

Danañca, generosity; this is the way to auspiciousness

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Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Prime Minister consoles cyclone victims in Ayeyawady Division



Prime Minister General Thein Sein cordially greets storm victims in Labutta Township.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 5 May — Chairman of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Prime Minister General Thein Sein met with cyclonic storm victims of Bogale, Mawlamyinegyun and Labutta Townships in Ayeyawady Division today, encouraged them and gave instructions to carry out reconstruction and rehabilitation tasks.

The Prime Minister together with the ministers, the deputy ministers, the director-general of the Government Office and departmental officials and specialists arrived at Bogale of Pyapon District at 11.15 am today.

Next, the Prime Minister cordially met with storm victims from the villages. At the office of Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council U Soe Thein reported on the loss of 4,485 houses out of 7639 from 10 wards, daily rescue of the people drifting in the sea, opening relief camps for food and drinks and medical treatment to the victims provided by Township Medical Officer Dr Daw Hla Hla Kyi and Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung gave a supplementary report.

After attending to the needs, the Prime Minister presented cash for storm victims to the Chairman of

Township Peace and Development Council.

Later, Union Solidarity and Development Association Secretariat Member Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw presented K 2 million donated by Kachin State USDA and seven satellite phones through officials.

Next, the Prime Minister and party inspected the damages caused by the storm in Bogale Township.

On arrival at No 5 Basic Education High School where the relief camp is being opened, the Prime Minister inspected medical treatment given to injured storm victims and asked after them.

Afterwards, they comforted the storm victims.

Next, the Prime Minister went to Bogale Peo-

ple's Hospital and comforted patients who were undergoing medical treatment. He instructed staff of the hospital to prepare sufficient medicine for patients and take care of them with sympathy. He arranged 5 inward patients out of 81 who needed special treatment to be taken to Yangon People's Hospital.

He presented cash for patients and staff of the hospital through Township Medical Officer Daw Hla Hla Kyi.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party inspected Tatmadawmen unloading the relief supplies from motorconvoys which carried relief supplies for the storm victims of Bogale Township.

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw gave seven satellite phones to Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung to use in relief work. Next, the Prime Minister and party flew over the town to see damages of Bogale.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party proceeded to Mawlamyinegyun in Myaungmya District. Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt explained damages of 95 percent of houses of the township, providing relief aids to the storm victims with 14 relief camps, providing rice to the villages,

(See page 10)

Prime Minister General Thein Sein was at cyclone-hit areas to render necessary assistance for victims.

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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 6 May, 2008

Carry out relief and resettlement works with altruism

In Myanmar, pre-monsoon period falls between the middle of April and the middle of May. During the period, mass clouds sometimes get closely and it rains unusually.

The mass cloud that was formed a few days ago got intensified into the severe cyclonic storm (NARGIS) and it crossed the coast of Myanmar and hit Ayeyawady, Yangon and Bago divisions and Mon and Kayin states.

About two days before the natural disaster, the Meteorology and Hydrology Department released storm news and warned the people about the possible disaster through media.

The storm could be forecast and preparedness works were carried out in time. However, the areas where the storm crossed faced loss of lives and property due to the intensity of the strong wind.

The National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee held a meeting at the Office of the Prime Minister in Nay Pyi Taw on 3 May to launch relief and resettlement tasks.

Now, various subcommittees that have been formed for preparedness of natural disasters are rendering relief for the victims and providing necessary assistance to the disaster-hit areas for their resettlement. In addition, they are working hard in harness sector-wise for expediting the tasks.

In the process, relief and reconstruction works are to be carried out not only at the regional level but also at the national level in the disaster-hit areas.

Now, a control and command headquarters has been opened in Yangon for supervising relief and resettlement tasks.

The government is now stepping up the relief and resettlement undertakings at the national level in the storm-hit areas. So, local people on their part are to take part in the rehabilitation tasks with humanitarian spirit for the affected regions to restore normalcy as soon as possible.

External and domestic flights start operations at Yangon International Airport.—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

Relief goods provided to victims in Bogale, Mawlamyinegyun Townships



Ministers Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein provide assistance to the storm victims in Mawlamyinegyun Township.—MNA

YANGON, 5 May—Members of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee ministers and deputy ministers are providing relief goods to the victims in storm-hit townships. Member of the NDPCC Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, left here for Bogale Township by military helicopter.

The minister handed over relief goods including clothing and medicines to member of the NDPCC

Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung and officials at the football ground in Bogale, Ayeyawady Division, at 8 am today.

Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe

cordially met the victims and explained further provision programmes.

Similarly, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, left here

by military helicopter for Mawlamyinegyun Township where he provided relief goods including clothing and medicines to the victims.

MNA

Yangon International Airport reopens to regular int'l, domestic flights

YANGON, 5 May—Yangon International Airport which was temporarily closed on 3

and 4 May has been reopened to international and domestic flights since this morning.

Air Bagan began flying Yangon-Mandalay, Yangon-Nyaung U, Yangon-Heho flights, Air Mandalay-Bagan-Yangon flight and Yangon Airway Mandalay-Heho, Heho-Tachilek, Heho-Mandalay-Nyaung U-Yangon flights. External flights SILK Air and Thai Airways International (TG) had started their flights and Air Bagan will fly Yangon-Mandalay, Yangon-Nyaung U, Yangon-Myitkyina, Yangon-Putao, Yangon-Lashio flight tomorrow.

MNA





Residents gather at the site of a bomb attack in Baghdad's Camp Sara district on 1 May, 2008. The explosion near a US patrol in Baghdad killed nine Iraqis and wounded 23 on Thursday, Iraqi police said.—INTERNET

China posts 26% growth in trade with ASEAN in Q1

BEIJING, 5 May — China's foreign trade with members of Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) amounted to 54.4 billion US dollars in the first quarter of this year, a growth of 26 per cent on the same period of last year, sources with the Ministry of Commerce said on Friday.

But the sources did

not reveal the export and import value of the trade.

Last year, the bilateral trade reached 202.5 billion US dollars, representing a year-on-year increase of 26 per cent and achieving the 200-billion-dollar annual goal three years ahead of schedule, the sources added.

Besides trade, two-way investment, contracted engineering

and labour cooperation between China and ASEAN members have developed rapidly.

By the end of 2007, China's investment in ASEAN members and the latter's input in the former accumulated to 48.9 billion US dollars, according to the Commerce Ministry sources.

MNA/Xinhua

Venezuela will not abandon dollar in oil sales

CARACAS, 5 May — Venezuela will not abandon the dollar as a currency for oil sales, Energy Minister Rafael Ramirez said on Wednesday, despite the OPEC member's trend toward asking for payments in euros for certain contracts. Asked if Venezuela would stop relying on the greenback, Ramirez said "We are not going to that and we are not currently doing that."

"We have been doing some transactions in euros, we are trying that out ... it is not significant enough to say there has been a qualitative change," he said. Ramirez also said the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries had not agreed to an extraordinary meeting before its next

scheduled gathering in September.

Member state Libya said on Wednesday OPEC was ready to call an extraordinary meeting but was not planning to do so. "There is not a production problem, there is plenty of production," he said.

Ramirez reiterated

the OPEC view that there was no shortage of oil supplies on the market despite record prices, but said expensive oil would become customary.

"We have to be prepared for oil prices that are permanently above 90 US dollars per barrel," he said.—MNA/Reuters

US reports biggest measles outbreak since 2001

WASHINGTON, 5 May — The biggest US outbreak of measles since 2001 is unfolding in 10 states, with at least 64 people ranging from infants to the elderly becoming ill — most of them unvaccinated, US health officials said on Thursday.

None of those who

contracted the highly contagious viral illness has died, although 14 people have been hospitalized, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.

Fifty-nine of the 64 people confirmed to have measles were US residents, and 54 of those

Avalanche strands 260 travellers in S-E Tibet

BOMI, (Tibet), 5 May — A massive snow avalanche in Bomi County in southeastern Tibet Autonomous Region has blocked the Sichuan-Tibet highway and stranded about 260 people in 59 vehicles.

Since April 20, consecutive rainstorms

and melting snow have resulted in more than 30 avalanches in Nyingchi Prefecture in southeastern Tibet, blocking a section of the Sichuan-Tibet highway within the prefecture, according to sources with the Armed Police who maintain the road.

The latest snowslide in Bomi, which forms part of the Nyingchi

Prefecture and a popular tourist destination, occurred at about 01:50 pm Tuesday and destroyed about 60 metres of the road.

Officers formed two emergency rescue teams, one searching for and removing the stranded vehicles and people, and the other clearing and repairing the road.

MNA/Xinhua

Over 1,000 protest over food prices in Peru

LIMA, 5 May — More than 1,000 women protested outside Peru's Congress on Wednesday, banging empty pots and pans to demand the government do more to counter rising food prices, which have squeezed the poor from Kazakhstan to Haiti.

The women, many toting small children on the hip or by the hand, run food kitchens for the poor, where Peruvians can buy breakfast or lunch for less than a dollar. Inflation for basic foods sank President Alan Garcia's approval rating to 26 per cent this month, the lowest level since he took office in 2006.

This month, weeks after cutting taxes on food imports, Garcia started sending the Army to hand out free bags of food in the poorest neighbourhoods of Lima, the capital, at a time when a global increase in food prices has raised concerns about political instability in many countries.

"Food prices keep on rising and the government doesn't pay attention to the eating halls," said Maria Bozeta, director of one of three associations that represent eating halls in Lima.

The meals they serve are subsidized by the government, but the women say they are struggling to put food on the table for the poor and want Garcia to increase financial aid so they can cover their costs.

MNA/Reuters

Malaysian tycoon launches MCI

KUALA LUMPUR, 5 May — Malaysian tycoon Tiong Hiew King beat the gong at the Malaysia Stock Exchange here on Wednesday, announcing that his Chinese-language media powerhouse, the Media Chinese International Limited (MCI), is formally formed.

Tiong's long-awaited new entity came into being from the merger of his Ming Pao Enterprise Corporation Limited in Hong Kong, China, and

his Sin Chew Media Corporation Berhad and Nanyang Press Holdings Berhad in Malaysia.

The birth of MCI will open the door to numerous growth opportunities in media-related businesses by targeting Chinese-speaking communities around the world, Tiong said at a ceremony to unveil MCI's dual listing on the mainboards of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange and the Malaysia Stock Exchange.

The completion of this merger would provide a vital link and serve fast-growing international Chinese literate clients, said the MCI chairman.

The merger will also allow for greater corporate synergy and operational innovation when the MCI continues to provide traditional printing and publishing services while exploring opportunities to enhance its growing Internet and electronic-commerce markets, he said.—MNA/Xinhua

sickened "were associated with importation of measles from other countries" including Switzerland, Israel, Belgium, India, Italy and likely China, the CDC said.

All but one of those who got measles were unvaccinated or had unknown vaccination status, the CDC said. "These cases and outbreaks resulted primarily from failure to vaccinate, many because of personal or religious belief exemption," the CDC said.

"Transmission has occurred in community and health care settings, including homes, child care centers, schools, hospitals, emergency rooms and physicians' offices," the CDC said in a statement. The ages of those sickened ranged from five months to 71 years, the CDC said.

MNA/Reuters

Asia's eco growth to remain fast

SINGAPORE, 5 May — With the enormous momentum from China and India, Asian economies will still grow at a relatively fast pace in the next two years, according to a report issued Wednesday by Standard & Poor's.

The recession in the US economy for the first half of 2008 will not have a strong impact on Asia, Subir Gokarn, S&P Asia-Pacific chief economist, said in the report.

The momentum from China and India, two of the three largest economies in the region, "will help sustain a positive growth environment for Asia-Pacific as a whole", and "insulate themselves

against a US recession," according to the report.

However, the growth rate of the region would slow somewhat, Gokarn said while noting some key risks the region will face, such as a prolonged US economic slump and hikes in food and fuel prices.

"There are some

visible threats to the region in the form of food and energy prices, which may adversely affect performance over the next couple of years," he said. Managing the risks "will be the most important challenge" facing policy-makers across the region, he added.

Xinhua

Cuba, Panama sign energy cooperation agreement

HAVANA, 5 May — Cuban President Raul Castro and visiting Panamanian President Martin Torrijos on Wednesday signed an energy cooperation agreement, local media reported.

The agreement was signed during a ceremony at the Revolution Palace in the Cuban capital Havana.

The agreement aims to expand bilateral cooperation and exchanges in the rational and efficient use of energy, the use of renewable energy for promoting economic development, environmental protection and social equity.

"We thank this project for keeping alive the solidary memory and spirit, for what represented Omar Torrijos (former Panamanian president),

A man walks near a destroyed vehicle at the site of a bomb attack in Baghdad's Camp Sara district on 1 May, 2008.

INTERNET

Czech Republic to send special force to Afghanistan

PRAGUE, 5 May — The lower house of the Czech Parliament decided on Wednesday to send a 100-strong special force unit to Afghanistan, local media reported.

The mission has already been given go-ahead last week in the Senate, the Upper House of the Czech Parliament.

Defence Minister Vlasta Parkanova said earlier that the soldiers from Prostějov, east of the country, may be deployed within the US-led Enduring

Freedom operation in some highly dangerous parts of Afghanistan and that they would not be part of NATO units.

The elite unit from Prostějov had already served in the mission in Afghanistan in 2004 and 2006.

The Parliament decided that the troops serve in Afghanistan by the end of the year.

The Parliament decided that the troops serve in Afghanistan by the end of the year. —Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Clash leaves 4 dead in Pakistan's tribal area

ISLAMABAD, 5 May — A clash between two groups over petty dispute has left four people dead in northwestern Pakistan's tribal region, the official *Associated Press of Pakistan* (APP) reported on Wednesday.

The APP quoted sources as saying that shoot-out started between

Gulab Khan group and its rival at village Miadan area in Kurram tribal agency when they failed to reach a consensus to solve the dispute.

Subsequently, supporters of the armed groups took out arms and pounded each other's positions.

Xinhua

Colombia to store between 200,000-250,000 tons of rice

BOGOTA, 5 May — The Colombian Government announced on Wednesday that it will store between 200,000-250,000 tons of rice to face an eventual food shortage that has already occurred in some countries, local media reported. Colombian Agriculture Minister Andres Arias said that 25 billion pesos (some 14.7 million US dollars) will

be earmarked to maintain the food price.

"We are going to store between 200,000-250,000 tons to protect Colombia against food shortage, the government pays for the storage and the producer will receive a stable price for the product, (so) it's good news for rice producers and consumers" Arias said.

Xinhua

Mass intestinal virus infection kills 20 in E China

HEFEI, 5 May — A mass intestinal virus infection in Fuyang City in east China's Anhui Province has hit 2,477 children and killed 20 others, a provincial government spokesman said on Thursday.

Among the infected, 738 had been cured. The death toll had been steady at 20 for four days. Another 702, including 36 seriously ill, were still in hospital and under observation. The outpatients numbered 1,017, the spokesman said.

Hospitals in Fuyang started to take in children with fever, blisters, mouth ulcers and rashes on their hands and feet in early March. Some were diagnosed with brain, heart and lung damage.

All were aged below six, of whom the majority being under two.

In a bid to stop the virus spreading to more children, all kindergartens in Fuyang City began the May Day holidays two days early.

There are about 400,000 children below

the age of five in Fuyang.

Enterovirus 71 can cause hand, foot and mouth disease that usually starts with a slight fever followed by blisters and ulcers in the mouth and rashes on hands and feet. It may also cause high fever, meningitis, encephalitis, pulmonary edema and paralysis in a small number of children.

Infection could lead to high mortalities rates in serious cases and no vaccine was available.

Xinhua

Two killed in suicide blast in Pakistan's tribal region

ISLAMABAD, 5 May — Two people were killed and ten injured in a suicide blast in northwestern Pakistan's Khyber tribal agency, a local TV channel reported Thursday.

The apparent suicide blast rocked the office of a

religious group in Khyber agency, private Dawn TV said.

Another private TV channel Geo reported 10 deaths in the blast.

The injured have been shifted to the hospital at Bara, a main town in the

agency, reports said.

The head of the suicide bomber has been found at the scene.

Further details about the blast are not yet available. The death toll is feared to rise.

Xinhua



Half E Europe immigrants to UK have left

LONDON, 2 May — One million immigrants from Eastern Europe have arrived in Britain since 2004 and half of them have already returned home, a report showed on Wednesday.

A think-tank study also suggested the arrival of immigrants from 10 new European Union members would slow as economic conditions improved in their home countries.

"Migration from the new EU member states has happened on a staggering scale but seems to have been largely positive for all concerned," said Danny

Skiskandarajah, co-author of the report for the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR).

"It is a question of when, not if, the great east European migration slows. With fewer migrants in and more migrants out, the UK seems to be experiencing turnstiles, not floodgates."

Its findings highlighted the gulf between the cross-border flow and initial British Government predictions that only a few thousand would be tempted to seek work in the country.

"Four in ten of the returned Polish migrants we

surveyed think that better employment prospects in Poland would encourage Poles living in the UK to return to Poland for good," it said.

Eight states joined the European Union in May 2004 — Poland, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia and Slovenia. Bulgaria and Romania joined in 2007.

The research showed there were 665,000 people from the 10 new EU members living in Britain in the last quarter of 2007.

MNA/Reuters



A driver navigates his truck down a flooded street in Wallagrass, Maine on 1 May, 2008. Homes and businesses were flooded along the Fish River in Wallagrass, south of Fort Kent, where the rain-swollen St. John River crested after hitting a record high, forcing residents to flee to higher ground as more than 100 homes flooded.—INTERNET

Sentiments lower in S'pore manufacturing, services firms

SINGAPORE, 2 May — A net balance of 7 per cent of Singaporean manufacturers expected business situation to deteriorate in the next six months amid forecasts of slowing global economic growth this year, the latest government survey said on Wednesday.

The quarterly survey, conducted by Singapore's Economic Development Board, found that a weighted 13 per cent of the manufacturing sector expected the business situation to improve for the period April to September 2008, while a weighted 20-per-cent foresaw less

favourable conditions.

"This translates to a net weighted balance of 7 per cent of manufacturers expecting deterioration over the next two quarters, compared with the business situation in the first three months of 2008," said the EDB.

In the previous survey, a balance of 2 per cent of manufacturers expected an improvement.

Sentiments in the general manufacturing cluster were the most upbeat, with a net weighted balance of 11 per cent of firms expecting business to improve in the next six months, said the EDB.

MNA/Xinhua

Fed cuts key interest rate by quarter point

WASHINGTON, 2 May 2— The Federal Reserve lowered a key US interest rate by a modest quarter percentage point on Wednesday in what may be the last of a series of cuts aimed at aiding an

economy hit hard by a housing slump and credit market turmoil.

The Fed's action takes the bellwether federal funds rate to 2 per cent, the lowest since December 2004. It was the seventh reduction in a campaign that has brought rates down by 3.25 percentage points since mid-September.

President George W. Bush on Tuesday said the US economy faced a "tough time," a point

underscored on Wednesday by a report that showed US gross domestic product expanded at a slim 0.6-per-cent annual rate in the first quarter.

Consumer spending, which accounts for two-thirds of US output, grew at the slowest pace since 2001, business investment fell and homebuilding continued to nosedive, recording the biggest drop in 26 years.

MNA/Xinhua

Colombian police say slain druglord is twin brother

BOGOTA, 2 May — A Colombian drug lord gunned down in a shootout with police this week was in fact his twin brother, who also was one of the country's most wanted cocaine traffickers, officials said on Wednesday.

Authorities on Tuesday said Miguel Angel Mejia was killed at a farm in northern Colombia but on Wednesday officials said fingerprints showed the slain man was Victor Manuel Mejia, also wanted for extradition to the United States on drug charges.

"At the moment he was shot by the police, Victor Mejia was carrying documents of his twin

brother," the police said in a statement. "This was a strategy they often used to confuse even the members of their own security teams."

MNA/Xinhua

Beduins check the scene of a bus accident in the desert road between Cairo and Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, on 1 May, 2008. Eight people were killed and 20 injured when a bus carrying Canadian, Italian, Russian and Ukrainian tourists overturned and caught fire in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula on Thursday, police sources said.—INTERNET



US Army targets \$400m for Afghan emergency funds

BAGRAM (Afghanistan), 2 May — The US military hopes to double its emergency funds for aid and reconstruction in Afghanistan this year, turning a once small-scale programme into a core part of its strategy to defeat Taliban insurgents.

If the US Congress approves, commanders on the ground say they could soon have as much as 410 million US dollars to finance new schools, roads, bridges and small hydro-electric power projects in rural areas, up from 206 million US dollars in 2007. The programme, known as the Commanders' Emergency Response Programme, or CERP, gives mid-level officers the authority and financial freedom to launch local reconstruction projects without the usual lengthy approval process from above.

The theory is that the sooner roads can be improved, clinics built, bridges repaired and power restored — especially in areas along the Pakistan border — the less likely the Taliban are to be let back in to vulnerable communities. —MNA/Xinhua

Diplomats briefed on situation of the areas hit by Nargis



Minister U Nyan Win briefs diplomats and representatives of UN Agencies on situation of the areas hit by Nargis.—MNA

YANGON, 5 May —Diplomats and representatives of UN Agencies were briefed on situation of the areas hit by storm (Nargis) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here this evening.

Present were Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, ambassadors, Charge d' Affaires of the embassies, representatives of UN Agencies and departmental officials.

Minister U Nyan Win explained loss of lives and destruction caused by the cyclonic storm Nargis that occurred in Myanmar beginning 2 May. He said he invited the diplomats to explain the severe cyclonic storm. Cyclonic storms usually come to Myanmar during the early monsoon. The storm news was broadcast two or three days in advance. In order to be free from the impact of the storm in the whole country, the news about the coming storm was telecast or broadcast continuously on TV and radio.

The arrival time of storm was at night and therefore there was vision limit. There were no high hills on the sea sides. Due to the 12 feet high sea tide some local people were not be able to move from their areas. As a result, there were deaths and destruction.

The storm entered Yangon area at night on 2 May and occurred in the early morning of 3 May. It continued to move towards northeast inland and weakened.

On 3 May, the National Disaster Preparedness

Central Committee led by the Prime Minister held its emergency meeting. The government sanctioned K five billion for emergency relief operations.

The Prime Minister and the ministers immediately left for Yangon. They then left for Ayeyawady, Yangon and Bago Divisions, Mon and Kayin States together with four infantry divisions by seven helicopters, 60 fibre boats and 10 ships.

They carried out emergency relief operations immediately in cooperation with non-governmental organizations.

According to the information so far received, there were over 10,000 deaths in Ayeyawady Division, 59 in Yangon Division and about 3,000 people missing.

- According to detailed facts and date received, In Ayeyawady Division;
- (1) 2 dead in Einme Township
 - (2) 1,835 dead and 2,187 missing in Mawgyun Township
 - (3) 975 dead in Haingyi Island
 - (4) 253 dead and 16 missing in Khatta Island, Ahma Township
 - (5) 789 dead and 172 missing in Dedaye Township
 - (6) 5 dead in Pyapon Township
 - (7) over 1,000 dead (still collecting) in Labutta Township
 - (8) over 10,000 dead in Bogale Township
- In Yangon Division;
- (1) 19 dead and 4 missing in Yangon Division

- (2) 40 dead and 500 missing in Kungyangon Township

As facts and data are in the process of being collected, there can be further dead and missing, and relief and resettlement measures are being taken in the affected areas.

The severe storm caused the temporary cut of power supply and telephone communications. Although the roofs of houses and buildings were blown off, there was no collapse of buildings but some jetties were destroyed. Altogether 67 vessels were sunk and some sampans destroyed, he noted.

The Yangon International Airport was reopened while motor roads and railroads returned to normalcy. An aircraft carrying relief aid for storm victims will arrive in Yangon on 6 May from Thailand. We will be much pleased if other countries do so at a time when our people are in need of help.

Items that are in need are tents, plastics, tarpaulin, CI sheets, medicines, instant foods, blankets, clothes, nails and communication equipment, he said.

Next, those present expressed sorrow over casualties and damages in Myanmar and pledged to give a helping hand to her to the most possible degree. And Minister U Nyan Win and Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe replied to queries raised by those present and the briefing ended at 5.30 pm.

MNA



USDAs at all levels and other donors provide clean water in Yangon. —MNA

Relief works supervised in Yangon

YANGON, 5 May—Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin visited the Waterworks at Yeku in Mayangon Township this morning.

The mayor inspected installation of 1375 KVA generator for operation of the waterworks that could not run due to shortage of power supply after the storm Nargis, calling for systematic water supply in Yangon.

He inspected supply of water by YCDC and the tube-wells being operated in Kyauktada, Botahtaung, Pabedan, Pazundaung, Lanmadaw and Mingala Taungnyunt townships. Plans are under way to provide rice and oil for the storm victims.

MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe presents relief aid to storm victims in Yangon South District

YANGON, 5 May—Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence visited Kyauktan, Thongwa, Tatar and Khayan in Yangon South District this morning and presented relief supplies to the storm victims.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe together with Minister for Livestock Breeding and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein and Commander of Ayeyawady Naval Region Command Commodore Win Shein arrived at Myanmar International Terminal Thilawa (MITT) in Thilawa, Thanlyin Township, and inspected the crane which was thrown into the river by Nargis storm. In response to the reports by the officials concerned, Lt-Gen Myint Swe gave instructions.

At Kyauktan Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Lt-Gen Myint Swe, the minister and party met with departmental officials, members of social organizations and stakeholders.

Chairman of Kyauktan Township Peace and Development Council U Maung Maung Khin gave reports on losses and damages caused by the

storm and work progress.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe said that Nargis storm claimed lives and property. MRTV, radio and City FM radio had aired storm news and warned the people about the possible disaster repeatedly. The government would render assistance for reconstruction tasks, he said.

Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein dealt with the conditions of storm-hit people in Mawlamyinegyun in Ayeyawady Division he had witnessed, pledging that the government would see to the needs in Kyauktan Township.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe provided them with aluminum utensils, clothes, blankets, longyi (nether garment) and rice, and the minister, with rice and edible oil.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party visited the relief camps at Shwe Maw Won Sasana Beikman and e-Library and comforted the victims.

At the office of Thongwa Township PDC, Lt-Gen Myint Swe, the minister and party held a meeting with departmental officials, social organization members, townelders and storm-victims.

Chairman of Thongwa



□Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence gives relief aid to a storm victim in Kyauktan Township.—MNA

Township PDC U San Hlaing accounted for losses and damages by the storm and measures taken in the township.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe and Minister Maung Maung Thein presented relief aid to the victims.

They also comforted the storm-beaten people at the relief camp at the Basic Education High School in Tatar Town, Kyauktan Township.

In meeting with departmental officials, social organization members and local

residents at Khayan Town PDC, Lt-Gen Myint Swe heard report by Chairman of the township PDC on losses and damages due to the storm and measures taken in the township.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe and the minister spoke words of encouragement to the disaster-victims and

presented provisions to them.

Provisions presented to the storm victims in Kyauktan, Thongwa and Khayan townships were aluminum pots, blankets, longyis and htamis (nether garments), bowls, rice of bags donated by Myanmar Rice Dealers Association

and Livestock Breeding and Fisheries, edible oil and garments donated by Myanmar Edible Oil Merchant Association.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe and the minister comforted storm victims at the relief camp in Kanthan Monastery in Kayan Township.—MNA

Emergency aid for victims in Kyauktan and Kungyangon Townships

YANGON, 5 May – Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and

Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win provided the storm victims with rice, water and food in storm-hit Kyauktan and Kungyangon Townships this afternoon.

The commander went to Kyauktan Township and provided the storm victims with rice, water and food. He proceeded to Kungyangon Township and presented rice, water and food to the victims. He presented

offertories to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Boga. He told the Sayadaw that food and medicine supplies and construction materials would be provided to the local people.

Under the arrangements of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council, rice, water and food health staff and medicine supplies are being transported to disaster-hit areas in the townships as soon as possible.

MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win presents personal goods to a storm victim in Kungyangon Township.—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



Motor vehicles driving along Mahabandoola Street in Yangon.

—MNA



Motor vehicles running along a downtown street in Yangon.—MNA

Minister meets storm victims, provides cash

NAY PYI TAW, 5 May CEC Member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung met the departmental officials at the office of General Administration Department of Kyaiklatt Township to hold a meeting on storm relief

works yesterday.

The minister met with the storm victims staying at the staircase of Tilawkamarazein Pagoda in the township and provided cash to them.

After the storm, 22365 households have become homeless and 9572 households lost the roofs of their house in the

township, leaving three people dead.

Afterwards, Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung and Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein met with the officials at Pyapon Township Saya Zawgyi Yarpay library in the township and they discussed on storm relief works. —MNA



Members of Tatmadaw and residents repairing a fallen lamp-post caused by storm.—MNA

Traffic returns to normal in Yangon

YANGON, 5 May—Roads were at first blocked with fallen trees, lamp-posts and billboards in Yangon after being struck by cyclone Nargis. At present, different types of vehicles including some buses are running on roads downtown Yangon as the roads were cleared by Tatmadaw members, members of fire brigade, social organizations and Myanmar Police Force and staff of Yangon City Development Committee led by officials concerned.

Yangon-Insein road and Yangon-Pyay

road are now coping with motor traffic.

Tatmadaw members of No 11 LID and No 77 LID with the help of heavy machinery of Yangon City Development Committee cleared the debris along U Wizara Road on which motor vehicles are now running while debris on circular ring roads of Kandawgyi were cleared by heavy machinery of YCDC.

Roads being cleared included circular roads of Shwedagon Pagoda, Bogyoke Aung San Street, Maha

Bandoola Street, Theinbyu Street, Bo Aung Kyaw Street, Sule Pagoda Street, Shwewontha Steet, Strand Road and Boywe Street in downtown Yangon.

Some filling Stations and Gas Stations are being opened to sell fuel to vehicles.

Although drinking water supply was suspended temporarily due to the storm, supply of water is being carried out with the help of staff of YCDC and members of USDA at different levels.—MNA

Cash and relief goods being accepted

NAY PYI TAW, 5 May—There were destruction of houses and casualties due to the cyclonic storm Nargis which occurred on 2 and 3 May. Social organi-

zations and wellwishers at home and abroad are donating cash and provisions to the storm victims.

It is learnt that basic necessities such as

medicine, waterproof tent, instant food, construction materials (CI sheets and nails), blankets, clothes and cash assistance are being accepted.—MNA



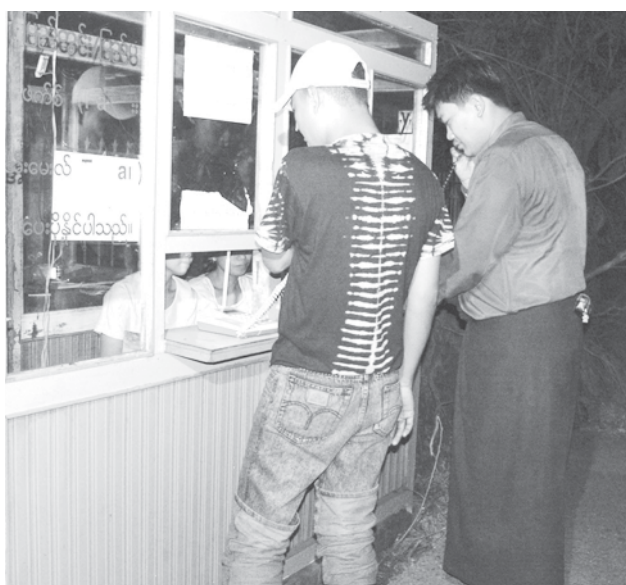
Staff members of CPT and Tatmadawmen repairing auto telephone lines in Yangon.—MNA



Residents get water at a water supply station.—MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw accepts cash donated by Kachin State USDA to set up satellite phone.—MNA



Public Calling Office being carried out by CPT to ensure communication services in Yangon.—MNA



Tatmadawmen, MPF, Fire Brigade, residents and YCDC staff cleaning the falling trees along Kandawgyi ring road. —MNA



Vehicles running along the road in downtown Yangon.—MNA

Public Notice

Do not believe rumours and do not rely on news stories that are not stated or aired in the newspapers, and on radio and TV.

IDD calls available now

YANGON, 5 May – All IDD calls were cut due to cyclonic storm Nargis occurred on 3 May. Myanma Posts and Telecommunications repaired the connection in with time and IDD calls can now start operation beginning at noon on 4 May and iPstar satellite phone lines can also be used. There was a temporary mobile connection cut because of shortcoming of links. Twenty five mobile radio stations in Yangon resumed operation from today.

On 5 May, staff of MPT and the Tatmadaw members repaired auto telephone lines and installation of new lines. Telephone communication returns to

normalcy soon. During the repair, 100 public calling offices were opened for communications today.

The Internet access and MPT satellite terminal communication are now

available.

The MPT installed CDMA phones in Pathein, Ngwehsaung, Myaungmya and Mawlamyinegyun Townships in Ayeyawady Division, severely-hit areas and

satellite mobile phones in Bogale, Labutta and Hainggyi Townships so that sending news and providing relief goods and medicines can be carried out easily.

MNA



Members of Tatmadaw and communication workers trying to repair communication facilities in Yangon.—MNA

Loss and casualties caused by cyclonic storm Nargis in Yangon, Ayeyawady Divisions

NAY PYI TAW, 5 May —There were casualties and people who went missing in Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions that were struck by the cyclone Nargis on 2 and 3 May. According to facts and data collected up to 5 May, there were 2 dead in Einme Township, 1835 dead and 2187 people went missing in

Mawlamyinegyun Township, 20 dead in Bogale Township, 976 dead in Hainggyi Island, 253 dead and 16 people went missing in Ahma Township, 789 dead and 172 went missing in Dedaye Township, 5 dead and 41 injured in Pyapon Township, 19 dead and 4 went missing in Yangon suburban

areas, 40 dead and 500 went missing in Kungyongon Township altogether totalling 3939 dead, 41 injured and 2879 missing in Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions.

There can be about 10,000 dead in Bogale Township and 1,000 in Labutta Township. And an investigation into the death toll is under way.—MNA

Donate blood



Prime Minister General Thein Sein views provision of medical treatment to storm victims at No 1 BEHS in Bogale Township.—MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein consoles a patient receiving medical treatment at Bogale Hospital.—MNA

Prime Minister consoles cyclone...

(from page 1)

needs for the relief work to them at the local station. The Prime Minister attended to the needs.

The Prime Minister presented cash assistance to Mawlamyinegyun Township, and inspected the damage around the township.

He comforted the victim patients in the township People's Hospital and presented cash assistance to the patients and the staff through the medical superintendent.

He also comforted the storm victims at the relief camp at Ponna Visuddhi Sasana Beikmandaw on 14th Street.

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw presented satellite phones to the officials for convenience in carrying out relief works.

The Prime Minister inspected the damage caused by the storm in Labutta, Myaungmya District, by helicopter.

At 2.40 pm, he cordially greeted and comforted the victims in Labutta.

The Prime Minister, accompanied by Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, viewed the damage caused by the strong wind in Labutta.

He also comforted the victims at the relief camp in the precinct of Sakkja Marajin Pagoda.

The Prime Minister visited Labutta Township People's Hospital and comforted the outpatients and the victim patients and instructed the medical staff to provide treatment with goodwill. He presented cash assistance to the patients and staff through Head Dr Kyaw Soe of Myaungmya District Health Department.

At the hospital, 26 inpatients and 770 outpatients are receiving treatment.

In meeting with the storm victims in the relief camps, the Prime Minister said that he was there to render necessary assistance for the victims; that the issues are to be addressed with care and perseverance; that the government will fulfil the requirements; that those who survive the disaster will enjoy life security; that this morning relief was provided for the victims with the use of two helicopters; that plans are under way to supply water with the use of vehicles and water tankers; that arrangements are being made to provide construction materials; and that measures are being taken for rendering assistance for the survivors.

In response to the reports, the Prime Minister said that vehicles, fuel oil and satellite phones have been provided for relief tasks, and instructed the officials to regard the victims as their relatives in caring them, keep the relief camps clean, build temporary latrines, and supply drinking water.

The Prime Minister arrived back in Patheingyi at 4.35 pm.—MNA

Prime Minister inspects losses...

(from page 16)

Afterwards, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe briefed on the loss of 34 ships owned by Inland Water Transport and ships that were stranded on the bank and the ships that were out of contact. The minister added that the damage of the private vessels was under investigation.

After hearing the reports, the Prime Minister instructed officials concerned to salvage sunken ships not to block the waterway and to report on condition of jetties and arrival of foreign ocean liners at the mouth of the river in time.

After giving the instructions, the Prime Minister

and party oversaw fallen trees, lamp-posts along the Strand Road in Latha Township and then damaged Kaingtang pontoon bridge, buoys and private-owned ships stranded on the bank.

Next, they inspected the fallen trees and lamp-posts along the Strand Road in

Ahlon Township, sales of goods at Thirimingalar Market in Kyimyindine Township, plying of passenger buses, and fallen trees, lamp-posts and blown off roofs and billboards in a motorcade.

After inspecting the losses and damages, the Prime Minister gave in-

structions to carry out interdepartmental cooperative measures in supply of electricity and drinking water and ensure regular service of all bus lines.

MNA

Five injured victims sent to hospital

YANGON, 5 May – Supervised by National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee, five persons with serious injuries sustained during the storm were transported by helicopter to Mingaladon Airbase Headquarters this evening and then to respective hospitals for

medical treatment.

Five injured were Ma Yati, 5, and Maung Than Kyaw, 18, of Mayanchaung Village in Bogalae Township, U Win Thein, 45, of Ahpaw Yaykyaw Village, Maung Chit Ko Ko, 14, and Monk U Thuta of Padegaw Village.

MNA



An emergency patient of Bogale Township carried by Tatmadaw helicopter arrives at the Headquarters of Mingaladon Airbase.—MNA

Relief aid arrives in Kyaikhto, Bilin, Thaton

NAY PYI TAW, 5 May—Maj-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence and Brig-Gen Hla Myint Swe of Kyaikhto Station yesterday inspected the damage of Sittaung Paper Factory in Kyaikhto caused by the storm.

The inspected the clearing of fallen trees being carried out by members of Tatmadaw, the Union Solidarity and Development Association, Red Cross Society, Fire Brigade and local residents, and instructed officials concerned to render necessary assistance and to expedite the tasks.

He also looked into the clearing of the fallen trees at Basic Education High School and People's Hospital in the township and comforted and provided cash assistance for the storm victim patient.

In meeting with departmental officials and townselders at the office of Township PDC, the commander dealt with tasks for speeding up the clearing of debris and fulfilled the needs.

Next, inspected the clearing of the fallen trees caused by storm at the Kyaikhtiyo Pagoda's platform.

In the afternoon, Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Chairman of Mon State PDC Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win, USDA CEC Member (In-charge of Mon State) Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint comforted the storm victims.

Maj-Gen Tha Aye provided assistance and the commander and the minister, relief to the storm victims.

In Bilin Township, Maj-Gen Tha Aye, the

commander and the minister looked into the damages caused by the storm Nargis and gave assistance to the victim patients at People's Hospital in the township.

They also provided relief aid to the storms of Bilin Township at the township PDC office.

At Thuwunna Hall in Thaton Township, they met with the storm victims and gave assistance to them. Daw Myint Myint Soe, wife of Commander Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win, handed over K 2 million donated by the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation through Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint. Next, they greeted the storm victims.

The officials provided assistance and personal goods to the victims of 264 families in Kyaikhto, Bilin and Thaton townships.—MNA



Maj-Gen Tha Aye presents relief aid to a storm victim in Bilin Township.—MNA

Storm victims in Bago Div get relief aid

NAY PYI TAW, 5 May—The donation of food and medicines by Union Solidarity and Development Association Headquarters and Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation to cyclone victims in Bago Division was made at Bago City Hall this morning. It was attended by Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko and wife, Patron of Bago Division Women's Affairs Organization Daw Sat Non Khun San, USDA CEC member Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Departmental officials, members of social organizations and guests.

The Commander and the Minister gave speeches on the occasion. Later, Commander Maj-Gen Ko

Ko provided relief aids and Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min K 4 million donated by USDA for storm victims.

Commander's wife provided foodstuff and personal goods worth K 2 million donated by MWAO and, President of Bago Division Women's Affairs Organization Daw Khin Swe Nyunt K 0.5 million donated by Bago Division WAO, executive of Bago Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Khin Hnin Mar K 1 Million donated by MMCWA and Head of Bago Division Health Department Dr Ngwe San medicines to officials.

The donations in cash for storm victims in Bago division were K 7.5 million together with

relief aids from social organizations.

The Commander and wife, the minister and party met with storm victims at Waw township Nyaung Kha Shay village-tract Peace and Development Council. The Commander comforted the storm victims and provided personal goods, foodstuff and medicines for ten households.

At the Town hall of Waw township Development Affairs Committee, they provided personal goods, foodstuff and medicines for 42 households and comforted the storm victims.

The Commander and party visited temporary relief camp opened at Basic Education Primary School of Thit Sat Ward in Waw township and fulfilled the needs.—MNA

Medicines and provisions presented to storm victims in Pyapon

NAY PYI TAW, 5 May -- Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein and Director-General of Health Department of the Ministry of Health Dr Soe Lwin Nyein comforted storm victims at People's

Hospital in Pyapon District today and made arrangements for seven victims who needed emergency treatments to transport them to Yangon People's Hospital by helicopter.

Rescue works were performed according to the instructions given at

the meeting on Relief and Resettlement supervised by Chairman of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Prime Minister General Thein Sein this morning.

Minister Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein joined Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, and visited relief camp at Htanpin Monastery in Pyapon and presented medicines, nether-garments, blankets, utensils and cash donated by Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and Ministry of Health to storm victims in the region.

MNA

Tobacco is hazardous to health



An emergency patient arrives at Mingaladon Airbase by air from Bogale Township. (News on Page 10).—MNA

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Dated: 6 May 2008

Drive with care

Philippines says rice price to go down in coming weeks

MANILA, 5 May — A Philippine official said on Thursday prices of rice will go down in the coming weeks as newly-harvested palay from Central and Northern Luzon start to come into market, local television network GMA News reported.

An official of the National Food Authority (NFA), a government organ in charge of buying food for securing enough food in the country, said price of palay has started to normalize with the influx of fresh supplies following the summer harvest. "They don't have to speculate, we have enough supply for them," the TV report quoted Thomas Escarez, an NFA spokesman, as saying.

The report said price of palay has dropped to 14 to 15 pesos (3.4 to 3.6 US dollars) per kilo from 20

pesos last week in the province of Bulacan neighbouring Manila, after stocks kept coming from Cagayan, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija and Isabela in northern Luzon, which are known as the granaries of the country.
MNA/Xinhua

Fire destroys Philadelphia church

PHILADELPHIA, 5 May — A fire destroyed a Philadelphia church on Tuesday as 175 firefighters struggled for almost two hours to bring it under control, a fire department spokesman said.

Black smoke billowed over a large part of north Philadelphia where residents around the Prince of Peace Baptist Church were evacuated.

MNA/Reuters

ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရန် ချိပ်ပိတ်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း

စဉ်	ပစ္စည်းအမျိုးအမည်	အရေအတွက်	တင်ဒါခေါ်ရက်	တင်ဒါပိတ်ရက်
1.	Concerete Pole (Ks)	2 Items	2.5.2008	26.5.2008
2.	Electrical Spare Parts (Ks)	29 Items	2.5.2008	26.5.2008
3.	H-Beam & U Channel (Ks)	12 Items	2.5.2008	26.5.2008
4.	Steel Wire Mesh (Ks)	2 Items	2.5.2008	26.5.2008
5.	Carbide Disc (Ks)	6 Nos	2.5.2008	26.5.2008
6.	Refractoriness Under Load Tester(Ks/FE)	1 No	2.5.2008	26.5.2008
7.	Proportioning Car & Shuttle Kiln Accessories (Ks/FE)	1 Lot	2.5.2008	26.5.2008
8.	Electrical & Machinery Equipment For Pottery Plant (Ks/FE)	1 Lot	2.5.2008	26.5.2008
9.	Electrical & Machinery Equipment For Tile Plant(Ks/FE)	1 Lot	2.5.2008	26.5.2008
10.	Die For Tile Plant (Ks/FE)	4 Items	2.5.2008	26.5.2008
11.	Ceramic Roller For Roll Crusher With Shaft & Bearing (Ks/FE)	1 Set	2.5.2008	26.5.2008
12.	Spare Parts For Polishing & Cutting Machine (Ks)	1 Lot	2.5.2008	26.5.2008
13.	Renovation of Over Head Crane (Ks/FE)	1 Lot	2.5.2008	26.5.2008
14.	Renovation of Clinker Transportation System (Ks/FE)	1 Lot	2.5.2008	26.5.2008
15.	Renovation of Kiln Temperature Scanning Sytem (Ks/FE)	1 Lot	2.5.2008	26.5.2008
16.	Renovation of Air Separator(Ks/FE)	1 Lot	2.5.2008	26.5.2008

အမှတ် (၁) စက်မှုဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ မြန်မာ့ကြွေထည်မြေထည်လုပ်ငန်း၊ ရောင်းဝယ်ရေးဌာန၊ ရုံးအမှတ် (၄၁)၊ နေပြည်တော်တွင် ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း ဆက်သွယ်စုံစမ်းပြီး တင်ဒါပုံစံများကို လာရောက်ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။ တင်ဒါပုံစံတရားဝင် ဝယ်ယူမှုအတွက် တင်ဒါကိုသာ လက်ခံပါမည်။ (အသေးစိတ် သိလိုပါက စုံစမ်းရန် တယ်လီဖုန်းအမှတ် ၀၆၇-၄၀၈၂၉၈)

မြန်မာ့ကြွေထည်မြေထည်လုပ်ငန်း

“Best” treatment to French injured in China train crash

BEIJING, 5 May — Chinese Vice Health Minister Liu Qian on Wednesday promised "best possible" treatment to the four French nationals injured in a Monday train crash in east China.

Liu visited in the morning the Peking Union Medical College Hospital (PUMCH) where the four were being treated, brought flowers to their wards and wished them early recovery.

A high-speed train derailed and smashed into another train in Shandong Province at predawn on

Monday, killing 71 and injuring more than 400.

Among the injured were four French nationals: 54-year-old Pascal Boisson, his 14-year-old son Pierre Emmanuel Boisson, 22-year-old daughter Joanne Boisson, and his girlfriend Robin Naurence, 42.

They were originally treated at hospitals in Zibo City where the trains crashed and then transferred to the Beijing hospital for further treatment. The daughter, Joanne, has been discharged.

Zhao Yupei, head of the

PUMCH, said the four were admitted into his hospital at 03:00 am on Wednesday. Experts from different sections then held a joint consultation concerning their diagnosis and treatment at 08:30 a.m.

The four were transferred to Beijing by a special plane arranged by the Embassy of France in China from Jinan, capital of Shangdong Province. They were accompanied by nurses and doctors on the way to the Jinan Airport.

MNA/Xinhua

Asian, Pacific Americans to kick off heritage month

WASHINGTON, 5 May — Asian and Pacific Americans across the nation are celebrating their tradition and values as they kick off the Heritage Month on May 1.

"During Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, we highlight their importance to our great Nation," President George W. Bush said in a statement released on Wednesday.

He hailed Asian and Pacific Americans' contributions, with their talents and hard work, to

the US culture, tradition and legacy of diversity.

"I call upon the people of the United States to learn more about the history of Asian and Pacific Americans and their many contributions to our Nation and to observe this month with appropriate programmes and activities," he said.

Congress passed a resolution in 1978 to commemorate Asian American Heritage Week during the first week of May and later voted to expand it

from a week long to a month long celebration. The theme for the Heritage Month is selected annually by the Federal Asian Pacific American Council.

This year's theme, "Leadership, Diversity and Harmony — Gateway to Success", is decided to honor contributions Asian and Pacific Island ancestry have made to the country with "their entrepreneurship and strong values of love and family," according to its website.

MNA/Xinhua

Shell seeks to sell stake in big UK wind project

LONDON, 5 May — Royal Dutch Shell Plc plans to sell its stake in one of the UK's largest planned wind farms, as it shifts its wind power focus to the United States where it says government incentives offer competitive returns.

"As part of an ongoing review of projects and investment choices, Shell has taken the strategic decision to look at disposing of its shareholding in London Array," the Anglo-Dutch oil major said in a statement on Thursday.

Shell is one of three shareholders in London Array, which will involve building a wind farm with up to 341 turbines over 20 kilometres (12 miles) from the Thames Estuary, east of London.

German utility E.ON AG and Denmark's state-controlled DONG Energy are the other partners.

MNA/Reuters

Three bombs in Basque Country, ETA claim

MADRID, 5 May — Three small bombs exploded early on Thursday in the Spanish Basque Country city of San Sebastian and a nearby town after a warning call claiming to be from Basque separatist rebels ETA, Spanish radio said.

The caller warned of the two bombs in San Sebastian near a public building but not of another device which exploded shortly afterwards in the town of Arrigorriaga. None caused any injuries, Cadena Ser radio reported.

No police spokesman was immediately available for comment.

MNA/Reuters

Turk official meets Iraqi president, Kurd leaders

BAGHDAD, 5 May — The chief foreign policy adviser to Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan met the leader of Iraq's Kurdish autonomous region on Thursday, the first direct high level contact between Turkey and the Iraqi Kurdish region.

The Turkish envoy, Ahmet Davutoglu, met Iraq's President Jalal Talebani before separately meeting Nurchivan Barzani, Iraqi officials said.

"This is the first time a

meeting has taken place between the Turkish Government and the Kurdistan Government," Falah Mustafa, foreign policy chief in the Kurdish regional government, told Reuters.

"This is a positive and correct step. We discussed all of the political and economic issues and we agreed to hold further meetings in the future."

Asked if they discussed the presence of PKK Kurdish separatist guerillas in northern Iraq, Mustafa said: "Of course

we discussed it, but only in general terms, not in specifics. And we agreed to find a peaceful solution."

Turkey has had fraught relations with Iraq's Kurdish region because it says PKK Kurdish separatist rebels shelter there. Turkish war planes have bombed the Iraqi side of the border in the past week, a move which Iraq has called "unfortunate". Turkish troops made a big incursion across the border in February.

MNA/Reuters

Food crisis may stoke more malnutrition than famine

GENEVA, 5 May — Global food shortages and higher prices are more likely to cause malnutrition than outright famine, at least in the near-term, the coordinator of a new United Nations task force said on Wednesday.

John Holmes, who also serves as the UN's top humanitarian aid official, said it was too early to estimate how much extra money will be needed to confront crises stemming from increasingly unaffordable food staples in poor countries.

"People, particularly those on the lowest

incomes, will be eating less and less well," he told a news conference in Geneva, where much of the UN's emergency aid operations are managed.

"I don't think that in the very short term we are talking about starvation and famine," Holmes said.

Protests, strikes and riots have erupted in developing countries around the world in the wake of dramatic rises in the prices of wheat, rice, corn, oils and other essential foods that have made it difficult for poor people to make ends meet.

"It is not possible as

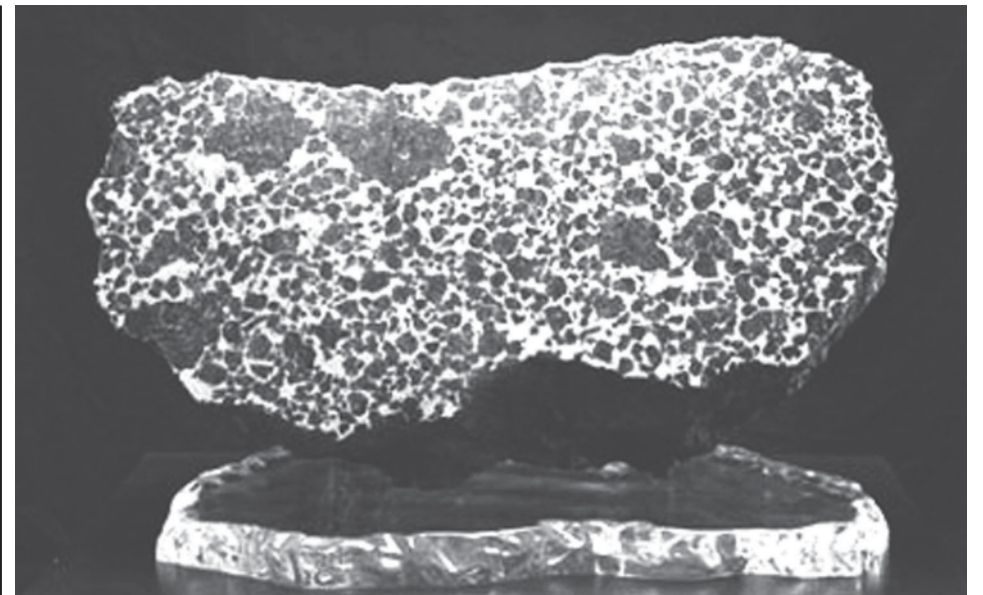
yet to put a figure on what the immediate humanitarian needs may be for the forthcoming year," Holmes said. "We need to put those funding needs together."

MNA/Reuters

World Food Programme sees "major crisis" in Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE, 5 May — Haiti faces a "major crisis" if international donors fail to provide urgent aid to help feed its poor, a top official with the World Food Programme said on Wednesday.

"It is not so important how much money we are



An undated handout photo from Bonham's Auction house shows the main mass of the famed Fukang meteorite released on 30 April, 2008.—INTERNET

Fini elected as speaker of Italian lower house

ROME, 5 May — Italy's legislature elected centre-right candidate Gianfranco Fini as the new speaker of the Lower House on Wednesday.

Fini became the Lower House's new leader with 335 votes in favour, more than the requisite quorum 306 to be elected. Fini, a former foreign minister and ex-deputy premier, is head of the right-wing

National Alliance.

One day ago, the Senate elected Renato Schifani as its new speaker.

Before last month's elections, Forza Italia and the National Alliance joined together to create the People of Freedom, a new centre-right party which will hold its constituent assembly later in the year.

Following the May Day weekend holiday break, probably 5 May, Italian President Giorgio Napolitano will ask Berlusconi to form a new government. Speaking on the sidelines of the opening session of the Lower House, Berlusconi said he expected his new executive team would be sworn in either 9 or 10 May.

He also confirmed that Gianni Letta would return as his Cabinet secretary, while the announcement by former European justice commissioner Franco Frattini that he was resigning his Lower House seat appeared to confirm that he will be the part of the new government, most likely as foreign minister.

MNA/Xinhua

Acme's Baby Clay, the World's largest brick is shown at a Texas event.—INTERNET



China to be focus of US attention in Asia

WASHINGTON, 5 May — China is likely to achieve great-power status this century and maintain a military buildup but is not an inevitable enemy, CIA Director Michael Hayden said on Wednesday.

China is an economic and strategic competitor with the United States, Hayden said in a Kansas speech on 21st-Century trends, adding the country was likely to continue a "troubling" military

buildup.

"China, a Communist-led, nuclear state that aspires to — and will likely achieve — great power status during this century, will be the focus of US attention (in Asia)," he said.

It all depends on whether China acts from a narrow self-interest or with broader perspective, Hayden said in a speech at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas.

"If Beijing begins to

accept greater responsibility for the health of the international system — as all global powers should — we will remain on a constructive, even if competitive, path. If not, the rise of China begins to look more adversarial," Hayden said in his prepared remarks.

Beijing is determined to show its strength "after two centuries of perceived Western hegemony," he said.

MNA/Reuters

Iraq urges more help in returning looted treasures

LONDON, 5 May — Iraq has proposed new ways of getting back thousands of priceless treasures looted from ancient archeological sites and museums since the US invasion, including a ban on the sale of the antiquities.

Bahaa Mayah, adviser to the Iraqi Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, also said the United States Army had badly damaged historically important sites

during the occupation and was now allowing US auctioneers to trade freely in stolen artefacts.

The region between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, making up much of modern-day Iraq, is commonly identified as the "cradle of civilisation" and the birthplace of writing.

Important sites like Babylon have long been subject to looting and

damage, but the problem has got worse since the fighting in 2003 and ensuing security vacuum, Mayah said.

"We are not saying it's a new problem, but it has been intensifying since 2003 ... and it's becoming a bigger problem," Mayah told reporters in London, where he met archeologists from the British Museum and elsewhere.

He presented a slide show chronicling damage to Babylon, Ur, Kish and elsewhere caused by insurgents and occupying forces.

While it was too late to reverse the impact of temporary bases, airstrips and other military infrastructure built since 2003, Mayah said US forces had begun to consult his ministry before setting up bases to ensure no more

damage was done. Equally important was to get back treasures stolen from museums and archeological sites in recent years, he added.

US forces were criticised for failing to secure Iraq's National Museum in Baghdad in the days after the 2003 invasion, meaning around 16,000 objects were stolen from storerooms and 40 pieces from galleries. Some have

since been recovered.

Experts believe much of the looting was well coordinated, with a sharp rise in activity just before the US invasion, when security was lax, and in the months following the war. Knowledgeable networks targeted particular periods known for marketable remnants like cylinder seals, tablets and coins.—MNA/Reuters

SPORTS

Moscow finale never in doubt for Drogba

LONDON, 5 May — Didier Drogba said he was never in any doubt that Chelsea's season would end in Moscow.

The Ivory Coast striker struck twice on Wednesday to earn the Blues a 3-2 victory over Liverpool and set up a Champions League final against Manchester United.

Avram Grant's side could still arrive in the Russian capital looking for an unlikely double, should United wobble in their final two Premier League games.

However, Drogba said this season's focus had always been on elevating Chelsea into the elite club of Champions League winners, a mission that has not wavered despite the shock early-season exit of popular coach Jose Mourinho.

Mourinho departed after a disappointing 1-1 home draw with Rosenborg Trondheim in September, Chelsea's opening match on their Champions League journey.

"Right from the beginning of the season the Champions League was our target," Drogba, who is Chelsea's record scorer in the competition with 18, told reporters.

"Okay we had some problems this season. It was a difficult time for the club. But the most important thing was to stand up and keep working as we did. The objective didn't change and now we are in the final.

"United are a fantastic team and are the best in England, but we aren't bad either."

Drogba has experienced a big European showpiece occasion before when he was on the losing Marseille side against Valencia in the 2004 UEFA Cup final.

While most of the squad will be breaking new ground on May 21, Paulo Ferreira, Ricardo Carvalho and Claude Makelele already know what it feels like to win the Champions League.

Carvalho and Ferreira were part of the Porto side that won the trophy in 2004 under Jose Mourinho while 35-year-old Makelele, who applied a stranglehold on Liverpool skipper Steven Gerrard on Wednesday, won it in 2002 for Real Madrid.

Michael Ballack, who is beginning to show his best at Chelsea, was in the Bayer Leverkusen side that lost to Real so will also have a huge incentive to claim a winners' medal.

Carvalho returned from a goal-conceding mistake against Manchester United on Saturday with a typically assured performance against Liverpool and believes the momentum is swinging Chelsea's way as the season reaches its climax.—MNA/Reuters

Chief executive says Mancini staying at Inter

MILAN, 5 May — Roberto Mancini will remain Inter Milan coach despite constant speculation linking Jose Mourinho with the job, chief executive Ernesto Paolillo said on Thursday.

"We have the best coach in Italy with Robert Mancini," Paolillo told website www.arabianbusiness.com in an interview.

"We have a long contract with him, we're completely satisfied with him. He was the winner last year and two years ago, and is winning this year - why do we have to change?"

Inter can retain their Serie A title by beating rivals AC Milan on Sunday before facing Lazio in an Italian Cup semifinal second leg on Wednesday.

Mancini announced after Inter's Champions League first knockout round defeat by Liverpool in March that he would quit at the end of the season.

He changed his mind the next day but media reports have speculated he will still leave at the end of the campaign because of strained relations with club owner Massimo Moratti.

Former Chelsea coach Mourinho has denied that he is on his way to Inter amid constant rumours in the European Press.

Paolillo also said Inter needed investment to compete with English clubs in Europe but was coy about a move for Barcelona's Ronaldinho, whom Moratti and AC Milan chief executive Adriano Galliani say is too dear at 40 million euros (62.5 million US dollars).

MNA/Reuters

Moscow bursting at seams for Champions League final

Moscow, 5 May — For the 42,000 English football fans arriving to watch the Champions League final in Moscow has said it will expedite visas, clear runways, extend subway hours and build a bridge.

Hotel rooms to accommodate Manchester United and Chelsea supporters descending on the Luzhniki Stadium on May 21 were more of a problem, however.

Moscow has about 34,000 hotel rooms for about 75,000 guests according to US State Department statistics. Some 5,500 are so-called Western-standard hotel rooms and local media say almost all are booked during the Champions League final.

"It's a well documented fact that Moscow does not have enough hotel rooms for an event of this magnitude. Especially in the three to four-star range, where most football fans are likely to stay," said Natalya Anashkina, Editor in Chief of the Russian Hotel Association's magazine *Concept Hotel*.

"There are a lot of five-star hotels now but the prices there are expensive even by European standards," said Anashkina.

Calls to two Moscow five-star hotels, the Baltschug-Kempinski and the Ritz-Carlton, showed no available rooms. Not even the 3,920-US-dollar per night Honeymoon Suite was available for the Champions League final.

One idea floated by deputy mayor Valeriy Vinogradov, the man organizing the city's efforts for the championship, is for fans to fly in the morning of the match and leave Russia immediately after.

MNA/Reuters

China imposes broader smoking ban ahead of Olympics

BEIJING, 5 May — In effort to create a smoke-free Olympics, Beijing on Thursday expanded its non-smoking policy in more public places to cover a range of areas from hotels to parks.

Following a regulation implemented in 1996, the measures have been expanded to include fitness centres, cultural relic sites, offices, meeting rooms, dining halls, toilets, and aisles and lifts in buildings belonging to government or private institutions.

In addition, restaurants, Internet cafes, parks, waiting halls in airports, railway stations and coach stations are also required to provide separate smoking and non-smoking areas.

Hotels were told to offer smoke-free rooms or floors, but the regulations didn't specify the proportion.

People caught smoking in forbidden areas will be fined 10 yuan (1.4 US dollars), while enterprises and institutions that violate the rule face fines ranging between 1,000 yuan and 5,000 yuan.

Local authorities will dispatch about 100,000 inspectors to check the enforcement of the rule.

Before the new regulation, the capital had previously banned smoking in hospitals, kindergartens, schools, museums, sports venues and other places. From October 1 last year, it also banned smoking in the city's 66,000 taxis. It imposed a fine of between 100 yuan and 200 yuan on drivers if they were caught smoking in cabs.

China has pledged a non-smoking and green Olympics. The upcoming Games will be the first non-smoking Olympics since the implementation of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), of which China was a signatory, went into effect in 2005.

Beijing health officials said the smoking ban in public places were designed not just for the Olympics, but as a long-term campaign to promote health. Local authorities were also considering upgrading the existing regulations to a law in future. —MNA/Xinhua

US urges Arab states to give more to Palestinians

LONDON, 5 May — The United States on Thursday called on Arab nations to make good on aid they have pledged to the Palestinian Authority but have yet to deliver.

"It's extremely important that people pay their pledges," US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told reporters as she flew to London for talks on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Iran and Kosovo.

"States that have resources ought to be looking not for how little they can do, but how much they can do," she

added.

Rice did not name any countries but a senior US official said the United States hoped to see Arab states come through with more money, saying only Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Algeria have made major donations this year.

Among others, he cited Kuwait and Qatar, neither of which has yet paid any budget support to the Palestinian Authority according to figures released by the State Department. — MNA/Rueters

Ontario moves to ban smoking in cars with children

TORONTO, 5 May — Smokers in the Canadian Province of Ontario will be fined 250 Canadian dollars (247 US dollars) for lighting up in their cars in the presence of children, if a new law introduced on Wednesday is passed.

Under the proposed ban, drivers or passengers found smoking in a car carrying children under the age of 16 would be fined, even if a window is open.

The province of Nova Scotia, the Yukon territory and a handful of US states have already banned smoking in cars with children. Like many other jurisdictions Ontario bans smoking in the workplace and in public places such as restaurants.

The new Ontario legislation won praise from the Canadian Cancer Society, which called it an important step in protecting children's health.

"We're hoping for the legislation to come to fruition as quickly as possible because it's for the good of all Ontario children," said Rick Byun, a spokesman for provincial Health Promotion Minister Margaret Best.

MNA/Rueters

သဘာဝဘေးအန္တရာယ်ကျရောက်သောဒေသများရှိ ပြည်သူများအတွက်ကျန်းမာရေးသတိပေးနိုးဆော်ချက်

- ၁။ ရာသီဥတုဒဏ်ခံနိုင်သည့်အမိုး အကာအောက်တွင်နေထိုင်ကြရန်၊
- ၂။ အအေးမမိစေရန်နွေးထွေးသောအဝတ်များကို ဝတ်ဆင်နေထိုင်ကြရန်၊
- ၃။ ရေကိုကျိုချက်သောက်ရန်(သို့မဟုတ်) ကလိုရင်းဆေးခတ်ထားသောရေကိုသာသောက်သုံးရန်၊
- ၄။ အစားအစာများကို ယင်မနားအောင် ဖုံးအုပ်ထားကြရန်၊
- ၅။ သန့်ရှင်းလတ်ဆတ်သော၊ ပူနွေးသည့်အစာများကိုသာစားသုံးကြရန်၊
- ၆။ အတတ်နိုင်ဆုံးသန့်ရှင်းသော ယင်လုံအိမ်သာကို သုံးစွဲကြရန်၊
- ၇။ ကူးစက်ရောဂါများ မဖြစ်ပွားစေရေးအတွက် မိလ္လာနှင့်အမှိုက်သရိုက်၊အညစ်အကြေးများကို စနစ်တကျစွန့်ပစ်ကြရန်၊
- ၈။ ထိခိုက်မှုအန္တရာယ်မဖြစ်စေရေးအတွက် သတိပြုဆောင်ရွက်ကြရန်၊
- ၉။ ရေကြီးပါက မြေအန္တရာယ်တွေ့ကြုံရတတ်သဖြင့်သတိပြုကြရန်၊
- ၁၀။ ခြင်္ကိုက်မခံရအောင် သတိပြုနေထိုင်ကြရန်၊
- ၁၁။ တစ်ကိုယ်ရေသန့်ရှင်းရေးပြုဆောင်ရွက်ရန်၊ အစာမစားမီနှင့်အညစ်အကြေးကိုတင်တိုင်း လက်ဆေးကြရန်၊
- ၁၂။ သဘာဝဘေးအန္တရာယ်ကျရောက်ပြီးသည့်အခါ အဆုတ်ရောင်ရောဂါ၊ ဝမ်းပျက်ဝမ်းလျှောရောဂါ၊ မြွေတိုက်အန္တရာယ်၊ ထိခိုက်မှုအန္တရာယ်နှင့် အခြားကျန်းမာရေးပြဿနာများ ဖြစ်ပွားတတ်ပါသည်။ ဖြစ်ပွားပါကအနီးဆုံးကျန်းမာရေးဌာနသို့အမြန်ဆုံးသွားရောက်ပြသကြပါရန် သတိပေးနိုးဆော် အပ်ပါသည်။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Canada oil firm probed as hundreds of ducks die

CALGARY (Alberta), 5 May — Hundreds of dead and dying ducks could cost Canada's biggest oil sands producer one million Canadian dollars (990,000 US dollars) after the migrating waterfowl landed in a pond of oily, toxic sludge in northern Alberta.

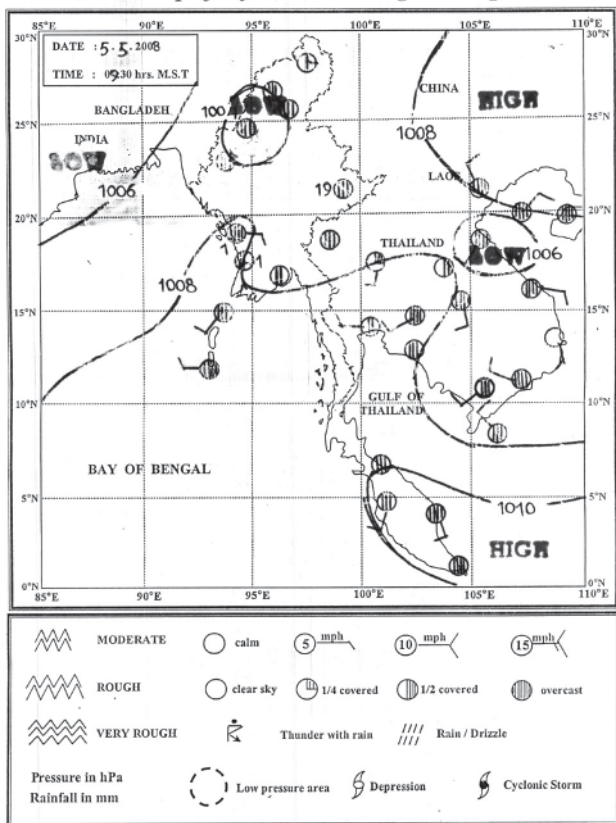
Syncrude Canada's operations were under investigation by environmental regulators on Wednesday after as many as 500 birds landed in the waste water, known as a tailings pond, at the Aurora North mine near Fort McMurray, Alberta.

Migrating waterfowl are supposed to be kept from the poisonous waters at the mine, where massive shovels pull tonnes of oil-laden sand from the ground, by sound-cannons that simulate gunfire. But a winter storm had delayed deployment of the system, a Syncrude spokesman said.

MNA/Rueters

WEATHER

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Monday, 5 May, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours

MST: During the past 24 hours, weather have been partly cloudy in Kachin and Chin States, Magway Division, rain or thundershowers has been isolated in upper Sagaing and Yangon Divisions, scattered in Shan, Mon States and Mandalay Division, fairly widespread in Bago Division, widespread in Rakhine State and lower Sagaing Division. Day temperatures were (7°C) to (8°C) below May average temperatures in Mon State and Yangon Division, (10°C) below May average in Kayah, Kayin States and Bago Division and about May average temperature in remaining areas. The significant day temperature were Chauk and Minbu (40°C), Magway (38°C). The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Gwa (2.16) inches, Kanbalu (1.22) inches, Zaungtu (1.02) inches, Kengtung and Thandwe (0.75) inch each, Sittwe and Minesat (0.43) inch each.

Maximum temperature on 4-5-2008 was 85°F. Minimum temperature on 5-5-2008 was 73°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 5-5-2008 was 85%. Total sunshine hours on 4-5-2008 was Nil.

Rainfall on 5-5-2008 was (Tr) at Mingaladon, (Nil) at Kaba-Aye and (Tr) at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (19.41) inches at Mingaladon, (21.46) inches at Kaba-Aye and (Tr) at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southwest

at (15:30) hours MST on 5-5-2008.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 6-5-2008: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Shan, Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States, Taninthayi Divisions, isolated in Kachin and Kayah States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Occasional squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon, Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach (35) to (40) mph. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of continuation of isolated rain or thundershower in the Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 6-5-2008: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 6-5-2008: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 6-5-2008: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Let's go to the polling booth to cast vote.

Prime Minister inspects losses and damages in and around Nargis-hit Yangon

NAY PYI TAW, 5 May — Chairman of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Prime Minister General Thein Sein yesterday afternoon inspected losses and damages in and around Yangon as well as damaged vessels and jetties in Yangon River caused by the severe cyclonic storm (Nargis) and stressed the need for officials concerned to timely carry out reconstruction and rehabilitation tasks.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein together with Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, the Director-General of Government Office, departmental heads and officials concerned inspected clearing of fallen trees on the Yangon University Campus, fallen trees, lamp posts, billboards on Pyay Road in Kamayut and along U Wizara, U Htaungbo, Alanpya Pagoda, Sule Pagoda and Strand Roads in a motorcade at 2 pm yesterday.

Next, the Prime Minister and party arrived at No 6 Botahtaung Jetty where they looked into the damaged jetty and sunken ships in the river and Hsinhine No 5 ship that was stranded on the bank after drifting in the storm.

(See page 10)



Members of the Tatmadaw, MPF, Fire Brigade, townselders, YCDC staff and residents removing fallen trees caused by storm on U Wizara Road.—MNA

Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and party provide relief aid to cyclone victims

YANGON, 5 May—Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Commander of South-West Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe and Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun on 4 May arrived at Ngapudaw Township and Hainggyikyun

Township in Pathein District and inspected losses and damages caused by the cyclonic storm. They handed over noodles, utensils, drinking water bottles, soft drinks, cookies, clothes, tarpaulin and medicines to Commander of Panmawady Naval Region Command Commodore Myo Myint Than and Chairman of the

Township PDC U Kyaw Soe Htin and instructed them to distribute relief aids to the storm victims as quickly as possible.

Next, the Adjutant-General, the Commander and the Deputy Minister inspected the condition of Myaungmya and Mawlamyinegyun Townships by helicopter and arrived at Bogale in the afternoon. They met with responsible persons and locals of the township and provided relief aids to them. The Adjutant-General and party bought 40000 bags of rice from rice millers and rice dealers for the locals and cyclone victims of nearby villages. They inspected the condition of the southern part of Bogale including Satsan village and arrived in Pathein in the evening.

Likewise, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt in Mawlamyinegyun, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo in Labutta, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung together with members of USDA, Red Cross and Fire Brigade in Pyapon—supervised clearing works and provided the victims with relief aid. In addition, South-West Command, Ayeyawady Division PDC and other townships were also donating rice, salt, noodles, biscuit, purified drinking water and medicines to the cyclone victims.

Tatmadawmen of No 66 LID and South-West Command together with members of USDA, Red Cross and Fire Brigade and social organizations in Ayeyawady Division were clearing debris and taking reconstruction measures in cyclone-hit regions.—MNA



Motor vehicles running along the Phoneyi Street in Yangon.—MNA