

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Senior General Than Shwe comforts victims in Pathein, Labutta, Myaungmya

NAY PYI TAW, 20 May —Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe visited relief camps in Pathein and comforted

the victims this afternoon.

The Senior General left for Labutta at 3 pm. He met and comforted the victims at relief camps. He gave necessary guidance concerning the reports of the minis-

ters. At 4.30 pm, the Senior General and party left for Myaungmya in a motorcade and consoled the victims of Labutta who are accommodated in Myaungmya. —MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein greets Mr John Holmes, Under Secretary-General of UN Emergency Relief Coordinator.— MNA

Prime Minister receives Under Secretary-General of UN Emergency Relief Coordinator

NAY PYI TAW, 20 May—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein received a team led by Under Secretary-General of the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Mr John Holmes at Zeya Thiri Beikman on Konmyinthta, Yangon this morning.

Present on the occasion were Minister for National Planning and Eco-

nomics Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Director-General of the Government Office Col Thant Shin and Director-General of Protocol Department U Kyaw Kyaw.—MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein receives Under Secretary-General of UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Mr John Holmes.—MNA



Four political objectives

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

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

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

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 21 May, 2008

Carry out rehabilitation work through concerted efforts

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe has inspected relief and rehabilitation work in storm-hit Kungyangon, Dedaye and Pyapon and consoled storm victims.

During his inspection tour, Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance, saying that the nation was built through concerted efforts of the government, the Tatmadaw and the people, and so also it is being reconstructed through such concerted efforts although the nation was hit hard by the storm.

The government is taking systematic measures in three phases, namely, relief, rehabilitation and disaster preparedness in the long run for the people in storm-hit regions.

In the first phase, relief work for storm victims has been carried out with the donations such as foods, medicines, clothes and shelter boxes made by local and international donors under the arrangement of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee.

In the second phase, reconstruction of ravaged villages, renovation of roads, bridges and communication links and opening of temporary clinics and schools are being carried out in the affected areas. In the meantime, measures for regenerating the main livelihoods of local people — fisheries, agricultural and salt industries — are being taken while providing them with cattle, tractors, motor boats and fishing nets.

In the third phase, steps are to be taken for growing of windbreakers and building of embankments and causeways linking villages for the long-term disaster preparedness.

As regards education, more schools will be opened up to middle schools in strategic regions.

At a time when concerted efforts are being made for rehabilitation of ravaged regions we firmly believe that the regeneration of the main livelihoods of storm victims will soon be materialized.

A convoy carrying relief aids arrives Pyapon.

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



The congregation receives Nine Precepts from a Sayadaw at ceremony to enshrine relics into Maha Bodhi Buddha Image in Buddha Gaya Monastery in Sangyoung Township.—H

Relics enshrined in Maha Bodhi Buddha Image

YANGON, 20 May — A ceremony to enshrine relics in Maha Bodhi Buddha Image in Buddha Gaya Monastery in Sangyoung Township was held yesterday in conjunction with a ceremony to pour water at Bo Tree in the monastery.

At the ceremony, the congregation received the Nine Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Subodha and donated offertories to Sayadaws and members of the Sangha.

The Sayadaws enshrined the relics into the Buddha Image and poured water at Bo Tree along with devotees.—H

Relief aids distributed to storm victims in Mingala Taungnyunt Township

YANGON, 20 May — Member of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presented relief supplies to storm victims in Mingala Taungnyunt Township today.

First, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan visited Thatamabyuha Dhammayon in Patheinyunt Ward where storm victims from three wards in the township are taking shelter and comforted them. The minister distributed rice and relief aids to the victims.

Afterwards, he went to Satsan Ward in Mingala Taungnyunt Township and comforted



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan comforts storm victims in Mingala Taungnyunt Township.—MNA

storm victims at the relief camp set up at No 7 Basic Education High School in the township. He presented rice and relief aids to the victims on his visit.

At 1 pm, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan met with storm victims at the

relief camp set up at Yedwington Dhammayon Building in Yedwington Ward in the township and comforted them. He also distributed rice and relief supplies to the victims.

At the meetings with storm victims in

Mingala Taungnyunt Township, the minister briefed on relief efforts being made by the government, the people, the Tatmadawmen, police and members of social organizations. — MNA

Navy participates in rehabilitation work

NAY PYI TAW, 20 May — Tatmadawmen of Defence Services (Navy) have performed the rehabilitation works in the storm-affected areas.

One military vessel based in Bogale loading 37.5 tons of clothes, plastic containers, bed sheets, snacks, bed roll, blankets, soft drinks,

household goods, milk powder, tarpaulin, pumps, tents, purified water bottles and robes transported to Kadonkani rehabilitation camp in the township on 18 May.

Similarly, a Labutta based military vessel loading 25 tons of rice, palm oil, tarpaulin, rubber sheet, purified water,

clothes, pipe, pumps, soap, tents, dry noodles, dry fish, generator, snack, salt, potato, gram and diesel also transported to Polaungyi rehabilitation camp in the township.

A military vessel carrying specialists, nurses and relief aids was sent to Setsan from Bogale.

MNA

Russia's superjet makes maiden test flight

Moscow, 20 May — Russia's first new passenger plane since the 1991 fall of the Soviet Union, the *Superjet-100*, took off on its maiden test flight on Monday, inching Moscow closer to the lucrative regional civil aviation market.

As president,

Vladimir Putin spearheaded efforts to revive Russia's aviation industry through the *Superjet-100*, a regional jet which can carry between 75 - 95 passengers but the project has been hit a series of delays.

"The plane took off at

10 am (0600 GMT) Moscow Time, flew for an hour and then landed," a source at makers Sukhoi Civil Aviation said.

The first flight was due in late 2007, but was postponed repeatedly, raising questions about Sukhoi's ability to meet tight production targets for its main launch customer, Russian airline Aeroflot.

The Superjet has a catalogue price of 29 million US dollars and Sukhoi hopes to sell at least 800, with production of 60 to 70 planes a year by 2010. It has firm orders for about 73 of the aircraft. US planemaker Boeing is jointly developing the Superjet. The plane must now make about 100 successful flights to pass safety criteria.

—MNA/Reuters



Residents watch the fire burning near the explosion scene. A petroleum pipeline explosion occurred Thursday, in Ijegun, a remote area of Lagos, Nigeria. —XINHUA

Pakistan can discuss peaceful use of nuclear energy with Bangladesh

DHAKA, 19 May— Pakistani High Commissioner Alamgir Babar in Bangladesh Monday said Pakistan could discuss the peaceful use of nuclear energy with Bangladesh, which is facing a severe energy deficit.

"We have our programme of nuclear energy. We're going ahead with that. It's up to Bangladesh to decide how they want," Alamgir Babar told a meeting at

the National Press Club in Dhaka, the private news agency *UNB* reported.

Asked if Islamabad will extend cooperation to Dhaka in the nuclear energy sector, the High Commissioner said: "We can discuss it within the confines of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)."

Bangladesh is a signatory to the NPT and recently the International Atomic Energy Asso-

ciation (IAEA) allowed the country to use nuclear energy in peaceful purposes like energy, agriculture and medicine sectors. Foreign Adviser Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury discussed the matter with Russia, South Korea and China during his visit to those countries.

Alamgir Babar said Pakistan is not a signatory to the NPT but "I have the right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy".—Internet



Debris hangs from a damaged section of the Hilton Hotel under construction where an explosion ripped through the floors on 19 May, 2008 in San Diego.

INTERNET

Mbeki calls for end of attacks on foreign nationals

JOHANNESBURG, 19 May—South African President Thabo Mbeki on Monday reiterated his call for an immediate end to attacks on foreign nationals.

Violence in South African leading province of Gauteng has left 22 people dead and up to 10,000 seeking refuge in shelters. The president said in a statement: "Citizens from other countries on the

African continent and beyond are as human as we are and deserve to be treated with respect and dignity." "We dehumanize ourselves the moment we start thinking of another person as less human than we are simply because they come from another country," he said.

"South Africa is not and will never be an island separate from the rest of

the continent," he said.

Mbeki called upon those behind the "shameful and criminal acts" to stop.

"The law-enforcement agencies must and will respond with the requisite measures against anyone found to be involved in these attacks." Mbeki said that everything possible was being done to bring perpetrators to book.

Internet



Police arrest a suspect as they conduct a raid in a squatter settlement east of Johannesburg on 19 May, 2008 in an attempt to quell anti-foreigner violence which has erupted in and around the city. The foreigners, many of them Zimbabweans who had fled economic collapse and political violence in their homeland, are being driven out of squatter settlements.—INTERNET

Two NATO soldiers killed in Afghan incidents

KABUL, 19 May—Two soldiers serving the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) were killed in two separate incidents in southern Afghanistan on Monday, the military alliance said.

"One soldier was killed by enemy hostile action and another was killed in an improvised explosive device blast while supporting an Afghan National Police operation," the ISAF said in a statement.

The NATO-led military did not release the casualty's nationality or give more information.

Internet

Police chief killed in bomb attack in southern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 19 May—A local Iraqi police chief was killed on Monday in a bomb explosion in the police headquarters in a town in Dhi Qar province, a local police source said. "Major Farhan Qassim Kattafi, chief of police unit in Souq al-Shiyoukh town near the provincial capital city of Nassariyah, was killed early in the morning when a bomb hidden in his office detonated," the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity. Two of Kattafi's bodyguards were wounded by the blast, the source said.

Internet

Three killed in blast in NW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 19 May— Three people were killed in a bomb blast outside a mosque in northwestern Pakistan, local TV reported on Monday evening.

The blast occurred in Pakistan's Bajaur tribal agency and several others were also injured, state-run Pakistan TV channel said.

No further details are available.

The blast came just a day after a suicide bombing killed 13 people in Pakistan's tribal area, including four soldiers.

Internet

Rehabilitation works in progress in Labutta

NAY PYI TAW, 20 May—Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung of the Ministry of Defence together with Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung went to Labutta by Tatmadaw helicopter loaded with bags of rice from Pathein on 18 May. They went to Theitpangongyi village together with Minister for Co-operatives Maj-Gen Tin Htut and personnel. The Adjutant-General and party handed over bags of rice to responsible persons and inspected living condition of storm victims in tents.

The Adjutant-General instructed responsible persons to take measures to avoid hunger and health problems, to collect figures of population in storm-hit villages, to make arrangements for building permanent dwelling instead of temporary ones for storm victims in performing reconstruction tasks, to report needs for farming and fishery work as the State will fulfil any requirements of the storm victims, to deliver foodstuff and provide health care service and necessary assistance to storm victims in their respective assigned areas, to report the requirements of the storm survivors in timeliness as telephone service has already been provided to forward camps.

Next, the Adjutant-General and ministers inspected reconstruction works in Labutta by car and left for Pathein.

MNA



People's Hospital (above) and Basic Education High School (below) seen after being repaired in Bogale, Ayeyawady Division.—MNA



Cash and kind for storm victims

NAY PYI TAW, 20 May—Departments concerned, social organizations, families of Tatmadawmen and wellwishers from respective states and divisions have provided cash and kind to storm victims.

Departments concerned and wellwishers from Shan State (North) presented K 90,046,350; families of Tatmadawmen and wellwishers from Shan State (South) and Kayah State, cash and relief aid worth K 2,192,800; from Kayah State and Mon State, cash and relief aid worth K 3,410,500; wellwishers from Taninthayi Division, construction materials worth K 1.9 million; wellwishers from Sagaing Division, cash K 1,497,450 and relief aid worth K 43,184,800 through the financial subcommittee for storm victims.

Up to yesterday, the cash and kind donated by wellwishers totalled K 7,854,848,955.—MNA

Employees of a company distribute relief supplies to storm survivors in Pyapon, Ayeyawady Division.—MNA



Health workers leave for storm-hit regions

YANGON, 20 May—Three ships carrying health workers left Wadan Jetty here for storm-hit villages in Ayeyawady Division yesterday morning.

The health workers on board the ships were seen off by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint and officials of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Transport.

On board the ship to leave for Bogale Township are one physician, two specialists, eight general

practitioners and one male nurse.

On board the vessel to leave for Pyapon Township are one physician, three specialists, seven doctors and one male nurse.

On board the watercraft to leave for Labutta Township are one physician, one assistance director of Medical Reserch Department (Lower Myanmar), three specialists, six doctors and one male nurse.—MNA

Minister for Foreign Affairs arrives back after attending Special ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 20 May —Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win arrived back here by air this morning from Singapore after attending the Special ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting held on 19 May 2008 in Singapore.

While in Singapore, Minister U Nyan Win attended the Working Lunch of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers held at 12.30 hours at the Shangrila Hotel and informally exchanged views on the matters on agenda of the Special ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting. Minister U Nyan Win briefly explained the situation of damages caused by the Cyclone Nargis, relief and rehabilitation efforts and needs for international assistance.

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win then attended the Special ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting held at the Ball Room of Shangrila Hotel at 2:30 pm. The Meeting discussed and

agreed to the establishment of an ASEAN-led coordinating mechanism to facilitate the effective distribution and utilization of international assistance, the holding of a Pledging Conference in Yangon for providing international assistance for the Cyclone-affected victims in Myanmar and to dispatch medical teams from all the ASEAN countries to Myanmar.

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win also attended the Press Conference held by Chairman of the ASEAN Standing Committee, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore Mr George Yeo.

During his stay in Singapore, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win met separately with Mr Thongloun Sisoulth, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lao PDR at 08.00 hours, with Mr Norpoddon Patama, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand at 08.45 hours and with Mr Pham Gia Khiem, Foreign Minister of the Socialist

Republic of Vietnam, at 10.00 hours on the 19th May and held informal discussions on matters relating to the Special Meeting.

The Chairman's Statement was issued at the conclusion of the meeting.

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, together with his Thai counterpart Mr Norpoddon Patama, attended the signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Union of Myanmar and the Kingdom of Thailand on the establishment of the Dawei Deep Seaport at the Shangrila Hotel at 09.00 hrs on the same day.

At 4.45 pm on 19th May 2008, Minister U Nyan Win also held discussion with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia Dr Rais Yatim and then received from his counterpart a Bank Draft amounting one million US dollars donated by the Government of Malaysia to the victims of Cyclone Nargis in the Union of Myanmar.

MNA

Relief supplies flow to storm victims in Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 20 May—Relief supplies are timely flowing to storm victims in Ayeyawady Division by Tatmadaw helicopters, by vessels and by car.

Vehicles loaded with relief supplies left the

Trade Warehouse near Kyaikwaing Pagoda Street of Mayangon Township for Bogale, Labutta, Pyapon, Ngaputaw and Hainggyikyun Townships this morning.

Those wishing to

donate relief items to the storm victims may contact the Trade Warehouse near Kyaikwaing Pagoda Street of Mayangon Township (Tel-09-8600526 and 09-8600701).

MNA



Minister U Nyan Win attends the working luncheon of ASEAN foreign ministers in Singapore.—MOFA



A health employee giving medical treatment to a victim in Labutta.

MNA

Blankets, pillows for YGH

YANGON, 20 May—Agga Maha Thiri Thudamma Theingi Daw Khin Nan Mon and family of No 9 on Anawrahta Road in 14 Ward, Yankin Township presented 85 blankets and 85 pillows worth K 272,000 to the storm victims, receiving treatment at Yangon General Hospital, on 14 May.

MNA

Vehicles loaded with relief aids leave for storm-affected areas.

MNA



Let's replace earth bricks with stone ones (2)

Kyaw Min Lu (Shwepyitha)

(Continued from yesterday)

Let it be. However, I would say our country is going through a variety of storm-like plots and intrigues that are much severer than Nargis, and they are endless. They are none other than envy storms, criticism storms and rumour storms created by certain western countries and national traitors at home and abroad who are showing negative attitude to our nation and people.

Despite the relief and rehabilitation tasks being carried out with might and main and tenacity at the risk of lives, internal and external saboteur groups are making malicious remarks and slanderous accusations and driving a wedge among the people to the utmost of their ability. These activities might be designed to exacerbate the situations. Well, they did destabilize the nation to a certain degree just after the storm Nargis.

There has been an endless stream of rumours spread by some foreign radio stations to attack Myanmar such as the nation is going to run out of goods; commodity flow is no longer effective; it will take long for the roads to cope with traffic; rice prices will go up because all the paddy fields in the delta and Yangon have been ravaged; there will be insufficient supply of rice; another storm is going to cross the nation; container ships cannot be moored at the ports; the Myanmar government is reluctant to accept international relief; the government did not accept the US and French naval ships fully loaded with relief supplies; the situations of the storm victims are shockingly alarming; the international relief supplies are going to the military forces rather than to the victims; only one-third of the victims have access to the supplies and the rest are going to die of hunger; and so force should be used to enter the country with the permission of the UN Security Council. Such intrigues are utterly abhorrent to a duty-conscious public member.

Now, the people are no longer frightened by the invented rumours due to the public notices aired on local radio and TV and stated in the newspapers that the people should not believe the groundless rumours. Realizing the prevailing situations as they really are, the people have been able to distinguish between right and wrong.

I do not think I would be able to refute all the tricks of the world famous notorious liars. However, I would like to rebut one or two tricks of theirs. On 5 May, Myanmar invited diplomats of foreign embassies and representatives of UN agencies in Yangon and said that the country would accept international relief supplies willingly. The people have witnessed that the nation is accepting the relief items from the donor countries without any discrimination against any particular countries. Now, the nation is accepting relief funds and supplies from the US, the Russian Federation, European countries, northeastern Asian countries such as China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, southern Asian countries and southeast Asian countries totaling 27. It is a tangible proof that as soon as the airplanes with relief goods on board landed, they are unloaded from the planes and then transferred to helicopters and ships. Then, they are transported and distributed in the storm-affected areas as soon as possible. Myanmar people by nature want to share their meals with natural disaster victims irrespective of status. I am sure none of the Myanmar people stoops to misappropriating the supplies that are meant for disaster victims.

In addition, Myanmar is now accepting health

care specialist groups from neighbouring countries. So far, the groups from Thailand and India have arrived here. Relevant ministries, local social organizations, entrepreneurs and experts are providing assistance in various sectors to the victims. Therefore, this demanding task will be materialized if neighbouring countries extend a helping hand.

Arrangements have been made many times for diplomats of the embassies based in Yangon and Bangkok, diplomats of foreign embassies to Myanmar, and resident representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat and UN agencies to make field trips to the storm-hit areas for their firsthand experiences. Now, Myanmar is proud to have conducted the Thai Prime Minister and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Mr Louis Mishell around the relief camps. No one can deny that Myanmar has work hard and achieved great success in this regard.

Thanks to repeated broadcasts by some foreign radio stations, I have learnt that some US military warships are ready in the international waters near Myanmar waters to provide relief supplies. They said that they were waiting for the permission of the Myanmar government. As a public member, I feel it is impossible that their relief programmes are without strings attached. I say this because on 5 May, Sara Flounders posted an article "US hostility hampers relief" on Workers World Website.

The article is very long. So I would like to present only some salient excerpts from it for public knowledge. They are just the opinions of the writer.

"Is the Bush administration really trying to help the people of Myanmar recover from the natural disaster that struck there? Then why is it insisting that the Pentagon be in charge of its aid? And why did it impose SANCTIONS on the country when it knew the cyclone was about to hit?"

"The U.S. corporate media are full of stories on the scale of the disaster and the inability of the government to cope with the relief effort. Completely omitted is any mention of the U.S. government's own abysmal track record in providing disaster relief.

"Each news article repeats the demand that Washington be given full military access to Myanmar to deliver emergency supplies. There is outrage and shock that Myanmar will not permit U.S. military planes to land or Navy ships to dock. The charge that the Myanmar government cannot possibly be trusted to deliver the supplies is repeated again and again.

"The day before Cyclone Nargis actually hit Myanmar, but when the approach of the monster storm had already been announced and tracked for a week, President George W Bush signed a harsh new level of economic sanctions on Myanmar. Sanctions are an act of aggression, a form of economic warfare that specifically targets Myanmar.

"This criminal executive order decreeing expanded sanctions was followed within days by expressions of deep concern for the devastated population. The cynicism and hypocrisy could not be greater.

"The US government expresses outrage that Myanmar, while it accepts aid, will not allow foreign personnel to oversee its distribution.

"The Pentagon has hardly hidden its interest in overthrowing the regime. This comes as pressure is put on the country to open up and allow the leasing of U.S. bases and U.S. corporate access to Myanmar's vast nationalized oil and gas deposits.

"Many countries even in the midst of a disaster fear US and Western assistance because it so often comes with strings attached, including onerous debt conditions and demands to recognize their economy and privatize nationally owned resources.

"Missing from all the corporate media's lecturing on what Myanmar should and could do is any mention of the U.S. ruling class's own disastrous record in emergency planning, evacuation and relief during and after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita hit New Orleans and the Gulf Coast.

"The whole world watched the criminal neglect, racism, lack of planning and total confusion as floods and broken levees drowned the city of New Orleans on Aug. 28, 2005.

"This was followed by an arrogant refusal to accept assistance from organizations and individuals seeking to volunteer and an outrageous rejection of international aid. Offers of help from Cuba and Venezuela, which had fully provisioned teams of doctors on standby and offered tons of food, water and a million barrels of extra petroleum, were refused. Even French aircraft and a hospital ship standing ready in the Caribbean, along with German and Russian help, were put on hold.

"Air Force helicopters at a base close by were ordered grounded, although pilots volunteered and pleaded to use them to evacuate people. FEMA and Homeland Security actually blocked aid and volunteers, according to many media reports. Truckloads of water and tons of material sent from around the country were never released."

Above-mentioned points are just some excerpts from the article. I do not want to put blame on anyone in this regard. I really thank the US for the airlifted relief supplies for the storm victims. We recognize that US citizens by nature are generous and they make generous donations to every region that has come under a natural disaster. Now, the victims are consuming the relief supplies donated by US citizens. So, my heartfelt thanks go to them. A meal and some drinking water are invaluable for a natural disaster victim.

However, the strings attached to the relief supplies carried by warships and military helicopters are not acceptable to the Myanmar people. We can manage by ourselves. Myanmar has many good neighbourly countries. The people remain united in times of emergency. Now, we have achieved success in the relief and rehabilitation tasks to a certain degree. The task is very challenging, but we will be able to achieve the goal if we continue to work together with tenacity. So, I would say don't worry about that.

A storm is, indeed, just a natural disaster, so it is not to blame. Whatever it is, we have to rise from the evil consequences after we have faced a disaster. We have to reconstruct the buildings that have been ravaged. Myanmar people are not a people who are able to rise only with others' assistance and who know how to deal with things only after others have provided methods. Myanmar descended from Saki race with own monarchs and prestige. Myanmar has suffered a heavy loss in the disaster, however we have to try to our utmost to be able to replace earth bricks with stone ones. We will continue to work hard to enjoy sustainable development in a short time. We are all capable of addressing the issue, and we have engaged in the works. Surely, we will be able to replace earth bricks with stone ones in the near future.

Translation: MS

Ministers receive delegation led by Under Secretary-General of UN Emergency Relief Coordinator

YANGON, 20 May— Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint received a delegation led by Under Secretary-General of UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Mr John Holmes at the meeting hall of the National Archives Department of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development on Pyidaungsu Yeiktha Road here this morning.

Also present on the occasion were the director-general and deputy directors-general of MNPEC, officials of UN Emergency Relief Office and resident representatives of UN agencies.

At the meeting, Mr John Holmes said that the

UN Secretary-General and all of them are deeply touched by the loss of lives and property caused by cyclone Nargis that hit Myanmar recently, and that he had learnt that the Myanmar government had designated the three days as the days of mourning for the loss of lives of the people.

Next, the ministers explained the situation of Myanmar, saying that the severe cyclone Nargis hit Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions on 2 and 3 May and with unusual high tides it caused loss of lives and property. And they explained prompt action taken by the government shortly after the storm, immediate delivery of relief supplies donated by local and international organizations to storm-hit regions by helicopter, relief and rehabilitation work which calls for a lot of construction materials for rebuilding of houses,

schools, hospitals and dispensaries, water pumps, tractors, fuel and fertilizer for regenerating farmlands, trawlers and fishing nets for fisheries, cooperation of UN, INGOs and the government in relief and rehabilitation mission, and thanked UN, INGOs and donor countries for their contributions.

Afterwards, Mr John Holmes said that they are desirous of extending a helping hand to Myanmar in her rehabilitation of storm-hit regions, and that they will cooperate with Myanmar government in that regard. And he explained what they would be taking in the rehabilitation drive, and expressed his pleasure for explaining of relief and rehabilitation work by the ministers and said that they are here for just humanitarian aid and nothing politics.

MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspects sub-power station at No 1 Industrial Zone in Shwepyitha.—EP 2

33 KV pylons set up in Shwepyitha, Mingaladon Tsps

YANGON, 20 May— Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint met with industrialists at Industrial Zone No 1 in Shwepyitha Township yesterday and inspected control and supply of electric power.

Upon arrival at

Hlawgar Sub-power station in Mingaladon Township, the minister heard reports by officials concerned on construction of power line and distribution of electricity.

He then looked into replacing nine pylons at Pinyin Industrial Zone Sub-power station

in Mingaladon.

The minister and party inspected setting up of 33KV pylons along Hlinethaya-Nyaugdon road in Hlinethaya Township, Sethmu 1 Street in Yankin Township and KabaAye Pagoda road.

MNA

Robes donated to storm-hit monasteries

YANGON, 20 May— Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung today paid respects to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jagara at Min Kyaung Parriyati

Monastery in Kyauktan and donated 206 sets of robe for 103 storm-hit monasteries. Afterwards, the minister together with the deputy minister paid homage to Shwedagon

Pagoda in the afternoon. He also viewed Maha Pasana Cave and State Parriyati Sasana University (Yangon) on Kaba Aye hill in Mayangon Township.

MNA



Ministers U Soe Tha, Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and Dr Kyaw Myint meeting with Mr John Holmes, Under Secretary-General of UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, and party.—MNA

Orange Supermarket donates dry noodle to victims

YANGON, 20 May— Orange Supermarket in Yangon donated 10000 packages of dry noodles to the storm victims here from 10 to 14 May.

Employees of Orange Supermarket distributed dry noodles to the storm victims in

Homelan Wards in Sangyoung Township, to the storm victims in storm-hit wards in Mayangon Township and to the victims in Thingangyun Township on 10, 11 and 12 May respectively.

Arrangements have

been made to donate cash and kind to the storm victims in Ayeyawady Division. Those wishing to donate provisions to the storm-hit areas in Ayeyawady Division may contact the Orange Supermarket.

MNA



Wellwishers donate a Sangda truck for use in the rehabilitation work of Hainggyigyun.—MNA

Khaing Khaing Sangda Motorcar Manufacturing Co Ltd donates a car

YANGON, 20 May— Khaing Khaing Sangda Motorcar Manufacturing Co Ltd donated a Sangda truck for use in reconstruction of Hainggyigyun that was ravaged by the severe storm at a

ceremony held at Ayeyawady Naval Region Command at noon yesterday.

General Manager Mr Yu Jian Chen of the company handed over the related documents to

Commander of the command Commodore Win Shein and officials.

The commander gave the certificate of honour to the wellwisher and expressed thanks.

MNA

*Relief
aids
donated
by
Denmark
based
UNICEF
arrive
Yangon
Inter-
national
Airport.*
MNA



Factories in Yangon inspected

YANGON, 20 May— Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thuang today inspected Ahlon Soft Drink and Ice Factory under the Myanmar Foodstuff Industries on Strand Road, No 1 Gas Factory of the Myanmar Paper and Chemical Industries on No 5 Thanlyetsun Street in Botahtaung Township, the cosmetics factory of the Myanmar Pharmaceuticals Industries in Thuwunna, the rubber factory of the Myanmar General and Maintenance Industries in Thangangyun Township, No 21 Blanket Factory of the Myanmar Textile Industries, No 1 Garment Factory in Mayangon, and the soap liquid factory of the Myanmar Pharmaceuticals Industries.
MNA

More relief supplies from international community arrive at Yangon International Airport

YANGON, 20 May— International community are sending more relief supplies for the storm-hit regions.

Five C-130 planes from the USA carrying blankets, nylon ropes, plastic sheets, water buckets, nails, water

Thai medical team provides medical treatments to storm victims

YANGON, 20 May – The Thai medical team, together with Myanmar health staff, has provided medical treatments and health care services to the storm victims at the relief camps in Labutta today.

On 18 May, the Myaungmya Township-based team met with Thai Ambassador Mr Bansarn Bunnag and Director of the Ministry of Health Dr Khin Maung Lwin. The team from the Ministry of Health, Thailand, is currently in Myanmar under the arrangement of the Ministries of Health and Foreign Affairs of Myanmar. —MNA

bottles, plywood and foodstuff weighing over 42 tons arrived at Yangon International Airport at 8.35 am, 9.30 am, 9.35 am, 3.35 pm and 4.15 pm today, AN-12 plane from Denmark based UNICEF carrying medicines and hospital equipment weighing over 16 tons at 8.40 am, a plane from Switzerland carrying mosquito nets weighing

4 tons, a plane from IFRC carrying relief items and kitchen wares weighing 6.68 tons, a plane from UNICEF carrying water-purifying tablets weighing 0.48 ton, a plane from Korean Red Cross carrying health related items weighing 3 tons at 9.05 am, Y7-100 plane from Laos carrying varieties of medicines for Laotian medical team at

10.30 am, MAI plane carrying 111 packages of relief supplies provided by Baiyoke Hotel Group at 11.30 am, DC-8 plane from Save The Children of Britain (UK) carrying tarpaulin, mosquito nets, water buckets and construction materials weighing 39 tons at 1 pm, IL-76 plane from Finland Red Cross carrying tarpaulin, tent related

items and kitchen wares weighing over 40 tons at 1.20 pm, IL-76 plane from WFP carrying biscuit weighing 40 tons at 1.35 pm, AN-12 plane from Spanish Red Cross carrying tarpaulin, kitchen wares and personal health related items weighing 14.52 tons at 2.40 pm and DC-8 plane from Red Cross of the Netherlands carrying personal health

related items weighing 35.89 tons at 3.20 pm.

Similarly, PG-701 plane from Myanmar citizens in Thailand carrying blankets, mosquito nets and towels weighing 2.9 tons arrived at Yangon International Airport and MI-518 plane from Singaporean Red Cross carrying varieties of medicines weighing over 6 tons on 19 May.—MNA

*Relief
items
donated
by Red
Cross
Society
of Spain
arrive at
Yangon
International
Airport.*
MNA



IWT vessels resume regular run in storm-hit areas

YANGON, 19 May—The Inland Water Transport of the Ministry of Transport resumed four ferry vessel services and 14 passenger and freight vessel services from Yangon Division to Ayeyawady Division.

A total of eleven vessels including the above-mentioned vessels and other six passenger-and-freight vessels from Monywa and Mandalay arrived here.

In supplying relief aids to the storm-hit areas in Ayeyawady Division, 28 vessels have run for 35 times.—MNA

Resettlement tasks carried out in Bogale

YANGON, 20 May—Under the supervision of member of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, priority is being given to reconstruction of monasteries, basic education schools, township hospital and offices in storm-affected Bogale, Ayeyawady Division.

The leading committee and sub-committee together with Htoo Trading Co are also implementing resettlement tasks such as transport, health, communication and power supply.

MNA



Relief aids from Save the Children (UK) being unloaded from a plane in Yangon International Airport. — MNA



Relief aids from the Netherlands Red Cross being unloaded from a plane in Yangon International Airport.—MNA



Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe accepts US \$ 100,000 donated by Representative Mr Li Hong Yuan of China Nonferrous Metal Mining (Group) Co Ltd.—MNA

Egyptian Govt to contribute cash to storm relief efforts

YANGON, 20 May — The Egyptian Committee for International Relief has allocated a sum of LE 250,000 (approximately US \$ 45,000) as a contribution to the relief efforts for the victims of the cyclone.

Moreover, the Emergency Relief Agency of Egypt

(affiliated to the Arab Medical Union), in collaboration with the Islamic Relief Agency in Britain, has embarked on a relief project that includes dispatching tents, blankets, drinking water and medicines to the victims of the cyclone.—MNA



Volunteers loading relief aids onto Shwepyaung Ship for storm victims in Ayeyawady Division.—MNA



A file photo shows a man at the LG/Phillips booth tries out a 52' touch screen displaying Google Earth at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, Nevada.—INTERNET

S Korea to open new atomic disaster control centre

SEOUL, 20 May — South Korea will open a new atomic disaster control centre to enhance the country's ability to prevent and cope with emergencies, the South Korean Government said on Monday.

According to the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, the new centre is located 15 kilometres from the Uljin atomic power plant, 330 kilometres southeast of Seoul. It will be used to coordinate protective measures and help control the evacuation of people in case of a serious accident.

The ministry said the new facility will be linked to the country's AtomCARE system that is designed to monitor and give immediate warning about potential problems in nuclear power plants.

The Uljin atomic disaster control centre is the third of its kind. The first and second control centres were opened near the Wolseong and Younggwang power plants in 2005 and 2007. The ministry said two more facilities are to be built for the Gori power plant in northern Busan and the Hanaro research reactor in Daejeon.

MNA/Xinhua



An overall view shows four bed compartments in the fan camp next to the Ernst Happel stadium in Vienna on 19 May, 2008. About 3,000 soccer fans are expected to bring their sleeping bags and stay per night for 38 Euros during EURO 2008.—INTERNET

Mubarak meets Abbas to achieve M-E agreement

SHARM EL-SHEIKH (Egypt), 19 May — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Sunday met with visiting Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in Egyptian Red Sea resort Sharm el-Sheikh on efforts to reach a Palestinian-Israeli ceasefire agreement.

Abbas, who is here to attend the inaugural

session of the World Economic Forum on the Middle East later Sunday, briefed Mubarak on the outcome of his talks with US President George W Bush on Saturday.

After nearly one-hour talks on Saturday with Abbas in Sharm el-Sheikh, Bush said he is "absolutely committed" to achieve an Israeli-Palestinian peace

deal by the end of the year as "it breaks my heart" to see the suffering of the Palestinian people.

However, Bush's high profile expression of supports for Israel during his three-day visit there on the Jewish state's 60th anniversary is in contrast with a nonchalance over the plight of the Palestinians, which arouses growing scepticism in the Arab world over his ability and sincerity to act as an even-handed broker between Israel and the Palestinians.

An editorial in Egypt's state-owned *Al-Gomhuria* daily said Bush has forgotten his role as a just mediator of the Arab-Israeli conflict and exposed his real self.

MNA/Xinhua

Clinton plugs away as time grows short in US race

BOWLING GREEN (Kentucky), 19 May — With time running out on her White House campaign, Hillary Clinton plugged away on Sunday in her uphill battle to overtake Barack Obama for the Democratic presidential nomination.

"It's not enough to show up and cheer," the former first lady exhorted a rally at Western Kentucky University. "You've got to get out and vote.

You've got to bring everybody you can find to vote."

The New York senator started her day by attending church and then headed off to "Get Out the Vote" rallies in Kentucky, which along with Oregon holds Democratic contests on Tuesday.

Obama holds a commanding lead in the pledged delegates to this summer's party convention that will pick a candidate to run against

Republican John McCain in November. While Clinton was expected to win handily in Kentucky, Obama was ahead in the polls in Oregon, leaving only three more primaries before the party voting ends on 3 June.

MNA/Reuters

McCain campaign adviser quits over lobbying ties

WASHINGTON, 19 May — A top adviser overseeing finances for Republican Senator John McCain's presidential campaign has quit over his ties with lobbying, a McCain campaign official confirmed on Sunday.

Former Texas Representative Thomas Loeffler, a national finance co-chairman, is the latest McCain adviser to step down amid concern over potential conflicts of interest among lobbyists in the campaign. He is the fifth person who worked on McCain's campaign to resign recently over links

to lobbying activities.

McCain, the presumptive Republican nominee to contest the November presidential election, has made ethics and transparency a centerpiece of his campaign. Last week he established a policy of requiring advisers with lobbying ties to sever them or leave.—MNA/Reuters



One of the highlights of HP's expanded portfolio of client virtualization solutions announced on 19 May, 2008, is the HP 2533t Mobile Thin Client, which combines industry-leading thin client and business notebook technologies to enhance data security and improve both ease of use and reliability.—INTERNET

UN sees chance for global ban on cluster bombs

UNITED NATIONS, 19 May — The United Nations sees renewed momentum for a global ban on cluster bombs as more than 100 nations — but not the world's top users and stockpilers — gather in Dublin to finalize an anti-cluster munitions treaty.

A top UN official and diplomats from countries that support a ban say there is a good chance that the conference, which starts on Monday and runs through 30 May, will end

with the signing of a treaty outlawing cluster bombs.

"I see a momentum that warrants cautious optimism on what Dublin can bring about," Ad Melkert, associate administrator of the UN Development Programme, told Reuters.

There is an increasing "awareness that leaving so many devices spread around is taking away the peace from people after conflicts, particularly for children", he said.

Cluster munitions open

in mid-air and scatter as many as several hundred "bomblets" over wide areas. They often fail to explode, creating virtual mine fields that can kill or injure anyone who comes across them.

The UNDP says cluster munitions have caused more than 13,000 confirmed injuries and deaths around the world, the vast majority of them in Laos, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq and Lebanon.

MNA/Reuters

IMF sees Sub-Saharan Africa growth at 6.5% in '08

PRETORIA, 19 May—Sub-Saharan Africa is expected to register economic growth of 6.5 per cent this year while the region's inflation rate should come in at 8.5 per cent, a senior International Monetary Fund official said on Friday.

"Sub-Saharan Africa continues to grow at robust rates and in 2008 we expect it to grow at 6.5 per cent and inflation to be at 8.5 per cent," Benedicte

Vibe Christensen, acting director of the African Department at the Fund, said at a regional outlook presentation at South Africa's Central Bank.

On Tuesday the Reserve Bank said in a bi-annual monetary policy review that the regional economic outlook remained positive, but that tensions over neighbouring Zimbabwe's disputed presidential election posed a downside

risk. The Central Bank is also worried about spiralling inflation in South Africa, and has strongly hinted at further monetary tightening in a bid to bring the main CPIX consumer gauge back down to within a 3-6 per cent target range.

The targeted CPIX inflation gauge has persisted above the top end of the target range since April 2007, and jumped to a new five-year high of 10.1 per cent year-on-year in March. The central bank lifted its repo rate by 50 basis points last month to 11.5 per cent, adding to 400 basis points worth of increases since June 2006 to try to tame inflation.

MNA/Reuters

Ukraine officially becomes 152nd WTO member

KIEV, 19 May—Ukraine became the 152nd member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) on Friday, following more than a decade of negotiations.

Over the 14 years of accession negotiations, Ukraine implemented a range of economic reforms and amended more than 50 laws to bring the country into line with WTO norms. According to the Ukrainian Economy Ministry, Ukraine's entry into WTO will have a positive effect on the economy, especially boosting agricultural, chemical and metals exports.—MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam might apply rice export taxes

HANOI, 19 May—Vietnam's Finance Ministry is drafting a document under which the country will impose export taxes on rice export, instead of annual rice volume quotas as it currently does, local newspaper *Vietnam Agriculture* reported Monday.

When prices of rice in the domestic market increase considerably, Vietnam will raise the taxes to limit rice export. When the rice supplies are abundant and the commodity's prices are low, the country will lower the taxes to boost the export.

According to a local food expert, the current quota-based rice export regulation has some shortcomings: the state does not collect rice export taxes, rice exporters have to undergo cumbersome procedures set by the Vietnam Food Association, and foreign-invested enterprises in Vietnam, which will be allowed to export rice from next year, may not comply with the quota-related procedures.—MNA/Xinhua

A real estate "For Sale" sign. One of the eight inhabited Channel islands off the northern coast of France has gone on the market, the estate agency handling the sale said.—INTERNET



Okpo shipyard of South Korea's Daewoo Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering (DSME) on Koeje island in a 2005 photo. A top shareholder in Daewoo Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering Co Ltd said on Sunday it had withdrawn from talks to have Goldman Sachs manage the sale of the South Korean shipbuilder.—INTERNET

Cargo volume rises 7.3% in April at HK airport

HONG KONG, 19 May—Cargo throughput at Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) grew to 320,000 tons in April 2008, a 7.3 per cent increase from April 2007, HKIA said on Sunday.

Passenger traffic rose 0.4 per cent from April 2007, to 4.1 million. The

small increase was the result of the Easter holidays in March this year versus April last year. Air traffic movements rose 2.6 per cent, to 25,060, according to HKIA.

Chief Executive Officer of Airport Authority Hong Kong Stanley Hui said that

April saw a significant increase in cargo transshipments, particularly to and from the North America and the Chinese Mainland. Imports and exports to the Asia Pacific region as well as exports to Europe and North America also recorded healthy growth, he said.

"We continue to watch global markets closely. In spite of an uncertain economic outlook, our view for the months ahead is cautiously optimistic," Hui added.

For the four months ended on 30 April, 2008, passenger volume rose 7.8 per cent from the corresponding period in 2007, to 16.2 million, while cargo traffic grew 8.1 per cent to 1.2 million tons. Air traffic movements increased 5.3 per cent to 99,320.

MNA/Xinhua

US gasoline prices hit record \$3.79/ gallon

NEW YORK, 19 May—The average retail price of a gallon of regular grade gasoline in the US rose to a new record high as the cost of a barrel of crude oil price continued its ascent, an industry analyst said on Sunday.

The US average retail regular gasoline price rose to 3.7929 US dollars a gallon on 16 May, up nearly 17 cents in the past two weeks, according to the nationwide Lundberg

survey of about 7,000 gas stations.

In two areas—Chicago and New York's Long Island—prices soared to an average of more than four US dollars a gallon for the first time, survey editor Trilby Lundberg said. The gasoline price could rise to four US dollars a gallon on a national average basis, she forecast. "The refinery margin on gasoline is so poor, I think the upward

pressure on the refining margin will push up the price at the pump, even if crude oil does not," she said in an interview.

Refiners, who process crude oil to make gasoline, have been battered by slim margins for the past six months as they have struggled to pass on record crude oil prices to consumers. Some have mothballed refineries in response to the weak margins.—MNA/Reuters



Bottle openers made of kangaroo scrotums sold as souvenirs in Sydney.

INTERNET

TRADE MARK CAUTION

Nissin Shokuhin Kabushiki Kaisha (Nissin Food Products Co., Ltd.) a company incorporated in Japan, of 1-1, Nishinakajima 4-chome, Yodogawa-ku, Osaka, Japan, is the Owner of the following Trade Marks:-



Reg. No. 1575/1993

Top Ramen

Reg. No. 1578/1993

in respect of "Int'l Class 30: Noodles, including instant cooking noodles".



Reg. No. 1576/1993



Reg. No. 1577/1993

in respect of "Int'l Class 30: Noodles, including instant cooking noodles, vermicelli, processed rice, coffee, tea, cocoa, sugar, rice, tapioca, sago, substitute for coffee, cereals, preparation made from cereals, processed foodstuffs, including instant cooking foodstuffs, bread, pastry, confectionery, molasses, honey, yeast, baking powder, ice, salt, mustard, pepper, vinegar, sauce, spice, seasoning."

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Marks will be dealt with according to law.
Win Mu Tin
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.
for Nissin Shokuhin Kabushiki Kaisha
P. O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 21 May 2008

TRADE MARK CAUTION NOTICE

BRITISH AMERICAN TOBACCO (BRANDS) INC., a company organized under the laws of the State of Delaware, United States of America carrying on business, through its licensees and affiliates, as Tobacco Manufacturers and Merchants, and having its principal office at 2711 Centerville Road, Suite 300, Wilmington, Delaware, 19808, United States of America is the owner and sole proprietor of the following Trademark:-



Reg. No. 4/ 7535/2007

Used in respect of:-

"Cigarettes, tobacco, tobacco products, cigarette filters, smokers' articles, lighters, matches." (International Class 34)

Any unauthorised use, imitation, infringements or fraudulent intentions of the above mark will be dealt with according to law.

Tin Ohnmar Tun

B.A (LAW) LL.B, LL.M (UK)
P.O.Box 109, Ph: 723043
(For British American Tobacco (Brands) Inc., U.S.A)
Dated. 21 May 2008

DONATE BLOOD

TRADEMARK CAUTIONARY NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **Union Carbide Corporation**, a Company organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York, USA at 39 Old Ridgebury Road Danbury, Connecticut, USA Assigned to Eveready Battery Company, Inc., Checkerboard Square, St. Louis Missouri, USA which is the proprietor of the following Trademark in several countries of the world including Myanmar:

ENERGIZER

(Myanmar Registration No.4/1527/1980)
(Myanmar Registration No.4/5607/1998)

The aforesaid trademark is being used by the above party in respect of international class 9 "Electric Dry cells and batteries"

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use or any other infringement whatsoever of the said Trademarks will be dealt with according to the laws prevailing in Myanmar.
U Myint Lwin, Advocate, LL.B, DBL
Dip in Marine Affairs (UK)

myintadvocate@mptmail.net.mm
Ph: 371 990 21.May.2008

20 dead as bus plunges into river in W Nepal

KATHMANDU, 20 May — At least 20 people were killed and other 28 were injured after a commuter bus plummeted into the Rapti River in Dang District in mid-western Nepal Monday morning, local media reported.

There were another 40 remained missing, while eight of the injured were in critical condition, reported a leading website THT Online.

The passenger bus, with dozens of pilgrims on board, was bound for Swargadwari in Pyuthan District from Krishnanagar of Kapilvastu District when it plunged into the river, some 150 metres below the road, the report said.

The report cited District Superintendent of Police Dhruva Mahara as saying that some 20 bodies had been recovered but the deceased were yet to be identified.

About 33 people have been rescued, the report said. — MNA/Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (188)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (188) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.5.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES PTE LTD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Mexico police chief quits after drug gang threats

CIUDAD JUAREZ, 19 May—A Mexican police chief has quit his post across the border from El Paso, Texas, after receiving death threats from drug gangs that are striking back at a crackdown on smugglers, an official said on Sunday.

Ciudad Juarez's top policeman Guillermo Prieto resigned just days after suspected cartel hit men killed the city's No 2 police officer.

A former Army officer will replace Prieto on Monday. The army has sent more than 1,000 troops with heavy weaponry and helicopters to quell rampant violence in the city.

"This is about keeping (Prieto) safe," said a source in the city's police department who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Six high-ranking

police officers have been killed in Mexico in the last two weeks as President Felipe Calderon steps up his battle against drug traffickers.

Calderon has sent 25,000 troops and federal police to fight cartels across Mexico since 2006. That includes 2,700 troops deployed last week to the Pacific coast state of Sinaloa, home to a federation of drug gangs run by Joaquin "Shorty" Guzman.

Violence has surged in Ciudad Juarez as Guzman's gang and its main rival, the Gulf Cartel, war over smuggling routes on the US border.

More than 2,500 people have died in drug violence so far this year, including more than 200 people in Ciudad Juarez.

MNA/Reuters

Tokyo evacuates 16,000 to defuse wartime bomb

TOKYO, 19 May—Tokyo ordered about 16,000 residents to evacuate on Sunday while a bomb squad disposed of an unexploded bomb believed to have fallen during World War II in western Tokyo, *Kyodo News* said. Ground Self-Defence Force members removed the fuse of the bomb in a two-hour operation earlier in the day, and the Chofu City government declared the area safe and called off the alert, *Kyodo* said.

MNA/Reuters

Philippines warns against illegal match-makers

MANILA, 19 May—The Philippine Embassy in Seoul, South Korea, has warned against illegal matchmaking agencies after learning that some Filipina women married South Korean men through illegal match-making agencies, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said in a statement posted on its website Sunday.

The DFA quoted Philippine Ambassador to South Korea Luis Cruz as saying in a report these agencies act as a front for mailorder brides amidst reports that the South Korean Government is set to crack down on interracial matchmaking agencies that violate local laws and use deceptive advertising.

MNA/Xinhua

Strike by ground staff hits six Norwegian airports

OSLO, 19 May—Ground staff at six Norwegian airports began an indefinite strike over pay on Friday, stranding up to 20,000 passengers before Norway's biggest holiday weekend, civil aviation authority Avinor said.

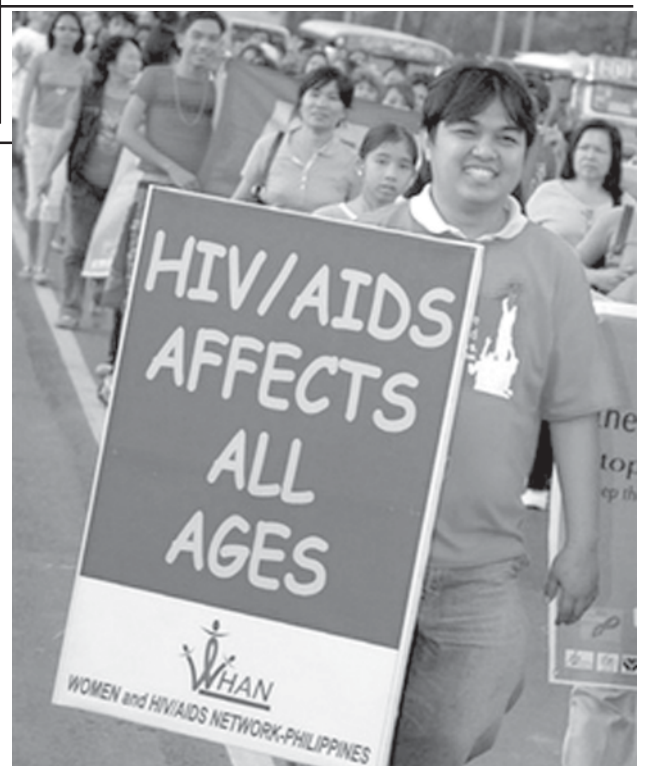
The airport in Bergen, Norway's second largest city, was closed and the stoppage threatened to affect the main International Airport in Oslo, Avinor said.

"There are a lot of people travelling to be with their families on Constitution Day (17 May), so this conflict is affecting thousands," Avinor spokesman Sindre Aanonsen said, adding that between 15,000 and 20,000 passengers were stranded.

"If the strike continues it may affect Oslo," he said. The capital's Gardermoen airport is Scandinavia's second busiest hub after Copenhagen.

Other airports affected were Harstad, Narvik, Molde, Mo i Rana and Mosjoen. "We have made our offer and it was rejected by the unions. It is out of our hands and it's really impossible to say when this will be resolved," Aanonsen said.—MNA/Reuters

Activists hold a protest to mark World AIDS Day in Manila in early December 2007. The campaign against AIDS marks the 20th anniversary this week of the publication of a ground-breaking medical paper which described a suspect virus found in a patient who had died of the disease.—INTERNET



Jordan's Queen receives honorary degree in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 19 May — Queen Rania Al Abdullah of Jordan received a honorary doctorate degree in international relations from Universiti Malaya (UM), Malaysia's oldest and premier university here on Friday.

She received the degree from UM chancellor Sultan Azlan Shah in a special convocation

at the university.

Queen Rania is the second recipient of the degree after Malaysia's former permanent representative to the United Nations Razali Ismail who received it in 2006.

The degree was in recognition of the contributions and commitment by Queen Rania who had played a key role in nurturing values of

tolerance and acceptance of the global community by encouraging inter-cultural dialogues, UM vice-chancellor Rafiah Salim said.

After the ceremony, Queen Rania briefly met local and foreign students and witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding between UM and University of Jordan. — MNA/Xinhua



Gardeners are seen planting flowers and plants, to form the country flags of Turkey, Switzerland, Austria, the Czech Republic and Portugal around the famous flower clock in the centre of Geneva, Switzerland, on 19 May, 2008. Turkey, the Czech Republic, Portugal and hosting country Switzerland in Geneva will play matches in the Group A of the upcoming European Soccer Championships from 7 to 29 June, 2008.—INTERNET

British scientists develop gene to treat heart patients

LONDON, 19 May — British researchers have developed a new gene therapy with the potential to treat heart patients with an injection instead of risky transplant surgery. According to reports from *The Sunday Telegraph*, the new therapy, the first of its kind in Britain, inserts a gene carried by a modified virus into the patient's heart muscle cells.

The therapy could help the cardiac muscles around the damaged tissue

caused by a cardiac arrest to beat harder and faster and allow the heart to recover most of its original functions, said researchers from Harefield Hospital in Middlesex and Imperial College London.

The gene, known as SERCA2a, could increase heartbeats produced by the undamaged heart muscle and compensating for the damaged tissue because it causes heart muscle cells to contract more strongly and relax faster, the researchers

noted.

The researchers have been given approval to use the genetically modified virus to treat 16 patients waiting for heart transplants, according to the daily.

"We are aiming to make most of the heart muscle that a patient has left after a heart attack," said Professor Sian Harding, a cardiac pharmacologist at Imperial College London leading the trial.

MNA/Xinhua

Diet, exercise tied to cancer survivor's well-being

NEW YORK, 19 May — Just 5 per cent of US cancer survivors are meeting experts' recommendations on diet, physical activity and cigarette smoking, a new survey shows.

But the more recommendations a cancer survivor did meet, the better his or her health-related quality of life (HRQoL), Dr Christopher Blanchard, of Dalhousie University in Halifax, Canada, and colleagues found.

"It appears that meeting multiple lifestyle recommendations may

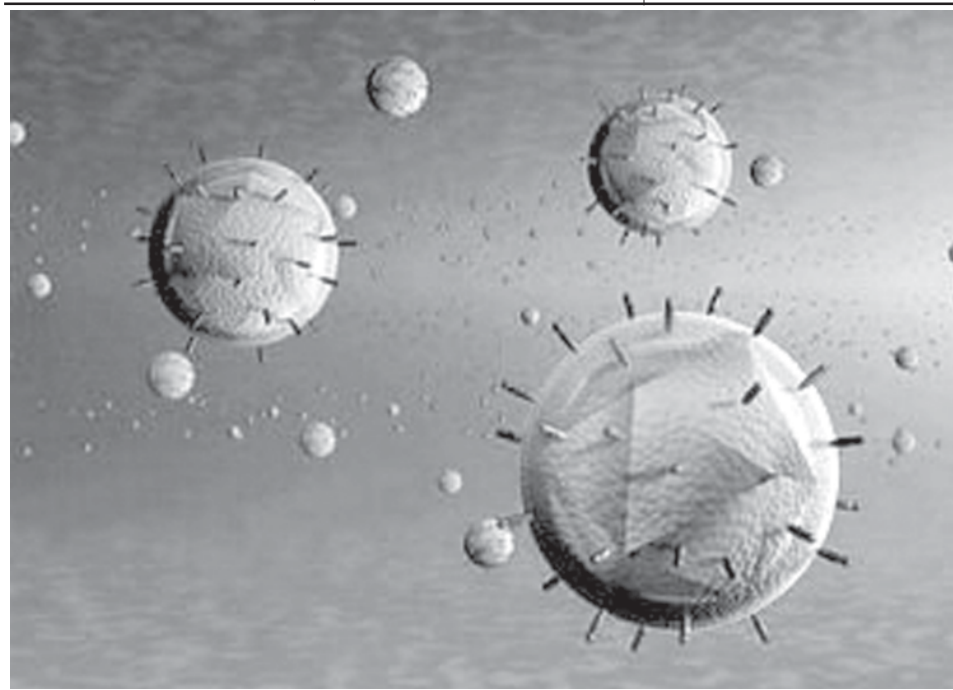
not only be beneficial from a cancer recurrence/mortality perspective, but also from a HRQoL perspective," they write in the 1 May issue of the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*.

In 2006, the American Cancer Society issued three recommendations on healthy lifestyle behaviours for America's more than 10 million cancer survivors: get at least 150 minutes of moderate-to-strenuous exercise, or an hour of strenuous physical activity every week; eat at least five servings of fruits and vegetables daily; and quit smoking. But research done in the US and Australia has shown that many cancer

survivors do not follow these recommendations.

To investigate the percentage of US cancer survivors who followed the recommendations, and see if doing so had a relationship to health-related quality of life, the researchers surveyed 9,105 survivors of six different types of cancer. Roughly 15 per cent to 19 per cent were eating at least five servings of fruit and vegetables daily, the researchers found, while 30 per cent to 47 per cent were getting the recommended amount of exercise. From 83 per cent to 92 per cent had quit smoking.

MNA/Reuters



A computer generated image of Hepatitis C viruses. The World Hepatitis Alliance has said that chronic hepatitis, which infects 10 times more people than HIV, should be given the same attention such as AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. — INTERNET

Mexican police seize 7 tons of drugs

MEXICO CITY, 19 May — Mexican police seized about five tons of drugs in the Gulf of California and more than two tons at the International Airport of

Mexico City on Saturday, authorities said on Sunday.

Three ships were found on Saturday transporting more than 4.8 tons of marijuana off Yavaros Bay in the Gulf of California, and were detained seven sea miles (about 12.9 kilometres) from the shore by the police, Mexico's Marine-Army Ministry said. Meanwhile, Federal Preventive Police seized 2.4 tons of pseudoephedrine delivered from India and Holland at the International Airport of Mexico City, said Federal Public Security Ministry. — MNA/Xinhua

Chinese Cultural Week opens in Spain

MADRID, 19 May — A cultural exchange event aimed at showcasing China's colourful culture opened Saturday in Pozuelo de Alarcon, a city near the Spanish capital of Madrid.

At an opening ceremony, city officials said that since Pozuelo de Alarcon established relations of friendly exchanges with Beijing's Xicheng District in 2006, the two sides have launched exchange events in the fields of economy, culture and social affairs. The

Chinese Cultural Week will promote understanding and friendship between the two peoples, said the officials. Chinese Ambassador to Spain Qiu Xiaoqi expressed the hope that the event would enhance the development of friendly ties between the two countries. Some 200 people, including Spanish officials and representatives of expatriate Chinese in Spain, attended the opening ceremony of the Chinese Cultural Week, which will last until 30 May. — MNA/Xinhua

Wildfire burns homes, forces evacuation in W Canada

OTTAWA, 19 May — Two homes were destroyed and several others damaged Friday when a wildfire broke out in western Canada's Alberta province, authorities said on Saturday.

All of the 150 residents were evacuated from Newbrook, an agricultural community north of provincial capital Edmonton. A state of emergency has been declared for the area. Bulldozers have been used to build fireguards around the community and four air tankers are being used to attack the fire from the skies. The wildfire is getting under control Saturday, firefighters said. — MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

China's Sun upbeat despite uncertain City future

BANGKOK, 19 May — China international Sun Jihai remains in the dark about his Manchester City future but insists he still has what it takes to play in the Premier League.

Sun has yet to be told if his contract will be renewed but still expects to play in England next season after several teams expressed an interest in signing the versatile 30-year-old.

"I'm still very fit, still loving to play," Sun told reporters after City's 3-1 defeat by a Thailand all-stars side in Bangkok on Saturday.

"I'd love to stay playing in English football. I haven't had an answer from the club about renewing my contract. I'm happy but I want to know where I'll be playing."

Sun, who joined City six years ago from China's Dalian Shide, added that he had been contacted by several English teams.

MNA/Reuters

Portsmouth look forward to debut season in Europe

LONDON, 19 May — FA Cup winners Portsmouth were cautiously relishing a maiden European campaign in next season's UEFA Cup after winning the FA Cup for the first time since 1939.

Harry Redknapp's side beat Cardiff City 1-0 in Saturday's final to secure their first major title since winning the league championship in 1950, but coach Joe Jordan insisted that the club must now look to progress further.

"We've got try and make sure that we don't stand still," Jordan told Sky Sports News before the team departed for a victory parade on the south coast later on Sunday.

"The chairman has been great with Harry and allowed him to do that and progress and bring players in. Now we're in the UEFA Cup, we'll certainly be looking to strengthen the squad."

Portsmouth look forward to playing in Europe for the first time knowing that with internationals like Lassana Diarra, David James, Sol Campbell, Niko Kranjcar and Jermain Defoe — cup tied on Saturday — they have the players to compete.

MNA/Reuters

ပညာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
ကျောင်းအပ်နှံရေးသီတင်းပတ်
မေလ ၂၅ ရက် မှ ၃၁ ရက် အထိ



ကျောင်းနေအရွယ်ကလေး ကျောင်းအပ်နှံရေး
ပြည်သူ့အားလုံး ပါဝင်ဆောင်ရွက်ပေး



Germany's Dennis Gremelmayr returns a ball during his 1st round match against Feliciano Lopez from Spain at the ARAG ATP World Team Cup in Duesseldorf, western Germany on 19 May, 2008. Lopez defeated Gremelmayr 6-4 and 6-3.—INTERNET



Real Madrid's captain Raul Gonzalez, right, and teammate Jose Maria Gutierrez 'Guti', left, celebrate with the La Liga trophy at the Madrid's regional government building in Madrid, on 19 May, 2008. Real Madrid celebrate winning their 31st Spanish league title.—INTERNET

Hiddink says contract stalemate could hurt Russian hopes

Moscow, 19 May — Russia coach Guus Hiddink warned on Sunday that his protracted contract negotiations could have a negative effect on the team during Euro 2008.

Hiddink was reported to have signed a new two-year deal in March but last week he criticised Russian FA president Vitaly Mutko for dragging out the contract negotiations.

"If I don't have it ready by Euro 2008, it's not the end of the world. I have a verbal agreement with the Russian FA and for me a handshake is just as good as a signed deal," Hiddink told Reuters as his

side began preparations for next month's finals in Austria and Switzerland. "But of course, ideally I would love to have it done before Euro 2008 because it could distract the team's attention."

The highly successful coach, who led his native Netherlands to the 1998 World Cup semi-finals before repeating the feat with South Korea four years later, has been repeatedly linked with top coaching jobs around the world. "If I go to Euro 2008 without a contract then every Western media would love to talk about my future. Probably at every news conference I will be asked that question.—MNA/Reuters

Twente Enschede beat Ajax to Champions League spot

AMSTERDAM, 19 May — Twente Enschede drew 0-0 with Ajax Amsterdam in the Dutch playoff final second leg on Sunday to secure a place in the Champions League third qualifying round 2-1 on aggregate. Twente will play in the competition for the first time while Ajax, who finished the regular season as runners-up to champions PSV Eindhoven, have to settle for the UEFA Cup.

Twente dominated much of the match although Ajax forward Luis Suarez had the best chance midway through the first half when he shot narrowly wide.

Twente's Youssouf Hersi squandered three opportunities to settle the tie while Swedish midfielder Rasmus Lindgren came close for Ajax in the last minute but Sander Boschker saved. In the playoff for a UEFA Cup first round place, Jermain Lens struck in the 62nd minute to give NEC Nijmegen a 1-0 victory at NAC Breda after winning the first leg 6-0. —MNA/Reuters



Boxing promoter Don King, right, celebrates Japanese challenger Yusuke Kabori after defeating Nicaraguan champion Jose Alfaro with a TKO in the third round during their WBA lightweight title match in Tokyo, Japan, on 19 May, 2008.—INTERNET

Italian police injured in clashes at Inter match

ROME, 19 May — Two Italian police officers were injured during clashes with fans before a soccer match in Parma on Sunday, local media reported.

A 28-year-old policeman suffered multiple abdominal injuries and was admitted to a local hospital. Italy's ANSA news agency later said his condition was not as serious as initially feared and that he was expected to recover within around three weeks.

The other officer was injured by rocks hurled at him by fans during clashes outside the stadium, it said.

MNA/Reuters

Bulgaria rocked by final-day crowd violence

SOFIA, 19 May — Bulgarian football was rocked by another outbreak of crowd violence as rival fans clashed during CSKA Sofia's game at Vihren on the final day of the season on Saturday.

A group of Lokomotiv Plovdiv supporters, who travelled to the southern town of Sandanski to fight CSKA fans, attacked the CSKA enclosure from outside the stadium, throwing missiles, stones and bottles, according to police reports.

One man was seriously injured and several suffered minor injuries while the match was held up for 10 minutes in the second half as police struggled to restore order.

Champions CSKA won the match 2-1. They clinched their 31st league title earlier this month in front of an empty stadium at Botev Plovdiv, themselves being punished for crowd violence. Trouble continued outside the ground, the CSKA team bus pelted with stones while police said they had arrested 40 fans on Saturday night. Six policemen suffered minor injuries.

"We detained the hooligans and they'll be charged on Sunday," police commissar Konstantin Tatyayov told reporters. —MNA/Reuters

သဘာဝဘေးအန္တရာယ်ကျရောက်သောဒေသများရှိ ပြည်သူများအတွက် ကျန်းမာရေးသတိပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်

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

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Storm kills 12 in Philippine north, heads for Japan

MANILA, 20 May— A tropical storm swirled out to sea off the northern Philippines on Monday after killing 12 people, destroying homes and flooding rice paddies, weather and disaster officials said.

Halong, a tropical storm with winds of 95 kilometres per hour at its centre, lost strength as it made landfall on Luzon's northwestern region on Sunday, and was headed to southern Japan by early Tuesday.

The National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) reported 12 people had died, about half of them pinned down by fallen trees or hit by flying debris in the provinces of Pangasinan, La Union and Zambales.

About 35,000 people were affected by the storm, most of them marooned by floods and landslides. Wide

areas remained without electricity as strong winds toppled electric posts and tripped power lines.

"It would take at least a month to restore 100 per cent power in my province," said Amado Espino, the governor of Pangasinan, one of two provinces hardest hit by Halong.

Espino said about 158 million pesos (3.7 million US dollars) worth of crops such as rice and vegetables were destroyed by floods and hundreds of houses made of light material were damaged by strong winds.

MNA/Reuters

Over 200 road workers buried by mud flows in Sichuan

BEIJING, 20 May— More than 200 workers were buried in the past two days by frequent mud flows while repairing roads damaged in the 12 May Sichuan earthquake, said Dai Dongchang, an official with the Ministry of Transport on Monday.

Dai said this at an

online interview with the central government website (www.gov.cn). It's not clear if they had died or not. Dai is not immediately available for comment.

Two construction machines and six vehicles were also buried in the mud flows, he said.

MNA/Xinhua



Wednesday, 21 May
View on today

7:00 am

1. တောင်းတန်းသာသနာပြု ဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. မြူးမြူးကြွကြွယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက

7:55 am

5. Musical programme

8:30 am

6. International news

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:10 pm

2. ပြည်ထောင်စုတိုင်းရင်းသား ရိုးရာအက

4:20 pm

3. Musical programme

4:35 pm

4. သီချင်းကြီးပဒေသာ

4:45 pm

5. မျိုးချစ်စိတ်ဓာတ်ရှင်သန် ထက်မြက်ရေးတေးများ

4:50 pm

6. ရုပ်မြင်ရသတေးစုကဏ္ဍ

5:00 pm

7. ရှုဖွယ်စုံလင်အာဆီယံအစီအစဉ်

5:05 pm

8. Musical programme

6:00 pm

9. Evening news

6:30 pm

10. Weather report

6:35 pm

11. Musical programme

6:50 pm

12. ထက်မြက်ပျော်ရွှင်အိမ်ထောင်ရှင်

7:20 pm

13. Musical programme

7:35 pm

14. Musical programme

8:00 pm

15. News

16. International news

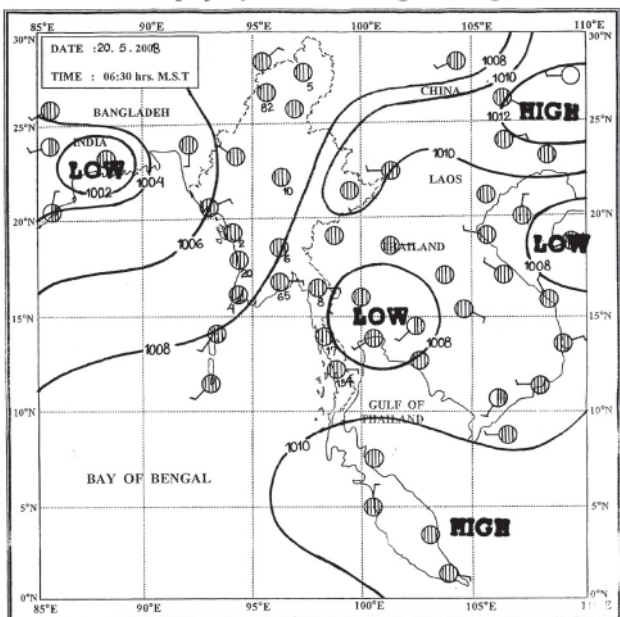
17. Weather report

18. မြန်မာ့ရုပ်ရှင်

“သိပ်ချစ်တယ်ဒီက”(အင်း-၂) (ရန်အောင်စိုးသူထွန်းအိန္ဒြာဇို၊ မေမာဉာဉ်း) (ဒါရိုက်တာ- သီဟကျော်စိုးသမီး-ငါ့ပြာရည်)

WEATHER

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



MODERATE calm 5 mph 10 mph 15 mph

ROUGH 1/4 covered 1/2 covered overcast

VERY ROUGH Thunder with rain Rain / Drizzle

Pressure in hPa 1 Low pressure area Depression Cyclonic Storm

Tuesday, 20 May, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours

MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Magway Division, scattered in upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, fairly widespread in lower Sagaing Division, Kayah and Kayin States and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavy falls in Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and isolated heavy fall in upper Sagaing Division. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below May average temperatures in Shan, Rakhine and Kayin States, Mandalay, Magway upper Sagaing and Bago Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) below May average temperatures in Kachin State and Taninthayi Divisions and about May average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (0.07) inch, Myeik (5.28) inches, Kawthoung (5.08) inches, Yangon (Mingaladon) (3.74) inches, Yangon (Kaba-Aye) (3.62) inches, Yangon (Central) (3.54) inches, Hkamti (3.23) inches and Ye (1.96) inches.

Maximum temperature on 19-5-2008 was 89°F. Minimum temperature on 20-5-2008 was 70°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 20-5-2008 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 19-5-2008 was (0.5) hour approx.

Rainfall on 20-5-2008 was (3.74) inches at Mingaladon, (3.62) inches at Kaba-Aye and (3.54) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (27.44) inches at Mingaladon, (31.57) inches at Kaba-Aye and (33.82) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum

wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (10) mph from Southwest at (13:30) hours MST on 19-5-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 21-5-2008: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Shan, Kayah States and Mandalay Divisions, fairly widespread in Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Rakhine State, Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph.

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 21-5-2008: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 21-5-2008: Some rain which may be heavy at times. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 21-5-2008: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee issues News Release No. 6

NAY PYI TAW, 20 May—The National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee issued News Release No. 6 today.

The full text of the announcement is as follows:—

News Release No. 6

1. Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, accompanied by officials, has inspected relief and rehabilitation tasks around Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions since 18 May.
2. After comforting the victims, the Senior General gave guidance on collection of precise data and figures and effective implementation of rehabilitation works after laying down plans systematically. He also gave guidance on compilation of the list of orphans in the storm-hit areas and opening of orphanages in Pyapon District and Labutta.
3. For the time being, the collected storm-victim children are under care according to a special programme in Maubin and Myaungmya, and plans are under way to comply with the guidance stated in para (2).

National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee

Date: 20-5-2008

Place: Nay Pyi Taw

State Flag flown at half mast to mourn victims

YANGON, 20 May—The storm Nargis hit Ayeyawady, Yangon and Bago divisions and Mon and Kayin states starting from 9 am on 2 May to 12.30 pm on 4 May. The State Peace and Development Council issued Announcement No 6/2008 on 19 May that the Cyclone hit Ayeyawady and Yangon divisions, claiming many lives and causing enormous destruction to houses, religious buildings, schools, hospitals, watercraft, crop plantations, and food supplies, and the three days from 20 May to 22 May 2008 inclusive were designated as the days of

mourning for the loss of lives of the people and the flags had to be flown at half mast.

Therefore, State flags were seen flying at half mast starting from 9 am today to mourn the victims at the government offices, City Hall, district, township, ward PDC offices, schools, hospitals, hotels and houses in Nay Pyi Taw.

Similarly, State flags were being flown at half mast starting from 9 am at the government offices, City Hall, offices of the Division, District, Township and

Ward Peace and Development Councils, schools, hospitals, hotels and houses in Yangon Division. Foreign embassies in Yangon were also flying the State flags of the nations concerned at half mast.

Likewise, State flags were seen flying at half mast to mourn the victims starting from 9 am at the government offices and houses the whole country including Mandalay, Taunggyi and Patheingyi. In like manner, vehicles and people made a three-minute silence to mourn the victims at 9:00 today.—MNA

INSIDE

Let's replace earth bricks with stone ones (2)

The strings attached to the relief supplies carried by warships and military helicopters are not acceptable to the Myanmar people. We can manage by ourselves. Myanmar has many good neighbourly countries. The people remain united in times of emergency. Now, we have achieved success in the relief and rehabilitation tasks to a certain degree.

KYAW MIN LU
(SHWEPYITHA)

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A flag being flown at half mast at City Hall in Yangon.—MNA