

Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to Italy

NAY PYI TAW, 2 June—Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Dr Giorgio Napolitano, President of the Republic of Italy, on the occasion of the Proclamation Day of the Republic of Italy, which falls on 2 June 2008.—MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein sends felicitations to Italian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 2 June — General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Silvio Berlusconi, Prime Minister of the Republic of Italy, on the occasion of the Proclamation Day of the Republic of Italy, which falls on 2 June 2008. MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe looks into repair of power lines, removal of fallen trees in downtown Yangon



YANGON, 1 June — 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, this afternoon, attended the ceremony to hand over the relief supplies for the storm victims and inspected repair of power lines and clearing of debris in downtown Yangon.

At Bo Aung Kyaw Port in Seikkan Township, 17.6 tons of foodstuffs, purified water, clothes, medicines, blankets, mosquito nets, stationery, crutches and wheel-chairs donated by disciples of Man Fut Tong Welfare

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Lt-Gen Myint Swe attends cash and kind donation ceremony of disciples of Man Fut Tong Welfare Society led by Sayadaw Rev Chen Tuen of Singapore for storm victims.

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National referendum and firm decision of the people

The public approval of the new constitution means the entire people support the seven-step Road Map of the State welcoming the general election to be held in 2010.

In other words, the people signal they want the government that will be formed after the 2010 election.

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YEBAW TIN SHWE

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 2 June, 2008

Youth to be brought up with good moral conduct

The future of a nation and the people is in the hands of the youth, and the education sector is in the centre to sharpen the abilities of the youth, educate them, and inculcate them with strong concepts.

Now, the government is in pursuance of the plan for improving the national education standard and for emergence of a life-long learning Myanmar society. In the meantime, it is building educational infrastructures, introducing advanced teaching methods and creating good environments.

Teachers, the major human resources in the education sector, are teaching and nurturing the students to raise their education standard. Besides, they are guiding the youth in order that the latter's objectives will contribute towards the interests of the motherland.

In particular, the nurturing processes should be based on the taste, nature, talent and diligence of each student to ensure that students will become outstanding in their studies. At the same time, students should be given educative talks to be able to equip themselves with good moral conduct including strong morality, good characters and the spirit of cherishing the nation and the people.

The 2008-2009 academic year is going to begin soon. Therefore, teachers, the gardeners in the education garden, should help produce a greater number of reliable youths by teaching and nurturing effectively their students to cultivate their moral conduct and good characters.

All this needs to be known

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

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

A&I Minister meets Saudi Arabian Ambassador

YANGON, 1 June – Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo met Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to the Union of Myanmar Mr Turki Bin Naji Abdul Kadir Al Ali at Yuzana Hall of the ministry on Natmauk Street in Bahan Township, here, this morning.

They held discussions on fulfillment of fertilizer for the agricultural works being carried out in storm-hit regions and investment and cooperation matters in the agriculture sectors between the two nations.—MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo meets Saudi Arabian Ambassador Mr Turki Bin Naji Abdul Kadir Al Ali.

MNA

Thai medical team recounts experience to Thai Health Minister

YANGON, 1 June—Under the program of the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, visiting Thai medical team of the Thai Ministry of Health met with Thai Health Minister Mr Chariya Sasomsub, Deputy Minister Dr Prat and members at Chatrium Hotel, here on 29 May and recounted their experiences.

At the meeting, the Thai Health Minister made a speech on the occasion. Next, the leader of the team Dr Pichit Siriwan and Director Dr Khin Maung Lwin of the Ministry of Health explained experience and proposals during their field trip to Myaungmya and Labutta Townships.

At 7 pm, officials of Thai medical team explained experiences to new arrival members and discussions were made.—MNA

Deputy Health Minister meets medical teams head for storm-hit regions

YANGON, 1 June—Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo met with house surgeons of Universities of Medicine Nos 1 and 2 of Yangon and specialist teams led by surgeon Dr Moe Hein of Yangon General Hospital to make field trip and carry out health care services in the storm-hit regions in Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions at the lecture hall of YGH this morning.

During the meeting, the Deputy Minister

gave instructions on medical treatment to be given to patients through goodwill, educative knowledge on outbreaks and spread of cholera and DHF to be provided to the patients, drinking bacteria free water, use of flying-proof, washing hands before and after meals, avoiding meals with flies, systematic disposal of rubbish, measles vaccination to the children under 5 and lockjaw vaccination to pregnant women.

At Lanthit Jetty, the Deputy Minister met and greeted specialist teams led by surgeon Dr Moe Hein who are going to carry out field trip health care services to the storm-hit regions by Pa Pa Win vessel.

The medical teams will provide medical treatment to the patients in turns at nearby villages of Mawlamyinegyun for ten days.

MNA



Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo sees off a medical team at Lanthit Jetty.—MNA



UNSG welcomes adoption of new cluster bomb convention

UNITED NATIONS, 1 June — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon hailed on Friday the adoption of the Convention on Cluster Munitions in Dublin.

“The Secretary-General is delighted that

the strong calls to address the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions have been answered with the adoption today of this new Convention”, said a statement issued by Ban’s spokesperson.

The convention has brought about “a new international standard that will enhance the protection of civilians, strengthen human rights and improve prospects for development,” he said.

Ban expressed the world body’s full support and readiness to “assist in the implementation of the responsibilities under this Convention”. He urged all states to sign and ratify without delay, adding that he looks forward to its rapid entry into force. Earlier on Friday, delegations from 111 states agreed in Dublin on the text of the new international convention which bans the use of cluster munitions.

MNA/Xinhua



Fireworks light up the sky during the lighting ceremony of the new Pacific Park Ferris Wheel on the Santa Monica Pier on 28 May, 2008—INTERNET

Pirates hijack ships off Somali coast

NAIROBI, 1 June — Somali pirates fired rockets as they seized two freighters off the lawless Horn of African coast bringing to three the number of ships hijacked this week, a Kenyan maritime official said on Friday.

“The two ships were hijacked on Wednesday,” Andrew Mwangura, head of the Kenya-based Seafarers Assistance Programme, told Reuters.

“We do understand that the pirates on board two fast boats fired rockets at the ships. The number of crew on the ships are still unknown,” he said.

Hijackings are common in the chaotic country’s unpatrolled waters, where pirates normally treat hostages well in anticipation of hefty ransoms.

He said there was little information available on the

seized vessels — *Arean* and *Lehmann Timber* — other than where they were registered and who their owners were.

MNA/Reuters

BISHKEK, 1 June — Police in the Central Asian state of Kyrgyzstan on Friday arrested an American who works at the nearby United States air base for setting fire to his rented flat, his lawyer said.

Max Chounlamany, 25, a civil employee of the US Manas military air base, denies any wrongdoing, lawyer Nina Zotova said. “I don’t know why they arrested him,” she said. “If the court



Passengers getting their luggage screened at a US airport. Frustrated by delays, cancellations, and hassles at airports including lost luggage and long security lines, Americans have turned massively away from air travel, a poll showed on Thursday.—INTERNET

DPRK launches non-smoking campaign

PYONGYANG, 1 June — A non-smoking campaign was formally launched in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), said Saturday the official news agency

KCNA. Various activities were conducted in the DPRK on the “World No-Tobacco Day” on 31 May this year, the KCNA said.

The country has banned all forms of advertisement, support and promotion of tobacco goods which may encourage smoking, it said.

Non-smoking districts were set up in some public places and smoking among the students was controlled strictly in particular, it added. —MNA/Xinhua

Police in Kyrgyzstan arrest US air base worker

proves he is guilty, he is ready to pay for repairs.” The owner of the flat is seeking 50,000 US dollars in damages, Zotova said.

A spokesman for the US Embassy in Bishkek said it was monitoring the case.

MNA/Reuters

Civilians continue to flee violence in E DRC

KINSHASA, 1 June — The number of civilians affected by persistent insecurity in the province of North-Kivu, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), has continued to grow, despite the signing of a peace agreement, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has announced.

In North-Kivu, several thousand people were forced to flee during recent clashes in the territory of Lubero, while the humanitarian situation of internally displaced persons and returnees has deteriorated in the territories of Masisi and

Rutshuru, the ICRC said in a statement Thursday. During the first three months of the year, according to official estimates, nearly 100,000 people have been displaced by fighting in the trouble-hit North-Kivu Province alone. —MNA/Xinhua

Anti-US beef protest draws 100,000 S Koreans

SEOUL, 1 June — South Korean students, parents with toddlers in tow, and union members took to the streets on Saturday in a massive protest against a government decision to resume imports of US beef that they see as dangerous.

The organizers of the candle-lit vigil said 100,000 people were at the rally that stopped traffic on the 16-lane central Seoul main thoroughfare, after more than a week of daily protests against President Lee Myung-bak.

South Korea, once the third-largest importer of US beef until a 2003 outbreak of mad cow disease in the United States, said it would start quarantine inspections of US beef, a move that opens its market fully for the first time in four years.

MNA/Reuters

Thousands of protesters march after a candlelight vigil against US beef imports in downtown Seoul, South Korea, on 29 May, 2008. — INTERNET





A mass Chinese wedding at Chenonceau castle in the Loire valley.

INTERNET

British military chopper crashed in S-W England, two killed

LONDON, 1 June — A British Army training helicopter crashed in southwest England on Thursday, killing two soldiers on board, British Ministry of Defence confirmed.

“Our thoughts are with their families and friends at this difficult time. The next of kin are

currently being informed. We will confirm further details once this process has been completed.” the ministry said in a statement.

According to the report by the *Sky News*, two helicopters were flying near to one another close to some power lines shortly

before the crash, and the crash brought the lines down, leaving 12,000 homes without power.

One crew member was pronounced dead at the scene while the other was airlifted to a hospital but died later, said the report.

Xinhua

Fire gas poisons four in Sichuan, 800 evacuated

CHENGDU, 1 June — Gas from a chemical fire in southwest China’s quake-hit Sichuan Province poisoned four people and forced more than 800 to evacuate on Thursday, a local official confirmed.

The fire occurred around 8 am in Leigu Town when bleach powder in a house self-ignited when it reacted with

leaked rainwater, said Song Ming, Communist Party secretary for Beichuan County.

More than 800 people around the house were evacuated as dense chlorine gas poisoned two rescue soldiers and two medical workers at the site.

Xinhua

US helicopter crashes on hospital’s roof

WASHINGTON, 1 June — A helicopter crashed on Thursday on the roof of a hospital in downtown Grand Rapids, Michigan, causing thick and black smoke and leaving two persons injured.

John Vansolkema, the city’s fire chief, told reporters that the helicopter crashed at

Spectrum Health Butterworth Hospital in the late morning.

Two people on board managed to escape before the helicopter caught fire, and there were no patients in it, he said.

However, the accident

forced patients to be evacuated to other buildings on the hospital’s campus and employees were also taken to the places of safety for fear that fuel may have leaked into the hospital, police said. — *Xinhua*

Photo taken on 30 May, 2008, shows the site where two 600-ton gantry cranes toppled during their lifting operations in Shanghai, east China. Three people were killed and two injured after the cranes toppled at 0:25 Friday morning. —INTERNET



First foreign bank opens in Iran

TEHERAN, 1 June — The Iran-Europe Commercial Bank started its work in Iran on Thursday, the first of six foreign banks which are allowed to open in Iran.

The bank would provide euro-based foreign exchange services, the bank’s Director General Siavosh Naqshineh said in his address to the

inauguration ceremony held Wednesday.

The bank has been operating on Kish Island, Iran’s free trade zone since 2005. The Iranian Bank of Industry and Mine (San’at va Ma’dan) is a major shareholder of the new bank, the official news agency *IRNA* reported.

Governor of Central

Bank of Iran (CBI) Tahmasb Mazaheri, who attended the opening ceremony, said Teheran has allowed several foreign banks to open branches in Iran and voiced CBI’s readiness to offer special incentives to open private banks in the Islamic Republic.

Xinhua

Hijacked Dutch ship crew “in good health”

BRUSSELS, 1 June — The Dutch company Reider Shipping, owner of the cargo ship *MV Amiya Scan* which has been seized by Somali pirates, said the crew members are in good health, Radio Netherlands reported on Tuesday.

There are nine crew

members including four Russians and five Philipinos on board the ship. But the report did not say how did the company get the information and whether the hijackers had asked for a ransom.

The *Amiya Scan*, which

sails under the flag of Antigua, left Mombassa in Kenya on 19 May and bound for Constanza in Romania. It was carrying parts of a drilling platform when it was hijacked in international waters in the Gulf of Aden.

Xinhua



A building damaged by an earthquake is seen near the town of Selfoss in Iceland, on 30 May, 2008. A powerful earthquake shook Iceland on Thursday, rocking buildings in the capital, lightly injuring more than a dozen people and forcing residents in outlying towns to evacuate. —INTERNET

S-W China gets 174 aftershocks through Friday noon

BEIJING, 1 June — In the 24 hours ended at noon on Friday, 174 aftershocks

were detected in southwest China’s quake zone, according to the Information Office of the State Council (Cabinet).

There were two aftershocks measuring between 4.0 and 4.9 on the Richter Scale, while 172 measured below magnitude 3.9.

No aftershocks above magnitude 5 were monitored during the 24 hours, the office said, adding that 9,304 aftershocks have

been monitored since 12 May when the major quake struck.

Among all the aftershocks monitored, 159 measured between 4.0 and 4.9 with 25 put at 5- to 5.9-magnitude and five above 6-magnitude.

The strongest aftershock, of 6.4-magnitude, was in Qingchuan County in southwest China’s Sichuan Province at 4:21 pm on Sunday.

Xinhua

All Items From Xinhua News Agency

Cambodian foreign trade volume tops \$8b

PHNOM PENH, 1 June — The Cambodian Ministry of Commerce announced here on Thursday that the country's foreign trade volume topped eight billion US dollars in 2007.

The exporting volume achieved over three billion US dollars and importing

volume stands over four billion US dollars, said a statement issued by the Commerce Ministry at the national conference of the government's rectangular policy.

Cambodia's exporting volume in 2007 increased 8.51 per cent if comparing to 2006, the statement

said. Cambodia's agricultural products, including rice, corn, cashew nut, cassava, and rubber, were sold at high prices on international market, it said, adding that the garment sector still provided high benefits.

MNA/Xinhua

Garuda awarded IATA safety clearance

JAKARTA, 1 June — Flag carrier Garuda Indonesia has finally received safety clearance following a stringent audit conducted by the International Air Transport Association (IATA), president director Emir Syah Satar said Thursday.

"The IATA Operational Safety Audit (IOSA) for Garuda was approved on 14 May and will be presented during the IATA annual general meeting in Istanbul on 1-3 June," Emir was quoted as saying in major newspaper *The Jakarta Post's* website.

"We expect the European Union to refer to the audit result during their session on flight ban in July."

The EU has banned all Indonesian airlines from entering the bloc's airspace even though none of the

airlines actually serve European routes.

The government has proposed four airlines to be exempted from the flight ban. In addition to Garuda, the airlines are Mandala Airlines, which has committed to buying a large number of European Airbus jetliners, and

chartered airlines Airfast and Premiair. Garuda vice president Novianto said being awarded the IOSA certificate meant that the state-owned airline's safety and security standards were on par with international large carriers that are members of IATA.

MNA/Xinhua

ECONOMIC NEWS



Participants attend a high-level panel discussion on "Facing the challenge and opportunities of high food price" during the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD).

INTERNET

Vietnam attracts over 2m foreigners in first five months

HANOI, 1 June — Vietnam is estimated to receive 2.1 million foreign arrivals in the first five months of this year, a year-on-year rise of 16.6 per cent, according to the Vietnam National Administration of Tourism on Friday.

Among the arrivals, the number of business visitors surged most, by 52.6 per cent to 389,400, followed by that of tourists rose 15.6 per cent to 1.3 million.

Between January and May, Vietnam's big tourism markets included China with 352,200 visitors, up 53.8 per cent; and the United States with 195,100, up 7.8 per cent.

This year, Vietnam is intensifying training personnel, especially tourist guides, developing tourism infrastructure nationwide, fostering tourism promotion abroad, and hosting more national and international cultural events such as Hue festival and Miss Universe 2008 pageant.

MNA/Xinhua

East Timor to use oil fund to stabilize prices

DILI, 1 June — East Timor will use a fraction of its oil fund worth over two billion US dollars to protect the poor from rising food and fuel prices, Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao said on Thursday.

Gusmao said he would take three percent from the fund to stabilize prices and to import rice, fuel and construction materials. The oil fund was created from revenue earned from the country's oil and gas sector in 2005 in order to amass money for future generations of Timorese.

Gusmao said the government decided to use a portion of the money, which is deposited in a US bank, because some countries had not made good on their promises to provide aid. —MNA/Reuters

Hamas hails Egyptian gas supply to Gaza

GAZA, 1 June — The government of the Islamic Hamas movement in Gaza welcomed on Wednesday a proposal for supplying Gaza Strip main power plant with Egyptian gas.

The Egyptian MENA news agency has earlier reported that Egyptian Minister of Petroleum Amin Sameh Samir Fahmi said Egypt would supply gas to the Palestinian Gaza power plant.

Fahmi said that Egypt will supply the Palestinian people with all their needs of petro-products and adopt an all-out programme to supply Gaza power station with Egyptian gas in a bid to ease the suffering of the Palestinian people. — MNA/Xinhua



Fishing boats block the entrance of Le Havre's harbour, western France, as several local fishermen demonstrate against high fuel costs. —INTERNET

British consumer mood bleakest since 1990

LONDON, 1 June — British consumer confidence fell in May to its weakest since 1990, a survey showed on Friday which bodes ill for both the retail outlook and the sagging political fortunes of Prime Minister Gordon

Brown. The GfK NOP consumer confidence barometer fell 5 points to -29 as people's mood soured over the state of the economy and their own personal finances.

Britons are now more reluctant to make major

purchases over the next year than at any other time since the series began in 1983.

"Consumers' confidence in the economy over the next year, plus a reluctance to make major purchases, reflect the popular expectation of a recession - both these measures are at the lowest level on record," said Rachael Joy of GfK NOP.

The index measuring people's expectations of their finances over the next year dropped to -4 from 0 while that measuring the general economic situation dropped one point to -39, the lowest on record.

MNA/Reuters

People cross a flooded highway after heavy rains from Tropical Storm Alma caused flooding in Parrita, Costa Rica, on 30 May, 2008.

INTERNET



Lt-Gen Myint Swe looks into repair...

(from page 1)

Society led by Sayadaw Rev Chen Tuen of Singapore were handed over.

It was attended by the commander, Joint Secretary of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Vice-Chairman of the Committee for Ensuring Prompt and Regular Freight-handling and Operating Full Capacity Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe, Secretary Maj-Gen Win Myint and departmental heads.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Director-General U Than Oo of Relief and Resettlement Department and Director-General U Myint Tun of the Fire Services Department accepted the supplies donated by the disciples of Rev Chen Tuen through Managing Director U Kyaw Khin of KJS International Co.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe and the commander inspected repair and installation of power lines and clearing of debris along Yangon-Nyaungdon Road.

At the power station in Hlinethaya Township, they heard reports on availability of electricity and supply of it. They also viewed participation of the



Lt-Gen Myint Swe views removing of fallen trees being carried out along the road to Yangon International Airport by Tatmadawmen of Mingaladon Airbase and staff of Asia World Co Ltd.— MNA

Tatmadawmen from No. 77 LID in removing the fallen trees in the compound of Pyithu Hluttaw on Pyay Road, trees replanting tasks, clearing of debris on the campus of Yangon University being undertaken by the Tatmadawmen from No. 11 LID.

At Kanbawza Avenue in Bahan Township, they together with Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin in-

spected clearing of debris.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe, the commander and the mayor also viewed sanitation tasks on Thukhawady Road in Yankin Township, along the road to Yangon International Airport being carried out by the Tatmadawmen from Mingaladon Airbase and staff of Asia World Co Ltd. —MNA

Minister for Foreign Affairs sends felicitation to Italian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 2 June – U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Franco Frattini, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Italy, on the occasion of the Proclamation Day of the Republic of Italy, which falls on 2 June 2008. —MNA

Wellwishers invited to donate cash and kind to storm victims

YANGON, 1 June — Those from at home and abroad may donate cash and kind to the storm victims at the following addresses.

Wellwishers may donate cash to Col Hla Thein Swe, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue, at No16/A, Ministry of Finance and Revenues, Setmu Street, Yankin Township, Yangon (Ph: 09 8600109), U Maung Maung Win, Vice-Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar (Ph: 09 8600102), Director U Maung Maung (Ph: 01 543757) and Deputy Director U Kyaw Win Tin (Ph: 01 543765) directly or in

person.

Wellwishers may donate relief supplies to U Than Oo, Director-General of Relief and Resettlement Department, at Trade Warehouse in Ward-3, Mayangon Township, near Kyaikwaing Pagoda (Ph: 09 8600025, 09 8600526, 09 8600701) and U Aung Tun Khaing, Acting Director-General of Social Welfare Department (Ph: 09 8600702), at Fire Services Department (Head Office), Mayangon Township, near Tooth Relic Pagoda, Yangon.

MNA

Charity Golf tournament held

YANGON, 1 June — The Cyclone Nargis Golf Tournament, organized by Singapore Association, Malaysian Association and Thai Association in Yangon, was held at Punhlaing Golf Club in Hlinethaya Township this

morning.

After the tournament, FMI Co Chairman U Theim Wai accepted K 30 million donated by Singapore Association, Malaysian Association and Thai Association in Yangon and K 2.5 million

by U Aung Soe Win, wife Daw Nwe Nwe Hsint (a) Ma Moe and family of NNS Pulses and Beans Trading for taking relief and rehabilitation measures in Ngaputaw and Hainggyikyun Townships. — MNA



FMI Co Chairman U Theim Wai accepts K 30 million for relief and rehabilitation of Ngaputaw and Hainggyikyun townships by Singapore, Malaysian and Thai Associations. — MNA

MRCS donates medicines, relief supplies to storm victims

YANGON, 1 June — A team led by President of Myanmar Red Cross Society Prof Dr Tha Hla Shwe presented Ovaltine packets, tinned meat and canned fish and medicines worth K 3 million to storm victim patients who are receiving medical treatment

at Maubin Township People's Hospital to Township Relief and Rehabilitation sub-committee Chairman Dr Khin Maung Htay.

Next, they presented relief supplies worth K 2 million to the storm victims of Ngaygy Gayat vil-

lage in the township.

The president of MRCS presented tarpaulins, buckets, kitchen utensils and personal goods worth K1.7 million to the members of Maubin Township Red Cross Society.

MNA



President of Myanmar Red Cross Society Prof Dr Tha Hla Shwe presents relief supplies to Red Cross members from Maubin Township.—MNA



TCG Chairman Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu meets Rome-based UNWFP Executive Director Ms Josette Sheeran.—MNA

Relief supplies from abroad arrive at Yangon International Airport

YANGON, 1 June — Five C-130 flight carrying 50.476 tons of medical equipment, rain coats, plastic rolls, three life-boats, blankets, two water purifiers, empty bottles and water purifying tablets donated by the USA, IL-76 flight carrying 13.89 tons of medical equipment, empty bottles and water purifying tablets donated by WFP, Y 7 100 C flight carrying 2.5 tons of clothes and bottled water donated by Lao People's Democratic Republic, AE-837 flight carrying 0.4 ton of five water purifiers and its accessories donated by a missionary

monastery in China (Taipei) and Tomoko Co, DC-8 flight carrying 37.995 tons of tarpaulins donated by Relief Supplies Co Ltd of People's Republic of China, TG-701 flight carrying 0.74 ton of 183 bags of rice donated by Bangkok Airline, AN-12 flight carrying 54.188 tons of three water purifiers, blankets, plastic rolls, computers and its accessories, two vehicles, jerkins, helicopter used equipment and mosquito nets donated by Thailand-based WFP and A-130 flight carrying 29.406 tons of blankets donated by UK arrived at Yangon

International Airport today.

Relief supplies donated from abroad have been distributed to storm-hit areas by helicopter, vessel and vehicle without delay. — MNA

Deputy Foreign Minister receives WFP official

YANGON 1 June— U Kyaw Thu, Deputy Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Chairman of Tripartite Core Group (TCG) founded with Myanmar Government, ASEAN and UN received Executive Director of United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) based in Rome Ms Josette Sheeran at the ministry here yesterday.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint and Country Director and Representative of WFP Mr Christopher Kaye.

Ms Sheeran, Executive Director of

WFP said that she felt terribly sorry for loss of lives and property damages caused by the storm, that WFP is founded with members of UN and WFP is directed to provide food for storm victims, that WFP had formed teams with regional experts in order to give assistance to Myanmar. She said she was delighted with Myanmar Government's measures for founding organizations to perform reconstruction tasks systematically, that WFP would also arrange short- and long-term aid programmes to give necessary assistance and that there is

sympathetic assistance for the victims from all over the world.

In his speech, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu said that Executive Director of WFP was welcomed and the thanked for aid and assistance of WFP. ASEAN Task Force and Tripartite Core Group (TCG) have been founded through Pledging Conference held by ASEAN and UN recently. Myanmar Government would carry out relief and reconstruction tasks based on assistance of respective UN agencies and of donor countries with understanding.

MNA



Relief supplies from PRC arrive at Yangon International Airport. —MNA

Medicines and medical equipment for storm victims

YANGON, 1 June—A ceremony to donate medicines and medical equipment to be used in giving health care to storm victims was held at the hall of Yangon General Hospital this morning.

Governor Mr Chohei Hasimoto of Rotary International District 2650 from eastern Japan presented medicines and medical equipment worth K 27440000 to Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo.

MNA



Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo accepts donation of Rotary International District 2650.

MNA



Relief aid donated from abroad being loaded onto a helicopter.—MNA

National referendum and firm decision of the people

Yebaw Tin Shwe

The national referendum for the approval of the draft constitution was held two sections separately due to the natural disaster.

It was held as the first portion in the cyclone Nargis-free regions on 10 May 2008. And it was held as the second phase with successful completion in the cyclone-hit Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions on 24 May.

It was a time when the voters had a chance to express their wishes. On 10 May, 92.4 percent of the voters in 278 townships across the country cast ‘yes’ vote. Likewise, 92.93 percent of the voters in 40 townships in Yangon Division and seven townships in Ayeyawady Division voted in favour of the draft constitution.

Overall, the people have expressed their approval of the draft constitution as there was 92.48 percent of ‘yes’ votes throughout the nation. The country was able to hold the national referendum successfully overcoming the attempt of internal and external destructive elements resorting to various ways to disrupt the referendum.

NLD in the country and its associates, expatriates and broadcasting stations of powerful nations slammed the national referendum saying it was unfair.

Actually, the referendum was held in accord with the law only after rules and regulations had been prescribed. Voting system also met the internationally democratic standards. Polling stations were found to be safe and secure.

There was no canvassing for votes and pressure in the surroundings of the polling stations. The polling station officers handed out ballot papers after checking the lists of voters. The forms to draw the ballot papers were only signed and there was no mark on the ballot papers.

It was found that voter himself had to get the ballot paper, marked the sign freely and put the paper into the ballot box. There was no case of rigging like in the period of AFPFL parliamentary democracy.

Practically, I cast my vote in a free and peaceful way in Botahtaung Township. When I looked round

Practically, I cast my vote in a free and peaceful way in Botahtaung Township. When I looked round the polling stations in the township, I found all the voters were casting vote freely and peacefully.

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Talking about the polls rigged in the time of

Overall, the people have expressed their approval of the draft constitution as there was 92.48 percent of ‘yes’ votes throughout the nation. The country was able to hold the national referendum successfully overcoming the attempt of internal and external destructive elements resorting to various ways to disrupt the referendum.

AFPFL parliamentary democracy, ballot papers were to be put into any ballot boxes. So, there were cases of taking out the ballot papers from the boxes of opposition parties and putting them into the boxes of AFPFL.

The voting system in the referendum held

recently is different. As a voter was to tick ‘yes’ or ‘no’ on the ballot paper, one that had been ticked ‘no’ could not be changed into ‘yes’.

Moreover, ballot papers that had been ticked ‘yes’ could not be put into the ballot boxes beforehand. When the polling stations were opened, the officers first showed the empty ballot boxes to the public and placed them at the designated places.

When the polling stations were closed, the officers had to announce the number of voters and the number of ballot papers. And there had to be no adjustment.

Therefore, all the votes announced by the Commission for Holding the National Referendum are the true wishes and opinions of the people.

There could not be stealing of votes or cheating like in the AFPFL period. It was the true wishes of the people. That shows the entire people have approved the draft constitution. It is because all the ‘yes’ votes accounted for 92.48 percent.

It is wrong to say that the entire people supported the NLD as the majority of its representatives won the 1990 elections. In reality, at that time, the NLD got only over 7 million votes out of more than 20 million voters all over the country. Let alone the entire people, it (NLD) did not win the approval of half of the voters.

The public approval of the new constitution means the entire people support the seven-step Road Map of the State welcoming the general election to be held in 2010.

In other words, the people signal they want the government that will be formed after the 2010 election.

Besides, all the people have revealed that they no longer recognize the 1990 election results the NLD is sticking to as those results are out of date and the people have left them to the grave.

The entire people in oneness have approved the new constitution. I write this article to hail the wishes of the people as they have shown that they have patriotism, cherish total independence, want perpetuation of sovereignty and want no outside interference, lackeys and puppet government.

Translation: ST

Actually, the referendum was held in accord with the law only after rules and regulations had been prescribed. Voting system also met the internationally democratic standards. Polling stations were found to be safe and secure.

Dhamma Zedi Sayadaw says people should donate cash and kind to storm victims systematic and in disciplined ways

Maung Maung Myint Swe

(from page 16)

programme of an interview with Monk Bhaddanta Kosalla (Maha Dhamma Cariya) of Dhamma Zedi Theravada Missionary Monastery in Ward 42, Dagon Myothit (North) aired by Myawady TV, all my suspicions dwindled away.

Now, the monk is staying in Kungyangon, Yangon Division, and donating cash, food and clothes as far as he can to the victims. In the interview conducted at Zartiman Hall in Kungyangon Township on 28 May, the monk, when asked how he raised funds and supplies, said, "When I heard about the natural disaster, I was in Myitkyina. Then, I held a preaching ceremony in Mandalay with the aim of raising funds for the victims. At the ceremony, I was offered more than 120 million kyats and supplies full of ten ten-wheel trucks. I asked authorities for help to transport the donations. The supplies arrived at Kungyangon on 22 May. I donated supplies full of six trucks worth about 4.3 million kyats in the town".

It was very encouraging to note that the monk's great desire to provide supplies to the victims. It was a demanding task for him to raise funds and aid, and to transport the donations to Yangon.

He said, "Then, I asked responsible persons and staff for help to transport the donations to the storm-affected areas such as Dedaye, Pyapon, Kyondat, Thandeik and Kyonda and I donated the food and clothes to the victims. Up to 28 May, I had donated more than 2000 bags of rice and about 200,000 clothes to the victims through officials concerned".

I noticed that the monk donated some of the supplies in person and he mobilized the strength of local authorities to donate some of the supplies

systematically.

Regarding the donation of supplies to Kungyangon and surrounding areas, he said, "I donated the supplies to all victims including members of the Sangha, nuns, monasteries and pagodas. Now, the population of Kungyangon is about 130,000. In the town, there are 3900 households in the urban area and 21,000 households in the rural areas, totaling about 25,000 households. So far, I have donated 250,000 pyis (small baskets) of rice to them. I presented cash to buy 50 gallons of diesel to transport the donations to the villages. I presented one million kyats to the volunteers who would transport the supplies to the villages. Of the donations to Kungyangon Township, 500,000 kyats went to the health sector, 500,000 kyats to the education sector, and one million kyats to the trust funds of the pagoda".

Watching TV, I learnt that Monk Bhaddanta Kosalla made donations with the help of responsible persons, staff and servicemen.

As to the distribution of the donations, he said, "I donated supplies full of three trucks in Dedaye and Pyapon townships. So far, I have donated supplies worth more than 1000 million kyats to the victims in the storm-hit areas of Ayeyawady Division such as Bogale, Mawlamyiegyun and Labutta townships. I am now donating more than 1000 bags of rice to the victims in Kungyangon. In the process, I took more than 20,000 units of supplies. A unit is made up of eight kinds of supplies. They are rusk, instant noodle, towel, slippers, fried prawn paste, rice and clothes. A unit of rice is rated at a pyi. Supposing a pyi of rice is enough for ten people, I am donating rice enough for about 200,000 people (20,000 households). I also made donations to the victims in Shwepaukkan, Shwepyitha and Hlinethaya in Yangon".



Bhaddanta Kosalla discusses relief and rehabilitation plans with personnel concerned.

I noticed his explanations were simple and comprehensible.

As regards attitude the storm victims should have in accepting the supplies, he said that the victims felt angry because the supplies did not reach immediately. The anger was due to their greed. They could come under delusion due to their anger. Persons with much greed may face fire, persons with much anger may face floods, and persons with much delusion may face strong winds. So, a person should make charity to suppress his greed, preserve moral conduct to suppress his anger, and practice meditation to overcome his delusion, he said.

He said that he had to make trips to far-flung areas such as Kyei-khaung, Muse and Shweli; that he was offered cash and kind that were free from impurities; and that so the victims would deserve well the donations to consume if they said prayers for the well-beings of the donors.

Concerning the donation of supplies to the victims, he said that he did not think it was wise if some felt joy to make donations, and the donation should be based on true loving-kindness and compassion; that they should not make donations for pleasure replete with demerits, nor should they do so like going on a picnic; that he was making donations because of his humanitarianism not because of joy; that some buses carried a ton of supplies each; that when one or two slices of bread were dropped from a moving car, about 200 people were in a scramble for the bread; that he was not happy

with seeing such acts; that he suggested that donors should not make a trip to the areas as if they were on a picnic; that he witnessed snacks were dropped from a moving car with the religious flag flown, and people on the road were jostling each other for the snacks, so the police stopped the car; that then a monk in the car said that he wanted to give away supplies to the victims but he was prevented by the police, thereby creating a conflict between the police and the victims; that then some rumours surfaced that the police and the armed forces were forbidding the direct aid; that indeed, they were not true at all; that he was saying so to ensure systematic donations; that he was saying so, but not under the instructions of any senior military officers or the government; and that he said so because of his firsthand experiences.

The Sayadaw's speech was so very clear and effective that all my suspicions and doubts were no more. He said, "I asked the officials for help in distributing the supplies. They extended a helping hand to me. All the police and servicemen I met worked hard. I did not know them in person, but I can say that they worked. So, No one should make comments without knowing all the facts. I would like to urge the people to visit the areas for their information. They should not spread the hearsays. I would say all should not have much greed, anger and delusion in carrying out the relief tasks in the times of emergency".

Translation: MS

No one should make comments without knowing all the facts. I would like to urge the people to visit the areas for their information. They should not spread the hearsays. I would say all should not have much greed, anger and delusion in carrying out the relief tasks in the times of emergency".

WHO urges member countries to ban tobacco advertising

KAMPALA, 1 June — The World Health Organization (WHO) has called for the complete banning of tobacco advertising and promotion as measure of combating tobacco use, which kills one third to half of those who use it.

"The WHO appeals to member states and policy-makers to require by law a comprehensive ban on all forms of advertising, promotion, and sponsorship of tobacco products," said Luis Sambo, WHO Regional Director for Africa, in statement issued here on Saturday.

The statement, released to mark World No Tobacco Day, said a

ban on tobacco advertising is a powerful tool to protect more than 85 per cent of the world's 1.8 billion young people living in developing countries. "As the tobacco industry intensifies its efforts to catch new, young and potentially life-long tobacco users, the health of a significant percentage of the world's youth is seriously threatened by these deadly products," it said.

According to the health body, by 2030, 10 million people will die per year from tobacco with over 70 per cent of these deaths occurring in developing countries. "It is the only legal consumer product that kills one third to one

half of those who use it as intended by its manufacturers, with victims dying 15 years prematurely," said the statement.

WHO said while most countries in Africa have or are developing legislation that prohibits advertising tobacco products, many of them have not effectively enforced the regulations.

MNA/Xinhua



Police officers evacuate residents after a landslide destroyed part of a neighborhood in Medellin, Colombia, on 31 May, 2008. The landslide destroyed 20 homes and killed at least 6 people.—INTERNET

Brazil to plant one billion trees in Amazon

RIO DE JANEIRO, 1 June —The Brazilian state of Para announced on Friday that it will launch a reforestation programme to plant one billion trees by 2013 in the Amazon rainforest region. Para's Governor Ana Julia Carepa told Xinhua that the initiative shows the local authorities assume their responsibility for the rainforest's preservation. Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva is expected to attend the programme's inauguration.

"The government will not plant trees in person but offer incentives to

stimulate planting," Carepa said. She added that officials of Para and other states will gather in the city of Belem Friday to discuss the challenges of the region.

"It is not that the national government tells us what to do with the Amazon. We, the Amazonians, are active actors and protagonists in putting the Amazon within the national development. National development has to do with the Amazon with the concept of a new development model," she added.

MNA/Xinhua



A little girl drinks water from a tap at a refugee camp 20 kilometers south of the Shiite holy city of Najaf, 160 kilometres (100 miles) south of Baghdad, Iraq, on 31 May, 2008. About 280 refugees live in that camp, most of them driven out of their homes by sectarian violence.—INTERNET

Gunman shot dead eight outside mosque north of Sanaa

SANAA, 1 June — An unidentified gunman shot dead at least eight people outside a village mosque north of the Yemeni capital Sanaa on Friday, local official sources said.

The incident, which occurred in a mosque in the village of Kahal in Amran Province some 60 kilometres north of Sanaa after Friday prayers, also wounded dozens of others, many seriously, according to the sources.

However, there are some other sources saying that five people were killed and 12 others wounded, 10 of them seriously.

Witnesses said that the gunmen walked inside the mosque during the weekly sermon and opened fire on worshippers with his assault rifle, and police arrested the attacker after the shooting.

MNA/Xinhua

Tropical storm "Alma" kills three in Nicaragua

MANAGUA, 1 June — Three people were killed, 10 others are missing and more than 25,000 have been made homeless by tropical storm Alma, which pummeled Nicaragua with heavy rains Thursday, the Nicaraguan Civil Defence agency said Friday.

The tropical storm, ranked category one on the Saffir-Simpson scale, is the first cyclone of the Americas' hurricane season. It slammed into Nicaragua's Pacific coast with winds toppling trees and ripping roofs from flimsy homes.

Civil Defence on Friday called on Nicaraguans to donate blankets, food, water, mattresses and medicines to the victims.

Nicaraguan Government spokeswoman Rosario Murillo said Thursday that Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega would soon broadcast a message to the nation.

Alma was located about 85 kilometres west-northwest of Nicaragua's capital Managua and moving north at nearly 15 kilometre-per-hour, with up to 38 centimetres of rain expected.

The eastern Pacific hurricane season began on 15 May. — MNA/Xinhua

N-W Italy declared flood emergency, at least three dead

TURIN (Italy), 1 June — Italy declared an emergency in the northwest of the country on Friday after torrential rainfall caused floods and landslides that have killed at least three people and are putting crops at risk.

"We are still in the middle of a crisis and will be so for the next 24 hours," Guido Bertolaso, the head of Italy's Civil Protection service told reporters after an emergency meeting in Turin where the river Po has been at dangerously high levels.

The Turin region of Piedmont and the mountainous Val d'Aosta were put under a "state of emergency" by the government — a status which allows for extra funds and special measures to be taken to protect lives and infrastructure.

The Po, Italy's longest river which flows across the north of Italy, and its tributary the Dora remain at serious risk of further flooding, the Civil Protection service said.

MNA/Reuters

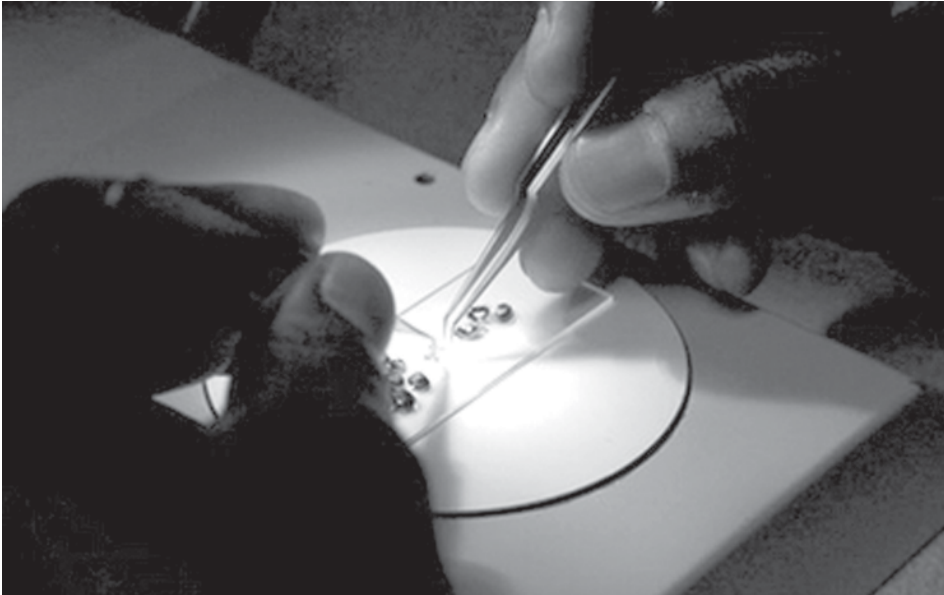
Plane skids off runway in Honduras

TEGUCIGALPA, 1 June — A passenger plane skidded off a runway at Tegucigalpa airport in Honduras on Friday as it was trying to land and careened into a road, but there were no official reports of any dead, an airline official said.

A local manager of El Salvador's TACA airline told Honduran television there were 142 passengers on board the plane, which was arriving from San Salvador.

He said there were no dead but injured passengers were being taken to hospitals. Honduran radio reported one person on the ground was killed in the accident.

MNA/Reuters



A scientist inspects a sample under a microscope. European doctors said on Friday they had identified a genetic characteristic that strongly worsens survival chances for women with breast cancer who are treated with a common form of chemotherapy.—INTERNET

China issues statute on fraud involving quake relief

BEIJING, 1 June — Chinese authorities published a special statute Thursday that provides for punishment of malpractice and fraud involving relief for the 12 May earthquake in southwest China.

The quake took at least 68,516 lives, injured 365,399 people, left another 19,350 missing and rendered more than 15 million people homeless.

The new regulation was jointly issued by the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) and the Ministry of Supervision (MOS).

The two departments ordered their local

counterparts at various levels to make the anti-earthquake battle a primary task and to investigate and punish wrongdoing without hesitation.

The regulation prohibits embezzlement and fraud in the distribution of relief, the trading of relief goods, and other official malfeasance. Institutions and individuals, leading officials in particular, who are found to have engaged in such activities will be severely punished by the Communist Party and the government.

Those who broke the law will have their cases referred to judicial

departments for prosecution, it said.

MNA/Xinhua



Last Ring : Schoolgirls play in fountains during a gathering of school graduates on Independence Square in Kiev as young Ukrainians on Friday mark “Last Ring” celebrating the day of their school leaving.

INTERNET

MNA/Reuters

Iraqi children playing soccer blown up by bomb

BAGHDAD, 1 June — One Iraqi child was killed and two wounded on Friday when a group

of children playing soccer picked up a bomb and it exploded, police said.

The children, aged about 5 or 6, were playing near a rubbish dump in Baquba, 65 kilometres (40 miles) northeast of Baghdad, when they spotted a strange object, police said.

When they picked it up, the home-made device exploded.

Relatives brought the injured children to a local hospital, where they lay in bed, bandaged and blood-spattered.

MNA/Reuters

HK cracks down on sale of modified game consoles

HONG KONG, 1 June — Hong Kong Customs officers said here Thursday that games consoles with circumvention devices worth a total of 110,000 HK dollars (about 14,103 US dollars) were seized at an operation on 28 May. The Customs conducted the territory-wide operation code-named “Intruder” to crack down on retail activities involving the modification of game consoles to enable customers to play pirated games on the hardware.

In raids against seven

shops in Wan Chai, Sham Shui Po, Fanling and Tuen Mun, officers of the Intellectual Property Investigation Bureau of Hong Kong seized 29 sets of game consoles with circumvention devices and related accessories.

Seven men and a woman, aged 19 to 46, including three shop owners were arrested.

The Customs conducted intensive investigations after receiving six reports made by members of the public.

MNA/Xinhua

Models from India and Sri Lanka display Saree collection designed by Indian fashion designer Shobaa De during the Colombo Vogue fashion show in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 31 May, 2008. Colombo Vogue fashion show was organized by Sri Lanka Tourism to promote Sri Lanka as a tourist destination.—INTERNET



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One dead, two seriously injured in NY crane collapse

NEW YORK, 1 June — One construction worker was killed and two others seriously injured when a construction crane collapsed onto a residential building Friday morning in the upper east side of Manhattan, New York.

A pedestrian was slightly hurt in the deadly crash, the second to happen in the city in less than three months, Mayor Michael Bloomberg said, describing the collapse as “unacceptable”.

The crashing tower crane damaged the top floor of a nearby high-rise apartment building, with a corner of that building ripped apart.

Seven buildings nearby were evacuated as a precaution.

Authorities are still

investigating the cause of the accident, which came on the heels of a major overhaul in the city Department of Building (DOB) after a crane collapse on 15 March killed seven people and damaged several buildings in Manhattan’s Turtle Bay.

The March accident led to the arrest of a crane inspector, who had given the crane the green light just days before it crashed to the ground, and the resignation of then DOB Commissioner Patricia Lancaster.

Before Friday’s crash, 13 people had already died in construction-related accidents around New York City, one more than all of 2007, the NY1 television station reported.

MNA/Xinhua

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WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 5 JUNE 2008

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TOWARDS A LOW CARBON ECONOMY
ကာဗွန် လျော့ချ ထုတ်လုပ်ရေး
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A file photo shows students play their instruments during music class at Iraq’s Music and Ballet School in Baghdad.—INTERNET

Nicaragua sets up shelters in preparation for hurricane

MANAGUA, 1 June — Nicaragua has set up 995 emergency shelters in response to an alert regarding the arrival of hurricane Alma on Friday, the country’s Civil Defence Department said Thursday.

The Pacific coastal area of the country is highly vulnerable to the impact of rain and strong winds from hurricane Alma, the chief of Civil Defence Mario Perez-cassar said.

The emergency alerts have been launched for the provinces of Rivas, on the border with Costa Rica, Granada and Masaya in the east, Carazo in the south, and Leon and Chinandega in the west, he said at a Press conference.

Authorities ordered the settlement of shelters with logistic support for about one week in Managua, the capital city of the Central American country.

The special actions, corresponding to a yellow alert launched Thursday at noon, were ordered after the US National Hurricane Centre in Miami declared a hurricane alert for Nicaragua. Alejandro Rodriguez, director general of the Nicaraguan Institute of Territorial Studies, also asked the country to prepare itself for the worst, especially in the Pacific coast zone.

According to forecasts by the Institute of Territorial Studies, Alma will hit Nicaragua about 16 kilometres southwest of Leon, capital of the province with the same name. — MNA/Xinhua

Cambodian civil aviation industry harvests \$16m in 2007

PHNOM PENH, 1 June — The State Secretariat of Civil Aviation (SSCA) of Cambodia announced Thursday that in 2007 it harvested nearly 16 million US dollars of revenue from the air business services.

“We collected nearly 16 million US dollars from air business services and it increased nearly 33 per cent compared to 2006,” said a statement issued by the SSCA at the national conference of the government’s rectangular

policy.

In 2007, nearly three million foreign air passengers arrived at Cambodian airports and the number increased 27 per cent as compared with 2006, the statement said.— MNA/Xinhua



Shot London teenager loses fight for life

LONDON, 1 June — A teenager shot in the street in Camden, north London, on Saturday night has died, Scotland Yard said on Thursday.

Sharmaarke Hassan, 17, died at a north London hospital late on Wednesday after he was shot in the head.

The shooting happened on the same night that 18-year-old actor Rob Knox, who had a small part in the upcoming “Harry Potter And The Half-Blood Prince”, was stabbed during a fight outside a

pub in Sidcup, Kent.

Hassan was the 15th teenager to be murdered in the capital this year. Last year 26 teenagers were either shot or stabbed. A post mortem

was due to be carried out later on Thursday. There remains no clear motive for the shooting. Police said they were keeping an open mind.

MNA/Reuters

Venezuela says arrests suspected US drugs agent

CARACAS, 1 June — Venezuela said on Thursday it arrested a man who identified himself as a US anti-drugs agent, which if confirmed could inflame tensions between the United States and one of its biggest oil suppliers. President Hugo Chavez in 2005 ended cooperation with the the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), saying the agency was spying on him.

The United States denied the charge and says Chavez does too little to stop trafficking from neighbouring Colombia, the world’s largest cocaine exporter. General Gabriel Oviedo said the man was acting suspicious when he was detained close to the border with Colombia while bearing Canadian and French passports and a Venezuelan identity card. “The official at the scene proceeded to interrogate him and he said he was a DEA agent,” Oviedo told state television. — MNA/Reuters

Models present creations from the Raimon Bundo collection at Barcelona Bridal Week on 30 May, 2008.—INTERNET

UN experts warn of economic cost of species loss

BONN (Germany), 1 June — Mankind is causing 50 billion euros (78 billion US dollars) of damage to the planet's land areas every year, making it imperative governments act to save plants and animals, a Deutsche Bank official told a UN conference.

A study, presented to delegates from 191 countries in the UN's

Convention on Biological Diversity on Thursday, said recent pressure on commodity and food prices highlighted the effects of the loss of biodiversity to society.

"Urgent remedial action is essential because species loss and ecosystem degradation are inextricably linked to human well-being," said Pavan Sukhdev, a banker

at Deutsche Bank and the main author of the report.

On top of the current 50 billion euros annual loss from land-based ecosystems caused by factors including pollution and deforestation, the cumulative loss could amount to at least 7 per cent of annual consumption by 2050, said the report.

MNA/Reuters



Potato painting : A visitor looks at a painting during the exhibition "The Potato: sacred and profane symbol" at the Nation's Museum in Lima.—INTERNET

Heavy rainfall leaves nine dead, 32 injured in Colombia

BOGOTA, 1 June — Heavy rainfall during the past week has left nine people dead and 32 others injured in Colombia, the Social Security and Health Ministry said Wednesday.

The rainfall has brought flooding, mud-rock flows and landslides in more than 150 cities and towns in 26 provinces in western and central Colombia, Social Security and Health Minister Diego Palacio Betancour said. Weather forecasters said the rainfall is likely to last till late June, and the disaster-hit region is expected to expand northward.

The government has evacuated residents from potentially dangerous places and transported food and medicine to the disaster areas. — MNA/Xinhua

UNICEF medical supplies arrive in China quake zone

CHENGDU, 1 June — An emergency relief consignment from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) was flown to the earthquake-hit Sichuan Province in southwest China on Friday. The shipment includes health and nutritional supplies for children and

pregnant women.

The 86-ton shipment, valued at 890,000 US dollars, includes 140 emergency health kits, each covering the needs of a population of 10,000 people. It also includes 80 neo-natal resuscitation kits, 80 sterilization kits and special nutritional

supplements for 110,000 children under the age of five and 42,000 pregnant women. The supplies will be sent to 13 counties worst hit by the quake on 12 May, providing support for the basic health needs of 1.4 million people over three months.

MNA/Xinhua



Miss Tiffany 2008 Kangsadarn Wongdusadeekul (C), smiles along with the runners up after being crowned as the most beautiful transvestite in Thailand, in Pattaya, on 30 May, 2008. A teenage transvestite who grew up on a military base has been crowned Thailand's most beautiful transvestite, in an extravagant annual pageant which transfixed the nation.—INTERNET

New shipwreck sites found by US treasure hunters

TAMPA (Florida), 1 June — The US treasure hunting company Odyssey Marine Exploration said on Thursday it had found two shipwreck sites near the English Channel with artifacts from the

colonial period.

Odyssey, which is battling Spain over the rights to another shipwreck, said it had not identified either of the new sites.

"Both sites lie within

the general area of the English Channel but are outside the territorial waters or contiguous zones of any sovereign nation," the Tampa-based company said in a statement.

"The sites both contain cannon and other artifacts which are believed to date from the colonial period."

Potential claimants would be notified if either site can be identified, said Odyssey, adding that it has filed documents in the US federal court in Tampa to protect its salvage rights to the sites.

MNA/Reuters

Christie's sets record with Asia art sales, eyes more

HONG KONG, 1 June — Global auction house Christie's sold a record 310.7 million US dollars worth of Asian art at its Hong Kong spring sales this week, cementing the region's reputation as one of the most promising in a thriving international market.

The tally was Christie's highest ever for an Asian sales series and a 58-per-cent increase on the same event last year.

The auctions featured a characteristic smattering of record results in various categories of artwork, anchored by an especially strong showing of Chinese and Asian contemporary art.

"The results of our

Hong Kong spring sales highlight the importance of Asia for Christie's and the potential that this region offers," said Edward Dolman, CEO of Christie's International.

MNA/Reuters



Doctors review the scans of a patient being treated at the Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Centre at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, Maryland. Scientists have said that consistent reductions in US federal budget allocations for cancer research that have been implemented since 2003 threaten to undermine recent gains in the fight against the disease.—INTERNET

SPORTS

Spain strike late to grab 2-1 win over Peru

HUELVA (Spain), 1 June — A spectacular volley from defender Joan Capdevila earned Spain a last-gasp 2-1 win over Peru in a warm-up for Euro 2008 on Saturday.

The match looked to be heading for a draw after Peru striker Hernan Rengifo had cancelled out a first-half goal from David Villa but Capdevila smashed home from close range three minutes into injury time to secure the victory. The victory extended Spain's unbeaten record to 15 games before next month's tournament in Austria and Switzerland.

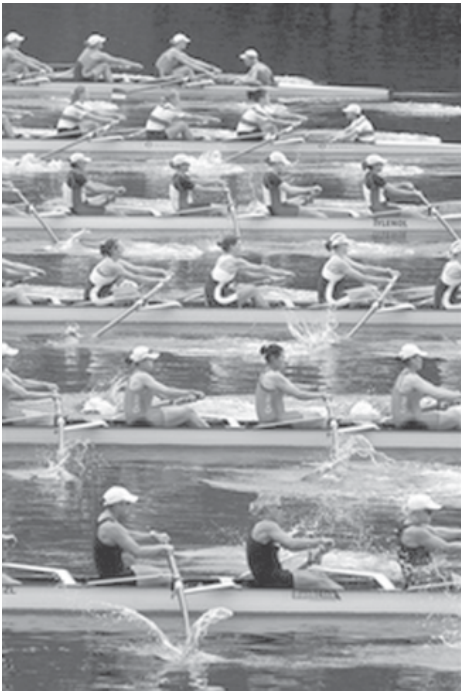
"It was a shame we gifted them a goal as we wanted to keep a clean sheet," Spain coach Luis Aragones told Spanish state television.

Aragones changed his habitual 4-1-4-1 formation and opted to play two strikers against Peru with Villa partnering Fernando Torres up front while Cesc Fabregas was sacrificed in midfield.

Villa was Spain's most lively player in the first half and caused frequent problems for a weakened Peru side missing several players who had been handed lengthy bans for alleged indiscipline. Barcelona midfielder Xavi almost put Spain in front when keeper Leo Butron fumbled a long distance shot, but the ball hit the post and rolled across the face of the goal. —MNA/Reuters



Chili's Fernando Gonzalez returns the ball to Switzerland's Stanislas Wawrinka during their third round match at the French Open tennis tournament in Paris on 31 May, 2008.—INTERNET



Boats from New Zealand, China, Great Britain, Canada, Germany and Netherlands, front to back, start for the Women's Eight Sculls Repechage, at the Rowing World Cup on the Rotsee Lake in Lucerne, Switzerland, on 31 May, 2008. INTERNET

Portugal warm up for Euro 2008 with 2-0 win

VISEU (Portugal), 1 June — Goals from midfielders Joao Moutinho and Simao Sabrosa earned Portugal a morale-boosting 2-0 win over Georgia on Saturday in their last warm-up match before next month's European Championship.

Coach Luiz Felipe Scolari began the match with the players most likely to start their opening game against Turkey on 7 June. They also face the Czech Republic and Switzerland in group A.

Portugal, runners up at Euro 2004 and World Cup semi-finalists two years ago, went ahead in the 19th minute when Moutinho scored his first goal for Portugal with a long-range shot.

MNA/Reuters

Croatia captain Kovac scores for both sides

BUDAPEST, 1 June — Croatia captain Niko Kovac scored for both sides as his team scraped an unimpressive 1-1 draw with eastern European neighbours Hungary in their final Euro 2008 warmup match on Saturday.

Kovac headed Croatia into the lead midway through the first half and deflected the ball into his own net in the 45th minute after a Tamas Hajnal corner caused a goal-mouth scramble. The Croats made a bright start and missed two early chances but faded as the game went on and struggled to contain persistent Hungarian raids down their left flank. —MNA/Reuters

Cameroon make winning start to World Cup campaign

YAOUNDE, 1 June — Captain Rigobert Song and striker Samuel Eto'o scored on Saturday to give Cameroon a winning start to their World Cup qualifying campaign with a 2-0 win over the Cape Verde Islands in Yaounde.

Song, who first played for Cameroon just before the 1994 World Cup finals in the United States, gave Cameroon a ninth minute lead and Eto'o added a second goal from the penalty spot 10 minutes into the second half.

The 31-year-old Song's goal came after Eto'o beat two defenders to deliver the cross.

A shot from Eto'o was handled in the second half and the former African Footballer of the Year converted the penalty.

MNA/Reuters

Italy learn little by beating weak Belgium

FLORENCE (Italy), 1 June — Italy head to Euro 2008 in confident mood but learned little from their 3-1 win over Belgium in a friendly on Friday.

Italy coach Roberto Donadoni tried to take positives from the game but by organizing just one friendly in the run-up to the finals in Austria and Switzerland he has reduced his options for experimentation. Against Belgium, who failed to qualify for next month's tournament, Donadoni went for his favoured three-pronged attack in the first half.

In the second he tried out a 4-3-1-2 with Alessandro Del Piero and a disappointing Luca Toni playing in front of the recalled Antonio Cassano, whose appearance was cheered by a spartan Florence crowd. —MNA/Reuters

Turkey's Altintop doubtful for Euro 2008

GELSENKIRCHEN (Germany), 1 June — Turkey midfielder Hamit Altintop suffered a muscle injury in training on Friday and could miss the Euro 2008 finals, his club Bayern Munich said on Saturday.

Altintop only made his comeback last Sunday in a friendly against Uruguay after a two-month layoff due to a broken bone in his foot, the Bundesliga club said in a statement on its web site (www.fcbayern.de). The 25-year-old was examined by the Bayern doctor and could miss Turkey's opening Group A match against Portugal in Geneva next Saturday, the statement said. Co-hosts Switzerland and the Czech Republic make up the group.

MNA/Reuters

Dica scores twice as Romania beat Montenegro 4-0

BUCHAREST, 1 June — Substitute playmaker Nicolae Dica scored twice to help Euro 2008 finalists Romania crush Montenegro 4-0 in their friendly on Saturday.

Adrian Mutu put Romania ahead with a left foot shot from the edge of the area after an assist from Cristian Chivu in the 15th minute.

Central defender Sorin Ghionea, who came on after the interval, added the second when he headed home a corner from Florentin Petre four minutes into the second half. Dica scored the next two within the space of 15 minutes.

MNA/Reuters

Answers to yesterday's Crosswords Puzzle

1	O	U	T	S	I	D	E	5	W	R	I	T	E
	N		H		R		S		I		N		N
8	S	L	E	E	K		9	S	A	D	N	E	S
	E		R		E		A		G		P		U
10	T	I	M	I	D	L	Y		11	E	N	T	E
			O				S		O				E
12	V	E	S	T	R	Y		14	I	N	D	E	E
	A				A		16	S			P		
17	N	A	H	U	M		19	P	A	R	T	I	A
	E		A		B		A		I		C		I
22	S	E	T	T	L	E	R		23	F	L	U	N
	S		E		E		S		L		R		H
24	A	D	D	E	R		25	E	V	E	R	E	S

Ballack free kick helps Germany beat Serbia

GELSENKIRCHEN (Germany), 1 June — Captain Michael Ballack grabbed an 82nd minute winner for Germany, who fought back from a goal down to beat Serbia 2-1 on Saturday in their last friendly before the Euro 2008 finals.

Substitute Oliver Neuville sidefooted home in the 74th minute to cancel out Bosko Jankovic's first-half opener before Ballack drove a free kick through the Serb wall and into the net with goalkeeper Vladimir Stojkovic rooted to the spot.

It was a less than convincing performance from the hosts, one of the favourites for the Euro 2008 tournament in Switzerland and Austria beginning on 7 June.

"It wouldn't have been great if we had lost so everyone stepped on the gas," Ballack said in a television interview. "We are not yet at 100 per cent but our form will improve." —MNA/Reuters

France held to draw by Paraguay in warmup

TOULOUSE (France), 1 June — World Cup runners-up France were held to a 0-0 draw by Paraguay in their penultimate Euro 2008 warm-up game on Saturday.

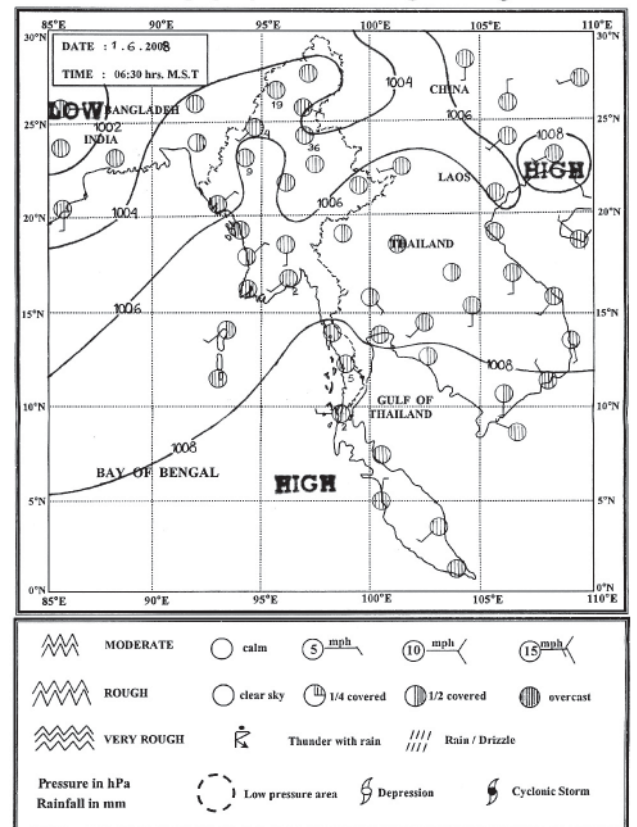
France, who started their final preparations with a 2-0 win over Ecuador last Tuesday, failed to breach their visitors' tight defence and survived a few scares. For their first outing since coach Raymond Domenech named his official 23-man list on Wednesday, France were missing midfielder and captain Patrick Vieira, who was nursing a sore left thigh. While Domenech had rested several first-choice players against Ecuador, nearly all of them were on the Toulouse pitch, which they left to jeers from the crowd after a dull display. "I was a disappointed to hear people boo at the end," said Domenech, who made five substitutions, among them striker Karim Benzema, who left the pitch in the second half and had his left ankle strapped. —MNA/Reuters

သဘာဝဘေးအန္တရာယ်ကျရောက်သောဒေသများရှိ ပြည်သူများအတွက် ကျန်းမာရေးသတိပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်

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

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Sunday, 1 June, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours

MST: During the past 24 hours, Southwest monsoon has advanced into the whole country. Weather has been partly cloudy in Chin, Kayah and Rakhine States, Ayeyawady Division, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in lower Sagaing, Magwady and Bago Divisions, scattered in Mandalay and Yangon Divisions, widespread in upper Sagaing Division and fairly widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfall in Bago Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Shwegyin (3.43) inches, Bhamo (1.42) inches, Thaton (1.30) inches, Meikhtila (0.87) inch and Hkamti (0.75) inch.

Maximum temperature on 31-5-2008 was 92°F. Minimum temperature on 1-6-2008 was 74°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 1-6-2008 was 82%. Total sunshine hours on 31-5-2008 was (2.6) hours approx.

Rainfall on 1-6-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, (0.08) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.08) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (29.06) inches at Mingaladon, (34.02) inches at Kaba-Aye and (41.18) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southwest at (06:30) hours MST on 1-6-2008.

Bay inference: Monsoon is weak in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 2-6-2008: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kachin and Chin States, upper Sagaing Division, fairly widespread in Rakhine, Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States and Taninthayi Division and isolated to scattered in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Moderate monsoon.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 2-6-2008: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 2-6-2008: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 2-6-2008: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

သတိပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်

ယခုရာသီကာလသည် ဝမ်းလျှောဝမ်းပျက်ရောဂါဖြစ်ပွားတတ်သည့်အချိန်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။ မသန့်ရှင်းသောရေ သောက်သုံးခြင်းနှင့် မသန့်ရှင်းသော အစားအသောက်များစားသုံးခြင်းတို့ကြောင့် ဝမ်းလျှောဝမ်းပျက်ရောဂါများ ဖြစ်ပွားနိုင်ပါသည်။ သို့ဖြစ်ပါ၍-

* ဝမ်းလျှောဝမ်းပျက်ရောဂါကို ကာကွယ်နိုင်ရန်အတွက်

- ကလိုရင်းဆေးခတ်ထားသောရေ(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

Earthquake report

(Issued at 10:30 hours MST today)

A Strong earthquake of intensity (6.4) Richter Scale with its epicentre outside MYANMAR about (1500) miles North-East of Dawei Seismological observatory was recorded at (08) hour (27) min (22) sec MST on 1st June 2008.



Monday, 2 June
View on today

7:00 am

1. တောင်တန်းသာသနာပြု ဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:45 am

4. Dance of national races

8:00 am

5. Cute little dancers

8:15 am

6. Musical programme

8:30 am

7. International news

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:10 pm

2. Dance variety

4:35 pm

3. နားဝင်ပီယသံ့လက်သံ

4:45 pm

4. မြန်မာအသံခေတ်ပေါ်

တေးဂီတအဖွဲ့ဖျော်ဖြေခန်း

5:00 pm

5. Songs to Uphold

Natioanl Spirit

5:15 pm

5. “စက်မှုတပ်ဆင်လုပ်ငန်းတွင်”

(အကယ်ဒမီ-ဇင်ဝိုင်း၊

အကယ်ဒမီ-နီနီမြင့်အောင်၊

အကယ်ဒမီ-မင်းမော်ကွန်း)

(ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဝင်းထွန်းထွန်း)

5:30 pm

7. Musical programme

6:00 pm

8. Evening news

6:30 pm

9. Weather report

6:35 pm

10. အလှူရှာမယ်လှကမ္ဘာဝယ်

7:05 pm

11. Songs of yesteryears

7:25 pm

12. နိုင်ငံစီးပွားအလေးထား

ကျေးလက်ထုတ်ကုန်များ

8:00 pm

13. News

14. International news

15. Weather report

16. မြန်မာရုပ်ရှင်

“ကောင်းကင်ထက်က

ပန်းတစ်ပွင့်”

(အပိုင်း-၁) (လူမင်း၊

ထက်ထက်မိုးဦး၊လှအလှတင့်)

(ဒါရိုက်တာ- ညွန့်မြန်မာ-

ညီညီအောင်)

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.

Dhamma Zedi Sayadaw says people should donate cash and kind to storm victims systematic and in disciplined ways

Maung Maung Myint Swe

Some areas of Yangon and Ayeyawady divisions in Myanmar were ravaged by a severe storm in early May. Now, the government, the people and the Tatmdaw are working together to accelerate the relief and rehabilitation tasks in the storm-hit areas.



*Dhamma
Zedi
Sayadaw
Bhad-
danta
Kosalla
(Maha
Dhamma
Cariya)*

“I donated supplies full of three trucks in Dedaye and Pyapon townships. So far, I have donated supplies worth more than 1000 million kyats to the victims in the storm-hit areas of Ayeyawady Division such as Bogale, Mawlamyinegyun and Labutta townships. I am now donating more than 1000 bags of rice to the victims in Kungyangon.

A variety of malicious comments are running high these days that people are not allowed to donate food and supplies to the victims directly and direct aid has been barred.
The people being indecisive, the State-owned media such as newspapers, TV and radio have turned the spotlights on the true evidences. Watching the recent
(See page 9)



Warehouses seen at Sule International Port of Myanma Port Authority. (News reported)—MNA