI, 28 May—Scores of top African designers and models held a show in Nairobi National Park at the weekend to raise money for victims of Kenya's post-election violence and show a different face to their continent.

The "Fashion for Peace" event drew mainly West and East African models onto a catwalk in a marquee under the moonlight on savannah usually known for its lions and rhinos.

"Fashion for Peace will not change the world, although it does aim at changing people's negative perceptions of Kenya and Africa in other countries," organizers said in a statement.

"And it is a call for peace."

Proceeds from the show were to go to some of the roughly 300,000 Kenyans uprooted from their homes in fighting after a disputed December election. More than 1,300 people died.

Kenyan former model and fashion commentator Waridi Schrobsdroff took to the stage in white for peace.

"Kenyans can really make things happen when they put their hands together," she told *Reuters* before the show started.

MNA/Reuters

Haitian president nominates adviser, friend as PM

PORT-AU-PRINCE, 28 May—Haitian President Rene Preval nominated his longtime friend and adviser Robert Manuel on Sunday to become Prime Minister of the impoverished Caribbean nation, where the previous government was toppled by food riots in April.

Preval named Manuel in a late-night meeting with the presidents of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies, the Lower House in Haiti's Parliament. Both chambers must vote on the nomination.

Preval's efforts to establish a stable democracy in Haiti were dealt a heavy blow when violent demonstrations erupted last month over the rapidly escalating cost of living in the poorest country in the Americas.

At least six people were killed in the protests, which spread from the southern city of Les Cayes to the capital, Port-au-Prince, and other towns and cities.

Shortly after the riots, the Senate fired then-Prime Minister Jacques Edouard Alexis. Parliament rejected Preval's first nominee to replace Alexis, Inter-American Development Bank official Ericq Pierre, on 12 May.

Manuel, 55, is an architect and a recognized security and law enforcement authority who served as secretary of state for public safety during a portion of Preval's first term as president from 1996 to 2001. He managed Preval's successful election campaign in 2006.

MNA/Reuters

Afghan suicide blast kills civilian, wounds 2 policemen

KABUL, 28 May—A suicide bomber exploded himself next to a police vehicle in southern Afghan province Helmand Wednesday, killing one civilian, and wounding several others including two policemen, officials said. The attack occurred just as the police car was moving into a police headquarter in Lashkar Gah, the provincial capital in Helmand, Mohammad Hussein Andiwal, provincial police chief told *Xinhua*. He said two policemen were seriously wounded and two passing-by civilians also sustained injuries in the blast which damaged the police vehicle.

An official from the local intelligence department in Lashkar Gah, who declined to be named, however, told *Xinhua* the blast killed one civilian and wounded two policemen and five other civilians.

An eyewitness identified himself as Abdul Khaleq said one civilian died and three civilians and two policemen sustained injuries in the incident.

Internet

About 22 mln children in Europe are overweight

BRUSSELS, 28 May— Europe has almost 22 million overweight children, and a further 1.3 million will be overweight or obese by 2010, according to a report by the European Parliament's Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety adopted on Tuesday.

The report called for an earlier start of measures to prevent obesity. Remedies include clearer food labeling, better food in schools and kindergartens, restrictions on advertising unhealthy food to children.

The report recommends a multi-level, comprehensive approach to fighting obesity, which has resulted disease approaching epidemic proportions. Obesity already accou-nts directly for about 6 percent of health spend-ing, but the indirect costs are much higher, says the report.

"Obesity is one of Europe's most serious public health problems, because it significantly increases the risk of chronic diseases such as cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes and some cancers," according to a press release by the parliament.

Since childhood obesity correlates closely with obesity in adults, the commission and other stakeholders should make fighting it their priority, said the report.—*Internet*

***Anti-Iraq war protesters wave a banner and shout as Republican presidential candidate and Senator John McCain delivers a foreign policy speech in Denver, Colorado, on 27 May, 2008.—*INTERNET**

US train collides with truck

WASHINGTON, 28 May — A train collided with a garbage truck in the U.S. states of Mississippi on Tuesday afternoon, sparking fire and leaving an uncertain number of injuries, according to a local TV report.

The Amtrak train hit the truck in Copiah County, sending at least one train car off the tracks, the local WAPT TV said.

According to American Medical Response officials, about 150 people were injured. But Mississippi Emergency Management Agency officials said that four people were injured and two of them were sent to hospital, the report said.

It also cited Amtrak spokesman Marc Magliari as saying that the train, named the City of New Orleans, left Chicago on Monday night on the way to Louisiana. But he denied any serious injuries resulted from the accident.

Officials from the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, the Copiah County Sheriff's Department and the Crystal Springs police are all at the scene of the wreck, it added.—*Internet*

***A newly born baby flamingo reaches up for its mother at the Oji zoo in Kobe, western Japan on 25 May, 2008.—*INTERNET**

***A balloon flies over a field near Hungary's biggest lake, the Balaton during the fifth hot air balloon race of five nations, Austria, Great Britain, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia around Lake Balaton.* INTERNET**

40,000 dengue cases projected in Philippines rainy months

MANILA, 28 May— As many as 40,000 dengue cases are projected in the Philippines during the rainy season, the country's Department of Health (DOH) said on Wednesday.

The rainy season lasts from June to October in the archipelago.

While there have been no outbreaks of the disease, there have been clusters of cases in the cities of Manila, Davao, Zamboanga, Olongapo and San Fernando, the Philippine Daily Inquirer citing DOH Director Enrique Tayag as saying in a report posted on its website.

The health agency earlier reported a 36.4 percent increase in dengue cases from 1 January to 26 April over the same period last year, from 7,697 to 10,497.

The three regions with the most reported cases are the National Capital Region with 2,750, Central Luzon with 1,736, and Central Visayas with 1,384. Deaths from the disease also increased from 88 to 116 during this period, mostly in Central Visayas, the agency said.— *Xinhua*

German SPD to pick Schwan despite coalition strains

BERLIN, 28 May— Germany's Social Democrats plan to nominate their own candidate for the ceremonial office of president, SPD general secretary Hubertus Heil said on Monday ahead of a party executive meeting to discuss the issue.

Heil said the SPD is not worried that the move could strain relations in their coalition with Chancellor Angela Merkel's Christian Democrats, who endorse incumbent Horst Koehler.

"I assume there will be broad support for Gesine Schann as our candidate," Heil told German television.

SPD party chairman Kurt Beck is due to formally announce the decision at a news conference at 1100 GMT.

Heil also dismissed talk from the arch conservative Christian Social Union, Bavarian sister party to Merkel's CDU, that Schwan's nomination would put the grand coalition in jeopardy 16 months before the next parliamentary elections.

"A little competition isn't going to cause any harm to a functioning democracy," Heil said. "The CSU is nervous ahead of state elections in September. I urge them to just relax."

MNA/Reuters

Canadian town declares state of emergency after series of fires

OTTAWA, 28 May — A town in western Canada's British Columbia (BC) province declared a state of emergency Tuesday after a series of major fires destroyed industrial facilities.

Officials of Prince George town in central BC declared emergency as the rash of fires blazed at an industrial site overnight Monday and into Tuesday morning.

The first fire occurred at a plywood plant and destroyed the facility. Crews managed to control the blaze, but sparks ignited materials at a warehouse nearby and destroyed the structure early Tuesday.

Firefighters called to a fire at a small building were able to quickly douse the flames.

No one was injured in the incidents.

The cause of the fires is under investigation.

Internet

SPORTS

Real plead Ron innocence

President believes problem lies between United and the player

Cristiano Ronaldo

Madrid, 28 May — Real Madrid president Ramon Calderon has pleaded the club's innocence after the speculation over Cristiano Ronaldo's future at Manchester United took another twist.

On Tuesday, United threatened to report Real to Fifa if the Primera Division champions continued to pursue their attempted capture of Ronaldo in an 'unacceptable fashion'.

The Portugal international's future at Old Trafford has been in doubt in recent weeks with various Real officials publicly speaking about their interest in Ronaldo.

However, the Red Devils have vehemently denied that they will be losing the PFA Player of the Year this summer.

Real have now moved to ease the growing tension between the two clubs, but do insist that the problem lies between United and the player.

Internet

Fabio has plans for Rooney

Capello says striker 'is too generous"' ahead of USA friendly

Wayne Rooney

LONDON, 28 May — England manager Fabio Capello believes Wayne Rooney should be 'more selfish' as he looks to fully utilise the Manchester United forward's ability.

Capello is set to deploy Rooney - who has netted just three times in 14 international games - as part of a front two when England host USA at Wembley on Wednesday evening.

Rooney played as a lone striker in Capello's first two games in charge, but the Italian has explained that he will alter his position in a bid to make full use of the 22-year-old's quality. "When I saw Rooney in Portugal (at Euro 2004), he played very well," said Capello. "He has to play like he did then.

"I feel the same as Sir Alex Ferguson. I have spoken with Rooney maybe three times now. And I've said to him that he is too generous. —*Internet*

Mancini leaves Inter - agent

Mourinho set for San Siro move with Italian linked to Chelsea

MILAN, 28 May — Roberto Mancini's agent has indicated his client is no longer the coach of Inter Milan.

Mancini, heavily linked with the Chelsea vacancy, looks to be on his way out at the San Siro less than a fortnight after delivering the club's third consecutive Serie A title.

The 43-year-old's agent, Giorgio De Giorgis, says Mancini left the club following a 25-minute meeting with president Massimo Moratti. The club has yet to make an announcement.

De Giorgis also claimed

Roberto Mancini

former Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho has been lined up as Mancini's replacement.

He told Sportitalia television: "Roberto never expected it to end like this.

Internet

Pedro Morales (L) of Chile fights for the ball with Kouamatien Kone of Ivory Coast during the semi-final of the Toulon International Soccer Tournament in southern France on 27 May, 2008. The tournament is played by under-21 players.—INTERNET

US consider 2018 bid

FA could face World Cup competition from across the Atlantic

WASHINGTON,28 May--The United States Soccer Federation has signalled a desire to challenge England for the right to host the 2018 World Cup.

Ahead of Wednesday's friendly meeting between England and USA at Wembley, the US Soccer Federation has sounded plans to launch a bid to rival the Football Association.

The FA has made no secret of a desire to host the World Cup in ten years' time, but US Soccer Federation president Sunil Galati admits his organisation are keen to finish 'what we started' after hosting the event in 1994.

"We will make a decision in the next two or three months, but we are looking at it very seriously," said Galati when asked about hosting the 2018 World Cup.

"The bid process has become very competitive and whether playing a game in Trinidad has anything to do with that I am not sure," added Galati.

"I think the FA are more sophisticated than to think they are going to get Jack Warner's vote on the back of playing one game."

Internet

Colorado Rapids' Kosuke Kimura of Japan kicks the ball against the Los Angeles Galaxy in the first half of their MLS US Open Cup qualifying soccer match on 27 May, 2008 in Carson, Calif.—INTERNET

Capello admits Terry concern

But England boss confident skipper is up to the task

LONDON, 28 May — Fabio Capello admits that he was concerned for John Terry's state of mind after his penalty shoot-out misery.

The Chelsea skipper missed a crucial spot kick for his side in the UEFA Champions League final against Manchester United, and was forced to watch the Red Devils lift the trophy in the knowledge that it could have been him.

The usually unflappable defender was inconsolable

Fabio Capello

after the Moscow showdown and could easily have let the occasion affect his forthcoming performances.—*Internet*

Russia's Dinara Safina returns the ball to Ukraine's Kateryna Bondarenko during their first round match at the French Open tennis tournament in Paris on 27 May, 2008.—INTERNET

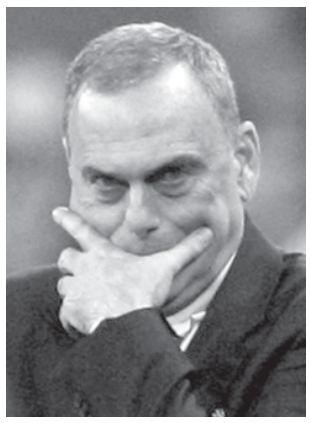
Grant bemoans Jose's start

Sacked Chelsea boss believes title would have been his

LONDON, 28 May — Recently sacked Chelsea manager Avram Grant has claimed that The Blues would have secured the Premier League title if he had been at the helm from the beginning of the season.

Grant had his contract terminated by the Stamford Bridge club on Saturday after just eight months in charge.

The Israeli took over from former boss Jose Mourinho at Chelsea last September with the club fifth in the league table at the time.



Avram Grant

Grant went on to push Manchester United for the League title only to miss out by two points on the final day of the season.

And he has insisted that Chelsea would have been crowned 2007/08 champions had he taken the reins sooner.

Internet

သတိပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်

ယခုရာသီကာလသည် ဝမ်းလျောဝမ်းပျက်ရောဂါဖြစ်ပွားတတ်သည့်အချိန်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။ မသန့်ရှင်း သော ရေသောက်သုံးခြင်းနှင့် မသန့်ရှင်းသော အစားအသောက်များစားသုံးခြင်းတို့ကြောင့် ဝမ်းလျော ဝမ်းပျက်ရောဂါများ ဖြစ်ပွားနိုင်ပါသည်။

သို့ဖြစ်ပါ၍–

* ဝမ်းလျောဝမ်းပျက်ရောဂါကို 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)

* ဝမ်းပျက်ဝမ်းလျောရောဂါဖြစ်ပွားပါက အနီးဆုံးကျန်းမာရေး ဌာနသို့အမြန်ဆုံးပြသရန်နှင့် လူနာများတွေ့ရှိက ကျန်းမာရေးဌာန သို့ အမြန်ဆုံးသတင်းပေးပို့ကြပါရန် နှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

သောက်ရေသန့်များနှင့်ပတ်သက်၍ အသိပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်

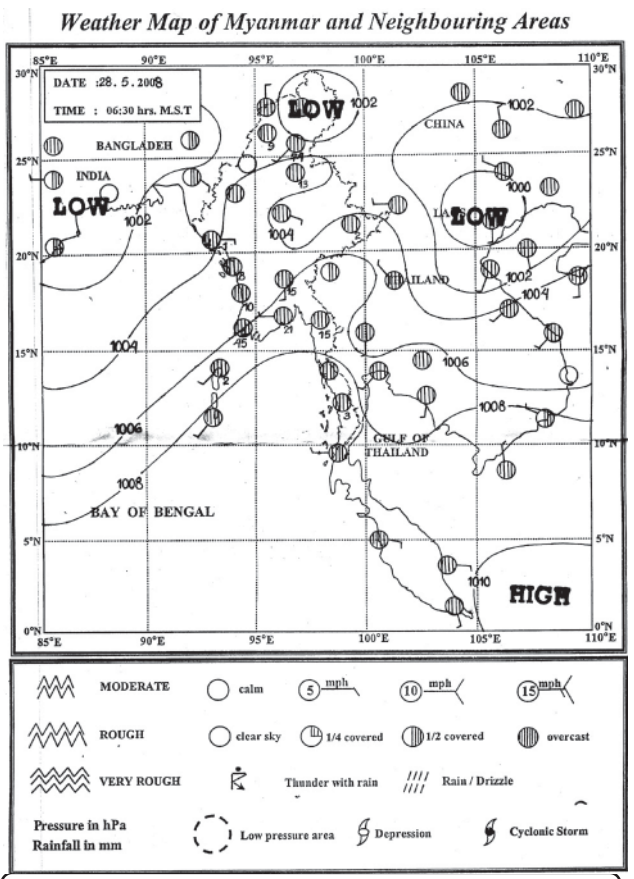
၁။ ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာနသည် အရည်အသွေးစစ်မှန်ကောင်းမွန်ပြီး ဘေးအန္တရာယ်ကင်းရှင်းသော အစားအသောက်များကို အများပြည်သူတို့စားသုံးနိုင်ရန်နှင့် အစားအသောက်များ၏ အရည်အသွေးကို စဉ်ဆက်မပြတ် ထိန်းသိမ်းနိုင်ရေးအတွက် စိစစ်ဆောင်ရွက်လျက်ရှိပါသည်။

၂။ ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းအတွင်းရှိ သောက်ရေသန့်စက်ရုံများသည် ဆိုင်ကလုန်းမုန်တိုင်း "နာဂစ်" ကြောင့်ပျက်စီးခြင်း ရှိ–မရှိနှင့် ကောင်းမွန်သောထုတ်လုပ်မှုကျင့်စဉ်နှင့်အညီ သောက်ရေသန့်များထုတ်လုပ်နိုင်ခြင်း ရှိ–မရှိကို ကျန်းမာရေးဦးစီးဌာနက စစ်ဆေးလျှက်ရှိပါသည်။ စစ်ဆေးပြီး သောက်ရေသန့် လုပ်ငန်းများ အနက် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ သောက်ရေသန့်လုပ်ငန်းများမှာ သောက်ရေသန့်သတ်မှတ်ချက်နှင့်ကိုက်ညီမှု မရှိကြောင်း တွေ့ရှိရပါသည်။

စဉ်	သောက်ရေသန့်လုပ်ငန်းအမည်	စဉ်	သောက်ရေသန့်လုပ်ငန်းအမည်
၁။	Sunflower သောက်ရေသန့်	၉။	နေလ သောက်ရေသန့်
၂။	Zest သောက်ရေသန့်	၁၀။	Comet သောက်ရေသန့်
၃။	SIP သောက်ရေသန့်	၁၁။	Winner သောက်ရေသန့်
၄။	Nawarat သောက်ရေသန့်	၁၂။	PGS သောက်ရေသန့်
၅။	Great သောက်ရေသန့်	၁၃။	YOMA သောက်ရေသန့်
၆။	Fresh Water သောက်ရေသန့်	၁၄။	FIFA သောက်ရေသန့်
၇။	OSAKA သောက်ရေသန့်	၁၅။	Golden Cherry သောက်ရေသန့်
၈။	Star H_2O သောက်ရေသန့်	၁၆။	နေမင်းသောက်ရေသန့်

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

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန



WEATHER

Wednesday, 28 May, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hour MST: During the past 24 hours, Southwest monsoon is advancing into Central Myanmar areas. Weather has been partly cloudy in lower Sagaing Division, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Chin State and Mandalay Division, scattered in Shan Stae, upper Sagaing, Magway and Bago Divisions, fairly widespread in Taninthayi Division and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in upper Sagaing and Yangon Divisions. Day temperatures were (5°C) below May average temperatures in lower Sagaing Division, (4°C) above May average temperatures in Eastern Shan State, Magway and Bago Divisions and about May average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperatures was Shwebo (41°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Katha (4.17) inches, Yangon (Central) (3.11) inches, Myitkyina (2.99) inches, Pathein (1.77) inches, Sittway (1.34) inches and Thaton (1.02) inches.

Maximum temperature on 27-5-2008 was 89ºF. Minimum temperature on 28-5-2008 was 72ºF. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 28-5-2008 was 84%. Total sunshine hours on 27-5-2008 was (1.0) hours approx.

Rainfall on 28-5-2008 was (0.19) inch at Mingaladon, (0.82) inch at Kaba-Aye and (3.11) inches at Central Yangon . Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (27.99) inches at Mingaladon, (32.83) inches at Kaba-Aye and (40.08) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southeast at (06:30) hours MST on 27-5-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 29-5-2008: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kachin, Rakhine and Mon States, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, fairly widespread in Kayin State, upper Sagaing and Bago Divisions, scattered in Chin and Shan States, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of increase of rain in Central Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 29-5-2008: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 29-5-2008: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 29-5-2008: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

TV Myanmar

Thursday, 29 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. Songs of yesteryear

8:00 am
5. Cute little dancer

8:10 am
6. တီးကွက်ညွှန်.

8:30 am
7. International news

4:00 pm
1. Martial song

4:10 pm
2. Musical programme

4:30 pm
3. Dance of national races

4:50 pm
4. Song to uphold National spirit

5:10 pm
5. Dance variety

5:30 pm
6. Musical programme

5:40 pm
7. ကြယ်ပွင့်များရဲ့ရင်ခုန်သံ

6:00 pm
8. Evening news

6:30 pm
9. Weather report

6:35 pm
10. Musical programme

7:00 pm
11. နိုင်ငံ့စီးပွားအလေးထား ကျေးလက်ထုတ်ကုန်များ

7:20 pm
12. The mirror images of the musical oldies

8:00 pm
13. News
14. International news
15. Weather report
16. မြန်မာဗီဒီယိုဇာတ်လမ်း "ရန်.ပြယ်ပန်း"(အပိုင်း–၂) (ခန့်.စည်သူ၊ထွန်းအိန္ဒြာဝို၊ ကြည်လဲ့လဲ့ဦး၊ ချိုပြုံး) (ဒါရိုက်တာ–မောင်နန္ဒ)

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Make donations to the storm victims

- ❑ Everybody may make donations freely.
- ❑ Everybody may make donations to any person or any area.

However, wellwishers are urged to avoid unsystematic donations and acts that may tarnish the image of the nation and its people.

Pakistan-Myanmar Friendship Association donates supplies to storm victims

YANGON, 28 May—The Pakistan-Myanmar Friendship Association of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan donated relief supplies to the storm victims, at Yangon International Airport this morning.

Present on the occasion were Director-General U Myint Tun of Fire Services Department, departmental officials, Acting Pakistani Ambassador Mr Habib UR Rehman, Military Attaché Col Muzammil Hussain Shah and officials.

The Ambassador explained the purpose of the donations and handed over the relief supplies to the Director-General of FSD who spoke words of thanks.

The arrival of donations from Pakistan by TG-303 were 3.25 tons of rice, edible oil, sugar, candle, biscuit, tea, purified drinking water, medicine, clothes, wool and slippers.

MNA

Acting Pakistani Ambassador Mr Habib UR Rehman hands over relief aids to U Myint Tun, Director-General of Fire Services Department.—MNA

Land reclamation stepped up in Labutta Township

YANGON, 28 May—Myanma Agricultural Development Bank plans to disburse a loan of over K 441 million to farmers in Labutta Township, Ayeyawady Division.

Local authorities in the storm-hit areas have been making efforts for reclamation of paddy fields in the delta region and Myanma Agriculture Service has also planned to provide paddy seeds and fertilizers to farmers in the storm-hit areas.

Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department has already sent some water buffalos to Labutta Township as part of a plan for providing 600 buffalos to the township.

Meanwhile, Agricultural Mechanization Department has arranged for using 238 power-tillers to plough some paddy fields which were also damaged by the storm.

Similarly, Union Solidarity and Development Association (Central) has sent 67 power-tillers and Aung Yi Phyo Co 335 power-tillers to Labutta Township and these power-tillers will be distributed to farmers in the township.—*MNA*

Arrangements under way for salt distribution

YANGON, 28 May — Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry Vice-President U Zaw Min Win and General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing held talks with responsible persons of Yangon Salt Millers' Association over bringing down the salt price and distribution of the item to consumers at the UMFCCI (Head Office), here, on 22 May.

According to SMA, consumption of salt in Yangon is 1.0 million viss a month, and there are over 7.8 million viss of salt in stock. From 23 May on, salt is sold at the price of K 500 per viss to the consumers in the city. With the help of township committees under the Yangon City Development Committee, the item is on sale at tax free markets and will be sold in townships which are needed.

Similarly, Sein Myittamon Salt Mill will sell salt in Tamway Township, Toenayar Salt Mill in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) and Kyauktada townships, OK Zar Zar Salt Mill in Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Annwamin Salt Mill in Thakayta Township and Lanmadaw Township (Nyaungbinlay Market), KK Salt Mill in Lanmadaw Township (Nyaungbinlay Market), Myat Thukha Salt Mill in Shwepyitha Township, Aung Htaiktan Salt Mill in Thanlyan and Kyauktan Townships, Sein Myittha Salt Mill in Hlinethaya Township, Phupwintsan Salt Mill in Thuwunna, Thingangyun and Dagon Myothit (North) Townships, Shwe La Win Salt Mill in Dawbon Township, Sar Taungthu Salt Mill in Pazundaung Township, Htet Aung Tha Salt Mill in Thamway Township, KM Salt Mill in Dawbon Township and Aung Thiha Salt Mill in Kamayut Township.

Everyone may freely buy the salt. —*MNA*