Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, wife Daw Mya Mya San attend presentation of religious titles to monks who passed 59th Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Exam

YANGON, 26 May — A ceremony to honour 73 monks who had passed the 59th Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination organized by the Ministry of Religious Affairs was held at Maha Pasana Cave Ordination Hall on Kaba Aye Hill, here, 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 Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Magway Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Kumara and member Sayadaws, Ovadaçariya Sayadaws of the examination, Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Sayadaws, examination supervisor Sayadaws and the monks who had passed the examination, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, members of the SPDC Li-Gen Thura Tin Aung Oo and Li-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence, wives of the SPDC members, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Li-Gen Myat Hein, Li-Gen Myint Hlaing and Li-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Yangon Division PDC Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, the ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Auditor-General, the Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Yangon Mayor and their wives, deputy ministers, senior military officers, the director-general of the SPDC Office and departmental heads, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, members of religious associations, disciples and wellwishers.

Director U Zarni Win, Deputy Director U Tun Aung Tun, Deputy Director U Tun Nyunt and Assistant Director U Tun Naing ushered members of the SSMNC to the dais of the cave along the aisle. Assistant Director U Aye Lwin also ushered Ovadaçariya Sayadaws of the examination. Staff Officer U Kyaw Lwin ushered Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Sayadaws. Director U Ye Htay and Staff Officer U Aung Htwe also ushered the monks who had passed the examination.

While the State Orchestra played religious songs, the congregation paid homage to members of the Sangha. Vocalist Myint Myint Kyi sang the song to the accompaniment of Mingala harp troupe. Afterwards, 108 bells around the cave were rung for nine times. (See page 16)

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
New airport terminal building, symbol of peace, progress

Transport is a major economic sector that serves as an engine for national development.

Regarding the domestic transport sector, the nation has now seen many Union highways, railway tunnels, and a network of railroads along with river- and creek-spanning bridges. And with respect to the international water transport sector, the government has built international ports including port terminals with modern equipment, and container yards.

It is also striving for improvement in the nation’s aviation sector. The new terminal building of Yangon International Airport was launched the other day.

The building is 832 feet long, 206 feet wide and 68 feet high, and is designed to be able to withstand an earthquake with 8 Richter Scale. It is equipped with five lifts, three escalators, four stairways and 300 telephone lines.

It is also installed with the characteristics of an international airport such as the equipment of EM electronic lock system, the card access system, the fire prevention and warning system, the plasma screen flight information system and the news and information system plus four passenger boarding bridges.

The new terminal building can accommodate 1800 passengers per hour or 2.7 million per year. The airport can handle five aircraft per hour. Like other international airports, Yangon International Airport offers advanced services for the convenience of local and foreign passengers, thereby reflecting peace and development of the nation.

Donors share merits for all-round renovation of PhaungdawU Standing Buddha Statue

YANGON, 25 May — A ceremony to share merits for the completion of all-round renovation of PhaungdawU Standing Buddha Statue and prayer hall was held on the platform of the statue in Myothit (ka+kha) Ward of Insein Township yesterday. The cost of the all-round renovation was contributed by wellwishers Dr Maung Maung Aye, Thiri Thudhamma Theingi Daw Khin Mi Mi Hlaing and family.

It was attended by Joint-Secretary of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Tiloka Bhiva of Ywama Parayti Monastery, Chairman of Insein Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pandita and members of the Sangha, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Advisor U Amin Maung and wellwishers.

Firstly, those present received the Five Precepts from Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Surya of Aung San Maha Myag Monastery.

Next, the deputy minister and party offered provisions to members of the Sangha and General Manager U Win Pe of Myanmar Timber Enterprise handed documents related to the donation of three-acre plot to the PhaungdawU Standing Buddha Statue.

A responsible person presented a photo of Standing Buddha to wellwishers who donated K 100 million to PhaungdawU Standing Buddha Statue.

Later, the Sayadaws delivered sermons and the congregation shared the merits gained.

Nipon Foundation hands over 100th school building in Shan State

NAY PYI TAW, 25 May — Nipon Foundation of Japan handed over a 100th school building in Shan State to Nawngkhio Township Education Department on 23 May.

The school building was constructed in Ohnhathl Village in Nawngkhio Township, Shan State (North). It will be used as the basic education middle school (Branch) in the village. The committee for construction of the school building handed over documents related to the building to the Head of the township Education Department and headmistress of the school on 23 May in the presence of Director-General of the Rural Areas and National Races Development Affairs Department U Than Swe, Yohei Sasakawa, President of Nipon Foundation and the ambassador of Japan to Myanmar.

First, Yohei Sasakawa and the chairman of the committee for construction of the school officially opened the new building.

Director-General U Than Swe presented teaching aids and school uniforms donated by RANRDAD to the headmistress. So far, the foundation has spent US $ 3 million on construction of 100 school buildings in Shan State from 2003 to 2007.

Winners of World Environment Day article, essay announced

YANGON, 25 May — National Commission for Environmental Affairs today announced winners of World Environment Day-2007 commemorative open article competitions. The first prize went to U Aye Myint (Geography), the second to Mya Phyu Ngon (Yezin University of Agriculture), the third to Ko Thei Oo (MRTV) and the special prize to Ma Sein Sein (Green). In open essay competitions, the first prize went to Ma Aye Myint Myat Soe, the second to Nga Sandar Mon, the third to U Tun Thein and the special prize to Ma Su Hlaik Mon.

The prize-presentation ceremony will be held at the celebration of World Environment Day 2007 in Nay Pyi Taw on 5 June. Prize winners are to arrive at Nay Pyi Taw on 3 June and rehearsal will take place on 4 June. They are to contact NCEA (Forest Department HEAD Office), Gyogon (West), Insein Township, Yangon (Ph: 644496, 644751, 6444752) and Nay Pyi Taw (Ph: 067-405383, 067-405012) not later than 30 May.
Putin says Russia not to be pressured

Brussels, 25 May — Russian President Vladimir Putin said Thursday in Luxembourg that Western critics, who often have a hidden agenda against Russia, will not succeed by pressuring Russia on issues like human rights.

Speaking after talks with Luxembourg Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker, Putin said Russia’s increasing economic power means that “ways of influencing Russia these days are few,” Belgian media reported.

Putin said there are two reasons why some outside forces are frequently attacking Russia on human rights issues, particularly at the pre-election period.

One reason is to support the pro-Western forces inside Russia, and the other is to pressure Russia into making concessions on issues like disarmament, anti-missile defences and Kosovo, he said.

The Russian leader urged these critics to change tactics. “The best method of talking to Russia is the same as that in relations with the other countries. Respect for each other’s interests,” he said.

Referring to the Iranian nuclear issue, Putin said Russia will “work together with all partners” to try to find a solution which takes into account the interests of all parties concerned. The settlement should not deprive Iran of its right to possess advanced technologies, while at the same time eliminate concerns of the international community about Iran making nuclear weapons, he said.

Russia prefers “settling all matters, including regarding the Iranian nuclear dossier, by political-diplomatic methods”, Putin said. — MNA/Ninhua

Israel bombs Hamas buildings in Gaza, killing 5

Jerusalem, 26 May — Israel bombed a series of Hamas buildings in Gaza today and arrested another Palestinian cabinet minister, Wasfi Kabaha, a member of Hamas, at his home in the occupied West Bank.

At least five Palestinians were killed and six more wounded in the daylight bombing raids on buildings used by the paramilitary Executive Force, a parallel police force dominated by Hamas.

State Dept says 3 US citizens among 7 kidnapped in Nigeria

Washington, 25 May — Three US citizens were among seven people kidnapped in Nigeria, the US State Department said Friday, but it provided few details.

“Our consulate general in Lagos reports that three American citizens were kidnapped in Bayelsa state,” State Department spokesman Gonzalo Gallegos said in a written statement. “We are in the process of notifying their families, and will maintain contact with Nigerian authorities to monitor this incident.”

Due to the Privacy Act, Gallegos said, no more information could be provided on the U.S. citizens.

Four other foreigners were kidnapped in the same incident, he said.

Noah’s Ark’ of 5,000 rare animals found floating off the coast of China

Beijing, 26 May — Endangered and smuggled and now abandoned, 5,000 of the world’s rarest animals have been found drifting in a deserted boat near the coast of China.

The pangolins, Asian giant turtles and lizards were crushed inside crates on a rickety wooden vessel that had lost engine power off Qingzhou island in the southern province of Guangdong. Most were alive, though the cargo also contained 21 bear paws wrapped in newspaper.

According to conservation groups, the haul was discovered on one of the world’s most lucrative and destructive smuggling routes: from the threatened jungles of south-east Asia to the restaurant tables of southern China.

The animals were found when local fishermen noticed a strange smell emanating from the vessel, which did not have any registration plates, on Tuesday, the Guangzhou Daily reported.

When coastguard officials boarded the 25-metre craft, it was reportedly deserted and stripped of identification papers. They found more than 200 crates full of animals, many so dehydrated in the tropical sun that they were close to death.

The animals — which weighed 13 tonnes — were taken to port, dosed with water and sent to an animal welfare centre. “We have received some animals,” said an official worker at the Guangdong Wild Animal Protection Centre. “We are waiting to hear from the authorities what we should do with them.”

According to the local media, the cargo included 31 pangolins, 44 leatherback turtles, 2,720 monitor lizards, 1,130 Brazilian turtles as well as the bear paws. Photographs showed other animals, including an Asian giant turtle. — Internet

A medical worker walks in front of the national institute of infectious and tropical diseases in Hanoi. Health officials in Vietnam on 25 May, 2007, confirmed a farmer has been infected with the deadly bird flu virus, the first human case in the country since late 2005. — Internet

Some 36 Singaporean adventurous volunteers form a “human net” with their bodies during a Spanish-featured performance at the opening ceremony of the Singapore Arts Festival, Singapore, on 25 May, 2007. More than 8,000 people witnessed this aerial theatrical work entitled “Dreams in Flight” by Spanish arts company “La Furia dels Baus”. — Internet
Lower gout risk for coffee lovers

LONDON, 25 May — Drinking four or more cups of coffee a day may cut the risk of having a painful attack of gout, say Canadian scientists. A University of British Columbia team found that people who drink more than six cups a day were about half as likely to suffer an attack of this painful and sometimes disabling condition as those who drink two cups or less.

Drinking too much beer, or eating too much red meat, are thought to be to blame for many cases. The main way to tackle the condition is to take anti-inflammatory pills, change diet and drink more water, or in more severe cases, to take more powerful drugs to reduce uric acid levels in the blood. The latest research looked at the eating habits of 14,000 men and women between 1988 and 1994.

Malaysia, Indonesia agree to jointly defend palm oil industry

KUALA LUMPUR, 26 May — Malaysia and Indonesia have agreed to make joint publicity efforts to defend the palm oil industry in the two countries in reaction to the Western criticism, local media reported Friday. Activists in Europe and the United States have launched a massive anti-palm oil campaign, saying Malaysia and Indonesia destroyed the orangutan's natural habitats with the opening of palm oil estates, Malaysian Plantation Industries and Commodities Minister Peter Chin Fah Kui said Friday here.

"We want to clear the issue jointly with Indonesia's Ministry of Agriculture," Chin said after attending the second Joint Committee Meeting on Bilateral Cooperation on Commodities between Malaysia and Indonesia. Malaysia will organize a seminar in Brussels on 6 June while Indonesia will hold one in London in the following month. Chin told reporters at a news conference.

At least 10 survive crash of plane in Peruvian jungle

LIMA, 25 May — At least 10 people have survived the crash of a triple-engine plane that went down in the jungle of Peru, a Peruvian Air Force spokesman said Friday. Col Jesus Arce said the plane went down near the Amazon jungle on the way to Quito when contact was lost at 4:45 pm.

Its last stop had been at Requena, Peru, where it took off at 2:20 pm. According to Arce, three air force crew members and 17 passengers were on board.

No waists too wide: Health authorities target “pot bellies”

BANGKOK, 25 May — Thailand’s Ministry of Public Health has launched a pilot campaign targeted to rid the kingdom of persons with overlarge mid-sections, termed “Pot bellies in the office” with the aim of reducing obesity and the increased risk of diabetes and other diseases, according to Deputy Public Health Minister Dr Morakot Kornkasem.

The senior health official said the ministry initiated the project after finding that Metabolic Syndrome, which is a concurrence of multiple medical indicators, is increasing at an alarming rate among both men and women in Thailand.

"A survey on Metabolic Syndrome among Thais aged between 19-59 years old by using waist circumference as a main indicator," Dr Morakot said, "found that the number of Thai people with the problematic lifestyle indicator increased from 28 per cent in 2004 to almost 36 per cent in 2006."

Metabolic Syndrome is defined as having a waist circumference of more than 90 centimetres (cm) (35.4 inches) for men and more than 80 cm (31.5 inches) for women.

Simply speaking, many people eat too much, eat the wrong foods, and exercise little or not at all.

To prevent Metabolic Syndrome, the Ministry will raise awareness among the public on the dangers of the syndrome and encourage the public to change their affluent lifestyle-related unhealthy eating habits, he said.

Three men shot dead in Thailand’s restive south

NARATHIWAT, 26 May — Three people were shot dead in the violence riddled province of Narathiwat on Friday night and Saturday, as the insurgency continues to take its toll in the region.

Anhuan Loding was shot in a drive-by shooting early Saturday after leaving a tea shop in Ruso district. When his motorcycle fell, the unidentified gunman shot him again in the head. The victim died at the scene.

Police said the killing is probably related to the southern violence because the victim was a police informant.

At least 10 survive crash of plane in Peruvian jungle

A Peruvian Air Force Twin Otter plane is seen in this undated handout photo. A Peruvian Air Force plane crashed in dense jungle in the remote northeast of the country but at least 10 of the 17 people aboard survived, a regional official said on 25 May, 2007.

Fishers use a crane to load the giant blue shark on 23 May, 2007. A giant blue shark was captured by a fisher in east China’s Jiangsu Province on the afternoon of 23 May. The shark is 10 metres long and 1.5 metres wide with a total weight of five tons or so. A businessman passing by purchased it at the price of over 100,000 yuan right after the capture.
Arab, S American eco ministers’ meeting opens in Morocco

RABAT, 25 May — The 2nd meeting of Arab and South American countries’ economic ministers opened here Wednesday, with the aim of giving a new momentum to economic relations between countries of the two regions.

This meeting falls within the framework of recommendations of Brasilia Declaration made during the first summit of Arab and South American countries held in Brazil in May. During the two-day meeting, participants will discuss ways of promoting trade exchanges.

Encouraging investments, exchange of expertise, information and experiences in sectorial fields, and establishment of air and maritime links between two respective regions.

Speaking on this occasion, Moroccan Prime Minister Driss Jettou urged Arab and South American countries to take appropriate measures, notably to remove protectionist barriers, to pursue economic liberalization and to strengthen infrastructure networks.

He noted the projected trade growth of 10 per cent between the two regions in the next five years, from the current 4 per cent, is an achievable objective.

Besides, Bolivian Finance Minister Luis Alberto Arce expressed hope that relations between Arab and South American countries will be further consolidated to succeed in the elaboration of action plans, so as to carry out recommendations adopted notably at the Brazil summit.

Registered investments in Philippines up 194% from Jan to April

MANILA, 25 May — The Philippine Government said on Thursday that it has registered 73.3 billion pesos (1.6 billion US dollars) of newly committed investments from January to April, 194 per cent more than the same period last year.

The new investments registered with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) cover 234 projects throughout the country, Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Favila told reporters as he presented the data at a Press briefing.

The projects are expected to create a total of 42,742 new jobs, according to Favila. The official said that the data means that the Philippines was “still one of the best” destinations to invest in Asia.

“The first four months’ performance is a strong manifestation that investors’ confidence remains strong due to the positive reforms the government has undertaken,” Favila said.

Committed projects in the manufacturing sector accounted 39.04 billion pesos (848.7 million US dollars), 239 per cent up from the same period last year, the DTI data showed.

Singapore must “find its own buzz as a global city”

SINGAPORE, 24 May — Singapore must “find its own buzz as a global city,” Education Minister and Second Finance Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam said here Wednesday.

Speaking at a marketing and branding conference, the minister said the country needs to create its distinctive appeal, not remake itself in the image of other cities.

He said the Singapore brand carries with it both positive and negative images. “The positives include a stable, multi-racial society, Forward-looking and corruption-free government. Safe streets, a clean and green city. High educational and medical standards. A quality of life in public housing neighborhoods that remains a bit of an anomaly in a world where public housing often means trouble,” he said.

While there is no lack of negatives, Singapore is referred to as a nanny-state, a “fine city”, with penalties for numerous offences, and as lacking in creativity and an innovative culture, he added.

But he pointed out that Singapore should not be defensive about every negative.

Tharman set out five key planks needed to preserve and build for an enduring Singapore brand: keeping the trust in the Singapore system, being the most open city in Asia, continuously remaking the country, supporting individuals in breaking new ground as strengthening a culture of excellence for all.

He said, “I believe this Singapore brand will endure, and make Singapore a leading global city in Asia 15 years from now.” — MNA/Xinhua

Tourists to Thailand rise by 4% in first quarter

BANGKOK, 25 May — The number of foreign tourists visiting Thailand has risen by 4 per cent during the first four months this year, with most new arrivals coming from Europe, Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) governor Phornsiri Manoharn said Thursday.

Phornsiri was quoted by the Thai News Agency as saying that about four million foreign tourists visited Thailand between January and April, marking a 4-per-cent increase from the corresponding period last year, while a total of 14.8 million international visitors are expected to come throughout this year.

Increasing numbers of tourists had come from Europe, while the number of arrivals from China and Singapore had dropped, Phornsiri said.

TAT plans to maintain Thailand as a major attraction for foreign tourists, especially to those from the Middle East, Africa and eastern Europe, during the low or rainy season, which normally lasts for four months, she said. — MNA/Xinhua

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Pedestrians walk past the NASDAQ Market in Times Square in New York.
Pakistan, Germany agree to establish joint chamber of commerce

Islamabad, 24 May — Pakistan and Germany have agreed on the establishment of a joint chamber of commerce to help further strengthen their commercial cooperation, officials said Wednesday. Pakistani Foreign Minister Khurshid Mahmood Kasuri and his German counterpart Frank Walter Stein Mezer were talking to reporters after their talks in Islamabad on Wednesday. Kasuri said during the talks, both sides explored the possibility of strengthening bilateral relations especially in trade, investment, education, defence, culture, healthcare, railways, power generation, engineering and oil and gas sectors.

He said Germany is hosting G-8 foreign ministers meeting on May 30 and that he would be attending the conference. German Foreign Minister Frank Walter said the European Union has decided to increase assistance for Pakistan and that the country would now receive 200 million euros (some 269.8 million US dollars) during the next three years. He said his country is keen to enhance economic and commercial relations with Pakistan, adding Pakistan is a very important partner of EU in Asia and has special significance in stability and peace in South and Central Asia. — MNA/Xinhua

Spanish singers Joan Manuel Serrat (L) and Joaquim Sabina stand after their news conference in Madrid on 24 May, 2007. Serrat and Sabina were there to present their joint tour, called “Dos pajaros de un tiro”, which will tour Spain and Latin America over the next six months.—INTERNET

Shell explosion kills Vietnamese couple

HANOI, 24 May — A Vietnamese couple have been killed when an artillery shell exploded in Vietnam’s southern Dong Nai Province, local newspaper Youth reported on Wednesday.

The explosion hit the private house of Nguyen Van Nhan and his wife in the province’s Nhon Trach District on Tuesday when the couple were sawing the shell for explosive for sales. Nhan died on the spot, and his wife named Nguyen Thi Nh passed away on the way to hospital. According to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund of the United States, during the Vietnam War in 1965-1975, the US Armed Forces deployed more than 15 million tons of bombs, mines, artillery shells and other ordnance in Vietnam, among which 10 per cent did not detonate as designed.

Local scrap collectors often saw off unexploded ordnance (UXO) for metal and explosive, while small children play ammunitions by breaking them, resulting hundreds of deaths and injuries annually. Now, there are over 300,000 tons of UXO in Vietnam, estimated local officials. — MNA/Xinhua

No gunman roaming the halls in Toronto school shooting

OTTAWA, 24 May — The shooting incident that seriously injured a 14-year-old boy in a Toronto school on Wednesday is not a situation in which a gunman is roaming the hall, police said.

The victim was shot around 2:30 pm local time on the second floor of CW Jefferys Collegiate, located in north Toronto. He has since been rushed to hospital, reports reaching here said.

The school with 850 students has been locked down and is being guarded by the police following the incident, but nearby roads have not been closed to traffic. What led up to the attack is not yet clear, but the shooting is likely an isolated incident, a report by Canadian Television said. “At this stage in the investigation, the only information we have is that the 14-year-old male victim was in critical condition when the police arrived at the school,” CTV cited Constable George Schuurman as saying. No arrests have been made, Schuurman added.

The incident is not a situation in which a gunman is roaming the halls, Canadian Press quoted the police as saying. — MNA/Xinhua

Eight mortars land in Baghdad’s Green Zone

BAGHDAD, 26 May — At least eight mortars landed in Baghdad’s Green Zone on Saturday afternoon, according to CNN’s Baghdad Bureau Chief Cal Perry, who witnessed the apparent attack.

The US Embassy in Baghdad had no information on the report, and there was no immediate word about casualties.

The heavily-fortified zone, a 4-square-mile area in central Baghdad, houses the US military and US diplomatic agencies, as well as the location of the Iraqi government and parliament.

It is also called the International Zone and is frequently the target of mortar and rocket attacks, although many do not result in casualties. — MNA/Xinhua

New York City firefighters battle flames on the roof of a building in Manhattan’s West Side on Thursday, 24 May, 2007, in New York. A fast-moving fire in a storage shed on the roof of a commercial building sent thick black smoke throughout midtown Manhattan. About 100 firefighters worked to bring the flames under control.—INTERNET

Israeli plane makes emergency landing, terror attack not ruled out

BERLIN, 24 May — An Israeli plane with 163 passengers on board made an emergency landing at a Berlin airport and a terror attack cannot be ruled out, an airport spokeswoman said Wednesday.

The Israeli Flight 251 touched down at Berlin’s Schoenefeld Airport at 10:40 pm (2040 GMT) Tuesday night shortly after smoke was detected in the cabin, airport spokeswoman Rosemarie Meichsner said. “An attack cannot be ruled out,” she said, adding that the German Federal Aviation Agency has opened an investigation.

The passengers, including a baby, left the aircraft via emergency exits and one woman injured her arm while sliding down the emergency chute and has been taken to hospital. — MNA/Xinhua

Sri Lankan Special Task Force soldiers search a car in Colombo following a Tamil Tiger attack in the north of the island a day earlier. Sri Lankan government troops have shot dead 12 suspected Tamil Tiger rebels, the Defence Ministry said on 25 May, 2007, the day after the rebels attacked the capital and a key naval base.—INTERNET
NLD’s special announcement that is not special

Ye Baw Tin Shwe

NLD released the so-called special announcement on 11 May 2007. The paragraph (f) is stated in the announcement. So, there may be other paragraphs from (a) to (e). But I have no idea whether there are more paragraphs following the paragraph (f).

The main statement of the paragraph (f) is the demand to release Daw Suu Kyi soonest as she was the daughter of Bogyoke Aung San, the father of the Tatmadaw.

Another point said that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the general secretary of the National League for Democracy must be released unconditionally for national reconciliation and the true nature of national requirement. The above paragraph is the last one of the announcement.

The Tatmadaw government has been governing the nation without any discrimination.

It always takes actions against the lawbreakers in accord with the existing laws and is totally free from bias in doing so. Although she is the daughter of Bogyoke Aung San, the father of the Tatmadaw, the government has taken action against her in accord with the existing laws she has violated.

As she is the daughter of Bogyoke Aung San, she is being placed under restriction order although her offence is punishable by imprisonment. The entire nation knows that the legal action taken against her is much lighter than the degree of her offence.

No one will accept the idea that she should be exempt from legal action just because she is the daughter of Bogyoke Aung San.

Everyone will face punishment depending on the offence one has committed.

Daw Suu Kyi has been placed under restriction order because of the conflict that broke out near Kyi village in Dabayin Township, Sagaing Division, on 30 May 2003.

Authorities concerned detained Daw Suu Kyi as she was the main person whose acts caused the conflict.

After Daw Suu Kyi was released from the previous restriction order, she met with officials concerned of the Tatmadaw government and discussed with them for her field organizational trips. The officials gave her permission after due coordination. But during the trip she broke the mutual agreement more and more day after day. The undesirable conflict broke out as she was trying to realize her line of confrontation in accord with the wish of her outside manipulators and to stir up unrest.

She has freedom of beliefs and they have their own opinions. So it is realistic that there are Daw Suu Kyi and some of her followers who do not have trust in the democracy transition of the Tatmadaw government and at the same time there will be people who have trust in and support it.

It was Daw Suu Kyi who tried to make waves on the international waters. The root cause that led to fanning the Dabayin conflict was her harsh words she used in attacking the Tatmadaw government in accord with the wish of neo-colonialists.

Hence, Daw Suu Kyi was put under restriction order at her owned house again for her instigative acts to destroy community peace and stability.

The authorities have experiences that every time when Daw Suu Kyi was released from restriction order, she committed instigative acts to break up the Union and harm national peace and stability in accord with the manipulation of her masters. The people have understood that they (the authorities) are reluctant to release her without any firm assurances that she will not commit such acts again.

I assume that the authorities concerned would release her if she returns to England where her family lives.

The NLD announcement also states “for national reconciliation and the true nature of national requirement”. Actually, what the NLD says is that the nation lacks national reconciliation at present. So, I will have to present the true situation.

The NLD is saying that national reconciliation cannot be achieved without Daw Suu Kyi’s participation. In reality, Daw Suu Kyi is only the authoritarian leader of the NLD. She is not the national leader representing the entire people, nor an elected representative. The great majority of people know her only as the daughter of Bogyoke Aung San. They have never recognized her as the leader of the people.

The Tatmadaw government is now holding the National Convention with the aim of ensuring national reconciliation. In other words, it is trying to achieve national reconciliation through the National Convention. The entire people have known and witnessed that representatives of various national races, people of all strata of life, political parties, intellectuals, other invited persons and State service personnel are holding frank and cordial discussions at the National Convention.

The people do not assume that Daw Suu Kyi, a puppet of the colonialists and their cohorts, should participate in the drive for national reconciliation.

And the Tatmadaw government has created necessary conditions for ensuring national reconciliation, so there is no need to think the matter any further.

The NLD’s special announcement mentions “the true nature of national requirement”. It fails to state, in a clear way, what is happening to the nation and what is needed in the nation.

So, it is required to view the conditions and prevailing situations of the nation objectively without any influence of alien instigation. I am a veteran politician, whose experiences date back to the colonialist period, Fascist Japan period and Parliamentary Democracy period. So, I would say that the Tatmadaw government has managed to restore peace and political stability at the unprecedented level.

With political stability, the National Convention is being held successfully with the participation of the representatives of the entire people, and it is known not only to Myanmar but also to the whole world. As a result of the National Convention, there will soon be a modern developed nation.

Like other countries, Myanmar is facing high commodity prices. The Tatmadaw government is taking necessary measures stage by stage to tackle this problem. It is not correct that the government did not pay any heed to this issue.

Now, the people of working class earn reasonable amount of incomes. In a day, a trishaw man earns roughly more than 3000 kyats, and a farmer earns nearly 10,000 kyats.

A skilled construction worker earns at least 3000 kyats and an ordinary construction worker, 1500 kyats a day. The daily income of odd-job labourers in a port or railway station is not low. To my experience, my wife and I had to pay 1000 kyats for labour charges to the labourers who carried our two handbags and a basket at Yangon Central Railway Station when we returned from Mandalay.

A hairdresser charges a customer 500 to 1000 kyats.

Enjoying healthy prices of rice and other crops, farmers are now doing well in their businesses. And they have owned fine wooden houses roofed with corrugated zinc sheets and furnished with TV and video cassette players.

Farm owners pay wages of reasonable amount to the farm land labourers they hire. So, farmland labourers lead a comfortable life. Now, problems on hardships are hardly seen in rural areas.

The government has increased the salary rates for service personnel unprecedentedly. So, service personnel can earn their living without any problems.

And today, the living standards of the people of various classes are getting high, as evidenced by prevailing conditions, and these are undeniable facts.

So, it is vivid that the release of Daw Suu Kyi is not the fundamental requirement for ensuring national reconciliation. In my opinion, Daw Suu Kyi is needed by NLD to serve as its nominal head.

Present NLD leaders are in a pitiable state because they have no right or power and dare not make a decision to do something important.

How can the people believe that the NLD that has no access to intra-party democracy will transform the nation into a democratic one. Moreover, its members are resigning from it daily and that reflects its real situation.

The NLD’s special announcement No 507 is no more than a hollow announcement calling for immediate lifting of the economic sanctions imposed against Myanmar by certain powers so that the nation will see more job opportunities and prosperity for economic growth.

(Translation: TMT+MS)

(Myanma Alin, Kyemon: 26-5-2007)
Religious titles conferred on members of Sangha who passed 59th Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination

(from page 16)
Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein also offered certificates of honour for Mula Abhidhamma Kovida title to Ashin Paññasirirakkara of Tipitaka Monastery of Dagon Township, Mula Abhidhammu titles to Ashin Vaseththalanka of Tipitaka Maha Gandayon Monastery of Mingaladon Township and Ashin Çakkinda (Myaing) of Tipitaka Monastery of Dagon Township and Dighanikaya Kovida title to Ashin Paññavamsalankara of Tipitaka Maha Gandayon Monastery of Mayangon Township.

SPDC member Lt-Gen Thha Thura Tin Oo of the Ministry of Defence presented certificates of honour for Dighabhanaka title to one member of the Sangha and Vinaya Kovida title to four members of the Sangha.

Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein also offered certificates of honour for Vinayadhara title to five members of the Sangha and Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Vinayadhara titles to five members of the Sangha.

(See page 9)
Religious titles conferred on members of Sangha who passed 59th Tipitakadhara…

Lt-Gen Myint Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence presented certificates of honour for Vinayadhara title to one member of the Sangha and Ubhato Vibhangakovida titles to five members of the Sangha, and Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence Ubhato Vibhangakovida titles to two members of the Sangha and Ubhato Vibhangadhara titles to four members of the Sangha.

Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Attorney-General U Aye Maung, Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung, Minister for Religious titles confered on members of Sangha who passed 59th Tipitakadhara…

Secretary of the SSMNC Nyaungdon Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa delivered a sermon, and Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, wife and the congregation shared merits gained. The ceremony ended with three-time recitation of Buddha Sasanaṃ Çiram Titthatu.

After the ceremony, members of the Sangha left the dais of the cave through the passage way. Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, wife Daw Mya Mya San and party donated alms and offertories to members of the Sangha. — MNA

Religious Affairs Minister accepts cash and kind donation

YANGON, 26 May — A ceremony to introduce new models of mobile phone handsets imported by GSM Care Centre was held at Yangon City Star Hotel on Maha Bandoola Garden Street in Kyauktada Township yesterday.

General Manager U Tin Win Hlaing of GSM Care Centre extended the greetings to the guests. Marketing Manager U Thiha explained new models of mobile phone handsets, customer service and after sales service.

FX Technology Group in Singapore provides GSM Care Centre with hardware and software technology.

New handsets are available at No 01/12 Lanmadaw Plaza on Lanmadaw Road for further information, dial 01-395600.

Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha offered certificates of honour for Ubhato Vibhangadhara titles to six members of the Sangha each.

Chairman of SSMNC Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara gives Saraniya Ovadakatha.

MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint of Ministry of Defence confers title on a Sayadaw. — MNA

Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein presents title to a Sayadaw. — MNA

General Manager U Tin Win Hlaing of GSM Care Centre explains functions of new mobile phone handset models.

MNA

Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung accepts cash donated to the fund for missionary by Sayadaw Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Dr Buddhapiya through a disciple. — MNA

YANGON, 26 May — A ceremony to donate cash and kind for missionary of Department for Promotion and Propagation of Sauna under the Ministry of Religious Affairs was held at the morning hall of the ministry this morning.

It was attended by Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Advisor U Amin Maung, officials and wellwishers.

On behalf of Sayadaw Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Dr Buddhapiya from India, a wellwisher presented US$ 8500 and Euro 3000 and wellwisher Thiri Thudhama Theingi Daw Khan Nan Mon and family, 200 robes to the minister. The minister presented certificate of honours to them. — MNA

27-5-07NL 5/27/07, 02:56 AM9
Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and officials presented physic nut seeds to family members of the station. Altogether 6,000 physic nut saplings were grown on five acres. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected cultivation of trees under the Shwenattung Greening Project. They went to the briefing hall of arid zone forest conservation area. Staff Officer U Myint Aung of Forest Department reported on cultivation of hardwood. They also inspected physic nut farm and nursery in the station.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint met Tatmadaw members and their families. He told them to participate in regional and rural development tasks in cooperation with local people. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party went to the briefing hall of Magyee Thonbin Dam Project in Pakokku Township.

Director U Aye Thein of Irrigation Department reported on the data of the project and progress of work. The earth dam is 1,875 feet long and 44 feet high. The capacity at full brim is 440 acre feet. Irrigated area is 200 acres.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected the construction of the dam. They also inspected forest conservation and Tettnaung greening project in Pauk Township.

They inspected Yaw Creek Water Pumping Station (Yaypya) near Pakokku-Pauk-Kyaukhtu Road.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected cultivation of summer paddy near Yaypya Village, No.2 Pauk Bridge (Yaypya) Win Thunza Shops of the Ministry of Industry-1.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party attended the cultivation of physic nut in Thayettaw Village and grew physic nut saplings. Altogether 6,000 physic nut saplings were grown on five acres.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party attended a physic nut plants growing ceremony held near Panhsan village in Kyaukhtu, Saw Township. Gangaw district and greeted those present growing the plants. Five acres of land were put under 6000 physic nut plants. Next, they visited the irrigated land of Minletaw Diversion Weir at mile post (0/3) on Pauk-Kyaukhtu road. An official reported on cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy. Kyaukhtu township grew 16,987 acres of monsoon paddy and 2,648 acres of summer paddy.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected Aigyaik bridge (Kyi Creek) between mile post Nos (18/6) and (18/7) that was in bad condition due to floods and gave instructions to officials on repairs of the bridge.

They then attended a physic nut plant growing ceremony held in Thayettaw village in Htilin Township and encouraged those present growing the plants. A total of 4,200 plants were grown on 3.5 acres of land. They then went to the 300-acre summer paddy plantation at the entrance to Htilin. Township PDC Chairman U Zaw Min reported on cultivation of Shwe Myanmar paddy strains. At the house of Htilin Township PDC, Lt-Gen Ye Myint met service personnel, social organizations and local people and explained regional development work. In response to the reports presented by officials, Lt-Gen Ye Myint said the township is now developing with smooth transport. So relying on this smooth transport, local people are to strive for the development of education, health and social sectors as well as for extending crop items. It is also necessary to boost agriculture and livestock breeding and flow of commodities. Next, he urged local authorities, departmental personnel and local people to cooperate in regional development and greening tasks.

Later, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party visited Htilin People’s Hospital (16-bed) and made cash donations. They also visited Myinttha dam project site and gave necessary instructions. The dam will be 205 feet high and 29,750 feet long. It can store 377,600 acre feet of water, generate 170 kilowatt million hours of electricity and irrigate 12,000 acres of land.

Later, they inspected a 50-acre physic nut plantation on Htilin-Gangaw road and went to Gangaw by car.

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NAY PYI TAW, 26 May — Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, accompanied by Deputy Commander of North-East Command Brig-Gen Hla Myint and officially, visited Youth Training Centre in Lashio, Shan State (North) on 20 May, and urged officials to carry out tasks of the department effectively.

The minister also called on officials concerned to carry out preventive measures against trafficking in person and drug rehabilitation tasks joining hands with other departments and social organizations. He also urged them to make arrangements for welfare of the youths at the centre.

Deputy Director U Thein Naing of Social Welfare Department reported to the minister on welfare tasks in Shan State (North).

The minister also went to Mandalay Division and visited the Fire Services Department in Kyaung on 22 May and assisted in construction of a new building for the department.

The minister and party also visited Tatkon Township’s Fire Services Department where officials of the department reported to the minister on tasks and arrangements for construction of a new building for the department.

On his tour, Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe also inspected the site chosen to construct the building and attended to the needs.

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MINISTER MAJ-GEN MAUNG MAUNG SWE Inspects Fire Station of Kyaukse — SWRR

Nay Pyi Taw, 26 May — Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe inspected Kyaukse Township’s Fire Services Department where officials of the department reported to the minister on tasks and means with the intention of killing innocent people and committing destructive acts through various ways and means with the intention of killing innocent people and committing destructive acts through various ways and means.

Under the arrangements of officials, the mine was stepped on a mine planted by the insurgents. — MNA

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Warning on control of bird flu issued

YANGON, 26 May — Bird flu, which broke out in five townships, Yangon Division from 28-2-2007 to 31-3-2007, has been under control and restriction on transport and sales of ducks, chickens, quills and their products has been lifted.

Post-outbreak surveillance was carried out in areas three kilometers radius of the affected farms after outbreak containment based on serum and other samples of 44,000 poultry.

Post-outbreak surveillance was carried out in areas three kilometers radius of the affected farms after outbreak containment based on serum and other samples of 44,000 poultry.

Although antigen was found from serum of a duck farm, no bird flu virus was found from other samples. Co-infection was found at a broiler farm but no evidence of NAI infection was found at the remaining 93 farms.

Restriction on transport and sale of ducks from the affected farms was imposed while outbreak surveillance was carried out as a rapid response. Poultry from the broiler farm were culled and disinfection and bio-security was carried out.

It can be assessed that the outbreak of bird flu in Yangon Division has been under control but there is still residual of bird flu virus.

In order to control the residuals of bird flu virus and to ensure no recurrence of bird flu, the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department called on the people and breeders to carry out biosecurity of poultry farms, to inform the LBVD, the Township, Ward and Village PDCs, Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation if the unnatural death of poultry was found, not to sell and consume the affected poultry and its products, to systematically bury the dead bodies of poultry, to wear disposable gloves and masks when entering poultry farms, to have personal hygiene whenever coming out of poultry farms and to cooperate with the relevant departments and organizations in control of the bird flu. — MNA
MADRID, 26 May —
Days of heavy rain in central Spain have flooded roads and destroyed crops, local media reported recently Thursday.

In Castilla-La Mancha, the worst-hit region, more than 400,000 hectares of crops, mainly vineyards and grains, have been damaged, Jose Maria Barreda, the region’s president, was quoted by local media as saying.

Local media said the region has witnessed agricultural losses of some 250 million euros (about 337.5 million US dollars).

The meteorology department forecast that thunderstorms were set to keep pounding Castilla-La Mancha until the weekend.

In Alcazar de San Juan, over 400 people fled their homes and some 1,500 to 2,000 homes there were flooded as the town’s rainfall in the past 24 hours surpassed the total amount of 2005.

Number of rhino on rise in relocated area of Nepal

KATHMANDU, 26 May — A total of 31 rhinos were spotted by the rhino census team in the Karnali Embankment Region under Bardiya National Park, situated some 400 kilometres west of Kathmandu, reported the website the himalayantimes.com Friday.

The team of 24 park officials and wildlife conservationists led by rhino expert Dr Shanta Raj Gyawali started counting the animals a week ago. The census is being carried out by the Bardiya National Park.

Chief of the National Nature Protection Fund of the Bardiya Conservation Project Naresh Subedi said 31 rhinos were spotted in the park until 24 May.

Expressing surprise at the number of rhinos, he said, “We were amazed and encouraged to see 31 rhinos at the place where only 13 rhinos had been relocated earlier.”

Floods, mudslides leave 21 dead, 11 missing in S-W China

CHENGDU, 26 May — Twenty-one people were killed and 11 are missing after continuous rainstorms on Wednesday and Thursday triggered flash floods and mudslides in southwest China, local government sources said.

Flash floods and mudslides in Ganzi and Liangshan autonomous prefectures in Sichuan Province killed 11 people, injured five, and left five missing on Thursday.

In Ganzi, the mudslide has also damaged a 300-metre stretch of the No 215 Provincial Highway.

Continuous rains in the neighbouring Chongqing Municipality have caused floods, slides and lightning strikes since Wednesday noon, leaving ten people dead and six others missing. About 363 people have been injured.

The rains have affected more than 2.3 million people and caused the evacuation of 112,000 people from their homes, said She Mingzhe, head of the municipality’s civil affairs bureau.

Governments in Sichuan and Chongqing are organizing relief and search efforts for stricken people.

The rugged terrain and lack of communication have greatly hindered the efforts in rural mountainous areas.
**Advertisements**

**Claims Day Notice**

**MV VASCO DA GAMA VOY NO (047)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV VASCO DA GAMA VOY NO (047) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.5.2007 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**Shipping Agency Department**

**Myanmar Port Authority**

**Agent for:** M/S Interasia Lines

**Phone No:** 256908/378316/376797

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**Rural energy shines at All-Energy '07 Exhibition**

Aberdeen, 25 May — Despite the name of the exhibition, rural energy shines as the most prominent at the All-Energy '07 Exhibition and Conference opening in the Scottish city of Aberdeen on Wednesday.

"Very firmly, the event is turning out to be UK's largest renewable energy exhibition and conference," Judith Patten, press officer of the event said.

About 180 representatives from countries like the United States, China, Germany, France, Canada, South Korea, Brazil and Mexico, are to deliver speeches on topics ranging from all sources of renewable energy to the oil and gas industry with carbon capture and storage, the utilities of micro-generation, wind farm development, etc. The two-day event will focus on "the USA and Europe getting down to business" on energy and environment protection. The exhibition and conference will also feature the first one-on-one discussions among companies in reducing carbon emission. What eye-catching is that on the opening day, the British Government is to publish its long-awaited energy White Paper. — MNA/Xinhua

**Brazilian President allocates $6b for family farming**

Rio de Janeiro, 25 May — Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on Wednesday announced that his government would set aside 12 billion reals (about 6.2 billion US dollars) for the development of family farming for the 2007-2008 harvest season.

According to Minister of Agrarian Development, Guilherme Cassel, the government will announce within 20 days a reduction in the interest rate for credit lines to family farmers, which currently range from 1.15 per cent to 7.25 per cent per year. He revealed that the rate will get close to zero.

On Wednesday, President Lula also revealed the government's plan to settle 100,000 families in 2007. The authorities would use land expropriated by the National Institute of Colonization and Agrarian Reform (INCRA) and spend 200 million reals (about 103.1 million dollars) on technical support and acquisition of food to achieve the aim.

Cassel stressed the importance of keeping a high quality in the agricultural settlements of families of the peasants. He added that it is of no use settling 600,000 or 800,000 families if there is no technical support or proper production condition. — MNA/Xinhua

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**Australia, Greece sign social security agreement**

Canberra, 25 May — The Australian and Greek prime ministers on Wednesday signed a historic social security agreement which has taken both sides years to negotiate.

Under the deal, Greek Australians who return to Greece will have better access to an Australian pension, and vice-versa.

The agreement will be of enormous benefit to some tens of thousands of Australians of Greek background, Australian Prime Minister John Howard said at a Press conference here after signing the memorandum of understanding.

"This social agreement has taken a number of years to negotiate but we are now delighted at the fact that it's been signed," he said.

Greek Prime Minister Kostas Karamanlis said the deal will enable Greek Australians to enjoy their pension rights and their healthcare rights.

"This is a very important agreement and it will actually settle something that is pending for thousands of Greek Australians," he said at the Press conference.

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**Wedding Message of Thanks**

Dr. Christopher Michael Sin Chan, B.Sc (Hons); M.B.,B.S (University of London) House Officer, Queens Hospital Romford.

Son of Mr. Roger Sin Chan + Mrs. Helen Sin Chan 28, Dartview Close, Grays, Essex, UK.

and

Dr. Wint Yu Mon, B.Sc (Hons); M.B.,B.S (University of London) House Officer, Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow.

the only daughter of Professor Dr. U Myint Thein (Neurosurgeon) and Professor Dr. Mi Mi Cho (Neurophysician), No. 12(B), Thairlardy St, 7th Mile, Mayangon Tsp, Yangon were married and their wedding reception was held in the Myanmar Ballroom, Traders Hotel on 26-5-2007 (Saturday)

Dr. Christopher Michael Sin Chan and Dr. Wint Yu Mon and their parents would like to express their heart-felt thanks to Professor Dr. U Kyaw Myint, Minister for Health and Professor Dr. U Paing Soe, Deputy Minister for Health, who graced the reception with their attendance, to Professor Dr. U Maung Maung Lay, Director-General (Rtd), Ministry of Health and wife Professor Dr. Daw Yin May, who offered wedding garlands; Dr. U Maung Maung Wint, Director General (Rtd), Medical Education Department; of the Ministry of Health and Advisor to Defence Services Medical Academy and wife Daw Lei Lei Yu, who offered wedding rings; Master of Ceremonies U Kyaw Soe Oo, Younger sister Dr. Tin Tin Wai, who sprayed wedding flowers; Dr. Pan Ei Ei Thant, who carried the tray of wedding garlands; Younger sister Htoo Myat Moe, who carried the tray containing the wedding flowers; Make-up Khin San Win, the Beautician; Pianist Tin Win Hlaing and Musicians; Sai Phone Htoo and party who took video and photographic records of the wedding ceremony; Traders Hotel Manager and employees, the relatives and friends who gave all the necessary help in the holding of the wedding reception and all the friends for their presence.

Parents and Dr. Christopher Michael Sin Chan and Dr. Wint Yu Mon
Iran will resist “any threat”

TEHERAN, 25 May — Iran will resist any threat and give a powerful response to its enemies, the Defence Minister said on Wednesday in comments coinciding with a US naval show of force off Iran’s coast.

Mostafa Mohammadm Najjar made his statement to mark the 25th anniversary of the recapture of an Iranian port which was seized by Iraqi forces during the two neighbours’ 1980-88 War. “Islamic Iran will resist... any kind of threat and will give a powerful answer to enemies and oppressors,” he said, according to the official IRNA news agency.

Earlier on Wednesday, nine US warships carrying 17,000 personnel entered the Gulf in what Navy officials said was the largest daytime assembly of ships since the 2003 Iraq war. US Navy officials said Iran had not been notified of plans to sail the ships, which include two aircraft carriers, through the Straits of Hormuz, a narrow channel in international waters off Iran’s coast and a major artery for global oil shipments.

Tension has been increasing between Teheran and Washington over Iran’s disputed nuclear work, which the West suspects is aimed at making atom bombs. Teheran denies both charges.

The United States also accuses Iran of fomenting instability in Iraq. Teheran denies both charges.

Iraq war. Teheran denies both charges.

Firm makes ‘healing super-water’

LONDON, 24 May—US scientists have developed “super-oxidised” water which they say speeds up wound healing.

Oculus, the Californian firm which developed the water - made by filtering it through a salt membrane - says it kills viruses, bacteria and fungi. It is also effective against MRSA and UK trials are being carried out on patients with diabetic foot ulcers, New Scientist magazine reported.

Experts said wound healing was a major problem for people with diabetes. The key ingredient of the water, called Microcyn, are oxychlorine ions — electrically charged molecules which pierce the cell walls of free-living microbes. The water can only kill cells it can completely surround so human cells are spared because they are tightly bound together in a matrix.

It is made by taking purified water and passing it through a semi-permeable sodium chloride membrane, which produces the oxychlorine ions.

One study showed that patients with advanced foot ulcers who were treated with the water, alongside an antibiotic had an average healing time of 43 days compared with 55 days in those who received standard treatment.

Lightning kills 7 pupils in S-W China village

CHONGQING, 25 May — A lightning strike killed seven students and injured 30 others in a village school on Wednesday afternoon in southwest China, said local authorities.

The lightning struck the school while children were attending class at around 4:00 pm on Wednesday, in a primary school in Xingu Village, Kaixian County of Chongqing Municipality, said officials.

The students were in two separate classrooms. Four of them were seriously hurt, the sources said. All the injured are being treated in hospital, said doctors.

The seven pupils who were killed were aged 10 years to 14, said the county officials.

27 killed in Tamil Nadu wall collapse

NEW DELHI, 25 May — Authorities Thursday identified 14 of the bodies of the 27 people killed Wednesday in a wall collapse near Tirupur City in South India’s Tamil Nadu area, Indo-Asian News Service reported here.

The accident took place late Wednesday evening at the KPK Dyeing unit building, a garment dying set-up, in Angeripalayam, a small town on the outskirts of the textile hub of Tirupur, in south India.

Many bodies were taken to local hospitals and are yet to be identified. Some bodies were severely mutilated as the wall was made of huge stone blocks and people were crushed under it. Most of the dead were textile unit workers.

The 20-feet tall wall guarded the factory. Next to it was a cinema hall and the place was crowded.

Nearly half a dozen injured people are in hospital.

Police said rescue efforts were on to rescue people trapped under the debris. Excavators were pressed into service.

China’s first ten-thousand-ton-class sea desalting plant has settled in Tianjin Municipality on May 23, 2007. The technology used in the plant is introduced from a French company by Tianjin Baochen Group. The plant will be put into production by the end of this year.—INTERNET

UAE calls for stability, security of Lebanon

ABU DHABI, 25 May — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Wednesday called for the stability and security of Lebanon that has suffered a severe internal conflict in the past three days, Emirates News Agency reported. The appeal was made by the UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan during a telephone conversation with Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Seniora on Wednesday, the report said.

During their conversation, Seniora briefed Sheikh Khalifa on the latest development in Lebanon and thanked him for ordering the delivery of urgent relief supplies to the residents of the Nahr el-Bared Palestinian refugee camp in northern Lebanese city of Tripoli, the report added. It was reported that at least 50 soldiers and militants have died in three days of fighting between Lebanese security forces and militants from the faction Fatah al-Islam in the Nahr el-Bared camp that started from Sunday. — MNA/Xinhua
Late birdie hat-trick sends Rose clear at Wentworth

VIRGINIA WATER (England), 26 May — Justin Rose finished with a flourish on Friday, securing a one-stroke lead after a hat-trick of birdies midway through the PGA Championship second round.

Fellow Briton Ross Fisher (67) occupied second place on seven-under 137 after going birdie-eagle-birdie at the end of his round.

Irishman Padraig Harrington (69), who will land a bonus of one million euros (1.34 million US dollars) if he can add victory at Wentworth to his Irish Open rights, etc. 

The 26-year-old Rose, who held a share of the overnight lead with compatriot Paul Broadhurst, mixed (68) were a further stroke back on 138.

"The training will be difficult in America with the humidity so I still feel I'd be able to play for

**CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

**ACROSS**
1 Tenant’s conditions, rights, etc.
4 Walked with swaying gait
7 Trite, obvious remark
9 Remain
10 Cry of pain
11 Pry
13 Old sailor (3-3)
14 Lower
15 Fetter
17 Strong malt liquor
19 Trench
20 Nocturnal birds
22 Sleeve-end
23 Space for action (5-4)
24 Crown
25 Spread out

**DOWN**
1 Scholastic essay
2 Repulsive to sight
3 Consuming
4 Allowance of food
5 Board game
6 Vacillate
7 Pleasant to taste
8 Brass instrument
11 Measure depth of
12 City of Australia
15 Suffocated
16 Hot, desert wind
17 In short supply
18 Dupleece
21 Snow conveyance
22 Chicken-cage

**Inspirational Riquelme sends Boca to semifinals**

ASUNCION, 26 May — Midfielder Juan Roman Riquelme scored an individual goal to set Boca Juniors on the way to a 2-0 win over Libertad and a place in the Libertadores Cup semifinals on Thursday.

Boca's win in the quarterfinal, second-leg tie against the Paraguayan champions sent them through 3-1 on aggregate and earned them a place against Cucuta of Colombia in the last four.

Despite playing more than 1,000 kilometres away from their base in Buenos Aires, Argentina's most popular club had the majority of the support at the Defenders of the Chaco Stadium.

Libertad, who held Boca to a 1-1 draw last week and needed only a goalless draw to progress, paid for an over-defensive approach and failed to muster a single shot on goal. Boca, however, still had to wait until the last half hour to settle the game against last year's semifinalists. —MNA/Reuters

**Milan’s victory spotlights UEFA’s legal concerns**

BRUSSELS, 26 May — AC Milan's Champions League final victory over Liverpool on Wednesday left a bitter-sweet taste among many of European soccer’s top officials who believe they should never have been in the competition in the first place.

For Milan's 2-1 win in the Olympic Stadium, brings the spotlight back on to a deeper problem that soccer, and sport in general, is currently having to live with on an almost daily basis: the fear of court action which can erode the power of ruling sporting bodies.

On the pitch, the Italian club won Europe’s top prize fair and square, and the image of veteran Paulo Maldini being handed the trophy by Michel Platini – the former Juventus player now officiating at his first Champions League final as UEFA president – was one to savour.

According to senior officials at European soccer's governing body, if Milan’s match-fixing indications were fast-forwarded by 12 months, they would not be admitted to the prestigious competition next season. —MNA/Reuters

**Beckham hopes for England future**

LONDON, 26 May — David Beckham insists he can still play for England after his summer move to Los Angeles Galaxy from Real Madrid.

The former captain, 32, is expected to be recalled when Steve McClaren unveils his squad at noon —I NTERNET

Beckham told BBC Radio Five Live: “I’ll be a lot fitter [playing in LA], just as fit as I am now, maybe more fit.

“Too much training will be difficult in America with the humidity so I still feel I’d be able to play for

**Czechs to face Argentina in World Team Cup final**

DUESSELDORF (Germany), 26 May — Czech Republic sealed a place in the final of the World Team Cup with a 3-0 victory over holders Germany on the last day of group action on Friday. The Czechs, who will now face Argentina in Saturday’s final, took the first point when Tomas Berdych continued his French Open preparation with a commanding 6-3, 6-2 win over German number one Philipp Kohlschreiber.

Jan Hajek then made certain of extending his side’s unbeaten run in the Blue Group this week by seeing off Florian Mayer in a tough 7-6, 6-2 victory.

Hajek came from 3-5 down in the first set to take it 7-4 on the tie-break and was also a break behind in the second before Mayer lost his way.

“I’ve no idea what happened out there,” said Mayer about losing the first set from such a strong position. “It’s a real shame for the team because we definitely had a chance.” Berdych also played the closing doubles, partnering Martin Damm to a 6-4, 6-4 win over Michael Kohlmann and Benjamin Becker.

“It’s been a great week before Paris and it’s fantastic to be in the final,” said Berdych, who is the 10th seed at Roland Garros. —MNA/Reuters

**Vardar win Macedonian Cup again**

SKOPJE, 26 May — Vardar Skopje beat 2-1 Pobeda Prilep in the Macedonian Cup final on Thursday to lift the trophy for the fifth time in their history.

Hristijan Kirovski put Vardar ahead in the 22nd minute and Dos Santos Vander douched their lead five minutes later. —MNA/Reuters

**Maria Sharapova of Russia returns the ball to Aravane Rezai of France during their semi final match at the WTA Istanbul Cup tennis tournament in Istanbul on 25 May, 2007. Rezai, who beat Venus Williams in the second round, defeated Sharapova in the semi final of the tournament in Istanbul on Friday. —INTERNET**

**South Africa’s Ernie Els hits a shot on the 17th hole at the PGA Championship of golf at the Wentworth Club in Virginia Water, southeast England, on 25 May, 2007. —INTERNET**

**Ferrari’s Formula One driver Kimi Raikkonen of Finland drives during the second training session of Monaco’s F1 Grand Prix in Monte Carlo on 24 May, 2007. —INTERNET**
Pregnant women “should avoid all alcohol”

London, 26 May — Pregnant women and those trying to conceive should avoid drinking any alcohol at all, according to new advice from the Department of Health.

The government’s previous position was that they could drink up to one unit of alcohol once or twice a week. Deputy Chief Medical Officer Dr Fiona Adshead said the new guidance had been introduced to provide stronger, more consistent advice for the whole of the UK.

“Our advice is simple: avoid alcohol if pregnant or trying to conceive,” she said. “This advice could also be included on alcohol packaging or labels. The advice now reflects the fact that many women give up drinking alcohol completely during pregnancy. It is now straightforward and stresses that it is better to avoid drinking alcohol altogether.”

Dr Sheila Shribman, the government’s clinical director of maternity services, said: “Our last survey of pregnant women showed that nine per cent were still drinking above the recommended levels.

“It is vital that we alert pregnant women and women hoping to conceive about the potential dangers of excessive alcohol consumption during pregnancy.”

Swarm of bees forces passenger plane to land

London, 26 May — A passenger plane was forced to land after flying into a swarm of British bees on Thursday.

The Palmair Boeing 737, with 90 passengers on board, had to return to Bournemouth Airport in southern England shortly after take-off following an engine surge.

The pilot decided to abort the flight to Faro in Portugal and returned for safety checks. The plane’s engine was thought to have become clogged with bees, the company said on Friday.

Huge clouds of bees have been seen around Bournemouth over the past few days, a spokeswoman said. — MNA/Reuters

WEATHER

Saturday, 26 May, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Chin State and Magway Division, rain or thunder-showers have been isolated in lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, scattered in Shan, Rakhine, Kayay and Kayin States, Bago and Yangon Divisions, fairly widespread in Kachin State and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfall in Ayeyawady and Mandalay Divisions.

Day temperatures were (95°F) above May average temperature in Ayeyawady Division, (73°C) above average temperatures in Rakhine and Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Magway and Yangon Divisions and about average May average temperatures in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Pwaypon (3.54) inches, Myitkyina (2.17) inches, Owu (1.85) inches, Lewe (1.69) inches, Homalin and Kayan (1.34) inches each. Sittwe (1.10) inches, Takton (0.98) inch and Thatun (0.79) inch.

Maximum temperature on 25-5-2007 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 26-5-2007 was 78°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 26-5-2007 was 79%. Total sunshine hours on 25-5-2007 was (7.7) hours approx. Rainfall on 25-5-2007 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and (Tr) at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (25.28) inches at Mingaladon, (29.49) inches at Kaba-Aye and (28.66) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (21) mph from Southwest at (15:15) hours MST on 25-5-2007.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 27-5-2007: Rain or thunder-showers will be widespread in Kachin State and Tanintharyi Division, fairly widespread in Rakhine and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, scattered in Shan, Kayin States and Bago Division and isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (90%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of thundery conditions in the Central Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 27-5-2007: Likelihood of isolated rain or thunder-showers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 27-5-2007: One or two rain or thunder-showers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 27-5-2007: Likelihood of isolated rain or thunder-showers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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11:10 am 2. Musical programme
11:25 am 3. Round up of the week’s international news
11:40 am 4. Yan can cook
12:00 pm 5. Myanmar video feature: "( debilitating illness) (details)"
1:35 pm 6. Dance of national races
2:00 pm 7. " The Ballad of the" (details)
2:10 pm 8. " (details)
2:20 pm 9. " (details)
2:30 pm 10. International news
2:45 pm 11. " (details)
3:00 pm 12. " (details)
3:10 pm 13. " (details)
3:20 pm 14. " (details)
8:00 pm 15. News
8:10 pm 16. News
8:20 pm 17. News
8:30 pm 18. News
8:45 pm 19. News
9:00 pm 20. News
9:10 pm 21. News
9:20 pm 22. News
9:30 pm 23. News
9:40 pm 24. News
10:00 pm 25. News
Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, wife Daw Mya Mya San…

(from page 1)

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, wife and party took the Five Precepts from Chairman of the Ovadaçariya Committee of the Examination Presiding Nayaka Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Vijayabhivamsa of Webyan Monastery of Mawlamyine.

Chairman of the SSMNC Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara delivered a Saraniya Ovadakatha. Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung supplicated on the religious affairs.

Afterwards, the ceremony to offer certificates of honour for the religious titles followed.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye offered a certificate of honour for Tipitakadhara title to Ashin Abhijatabhivamsa of Maha Thubawdayon Monastery of Sagaing.

(See page 8)

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects agricultural and regional tasks in Pakokku, Gangaw Districts

NAV PYI TAW, 26 May — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command May Gen. Tha Aye, Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office attended a ceremony to grow physic nut of Pakokku Station on 23 May.

(See page 10)

NLD places too much reliance on external elements

NLD leaders very pleased to see economic sanctions imposed against Myanmar

YANGON, 26 May—Member U Ni Tut of the township organizing committee of Hlegu Township National League for Democracy in Yangon Division on 24 May resigned from the NLD of his own volition, sending a resignation letter to the NLD Headquarters and local administrative organs.

In the letter he sent to Hlegu Township Multi-party Democracy General Election Subcommission, he said he came to realize that the NLD placed too much reliance on external elements, and NLD leaders were very pleased with the economic sanctions imposed against the nation with the intention of causing grinding poverty to the nation and the people, and that was very disappointing for him. He said that he felt sorry for the fact that stuffing naive and artless young people with their political ideas, they were organizing prayer services at the pagodas, and they were just exploiting the youths. They were focusing on destabilizing the nation, and making the people get into troubles in term of basic needs, but had never done anything in the interests of the nation. As a result, he could no longer put trust in the party and party leaders. In the end, he decided to leave the party of his own accord.—MNA