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Thursday, 15 May, 2008

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 General Thein Sein meets Thai counterpart Myanmar government and people express thanks to Thai King and family, Thai government and people for their donations

NAY PYI TAW, 14 May—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein cordially welcomed Thai Prime Minister Mr Samak Sundaravej and members at Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Yangon this afternoon.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein met Thai Prime Minister Mr Samak Sundaravej in Mindon Hall.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Director-General of the Government Office Col Thant Shin, Director-General of Protocol Department U Kyaw Kyaw and officials.

The Thai Prime Minister was accompanied by Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Bansarn Bunnag and Military Attache Col Ekachai Harnpoon Vittaya.

The Thai Prime Minister said he had a feeling of delicacy to meet his counterpart while the latter was doing heavy duty. Myanmar people got into trouble due to the storm and the Thai people shared sorrow of the people of Myanmar.

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Prime Minister General Thein Sein accepts cash and kind from Thai Prime Minister Mr Samak Sundaravej donated by the Government of Thailand and Thai people.—MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein and Mr Samak Sundaravej, Prime Minister of Thailand, visit a relief camp in Dagon Myothit (South).—MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 15 May, 2008

Provide paddy strains and farm implements in time

There occur natural disasters such as storms, floods, earthquakes and heat waves in some regions of the world due to climate change. In Myanmar there were a great deal of losses in Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions due to a severe storm that occurred earlier this month cyclonic. Relief and rehabilitation measures are being taken phase by phase in cooperation with the people, social organizations and departments concerned with assistance of local and foreign organizations under the leadership of the government. Priority is being given to searching for missing people, accommodation of the victims and providing food and other supplies and health care services.

At the same time the government and national entrepreneurs are participating in the tasks for resettlement and reconstruction of houses, hospitals, schools and department offices.

With the speedy measures for relief and resettlement, concerted efforts are to be made for reestablishment of economy and production enterprises in the storm-hit regions. Departments concerned are to provide necessary assistance to agriculture and livestock breeding.

It is necessary to repair dams, embankments and sluice gates in sea water-flooded areas, to provide cattle, farm implements, fertilizers and paddy strains in time and to guard against the animal diseases.

Under the leadership of the government requirements are to be fulfilled in the agriculture and livestock breeding sectors for reclamation of farmlands while carrying out relief and rehabilitation tasks in storm-affected areas with greater momentum.

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

Information Minister presents supplies to storm victims in Hlinethaya Township

YANGON, 13 May — Member of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan visited relief camp at No 8 Basic Education Middle School in Ward 20, Hlinethaya Township this afternoon.

The minister cordially met 1040 family members of 182 households.

Next, the minister presented supplies including rice, dry noodle and tinned fish donated by the State and well-



wishers to each household by hand.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents relief items for the storm victims in Hlinethaya Township.—MNA

Nation-wide donations for storm victims

Sr.	Date	Donation		Total
		Cash	Kind	
1.	6-5-2008	37030100	93476240	130506240
2.	7-5-2008	974904305	266307100	1241211405
3.	8-5-2008	267575750	197492217	465067967
4.	9-5-2008	1882507170	297022584	2179529754
5.	10-5-2008	303457240	86371850	389829090
6.	11-5-2008	134015905	41999875	176015790
7.	12-5-2008	120946000	260021990	380967990
8.	13-5-2008	330959990	244285990	575245980
9.	14-5-2008	261515206	187380552	448895838
	Total	4312911656	1674358398	5987270054

Air Force performs relief and rehabilitation task

NAY PYI TAW, 14 May — Defence Services

(Air) is carrying out relief and rehabilitation works for the people in storm-hit regions.

A total of 10.7 tons of supplies were

transported to Bogale, Kamatalu, Kyeinchaung, Setsan, Kyaiklat, Pyapon, Dedaye, Kyonda, Amar, Pathein, Labutta and Myaungmya by

helicopter yesterday.

So far, 327.18 tons of supplies had been transported to storm-hit areas up to now.

MNA



Minister Dr Kyaw Myint accepts medicines and medical equipment donated by Medicines and Medical Merchants Association.—MNA

MPMEEA, pharmaceutical entrepreneurs donate cash and medicines

YANGON, 14 May — Organized by Myanmar Pharmaceutical and Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs' Association, a ceremony to donate cash and medicines for the people in storm-hit regions was held at

Yangon People's Hospital this afternoon. Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint accepted K 1 million donated by MPMEEA and medicines by pharmaceutical companies including medicines worth K 310 million by Concordia Int'l

Co Ltd, medicines worth over K 97 million by TCW Int'l Trading Co Ltd, medicines worth over 51 million by United Pharma (Yangon) Co Ltd and medicines worth K 50 million by Zydus Cadila Healthcare Ltd.—MNA

Gaza rocket strikes Israeli city, 14 wounded

Ashkelon, (Israel) 14 May—A rocket fired from Gaza exploded in a shopping center in this southern Israeli city Wednesday, wounding at

least 14 people, as President Bush wrapped up talks in Jerusalem with Israel's prime minister.

The rocket ripped through the roof of a mall

in Ashkelon, causing a large chunk of the ceiling to collapse in a huge pile of rubble and twisted metal. Four windows were blown out of the side of the building.

After his talks with Bush, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said Israel will take the "necessary steps" to stop violence from Gaza and called the Ashkelon attack "intolerable and unacceptable."

"The government of Israel is committed to stop it," said at a world conference marking Israel's 60th anniversary.

Prior to the attack, Olmert had told Bush that his government was hoping it would "not have to act against Hamas in other ways with the military power that Israel hasn't yet started to use in a serious manner in order to stop it."

Internet



Israeli firefighters and police examine the damage at the site where a rocket fired by Palestinian militants from the Gaza Strip landed at a shopping mall in the town of Ashkelon, southern Israel, Wednesday, May 14, 2008.—INTERNET

Suicide bomber kills 22 in attack west of Baghdad

BAGHDADA, 14 May—Iraqi police say a suicide bomber killed 22 people and wounded at least 35 at the funeral of a Sunni school principal west of Baghdad.

The bomber blew himself up in a funeral tent in the village of Abu

Minasir. The funeral was for a grammar school principal who was shot and killed Tuesday.

Many Sunnis opposed to al-Qaida were at the funeral Wednesday. Col. Faisal al-Zubaie said 22 people died in the attack.—Internet

S Korea to discuss North's nuclear list with China

SEOUL, 14 May—South Korea's chief nuclear envoy goes to China on Tuesday for talks that could preface North Korea's return to international disarmament negotiations and the release of a long-delayed inventory of its atomic arms programme.

At the weekend, a US nuclear envoy returned from Pyongyang with documents detailing the North's weapons-grade plutonium programme.

Washington said this was an "important first step" in getting a full nuclear declaration.

South Korea's Foreign Ministry said envoy Kim Sook will be in Beijing for discussions on six-country nuclear talks, which have been on ice since North Korea missed an end-2007 deadline to provide the nuclear list.

North Korea is likely to make the declaration to China, host of the six-country talks, in the next

two weeks, a South Korean official familiar with the process said, declining to be named because of the sensitivity of the diplomatic manoeuvring.

A new round of the talks among the two Koreas, China, Japan, Russia and the United States will probably take place in early June, and the main subject of discussions will be verification, the official said.

MNA/Reuters

official death toll from the 7.9-magnitude quake as 14,866.

The confirmed death toll for Mianyang city alone rose to 5,430 on Wednesday. More than 18,000 people there were still thought to be buried under crushed buildings there. In total, almost 30,000 people were thought to be buried under debris in the hard-hit region.

Military helicopters dropped food and medicine to earthquake survivors who remained cut off in remote mountain villages behind roads clogged by landslides.

Some victims trapped for more than two days under collapsed buildings were still being pulled out alive in delicate rescues.

Internet



Armed police carry 17-year-old student Yan Peng after he was rescued out of the ruins of a two-story building in the quake-stricken Beichuan County in southwest China's Sichuan Province, May 14, 2008.—XINHUA

China earthquake death toll nears 15,000

DUJIANGYAN (China), 14 May — The official death toll from the massive earthquake that struck central China climbed Wednesday to almost 15,000, as the crushed

bodies of 178 students were discovered under a leveled school in Qingchuan in northern Sichuan.

The state-run Xinhua news agency reported the



A deserted market is seen after a bomb blast in Choti Choupad in the western Indian city of Jaipur on 13 May, 2008. More than 60 people were feared killed in bomb blasts in Jaipur on Tuesday, state television said, citing Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje.—XINHUA

Bomb blasts kill 60 in western India

JAIPUR (India), 14 May —Sixty people were killed in a series of bomb attacks in India's western city of Jaipur on Tuesday evening, police, officials and witnesses said.

At least six bombs, which exploded in markets and near a Hindu temple in Jaipur's crowded walled city just as many people took to the streets after a sweltering day, also wounded up to 150 people, officials said. Rajasthan state

government officials said between 50 and 60 people were killed in the explosions, the deadliest bomb attacks in India in nearly two years.

"According to the information I have received 60 people have died and 150 have been injured," Rajasthan's Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje was quoted by the Press Trust of India as saying.

But the state's police chief gave lower figures.

"Forty-five people have been killed and at least 100 have been injured," AS Gill, Director General of Police in the state of Rajasthan, told reporters.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attacks. But India has previously blamed Pakistan-based Islamist militants fighting to end New Delhi's rule of Kashmir for such bombings.

MNA/Reuters

Minister supervises relief and rehabilitation tasks in Twantay Township

YANGON, 14 May—Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha went on inspection tour of Twantay Township to supervise relief and rehabilitation tasks yesterday morning.

Upon arrival at Tamangyi village, he presented 30 bags of rice and 30 tarpaulins to storm victims and inspected Phaya Ngoatto (North) Village Basic Education Primary School. Wellwishers and officials concerned donated 30 bags of rice and 20 tarpaulins to the storm victims.

Next, the minister and party presented 20 bags of rice and 30 plastic sheets to the storm victims in Phaya Ngoatto (South) village, 30 bags of rice and 30 plastic sheets in San village, 30 bags of rice and 30 plastic sheets in Pauktaw village, 50 bags of rice and 50 plastic sheets in Lakapon village, 70 bags of rice and 50 plastic sheets in Phayagyi model village, 50 bags of rice and 30 plastic sheets in Kanbe model village, 30 bags of rice and 30 plastic sheets in Htawtho village, 30 bags of rice and 30 plastic sheets in Taloathtaw

village and 30 bags of rice, two barrels of edible oil and 60 plastic sheets in Shansu village.

Afterwards, the minister paid homage to Kyaungthit Pariyatti Sarthintaik Presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Uttamasara and wellwishers donated 50 bags of rice to the Sayadaw.

In the afternoon, the minister met with officials concerned of respective sub-committees and discussed relief and rehabilitation tasks for the victims and attended to the needs.

MNA



Local authorities distribute relief aids to storm victims in Thakayta Township.—MNA

Shweli 2/3 Hydropower projects signed

NAY PYI TAW, 14 May—Hydropower Department under the Ministry of Electric Power No 1 and Yunnan United Power Development Co Ltd of the People's Republic of China signed Shweli 2/3 hydropower project at the ministry on 12 May.

Present on the

occasion were Attorney-General U Aye Maung, the deputy ministers, directors-general, deputy directors-general and Vice-President of Yunnan United Power Development Co Ltd. The Deputy Minister for Electric Power No 1 and the vice-president of YUPDCoLtd

made speeches.

The director-general of HPD and the Vice-President of YUPDCoLtd signed the MoU and exchanged it. The Shweli 2/3 hydro power projects can generate 460 Megawatts and 360 Megawatts respectively.

MNA

Committee for Reconstruction of Towns and Villages meets

YANGON, 14 May—The Committee for Reconstruction of Towns and Villages held its meeting at the Department for Human Settlement and Housing Development, here yesterday morning.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of the committee for reconstruction of towns and villages Deputy Minister for Construction

Brig-Gen Myint Thein and committee members of the respective ministries.

The meeting discussed immediate reconstruction of necessary buildings in storm-hit towns and villages in Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions in accord with the emergency project, supply of safe water and electric power, reconstruction of

roads and bridges linking towns and villages, operation of postal service, telephone and telegraphs, arrangements for agriculture and livestock breeding, seeking ways and means for reestablishment of factories and workshops and implementation of the projects phase by phase.

MNA



Minister U Soe Tha presents relief aids to storm victims in Tamangyi Village in Twantay Township.—MNA

Demonstration of pitching of shelter boxes held

YANGON, 14 May – A demonstration on pitching of shelter boxes was held at Fire Services Department (Head Office) in Mayangon Township yesterday morning.

The Rotary Club of Helstone-Lizard, an international social organization based in Britain, donated the shelter boxes to storm-hit households in Ayeyawady Division.

Two experts from Britain demonstrated putting up of the shelter boxes.

Officials and rescuers from Fire Services Department observed the demonstration.

Rescue teams from Fire Services Department will also demonstrate the putting up of the shelter boxes in Ayeyawady

Division. One shelter box holds ten people and includes blankets, mosquito nets, stove and instant foods.—MNA



Officials of Fire Services Department view demonstration for setting up of tents.—MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects...

(from page 16)

to accommodate them along with the relief supplies.

Next, Commander Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe, Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and ministers briefed the Prime Minister on condition of storm-hit areas in Labutta Township and arrangements to be made for carrying out rehabilitation tasks.

Regarding the reports, the Prime Minister gave necessary instructions to officials concerned. Afterwards, the Prime Minister gave instructions on carrying out rehabilitation and development tasks while providing relief and health care services to the storm victims effectively.

On arrival at Myaungmya, chairman of Myaungmya District PDC U Aye Han briefed the Prime Minister and party on active participation of departmental personnel at district and township levels and the local people in relief and rehabilitation for the storm victims from Labutta Township.

In response to the reports, the Prime Minister attended to the needs and instructed the officials concerned to constantly focus on health care services, food and accommodation for the storm victims and fulfil their needs with goodwill.

Next, the Prime Minister and party arrived back Patheingyi by Tatmadaw helicopter.

MNA

IBTC & Group of Co Ltd donates supplies for storm-hit townships

YANGON, 14 May— The 60 staff of IBTC & Group of Co Ltd provided relief supplies such as 750 bags of rice, 1500 viss of groundnut oil, 1518 T-shirts, 770 longyis for women, 1500 towels, 301 mosquito nets, 1500 packets of candle to the victims from storm hit areas: Kawhmu, Kungyangon and Letkhokkon. The company has similar programs for relief aids to storm victims.

MNA



Officials of IBTC & Group of Co Ltd distribute relief aids to storm survivors in Kawhmu, Kungyangon and Letkhokkon.—MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein presents relief aids donated by MAAF to storm victims at relief camp.—MNA



Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung presents relief aids donated by MAAF to storm victims at relief camp.—MNA

Soldiers remove debris along Strand Road

YANGON, 14 May —A total of 150 officers and other ranks of the regiments and units under Indaing Station took part in the clearing tasks here today. They removed branches and debris caused by the storm along Strand Road using heavy machinery.

MNA



YCDC staff clear debris on Maha Bandoola Street

YANGON, 14 May —A total of 400 staff of Environmental Conservation and Sanitation Department under Yangon City Development Committee carried out the clearing tasks here today. They removed branches and debris caused by the storm along Maha Bandoola Street using heavy machinery.

MNA

Soldiers clearing a road in Pazundaung Township.

MNA

Let's work together for the nation to be able to rise from natural disaster

Hlaing Aung

The storm that hit the delta, Yangon and Bago divisions, and Mon and Kayin states on 2 and 3 May is the hardest of its kind for Myanmar. I think it claimed more human lives and property than any other strong wind in the course of Myanmar history.

At about 5 am on 3 May, the natural disaster was centred in Yangon. Trees were uprooted, branches were broken off the trees, and corrugated iron sheets were thrown off the houses and they were flying in the air. And only things within the distance of about 100 yards were visible.

The storm abated in the afternoon. In Yangon at that time, big trees were without branches, the ground was full of downed trees and tree branches, and many buildings were without roofs. The scene was like a place that had been ravaged by bomb explosions. Due to the downed trees, I had to use a lot of energy to get to the gate of the house compound from the door of the house. At that time, all the roads were not in a position to cope with vehicles. The whole Yangon was without any sounds of an automobile. Yangon was so silent that it was like a ghost town.

Then, we started to deal with evil consequences of the disaster. We ran out of electricity and water. The dwellers had to go through a variety of difficulties. There was no supply of electricity and water. Transport service was not available. Filling stations could not run due to lack of power supply. Oil tankers could not run, so a car had to spend about four hours to get a quota of two gallons of petrol. Commodity prices went up sharply. People had to spend 500 kyats for a trip before large buses could resume their runs.

I thought the city would not be able to recover from the situations in one month. Shin Saw Pu Street next to the People's Park was blocked with large trees that were more than 100 years old. A pick-up was flat under a large downed tree. Many lamp-posts were lying down on the ground, and many were broken, and the roads were in a mess with cable lines.

However, it was amazing. Within four days after the storm, water supply was resumed through Gyobu water pipeline and gas filling stations resumed their functions. And in five days the roads were cleared. That was due to the efforts of the people, service personnel, NGOs and Tatmadaw members had made with heart and soul. I witnessed that road-clearing works were carried out with the use of trucks and bulldozers from dawn to dusk.

In the meantime, employees of the Myanma Electric Power Enterprise and the Myanma Posts and Telecommunications were busy checking and repairing the lamp-posts and telegraph lines. Soon after that, phone services and power supply were resumed. Friends and relatives began to exchange their experience of the storm.

Forty townships of Yangon came under the storm, but it was nothing if compared with the townships in the delta. The delta suffered not only the strong wind but also tidal waves that were as high as two or three metres. To make matters worse, the majority of the houses were wooden ones roofed with thatches and walled with bamboo matting. So, Ayeyawady Division's death toll stood at five figures, whereas Yangon's death toll, at two figures. In the disaster-affected areas in the delta, the difficulties of water shortage and power outage were not all. The victims in the delta were also engaged in a fight against the challenge to continue to survive the evil consequences of the storm. Many children became orphans. Many elderly persons lost their children who

would take care of them, and many women lost their husbands.

In fact, the dwellers had not faced such a severe disaster in their life time, so they failed to make preparedness works. But, weather reports about the possible disaster were released repeatedly in advance. Moreover, they did not have enough knowledge about preparedness works. Only after the natural disaster, would they take lessons.

The storm was just a natural disaster, and it moved along its route. It was not possible to avoid the storm. What is the most appropriate to do in this regard is to take lessons from the consequences of the storm in order that preparedness works can be carried out most effectively to be able to minimize the loss and damages in case of a future natural disaster.

World countries do the same. For example, Bangladesh faced cyclone Marian in 1991. The wind blew at a speed of about 140 miles an hour and tidal waves were as high as about eight meters, leaving about 140,000 people dead and four million, homeless. Taking lessons from the disaster, the government and the people carried out jointly preparedness works. The country again faced a severe cyclone Seda in November 2007. However, about two million people were evacuated to safe places. So, only over 3000 people were killed and about 3000 injured.

In November 2004, an earthquake measuring 9.3 on the Richter scale took place with the centre in the Pacific Ocean near Indonesia, causing tsunami. The tsunami triggered huge tidal waves, so nearly 300,000 people residing around the Indian Ocean were killed and about 14,000 had gone missing. Only after the tsunami, did global countries work together and set up tsunami warning systems.

Similarly, in this storm in Myanmar, the government, local authorities, the people and NGOs launched relief and rehabilitation works soon after the disaster. So, they managed to speed up the rehabilitation tasks.

At 8.30 am on 3 May, in Nay Pyi Taw, the team led by Chairman of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Prime Minister General Thein Sein held a meeting and coordinated necessary measures. Then, the Prime Minister headed for Yangon and supervised the relief works. Respective regional teams comprising ministers, deputy ministers and commanders launched rescue and relief tasks promptly. The government designated K 5000 million as the first phase.

Tatmadaw members (Army, Navy and Air Force) contributed voluntary services to the tasks. Helicopters and aircraft of the Air Force transported relief supplies and medicines to the affected areas and took back the injured to the hospitals in urban areas. I was glad to see that State level officials by helicopter comforted and cared of the victims, and I noticed State level officials cared of and had goodwill for the public.

In reality, developed countries did suffer heavy loss of lives and property, let alone developing countries. In August 2005, Katrina hurricane crossed the south-east part of the US and six states at a speed of 175 miles per hour, leaving more than 1800 dead, more than 700 missing with a total loss of property worth 81.2 billion US dollars. The loss of that developed country was great despite the fact that it had built embankments and preparedness against such natural disasters.

The central government was not in a position to launch rescue tasks for several days in the incident of Katrina. Moreover, state governments were not capable of addressing the issue. So, many people died of starvation.

Looting was rife in the areas, so authorities had to use force to stop the violence. There was a widespread criticism that the disaster took place in the state where the majority of the people were the Blacks, so the government failed to pay a serious attention to the issue. When I remembered that, I felt encouraged to know that in our country, the government, the Tatmadaw, service personnel, entrepreneurs, social organizations and the people engaged in collaboration in the relief and resettlement works.

I thanked international organizations, neighbouring countries and many other donor countries for their generous donation of funds, medicines and household utensils. On 5 May, Yangon International Airport resumed its functions. The first international aid was donated by Thai Royal Armed Forces. Then, India shipped relief supplies. Then, relief items from the Russian Federation, Japan, Laos, China, Singapore, India, Bangladesh, Italy, Ukraine, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Republic of Korea and Greece and international organizations such as WFP and WHO and UNICEF were flowing by air to Myanmar. I was glad to hear that Bill Gate's foundation was going to donate one million US dollars, and many countries, one million US dollars, three million US dollars, etc.

Myanmar people accept any kinds of foreign aid with appreciation, regardless of the amount. However, they will not rely too much on international assistance, and will reconstruct the nation on self-reliance basis. The assistance Myanmar has received is rather small if compared with the assistance to other regional countries that suffered natural disasters. In 2007, Bangladesh received hundreds of millions of US dollars from the international community including 100 million US dollars from Saudi Arabia, 2.5 million US dollars from EU, and 14.4 million US dollars from the US. After the tsunami in 2004, the US donated more than 800 million US dollars to Indonesia, which also received over 300 million US dollars from the Asian Development Bank. Those were exclusive of the donations of other countries and international organizations. I had sympathetic joy for neighbouring countries receiving a great deal of aid. Myanmar remains to open the door for assistance from friendly countries that have goodwill for her.

The size of the assistance of internal donors is also very huge. There have been many persons, each of whom has contributed 10 to 100 million kyats. According to the figures stated in the newspapers, the donations have reached over 5000 million kyats. Many others are donating hundreds of millions of kyats. Myanmar people's generosity is amazing.

I expect that the victims will soon recover from the evil consequences of the natural disaster thanks to the assistance of local and foreign donors, the patronage of the government, supervision of the officials, efforts of Tatmadaw members and service personnel, and active participation of NGOs and local people.

Now, relief tasks have been completed. However, a lot of rehabilitation works have yet to be carried out in the long run, for instance, to provide shelters and cash, to care for the helpless, to create jobs, to carry out preparedness works against future possible disasters, to give educative talks, and to stockpile emergency items.

It is believed that the nation will be able to overcome all forms of challenges related to natural disasters if the government, the Tatmadaw, service personnel, social organizations and the people from all walks of life continue to work together.

Translation: MS

Lt-Gen Myint Swe presents supplies to victims in Dalla, Seikkyi-Khanaungto townships

YANGON, 14 May— Accompanied by CEC members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, departmental officials and wellwishers, Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence comforted storm victims at Thiri Zeya Anawrahta Hall in Dalla Township this afternoon.

He presented relief goods donated by the Office of Myanmar Military Attaché to Thailand to the victims. The mayor and the vice-mayor presented relief aid to the victims.

Cetana donation group presented 500 bags of rice, U Soe Hlaing (Swan-ah Engineering Group) K 1 million and Dr Naing Win (Kyaw Zeya Co) K 500,000 to the funds for education and health sectors of the victims.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe explained arrangements being made by the government and

wellwishers to donate relief aids to the victims in time. Likewise, Division, District and Township PDCs, companies and wellwishers donated relief goods to the victims of Dalla Township.

In Seikkyi-Khanaungto Township, Lt-Gen Myint Swe provided relief aid donated

victims at Mogaung Pagoda of West Seikkyi Ward. Local authorities and wellwishers presented relief goods to the victims.

After that, Lt-Gen Myint Swe attended the annual ceremony to pay homage to Tipitakadhara Dhammabhandagarika Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Suman-

dagalankara (PhD) of Tipitaka Maha Gandayon Monastery in Ward 9 of Mayangon Township in conjunction and open Bawdipuza Mingala Beikman. In addition, he attended the ceremony to honour the monks who passed the Tipitakadhara Selection Examination at the same venue. — MNA



Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence inspects living condition of households in storm-affected areas.—MNA

by the Office of Myanmar Military Attaché to Thailand to the victims. The mayor and the vice-mayor also presented relief goods to the victims. Wellwishers also donated relief aid to the victims.

They also presented relief supplies to the

Commander, Minister comfort storm victims in Hlinethaya Township

YANGON, 14 May — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan cordially comforted storm victims at the relief camp opened at No 15 Basic Education Primary School in

Ward 7 of Hlinethaya at 5 pm today.

They presented purified drinking water, foodstuff, candles and personal goods to them.

In his speech, the commander explained that under the supervisions, the Division PDC, ministries and wellwishers are making concerted efforts for supply of power, smooth transportation, running of industrial zones as usual, working of employees in the worksites and opening of tax-free markets and special rice shops. In his instructions, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan also explained progress in reconstruction tasks being carried out by local authorities, ministries and wellwishers under the arrangements of the government. Next, he consoled the victims.

The commander and the minister cordially greeted the victims after providing foodstuff, purified drinking water, candles and personal goods to them at the camp. — MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan comfort storm victims in Hlinethaya Township.—MNA

Local Naval units perform relief and resettlement works

NAY PYI TAW, 14 May — Servicemen of local battalion went to Thetkethaung, Myothit and Ngapyayma village-tracts in Hainggyikyun Township by one naval vessel and three life-boats and performed waterway clearing, relief and resettlement works

yesterday.

Four vessels of Defence Services (Navy) have transported 60.5 tons of supplies to Pyapon, Bogale, Labutta, Theindangyi, Achalay village in Pyapon and Kyauksayit village in Dedaye. — MNA

Shwedagon Pagoda's Htidaw remains intact

YANGON, 13 May — A survey team of Concordia International Co conducted a survey to find out whether the Htidaw (Umbrella) of Shwedagon Pagoda was tilted at an angle due to the storm. Based on the ground mark CP (9), the team surveyed the prism (16) fixed at the pagoda with the use of Total Station GTS 105M (Topcon Japan) and Total Station GTS 239N Topcon Japan.

According to the survey, the Pagoda was not tilted at an angle, it is learnt.—MNA

Relief supplies sent to Bogale

YANGON, 14 May — Relief supplies were sent to storm-hit areas in Ayeyawady Division by Tatmadaw helicopter this morning.

A total weight of 2,300 Kg including tents, tarpaulins, dry rations, medicines, bottled drinking water, bags of rice, clothes and utensils were sent to Bogale Township.— MNA

Latest casualty figures

NAY PYI TAW, 14 May — Due to the storm on 2 and 3 May, there have been deaths, injuries and missing in Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions.

According to the latest figures of the victims up to 6 pm today, a total of 38,491 people died, 1,403 were injured and 27,838 went missing in all regions struck by the storm. — MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein meets Thai Prime Minister Mr Samak Sundaravej at Sedona Hotel.—MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein greets Thai Prime Minister Mr Samak Sundaravej at Sedona Hotel.—MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein meets...

(from page 1)

He said Thailand provided assistance to Myanmar after the storm and he assured that continued assistance would also be provided via Myawady, a border town.

In his reply, Prime Minister General Thein Sein said some regions in the country faced natural disaster and he was pleased to see the visiting Prime Minister in the time of difficulty and thanked him for providing assistance.

He said the supplies were delivered to the country in seven flights. As soon as the supplies arrived at Yangon International Airport, they were delivered right to disaster-hit areas.

The relief supplies donated by Thailand included those of the Thai King himself as well as those of Princess Siridhorn. Myanmar also accepted the relief goods donated by the Thai government and the people.

The Myanmar government and the people express thanks to the Thai King and family, the Thai

government and the people for their donations.

The Prime Minister said the Myanmar people had never experienced such a violent storm that occurred on 2 and 3 May. The storm claimed over 30,000 lives and more than 20,000 went missing. It also caused a great deal of damage.

On 3 May after the storm, the cabinet members led by the Prime Minister rushed to Yangon. The ministers were sent to the storm-hit regions to closely supervise relief work. Relief operations were carried out effectively with the aim of helping the survivors to continue to survive the aftershocks. Now, all the relief work has been completed. As a second step, relief works are being carried out.

The relief goods such as food, clothing and medicines that have come from the international community shortly after the storm are enough for the victims, said the Prime Minister.

Next, the Thai Prime Minister presented Buddha images to Prime Minister General Thein Sein as a Dhamma gift. General Thein Sein hosted a luncheon in honour of the Thai Prime Minister and party at the Sedona Hotel. Before luncheon, the Thai Prime

Minister had the scenic view of Yangon from the 11th floor. They then had lunch.

After the lunch, the Thai Prime Minister presented US\$ 500,000, 50 satellite phones and phone cards worth 2 million baht donated by the Thai government and the people and US\$ 92728 donated by a Buddhist organization in Thailand to Prime Minister General Thein Sein.

Then, the two Prime Ministers spoke words of thanks again. Thai Prime Minister said that he realized the rescue efforts of Myanmar due to his firsthand experience rather than hearsay.

Next, Prime Minister General Thein Sein and the Thai Prime Minister, accompanied by responsible personnel, proceeded in cars to Yankin, South Okkalapa, Dagon Myothit (North) and Dagon Myothit (South) townships and inspected the progress of work on smooth flow of traffic, removal of trees and reconstruction of houses.

After that, they visited the relief camp opened at Ward 17 in Dagon Myothit (South) and, on arrival there, they were welcomed by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win.

Responsible personnel briefed the Thai Prime Minister and party on measures taken for opening the relief camp with the use of tents donated by international communities and supplying purified drinking water. Then they continued to explain that an administrative office and a control office were opened at the camp in order that the requirements of the storm victims could be met promptly.

The Thai Prime Minister also consulted the doctor who was giving medical treatment at the relief camp. Then Prime Minister General Thein Sein and the Thai Prime Minister checked the medicines donated.

After that, the Thai Prime Minister greeted the children watching a video in the camp. And then, the Thai Prime Minister asked the victims about the situation of accommodation and distribution of relief. Finally, the Thai Prime Minister said goodbye to Prime Minister General Thein Sein and left Dagon Myothit (South) for Yangon International Airport to return home.



Prime Minister General Thein Sein and Thai Prime Minister Mr Samak Sundaravej visit a relief camp in Dagon Myothit (South).—MNA

MNA



Relief items donated by Thai Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn seen at Yangon International Airport.—MNA

Relief aid from abroad arrives at Yangon International Airport

YANGON, 14 May — Donors from abroad are providing relief aid to storm-hit regions continuously.

AN-12 aircraft carrying 18 tons of medicines donated by UNICEF, five C-130 aircraft carrying 57

tons of bottles of purified drinking water, foodstuff, plastic sheets and emergency relief items by the US, DC-8 aircraft carrying 31 tons of 1,367 packets of mosquito nets by Switzerland-based Doctors without

Border, two C-130 aircraft carrying 31 tons of personal goods, foodstuff and clothes by Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn of Thailand, IL-76 aircraft carrying 36.153 tons of 1605 packages of plastic sheet by WFP, AN-12 aircraft carrying 144 tents, 144 tarpaulin and 720 blankets by Emergency Relief Unit of Sweden arrived at Yangon International Airport today.

Likewise, IL-76 aircraft carrying 21 tons of one Toyota car, water purifier and its related equipment donated by ICRC arrived at Yangon International Airport yesterday evening.

The relief aid from abroad has been sent to the storm-hit areas by helicopter, by vehicle and by watercraft. — MNA



Relief supplies donated by Swiss-based Doctors Without Borders arrive at Yangon International Airport.—MNA

Ministers provide relief aid to storm victims in Labutta

YANGON, 14 May — Member of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe arrived in Labutta by helicopter from Yangon on 12 May.

Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, together with Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, distributed foods, medicines, purified drinking water and canvas tents transported by the flight to the storm victims in the town.

Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe discussed relief and resettlement tasks being implemented for the victims and future tasks, and left for Patheingyi by helicopter. — MNA



AN-12 aircraft carrying medicines donated by UNICEF at Yangon International Airport.—MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo provides household goods and cash to the victims in Labutta Township.—MNA

40 developing countries eye nuclear power

WASHINGTON, 13 May—More than 40 developing countries have recently approached United Nations officials to express interest in starting nuclear power programmes, the *Washington Post* reported on Monday.

The interest among developing countries ranging from the Gulf to Latin America is a concern to proliferation experts, who say it could provide the building blocks for nuclear arsenals in some of the countries, the *Post* said. The newspaper said much of the interest in nuclear power is driven by economic considerations including the high cost of fossil fuels.

However, some Middle Eastern countries with access to large stocks of oil or natural gas, such as Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, appear to be investing in nuclear power partly because of concerns about a future regional arms race, the *Post* said.

“We are concerned that some countries are moving down the nuclear (weapons) path in reaction to the Iranians,” a senior US Government official who tracks the spread of nuclear technology told the *Post*. The paper said he declined to speak on the record because of diplomatic sensitivities.

MNA/Reuters



File photo shows BHP Billiton's Atlantis petroleum asset in the Gulf of Mexico as shares in the mining giant hit an all time high amid gossip that a Chinese entity was seeking a stake in the firm.—INTERNET



Artists perform Beijing Opera at the opening ceremony of the “Meet in Beijing 2008-Cultural Events” which kicked off on 12 May, 2008.

INTERNET

Zimbabwe rejects Western election observers

HARARE, 13 May—Zimbabwe will not invite election observers from Western countries to monitor a presidential run-off unless they remove sanctions, state media said on Monday, rejecting opposition demands.

Justice Minister

Patrick Chinamasa said Zimbabwe would not bow to pressure to invite election monitors from Western countries and the United Nations.

“We will not allow them ... We will think favourably of them if they lift sanctions,” the state-run *Herald* newspaper

quoted him as saying. “Until they do that, there is no basis to have any relationship with them.”

After weeks of equivocation, opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai said at the weekend he would contest the run-off against Robert Mugabe even though he believes he won outright in the first round and accuses the ruling ZANU-PF of vote-rigging.

Tsvangirai's Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) said he would return home to deal with Mugabe a “final knockout” after almost three decades in power.

But Tsvangirai said he would only stand if international observers and media were given full access to ensure the vote is free and fair.

MNA/Reuters

Wristwatch fetches \$2.25m in Geneva auction

GENEVA, 13 May — A chronograph wristwatch which belonged to an Italian racing driver fetched 2.345 million Swiss francs (2.25 million US dollars) at auction, Sotheby's said on Monday.

The large gold Patek Philippe watch originally owned by Count Carlo Felice Trossi, president of Scuderia Ferrari, went for the highest price ever for a wristwatch sold at Sotheby's, the auction house said.

Sotheby's said before Sunday night's sale in Geneva that the watch, known as the “Trossi Leggenda”, was “almost certainly unique” and could bring two million Swiss francs. It was the star lot among nearly 200 watches. Trossi was a racing driver, pilot and speed boat racer whose motor-racing victories

included the 1947 Italian Grand Prix.

“It is a watch of great symbolic and historic importance as it came out in 1932, a turning point which also saw car racing and the emergence of airplanes,” Geoffroy Ader, Sotheby's head of watches in Geneva, told a pre-sale news briefing.

MNA/Reuters

FAO says rice crop to hit record, but prices still rising

MILAN, 13 May—World rice output is expected to hit a record high this year, but growing demand and export curbs should keep prices high, at least in the short term, the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization said on Monday. Rice prices have been surging as governments and importers rush to stock up, spurred by growing fears the food staple will be in short supply.

“World paddy production in 2008 could grow by about 2.3 per cent, reaching a new record level of 666 million tons, according to our preliminary forecasts,” FAO rice expert Concepcion Calpe said in a statement on Monday. Taken in milled terms, this year's rice output should rise to about 445 million tons, above FAO's previous estimate of 441 million tons and the 432 million tons forecast by the US Agriculture Department on Friday.— MNA/Reuters

20,000 take part in 25th Tour of Athens

ATHENS, 13 May—More than 20,000 Athenians turned out on Sunday to take part in the 25th “Tour of Athens” which was this year dedicated to Mother's Day and the role of Greek mothers in society.

The race is organized each year by the Athens municipality and its

Youth and Sports Organization ONA, with the emphasis being more on taking part than on competing.

This year's race began at 10:00 and ended at around noon, following the usual route around central streets in the capital that had been cleared of traffic for the race.

Athens Mayor Nikitas Kaklamanis made a speech at the starting point, the marble-covered Panathenian Stadium that hosted the first-ever Olympic Games of 1896, saying that the Tour of Athens had become a “cultural and athletic institution”.

MNA/Xinhua



Sudanese men walk past wrecked vehicles at the site of fierce fighting between Darfuri rebels and Sudanese government forces in Khartoum's twin city of Omdurman. Sudan pressed its hunt for a Darfur rebel leader on Tuesday during attack on Khartoum left nearly 100 soldiers dead and brought the conflict to the government's doorstep for the first time.—INTERNET



One of Beijing's new team of official pedicab drivers waves to a colleague, as he takes his passengers on a hutong tour near Shichahai Lake on Monday.—XINHUA



World's smallest one-man helicopter, GEN H-4, is seen here flying in the city of Matsumoto, Nagano prefecture, central Japan. It will soon take flight in the birthplace of Leonardo da Vinci, who is credited with having first thought of a vertical-flight machine, according to its developer.—INTERNET

Dutch woman Tirza Mol rows her gondola, the Netherlands' only one, through the canals of central Amsterdam, on 9 May, 2008, where it is raising eyebrows as fine weather sees the Dutch take to the water. Mol spent four months observing master gondola builders in Venice before returning to the Netherlands to make her own boat. INTERNET

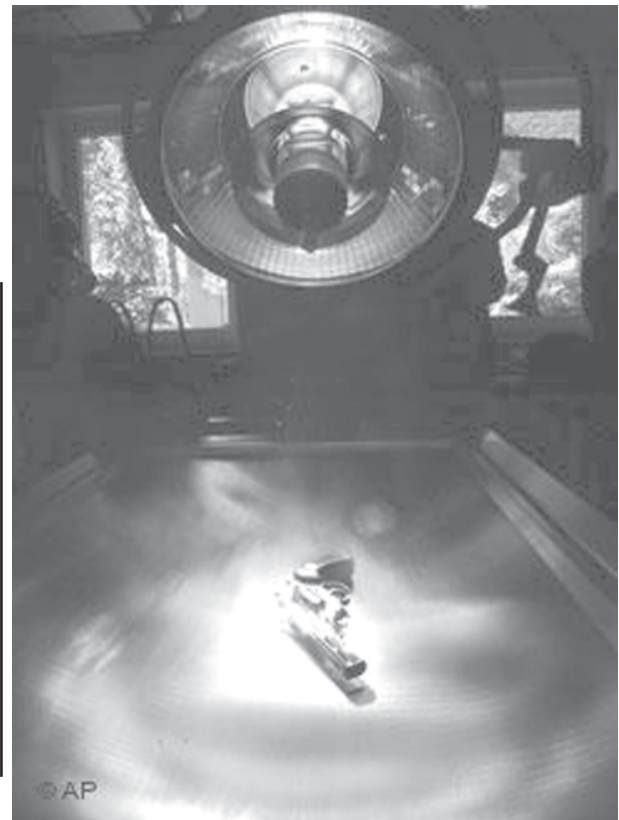


The Tesla Roadster electric car sits in a showroom in Los Angeles.—INTERNET

Images of the Day



Manuel Uribe chats with a reporter during an interview at his home in the suburb of San Nicolas de los Garza, in Monterrey May 9, 2008. Still too heavy to move his swollen legs, Uribe, who weighed more than a small truck in January 2006, has lost 37 stone (235 kilos) on a diet of grapefruits, egg-white only omelets, fish, chicken, vegetables and peanuts.—INTERNET



A revolver lies on a special table in the new fingerprint research system at the state police department in Kiel, northern Germany. The laboratory, which opened on Wednesday, May 14, is the most modern of its kind in Germany and cost almost half a million euros. The tracing system uses more than 50 processes — some highly complex — to look for fingerprints. No messy fingerprint powder here. —INTERNET

TRADE MARK CAUTION

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Win Mu Tin
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.,
for N. V. Organon
P. O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 15 May 2008

US examining satellite images of China quake area

WASHINGTON, 13 May—US intelligence analysts are examining spy satellite images of China's Sichuan Province, where a powerful earthquake is believed to have killed more than 8,500 people, a defence official said on Monday.

The official said the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, or NGA, was assessing high-altitude imagery as a routine step taken whenever a natural disaster or another major

event occurs someplace in the world.

US spy satellites and other high-altitude surveillance platforms can produce highly detailed pictures of damage to roads, railways, tunnels, ports and coastlines.

The defence official declined to comment on what the images of China show.

NGA is part of the Pentagon and analyzes overhead pictures from U2

spy planes and Defence Department satellites.

In recent years, the Bush Administration has offered satellite images and analysis to foreign governments coping with natural disaster to help organize rescue and recovery operations.

There was no immediate word about whether Washington was preparing to offer assistance to China.

MNA/Reuters

At least 12 killed as ferry capsizes off Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE, 13 May—At least 12 people drowned and others were missing and feared dead after a packed ferry sank off the southern coast of Haiti, authorities said on Monday.

Jean Baptiste Langeton, a municipal official in Gressier on the southern outskirts of the impoverished Caribbean nation's capital, said the boat had more than 150 people aboard when it capsized late on Saturday or early Sunday morning.

"Twelve bodies have been recovered but there might be more," said Langeton. "The search is continuing for survivors and other bodies," he said.

He added that the bodies of the victims discovered so far, seven adults and five children, were found early Sunday after they washed up on a beach known as Sunny Bel.

MNA/Reuters

Russia names suspect in Politkovskaya murder

MOSCOW, 13 May—Russian prosecutors on Monday named the man they say killed journalist Anna Politkovskaya in 2006 and released on bail another whom they described as an ac-

complice.

Politkovskaya, a fierce critic of Kremlin policy, was shot dead in her Moscow apartment building. Her murder sparked international reproach and put pressure on Russian

authorities to solve the crime quickly.

"Rustam Makhmudov, the direct agent in the killing, has been placed on an international wanted list in connection with this accusation," chief criminal investigator Vladimir Markin said in a statement. Prosecutors in March told a court they knew the identity of her killer, but did not name him at the time. Critics said it was a move to keep one of the accused—Colonel Pavel Ryaguzov of the Federal Security Service (FSB)—in prison. Markin said another of the accused, Magomed Demelkhanov, was bailed on 7 May but was not allowed to leave Moscow. Seven men remain in detention.—MNA/Reuters

Chinese police seize Vietnamese baby traffickers

NANNING, 13 May—Police in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region have seized six Vietnamese baby traffickers in a border town and rescued two baby boys, public security authorities in Dongxing City said.

The four men and two women were arrested in Dongxing City on 5 May and handed over to the Vietnamese police the next day, the Dongxing public security bureau said in a Press release on Sunday.

The Chinese police were informed by their counterparts in Mong Cai on 4 May that a Vietnamese baby trafficking ring were planning to enter China with two babies.

The Dongxing police closely monitored the wharfs along the border Beilun River, the most likely route for the smugglers.

On the afternoon of 5 May, within hours after the Vietnamese police warned of the smugglers' departure, police in Dongxing captured five Vietnamese suspects, including two women and three men, and the two babies upon their entry into China.

Police later seized another Vietnamese man who was suspected to be their main liaison for baby trade and illegal adoption in China.

The two babies were turned over to Vietnam police on 6 May and are currently staying at a social welfare centre.—MNA/Xinhua

Iran says to sue US, Britain over mosque blast

TEHERAN, 13 May—Iran's judiciary said on Monday it would file international lawsuits against the United States and Britain, accusing them of providing financial support to those behind a blast in a mosque that killed 14 people.

Iran's Intelligence Minister last week said Iran had arrested five or six members of a terrorist group with links to Britain and the United States who he said were involved in the explosion that also wounded 200 in the southern city of

Shiraz.

Iranian officials had previously said the April 12 blast, during an evening prayer sermon by a prominent local cleric, was caused by explosives left over from an exhibition commemorating the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq War.

Judiciary spokesman Ali-Reza Jamshidi told state television the terrorists behind the bombing were agents of the US and British governments in Iran.

"The relationship of those who planted the bombs in Shiraz with the

US and Britain was identified and they were being financially supported and in fact they acted as foreign agents in Iran," he said.

"In view of the documents obtained the judiciary in cooperation with the government and the Foreign Ministry will file lawsuits with international authorities against their supporters, who on the one hand claim to fight terrorists and on the other hand provide them with equipment," he said.

MNA/Reuters



Children look at destroyed vehicles after clashes in Baghdad's Sadr City on 13 May, 2008, which police said killed 11 people and wounded 20 others.—XINHUA

Turk planes hit PKK targets in N Iraq

SULAIMANIYA, (Iraq), 13 May—Turkish war planes bombed Kurdish separatist PKK rebels in northern Iraq overnight but there were no casualties, a security spokes-

man for Iraq's Kurdistan region said on Monday.

Jabbar Yawar, spokesman for Iraq's Kurdish Peshmerga security forces, said the strikes occurred in a remote part

of Dahuk Province near the border with Turkey.

"There were no casualties," Yawar said.

Over the past week dozens of Turkish F-16 war planes have launched bombing raids against suspected Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) positions deep inside northern Iraq.

The air strikes are part of a wider military operation, backed by attack helicopters, tanks and artillery, against the PKK in restive southeast Turkey.

MNA/Reuters

Lebanese Army starts deployment north

BEIRUT, 13 May—Lebanese Army troops started deploying this morning in Tabbaneh and Jabal Mohse in Tripoli of northern Lebanon following fierce clashes overnight, LBC reported Sunday.

14 people were killed in clashes in the north, between Al-Moustakbal fighters and SSNP members in the area. Al-Moustakbal fighters "executed" twelve members, and burned offices of the Syrian Socialist National Party (SSNP) in Hallba up north, OTV reported.—MNA/Xinhua

Vast Chile volcano ash cloud partially collapses

PUERTO MONTE, 14 May — A towering cloud of hot ash, gas and molten rock spewed miles into the air by a volcano in southern Chile, has partially collapsed, raising fears it could smother surrounding villages, an expert said on Tuesday.

Luis Lara, a scientist with the government's geology and mining agency, said the column of ash, which had soared as high as 20 miles (30 kilometres), was now about 4.5 miles (seven kilometres).

The column of debris, kept aloft by the pressure of constant eruptions, could collapse entirely, smothering the ghost town of Chaiten six miles (10 kilometres) away with

hot gas, ash and molten rocks.

"These small collapses which generate minor flows of pyroclastic material are normal, they are not that serious in that they affect a small area, the top part of the volcano," Lara said.

"But that doesn't make the worst case scenario disappear," he said. "As long as the eruptive column is high in the air, (a major collapse) is a possibility."

Thousands of people have been evacuated from within a 30-mile (50-kilometre) radius of Chaiten volcano, 760 miles (1,220 kilometres) south of the capital Santiago.

MNA/Reuters

NASA Phoenix spacecraft ready for Mars landing

WASHINGTON, 13 May — NASA's Phoenix Mars Lander is preparing to end its long journey and begin a three-month mission to taste and sniff fistfuls of Martian soil and buried ice.

The lander is scheduled to touch down on the Red Planet on May 25, according to the mission updates released on Tuesday.

Phoenix will enter the top of the Martian atmosphere at almost 13,000 mph (about 20,000 km per hour).

In seven minutes, the spacecraft must complete a challenging sequence of events to slow to about 5 mph (about 8 km per hour) before its three legs reach the ground.

"This is not a trip to

grandma's house. Putting a spacecraft safely on Mars is hard and risky," said Ed Weiler, associate administrator for NASA's Science Mission Directorate. "Internationally, fewer than half the attempts have succeeded."

Rocks large enough to spoil the landing or prevent opening of the solar panels present the biggest known risk.

However, images from the camera on NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, detailed enough to show individual rocks smaller than the lander, have helped lessen that risk.

If all goes well, confirmation of the landing could come as early as 7:53 pm EDT on

25 May, said NASA Phoenix uses hardware from a spacecraft built for a 2001 launch that was canceled in response to the loss of a similar Mars spacecraft during a 1999 landing attempt. Researchers who proposed the Phoenix mission in 2002 saw the unused spacecraft as a resource

designed to manipulate a 7.7-foot arm to scoop up samples of underground ice and soil lying above the ice.

One research goal is to assess whether conditions at the landing site ever have been favorable for microbial life. Another important question is whether the scooped-up



Phoenix spacecraft

for pursuing a new science opportunity.

Phoenix left Earth on Aug. 4, 2007. The solar-powered robotic lander is

samples contain carbon-based chemicals that are potential building blocks and food for life.

Internet

US doctors miss chances to give flu vaccines

WASHINGTON, 13 May — Doctors are missing plenty of opportunities to vaccinate people against influenza every year, flu shot maker Sanofi-Pasteur said on Monday. Sanofi said it has evidence that 25 million high-risk people visited a doctor every year during recent flu seasons and did not get a flu shot.

Flu vaccine makers told a meeting in Atlanta that they plan to make more vaccine than ever before for the US market, and start delivering it as early as August so people can get vaccinated as soon as possible.

And makers said they were also tweaking their vaccines to make them more appealing to consumers, with one company focusing on needle-averse schoolchildren and another offering a jab free of a controversial mercury preservative and possible allergy-provoking latex.

Flu vaccine makers say they will provide up to 146 million doses of vaccine to the US market for the upcoming 2008-2009 flu season.

This would cover less than half of the US population but every year some vaccine gets wasted as people fail to get vaccinated. — MNA/Reuters

Hair test for breast cancer to hit Australian market

CANBERRA, 13 May — A world-first test that can diagnose breast cancer by X-raying a woman's hair will be available commercially later this year, the Australian developer said on Monday.

Managing director David Young of Sydney company Fermiscan said results from a trial involving 2,000 Australian women showed the test to be effective in detecting breast cancer, though the success rate was just 75 per cent.

Young said the results were still "comparatively accurate" vis-a-vis the

mammogram, the gold standard test before rolling it out nationwide.

"Fermiscan plans to progress to commercialization in Australia by the end of the year, which is exciting news". Young said in a statement. The test is based on an Australian university discovery that breast cancer changes the

molecular structure of hair. Breast tumours secrete chemicals called cytokines into the bloodstream, which can affect the way the hair follicle works to form hair, a difference that can be picked up using sophisticated X-ray technology.

It was designed as a less painful and invasive

method of cancer detection than the mammogram, and it can be used by women of all ages.

"The accuracy of the test in a commercial use is expected to significantly improve as women will prepare by ensuring they have undamaged new growth of hair for testing" he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Indian pharmaceutical firm aims to enter Philippines

MANILA, 13 May — India's third largest pharmaceutical firm will soon enter the Philippine market through a distribution deal with a local company, reported the local newspaper *Business World* on Monday.

Dr Reddy's Labora-

tories Ltd's application to transact business in the Philippines has already been approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission, a Filipino Government organ in charge of studying application for transacting business by foreign companies, said the report.

Setting up a partnership with local company Britton Market-ing Corp for the Philippine Market, Part, the Indian company will engage in "information dissemination, act as communication centre and promote company products as well as quality control of products for export", according to the report.

The company will also set up a plant in Bulacan, north of Manila in two years' time from now, either for manufacturing or packing, said the report.

MNA/Xinhua



Newly born babies are moved to open space to avoid danger in a hospital after an earthquake occurred in Nanchong, a city of southwest China's Sichuan Province on 12 May 2008. A major earthquake measuring 7.8 Richter Scale jolted Wenchuan County of Southwest China's Sichuan Province at 2:28 pm on Monday. Earthquake was felt in Nanchong, Chengdu, Chongqing, Zhengzhou and Lanzhou. The International Nurse Day celebrated on the day of 12 May. — XINHUA

SPORTS

Olympic torch relay to mark silence for quake victims

BEIJING, 14 May — China will observe one minute's silence at the start of each day of the Olympic torch relay after Monday's earthquake in southwest China killed thousands, Games organisers said.

The one minute will start on Wednesday in Ruijin, in the eastern province of Jiangxi, with the celebrations scaled down for all future stops, the website of the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (BOCOG) said.

"The Olympic torch relay will take safety as the first priority," it said without elaborating.

The Olympic flame has had a troubled tour overseas with protests about China's perceived heavy-handed treatment after riots in the western region of Tibet.

The torch will be paraded in the quake-hit province of Sichuan from June 15-18 as scheduled and the route would not be altered, said Li Zhanjun, director of the BOCOG media centre.

Charity donation boxes would be in place along the path of the flame each day, the notice said.

The Beijing Olympics begin on 8 August.

MNA/Reuters

Germany, Denmark win extra UEFA cup spots

MANCHESTER, 14 May — Germany and Denmark were handed extra UEFA Cup places next season following a Fair Play draw by UEFA on Tuesday.

Seven associations — Norway, Denmark, Spain, Sweden, Finland, Germany and France — went into the hat for two first qualifying round places.

The draw was made at the City of Manchester stadium, the venue for Wednesday's UEFA Cup final between Zenit St Petersburg and Rangers.

England topped Europe's Fair Play rankings, with the highest-placed team in the Premier League's own fair play chart who had not secured European football next season taking a first qualifying round place.

MNA/Reuters



Steven Gerrard (seen here on April 22) admits Liverpool will only challenge for the Premier League title next season if Rafa Benitez spends big money. Gerrard is desperate to make up for another disappointing domestic campaign after Benitez's side slipped out of the title race by Christmas and finished nine points behind champions Manchester United.—INTERNET

Davydenko, Ferrer enjoy easy wins in Hamburg

HAMBURG (Germany), 14 May — Nikolay Davydenko and David Ferrer moved smartly into the third round of the Hamburg Masters on Tuesday, while Tommy Robredo came back from the brink to win a first-round thriller against Philipp Kohlschreiber.

Davydenko, the Rus-

sian fourth seed, helped himself to a 6-4, 6-1 victory over Croatia's Ivan Ljubicic, while Spain's Ferrer, seeded fifth, was equally impressive in a 6-3, 6-3 win over Ivo Minar of the Czech Republic.

Robredo, who had the best win of his career when he took the title in Hamburg in 2006, lost the first

set and was two points away from defeat when he fell a break down in the second-set tie-break.

The Spaniard recovered, thanks to a couple of poor serves from German hope Kohlschreiber, and held his nerve at the end of the decider to take his third match point and win 2-6, 7-6, 6-3.

Though that was the outstanding match, the best individual display on the red clay came from Davydenko, who served beautifully and took advantage of a stream of unforced errors from Ljubicic to seal an easy win in one hour 24 minutes.

MNA/Reuters

Terry, Drogba likely to be fit for Champs League final



Chelsea manager Avram Grant believes John Terry, seen here on 11 May, 2008, and Didier Drogba will play through the pain barrier to face Manchester United in next week's Champions League final.—INTERNET

LONDON, 14 May — Chelsea manager Avram Grant said on Tuesday that striker Didier Drogba and captain John Terry should be fit for the Champions League final against Manchester United in Moscow on May 21.

England defender Terry injured his elbow and Drogba jarred his knee during Sunday's final Premier League match of the season, a 1-1 draw at home to Bolton Wanderers.

"We haven't had training today nor yesterday so we will have to see at training tomorrow how they are but John Terry I think will be okay," the Israeli told the club's website (www.chelseafc.com).

"With Didier Drogba, I don't know how serious it is but I think he will give everything to play in this game."

Ivory Coast striker Drogba told French newspaper L'Equipe on Tuesday that there was "nothing serious" about his injury, adding that he would train this week.

On Terry's injury, the 30-year-old Striker added: "I have spoken to him. He will play in Moscow. No one wants to miss this gigantic match."

MNA/Reuters

Owen a possible target for Japan's Chiba

TOKYO, 14 May — Japan's JEF United Chiba are planning an audacious swoop for England striker Michael Owen, Japanese media reported on Tuesday.

The J-League club have just unveiled former Liverpool first-team coach Alex Miller as their new manager and believe Owen can solve the team's current goal-scoring problems.

Japan's Nikkan Sports reported that Chiba officials were preparing an initial approach and that contact had been made with Owen's agent Tony Stephens.

Owen has yet to agree a new contract with Newcastle United and the former

Liverpool and Real Madrid striker has been linked with a move to Premier League champions Manchester United.

A move to Japan could prove detrimental to Owen's England career, although JEF United have transfer funds available after selling several top players before the 2008 J-League season.

"The reports are not 100 per cent off the mark," Chiba's Kentaro Shiga told Reuters.

"Owen's name was one of those being talked about when the team were looking at possible targets."

MNA/Reuters

Beitar, Jerusalem win Israeli State Cup in shootout

TEL AVIV, 14 May — Beitar Jerusalem won the Israeli State Cup in a tense penalty shootout on Tuesday after the final against Hapoel Tel Aviv ended in a scrappy goalless draw.

League leaders Beitar, who kept alive their hopes of completing a league and cup double, dominated the action throughout the 120 minutes but were let down by poor finishing. They eventually won the cup for a sixth time after edging the shootout 5-4. Hapoel's Barukh Deigo came closest to scoring for either side when he hit Beitar's woodwork in the first half of the match. He also missed the crucial penalty during the shootout. — MNA/Reuters



San Francisco Giants' Matt Cain works against the Houston Astros during the first inning of a baseball game on 13 May, 2008, in San Francisco.

INTERNET

Nedved will stay at Juventus next season

MILAN, 14 May — Czech winger Pavel Nedved has signed a new one-year contract with Juventus after deciding not to retire, the Serie A side said on Tuesday.

The Turin club have finished third in their first season back in the top flight following their demotion for match-fixing in 2006. They will enter the Champions League qualifiers next season, prompting the 35-year-old left winger to stay.

"At the heart of my decision is the knowledge of having lived seven extraordinary years here and the wish to relive the European experience with a team I am deeply attached to," Nedved told Juve's website (www.juventus.com).

MNA/Reuters



Detroit Pistons' Rasheed Wallace (R) shoots over Orlando Magic's Dwight Howard in the second quarter during Game 5 of their NBA Eastern Conference basketball series in Auburn Hills, Michigan on 13 May, 2008.—XINHUA

သဘာဝဘေးအန္တရာယ်ကျရောက်သောဒေသများရှိ ပြည်သူများအတွက် ကျန်းမာရေးသတိပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်

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

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Expert warns soaring rice prices a global danger

OTTAWA, 14 May— The current spike in world rice prices could be devastating, even if it only lasts for a few months, and will leave African nations vulnerable to unrest, a top expert said on Tuesday.

Rice prices have tripled over the past year as stocks dwindle and major exporters curb shipments to keep domestic prices under control.

The price of Thai 100 per cent B grade white rice — considered the world's benchmark — was quoted at 920 US dollars a ton on Monday, just under its recent peak of 1,000 US dollars.

“The impact of a spike in rice prices — even let's say it only lasted a few months — is something that could be devastating,” said Robert Zeigler, director-general of the Philippines-based International Rice Research Institute.

“Let's not underestimate the gravity of this situation,” he told an Ottawa conference on food prices. — MNA/Reuters

DPRK develops new kit for bird flu testing

PYONGYANG, 14 May — A highly accurate kit for testing bird flu virus has been developed by a

veterinary institute of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), the official news agency KCNA said Monday.

The accuracy of the new kit is higher than the old ones, the KCNA quoted Kim Hyok, director of its producer, the Veterinary Institute under the Academy of Agricultural Science, as saying.

The kit is now in use at several epizootic prevention centres and poultry farms, it added.

MNA/Xinhua

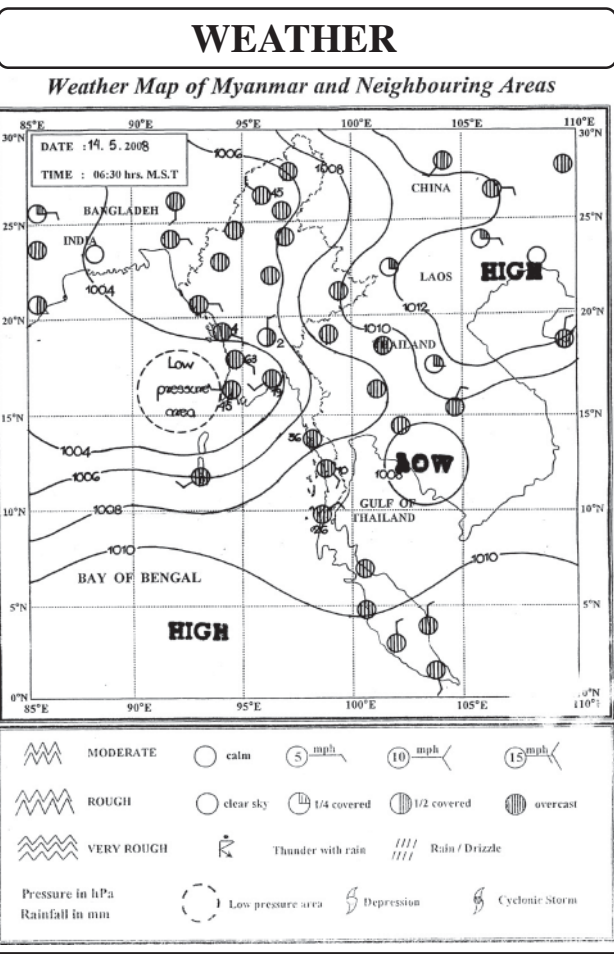


Thursday, 15 May
View on today

<p>7:00 am 1. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်</p> <p>7:25 am 2. To be healthy exercise</p> <p>7:30 am 3. Morning news</p>	<p>7:40 am 4. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ</p> <p>7:55 am 5. “ဖြတ်လျှောက်ရလေးပဲ လျှောက်ဖြစ်တော့မှာပါ” (မေသန်းနု၊ ပန်းဖြူ၊ ကျော်ဇေယျာဦးခိုင်တင်၊ ဖူးချစ်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ- မောင်မောင်ဦး- (စန္ဒီဂိုက်))</p> <p>8:00 am 6. အကပဒေသာ</p> <p>8:15 am 7. သင်ပုန်းရေလှောင်တံ</p> <p>8:30 am 8. International news</p>
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<p>8:40 am 9. မဟာနိသွယ်သွယ်ဆိုကြမယ်</p> <p>4:00 pm 1. Martial song</p> <p>4:10 pm 2. Musical programme</p> <p>4:30 pm 3. ပြည်ထောင်စုတိုင်းရင်းသားရိုးရာ အက</p> <p>5:05 pm 4. ရှမ်းပြည်နယ်အရှေ့ပိုင်း နမ့်မွတ်တား</p> <p>4:15 pm 5. မျိုးချစ်စိတ်ဓာတ်ရှင်သန် ထက်မြက်ရေး တေးများ</p>	<p>5:25 pm 6. Musical programme</p> <p>5:05 pm 7. ကြယ်ပွင့်များရဲ့ရင်ခုန်သံ</p> <p>6:00 pm 8. Evening news</p> <p>6:30 pm 9. Weather report</p> <p>6:35 pm 10. နိုင်ငံ့စီးပွားအလေးထား ကျေးလက်ထုတ်ကုန်များ</p> <p>6:45 pm 11. ကြေးမုံရိပ်သွင်တေးနယုတ်</p>
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<p>7:00 pm 12. “ရှင်သန်ခြင်း” (မင်းဟိန်း၊ ဆုပန်ထွာ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-အောင်မိုး-ပဲရစ်)</p> <p>7:30 pm 13. Musical programme</p> <p>8:00 pm 14. News</p> <p>15. International news</p> <p>16. Weather report</p> <p>17. မြန်မာ့ဒီမိုကရေစီလမ်း “သင်္ဂါရုနှင်းဆီ” (အပိုင်း-၂) (ပြီးငွေစိုး၊ စိုးမြတ်နန္ဒာ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-နေပိုင်)</p>



Wednesday, 14 May, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, southwest monsoon is advancing into the Deltaic, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kachin, Kayin, Kayah States and lower Sagaing Division, scattered in Shan State, fairly widespread in upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine and Mon States. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below May average temperatures in Kachin, Shan, Rakhine States and Yangon Division, (5°C) to (6°C) below May average temperatures in upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and about May average temperatures in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Yay (6.34) inches, Gwa (4.02) inches, Thandwe (2.95) inches, Sittwe (2.12) inches, Patheingyi (1.96) inches and Hkamti (1.77) inches.

Maximum temperature on 13-5-2008 was 87°F. Minimum temperature on 14-5-2008 was 72°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 14-5-2008 was 92%. Total sunshine hours on 13-5-2008 was (0.4) hours approx.

Rainfall on 14-5-2008 was (0.40) inch at Mingaladon, (0.82) inch at Kaba-Aye and (1.30) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (21.45) inches at Mingaladon, (24.88) inches at Kaba-Aye and (27.24) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (15) mph from Southeast at (15:45) hours MST on 13-5-2008.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (06:30) hrs MST today, a low pressure area has formed over the North Andaman Sea and adjoining East Central Bay. It may develop further into a depression. Monsoon is vigorous in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weather is partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 15-5-2008: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kayah State and Magway Division, scattered in Kachin and Shan States, lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions fairly widespread in Chin State and upper Sagaing Division and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in South Rakhine and Mon States, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Frequent squalls with moderate to rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) to (45) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Unsettled weather conditions will continue over the Deltaic areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 15-5-2008: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 15-5-2008: Intermittent rain which may be heavy at times. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 15-5-2008: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects relief camps in Pathein

Storm victims from Labutta, Ngaputaw townships accommodated at Pathein University, Koethein Gymnasium, BEHS-3 with food, health care services provided



Prime Minister General Thein Sein greets storm victims at a relief camp in Pathein.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 14 May—Chairman of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Prime Minister General Thein Sein, accompanied by Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe, ministers, heads of department, inspected relief camps in Pathein yesterday.

The Prime Minister and party inspected the relief camp at Thiha hostel of Pathein University, met with storm victims, individually asked them relief supplies, foods and accommodation and consoled them.

Next, the Prime Minister gave instructions on creation of job opportunities for healthy storm victims

and keeping respective relief camps and their environment clean. At the relief camp at Koethein Gymnasium, Chairperson of Ayeyawady Division Women's Affairs Organization Daw Win Win Maw presented relief supplies worth K 2 million donated by Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation to the Prime Minister.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party distributed relief items to the storm victims and cordially greeted those from Labutta and Ngaputaw Townships and consoled them.

At No. 3 Basic Education High School of Pathein, the Prime Minister and party presented relief items to the storm victims donated by wellwishers. Next, they asked after a storm victim who was badly injured in the

back during the storm and cured after and undergoing medical treatment.

The storm victims from Labutta and Ngaputaw Townships were accommodated separately at Pathein University, Koethein Gymnasium and No 3 BEHS being provided with food. In addition, health care services are being given to them.

Next, the Prime Minister and party helicoptered to Labutta from Pathein in the afternoon. Afterwards, they viewed roofing with corrugated iron sheets, thatches and tarpaulin on the houses and office buildings, and relief and rehabilitation tasks being undertaken by companies in Labutta Township by car.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo briefed the Prime Minister on his visit to the villages that were out of contact in Labutta, losses and damages and measures taken for the storm victims

(See page 5)



Trucks loaded with timber for reconstruction of buildings arrive in Pyapon.—MNA

Monsoon sets in

YANGON, 14 May—According to the observation at 6.30 pm, a low pressure area formed over delta region had crossed southern part of Rakhine State and abated. South-West monsoon has set in delta region.—MNA

INSIDE

Let's work together for the nation to be able to rise from natural disaster