

Senior General Than Shwe inspects relief and rehabilitation measures in storm-hit Mawlamyinekyun, Bogale

Government taking relief, rehabilitation and preventive measures against natural disasters for storm-hit regions and victims

NAY PYI TAW, 22 May—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, accompanied by General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, SPDC member Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence and officials of the

SPDC Office, left Patheingyi by Tatmadaw helicopter yesterday morning and arrived at Mawlamyinekyun of Myaungmya District at 9.30 am to comfort the storm victims there, after inspecting relief and rehabilitation activities in storm-hit regions of Ayeyawady Division.

The Senior General and party were welcomed by Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, who is closely supervising the relief and rehabilitation tasks in Mawlamyinekyun region.

At the hall of the local battalion, Minister Col Thein Nyunt reported to the Senior General on relief and rehabilitation measures being taken in Mawlamyinekyun region, distribution of relief supplies, supply of water through three methods namely, rain water storage lakes, pumps and tube-wells, timely repairing of schools, departmental buildings, hospitals, dispensaries and religious buildings, contributions of A-1 Co, TZTM Co and Original Group Co to

(See page 8)



Senior General Than Shwe comforts patients who are receiving medical treatment at Bogale People's Hospital.—MNA

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 23 May, 2008

New roads projects under way in storm-hit areas

Some areas in Ayeyawady and Yangon divisions faced loss of lives and property due to the recent storm. Now, rehabilitation works are being carried out with added momentum. The central level body is providing emergency supplies such as rice, food, plastic sheets and medicines, and arrangements are being made for delivering the supplies to the victims in time.

Relevant companies are contributing assistance to the plans for renovation and reconstruction of the religious buildings, schools, township people's hospitals and government offices in the storm-affected areas.

Moreover, plans are under way to build seasonal shelters, render farm implements, rice, clean water and household utensils to those victims who want to resettle in their home towns and villages of their own accord, and enable them to resume their transport services, agricultural works and fisheries.

While implementing rehabilitation tasks for the victims in the areas, plans will be laid down and pursued for improving the education and health standards of the entire regions. In the process, Pyapon People's Hospital will be upgraded to a 200-bed facility and Bogale, Mawlamyinegyun and Labutta township people's hospitals, to 100-bed ones to provide better health care to the people in Ayeyawady Division.

Not only that, new roads in Maubin, Mawlamyinegyun, Labutta and Bogale will also be extended to the areas around the sea in order to improve local transport and scale up preparedness work against possible future natural disasters in the long run.

The government is now carrying out relief and rehabilitation undertakings in accordance with the requirements of the region concerned in the affected areas, while the entire people including national entrepreneurs are participating with heart and soul in the humanitarian tasks. So, the whole areas will enjoy better living conditions in the economic, education, health and communication sectors soon.

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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

Planting of rubber plants inspected in Buthidaung

NAY PYI TAW, 22 May—Maj-Gen Khin Zaw of the Ministry of Defence and Chairman of the Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Maung Shein inspected planting of rubber plants at the forward camp of Myanma Industrial Crops Development Enterprise (Perennial) in Buthidaung on 20 May.

At the briefing hall, they heard reports by officials on cultivating of rubber plants in the township and planting of 0.1 million rubber plants at Mount Maru. Maj-Gen Khin Zaw stressed the need to have records on expenses in a year and to make arrangement not to let the saplings waste.

Buthidaung Township starts planting of rubber plants since 2005-2006 fiscal year. So far, the township has planted 1488 rubber plant against the target of 2500 and is trying to meet the target.

Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and party arrived in Maungdaw in the evening.— MNA

MRPA meets Japanese Counsellor

YANGON, 22 May—General-Secretary of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry Chairman of Myanmar Rice Producers Association U Sein Win Hlaing received Counsellor of Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Mitsuji Suzuka and Second Secretary Mr Atsushi Igarashi at the office of the federation this morning.

Also present at the call were Association Secretary U Hlaing Soe, Joint-Secretary U Sein Htwe and CEC members U Thaung Win, U Saw Mya Din and U Kyaw Hlaing.

They discussed matters related to rendering relief aid to the storm victims by the Japanese Government and the people, distribution of seeds and farm equipment for land reclamation and crop cultivation in the affected areas and cooperation between the two countries for continued assistance.

MNA

Appointment of ambassador agreed on

NAY PYI TAW, 22 May—The Government of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of HE Mr Yaron Mayer as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Israel to the Union of Myanmar.

Mr Yaron Mayer was born on 9 September 1959. He holds a B.A Hons. (Political Science) from Haifa University. From 1978 to 1982, he served in the Israel Defense Forces. Mr Yaron Mayer worked at Kibbutz Ein-Hashofet from 1982 to 1989. He served briefly as a teaching assistant at Haifa University from 1992 to 1993.

Mr Yaron Mayer joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel in 1993. He has served at various capacities at Israeli Embassies in Hungary, and India. Mr Yaron Mayer is currently a deputy director at Southeast Asia Department, Asia and the Pacific Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel.—MNA



President of Myanmar Medical Association (Central) Prof Dr Kyaw Myint Naing accepts K 1 million and medicines worth over K 10 million donated by wellwishers of Asian Development Bank in Manila, Philippine on 22 May.—H



UMFCCI General-Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing meets Japanese Counsellor Mr Mitsuji Suzuka.

UMFCCI



Rescuers carry an injured onto the train at the Jiangyou Railway Station in Jiangyou, southwest China's Sichuan Province, on 21 May, 2008. More than 300 people injured in the 12 May quake hitting Sichuan were transferred by a special train to Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province, on 21 May.—XINHUA

Arab mediators set deadline for Doha talks

BEIRUT, 22 May—Qatar-led Arab mediators on Tuesday set Wednesday as the deadline for Lebanese rival leaders to reach a deal on ending the country's political crisis, local New TV reported.

Qatari Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Ahmad Abdullah al-Mahmood announced in a Press conference in Doha that the Arab ministerial committee presented to Lebanese leaders two proposals and hoped them

to agree on one of them by tomorrow, said the report.

"The two proposals will not be revealed, and hopefully the Lebanese leaders will agree on one of them tomorrow," said the statement read by the minister.

The statement said that one of the Lebanese groups asked for more time to give an answer to one of the proposals, but the Arab committee set a deadline for the final answer for Wednesday.

Lebanese rival leaders have reached a deadlock over the election law after four days of talks in Qatar capital Doha.

Lebanese rival leaders have been in Qatar since Saturday trying to reach an agreement on the national unity government and the election law in order to "crown" this agreement by electing the consensus president.

MNA/Xinhua

Britain plans to store all e-mails, phone calls

LONDON, 22 May—A massive government database which would store everybody's e-mails, Internet information, phone-calls and text messages is being considered to help security forces in the fight against crime and terrorism.

At the moment, records of phone-calls and text messages are kept up to 12 months by telecoms companies in compliance with an anti-terrorism European Union directive.

But a new Home Office proposal would see Internet service providers (ISPs) and telecoms companies handing over records containing billions of e-mails as well as Internet usage and voice-over-Internet calls, media

reports said on Tuesday.

Police and security services would be able to have access to the information after seeking permission from the courts. The Home Office said communication methods had changed rapidly during the past 15 years.

MNA/Reuters

Stocks tumble on \$135 oil, Fed meeting minutes

NEW YORK, 22 May—Wall Street pitched lower for the second straight session Wednesday as record-high oil prices and a bleak economic assessment from the Federal Reserve deepened investors' worry about rising costs and a shaky employment picture. The Dow Jones industrial average

fell 227 points, logging its widest two-day loss since late February.

Early in the day, stocks began falling on the surging price of oil, which shot up more than \$4 and breached \$135 a barrel for the first time on the futures market Wednesday. The stock market slumped further after minutes from

WASHINGTON, 22 May—Democrats in Kentucky and Oregon are casting their ballots Tuesday, as the presidential nominating contest between Senator Barack Obama and Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton approaches to the end.

There are 51 pledged delegates at stake in Kentucky and 52 in Oregon. Clinton, a Democrat from New

York, is the overwhelming favourite to win Kentucky, while Obama, a Democrat from Illinois, holds an edge in Oregon, according to opinion polls.

Polling places opened at 6 am (1000 GMT) and were scheduled to close at 6 pm (2200 GMT) in most of Kentucky.

Polls in Oregon opened at 7 am (1400 GMT) in most of the state and were closing at 8 pm (0300

GMT Wednesday).

Heading into Tuesday's primaries, Obama had 1,915 total delegates to Clinton's 1,721, with a total of 2,026 needed to secure the nomination at the Democratic National Convention in Denver in late August, according to an *Associated Press* tally.

An MSNBC count put Obama's total at 1,901 and Clinton's at 1,724.

MNA/Xinhua

Abbas says no progress with Israel

AMMAN, 22 May—Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said no achievement has been made in talks with Israel and called for more American pressure on Israel, according to a statement *Xinhua* obtained Tuesday.

Abbas said during Monday's meeting with Secretary General of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) Nayef Hawatmeh in Amman that the negotiations have not made any progress on

issues of Jerusalem, border, settlements, refugees and political prisoners or peace and security, reported the statement issued by DFLP.

The Palestinian President called on the United States to respect international law and resolutions, and to pressure the Israeli Government for serious negotiations towards a comprehensive solution by the end of 2008.

He was partly referring to Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's expansion

policy in the West Bank and Jordan River Valley, and the takeover of Jerusalem, observers said.

Meanwhile, Hawatmeh called on Abbas to halt negotiations until the Israelis cease settlement activity and aggression.

He also called for "joint management in high political negotiations under the roof of the resolutions of international legitimacy and a national unity currently absent due to the larger internal division."

MNA/Reuters



Palestinians stand around a vehicle damaged after an Israeli air strike in the Jabalya camp, northern Gaza strip, on 21 May, 2008. In the latest violence in the Gaza Strip, an Israeli aircraft fired a missile at a car carrying a Hamas mortar crew. They fled the vehicle before the projectile hit and were unhurt but five passersby were wounded, medical workers said.—XINHUA

Heavy fighting erupts in Sudan oil town

KHARTOUM, 22 May—Heavy fighting erupted between Suda's Army and southern Sudanese forces in the disputed oil-rich town of Abyei on Tuesday, aid workers said. The fighting, which first erupted last week after a local dispute, is the latest of a series of clashes in the tense central Abyei region claimed by both Khartoum and semi-autonomous South Sudan.

More than three years after a 2005 north-south peace deal to end decades of civil war, the sides have not agreed on borders or a government for the region.

MNA/Reuters

Old rivals India, Pakistan resume peace process

ISLAMABAD, 21 May — Top Indian and Pakistani Foreign Ministry officials met on Tuesday to review their four-year-old peace process that has stalled since domestic political turmoil erupted in Pakistan last year.

The nuclear-armed rivals' foreign secretaries' meeting will be followed on Wednesday by talks between Indian External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee and his Pakistani counterpart, Shah

Mehmood Qureshi.

It is the first contact India has had with leaders of a new Pakistani civilian government and analysts in both Pakistan and India said Mukherjee will be sounding out Pakistan's new leaders.

Mukherjee said upon arrival that Pakistan's new democratic environment held great promise and he hoped progress the two countries had made would be consolidated, though that depended on an atmo-

sphere free from militant violence. "The present environment, I'm sure, will help us in addressing various issues related to peace, stability and economic development," Mukherjee said.

The officials discussed a so-called composite dialogue which covers eight areas including the divided Himalayan region of Kashmir, border disputes, terrorism and economic cooperation.

MNA/Reuters

Minority Palestinians believe Israel to stick to ceasefire

RAMALLAH, 21 May — The minority of Palestinians believe that Israel will agree and stick to a ceasefire with Hamas in the Gaza Strip, a new public opinion poll showed.

According to the poll, which involved 1300 people aged more than 18 years old, only 10.4 per cent of the surveyed people believed that Israel will abide by the lull that Egypt is trying to achieve.

The survey, made by al-Najah University between 15 May and 17 May, included 800 people in the Gaza Strip and 500 people in the West Bank. Its margin of error was plus or minus 3 per cent.

Hamas and the Palestinian factions have

accepted the Egyptian lull initiative and now are waiting to hear from Egypt about the Israeli response.

The poll also tackled the political developments in the Palestinian ter-

ritories, the resumption of peace talks between Israel and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and the feud between Hamas and Fatah.

MNA/Xinhua

US efforts to close Guantanamo at standstill

WASHINGTON, 21 May — US efforts to close the military-run prison at Guantanamo Bay have reached a standstill due to legal and practical problems, Defence Secretary Robert Gates said on Tuesday. "The brutally frank answer is that we're stuck and we're stuck in several ways," Gates told a US Senate hearing when asked about his desire to shut down the detention

site for terrorism suspects at the American naval base in Cuba.

Human rights groups and many governments, including allies of the United States, have called on the Bush Administration to close the prison, saying it violates international legal standards and harms America's standing in the world.

Gates has said he wanted to close the site,



Indian actress Aishwarya Rai (C) speaks to her father-in-law, actor Amitabh Bachchan (R), as she arrives with her husband, actor Abhishek Bachchan (L), for the screening of the film "Vicky Cristina Barcelona".—INTERNET

Iran's neighbours looking at nuclear power

LONDON, 21 May — Growing interest in atomic power among Iran's neighbours could spiral into a nuclear arms race in the volatile Middle East unless preventive measures are taken, a leading think-

tank said on Tuesday.

In a report, the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies said Iran's nuclear programme had prompted other states in the oil-rich region to consider acquiring nuclear technology.

"In the span of 11 months between February 2006 and January 2007, at least 13 countries in the Middle East announced

new or revived plans to pursue or explore civilian nuclear energy," said the report, entitled "Nuclear Programmes in the Middle East In the Shadow of Iran". "This upsurge of interest is remarkable given both the abundance of traditional energy sources in the region and the low standing to date of nuclear energy there."

MNA/Reuters

Ecuador builds plane producing microgravity

QUITO, 21 May — The Ecuadorean Space Agency has built the first Latin American plane that can produce a period of microgravity, the Agency said Monday.

The plane, a Sabreliner T-39, will be used for scientific experiments and for training astronauts, Ronnie Nader, director of special operations at the Agency, told the media.

The plane must reach its highest altitude and descend in a 47 degrees angle to produce microgravity for some 25 seconds before levelling off.

Microgravity is a state of very low gravity, but not perfect weightlessness. Nader said the crew floats inside the plane during the period of microgravity.

Developing the microgravity plane is part of the scientific Dedalo programme that will last 10 years, Nader said, adding that the plane will use a gravimeter of its own design to measure the microgravity.

MNA/Xinhua

Four Americans killed in Mexico near border

ROSARITO (Mexico), 21 May — Four people believed to be Americans were shot in the head and dumped in a notorious drug-smuggling area in northern Mexico near the border with California, Mexican police said on Monday.

Police in the beach town of Rosarito, across

the border from San Diego, said they discovered the bodies of three men and a woman on Sunday in an abandoned car in a remote patch of scrubland near the Pacific coast.

"The bodies had been there for at least a week. They were spotted by local people out hunting," a municipal police spokes-

man said.

Police concluded the victims were US citizens because the vehicle had California license plates, the three men were of African-American appearance, the woman was Caucasian and a US driver's license was found in the car, the spokesman said.—MNA/Reuters



This photo released by the US Navy shows a S-3B Viking. Venezuela on Monday denounced what it called the violation of its national airspace by a US military aircraft, and said it would demand an explanation from the US ambassador.—INTERNET

Singapore telecom launches mobile TV on phone

SINGAPORE, 21 May—Singapore Telecommunications Limited (SingTel), Southeast Asia's giant operator of telecommunications, launched its mobile TV service on Tuesday.

The new service provides live TV channels with electronic programme guide information and video-on-demand, said SingTel in a

statement.

Users who sign up for the service have a choice selection from SingTel's mobile service's content offerings - from popular local channels like Channel 8 Prime Time and Channel NewsAsia to premium channels like Mei Ah Movies Channel.

SingTel said it was the first operator in Singapore and one of the first in Asia

Pacific to launch a mobile TV client with true TV viewing experience on mobile phones.

"With Singapore's high mobile penetration rate and SingTel's customer base of over 2.5 million mobile users, the largest in Singapore, it makes sense to offer compelling content on our mobile platform so that Singaporeans have access to their favourite mobile TV content wherever they may be," SingTel's vice president of consumer marketing Wong Soon Nam said in the statement.

The application currently works on several Nokia phone models. SingTel said it is currently in discussions with other mobile handset manufacturers to support the service.—MNA/Xinhua



A green turtle swims in a tank at the Sunshine International Aquarium in Tokyo on 18 May, 2008.—XINHUA

EU farmers see WTO losses of at least 30bln euros

BRUSSELS, 21 May — Europe's farmers stand to lose sales worth at least 30 billion euros (47 billion US dollars) a year under new proposals floated to unblock world trade talks, a European farmers representative said on Tuesday. "From what we see, Europe

is not getting anything like that back on industrial goods and certainly not on services," Shelby Matthews, chief policy adviser for COPA COGECA, which represents European farmers, told Reuters. As part of a new push for a breakthrough in the World

Trade Organization's Doha negotiations for a global trade deal, mediators published new compromise proposals on Monday, spelling out where agreement might be found on farm and industrial goods.

MNA Reuters



French fishermen and farmers, protesting against high fuel costs, block the access of the oil terminal in the southwestern port of La Rochelle. A French fishermen's leader on Wednesday called an end to protests that crippled cross-Channel traffic after the government agreed to unlock promised aid.—INTERNET



A worker wipes the price display board at a gasoline station in Manila on 21 May, 2008. Rising prices of oil and other commodities have stoked fears of inflation and posed problems for central banks under pressure to cut interest rates to stimulate slowing economies. XINHUA

Brazil creates big job opportunities in Jan-April 2008

RIO DE JANEIRO, 21 May—Brazil created record-high job opportunities during the January-April period this year, the country's Labour Ministry announced Monday.

Some 848,000 jobs were

created in the first four months of this year, a year-on-year hike of 21 per cent, according to figures released by the ministry.

Over the past 12 months, formal employment in the South American nation increased 6.29 per cent, meaning that over 1,700,000 jobs were created. In April alone, more than 290,000 formal jobs were created, up 1 per cent from March and the second best result ever recorded in April, the ministry said.

MNA/Xinhua

Suez Energy wins bid for hydro-power plant in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 21 May—A consortium led by French-Belgian multinational Suez Energy won the public bidding Monday to build a hydroelectric power plant in the Amazon rainforest region.

The Suez group, Consorcio Energia Sustentavel, offered to produce energy at 71.4 reals (43.53 US dollars) per megawatt hour, 21.6 per cent below the auction's established

price cap.

Jirau Energia, the rival consortium, offered 78.9 reals (48.1 dollars) per megawatt hour.

Suez Energy holds a 50.1-per-cent stake in the winning bidder, which is also comprised of Brazilian companies Camargo Correa Investimentos, Eletrosul Centrais Eletricas and Companhia Hidreletrica do Sao Francisco.

MNA/Xinhua

Brazil's Petrobras beats Microsoft in market value

RIO DE JANEIRO, 21 May—Brazil's state-owned oil and gas company Petrobras has become the third "most valuable" company of the Americas, ahead of Microsoft, consulting firm Economica said Monday.

Based on the price of its stocks on Friday, Petrobras' market value was estimated at 287.2 billion US dollars, while Microsoft's was at 279.3 billion US dollars.

Economica said Petrobras' preferential stocks had risen over 110 per cent and Microsoft's dropped 3.5 per cent in the past one year. The performance of the Brazilian oil and gas giant was attributed mainly to the discovery of huge deep-water fields that could convert the company into one of the 10 biggest oil and gas producers in the world.

US oil giant Exxon Mobil topped Eco-

nomica's list of the American continent's biggest companies, with a market value of 489 billion US dollars, followed by General Electric at 320 billion US dollars.

Apart from Petrobras, other Latin American companies such as Brazilian miner Vale and Mexican telecom company America Movil were also on the list.

MNA/Xinhua

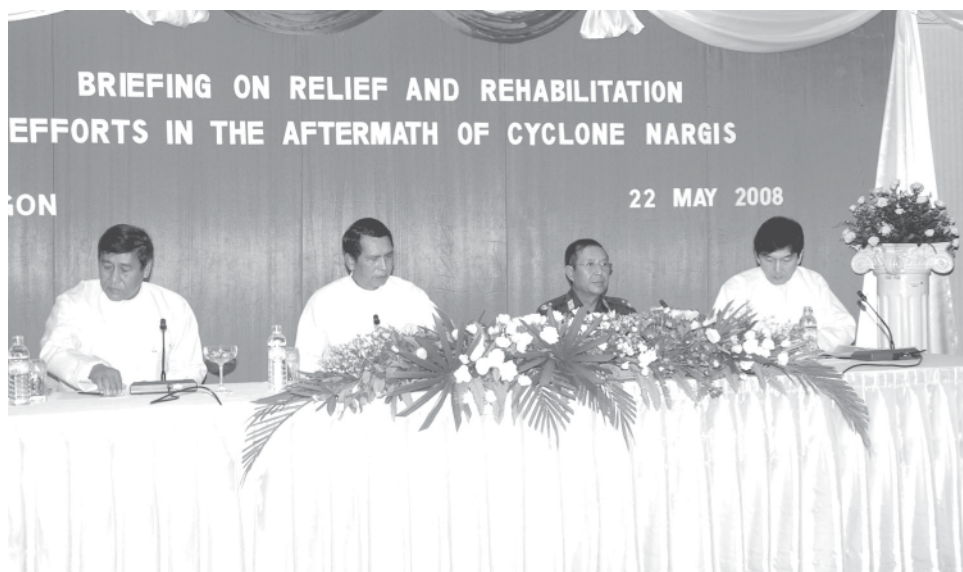
More Nicaraguans seeking jobs abroad

MANAGUA, 21 May—Some 63.3 per cent of Nicaraguans are inclined to seek jobs in other countries, up from 55.5 per cent at the end of 2007, according to a poll released Monday.

Of those intending to seek jobs abroad, 44.5 per cent prefer the United States, 28 per cent prefer Costa Rica, while 12.3 per cent prefer Spain, according to the poll conducted and published by a company called M&R Consultores. Nicaraguans want to leave their country to find better jobs and improve their economical situation, the poll revealed.

About 42 per cent of respondents said the main reason for seeking jobs abroad was the lack of jobs domestically, while 23.6 per cent cited poverty as the cause and 17.1 per cent said the rise in food prices was triggering the exodus.—MNA/Xinhua

Minister briefs on relief efforts in storm-hit areas



Minister U Soe Tha briefs on relief and rehabilitation measures at Sedona Hotel.—MNA

YANGON, 22 May — A ceremony to brief on relief and rehabilitation efforts aftermath the Cyclone Nargis was held at Sedona Hotel here today.

It was attended by Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, departmental officials, diplomats, representatives of 39 donor countries and officials of 12 INGOs.

Minister U Soe Tha

briefed on formation of Cyclone Nargis which had 200 miles in radius and had a wind speed of 145 miles per hour. He also briefed on conditions of storm-hit areas including Haigyigyun, Ngapudaw, Labutta, Mawlamyinekyun, Pyapon, Bogale, Kyaiklat and 40 townships in Yangon Division and loss of people in Ayeyawady and Yangon divisions due to the storm. Cyclone warnings were issued in newspapers and broadcast in radio and TV as from 24 April. After the storm hit the delta region and Yangon

Division on 2 and 3 May, the emergency meeting was held on 3 May and it was chaired by the Prime Minister, Chairman of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee, he said. Ministers concerned have supervised the relief efforts after the storm and armed forces have been participating in rescue and relief work in storm-hit areas of Ayeyawady and Yangon divisions. The Prime Minister also supervised the rescue and relief works in Yangon Division on 4 and 5 May and in delta region on 6

and 7 May, he added. The central committee and sub-committees have been carrying out rescue works and providing medical care to survivors. He also showed the death toll, the number of injured victims and damages caused by the storm on a chart.

Minister U Soe Tha also briefed on rescue and rehabilitation tasks and distribution of relief foods, drinking water and relief aids to storm-hit areas in the delta region by helicopter and three phases of the relief work. Altogether 419 relief camps have been set up.

Over 59.63 % of power consumption rate of Yangon is now being supplied to Yangon and 76.28 % of communication lines out of over 150,000 lines are now in good condition. Water supply to Yangon by the Yangon City Development Committee has reached 98.5 %, he said.

Minister U Soe Tha said the total amount of cash and relief aids reached 7.378 billion up to 16 May and the committee had received 2960.31 tons of relief aids donated by UN agencies, INGOs and donor

countries up to 19 May. Those relief aids are distributed to storm-hit areas by helicopter daily and medical teams were dispatched to the areas to provide medical treatment to survivors. Medical teams from neighbouring countries and local health employees are providing medical care to survivors, he said. He also briefed on amount of budget to be spent on the rehabilitation work and projects for preparedness against disaster in the future.

Ministers U Soe Tha, Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and Dr Kyaw Myint replied to queries raised by those present.

Also present on the occasion were 158 representatives from UN agencies, donor countries and ASEAN nations and departmental officials.

Afterwards, representatives of UN agencies, donor countries and ASEAN nations visited Atwinpadan relief camp in Hlinethaya Township and relief camp in Dagon Myothit (North).

MNA



Representatives of UN agencies, donor countries and ASEAN visit Atwinpadan relief camp in Hlinethaya Township.—MNA

Wellwishers from states and divisions continue to donate cash and relief items to storm victims

NAY PYI TAW, 22 May—Departmental officials, members of social organizations, families of Tatmadawmen and wellwishers from the states and divisions continued to donate cash and kind and relief items to storm victims through national spirit.

Today's donations for the storm victims were K 26,972,100 and relief supplies worth K 16,843,700 by wellwishers from Nay Pyi Taw ; K 24,011,366 by families of Tatmadawmen and wellwishers from Shan

State (North) and Kayah State; K 941,900 and relief supplies worth K 1,077,300 by families of Tatmadawmen and wellwishers from Shan State (South) and Kayah State; K 1,472,540 and relief supplies worth K 31,839,250 by families of Tatmadawmen and wellwishers from Kayin and Mon States; K 20,865,770 and relief supplies worth K 31,893,600 by families of Tatmadawmen and wellwishers from Sagaing Division; relief supplies

worth K 24,317,400 by families of Tatmadawmen and wellwishers from Mandalay Division; K 69,595,250 by families of Tatmadawmen, departmental officials and wellwishers from Bago Division; and K 4,800,000 by wellwishers from Magway Division.

Today's donations including K 22,067,111 were K 276,697,287 in total. The donations of cash and kind until 22 May were K 8,532,563,493 in total.—MNA

More relief aids arrive



Relief supplies contributed by UNHCR arrive Yangon International Airport.— MNA

YANGON, 22 May — AN-12 flight carrying 17 tons of plastic sheets, blankets, mosquito nets and kitchen utensil donated by UNHCR arrived at Yangon International Airport at 7.30 am, C-130 flight carrying over 11 tons of rice, medicines, empty bottles of purified water, water purifiers, blankets and foodstuff donated by Thailand at 10.18 am, another AN-12 flight carrying over 15 tons of personnel health care supplies, kitchen utensil and tarpaulin donated by

Spain Red Cross Society at 11.30 am, another C-130 flight carrying 12.5 tons of plastic sheets donated by Save The Children at 1.06 pm. Moreover, C-130 flight also arrived carrying over 23 tons of blankets, plastic sheets, bottles of water, plywood, two lifeboats and health supplies donated by United States of America four times.

Likewise, 1.5 tons of medical supplies donated by Denmark-based UNICEF, over 2 tons of medical supplies donated by Indonesia, 0.445 tons

of relief supplies donated by Netherlands, 1.62 tons of relief supplies donated by Republic of Korea Red Cross Society, over 3 tons of bottles of purified water donated by Singapore Christian Association, 1.56 tons of 22 packing of mosquito nets donated by IFRC, 1.35 tons of 110 packing of personnel supplies donated by Myanmar Embassy in Thailand arrived. The relief aids donated from foreign countries have been distributed to the storm-affected regions without delay. —MNA



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

Singapore medical unit arrives

YANGON, 22 May — The 15-member medical team led by Dr Arif Tyebally of Singapore arrived at Yangon by C-130 aircraft here this afternoon.

The medical unit brought along a total of 1.27 tons of medicines and medical supplies. They were welcomed by the Singapore ambassador to Myanmar and officials at the airport. —MNA

A medical unit led by Dr Arif Tyebally arrives at Yangon International Airport.—MNA



National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee issues News Release No. 7

NAY PYI TAW, 22 May — The National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee issued News Release No. 7 today.

The full text of the News Release is as follows: —

News Release No. 7

1. The Union of Myanmar invited health care teams from neighbouring countries to provide health care to the victims to the storm 'Nargis' that hit the nation. The 47-member team from the Republic of India that arrived on 17 May is providing health care with heart and soul in Pyapon and Bogale region; the 50-member team from the People's Republic of China that arrived on 18 May, in Kungyangon region; the 30-member team from Thailand that arrived on 17 May, in Myaungmya and Labutta region; the 23-member team from the Lao People's Democratic Republic that arrived on 18 May, in Kyauktan region; and the 33-member team from Bangladesh that arrived on 21 May, in Maubin region, totaling 183 members from five countries.
2. Health staff from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Defence, and medical experts from NGOs, totaling 2029, and members from various private enterprises, private medical experts, members of Red Cross Society, Auxiliary Fire Brigade, and other health care and relief groups totaling about 36,000 in the aftermath of the storm headed for the storm-affected areas as soon as possible, and they are providing health care to the victims. Now, the medical teams from neighbouring countries are working in cooperation with them, thereby strengthening the health care to the victims.
3. In the meantime, internal and international donors are continuously donating medicines and relief supplies, which are being used effectively in the health care services.
4. Therefore, we hereby announce that we heartily thank the countries, governments and their people for contributing to the health care of the victims to the storm 'Nargis'.

Dated: 22-5-2008

National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee

Place: Nay Pyi Taw

Minister supervises relief, rehabilitation works in Pyapon, Kyaiklat

YANGON, 22 May — Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing and Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min met with medical teams on board the floating hospitals at the jetty in Pyapon on 21 May.

The four medical teams comprise specialists, physicians and nurses from Directorate of Medical Services of the Ministry of Defence Services, Ministry of Health, India and Amara Health Care Foundation and they will provide medical care to storm survivors in villages in Pyapon, Kyaiklat and Dedaye townships.

On 17 May, Minister Maj-Gen Soe Naing went to the temporary relief camp in Pyapon and accepted relief aids donated by private donors and distributed them to storm victims at the camp. He also accepted relief aids donated by NGOs and organizations in Nyaungdon Township and Hinthada District Peace and Development Council on 18 and 19 May. On 16 May, Minister Maj-Gen Soe Naing and Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min held talks on distribution of furniture, exercise books and prescribed text books to schools in Pyapon. After the meeting, Minister Maj-Gen Soe Naing went to the relief camp No 1 and fulfilled the requirements of the camp. — MNA

Royal Thai Army donates relief supplies

YANGON, 22 May — A ceremony to hand over the relief items worth baht 40 million donated by Royal Thai Army was held at Michauygon Monastery in Myawady yesterday.

At the donation ceremony, the military officers of the Royal Thai Army explained the purpose of the donation and made a speech.

Brig-Gen Aung Naing of Myawady Station accepted relief aids and spoke words of thanks. —MNA

Government taking relief, rehabilitation...

(from page 1)

reconstruction tasks, arrangements being made for supply of foods and temporary shelter for resettlement of the victims in their native regions of their own accord, providing of implements to the people for agriculture and fisheries industries, giving of health care services to the local people by opening the health care clinic on board the vessel and requirements.

After hearing the reports, the Senior General gave guidance, saying that the government is taking relief, rehabilitation and three-step preventive and preparedness measures against natural disasters for the storm-hit regions and the victims. He said that the current floating hospital programme is an effective one in providing health care services to the people. In addition, the plans are

under way to upgrade the hospitals in the region and open the rural dispensaries in the long term, he added.

The Senior General continued to give guidance that arrangements are being made to construct roads leading to the coastal villages and build 20-30 feet high embankments for preventing floods to be able to take development and natural disaster prevention and preparedness measures. He stressed the need to open tractor camps in the main regions and provide paddy strain, draught cattle and agricultural equipment to the local people for rehabilitation of their livelihoods.

SPDC member General Thura Shwe Mann instructed local authorities to coordinate relief and rehabilitation tasks without dividing administrative areas of districts and townships, provide draught cat-



Senior General Than Shwe gives instructions on the relief and rehabilitation works of Mawlamyinekyun Township .—MNA

tle to the local farmers who will work in the farmlands where tractors cannot enter, supervise suitable agricultural tasks of the local farmers, fulfill the requirements of local fishery industry and timely submit the requirements of the re-

gion to the State.

After cordially greeting the family members of the local battalion, Senior General Than Shwe and party in a motorcade viewed rehabilitation tasks in Mawlamyinegyun and keeping the urban area

clean.

At the Township Hospital, they were welcomed by Head of Township Health Department Dr Aung San and doctors, members of the specialist team from Yangon General Hospital and North Okkalapa People's Hospital.

They comforted storm patients being warded at the hospital. After looking into rehabilitation measures of Mawlamyinekyun, they cordially greeted the local people.

On arrival at Bogale at

11.20 am, the Senior General and party were welcomed by Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung who is closely supervising relief and rehabilitation tasks there, Commander of No 66 LID Brig-Gen Maung Maung Aye and officials.

At the control office, Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung reported on progress in taking relief and rehabilitation measures in Bogale, sending the storm victims from the relief camps to the rear camps in Maubin, supply of drinking water, sending those wishing to go back to their native villages of their own accord, carrying out of resettlement task, contributions of Htoo Trading and Air Bagan Family and Diamond Mercury Co in relief and rehabilitation tasks, progress in reconstruction of education, health and civil buildings, providing of agricultural and fishery equipment for those who go back to the native regions and repair of the embankments.

In his guidance, the Senior General urged officials to systematically take measures on relief, rehabilitation and prevention against natural disasters by adopting the steps of the plan and construct the roads leading to the coastal regions as soon as possible.

(See page 9)

Arrangements are being made to construct roads leading to the coastal villages and build 20-30 feet high embankments for preventing floods to be able to take development and natural disaster prevention and preparedness measures.



Senior General Than Shwe comforts storm victims at No. 1 BEHS in Bogale Township.—MNA

Government taking relief, rehabilitation...

(from page 8)

In his speech, General Thura Shwe Mann said that Head of State Senior General Than Shwe adopted the policies and work plans in detail to carry out relief and rehabilitation tasks and to prevent natural disasters in the long run. The successful implementation of the plans in accord with the guidance depends on the collection of accurate and correct facts and figures in the respective regions. Indeed, the rehabilitation tasks are more numerous and extensive than that of the relief works. Therefore, regiments and units and local authorities need to systematically perform the rehabilitation tasks.

He stressed the need to set up the regular supply route to be able to continuously provide rations and supplies to the people who have resettled in their native regions. The government has sufficiency of food and funds and planned

to fulfill the requirements. Therefore, it is necessary to take care of supply and use for the people.

He continued to say that with a view to nurturing the children who had become orphans due to the storm and turning out the outstanding persons, the Senior General has given guidance to open the orphanages in Pyapon and Labutta, and to organize them in Maubin and Myaungmya under separate programmes. Therefore, it is necessary to collect the correct list of the needy children in the respective regions. He said that he explained the arrangements made by the State level officials for enabling the local level authorities to realize the work plans and aims and collect facts and figures.

Afterwards, the Senior General and party inspected the scale model of low-price housing for the storm victims.



Senior General Than Shwe consoles storm victims who are receiving medical treatment at People's Hospital in Mawlamyinekyun Township.—MNA

At Bogale People's Hospital, they were welcomed by the head of Township Health Department, the specialist team from North Okkalapa General Hospital, nurses from University of Nursing and health staff.

The Senior General and party comforted the

patients at the outpatient department, the male ward and the female ward.

They went to the relief camp opened at Bogale Basic Education High School No 1 and cordially greeted the storm victims. They also inspected the dispensary. After that, they looked into progress in re-

habilitation and reconstruction tasks in storm-hit Bogale by car. In the afternoon, the Senior General and party flew to Patheingyi.

from Bogale by Tatmadaw helicopter. Next, they left Patheingyi by Tatmadaw special flight and arrived back here in the evening.—MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe oversees measures for complete clearance of fallen trees



Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence inspects clearance of fallen trees by Tatmadawmen.—MNA

YANGON, 22 May — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, inspected measures being taken by Tatmadawmen and YCDC staff to completely clear the trees fallen due to the storm and to drain the ditches in Yangon city.

First, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party looked into measures being taken by military servicemen of local units and regiments for proper drainage at 8th Mile Junction in

Mayangon Township and went to the junction of Parami Road and Waizayanda Road where Tatmadawmen cleared the fallen trees and carried out the tasks for proper drainage. Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party also inspected the similar tasks carried out on the roads and streets in South Okkalapa, Dagon Myothit (North), Thingangyun, Mingala Taungnyunt, Tamway and Dagon townships.

Afterwards, they oversaw the clearing of rubbish by Tatmadawmen of local regiments in front of the National Museum on Pyay Road in Dagon Township.

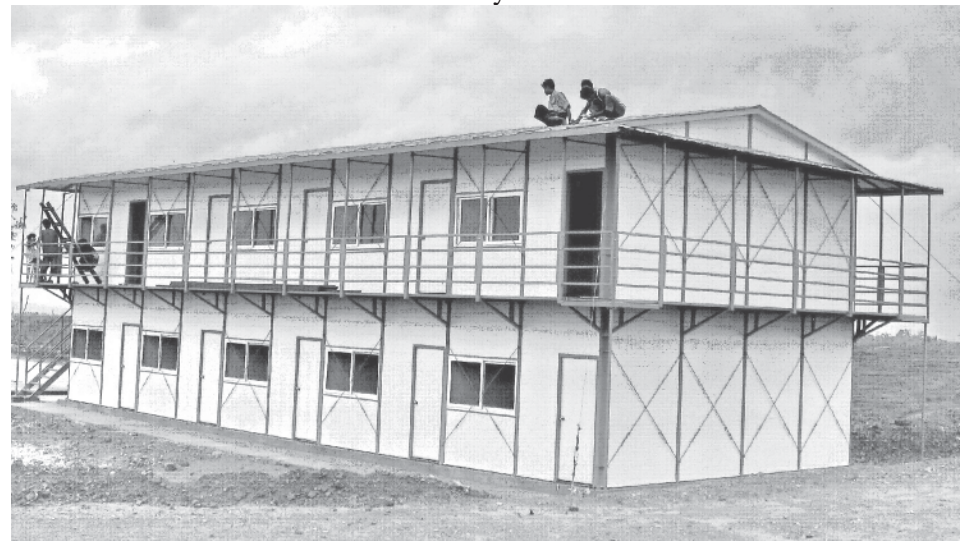
Later, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party inspected the clearing of the fallen trees and rubbish near Hanthawady Roundabout on Pyay Road in Kamayut Township and along University Avenue Street and Kaba Aye Pagoda Road. — MNA

Private companies participate in rehabilitation tasks in Hainggyikyun

YANGON, 22 May—Ayon Oo, FMI Co, Shwethanlwin, Moekyesin and Tetlan have organized Cape Nargis Committee to carry out the rehabilitation works in Hainggyikyun in Ngaputaw Township. The office of the committee has been opened at No 309 in Grand Meeyahta Hotel here.

The Cape Nargis Committee has carried out the distribution of relief aids and shelter tents, aluminum boats donated by INGOs to the storm-affected regions. The committee conducted a joint training for the local medical team and medical assistants from INGOs and transported them to Hainggyikyun, Ngaputaw, Alegyun, Thingangon, Makyeein and Kyingu via Yangon-Patheingyi motor road.

The committee organized a mobile team comprising doctors and nurses from Panhlaing International Hospital and Save the Children based in Ngaputaw to give medical treatment to the survivors who need treatment. The committee has set up prefabricated houses and shelter tents, provided medical treatment, distributed drinking water, rice, edible oil, salt, instant foods, plastics and clothes to the victims and transported the construction materials to storm affected areas by car and by boat to reconstruct the buildings and schools before the academic year. —MNA



Prefabricated house in Hainggyikyun being constructed by Ayon Oo, FMI, Shwethanlwin, Moekyesin and Tetlan Cos.—MNA

International humanitarian assistance...

(from page 16)
On behalf of the victims of the cyclone, I would like to take this opportunity to express our profound thanks to the international organizations and community for the outpouring of messages of sympathy and condolences for the tragic loss of lives and extensive damage of property due to cyclone Nargis in Myanmar as well as for the immediate response and generous humanitarian assistance rendered to victims of the cyclone Nargis.

Moreover, I would also like to express our sincere appreciation to the member countries of ASEAN and neighboring countries for dispatching their medical teams to assist in our national efforts in providing health care for the people affected by the cyclone.

The cyclone Nargis that struck Myanmar on 2 and 3 May was unprecedented natural disaster that brought massive loss of life and extensive damage to property in the country. As such a powerful storm never hit Myanmar in its past history; no one expected it will be that much strong or devastating. I will not dwell on in detail to the extent or impact of the cyclone Nargis as you all may have already learnt it from the media coverage.



Prime Minister General Thein Sein and attendees stand in one minute silence to mourn for the loss of lives of people in the storm-hit regions.—MNA

After my brief remark, the Minister for National Planning and Economic Development will brief in detail on our relief and rehabilitation efforts in the aftermath of cyclone Nargis.

As we have now completed the first phase of rescue works, we are now emphasizing on the implementing the rehabilitation measures such as providing health care, food and temporary shelter to the survivors. The next step will be rebuilding homes for the survivors and assisting them in rehabilitating their livelihoods mainly in agriculture, fisheries and salt industries. In order to recover from the present tragedy, our Head of State Senior General Than Shwe had urged to take necessary prompt actions in carrying out relief and rehabilitation efforts relying on our internal capacity with the close collabora-

tion of the Government, the people and the Tatmadaw.

Senior General Than Shwe had also emphasized to carry out the relief and rehabilitation in three phases. The first phase is providing food, clothing, temporary shelters, and medical care to the victims, which is now almost complete at this stage. The second phase which is reconstruction of the villages, renovation of damaged roads, bridges and communication links, regeneration of agriculture, fishery and salt-making works, and in the third phase, efforts will be exerted to take preparedness measures and arrangements for the victims to return to normalcy. The second and third stage will need time and more technical and material assistance from the international community.

Therefore, in all these phases, we heartily wel-

come the humanitarian assistance from the international organizations and community. We are very much appreciative and glad to see that humanitarian aids have been continuously arriving at the Yangon International Airport. These supplies are being directly and systematically transported and distributed to the victims of the storm. In doing so, we have mobilized our own human resources including the members of Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force, NGOs and local people. In the earlier days, there were rumors that we were denying international assistance and that we were selectively accepting outside relief aids. It is absolutely untrue. On the contrary, we have accepted with appreciation all relief goods and financial assistance offered by any country. However, international humanitarian assistance

should not be politicized. So far, we have received a total of over 2700 tons of relief supplies from various organizations and countries and also received over 130 flights carrying relief goods.

In light of monumental task of relief operation which requires more co-operation with international community in our rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, we welcome the establishment of ASEAN led mechanism which will closely cooperate with our already existing national mechanism.

We are also pleased to host the ASEAN-UN International Pledging Conference on Humanitarian Assistance to Myanmar in Yangon on 25 May 2008. I hope that some of you will also take this opportunity to participate in the Pledging Conference, which, I am confident, will generate additional resources to our relief and rehabilitation efforts. We have also organized a tour

for all of you to visit the disaster-stricken areas including the Ayeyawady delta. It will provide you the opportunity to witness yourselves that how your relief assistances have proved to be immensely useful for the storm victims who are in dire needs for assistance. Your finance and materials have not only benefited the storm victims but also being a source of consolation and added strength to them at this difficult time.

In conclusion, I would once again like to take this opportunity to express our profound thanks to the international organizations and community for their timely response and urgent humanitarian assistance rendered to victims of the storm. I also wish to assure you that the international assistance provided by the donor countries has been properly recorded and systematically distributed to the affected people of the cyclone-stricken areas.

MNA



UN Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon views the collected relief aids for storm victims in Mawlamyinegyun Township.—MNA

UN Secretary-General ...

(from page 16)
caused by the storm in Mawlamyinegyun, accomplishment of the relief tasks, relief supplies, resettlement and reconstruction works, measures for growing monsoon paddy in time while Minister Col Thein Nyunt gave a supplementary report.

Next, Mr Ban Ki-moon and party made observations on piles of relief supplies to be distributed to the storm victims and then arrived back in Yangon from Mawlamyinegyun by helicopter at 6 pm.—MNA

All this needs to be known

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

Maj-Gen Tha Aye looks into regional developments in Ye Township

NAY PYI TAW, 22 May — Maj-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence together with Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win held a meeting with departmental officials, members of social organizations and local people in Khawza of Ye Township on 20 May.

Having heard a report by an official on measures taken for the development of the region, Maj-Gen Tha Aye gave an account of the government making necessary efforts for the development in all sectors, and then presented provisions to departmental officials and social organization members.

He visited the People's Hospital in Khawza and presented cash assistance to the patients. Later, he inspected development of Khawza by car.— MNA

YANGON, 22 May — A delegation led by Mr Ban Ki-moon, the UN Secretary-General, arrived here by air today.

They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of Protocol Department, UN Acting Resident Representative Mr Daniel B Baker and officials concerned.

The UN Secretary-General sang the Book of Condolences opened for damages and losses of life due to the storm 'Nargis'

MMCWA Vice-President presents cash and kind to storm victims in Kawhmu, Kungyangon Townships



Vice-President of MMCWA Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint and members deliver relief items to storm victims at letkhibaho relief camp in Kawhmu Township.—MNA

YANGON, 22 May — Vice-President of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint and members, Chairperson of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Mar Mar Wai and members and wellwishers presented K 500,000 and relief supplies donated by MMCWA, Yangon Division MCWSC and wellwishers Major Pyi Aung and Daw Nanda Aye and family to 156 storm-affected households at Letkhibaho Relief Camp in Kawhmu Township this afternoon.

At the relief camp opened in Kungyangon Township Sports Ground, Daw Tin Lin Myint and party presented K 500, 000 and relief supplies donated by Major Pyi Aung and Daw Nanda Aye and

family to 33 storm-affected households.

Next, the vice-president and party proceeded to Kungyangon Township People's Hospital and presented

medicines and medical equipment to the hospital and diaper and milk powder to township MCWA. They also presented mosquito-nets to the patients. — MNA



Mr Lingyan Paw - Daw Yin Nwe Myo and Maung Lwin Min Khant of Kyankhinsu Ward in Mingaladon Township donated K 100,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged through Joint-Secretary U Maung Maung Gyi of the Home recently.—H

UN Secretary-General arrives



UN Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon pays homage to Buddha Image at Shwedagon Pagoda.—MNA

at Shin Dithapamauk Hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Later, the UN Secretary-General and delegation members paid homage to Shwedagon Pagoda and made cash donation.—MNA

UN Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon being welcomed by Minister U Nyan Win at Yangon International Airport.—MNA



UN Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon signs the book of condolences at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—MNA



Diplomats sign the book of condolences at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—MNA

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Bus accident in Mexico kills 21

MEXICO CITY, 21 May—At least 21 people were killed and many others injured Monday as a bus plunged off a mountain highway in San Agustin Metzquititlan municipality in the state of Hidalgo, police said.

The Public Security Ministry said that the accident took place at 13:30 local time (1830 GMT). The bus from Estrella Blanca Company was heading for the Mexico City, as it tumbled off the road and plunged 150 metres into the ravine.

About 50 rescue members, members of the Federal Preventive Police (PFP), firemen and a helicopter went to help the victims. The abrupt road made the rescue work difficult and it is feared that the number of deaths could rise. The police said the cause of the accident is under investigation.

MNA/Xinhua

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Philippine Army warns of mercenary bombers in south

MANILA, 21 May—Philippine security forces warned on Tuesday of attacks in the restive south by a group of “bombers-for-hire” trained by Islamic militants.

Local insurgents in the south of the largely Catholic country have sharpened their detonating skills but a military cull of their leadership has left them without a game plan and encouraged them to start offering their expertise for a fee.

“We’ve heard of a group of ‘bombers-for-hire’ because many of the people trained to assemble crude bombs were getting bored and were eager to make use of their talents,” Major-General Raymond Ferrer, an Army division commander in the southern province of Cotabato, said.

Ferrer said it was too early to say if freelance bombers were behind a spate of attacks on bus terminals in the Cotabato

area, including an explosion on Monday evening that wounded six people.

The Philippine Government, with assistance from the United States, has been trying to wipe out Abu Sayyaf, a small but deadly local Muslim terror group, as well as renegade members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), a 11,000 strong separatist movement that has a truce with Manila.

MNA/Reuters

Gunmen kill 11 Iraqi police recruits in northern Iraq

MOSUL (Iraq), 21 May—Unknown gunmen attacked a minibus carrying police recruits near the city of Mosul, killing 11 of them, a local police source said on Tuesday. The attackers ambushed the minibus on Monday evening outside the town of Ba’aj, 80 kilometres west of Mosul, showering the minibus

with bullets, killing 11 of the recruits, the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity. The attack came as the US troops and Iraqi security forces are carrying out major offensive in Nineveh Province and its capital Mosul to uproot al-Qaeda militants in the province where they were believed to be regrouped after being

defeated in Baghdad and other Iraqi provinces.

Major General Kamal Hussein, Iraq’s Interior Ministry Undersecretary, told *Xinhua* on Monday night that the Iraqi security forces have arrested up to 1330 suspected insurgents since the start of the crackdown in Mosul early last week.

MNA/Xinhua

US court says currency discriminates against the blind

WASHINGTON, 21 May—The US Treasury Department discriminates against millions of Americans who are blind or have poor vision by printing paper money that makes it impossible for them to distinguish between denominations, a federal appeals court ruled on Tuesday. By a 2-1 vote, the court upheld a ruling by US District Judge James Robertson in a lawsuit filed by the American Council of the Blind seeking to force the department to redesign the US paper currency. The group has proposed several possible changes, including different sized bills for different denominations, embossed dots and raised printing. The court called such accommodations reasonable, effective and feasible.— MNA/Reuters

UN meeting calls for urgent food price action

UNITED NATIONS, 21 May—A food crisis sparked by rising prices risks derailing global efforts to reduce poverty and international action is urgently needed, world leaders and experts told a high-level UN meeting on Tuesday. “Today 25,000 people will die because they did not get enough to eat,” British Prime Minister Gordon Brown said in a video message to a special meeting of the UN Economic and Social Council on the global food crisis. Brown pledged to champion the cause of fighting poverty and hunger at an international level, including among the G-8 group of industrialized nations that are the main donor countries. — MNA/Reuters

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Police uncover hemp cultivation plant in Prague

PRAGUE, 21 May—Czech police seized drugs amount for over 20,000 doses worth 7.5 million crowns (0.5 million US dollars), Prague police spokesman Tomas Hulan reported on the website on Monday.

The police seized a total of 550 hemp plants and 15 kilos of dried drug and detained foreigners suspected of operating a large hemp cultivation plant, according to the website.

“Both the plants and the dried marijuana were of the best quality, according to experts, and the final products were exclusively for the international market within the EU,” Hulan said.

The detained Vietnamese, aged between 21 and 40 years, were growing hemp plants at a 500-square-metre area, it added.

The police accused all the detained foreigners of illegal production and possession of drugs. If found guilty, they face up to five years in prison.

The cultivation unit equipment has been put at 2.5 million crowns (0.2 million US dollars).

MNA/Xinhua

One in eight Germans living in poverty

BERLIN, 21 May—A poverty report released by the German Government on Monday said that about 13 per cent of the German population live at or below the official poverty-line of 781 euros (about 1,200 US dollars) per month.

The report also found another 13 per cent of the 82.5 million Germans are prevented from falling into the category of the poor

just because of state benefits such as unemployment benefit.

While the income of the rich increasing, the income of the poor people have decreased slightly, and middle-class incomes are stagnating, the report showed.

The hardest hit are long-term unemployed and single parents along with their children.

In issuing the report, German Labour Minister Olaf Scholz said that introducing more minimum wages should be “an important programme to fight poverty”.

Germany’s conservative politicians, however, argue that more minimum wages would kill jobs and the best solution to poverty should be a successful growth and employment policy.

MNA/Xinhua

NASA gives “go” for space shuttle launch on 31 May

WASHINGTON, 21 May — US space shuttle *Discovery's STS- 124* mission to the *International Space Station* is officially scheduled for launch on 31 May, NASA announced Monday after the final Flight Readiness Review. “Preparations are going really well,” Shuttle Launch Director Mike Leinbach said, pointing out that *Discovery's* remarkably smooth processing flow

will allow shuttle work crews to take off the Memorial Day holiday.

“Right now we’re in great shape, and we really expect to have a good three or four days off this weekend and come back and launch,” Leinbach said at an afternoon news conference at Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, according to NASA TV.

Discovery's 14-day flight will carry the largest payload so far — the main

part of Japan’s Kibo laboratory to the space station and includes three spacewalks. It is the second of three missions that will launch components to complete Kibo laboratory.

Discovery will also deliver new station crew member Greg Chamitoff and bring back Flight Engineer Garrett Reisman, who will end a three-month stay aboard the outpost. — MNA/Xinhua



Light from supernovas in the NGC 2770 galaxy as imaged by the Gemini Multi-Object Spectrograph at Gemini North on Mauna Kea in Hawaii is seen in a handout image.—INTERNET



A performer dressed as a Hello Kitty masot wearing a kimono performs a classical Japanese dance at a event named “Let’s learn Japanese culture with Hello Kitty” at Tamagawa Takashimaya shopping centre in Tokyo .

XINHUA

Noncommunicable diseases now biggest killers

GENEVA, 21 May — Chronic diseases such as heart trouble and stroke have replaced infectious diseases as the chief causes of death globally, the World Health Organization (WHO) said in a new report on Monday.

The shifting health trends indicate that leading infectious diseases — diarrhoea, HIV, tuberculosis, neonatal infections and malaria — will become less important causes of death globally over the next 20 years, according to the World Health Statistics 2008 report.

“We are definitely seeing a trend toward fewer people dying of infectious diseases across the world,” said Ties Boerma, director of the WHO’s Department of Health Statistics and Informatics.

“We tend to associate developing countries with infectious diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. But in more and more countries the chief causes of death are noncommunicable diseases, such as heart disease and stroke,” he said in a statement.

The statistical report documents in detail the levels of mortality in children and adults, patterns of morbidity and burden of disease, prevalence of risk factors such as smoking and alcohol consumption, use of health care, availability of health care workers, and health care financing. — MNA/Xinhua

DNA database to be built to identify dead in Sichuan

BEIJING, 21 May — The Chinese Government said it is to build a DNA database of those unidentified dead bodies after the disastrous Sichuan earthquake for later identification.

The government is going to cremate identified dead bodies and allow burial in those areas where cremation service is unavailable.

For those yet to be identified, the government said, police and medical workers will keep a numbered record, take pictures and collect body tissues for DNA tests.

The police will manage the DNA database for future identification.

The Ministry of Civil Affairs, together with the Ministry of Public Security and the Ministry of Health, issued a guidance to speed up dead body identification and treat-

ment before possible rotten corpses contaminating areas where survivors are gathering.

The powerful tremor, eight degrees on the Richter Scale, jolted eastern Sichuan Province on 12 May, claiming at least 34,073 lives.

For the dead who are believed to be foreign citizens, the state-run China Funeral Association will take over, disinfect the bodies and keep them. Their relatives can contact the association, <http://bzxh.mca.gov.cn>.

MNA/Xinhua



A staff member of the local water conservancy department examines the channel to dredge up the imprisoned lake at Linjiaba Village of Pingwu County under Mianyang City, southwest China’s Sichuan Province, on 21 May, 2008. —XINHUA

Canberra’s kangaroo cull begins

CANBERRA, 21 May — The cull of hundreds of kangaroos at a defence site in Canberra began on Monday, despite the pleas of animal welfare activists for it to be called off.

Dozens of kangaroos were herded into pens before disappearing behind hessian screens, where some were apparently euthanized.

Despite no official confirmation of the cull, witnesses at the site said the tranquilizing and killing of the animals had begun. The stop-start cull of about 400 eastern grey kangaroos on the former naval site in suburban Belconnen attracted international media attention. —MNA/Xinhua

Brazil environment agency seizes Amazon soy, corn

SAO PAULO, 21 May — Brazil’s environmental agency Ibama said on Tuesday it seized some 4,740 tons of soy, corn and rice grown on illegally deforested land in the Amazon as the country struggles with its environmental image abroad.

Brazil’s farming, bio-fuels and ranching sectors, Latin America’s largest, have come under fire, especially in Europe, for unregulated expansion at the cost of the environment, particularly in the Amazon.

The European Union has been pushing to limit imports of commodities such as biofuels from Brazil on the grounds of sustainability.

MNA/Reuters

SPORTS



Torchbearer Zhang Jinsong runs with the torch during the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games torch relay in Ningbo. The Olympic torch relay resumes today in the ancient port city of Ningbo after a three-day pause out of respect for victims of the earthquake.—XINHUA

FIFA say Kenyan court ruling could jeopardize World Cup

NAIROBI, 21 May — FIFA have ordered Kenya to put recognized officials in charge of soccer in the country, saying a court decision over the running of the game could jeopardize the 2010 World Cup.

A Kenyan court last week handed the running of the country's chaotic soccer set-up to a faction of the Kenya Football Federation (KFF) not recognized by world governing body FIFA.

"These latest events jeopardise the organization of the forthcoming FIFA 2010 World Cup...the court decision violates football's international principles," FIFA general secretary Jerome Valcke said in a letter to the KFF seen by *Reuters*. —MNA/Reuters

Dallas sack coach Morrow

DALLAS, 21 May — Major League Soccer's FC Dallas have sacked their Northern Irish coach Steve Morrow after losing their last four games, the club said on Tuesday.

"We have set high standards, expectations, and goals for this team and organization," said Dallas general manager Michael Hitchcock in a statement.

"I feel that the team was not heading in the direction we had planned, and believe it is in the best interest of the club to make a coaching change at this time," he added.

Assistant Marco Ferruzzi will take charge of the team on an interim basis starting with Saturday's home game against Real Salt Lake City.

Former Arsenal and Northern Ireland midfielder Morrow ended his playing career with Dallas and became an assistant coach in 2004 before taking on the head coach job in November 2006. — MNA/Reuters

Japan's Jubilo eye Brzilian Edmilson

TOKYO, 21 May—Japan's Jubilo Iwata are weighing up a move for Barcelona midfielder Edmilson, whose contract at the Spanish club expires at the end of June.

Jubilo, Japanese champions in 1997, 1999 and 2002, are in danger of relegation after suffering a third successive J-League defeat at the weekend and have identified the Brazilian as a potential saviour.

"He's one of the players we have short-listed," Jubilo told *Reuters* on Tuesday. "The holding midfield role is a high priority position for us."

Jubilo are preparing to offer Edmilson a multi-year deal worth around 1.5 million euros (2.32 million US dollars) a year, according to Japanese media.

The versatile 31-year-old, who helped Brazil win the 2002 World Cup in Japan and South Korea, has also been linked with a move to Primera Liga side Villarreal.

MNA/Reuters

Broken-nosed hero Scholes finally gets his medal

MOSCOW, 22 May — Manchester United midfielder Paul Scholes broke his nose in Wednesday's Champions League final against Chelsea but played through the pain barrier to win the medal he missed out on nine years ago.

Scholes was injured in a first-half collision with Chelsea's Claude Makelele that saw both players yellow carded by Slovak referee Lubos Michel with Scholes bloodied, bruised and needing treatment from the physios before he rejoined the action.

"When he came off at halftime he was very groggy and needed some tablets before going back on for the second half," said manager Alex Ferguson.

"Tonight he got what he should have got in 1999 - a winner's medal."

MNA/Reuters



Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant drives to the basket as San Antonio Spurs' Ime Udoka, back, defends in the second half of Game 1 of the NBA Western Conference basketball finals, on 21 May, 2008 in Los Angeles.—INTERNET

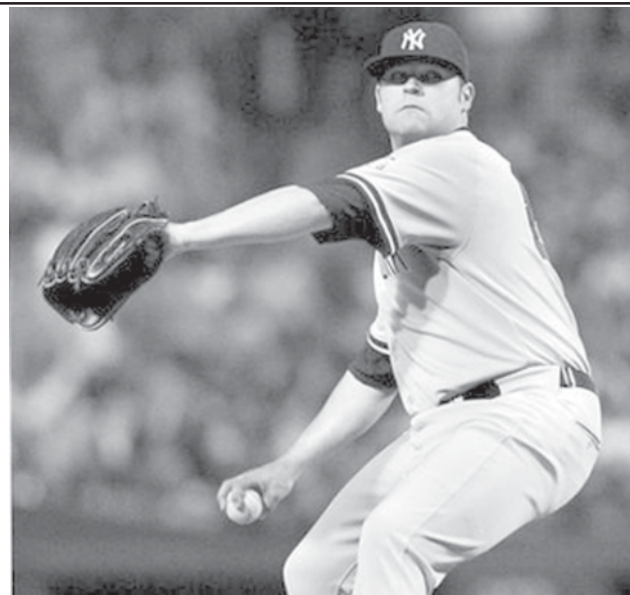
UEFA changes yellow card rule for Euro 2008

MOSCOW, 21 May— Any player on a single yellow card at the end of the quarterfinal stage of Euro 2008 will have it cancelled, UEFA announced on Tuesday after a two-day Executive Committee meeting.

The proposal was agreed unanimously by the committee and means that a player given a second yellow card of the competition in the semifinals is not then suspended for the final if his team qualifies.

Previously, players had single yellow cards cancelled after the group stage so that if they picked up yellows in the quarterfinals and semifinals they were suspended for the showpiece event.

UEFA president Michel Platini said he was delighted with the ruling. —MNA/Reuters



New York Yankees relief pitcher Joba Chamberlain delivers a pitch against the Baltimore Orioles in the eighth inning of their MLB American League baseball game in Baltimore, Maryland on 19 April, 2008.—INTERNET



Shinzo Korogi (center) of Kashima Antlers of Japan scores past Vietnam's Nam Dinh goalie Tran Thanh Trung during their Asian Champions League match in Hanoi yesterday. Kashima won 4-0 to advance to the quarterfinals at the expense of Beijing Guo'an.—INTERNET

Niang, Diawara excused from Senegal

DAKAR, 22 May — Olympique Marseille striker Mamadou Niang has been omitted from Senegal's squad for their Group Six World Cup qualifiers after asking not to be called up until 2009, coach Lamine Ndiaye said on Wednesday.

Niang, whose 18 goals made him the second highest scorer in Ligue 1 this season, is joined on the sidelines by Girondins Bordeaux defender Souleymane Diawara, who has also asked to be excused from the qualifiers against Algeria, Gambia and Liberia.

Ndiaye, who named a 22-man squad for the African zone group matches, has dropped FA Cup winning midfielder Pape Bouba Diop of Portsmouth and Newcastle United defender Habib Beye.

French Under-21 international Issiar Dia is included although it is not yet clear if he has received permission from FIFA to switch his nationality. The Nancy striker is French-born but of Senegalese descent.

Senegal face home and away matches against their three group opponents starting at home in Dakar against Algeria on 31 May and finishing with the visit of Gambia in October. — MNA/Reuters

Dauids will leave Ajax after season

AMSTERDAM, 21 May— Edgar Dauids will leave Ajax Amsterdam after this season as his contract expires on 30 June, the Dutch club said on their official website (www.ajax.nl) on Tuesday.

"It is a pity that we will separate as I am a boy from Amsterdam and have special feelings for the club," Dauids was quoted as saying. "But I don't want to stay at Ajax at any price. I said before that the chance I would stay was not big."

"At this time I don't know where I will go. There has been interest from domestic and foreign clubs. I am fit and still feel good enough to play football on this level."

The 35-year-old midfielder has won 74 caps and scored six goals for the Netherlands but has not been called up for the national side since Marco van Basten took over as coach after Euro 2004.

Van Basten will take charge of Ajax after next month's European Championship. Dauids started his professional career aged 18 at Ajax and won the UEFA Cup and Champions League with the club.

In 1996, Dauids joined AC Milan but he moved on 18 months later to sign for Juventus, where he played for six years.

After spells at Barcelona, Inter Milan and Tottenham Hotspur, Dauids returned to Ajax in January 2007. — 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။ ခြင်္သေ့ကိုက်မခံရအောင် သတိပြုနေထိုင်ကြရန်၊
- ၁၁။ တစ်ကိုယ်ရေသန့်ရှင်းရေး ဂရုပြုဆောင်ရွက်ရန်၊ အစာမစားမီနှင့် အညစ်အကြေးကိုင်တွယ်ပြီးတိုင်း လက်ဆေးကြရန်၊
- ၁၂။ သဘာဝဘေးအန္တရာယ်ကျရောက်ပြီးသည့်အခါ အဆုတ်ရောင်ရောဂါ၊ ဝမ်းပျက်ဝမ်းလျှောရောဂါ၊ မြွေဆိုးကိုက်အန္တရာယ်၊ ထိခိုက်မှုအန္တရာယ်နှင့် အခြားကျန်းမာရေးပြဿနာများ ဖြစ်ပွားတတ်ပါသည်။ ဖြစ်ပွားပါက အနီးဆုံးကျန်းမာရေးဌာနသို့ အမြန်ဆုံးသွားရောက်ပြသကြပါရန် သတိပေး နှိုးဆော် အပ်ပါသည်။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

သတိပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်

ယခုရာသီကာလသည် ဝမ်းလျှောဝမ်းပျက်ရောဂါ ဖြစ်ပွားတတ်သည့်အချိန်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။ မသန့်ရှင်းသောရေသောက်သုံးခြင်းနှင့် မသန့်ရှင်းသော အစားအသောက်များ စားသုံးခြင်းတို့ကြောင့် ဝမ်းလျှောဝမ်းပျက်ရောဂါများ ဖြစ်ပွားနိုင်ပါသည်။

သို့ဖြစ်ပါ၍-

- * ဝမ်းလျှောဝမ်းပျက်ရောဂါကို ကာကွယ်နိုင်ရန်အတွက်
 - ကလိုရင်းဆေးခတ်ထားသောရေ(သို့) ကျိုချက်ထားသော ရေကိုသာလျှင် သောက်သုံးကြရန်၊
 - သန့်ရှင်းလတ်ဆတ်သော ပူနွေးသည့်အစာများကိုသာ စားသုံးကြရန်၊
 - ယင်နားစာမစားရန်နှင့် အစာများကို ယင်မနားအောင် ဖုံးအုပ်ထားကြရန်၊
 - ကလေး၊ လူကြီးအားလုံး သန့်ရှင်းသော ယင်လုံအိမ်သာ ကို သုံးစွဲကြရန်၊
 - အစာမစားမီနှင့် အညစ်အကြေးကိုင်တွယ်ပြီးတိုင်း လက်ကို စင်ကြယ်အောင်ဆေးကြောကြရန်၊
 - အညစ်အကြေးများကို စနစ်တကျ စွန့်ပစ်ကြရန်၊

(ထုံးဖြူးခြင်း၊ မြေဖုံးခြင်း၊ မီးရှို့ခြင်းများကိုဆောင်ရွက်ရန်)
* ဝမ်းပျက်ဝမ်းလျှောရောဂါဖြစ်ပွားပါက အနီးဆုံးကျန်းမာရေးဌာနသို့အမြန်ဆုံးပြသရန်နှင့် လူနာများတွေ့ရှိက ကျန်းမာရေးဌာနသို့ အမြန်ဆုံးသတင်းပေးပို့ကြပါရန် နှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန



Friday, 23 May
View on today

- 7:00 am
1. တောင်တန်းသာသနာပြုဆရာတော်
ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
7:30 am
2. Morning news
7:40 am
3. Musical programme
7:55 am

4. ပြည်ထောင်စုတိုင်းရင်းသား
ရိုးရာတေးသံသာ
8:05 am
5. Musical programme
8:30 am
6. International news
8:40 am
7. Musical programme
4:00 pm
1. စစ်ချီတေးစစ်သည်တေး
4:30 pm

2. နောင်းခေတ်တေးပဒေသာ
4:45 pm
3. Musical programme
5:00 pm
4. မျိုးချစ်စိတ်ဓာတ်ရှင်သန်
ထက်မြက်ရေးတေးများ
5:15 pm
5. Musical programme
6:00 pm
6. Evening news
6:30 pm
7. Weather report
6:35 pm

8. သုတစုံလင်ရွှေဉာဏ်ရှင်
7:10 pm
9. Musical programme
7:20 pm
10. Musical programme
8:00 pm
11. Local news
12. International news
13. Weather report
14. Myanmar video
topics
“လွန်းတင်ကြီး”(အပိုင်း-၂)
(နိုင်ငံ့နိုင်ငံ၊ အိန္ဒိယကျော်စင်)
(ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကိုလွင်-စန်းပိုင်)

Woman rescued 196 hours after China's earthquake

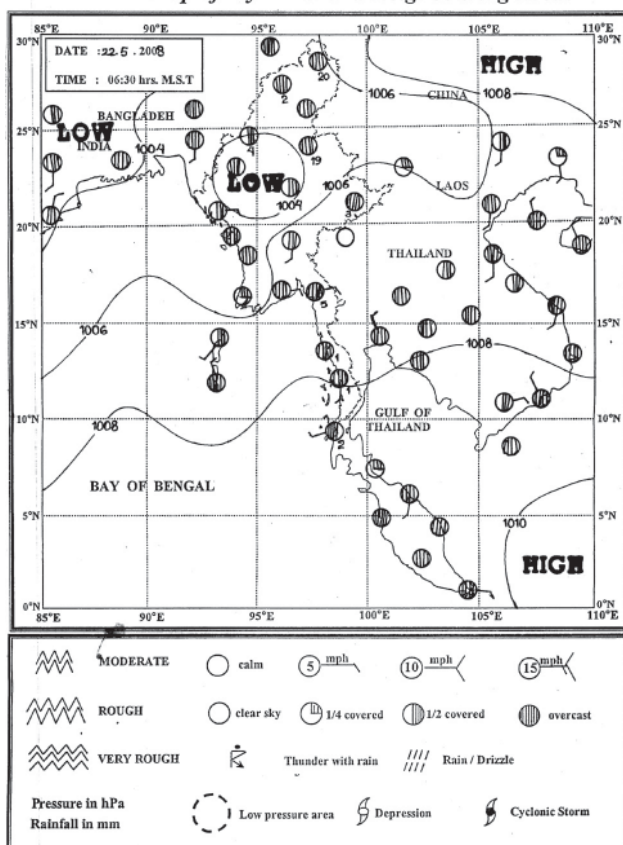
CHENGDU, 22 May- A 60-year-old woman was rescued at 6:45 pm on Tuesday from rubble in Pengzhou, southwest China's Sichuan Province, more than 196 hours after the 12 May earthquake.

Wang Youqun, a retiree from the provincial capital of Chengdu, had lived on rainwater in the past days. She, still conscious when rescuers found her, was rushed to hospital.

Wang was inside a temple when the quake struck. She was hit by a falling girder in the head and had been in coma until last Tuesday, according to the rescue team from an Air Force regiment based in Chengdu.—MNA/Xinhua

WEATHER

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Thursday, 22 May, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Kachin and Mon States, Taninthayi Division, scattered in Shan State and upper Sagaing Division, isolated in Kayah State, lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Yangon Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions with isolated heavyfall in Mandalay Division. Day temperatures were (3°C) above May average temperatures in Taninthayi Division and about May average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant day temperature was Chauk (40°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Mogoke (2.56) inches, Thabon (1.34) inches, Kanbalu (1.29) inches and Putao (1.26) inches. Maximum temperature on 21-5-2008 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 22-5-2008 was 75°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 22-5-2008 was 85%. Total sunshine hours on 21-5-2008 was (3.8) hours approx.

Rainfall on 22-5-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, (0.04) inch at Kaba-Aye and (Nil) at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (27.76) inches at Mingaladon, (31.97) inches at Kaba-Aye and (34.76) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum windspeed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye)

was (4) mph from Southeast at (7:30) hours MST on 22-5-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 23-5-2008: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Kachin and Mon States, Taninthayi Division, scattered in Shan State, upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Moderate monsoon in the Andaman Sea, South and East Central Bay of Bengal.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 23-5-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 23-5-2008: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 23-5-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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International humanitarian assistance should not be politicized

Prime Minister addresses briefing on relief and rehabilitation measures

NAY PYI TAW, 22 May – Chairman of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Prime Minister General Thein Sein delivered an address at the briefing on the relief and rehabilitation measures in the aftermath of cyclone Nargis at the Mindon Hall of Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Yangon this morning.

It was also attended by Minister for National Planning and Economic 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, the director-general of the Government Office and departmental heads, diplomats, donors and delegates from 39 countries, officials of 12 international organizations and guests.

Before the briefing, Prime Minister General Thein

Sein and those present make a one-minute silence to mourn the storm victims.

Next, Chairman of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Prime Minister General Thein Sein delivered an address. In his address, the Prime Minister said: at the outset, on behalf of the Government of the Union of Myanmar and on my own I would like to extend a warm welcome to all distinguished delegates from the donor countries and organizations.

We are very much grateful to you for your presence here today amid your very heavy schedule. Your visit to Myanmar at this particular time clearly demonstrates the importance the international community attaches to alleviating the sufferings of the people affected by cyclone Nargis.

(See page 10)



Prime Minister General Thein Sein addresses a ceremony to explain relief and rehabilitation measures in the aftermath of cyclone Nargis at Sedona Hotel.—MNA

Weather Forecast for (23-5-2008)

Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area
Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Yangon and neighbouring area
Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Mandalay and neighbouring area
Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

UN Secretary-General tours Kyonda relief camp in Dedaye Tsp, Mawlamyinekyun

YANGON, 22 May—UN Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon and party,

accompanied by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Am-

bassador to the UN U Kyaw Tint Swe, acting UN resident representa-

tive Mr Daniel B Baker and officials concerned left here for Kyonda village relief camp of Dedaye Township in Ayeyawady Division by Tatmadaw helicopter at 3.15 pm today.

They were welcomed there by Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi and officials concerned. At the relief camp, Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi briefed them on blowing of the storm in Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, losses and damages caused by the storm in Dedaye Township, field trips to all storm-hit regions led by the Prime

Minister who is the Chairman of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee, ministers and deputy ministers and officials concerned, accomplishment of the relief tasks through their close supervisions, priority being given to relief supplies and reconstruction tasks, arrival of relief items from internal and external donors and systematic distribution of relief supplies phase by phase.

Next, Mr Ban Ki-moon and party together with Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi observed communication links, supply of power through solar

system, accommodation of families of the storm victims and consoled them.

Afterwards, Mr Ban Ki-moon and party together with Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi and Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu and officials concerned flew to Mawlamyinekyun by helicopter, where they were welcomed by Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt.

At Dhammayon of the Local Battalion, Lt-Col Tun Tun briefed them on losses and damages

(See page 10)



UN Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon comforts storm victims at Kyonda relief camp in Dedaye Township.—MNA