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Sunday, 24 May, 2009

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, wife Daw Mya Mya San attend Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida honouring ceremony at Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill

YANGON, 23 May—A ceremony to honour 90 monks who passed the 61st Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination—one Tipitakadhara monk, one Mula Abhidhammakovida monk, one Mula Abhidhamma monk, four Dighanikayakovida monks, one Dighabhanaka monk, one Vinayakovida monk, 25 Vinayadhara monks, seven Ubhato Vibhagakovida monks and 49 Ubhato Vibhangadhara monks—was held at Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill in Mayangon Township this morning, attended by Vice-Chairman of the State

Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San.

Also present on the occasion were Secretary of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Nyaungdon Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maga Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa and member Sayadaws, Ovadacariya Sayadaws of the examination, Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Sayadaws, supervisory Sayadaws of the examination and the monks

who passed the examination, members of the Sangha, Prime Minister General Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, Secretary-1 of the SPDC General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, SPDC member Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Lt-Gen Myint Swe, Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, Lt-Gen Myint Hlaing and Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Chairman of Yangon Division PDC Commander of (See page 16)



Vice-Chairman of SPDC Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San and congregation receive Five Precepts from the Sayadaw at ceremony to honour monks who passed the 61st Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination.—MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 24 May, 2009

Harness water resources in an efficient way

Myanmar is gifted with a great number of water sources where fish and prawns are abundant such as offshore and deep sea fisheries, rivers, creeks, large tributaries and lakes. The government is working hard to boost production and export of marine products and through effective exploitation of the water resources.

Owing to the world's growing population, not only sea fishing but also fish breeding are carried out on a wider scale in order to help satisfy the increasing demand of meat and fish. Myanmar is a land where there is abundant supply of freshwater and saltwater fish and prawns. So, the nation can enjoy greater economic growth if fish and prawns are produced on a commercial scale.

So far, Myanmar has more than 200,000 fish ponds. Mandalay and Sagaing divisions as well as lower Myanmar run fish breeding. Myanmar raises diverse species of freshwater fish inclusive of carp, river catfish, snake-head fish, white Hamilton's carp, yellow Hamilton's carp and tilapia along with freshwater prawns. In addition to freshwater fish, the nation has to breed seawater fish extensively.

Myanmar's fisheries comprise rivers, creeks and fishery lakes. The nation has over 3000 fishery lakes, so it is required to carry out fishing in a systematic way for sustainable progress of fishery lakes and averting extinction of fish and prawn species.

In late May, June and July when it rains a lot, fishes that will spawn migrate upstream the rivers and creeks and similar such freshwater prawns lay eggs in large quantities. The Fishery Department reminds that fishes and prawns, fingerlings and shrimps should not be caught and they should be given sanctuaries till the end of Myanmar month Nayon.

Breeding freshwater and seawater fish and prawns is a lucrative business. The Myanmar Fishery Federation and related organizations and livestock entrepreneurs should raise pedigree species of fish and prawns scientifically. Simultaneously, they should harness the water resources expeditiously in the Myanmar waters, rivers and creeks in order to help boost exporting marine products.

Managing Director Mr Gerard Geraets of Dumex (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd extends greetings at medical seminar of Children Health Education Department of MMA and Mo Asia Co Ltd (Dumex).—MNA



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

Workshop on the way forward of PONREPP implementation held



Chairman of TCG, Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Kyaw Thu speaking at workshop on future tasks of Tripartite Core Group.—MNA

YANGON, 23 May—The Tripartite Core Group (TCG) under its objective of complementing the implementations of the National Disaster Protection Strategies as laid down and implemented by the National Natural Disaster Preparedness Central Committee since 15 August 2008, had launched the Post-Nargis Recovery and Preparedness Plan (PONREPP) in Bangkok on 9 February 2009.

To further discuss, explain and to coordinate the way forward of the PONREPP implementation, a workshop was held at Chatrium Hotel in Yangon on 21 May 2009. Present were Chairman of TCG Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Kyaw Thu together with other TCG component members from the Government of the Union of Myanmar, ASEAN and the UN, representatives of the ministries concerned and UN agencies, ambassadors of ASEAN countries, ambassadors from donor countries, INGOs and NGOs.

Chairman U Kyaw Thu, Special Envoy of ASEAN Secretary General Dr William Sabandar and TCG member United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Mr Bishow Parajuli delivered addresses.

The workshop was divided into three sessions for discussion namely Aid Effectiveness and Harmonization: The Role of International Assurances in Post-Nargis Relief and Recovery; Presentation of National Reconstruction Plan and PONREPP Architecture; and Way Forward: Create Synergies and Promote Cooperation between the Government's Recovery Plan and PONREPP. Deputy Director-General U Than Aye of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation representing the Myanmar Government, British Ambassador Mr Mark Canning representing donor countries, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Singaporean Ambassador Mr Robert Chua representing ASEAN member countries, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Dr Bishow Parajuli representing the UN, Mr Andrew Kikwood representing INGOs and Daw Nwe Zin Win representing the local NGOs participated in the discussions.

As the effective and successful implementation of the PONREPP remain the sole responsibilities of the TCG, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Hua Hin, Thailand, in February 2009 had unanimously endorsed the extension of the TCG term until end of July 2010.—MNA

MMA, Mo Asia Co Ltd (Dumex) organize medical seminar

YANGON, 23 May — A medical seminar jointly-organized by Children Health Education Department of Myanmar

Medical Association and Mo Asia Co Ltd (Dumex) took place at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road here in this morning.

Managing Director Mr Gerard Geraets of Dumex (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd extended greetings.

Next, Managing Director U Peter Moe Kyaw of Mo Asia Co Ltd (Dumex) presented K 200,000 each for MMA and CHED to MMA Vice-Chairman Dr S Kyaw Hla and Professor/ Head of Children Health Education Department Dr Daw Kyu Kyu Khin. The Vice-chairman spoke words of thanks.

Then the medical seminar followed. Prof Dr

Daw Kyu Kyu Khin presided over the seminar and Prof Dr Jacques G Bindels gave talks on Immune-Modulating Effects of Prebiotic Oligosaccharide, Paediatrician Dr Kyaw Lin, on Current Approach to Children with Afebrile Seizures and Dr Chai Pei Fan of University of Malaya Medical Centre (Malaysia), on Recurrent Abdominal Pain in Children.

Next, they replied to queries raised by those present.—MNA

Iran's President vows to keep anti-West stance

TEHERAN, 23 May — Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad who is seeking re-election in the upcoming presidential race vowed on Friday to keep anti-West stance.

"The Iranian nation will not accept domination of the bullying powers," Ahmadinejad told thousands of his supporters at an indoor stadium in Teheran, "we are even ready to direct the future of the world that is contrary to the wish of some countries."

He said that the past four years, since he took up the presidential post, was the most difficult, impor-

tant and sensitive juncture both in Iran's history and in the post-Islamic Revolution victory.

"During these four years, the West put much pressure on us and tried to put more pressure over our head by threatening to carry out more sanctions," he said.

"We have buried the sanctions in the cemetery of history," he said, adding that he has also deflected pressures from groups inside Iran to abandon the controversial nuclear programme. He criticized ex-president Mohammad Khatami's policy of de-

tente which "led to closure of nuclear facilities," saying that as long as his government was in power, no document will be signed against Iranian nation's interest and there will be no submission to the bullying powers.

Friday is the first day for candidates of the 10th presidential race slated for June 12 — Ahmadinejad, former Revolutionary Guards chief Mohsen Rezaei, former premier Mir-Hossein Mousavi and ex-parliament speaker Mehdi Karroubi to carry out election campaign.

Internet



A wounded man receives medical treatment at a hospital after a bomb attack in Baghdad's Doura district on 21 May, 2009. —INTERNET

Iraqi top cop expects more attacks

BAGHDAD, 23 May — A top Iraqi security official predicted Friday that militant groups will attempt more attacks similar to those that killed at least 66 people this week after US combat soldiers leave Baghdad and other cities by the end of next month.

Interior Minister Jawad al-Bolani also said that some bombings this year were apparently carried out by terror cells that include foreign fighters from North Africa.

US combat forces are due out of Baghdad, Mosul and other cities by June 30 under a US-Iraqi agreement, handing over security responsibility to Iraqi soldiers and police.

But a spate of attacks

since April has raised concern whether Iraqi forces are capable of safeguarding the security improvements achieved over the last two years.

"I think that there are terrorist groups that will try to carry out some terrorist and criminal activities in the coming period during and after the withdrawal of US forces from the cities," al-Bolani said.

"This is expected, but there are precautionary measures and plans to foil these terrorist activities," said al-Bolani, whose ministry includes Iraqi paramilitary police. But public unease has been rising following the spate of attacks, including Thursday's blasts in

Baghdad and Kirkuk that killed 22 Iraqis and three American soldiers. Another 41 people died the day before in a car bombing in a Shiite neighbourhood of northwest Baghdad. —*Internet*

NATO service member killed in southern Afghanistan

KABUL, 23 May — A NATO service member has been killed in fighting in southern Afghanistan, the international force said on Saturday.

The service member was killed Friday in a "direct fire attack," NATO forces said in a statement. It did not provide the troop's nationality, citing a policy of waiting for the national authority to do so.

The force also did not provide further details about the incident.

The Taliban have taken back control of large areas of southern Afghanistan in the past three years, reversing much of the gains won by international forces when they invaded in 2001. —*Internet*

This photo shows a vehicle driven by contractors working for Blackwater, now known as Xe, wrecked during a May 5, 2009 attack in Kabul, Afghanistan, photographed in a Kabul police yard on 20 May, 2009. —INTERNET



Iraqis inspect the damage after a car bomb ripped through the Shula quarter of Baghdad. Iraq was engulfed by a wave of violence, with suicide and bomb attacks killing 23 people a day after a massive bomb devastated a Baghdad Shiite neighbourhood slaughtering 40 civilians. —INTERNET

Singh sworn in for second term as Indian PM

NEW DELHI, 23 May — Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was sworn in for a second term Friday, even as talks broke down between his party and a key coalition partner.

President Pratibha Patil, dressed in an elaborate white, green and gold sari, administered the oath of office to Singh and his core Cabinet in a formal ceremony at New Delhi's imposing red-stone presidential palace.

Only 19 senior ministers were sworn in with several more expected to take the oath next week in a second ceremony, according to a statement from Singh's office.

The delay was apparently to allow Singh's Congress party time to complete coalition negotiations with some of its allies. The DMK, a regional party from southern India, walked out of talks after Congress failed to agree to its demands, said TR Baalu, a senior party member. Party leader M Karunanidhi and his large entourage packed their bags and flew out of New Delhi early Friday.

Internet

One killed, two wounded in Finland shooting incident

HELSINKI, 23 May — An old woman was killed and two other men wounded in a shooting incident in the city of Kuopio, central Finland on Friday evening.

An eyewitness said that the gunman suddenly rushed into the market square in a car at around 6 pm local time and fired in the air with a shotgun. Then he shot with a pistol at the old woman's head, who was trying to stop him. The woman died of the wound later in hospital. Two men were also wounded and sent to hospital, but their injuries were not life-threatening. One of them was the woman victim's husband and the other was their foreign friend, who was on a visit to Finland, reported Finnish media. —*Internet*



Spirit stuck on Mars, Opportunity rolls on

ITHACA, 23 May—Six years after landing on Mars, the rover Spirit is bogged down in Martian soil, researchers at Cornell University said, but Opportunity carries on.

“The vehicle (Spirit) seems to be in a unique combination of soft, sandy material and slopes that we haven’t encountered yet,” said Jim Bell, professor of astronomy and leader of the mission’s Pancam color camera team. “We’re not calling this purgatory for Spirit yet, but it has that

potential,” Bell said.

Spirit and its twin, Opportunity, have continued operating years after scientists predicted they would give up and quit in the harsh and corrosive atmosphere of Mars.

Spirit is stuck in Gusev cratre, while Opportunity is on the other side of the planet ending a two-year exploration of Victoria Crater which showed Mars once had water, Bell said.

Internet

Job losses up in 44 states as recession drags on

WASHINGTON, 23 May—All but six states lost jobs in April and double-digit unemployment persisted in every corner of the country as companies squeezed by the recession slashed payrolls.

For the fifth straight month, California led the nation in net job losses, with 63,700 jobs disappearing in April. Among the handful of winners were Arkansas, Montana and Florida — a state battered by the housing collapse and badly in need of good news.

Michigan, the heart of the teetering American auto industry, posted the highest unemployment rate in the nation, 12.9 percent, the Labour Department said Friday. Oregon came in at 12 percent, South Carolina at 11.5 percent and Rhode Island at 11.1 percent.

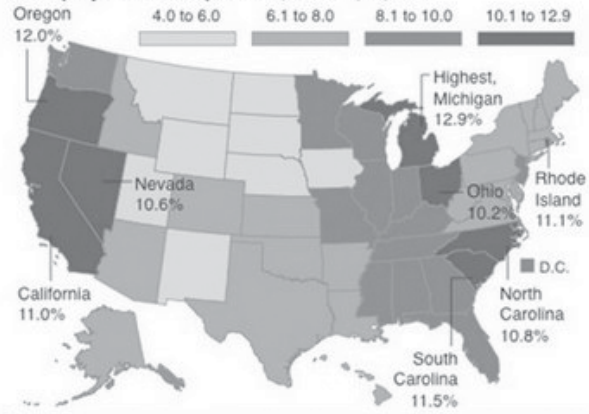
Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke has said he expects the economy to begin growing again later this year, but the recovery is expected to be slow, with companies in no rush to hire. The Fed projects unemployment will stay high well into 2011.

Internet

Michigan jobless rate nearly 13 percent

Eight states had unemployment rates above 10 percent in April. The national rate was 8.9 percent.

Unemployment rate April 2009, seasonally adjusted



Graphic shows state-by-state breakdown of unemployment rates

Earthquake of 5.9 magnitude shakes Mexico City

MEXICO CITY, 23 May—An earthquake of 5.9 magnitude on the Richter scale shook on Friday Mexico City, without reports of victims and damages so far.

The National Seismologic Service (SSN) said that the epicenter was located 26 kilometres south to Chiautla de Tapia mu-

nicipality in the state of Puebla, centre of Mexico.

The earthquake occurred at 2:24 pm local time (1924 GMT) and it lasted 15 seconds. It was mainly felt in Tehuacan municipality, Puebla.

Civil Protection Secretariat from Mexico City said that helicopters from the

Condor Group flew over Mexico City, and to the moment they have not reported victims or material damages. People in many buildings in the Historical Center, like the Senate of the Republic, the Public Education Ministry (SEP) and some insurance agencies, were evacuated.—Internet

UN may postpone financial summit

UNITED NATIONS, 23 May—UN General Assembly President Miguel d’Escoto said here Friday that the assembly will meet early next week to consider postponing a high-level summit which seeks to weather the current economic crisis and search for solutions taking all nations’ interests into account.

A General Assembly plenary session next

Tuesday will deliberate on whether to push back the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development, originally slated to be held from 1-3 June, to 24-26 June, according to a statement issued by d’Escoto’s spokesperson.

“Delegates have expressed concern that they require more time to ne-

gotiate the draft outcome document that is to be adopted by world leaders,” the statement said, adding that d’Escoto has consulted with all major regional groups in recent days on the meeting’s possible three-week deferral.

The General Assembly met Friday evening, but failed to reach a consensus on the postponement.—Internet



A file photo of construction workers on a building site in central London. Britain’s recession-hit economy is contracting at its sharpest pace in almost three decades amid the worst global downturn since the 1930s, official data showed Friday.—INTERNET

British economy at weakest for 30 years

LONDON, 23 May—Britain’s economy is contracting at its sharpest pace in almost three decades amid the worst global downturn since the 1930s, official data showed Friday, but analysts said the worst is likely over.

British gross domestic product (GDP) shrank 1.9 percent during the first quarter of 2009 compared with the final three months of last year, according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

The data was unchanged from an initial estimate it gave last month.

GDP shrank 4.1 percent in the first quarter compared with the first three months of 2008, also unchanged from preliminary data, the ONS added.

Both figures matched

analysts’ consensus forecasts.

“The good news is that it is looking highly likely that the first quarter will have marked the deepest rate of contraction in this recession,” said Howard Archer, chief Britain economist at IHS Global Insight.—Internet

25,000 restaurant staffs lose jobs in Mexico City in flu suspension

MEXICO CITY, 23 May—Some 25,000 people lost their jobs due to the previous closure of more than 2,500 restaurants in Mexico City amid the A/H1N1 flu fears, authorities said on Friday.

President of the National Chamber of the Restaurant Industry and Seasoned Food (Canirac), Francisco Mijares, said the slow re-activation of the economic activities in Mexico City was not felt in restaurants despite reopening two weeks ago.

The global financial crisis has affected the tourist and restaurant sector, but “the final shoot” was the suspension of the services for 10 days due to the A/H1N1 flu, Mijares said.—Internet



People gather outdoors after the earthquake in Mexico City, capital of Mexico, on 22 May, 2009. An earthquake with a magnitude of 5.7 jolted Mexico on Friday afternoon. According to the US Geological Survey (USGS), the tremor had its epicenter in Mexico’s Puebla region, some 140 km southeast of Mexico City, with a depth of 97.3 km.—INTERNET



A group of combined harvesters reap wheat in the wheat field, at Yanhu District, Yuncheng City, north China's Shanxi Province, on 21 May, 2009. The local agricultural department mobilizes some 3,000 combined harvesters and other farming machinery to launch on the massive summer seasonal harvesting to over 4.8 million mu of wheat plantation, in addition to the voluntary maintenance service to the bulky number of farm machines operating in the fields. —XINHUA

EU-Russia summit falls short of increased trust

PRAGUE, 23 May—The latest European Union (EU)-Russia summit has not radically increased mutual trust mainly due to the EU Eastern Partnership project involving six post-Soviet countries and disputes on Russia's gas supplies to Europe via Ukraine, political scientists here said Friday.

Martin Larys took issue with the view of Czech President Vaclav Klaus, who chaired the two-day EU-Russian summit ending Friday in Russia's Khabarovsk on behalf of the EU presidency.

Klaus told journalists after the summit that the talks "increased our mutual trust, which is very much needed and very important."

Another political scientist Petr Just

said the summit showed Russia's gas supplies to Europe remained a key question and the main source of disputes between the EU and Russia.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev at the summit warned the EU against the possibility of a new dispute with Ukraine over gas supplies if Ukraine was unable to pay Russia for gas.

Medvedev suggested the EU would only be able to ensure reliable gas supplies from Russia to Europe via Ukraine by lending money to Ukraine to help it pay for gas.

The EU will now have more motives to look for alternative sources, which would lower its dependence on Russia," Just said.—Xinhua

California's poor to be hard hit by budget cuts

LOS ANGELES, 23 May—With a huge budget deficit set to balloon, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is considering a plan to slash California's safety net for the poor, a newspaper report said on Friday.

As part of the plan, Schwarzenegger will eliminate the state's main welfare programme, health insurance for low-income families and cash grants to college students, according to the *Los Angeles Times*. The stark proposal surfaced in testimony by

the administration at a joint legislative hearing on Thursday that followed the governor's decision to withdraw a week-old plan to borrow 5.5 billion dollars to help balance the budget, the paper said.

California's deficit may already have ballooned from 15.3 billion dollars to 24 billion after Tuesday's voter rejection of nearly six billion dollars in funding measures proposed by the governor to close the

budget gap, state officials said. The state runs short of the cash it needs to pay bills in July. To balance the books, Schwarzenegger is eyeing the dismantling of the state's CalWorks programme, which serves more than 500,000 poor families with children, as well as the elimination of Healthy Families, which provides medical coverage to 928,000 children and teens, according to the paper.—Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency



A Subaru Forester presents a performance for Chinese visitors at the 7th Central China International Auto Show held in Wuhan, capital city of central China's Hubei Province, on 22 May, 2009. Some 300 autos of 60 home and abroad brands were showcased for visitors from China, one of the world's leading potential markets of car consumers.—XINHUA

Singapore firm produces "black box" for ships

SINGAPORE, 23 May — A Singapore company has put on the market a data recorder, the "black box" for ships to prevent maritime accidents, local media reported on Friday.

According to TV broadcaster Channel NewsAsia, the Voyage Data Recorder, which is said to be the first for Singapore as well as for Southeast Asia, is de-

signed by local firm Pamarine and supported by a government agency SPRING.

The equipment is said to have passed various international standards, which include being

able to withstand high impact, high temperatures, a simulating situation of a disaster at sea.

The report said that the company has received five orders from ferry operators.—Xinhua

Hypersonic test vehicle flies in Australia

CANBERRA, 23 May — Scientists have successfully completed a hypersonic flight trial in southern Australia, with the test vehicle traveling faster than five times the speed of sound.

The May 7 flight, seen as a step toward building next-generation air vehicles that could dramatically reduce inter-continental travel times, was the first of up to ten planned flight experiments to be conducted at Woomera, the Australian Department of Defence said on its website.

The flights are part of a joint research programme

between the Australian Defence Science and Technology Organization (DSTO) and the US Air Force Research Laboratory. This trial has successfully tested the flight and mission control systems that will be used in future experiments," said Minister for Defence Science and Personnel Warren Snowden in a statement released Friday.—Xinhua

Chinese explorers walk in the Sahara Desert, on 22 May, 2009. Two Chinese explorers Jin Feibao and his partner geologist Fei Xuan re-established contact with home on Wednesday after reportedly disappearing in the Sahara Desert for three days.—XINHUA



Air crash kills 11 in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 23 May — Eleven people were killed when a small plane crashed Friday night in northeast Brazil, local media reported.

The plane crashed near a private air strip in the northeastern seaside resort of Trancoso, killing all eight passengers and three crew members on board, the *Estado de S Paulo* newspaper reported on its website.—Xinhua

Man killed in Australian floods

SYDNEY, 23 May — A man died when his car was swamped by raging floodwaters in northeastern Australia, where tens of thousands of homes have been cut off by wild weather, according to officials.

The 70-year-old's body was found near his submerged vehicle around midnight at Coffs Harbour, 540 kilometres (340 miles) north of Sydney, police said, bringing the death toll caused by the floods to two.

Emergency services estimated 21,500 people were isolated by the flooding, which has left two Australian states as disaster zones and forced widespread evacuations.

Freak winds flung a sheet of metal through an office block window killing a 46-year-old man Wednesday on

Queensland's Gold Coast tourist strip, while torrential rains deluged coastal towns.

"We could be talking weeks of inundation for some areas, if not longer," an emergency service spokesman told the AAP newswire.

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd said he would visit affected areas next week, and offered his condolences to the family of the storm's latest victim.

The extreme weather was easing but there was a risk of further flash-floods, while ocean swells of up to ten metres were pounding the coast, the weather bureau said.

"Rainfall totals today are not expected to be as high as those recorded over the last couple of days, and will continue in a decreasing trend," it said.—Internet



People stand near flood waters next to the Winsome Hotel, which remained open for patrons, in Lismore, on 22 May. According to emergency services' estimates, 21,500 people have been isolated by the flooding, which has left two Australian states as disaster zones and forced widespread evacuations.—INTERNET

Floods in Haiti kill 11 people, destroy homes

PORT-AU-PRINCE (Haiti), 23 May — Floods have killed at least 11 people this week as heavy rains swamp towns still rebuilding from last year's hurricanes, Haiti's civil protection department said Friday.

Most of the victims were swept away by swollen rivers or died when their flimsy homes collapsed, officials said. Five of the deaths were reported in the rice-growing Artibonite Valley.

Rains that began a week ago have been heaviest on the southern peninsula near Les Cayes and Camp Perrin, where 1,000 homes have been flooded. Some areas received nearly 3 inches (74 millimeters) of rain Thursday night, Haiti's meteorological office said.

Internet

One killed, 15 injured in bomb blast at church in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 23 May — One person was killed and a total of 15 people injured when a bomb went off at the Church of Assumption in Lalitpur, south of Nepali capital Kathmandu on Saturday morning, the police said.

The bomb went off at the church located at Dhobighat in Lalitpur, a city in the Kathmandu Valley bordering Kathmandu city across the Bagmati River, at 9:15 am local time (GMT 0330) on Saturday local time.

The bomb went off when the church's weekly function was going on, according to local news website THT Online.

Internet

India dispatches medical aid, doctors to Sri Lanka

NEW DELHI, 23 May — To provide relief and assistance to the war-hit people in Sri Lanka, India Friday sent a medical team along with a large consignment of medicines for setting up a hospital in the Tamil-dominated northern part of that country.

"To help the internally displaced civilians in Sri Lanka, we are sending a 27-member medical team comprising eight doctors with over 25 ton of relief material," Brigadier P Sachdeva told reporters here. India has already established a 110-bed hospital in Pulmoddai town and is going to shift it to Menik farms area in Vavuniya District, which was liberated from the LTTE.

MNA/PTI

NEWS ALBUM



A giant tortoise weighing over 20 kg grazes on the grass, at Jiaji Township, Qionghai City, south China's Hainan Province.

Blaze guts 11 fire engines at fire school

A fire in a workshop at a British Fire Service College gutted 11 fire engines in England Saturday.

The blaze did not spread beyond one building at the training institution in Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire, the BBC reported. But the engines alone were worth 1.3 million pounds (almost \$2 million).

Scores of firefighters from Gloucestershire and two other counties battled the fire. "The fire service is used to dealing with emergencies," Charlie Hendry, head of the Chief Fire Officers Association, said.

Mom accused of using child to block taser

Police said a northeast Missouri mother used her 1-year-old child to shield a man from a Taser during a confrontation with officers.

The woman, 20, was charged with endangering the welfare of a child and interfering with an arrest.

She was arrested Tuesday night and placed at the Marion County jail on a 24-hour hold. The child, whose gender police did not release, was placed with another family member.

Officers were at an apartment checking on an assault claim made by the woman when a man confronted them, making threats.



A Japanese astronaut tested a "flying carpet" in outer space, folded laundry and used eye drops as part of a series of zero-gravity challenges submitted by the public. Standing on a white sheet, Koichi Wakata was gliding smoothly through a cabin of the International Space Station, as if snowboarding, in a video clip posted online by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency.

Woman charged with beating husband

A 78-year-old woman has been charged with beating her 84-year-old husband because she believed he was unfaithful several times during the marriage.

Prosecutors said the Lynnwood woman hit her husband with a bowl, pipe and carpet sweeper. He suffered broken ribs, pelvis and a wrist.

The woman was charged Thursday with second-degree assault after

her arrest late last month. She will remain in jail on \$70,000 bail.

"I beat him again," the woman wrote in the diary, which was recovered by police. "I told him it would be worth going to jail just to watch him bleed to death," she wrote.

A witness told police the woman believed her husband had an affair 35 years ago, according to court documents.



A man competes in a hot dog eating contest in Fort Worth, Texas in 2008. Over-eating, not a lack of exercise, is to blame for the American obesity epidemic, a new study claimed, warning that physical activity could not fully compensate for excess calories.

Michigan teacher spends 65 hours in tree

David Buth is rewarding the tree-mendous fundraising efforts of his Michigan middle school students by spending 65 hours in a perch 40 feet above ground.

It's all part of a deal the part-time science teacher at Rockford Christian School made with the students, who earned and collected thousands of dollars for a trip this summer to Teton Science

Schools in Jackson, Wyo.

He calls it Operation Squirrel. Buth used ropes and pulleys on Monday to ascend a tree on school property. The Grand Rapids Press says he took along his hammock, a tarp and some other items.

On Wednesday, he'll descend 30 or so feet to fulfill his teaching responsibilities while still in the tree. Operation Squirrel concludes Thursday morning.

Maj-Gen Ko Ko inspects progress of Saidin Hydropower Project

NAY PYI TAW, 23 May—Maj-Gen Ko Ko of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Thaug Aye and departmental officials, on 20 May heard a report on progress of Saidin Hydropower Project presented by the project in-charge at the project worksite in Sittway Township.



Maj-Gen Ko Ko of Ministry of Defence inspects Saidin Hydropower Project in Sittway Township.—MNA

After viewing the sample stones and the site for construction of the power plant, Maj-Gen Ko Ko gave necessary instructions.

On 21 May morning, Maj-Gen Ko Ko and party met with

servicemen and family members at the hall of Buthidaung Station and presented gifts to them.

They viewed major maintenance to the tunnel on Buthidaung-Maunglaw Road.

At Thiri Mingala Hall in Maunglaw Township, Maj-Gen Ko Ko met departmental officials and townselders. Maj-Gen Ko Ko, the commander and Deputy Minister for Home Affairs

Brig-Gen Phone Swe presented medicines, uniforms for fire fighters, journals, teaching aid and bio-batteries to departmental officials and townselders.

At Ale Thankyaw

Station Hospital, Maj-Gen Ko Ko comforted the patients and presented cash assistance and foodstuff to them. After visiting the operation theatre and the medical

store, he presented gifts to the station doctor and nurses.

Later, they viewed Maunglaw-Ale Thankyaw-Angumaw rural development road in a motorcade.

MNA

Symposium on Healthy Environment, Healthy Children on 30 May

YANGON, 23 May—The Department of Microbiology, University of Medicine (1), Yangon, under the auspices of the Microbiology Society, Myanmar Medical Association, will hold a symposium on “Healthy

Environment, Healthy Children” on May 30, 2009 (Saturday), 9:00 AM to 12 noon at Auditorium (A), Myanmar Medical Association, Theinbyu Road.

The speakers will be Head of the Department

of Microbiology, University of Medicine (1) Professor Dr. Kyi Kyi Thinn, Professor Dr. Wah Win Htike and Associate Professor Dr. Kyu Kyu Win.

All those interested are cordially invited to attend.—MNA

Myanmar, Thai entrepreneurs to meet for trade promotion

YANGON, 23 May – A meeting between a delegation of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and a delegation of Thai business persons will take place at the UMFCFI office at 10.30 am on 27 May.

At the meeting, 43 companies from Thailand selling construction materials and machinery, pipes and accessories, sanitary equipment, motorboat parts, batteries for cars and motorcycles, electric wires, cosmetics, clothing,

consumer products and other products will show samples of their products to Myanmar and Thai entrepreneurs. Therefore, Myanmar economic entrepreneurs will have the opportunity to deal with Thai entrepreneurs for mutual trade. – MNA

Myanmar Belle Co. Ltd introduces new product

YANGON, 23 May – A ceremony to introduce a new product of Myanmar Belle Co. Ltd was held in conjunction with press meet at Parkroyal Hotel on Alanpya Pagoda Road in Dagon Township here this afternoon.

Managing Director U Ye Myint Maung of the company made an opening address and Brand Manager Ma Hnin Pwint Phyu gave accounts of skin problem and supreme products.

Film stars Soe

Myat Thuza and Mya Pwint Phyu and May Thu, wife of Actor Lwin Moe, gave talks at the Skin Talk Show.

Next, Actor Lwin Moe presented gifts to shop owners and responsible persons of

shopping centers.

Myanmar Belle Co Ltd has introduced supreme skin care, a new skin care series of Kose, for customers in Myanmar.

Supreme Skin Care consists of five stages namely cleansing cream, washing cream, refining lotion (1,2), moisturizer (1,2), revitalizing (1,2) and it is available at supermarkets and Kose cosmetic shops.—MNA

Russian language course (Intermediate Level) in June

YANGON, 23 May —Under the arrangement to of the Union of Myanmar Travel Association, Russian language course No 2 (Intermediate Level) will be opened in mid-June 2009. Graduates majoring in Russian, tour guides and interpreters may take the course. A Russian

instructor will teach four days a week and experienced instructors of UMTA every Wednesday. The course lasts three months. As there are limited seats, those wishing to attend the course are to enroll at UMTA (Ph: 559672, 559673) not later than 30 May 2009.—MNA



Film stars give talks at Skin Talk Show of Myanmar Belle Co Ltd.

MNA

All this needs to be known

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



Secretary of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Nyaungdon Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa delivers Ovadakahta of SSMNC Chairman Magway Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Kumara.—MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein donates alms to a Sayadaw.—MNA



Lt-Gen Tin Aye offers Vinayadaya title and certificate to a Sayadaw.—MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, wife Daw Mya Mya San...

(from page 16)
Minister for Religious Affairs supplicated on the religious affairs.
Vice-Senior General Maung Aye offered Tipitakadhara title and certificate to Ashin Viriyananda of Tipitaka Monastery of Dagon

Township and Mula Abhidhammakovida title and certificate to Ashin Cakkinda of Tipitaka Monastery of Dagon Township.
Prime Minister General Thein Sein also offered Mula Abhidhamma title and

certificate to Ashin Vicittalankara of Tipitaka Monastery of Dagon Township, Dighanikayakovida titles and certificates to Ashin Khemavamsa of Mongthauk Tawya Monastery of Nyaungshwe Township

and Ashin Vilasa of Mingun Tipitakanikaya Monastery of Sagaing.
Secretary-1 General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo presented Dighanikayakovida titles and certificates to Ashin Gambhirañana of Mingun Tipitakanikaya Monastery of Sagaing and Ashin Osadhalankara of Thein Than Yadana Monastery of Mogaung Taik of Chanayethazan

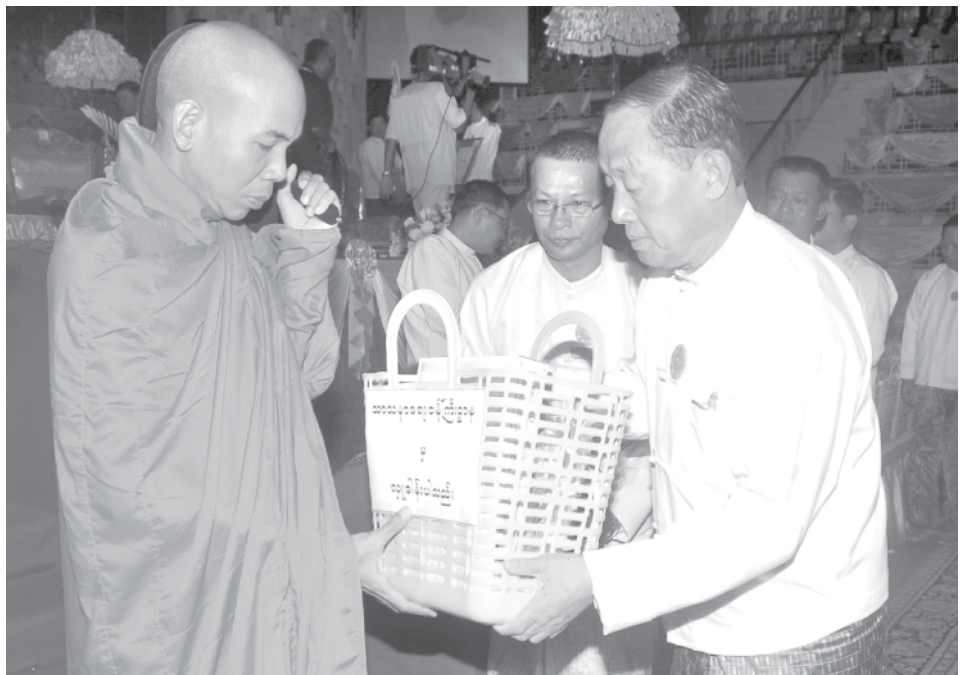
Township, Dighanikayakovida title and certificate to Ashin Paññavam-salankara of Tipitaka Maha Gandawin Nikaya Monastery of Dagon Myothit (East) Township.
SPDC member Lt-Gen Tin Aye also offered Vinayakkovida title and certificate to one monk, and Vinayadhara title and certificate to one monk.
Commander-in-

Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Nyan Tun offered Vinayadhara titles and certificates to three monks, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein two monks, Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence five monks, Maj-Gen Ohn Myint of the Ministry of Defence five monks, Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thura Myint Aung three

(See page 9)



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye donates alms to a Sayadaw who passed Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination.—MNA



Secretary-1 General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo donates alms to a Sayadaw.—MNA



**Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung supplicates on the religious affairs.
MNA**

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, wife Daw Mya Mya San...

(from page 8)
monks, Lt-Gen Myint Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence three monks, and Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence three monks and the commander,

bhangadhara titles and certificates to three monks, Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung five monks, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung five

Gen Aung Thein Lin five monks.

The Secretary Sayadaw delivered a sermon, and Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, wife Daw Mya Mya San and the congregation



Daw Mya Mya San, wife of Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, offers alms to a Sayadaw.—MNA



Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of Prime Minister General Thein Sein, offers alms to a Sayadaw.—MNA

Ubhatovibhangakovida titles and certificates to three monks. Chief Justice U Aung Toe presented Ubhatovibhankovida titles and certificates to three monks, Attorney-General U Aye Maung Ubhatovibhangadhara titles and certificates to three monks, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi Ubhatovibhankovida title and certificate to one monk and Ubhatovibhangadhara titles and certificates to two monks, Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein Ubhatovi-

monks, Minister for Electric Power No. 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint four monks, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha four monks, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win five monks, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe five monks, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein four monks, Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi four monks and Yangon Mayor Brig-

shared merits gained.

After the ceremony, the monks who passed the Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination left Maha Pasana Cave along the passage. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, wife Daw Mya Mya San and party donated alms to the Sayadaws.

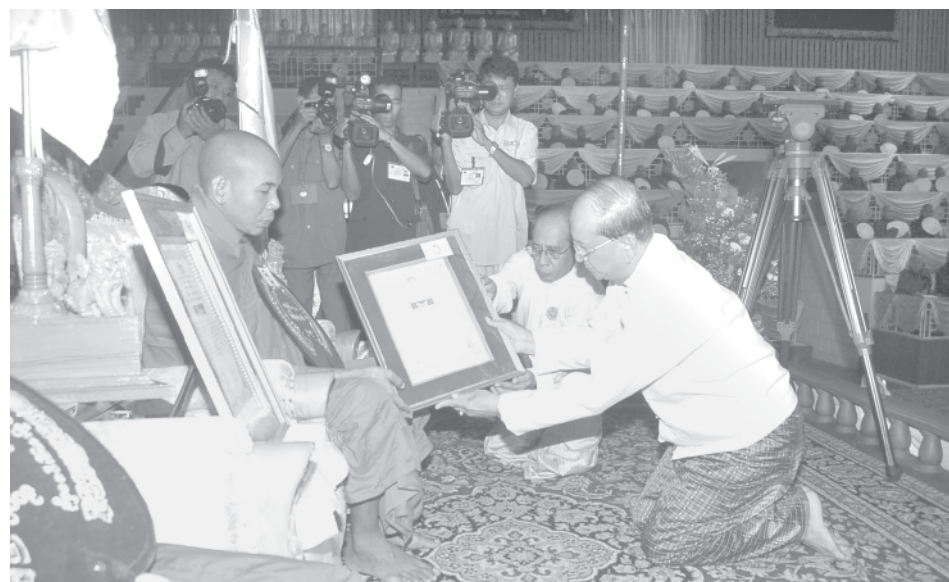
MNA

Lt-Gen Tin Aye offers provisions to a Sayadaw.

MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye offers a title and certificate to a Sayadaw.—MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein offers a title and certificate to a Sayadaw.—MNA



Secretary-1 General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo offers a title and certificate to a Sayadaw.—MNA



Sittway (Pyidawtha-Yaychanbyin) Railroad Section put into service

Article: Tin Htwe (MNA)

(from page 16)

Some time later, Prime Minister General Thein Sein and entourage arrived at the site, receiving a warm welcome from the local attendees. It had been a long time since local residents started to wait for such an auspicious day. Now, they have had their requirement of a transport facility fulfilled by the government, and so the facility will help improve the living and working conditions for them. Some elderly women were found with their eyes filled with tears of joy, having a steady gaze at the train.

The departure of the train was followed by the inauguration of P y i d a w t h a -

ing the songs, I felt the railroad, a result of Myanmar people's nationalistic fervour, would be long-lasting due to the sense of Union Spirit of local people.

Likewise, the first train was accorded with rousing welcome from local people at the villages and stations along its route including Sittway University, Dahpaing, Zawbugyar, Meizaligon and Yaychanbyin. Local people will be able to enjoy progress in the transport, trade and social affairs in future thanks to the railroad. For local people, they felt as though the railroad was a gifted facility. So, I did not think any local people having a look at the train could not help waving their hands to it.



Yaychanbyin Station.



Some young women of local national races in the first train.

Yaychanbyin Section, a part of Sittway-An-Minbu Railroad with the accompaniment of thunderous applause from the attenders. That reflected the facility helped the people equip themselves with a sense of Union Spirit more than ever. Some students from Sittway were on the train, singing such songs as Zartiman (nationalistic spirit), National Anthem, and Myanmar's School in chorus. Hear-

The railroad did find the satisfaction and recognition of local people. Now, the railroad has been built, but not an easy way. Rakhine State is composed with seaside regions, and it has many mountainous areas and swamp areas. In the state, the area of plains and hard parts is small. Therefore, to build a railroad in Rakhine State is a really uphill task. Due to such huge challenges, the project called for a large

workforce. The British government, the founder of the railway service in Myanmar, deliberately failed to build a railroad in Rakhine State, visualizing no benefits to it if there would be a railroad in the state. So, at that time local people except those who had traveled to other regions had never seen a train, but only on TV and in photos and paintings. It has made it clear that the government has carried out formida-

Previous governments could not work effectively for development of Rakhine State. In contrast, the Tatmadaw government is paying a careful attention to the plans for development of the state.

ble tasks to help Rakhine State enjoy such a remarkable development.

Rakhine State, a multicultural region, has an area of more than 14,000 square miles and a population of over three million and is constituted with four districts and 17 townships. Owing to geographical barriers such as mountain ranges, rivers, creeks and the sea, it was difficult to travel from and to Rakhine State. So, the poor transport served as a great hindrance to the relations between Rakhine State dwellers and the people of other regions.

Previous governments could not work effectively for development of Rakhine State. In contrast, the Tatmadaw government is paying a careful attention to the plans

for development of the state. For instance, it launched Yangon-Sittway Road, which passes through many heights and swamp areas, in 1996 in order that the state will be easily accessible from any other part of the nation. The road was put into commission in February 2000.

The State Peace and Development Council is implementing a large number of projects for equitable development of all parts of the country. As part of the drive, it is building a network of roads and railroads covering the whole nation. In order to contribute towards the lofty goal, the Myanmar Railways under the Ministry of Rail Transportation is building more and more railroads across the nation. In the process, it is

working hard to complete a network of railways covering Myitkyina and Bhamo in the northern part, Myeik in the southern part, Kengtung in the eastern part, and Sittway in the western part of the nation.

In compliance with the guidance of the Head of State, the Myanmar Railways is now building Sittway-An-Minbu section linking Minbu in Magway Division and Sittway in Rakhine State in Kyangin-Pakokku Railroad with the aim of expediting the development of Rakhine State. Sittway-An-Minbu section is designed to link Rakhine State and Magway Division in order to help complete the national railway network.

(See page 11)

Sittway (Pyidawtha-Yaychanbyin) Railroad Section put into service

Article: Tin Htwe (MNA)

(from page 10)

Sittway-An-Minbu section is 257 miles long with 51 stations, and 1285 bridges: 24 above-100-foot and 1261 under-100-foot bridges along it. The maximum bend in the section is at 10 degree.

Now, groundwork and construction of bridges are in progress in 26 miles long Sittway-Punnagyun section of Sittway-An-Minbu railroad. The construction of Pyidawtha-Yaychanbyin section of Sittway-Punnagyun railroad was launched on 15 February and completed on 13 May 2009, and was put into service on 19 May.

Pyidawtha-Yaychanbyin section is consisted of 21 large and small bridges, four block stations and three halts along it. The sharpest bend in the section is at 6 degree. Groundwork amounted to 16.5 million cubic feet of earth, and the largest rapine in the section is as deep as 12 feet. To build such a railroad is an onerous task, so the facility reflects the goodwill the MR shows to the people.

Moreover, the MR is planning to complete other sections of Sittway-An-Minbu railroad such as Minbu-Padan section (28 miles), Padan-An section (54 miles), An-Minbya section (76 miles), Minbya-MraukU section (16 miles), MraukU-Kyauktaw section (23 miles) and



Sittway Station.

Kyauktaw-Punnagyun section (34 miles).

When Sittway-An-Minbu railroad is completed, the dwellers of Rakhine State will be able to travel by train to various parts of the nation. Then, they will be able to carry out economic, social and transport activities effectively.

The present railroad project is the first-ever one in Rakhine State. So, heavy machinery, rails, accessories, trolleys, locomotives and carriages were transported from Yangon to Sittway with great difficulties.

When asked about how heavy machinery was transported to Rakhine State, Deputy General

Manager (Civil) of the Myanma Railways said, "We transported the heavy machinery by sea and by land from Yangon to Sittway. In that regard, we used some vessels from the Myanma Five Star Line and private-owned vessels. And we loaded the machinery onto trucks and ships to transport it to the destination. Sometimes, we faced strong winds in the sea along our way from Yangon to Sittway. Up to now, we have transported machinery units by sea freight for eight times. In one time, we can transport 800 to 1000 tons of heavy machinery. In Sittway port, we had to unload the machinery in a hurry in order that we could lay rails be-

When Sittway-An-Minbu railroad is completed, the dwellers of Rakhine State will be able to travel by train to various parts of the nation. Then, they will be able to carry out economic, social and transport activities effectively.

fore the rain. And we had to load and unload the machinery all-day round. It is very risky, so we had to take great care. In building the railroad, we work in rotation, but all of the machinery is operated all the time. It takes us about two days to travel by land along Okshinpin-Padan-An-Taungup road. The road is full of slopes and the region has a high rainfall, so it is very challenging for us to make a good headway. Now, we have sent four bulldozers, eight excavators, 17 tipper lorries, 20 miles of rails, locomotives, carriages and concrete sleepers. We get rock and wood sleepers in the region. We have to send the remaining units of heavy machinery there."

Up to 1988, Myanmar had 1976.35 miles of railroads. In the time of the

Tatmadaw government, the Myanma Railways has built 1261.70 miles of railroads including the newly-inaugurated Sittway (Pyidawtha-Yaychanbyin) Railroad. So, the length of the railroads of the nation has increased to 3238.05 miles, and the number of the railway stations, to 821.

Now, Kyangin-Pakokku Railroad (320 miles), Katha-Bhamo Railroad (95 miles), Pyawbwe-Natmauk-Magway Railroad (95 miles), Namsang-Kengtung Railroad (236 miles), Dawei-Myeik Railroad (150 miles) and Sittway-An-Minbu Railroad (257 miles) are being built in order to translate into reality the guidance of the Head of State on completion of a railroad network for improving the socio-economic life of the

people of various states and divisions.

Today, the government is making strenuous efforts in all aspects for equitable progress of all parts of the nation and transforming the nation into a modern and developed one. In this regard, it has placed emphasis on all-round development of Rakhine State.

Now, the government has built railroads, which are unprecedented in Rakhine State, coping with huge natural barriers. Rakhine State will soon get many more new railroads, trains and stations. So, it is sure that Rakhine State, also known as Danyawady, will be in a position to enjoy significant development in the near future.

Translation: MS

Up to 1988, Myanmar had 1976.35 miles of railroads. In the time of the Tatmadaw government, the Myanma Railways has built 1261.70 miles of railways including the newly-inaugurated Sittway (Pyidawtha-Yaychanbyin) Railroad. So, the length of the railroads of the nation has increased to 3238.05 miles, and the number of the railway stations, to 821.

Hawaiian beach tops 10 best list

MIAMI, 23 May—"Dr Beach," a professor at Florida International University, has identified a 2-mile strip of palm-fringed sand in Hawaii as the best US beach.

Stephen Leatherman, director of the Laboratory for Coastal Research, put Hanalei Bay in Kauai at the top of his 2009 Top 10 list. Leatherman, in a news release, said he considers 50 criteria when he

puts the list together, as he has every year since 1991.

Hawaii, Florida and New York each had two beaches on the list. While Leatherman called Hanalei his "favourite Hawaiian getaway," he put Hamoa Beach on Maui at No 5. Siesta Beach in Sarasota, Fla, came in second and Cape Florida State Park on Key Biscayne was ninth. Both New York beaches are on

the eastern tip of Long Island: Coopers Beach in Southampton in third place and Main Beach in East Hampton in sixth.

Also listed were Coronado Beach in San Diego; Cape Hatteras on the Outer Banks of North Carolina; Coast Guard Beach on Cape Cod, Massachusetts; and Beachwalker Park, Kiawah Island, South Carolina.—*Internet*

Preschool charged for picnic grass use

LONDON, 23 May—A London local council charged a preschool \$185 to use a patch of grass for its annual picnic due to fears the festivities could harm the lawn.

Parents and teachers at the Norwood Grove preschool in London's Croydon borough said they have used the patch of grass outside of the school gates for their picnics for the past 16 years free of

charge, but this year the Croydon Council demanded \$185 to cover potential damage to the grass, *The Daily Telegraph* reported Friday.

The school serves a total of 37 students between the ages of 2 and 5. "This is a little party in the park — we are not going to have loud music playing," principal Joan Runcorn said. "It is always well supervised by me and my

staff, with the parents here as well. What I want to know is what do we get for that money we pay the council?"

A council spokesman defended the decision to charge the school. "For fairness, and in the best interests of public safety, it is essential that we treat all applications even-handedly, with appropriate charges being made and checks in place to ensure that event organizers have the necessary risk assessments and insurance," he said.

Internet

Europe's amphibians, reptiles vanishing

PARIS, 23 May—Pollution, climate change, invasive species and habitat destruction are killing Europe's native reptiles and amphibians, wildlife experts said.

Fifty-nine percent of all European amphibians and 42 percent of reptiles are declining and face even greater risk than European mammals and birds, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature said.

In all, 23 percent of Europe's amphibian species and 21 percent of its reptile species have been classified as threatened and added to the European Red List of endangered species, said the European Commission.

"Natural habitats

across Europe are being squeezed by growing human populations, agricultural intensification, urban sprawl and pollution. That is not good news for either amphibians or reptiles," said Helen Temple, co-author of a conservation risk study.

Europe is home to 151 species of reptiles and 85 species of amphibians, many of which live nowhere else in the world.

Internet

A wounded woman on a wheelchair waits for medical treatment at a hospital after a bomb attack in Baghdad's Doura district on 21 May, 2009.—INTERNET



Italian warship arrests nine pirates off Somalia

NAIROBI, 23 May—An Italian warship arrested nine pirates after helping a US-flagged container vessel and another ship evade brigands off the coast of Somalia on Friday, a naval spokesman said.

An Italian naval spokesman said sailors onboard the warship *Maestrale* captured the nine pirates in the Gulf of Aden after they fired on the *Maria K*, a ship from St Vincent and the Grenadines.

The pirates tried to flee in their skiff but stopped after warning shots were fired from the helicopter, the spokesman said,

Three alleged pirates are pictured on 1 May, 2009. Italian navymen on Friday arrested nine Somali pirates who were trying to seize a Liberian-owned merchant ship in the Gulf of Aden, a naval press spokesman said.—INTERNET

speaking on condition of anonymity in line with defense department regulations. The nine pirates were taken aboard the *Maestrale* and Italy's navy is now awaiting instructions from authorities in Rome on what is to happen to the prisoners.

Canadian naval spokesman Michael McWhinnie said the nearby US-flagged *MV Maersk Virginia* also

was threatened.

The Canadian warship *HCMS Winnipeg* dispatched a helicopter after receiving the distress call, he said, but it was not needed.

The *Maersk Virginia* is owned by Norfolk-based Maersk Line Ltd. The company is owned by Danish container shipping and oil group AP Moller-Maersk.

Internet



Giraffes remember where crackers come from

APPLE VALLEY, 23 May—Two giraffes, returning to the Minnesota Zoo for the first time in three years, remembered where they used to get fed by visitors, zoo staffers say.

Sweta and Zawadi were released last week into the Africa! Exhibit, a summer attraction first

put together in 2006, the St. Paul Pioneer Press reported. The half-brothers went straight to the platform that serves as a feeding station. "There's no doubt in my mind that they remembered this exhibit," Tony Fisher, the collections manager, said.

The exhibit, which

opens to the public Saturday, is an attempt to replicate an African savanna, complete with zebra, gemsbok and other herbivores. The two 15-foot-tall giraffes are a major lure for the public. Visitors can pay \$5 for two crackers to feed the giraffes, giving them a close look at their large strong tongues, which can strip tough leaves from trees.

Fisher said that in 2006 the giraffes took about two weeks to realize there was food available in the centre of the exhibit. The giraffes came from a herd in Colorado Springs, Colo, but the zoo bought them after the 2006 exhibit because they had trouble getting along with their former mates after a summer away. They now spend most of the year at the Henry Vilas Zoo in Madison, Wis, which has year-round giraffe housing.—*Internet*

Samsung recalls 'Jitterbug' cell phones

WASHINGTON, 23 May—The US Consumer Product Safety Commission announced a voluntary recall of Samsung "Jitterbug" cell phones that fail to reach emergency 911 in some areas.

About 160,000 of the phones made by Samsung Telecommunications America of Richardson, Texas, were sold nationwide from March 2008 through May 2009 for about \$150.

The "Jitterbug" cell phones with model numbers SPH-a110 and SPH-a120 with version BB14 software can fail to reach emergency services when needed, the commission said in a statement. Consumers were advised to contact Samsung for a free software upgrade on the phones.

Internet

Predicting prostate cancer recurrence

PHILADELPHIA, 23 May—US researchers have linked low oxygen levels in prostate tumors to cancer recurrence.

Using a statistical model that accounted for such risk factors as tumor grade, prostate-specific antigen level and tumor size, researchers at the Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia found low oxygen — hypoxia — in the tumor before treatment to be a significant independent predictor of an increase in PSA levels. PSA levels are considered markers of tumor recurrence in prostate cancer.

Dr Aruna Turaka of Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia and colleagues custom-built a probe to monitor the amount of oxygen that prostate tumors and non-cancerous muscle tissue were receiving on 57 patients with low or intermediate risk of cancer — just before the patients received a form of localized radiation therapy known as brachytherapy.

The researchers tracked the patients. Eight of the 57 patients experienced an increase in PSA levels following prostate cancer treatment. Overall, average muscle oxygenation was 12.5-times higher than that of the tumor. "Now the goal is to apply the results to the clinic," Turaka said in a statement.—Internet



Farmer Carlos Bayona tosses a big pot of "Culonas" ants while cooking them in Socorro on 20 May, 2009. Every year during the April-June season thousands of Colombian farmers and inhabitants of Santander province collect ants (Atta Laevigata) as part of a traditional ritual in the region. The ants, named ulonas for their big size, are cooked and sold as exotic, specialized food.—INTERNET

Celebrated eaglet dies as Web cam watches

VANCOUVER, 23 May—An eaglet tangled in its mother's feathers fell to its death in Canada as thousands of viewers watched via a Web camera, observers said. The 11-day-old eaglet, named Echo, was the smallest of two eagles in a nest on Hornby Island, B C, Canadian Broadcasting Corp reported on Friday.

A Web cam installed above the nest by the Hancock Wildlife Foundation showed the eaglet crying and the mother "desperately" trying to shake it loose on Thursday, said Karen Bills, a foundation spokeswoman. "Finally, she got up and flew off and that is

when we saw the little body drop," Bills said. The eaglet's body was found on the ground on Thursday while the older eaglet remained safe in the nest.

The foundation's Web site has been inundated with tributes to Echo, including those from school children who watched the eaglet's accident on a computer in a classroom, Bills said.

The foundation has Web cams monitoring three nests on the south coast of British Columbia, the nest on Hornby Island, a nest near Sidney on Vancouver Island and one in Delta in Metro Vancouver.—Internet

New York City closes 40 schools to slow spread of A/H1N1 flu

NEW YORK, 23 May—New York City has so far closed 40 schools in an attempt to slow the spread of A/H1N1 flu within the school community, according to a press release issued by the city's Health Department on Friday.

The Health Commissioner Thomas R Frieden and Schools Chancellor Joel I. Klein on Friday discussed the rationale behind closing individual New York City schools in response to the presence of the A/H1N1 virus in New York City.

All evidence suggests that the new virus is causing a large proportion of the city's current flu cases, says the press release. The main goal of school closures is to protect those at highest risk of complications from flu in that particular school community - students, staff, and their close contacts who are under 2 or over 65 years of age, pregnant, or who have a chronic medical condition such as asthma or diabetes, says the press release. "School closure is not done with

the expectation that it will interrupt the spread of flu in the city as a whole."

"The new A/H1N1 virus is here in New York City," said Frieden. "Many school children have mild flu, as they do each flu season. We are closing certain schools in an effort to slow transmission within the school community and protect those at highest risk of complications from flu." "In some instances when many children are sick, closing a school and keeping children home can reduce further infection. We continue to work alongside the Health Department in monitoring schools and closing them when the Health Department so recommends," said Klein.—Internet

26 new A/H1N1 cases confirmed in Europe

STOCKHOLM, 23 May —A total of 26 new A/H1N1 flu cases were reported in European countries within the last 24 hours, the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) said on Friday.

Half of the new cases, 13 of 26, were confirmed in Spain, and the other new cases were reported respectively from Britain, Italy, Germany, Switzerland and Belgium, the ECDC said in its daily situation report.

The cumulative number of confirmed cases of the A/H1N1 flu virus in the EU (European Union) and EFTA (European Free Trade Association) countries increased to 316, with 126 cases in Spain, 117 in Britain, 17 in Germany, 16 in France and 14 in Italy, the ECDC said. 11 of the 13 newly confirmed cases in Spain are students of a military academy, the ECDC added.

The ECDC publishes a daily situation report about A/H1N1 flu cases in the EU and EFTA countries based on official information from these countries.

Internet

Homeowner builds 20,000 gallon rain system

MOUNT SERANO, 23 May —A Mount Serano, Calif., man says his 20,000-gallon rooftop rain-harvesting system prepares him for a number of emergencies, including earthquakes.

"What if there is an earthquake and what if the drought continues?" Jerry Block said. "At least I will have water for my family and neighbours." Rainwater can also be used for fire suppression,

irrigation, car washing and keeping his swimming pool filled, Block said. California is in the third year of a drought and trying to manage from a water supply system that was built in the 1970s for 18 million people. The state now has 38 million people.

Block's rainwater system, one of the largest of its kind in the Bay Area, links four 5,000 gallon

tanks to gutters that collect rain but filter out leaves, plant debris and sand, said officials from Rain Harvesting Systems and Gutterglove Gutterguard, the firms that installed the system. The system saves the water agency electricity by not having to pump 20,000 gallons of water to Block's home and it reduces storm runoff and erosion problems, Block said.—Internet

Virus wipes out cancer cells

OXFORD, 23 May — Human trials of a virus that kills cancer cells in mice without harming healthy cells is at least two years away, British researchers said.

An adenovirus that causes chest infections was modified to deliver genetic therapy to liver tumors in mice without poisoning healthy tissue, said Leonard Seymour, a cancer researcher at the University of Oxford.

"The approach we developed is easy to use and flexible," Seymour said. "It may help in the development of future therapeutic viruses that are specific to certain disease sites." While the research is promising, human trials are costly and Seymour's team has yet to find the money to fund future research, he told *The Daily Telegraph* in a story published on Friday. Modified viruses already have proven valuable in creating vaccines for measles, mumps, polio, influenza, and chicken pox.—Internet

Newborn White Bengal Tigers, two females, Kamika and Kamala, are seen at the Olemse zoo in Olmen on 22 May, 2009. The cubs, born on 12 May, 2009, are not albinos but they only have black pigments as compared to tigers which normally have red and black pigmentation, according to a zoo official.

INTERNET



SPORTS

Osasuna look to exploit under-strength champions

MADRID, 23 May—With the league title now assured Barcelona can be forgiven for turning their attention to the Champions League final but for Osasuna, their opponents this weekend, it



Osasuna's celebrate scoring a goal during a recent Spanish League match in Madrid. With the league title now assured Barcelona can be forgiven for turning their attention to the Champions League final but for Osasuna, their opponents this weekend, it remains a crucial match.—INTERNET

remains a crucial match. Barcelona became champions without even taking to the field as second-placed Real Madrid lost away at Villarreal last Saturday.

The following day coach Pep Guardiola sent out a team largely of reserves against Mallorca but while they lost that did not dampen the celebrations. This Saturday, Guardiola will be without Andres Iniesta and Thierry Henry, who he hopes will be fit for the Champions League final next Wednesday against Manchester United, while he is also likely to rest a number of others including Lionel Messi.

For Osasuna they dropped into the relegation zone after drawing with Sevilla and now they face the monumental task of saving themselves against Barcelona and Real Madrid in the last two weeks of the season.—INTERNET

Ferguson pledges to play strong team at Hull



Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson, hit back at claims he will field a weakened team at Hull on Sunday by insisting he would never damage the reputation of the Premier League.

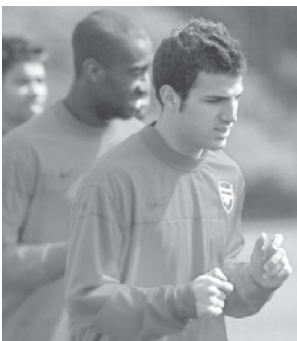
INTERNET

MANCHESTER, 23 May—Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson hit back at claims he will field a weakened team at Hull on Sunday by insisting he would never damage the reputation of the Premier League.

The newly-crowned champions will travel to Rome next week to begin preparations for their Champions League final against Barcelona on Wednesday. And speculation has been rife that Ferguson could put out a severely weakened side on the last day of the league season against Phil Brown's relegation-threatened team.—INTERNET

Fabregas cleared over spitting row

LONDON, 23 May—Arsenal captain Cesc Fabregas has been cleared over allegations he spat at Hull assistant boss Brian Horton, the English Football Association announced on Friday.



Arsenal captain Cesc Fabregas, has been cleared over allegations he spat at Hull assistant boss Brian Horton, the English Football Association announced on Friday.—INTERNET

Hull launched a complaint over the incident, which was alleged to have taken place after the FA Cup quarter-final tie between the clubs at the Emirates Stadium on 17 March, which the Gunners won 2-1. However, Spain midfielder Fabregas, who was not playing at the time because of a knee injury, always maintained his innocence and an independent commission found there was not enough evidence on two charges of improper conduct.—INTERNET

Sabbatini, Mallinger share Nelson lead

IRVING, 23 May—Rory Sabbatini had just finished detailing his four consecutive birdies when wife Amy reminded him about the hole before the streak that put him in the lead at the Byron Nelson Championship. "My par on No. 3 was better than any of the birdies," Sabbatini said. "I drove it in the water, then hit a 5-iron in the right greenside bunker, then holed it. Just a regulation par."

That 96-foot par-saving bunker blast at the 528-yard third hole, his 12th of the day, and the birdie quartet came in his season-low round of 6-under 64. Sabbatini matched John Mallinger (65) at 8-under 132, a stroke ahead of five players. Mallinger eagled both par 5s at the TPC Four

Seasons, holing a 45-foot shot from the greenside bunker at No. 7 and sinking a 14-foot putt at No. 16. He also had three bogeys and four birdies, the last a 15-footer at No. 18 for a share of the lead.

INTERNET



Rory Sabbatini follows through on his drive off the ninth tee during the second round of the Byron Nelson golf tournament at TPC Four Seasons in Irving, Texas, on 22 May, 2009.—INTERNET

Shearer confident ahead of Newcastle's last gasp

NEWCASTLE, 23 May—Alan Shearer expects Newcastle to avoid relegation with a victory in the biggest match in the club's history at Aston Villa on Sunday. Shearer's side will drop out of the Premier



Alan Shearer

League for the first time in 16 years if they lose at Villa or if Hull and Sunderland win their fixtures against Manchester United and Chelsea respectively. It is a dire situation for one of England's best supported clubs, who routinely pull in crowds of over 50,000 despite not winning a major trophy since 1969. The cost of relegation would be measured in pound notes as well as pride at St James' Park. The financial damage of relegation is estimated at around 60 million pounds in television revenue and commercial spin-offs, which would be a major blow to the value of a business in which owner Mike Ashley has invested a total of around 250 million pounds.

INTERNET

Henry returns to training ahead of Champions final

MADRID, 23 May—French striker Thierry Henry returned to training with the rest of his Barcelona teammates on Friday, five days ahead of the team's Champions League final against Manchester United in Rome. "Henry joined the squad for the first few minutes of the session before continuing with his specific programme of recuperation," the club said in a statement.

The 31-year-old has a ligament injury in his right knee which has caused him to miss Barcelona's last few matches but he is expected to be fit in time for the Champions League final. Spanish midfielder Andres Iniesta, who suffered a tear in his right thigh, is also expected to be recovered in time for the match. He worked with a coach away from the rest of the players on Friday, the club said.—INTERNET

Serbia to face hosts Germany in World Cup final

DUESSELDORF, 23 May—Serbia will face hosts Germany in the final of the World Team Cup after seeing off Italy on Friday as the debutants finished the round-robin stage undefeated.

The Serbian doubles pairing of Viktor Troicki and Nenad Zimonjic ensured their team's place in Sunday's final against the Germans by beating the Italians Francesco Piccari and Andreas Seppi 6-0, 7-6 (7/5).

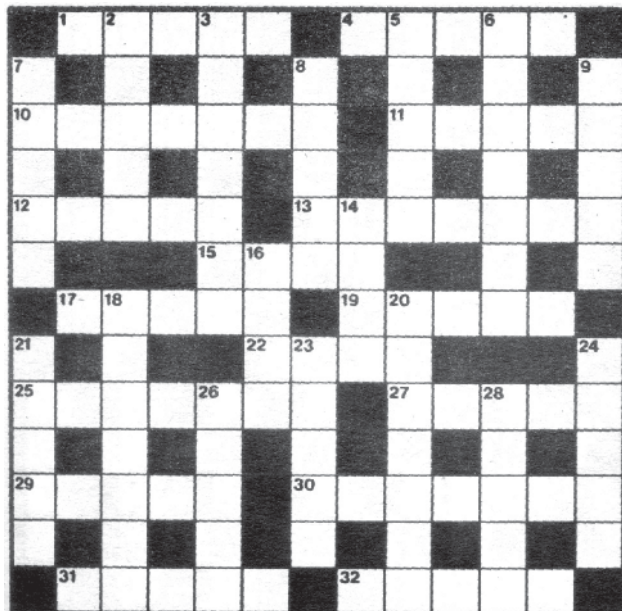
INTERNET

The Serbian doubles pairing of Viktor Troicki, and Nenad Zimonjic ensured their team's place in Sunday's World Cup Team final against the Germans by beating the Italians Francesco Piccari and Andreas Seppi 6-0, 7-6 (7/5).

INTERNET



CROSSWORDS PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Gastropod
- 4 Room
- 10 Reveal
- 11 Dodge
- 12 Rhythmic throbbing
- 13 Taken for granted
- 15 Tender
- 17 Not limp or flabby
- 19 Apart
- 22 Competent
- 25 Fried meat cake
- 27 Rustic
- 29 French capital
- 30 Forsake
- 31 Farrier
- 32 Backless seat

DOWN

- 2 New
- 3 Disease
- 5 Squeeze
- 6 Enchanted
- 7 Modify
- 8 Evergreen conifer
- 9 Prepared
- 14 Fasten tightly
- 16 Milk-white gem
- 18 Speaker's platform
- 20 Taverns (anag.)
- 21 Fruit of vine
- 23 Commenced
- 24 Empty
- 26 Attack
- 28 Wild West show



An undated artist impression of a proposed bridge to replace the existing causeway linking Malaysia and Singapore, but was scrapped in 2004. Singapore and Malaysia will consider literally building new bridges to improve an often uneasy relationship, their leaders said on 22 May, 2009.—INTERNET

Singapore, Malaysia seek to build new bridges

SINGAPORE, 23 May—Singapore and Malaysia will consider literally building new bridges to improve an often uneasy relationship, their leaders said on Friday. Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said options to improve the relationship included better rail links, broadening a congested causeway between the two, or possibly building a new bridge to link eastern Singapore to Malaysian border state Johor.

Lee said his government could also support the Iskandar Malaysia project, a planned economic zone in Johor that would be Southeast Asia's rival to China's Pearl River manufacturing heartland to give both nations a boost in the global downturn. "We stress the necessity to facilitate people and traffic flow on both sides, because the volume is growing and will grow further," Lee said at a joint news conference with Malaysian counterpart Najib Razak.

MNA/Reuters

MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (24.5.2009) (Sunday)

Transmissions	Times
Local	- (09:00am ~ 10:00am) MST
Europe	- (15:30pm ~ 23:30pm) MST
North America	- (23:30pm ~ 07:30am) MST

Local Transmission

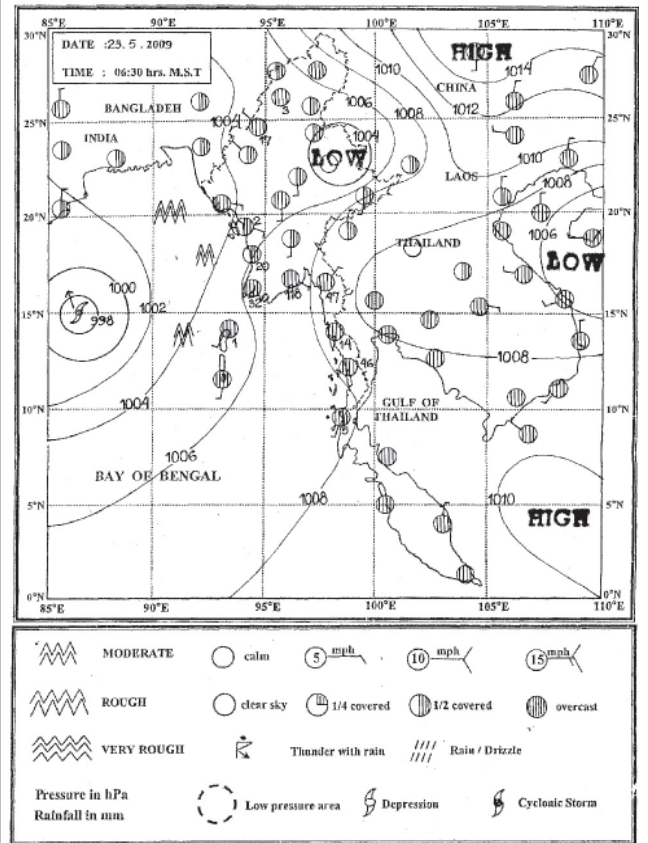
- * Signature Tune
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- * Arts of Myanmar Traditional Tapestry
- * Strive together for Harmonious Development across the Nation
- * Traditions and Customs of Inlay Thingyan
- * Flying over Mrauk-U
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Europe/ North America Transmission

- * Signature Tune
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- * Welcome To Shwemyaing (Mawlamyine)
- * The Great Bell of King Sintgu
- * Special projects designed to generate prosperous future of the nation
- * Significant Inlay Novitiation Ceremony
- * Let's Speak Myanmar "Mingalabar"
- * Ancient Artifacts Showroom
- * Hninzigone, Home for the Aged
- * Myanmar Modern Song
- * Arts of Myanmar Traditional Tapestry
- * Strive together for Harmonious Development across the Nation
- * Traditions and Customs of Inlay Thingyan
- * Flying over Mrauk-U
- * Panning Gold in Thabeikkyin Township
- * Sculpturing Contest
- * Myanmar Traditional Marionette
- * Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Saturday, 23 May, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Mon State, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, scattered in Rakhine, Kayin States and Bago Division, isolated in Shan State, upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions with isolated heavyfall in Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (5°C) to (6°C) above May average temperatures in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above May average temperatures in Shan, Rakhine and Kayin States, lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, (3°C) below May average temperatures in Taninthayi Division and about May average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperatures was Chauk (41°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Yangon (Central) (6.02) inches, Yangon (Kaba-Aye) (4.77) inches Minbu (4.72) inches, Yangon (Mingaladon) (2.99) inches and Patheingyi (2.28) inches.

Maximum temperature on 22-5-2009 was 86°F. Minimum temperature on 23-5-2009 was 67°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 23-5-2009 was 100%. Total sunshine hours on 22-5-2009 was (2.0) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 23-5-2009 was (2.99) inches at Mingaladon, (4.77) inches at Kaba-Aye and (6.02) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (7.56) inches at Mingaladon, (10.20) inches at Kaba-Aye and (12.95) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from South at (24:00) hour MST on 22-5-2009.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (09:30) hrs M.S.T today, the depression over West Central Bay is remained stationary and centered at about (280) miles Southeast of Vishakhapatnam, India. It is forecast to move North (or) Northwest direction. Monsoon is moderate in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weather is partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 24th May 2009: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Rakhine State, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions, fairly widespread in Mon, Kayin States and Taninthayi, isolated to scattered in the remaining States and Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Increase of rain in the Rakhine State.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 24-5-2009: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 24-5-2009: Some rain or thundershowers which may be heavy at times. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 24-5-2009: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).



Sunday, 24 May View on today

- 7:00 am 1. မင်းကုန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၏ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:25 am 2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am 3. Morning news
- 7:40 am 4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am 5. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ(၃၈)ပြာမင်္ဂလာ

- 8:10 am 6. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:20 am 7. Musical programme
- 8:30 am 8. International News
- 8:45 am 9. "စည်းကမ်းလိုက်နာဘေးကင်းကွာ" (ကျော်ရဲအောင်၊ ချစ်သူ၊ မော့စို၊ လင်းလင်းအောင်၊ ဖွဲ့၊ ဧရာနှင့်အဖွဲ့) [ဒါရိုက်တာ-ခင်ဇော်၊ မြင့်စိုး(၀/သ)]
- 11:00 am 1. Martial song
- 11:10 am 2. Round up of the week's International news
- 11:20 am 3. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "အားကိုးချစ်သူကျေးတောသူ" (အပိုင်း-၄၈)
- 12:20 pm 4. Golf Magazine (TV)

- 12:35 pm 5. မြန်မာ့ရုပ်ရှင် "နုနုငယ်ငယ်" (ကျော်ဟိန်း၊ ဝင်းညွန့်၊ စန္ဒာ၊ ကြည်ကြည်ဌေး) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-တင်အောင်မြင့်စိုး)
- 3:45 pm 1. Myanmar National League MNL-Cup (2009) ဘောလုံးပြိုင်ပွဲတိုက်ရိုက် ထုတ်လွှင့်မှုအစီအစဉ် (ရန်ကုန်ယူနိုက်တက် FC နှင့် မကွေး FC)
- 5:45 pm 2. Musical Programme
- 6:00 pm 3. Evening news
- 6:30 pm 4. Weather report
- 6:35 pm 5. ကာတွန်းအစီအစဉ်

- "Pocket Dragon Adventure"
- 6:55 pm 6. တစ်မျက်နှာတစ်ကွက်စာ "ပီယဆေး" (ဒိန်းဒေါင်း၊ ပီစီ၊ ချာလီ၊ ရာဇပေါက်စီ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ထင်ထင်)
- 7:15 pm 7. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်သူသက်ထား" (အပိုင်း-၁၆)
- 8:00 pm 8. News
- 9. International news
- 10. Weather report
- 11. ကာတွန်းအစီအစဉ် "ဒိုင်နိုဆောပိသားစုစွန့်စားခန်း" (အပိုင်း-၁၀)
- 12. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ကျေးဇူးတင်ပါတယ်" (အပိုင်း-၁၃)



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, wife Daw Mya Mya San...

(from page 1)

Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint, ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Yangon Mayor and their wives, deputy ministers, directors-general of the SPDC Office and the Government Office, departmental heads, local authorities, staff of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, members of religious associations, disciples and wellwishers.

Departmental officials of the Ministry of Religious Affairs ushered the Sayadaws into the designated places.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, wife Daw Mya Mya San and party received the Five Precepts from Chairman of the Ovadacariya Committee of the examination Presiding Nayaka of Mandalay Paukmyaing Monastery Agga Maha Apandita Bhaddanta Aggavamsabhivamsa.

Secretary of SSMNC Abhidhaja Maga Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa read the Ovadakatha of Chairman of SSMNC Magway Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Kumara.

(See page 8)



Photo shows a ceremony to honour monks who passed the Tipitakakovida Selection Examination held at Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill in Mayangon Township, Yangon.—MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein congratulates Indian PM on his re-election

NAY PYI TAW, 23 May—General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Dr. Manmohan Singh, on his re-election as the Prime Minister of the Republic of India on 22 May 2009.—MNA

Sittway (Pyidawtha-Yaychanbyin) Railroad Section put into service

Article: Tin Htwe (MNA)

The newly-built straight railway stood magnificently, as if it was awaiting its inauguration. In the morning sunshine was a vast crowd of local people near the site from which the first train was about to leave Pyidawtha Station together with the opening ceremony.

They were excited and could hardly wait to witness the launch of the train. Without any doubt, their hearts were filled with pervasive joy and felt very grateful to the government for the transport facility because they had never dreamt of a railroad in their region. (See page 10)

Cyclone Warning

NAY PYI TAW, 23 May—The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology today announced that according to the observatory at 4.30 pm MST, a small storm, which had occurred at the central west of the Bay of Bengal, has moved fast in a direction towards north and more intensified as a tropical storm. It is centered at 340 miles east-southeast of Vishakhapatnam of India. It is forecast to get intensified and become a Cyclone storm within the next (72) hours.

The storm is at the yellow level, and it is forecast that the direction of the storm is not towards the costal region of Myanmar.

Because of the storm, there will be scattered rain with lightning in and along the Myanma costal region from this evening to next 24 hours with heavy rains in some places. During the storm wind, the likelihood of surface wind speed will be 40 mph, and the waves will be higher.—MNA



The first train leaves Pyidawtha Station in the inauguration of Sittway (Pyidawtha-Yaychanbyin) railroad section.

