Established 1914

The New Light of Myanmar

Volume XVI, Number 19 | 3rd Waxing of Kason 1370 ME | Wednesday, 7 May, 2008

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Union of Myanmar
State Peace and Development Council
(Announcement No 5/2008)

2nd Waxing of Kason 1370 ME

(6 May 2008)

1. The State Peace and Development Council announced the following regions as disaster-hit regions that were struck by the cyclonic storm Nargis under Announcement No 4/2008 dated on 3 May 2008.
   (a) Ayeyawady Division
   (b) Yangon Division
   (c) Bago Division
   (d) Mon State
   (e) Kayin State

(See page 2)

The Commission for Holding the Referendum will hold the referendum on 10 May 2008 as scheduled in all the states and divisions except the 40 townships in Yangon Division and seven townships in Ayeyawady Division that have been announced to remain the disaster-hit areas under Announcement No 5/2008 of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar.

Union of Myanmar
Commission for Holding Referendum
Announcement No 8/2008

2nd Waxing of Kason 1370 ME

(6 May 2008)

1. The commission has announced that the referendum will be held on 10 May 2008 for approval of the draft constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
2. However, due to the cyclonic storm 'NARGIS' that hit Myanmar on 2 May 2008, the State Peace and Development Council announced Ayeyawady, Yangon and Bago Divisions and Mon and Kayin States as the affected areas.
3. Now, some townships in the disaster-hit areas have returned to normalcy. The State Peace and Development Council hereby releases Announcement No 5/2008 on 6 May 2008 that the followings townships remain as the affected areas.
   (a) Ngaputaw, Labutta, Mawlamyinegyun, Pyapon, Bogale, Kyaiklat and Dedaye in Ayeyawady Division, totalling seven townships.
   (b) Tamway, South Okkalapa, Dagon (Seikkan), Dagon Myothit (South), Dagon Myothit (North), Dagon Myothit (East), Dawbon, Pazundaung, Botahtaung, Mingala Taungnyunt, North Okkalapa, Yankin, Thakayta, Thingangyun, Kamayut, Kyimyindine, Kyauktada, Sangyoung, Seikkan, Dagon, Pabedan, Bahan, Mayangon, Latha, Hline, Lanmadaw, Ahlon, Thanlyin, Kyauktan, Thongwa, Kayan, Twantay, Kungyangon, Kawhmu, Dalla, Seikkyi Khanaungto, Insein, Mingaladon, Shwepyitha and Hlinethaya in Yangon Division, totalling 40 townships.
4. The referendum due to be held in the townships stated in para (3) are postponed to 24 May 2008.

(Aung Toe)
Chairman
Commission for Holding Referendum

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

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

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 7 May, 2008

Rehabilitation tasks being carried out for the people of storm-hit areas

The cyclonic storm (NARGIS) that occurred in Myanmar claimed casualties and property in some areas in Yangon, Ayeyawady and Bago divisions and Mon and Kayin states. Now, relief and resettlement works are being carried out at the national level for rehabilitation of local people in the areas that came under the severe natural disaster.

Members of the Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force, fire brigade and social organizations, and staff of development affairs committees and local people are engaged in clearing the blocked roads and railroads and reconstructing tasks for removing the debris, supply of electricity and water, communication service and transport in the affected areas.

At the same time, work is under way to provide relief supplies such as clothes, rice, edible oil and gram and clean water for the victims.

Not only that, temporary clinics have also been opened to provide health care to local residents in the disaster-hit areas. Members of the Myanmar Red Cross Society are participating in the relief and resettlement service and providing relief such as blankets, mosquito nets, aluminum utensils and plates.

Now, various organizations are clearing the blocked roads and carrying out rehabilitation tasks actively under the close supervision of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee. So, the people, on their part, have to provide cash and kind for the affected areas to return to normal as soon as possible.

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**

Union of Myanmar
State Peace and Development Council
(Announcement No 5/2008)

2nd Waxing of Kason 1370 ME
(6 May 2008)

(from page 1)

2. As the government has been taking relief and resettlement measures in a speedy and effective way, the following affected regions returned to normal and they have now been dropped from the list of disaster-hit regions.
   (a) Bago Division
   (b) Mon State
   (c) Kayin State
   (d) Htantabin, Hlegu, Hmawby, Taikkyi and Cocokyun Townships in Yangon Division totalling 5 townships.
   (e) Pathein, Kangyidaunk, Thabaung, Kyonpyaw, Yekyi, Kyaunggkon, Hinthada, Zalun, Laymyethna, Myanaung, Kyangin, Ingapu, Myaungmya, Einme, Wakema, Maubin, Pantanaw, Nyaungdon and Danubyu Townships in Ayeyawady Division totalling 19 townships.
3. The following townships in Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions continue to be designated as disaster-hit regions, and relief and resettlement measures are being taken in those regions.
   (a) Tamway, South Okkalapa, Dagon (Seikkan), Dagon Myothit (South), Dagon Myothit (North), Dagon Myothit (East), Dawbon, Pazundaung, Botahtaung, Mingala Taungnyunt, North Okkalapa, Yankin, Thakayta, Thingangyun, Kamayut, Kyimyindine, Kyauktada, Sangyoung, Seikkan, Dagon, Pabedan, Bahan, Mayangon, Latha, Hline, Lanmadaw, Ahlon, Thanlyin, Kyauktan, Thongwa, Kayan, Twantay, Kungyangon, Kawhmu, Dalla, Seikkyi Khanaungto, Insein, Mingaladon, Shwepyitha and Hlinethaya Townships in Yangon Division totalling 40 townships.
   (b) Ngaputaw, Labutta, Mawlamyinegyun, Pyapon, Bogale, Kyaiklat and Dedaye Townships in Ayeyawady Divison totalling 7 townships.

By order
Sd / **Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo**
Lieutenant-General
Secretary-1
State Peace and Development Council

Disaster victims in Hlinethaya Township provided with rice and cash

YANGON, 6 May — Secretariat Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association In-charge of Hlinethaya Township Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan donated bags of rice and cash to 'Nargis' victims in Hlinethaya Township yesterday.

He met with the storm victims at the relief camps at Basic Education Middle School Nos 7 and 8, Basic Education High School No 2 and Basic Education Primary School No 15 and provided bags of rice and cash.

In his words of encouragement, the minister said: officials concerned are arranging relief, clearance and resettlement activities in the disaster-hit areas. With the guidance of the Head of State, officials supervised by the Prime Minister visited the areas stricken by the disaster and performed tasks of relief and resettlement with great efforts. Helicopters were being used for emergency relief.

He continued that Tamadawmen, members of Union Solidarity and Development Association and social organizations played a part in the activities. The government has been providing food, medicines and other relief supplies in time to the victims in the disaster-hit areas.

Later, the Secretariat Member cordially met those at the relief camps.

The minister donated 120 bags of rice and cash for the victims in Hlinethaya Township through officials concerned.—*MNA*

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan meeting with storm victims at No 2 BEHS in Hlinethaya Township.

MNA

A Russian policeman guards in front of Topol-M ICBM during a rehearsal for the nation's Victory Day parade in Moscow. Fighter jets circled over Red Square on Monday as Russia prepared a huge patriotic display around this week's presidential inauguration, amid rising tension with pro-Western neighbour Georgia.—INTERNET

Azerbaijan frees Russian cargo for Iran atom plant

BAKU, 6 May — A Russian cargo detained in Azerbaijan on its way to Iran's Bushehr nuclear plant has been allowed to cross the border into the Islamic Republic, the Azeri Foreign Ministry said on Thursday.

"The cargo has been allowed to cross over the border," a ministry spokesman said.

Heat insulators for the nuclear plant were stopped at Astara, on the Azeri-Iranian border on 29 March, Russian officials said.

The delay raised tension between Russia and Iran, with each saying the other should do more to persuade Azeri authorities to free the cargo.

Azeri officials had said it did not have the right permit. Russia said the correct documents were supplied with the cargo.

Russia has already delivered nuclear fuel under a one-billion-US-dollar contract to build the Bushehr plant, on the Gulf coast in southwest Iran, and Iranian officials say the reactor is likely to be started up in 2008.

Russia signed a contract to build the plant in 1995 based on an earlier project begun in the 1970s by the German firm Siemens. The project was disrupted by Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution and the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq War.

MNA/Reuters

UNSC holds open debate on threat of small arms

UNITED NATIONS, 6 May — The UN Security Council held on Wednesday an open debate on the threat posed by the illicit flow of small arms to international peace and security. During the meeting, Hannelore Hoppe, deputy to the high representative for disarmament affairs, presented UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's first-ever report on small arms.

In the report, the UN chief said that, while a build-up of small arms alone may not create the conflicts in which they are used, their excessive accumulation and universal availability tends to aggravate conflicts and lengthen them.

Most present-day conflicts are fought mainly with small arms and light weapons, he said. They are broadly used in inter-State conflict and are the weapons of choice in civil wars and for terrorism, organized crime and gang warfare, he noted. The report stressed the need for collaboration between the Council and the General Assembly to curb the illicit flows of arms and ammunition to crisis and conflict areas.

Additionally, it presented several recommendations directly involving the Council, including strengthening ties between its arms embargoes and its disarmament, demobilization and reintegration efforts, as well as to further apply its practice of tying arms embargo exceptions to security sector reform.

MNA/Xinhua

Nicaragua's Ortega says US financing opponents

MANAGUA, 6 May — Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, a former Marxist guerrilla, accused the United States on Wednesday of financing opponents to topple his government.

Ortega, who fought US-backed Contra rebels during his first stint as head of state in the 1980s, said officials at the US Embassy in Managua were helping opponents "to try to organize protests and paralyze the country".

"At some point we will name those members of the Yankee embassy who are putting forward millions in financing for false union leaders and fake political leaders to organize protests against the revolutionary government," Ortega told thousands of workers ahead of Labour Day on Thursday.

Ortega, an ally of leftist Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, said Nicaragua was still open to US investment.

Ortega has said he wants good relations with Washington since taking office in January last year, almost 17 years after he was voted out of office.

MNA/Reuters

First talks on judiciary issue ends in Dubai

ISLAMABAD, 6 May — The first round of crucial talks aimed at resolving the judiciary issue has ended in Dubai between Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari and Chief of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Mian Nawaz Sharif, local newspaper *The News* reported Wednesday.

Both parties agreed to keep their coalition intact like before. However, no decision has been made with regard to the deadline of judges' restoration, the report said.

The two parties met Monday in Dubai in a bid to work out a way to restore the judges who were sacked after 3 November, 2007 when President Pervez Musharraf declared a state of emergency in the country.

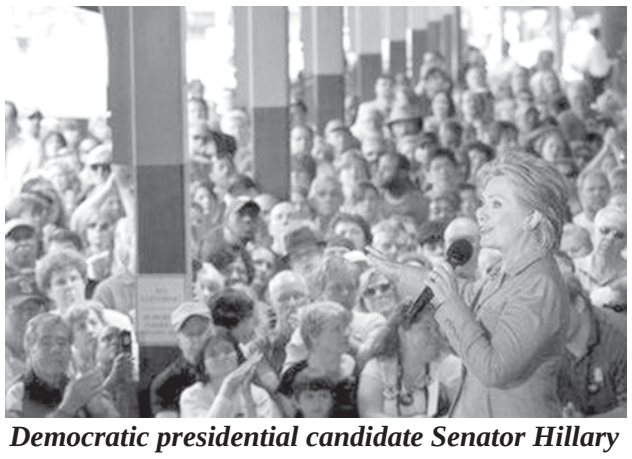
The PPP claimed that a constitutional package which would fix the tenure of office Chief Justice of the Supreme Court would go with the resolution to restore the judges. However, the PML-N insisted that the reinstatement of judges should not be linked with the constitutional package. Thus talks failed on Tuesday.

Nawaz Sharif on Tuesday evening flew to Dubai for talks with Zardari to settle the judiciary issue.

Before his departure to Dubai, Sharif said that the deadline for the restoration would expire on 30 April.

The PPP and PML-N on 9 March made a joint declaration in Murree of Rawalpindi. According to the Murree Declaration, the two parties agreed to form a coalition government in the centre and reinstate the deposed judges within 30 days since the formation of the government.

MNA/Xinhua



Democratic presidential candidate Senator Hillary Clinton speaks during a campaign stop in High Point, North Carolina, on 5 May, 2008.—INTERNET

Demonstrators shout slogans outside Bakara market in Mogadishu, on 5 May, 2008.—INTERNET

Relief and rehabilitation works under way in Kayin State

NAY PYI TAW, 6 May—Maj-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence, and CEC Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint together with Chairman of Kayin State Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Zaw Min paid homage to Nyaungbintha Monastery Presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vajiramuddhi and members of the Sangha and donated alms to the Sayadaw following the inspection of regional general condition along Thaton-Hpa-an motor road in a motorcade yesterday.

Next, they viewed round Nyaungbintha village and inspected minor damages of the ceiling of portico at Hpa-an University of Computer Studies. They cordially met with faculty members and the students.

Afterwards, Maj-Gen Tha Aye looked into durability of the Thanlwin Bridge (Hpa-an) and gave necessary instructions.

Upon arrival at Hpa-an, they oversaw fallen trees being cleared by members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade in the wards and those on Hpa-an-Hlaingbwe motor road by Tatmadawmen, members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade and Township Development Affairs Committee and cordially met with storm victims and encouraged them.

Next, Maj-Gen Tha Aye attended a meeting to review Disaster Preparedness Committee of Kayin State held at the meeting hall of Hpa-an Station. First Brig-Gen Zaw Min and officials concerned briefed on the setup of disaster preparedness committee in advance due to the storm warning and preparedness measures taken against the storm. Next, Brig-Gen Tun Nay Lin of the Local Battalion briefed on preventive measures taken against the storm by regiments and units and members of disaster preparedness committee on sector-wise measures. Afterwards, the secretary of Kayin State USDA briefed on efforts made by members of USDA and social organizations in response to the storm warning to enable the people to take preventive measures against the storm. Afterwards, Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint gave a supplementary report.

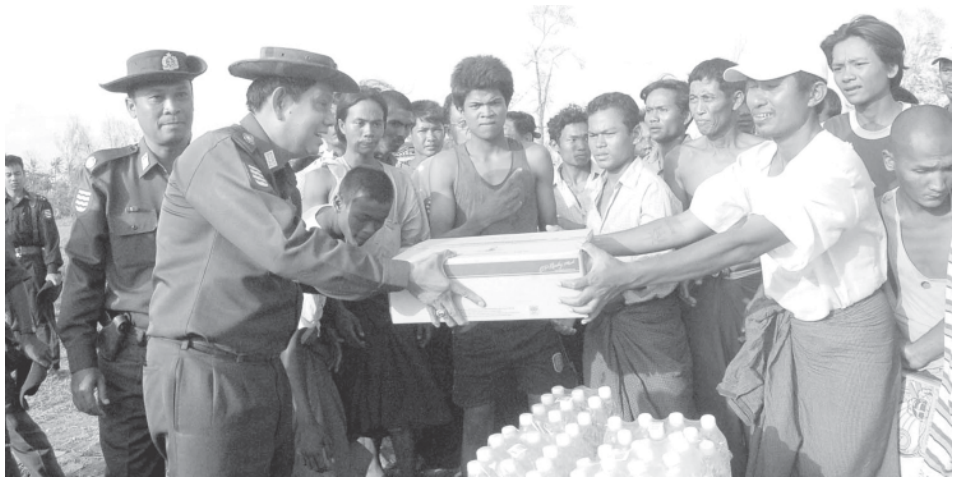
Next, Maj-Gen Tha Aye gave necessary instructions and presented cash to members of Kayin State USDA, Auxiliary Fire Brigade, Policemen and Red Cross Society who had participated in the clearing of debris caused by the storm.

Next, Maj-Gen Tha Aye and officials inspected 4000-ton and 800-ton Cement Plants resuming operation and gave necessary instructions. The wind speed of the Nargis hit Kayin State was 35 miles per hour and blew off roofs of a few buildings and only two people were injured in the falling tree. Now, communication, electricity and transport return to normal.

Afterwards, Maj-Gen Tha Aye together with Chairman of Mon State PDC Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win and officials supervised clearing of fallen trees by Tatmadawmen and members of USDAs and power lines repaired by staff of the Ministry of Electric Power No 2 in Thaton and gave instructions to officials to supply electricity.

Next, they looked into the clearing of fallen trees by Tatmadawmen and power lines repaired by staff of the Ministry of Electric Power No 2 and gave necessary instructions.

Upon arrival at Thaton Sub-power Station, they oversaw power supply tasks and gave instructions to officials concerned to focus on power supply tasks not to cause power outage and made arrangements to fulful the requirements. —*MNA*



***Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo distributes food and medicines donated by Royal Thai Armed Forces to a victim in Labutta.*—MNA**

***Commander Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe distributing food and medicines donated by Royal Thai Armed Forces to a storm victim in Labutta.* — MNA**

Storm victims consoled and provided with relief aids

YANGON, 6 May—Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win went to the relief camp opened at No 15 Basic Education Primary School in Hlinethaya Township this afternoon.

Chairman of Hlinethaya Township PDC U Khin Maung Thein briefed on losses and damages caused by the storm, opening of 27 relief camps and distribution of relief supplies to the storm victims.

After hearing the reports, the commander said that with the assistance of the Government, the Yangon Division PDC in cooperation with wellwishers are providing relief aids to the storm victims. Tatmadawmen, policemen, staff of Yangon Division Power Supply Board and members of social organizations are taking cooperative measures for electricity supply to enable the industrial zones to resume their operation in order that the employees will be back at work.

Next, the commander and party went to relief camps of No 7 Basic Education Middle School in Atwinpin village and No 8 Basic Education High School in No 20 Ward in Hlinethaya Township, met with storm victims and consoled them.

On arrival at the relief camps opened at Thahaponnyacari Dhammayon in No 72 Ward in Dagon Myothit (South), Thantithukha Dhammayon in No 71 Ward and Dhammayons in No 54 Ward, they consoled the storm victims and provided them with relief aids.

The Yangon Division PDC is working hard for electricity supply to enable the industrial zones to resume their operation besides carrying out the rescue works for the storm victims. —*MNA*

Medicines and food sent to Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 6 May — Medicines and food donated by Royal Thai Army of Thailand were sent to Pyapon, Daydaye, Bogale and Mawlamyinegyun townships in Ayeyawady Division by helicopter.

Director-General U Myint Tun of Fire Services department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Commandant Brig-Gen Tin Maung Aye of No 1 Defence Services General Hospital (Mingaladon), Deputy Commander of Minigaladon Air Base Col Thein Naing and officials and members of Tatmadaw accepted the medicines and food donated by Thailand systematically. And these supplies were loaded onto helicopters from 2.30 pm to 3.30 pm.

On arrival at Pyapon, Chairman of Pyapon District Peace and Development Council U Myo Chit, Chairman of Township PDC U Myo Myint Zaw and party welcomed the arrival of No 1 helicopter carrying medicines and food. Deputy Director-General U Thet Naing of Relief and Resettlement handed them over to officials. These foods and medicines will be distributed to residents of Pyapon and Daydaye townships.

Likewise, in Labutta, Chairman of Ayeyawady Division PDC, Commander of South-West Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe and Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Haty Oo welcomed the arrival of No 2 helicopter and distributed food and medicines to victims.

In Bogale, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung and officials welcomed the arrival of No 3 helicopter and distributed food and medicines to victims.

Likewise, No 4 helicopter carrying medicines and household goods arrived at Mawlamyinegyun.

The materials donated by Thailand to those townships in Ayeyawady Division are all sorts of medicines, sausages, canned fishes and purified drinking water and noodle packages and sachets.—*MNA*

Nargis victims in Ayeyawady…

(from page 16)

Moreover, the Adjutant-General saw to the transfer of fourteen patients who needed emergency medical treatment to Pathein General Hospital by helicopter.

He then handed over relief supplies, medicines and drinking water collected in Pathein Airport to the commander who supervised the rescue works in Pyinsalu.

The commander distributed them to the storm victims and arranged the transfer of 24 patients by helicopter to People's Hospital in Labutta Township.

With relief supplies on board, the Adjutant-General and the minister inspected whether Ahma in Pyapon Township and Htawpaing Nautmee, Daw Nyein, Kyonkadon and Thamainhtaw village-tracts were hit by the cyclonic storm.

They airdropped the supplies for the victims in Satsan village-tract in Pyapon Township.

They met and comforted the storm victims in Kyaiklat and instructed officials concerned to uplift the momentum of relief works.

MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung inspects unloading of goods and medicines donated by Royal Thai Armed Forces from a helicopter in Bogale. — **MNA**

Minister inspects power supply tasks in Hlinethaya, Mingaladon, Hmawby

YANGON, 6 May — Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint went to Hlinethaya Main Sub-Power Station in Hlinethaya Township yesterday and inspected preparations for power supply.

The minister also inspected production of concrete posts at Yangon Concrete Posts Production.

Afterwards, the minister and party went to Mingaladon Township and inspected repairing and installation of cables.

Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and party proceeded to Pugyi Water Purifying Plant in Hlawga and gave instructions on power supply from the plant.

During his tour of Mingaladon Township, the minister inspected the CNG Refilling Station and gave instructions on power supply to the station.

He also inspected the reconstruction of the power supply system to Pale Industrial Zone.

Afterwards, the minister inspected connecting cables with Kyatphyukan Sub-power Station and Myawady TV Station in Hmawby Township.

On his tour of Ngamoeyeik Water Purifying Plant and Hlawga Sub-power Station, the minister inspected condition of transformers and preparations for power supply tasks.

Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint held a meeting with officials concerned at the office of Yangon Power Supply Board and gave instructions on power supply to four districts in Yangon. —*MNA*

Staff of Myanma Railways remove trees fallen on railroads.

RAILWAYS

Regular rail services resume

YANGON, 6 May — There run now regular trains after rail services had suspended temporarily due to cyclonic storm Nargis on 2 May.

Staff of Myanma Railways have already cleared the trees that fell on the rails. This being so, trains are rerunning as before from Yangon to Mandalay, from Yangon to Nay Pyi Taw, and from Yangon to Dawei through Mawlamyine on 4 May evening, and from Yangon to Pyay and some commuter trains in Yangon on 5 May.

Yangon commuter trains run regularly as from today.— *MNA*

Clean water for Yangonites

YANGON, 6 May— Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and officials inspected supplying clean water by cars to people of Lanmadaw, Latha, Pabedan, Kyauktada, Botahtaung, and Pazundaung Townships on 5 May and attended to the needs.

This morning, the Mayor inspected YCDC staff clearing the falling trees on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, near roundabout of U Htaung Bo, Bahan Township, and Shwedagon Pagoda road, near junction of Shwedagon Pagoda Road and Bogyoke Street, after being struck by cyclone Nargis and fulfilled the requirements.

The Mayor inspected providing clean water to people of the 11th Street, between Anawrhahta Street and Bogyoke Street, and the 20th Street, between Maha Bandooa Street and Strand Road and attended to the needs.

MNA

Water available in six townships in downtown Yangon

NAY PYI TAW, 6 May – Water has been distributed to six townships in downtown Yangon.

People in Yangon experienced water shortages due to power outage caused by the storm Nargis. Respective departments made efforts to address the problem. Yesterday, with the use of two generators in the morning and three generators in the afternoon, water was fed into Mya Yeik Nyo water tank and then distributed to six townships in downtown Yangon.

So the people in these areas were able to fetch water.

MNA

Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspects supply of drinking water to residents in Latha Township. — **YCDC**

Steps being taken in two phases for regular power supply

Press conference on 'relief measures' held

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan briefs on condition of relief works in areas hit by cyclonic storm 'Nargis'. — MNA

YANGON, 6 May— A press conference on conditions of some regions of Myanmar that were struck by the cyclonic storm 'Nargis' and relief measures being taken was held at the Myanmar Raido and Television's Studio (A) Hall on Pyay Road here at 11 am today.

It was attened by Chairman of Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and for Immi-gration and Population Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, heads of departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Information, chief-editors of dailies, the Chairman of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, the Vice-Chairman and executives, the Patron of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club, the President and member correspondents, members of editorial boards of magazines and journals and guests.

In his clarification, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said that the severe cyclonic storm Nargis originated in Bay of Bangal as a low pressure area. The low pressure area became stronger on 27 April and reached a state of a small storm. The cyclone passed over Hainggyi Island region on 2 May as it had become stronger and stronger. At 10 pm on 2 May, it became stronger with a wind speed from 50 to 60 miles per hour, at midnight with a wind speed of 70 miles per hour and at 2 pm with a wind speed of 120 miles. The cyclone with a diameter of about 150 miles struck Ayeyawady, Yangon and Bago Divisions and Mon and Kayin States on 2 and 3 May and moved into north-eastwards and weakened.

The government issued warnings to the people as to the severe cyclonic storm Nargis since 24 April through newspapers, radio and TV. The warnings of radio and TV on 1 May and that of newspapers on 2 May said that the cyclone could bring damages to north-east regions such as Thayawady and Yangon and to north regions such as Gwa, Pathein, Myaungmya, Labutta, Mawlamyinegyun, Kyonmangay, Chaungtha, Ngwehsaung and Bogale, and there can be strong wind during the cyclonic storm.

The National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee was informed of the cyclone. The NDPCC was formed in 2005 to take necessary measures in case of disaster drawing lessons from the incident of Tsunami that occurred in South-east Asian region in December 2005.

In line with the warnings, cyclonic storm Nargis struck Ayeyawady Division, Yangon Division, Mon State and Kayin State from 2 May morning to 3 May evening. Therefore, there were losses and damages in Ayeyawady Division, Yangon Division, Mon State and Kayin State, he added.

Members of NDPCC led by Prime Minister General Thein Sein rushed to the cyclone-hit areas from Nay Pyi Taw soon after the meeting of NDPCC held on 3 May morning and started launching a drive for clearing debris and carrying out reconstruction and relief works. Similarly, the State Peace and Development Council issued An-nouncement No 4/2008 on 3 May and designated the affected regions, namely, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Bago Divisions and Mon and Kayin States as disaster-stricken regions under the announcement so as to be able to take the national level relief measures, he noted.

In the meantime, senior military officers led by Prime Minister General Thein Sein together with some NDPCC members are supervising the clearing and relief works in Yangon Division and other cyclone-hit states and divisions. Together with the Prime Minister, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein is supervising the relief measures by helicopter, he said.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, members of NDPCC Ministers Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Maj-Gen Aung Kyi, Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and Col Zaw Min, Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Myint Thein, Brig-Gen Phone Swe and Dr Mya Oo are supervising the clearing and relief tasks in Yangon Division. Tatmadaw members of No 11 LID and No 77 LID, members of Myanmar Police Force, Tatmadawmen of Yangon Command, members of Yangon Divison USDA Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Red Cross, Fire Brigade and War Veterans Organization are participating in the campaign. Tatmadaw helicopters are being used wherever necessary, he disclosed.

In a similar manner, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Commander of South-West Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe and members of NDPCC Ministers Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Brig-Gen Thein Aung and Col Thein Nyunt are making field trips to supervise the clearing and relief works in Ayeyawady Division with the use of Tatmadaw helicopters wherever necessary.

Tatmadaw members of No 66 LID and Western Command, MPF members, USDA members, members of Women's Affairs Federation, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Red Cross, Fire Brigade and War Veterans Organization in Ayeyawady Division are participating in the drive.

Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko, members of NDPCC Ministers Maj-Gen Aung Min, Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Deputy Ministers Thura U Thaung Lwin and U Ohn Myint are supervising the clearing and relief tasks in Bago Division being carried out by Tatmadawmen of Southern Command, MPF members, USDA members, members of Women's Affairs Federation, Maternal and Child Wel-fare Association, Red Cross, Fire Brigade and War

(See page 7)

Tatmadawmen, Red Cross members and volunteers unloading food and medicines donated by Royal Thai Armed Forces from a helicopter in Mawlamyinegyun. — MNA

Steps being taken in two phases for regular...

(from page 6)

Veterans Organization in Bago Division.

Maj-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence, Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win, members of NDPCC Ministers Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung are supervising the clearing and relief tasks in Mon State being carried out by Tatmadawmen of South-East Command, MPF members, USDA members, members of Women's Affairs Federation, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Red Cross, Fire Brigade and War Veterans Organization in Mon State.

Owing to collective efforts of the Tatmadaw and the people, motor roads, railroads and waterways can be serviceable and foreign and domestic airlines return to normal while the storm-hit roads and highways are now used by with traffic.

For electricity, steps are being taken in first and second phases for power supply. In the first phase, power supply to No 2 Defence Services General Hospital, Children's Hospital, Central Women's Hospital, Yangon General Hospital, Western General Hospital, Insein Communication Station, Insein GSM Station, Mayangon Overseas Communication Station, five CNG Filling Stations, Yangon International Airport, University of Computer Studies, Phugi Water works, Yayku Water works and Shwedagon Pagoda can be carried out.

In the second phase, 4,000 employees are repairing the power supply system and power will be distributed to complete power supply network.

Out of five water supply stations in Yangon, Gyobyu Water Supply Station supplies water to Yangon regularly, and Phugyi, Hlawga and Yegu start water supply as they have been repaired. Nyaunghnapin Water Supply Station is under repair and it is expected to supply water within one or two days.

Seven generators — two 100-KV generators in Hlinethaya Township, two generators in Thingangyun Township, two generators in Thakeyta Township and one generator in Latha Township — are being used to supply water to residents in Yangon. Arrangements have been made to bring 35-KVA, 360 KVA and 500-KVA generators to Yangon to be used in water supply tasks in Yangon.

Water supply stations on Maha Bandoola Street, at City Hall, in Thakeyta, Yeku and Ahlon townships are supplying water to residents in Yangon. The connection of mobile phone system is restored to its good condition, and 100 CDMA phones have been installed in Yangon for public use and more CDMA phones will be installed in Yangon.

Regarding the prices of consumer goods, officials concerned are closely supervising the sales of household goods and foods.

Regarding loss and casualties caused by the cyclonic storm Nargis, 59 dead and 504 went missing in Yangon Division, two dead in Einme, Ayeyawady Division, 1,835 dead and 2,187 went missing in Mawlamyinegyun Township, 975 dead on Hainggyi Island, 253 dead and 16 went missing on Khatta Island, Ahma Township, 789 dead and 172 went missing in Dedaye Township and five dead in Pyapon Township. Over10,000 dead in Bogale Township and over 1,000 dead in Labutta Township.

The Government earmarked K 5 billion to be spent on relief works, and aids, and assistance from the people and businessmen are required to turn the situation into normal situation as the storm caused heavy loss and damages.

Relief aids from local as well as foreign countries are needed to help victims. The Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and I also briefed Diplomats and officials of UN agencies and NGOs on conditions of the loss and damages and relief works.

Thailand will donate US $ 100,000 and relief aid to the victims and a plane loaded with relief aid from Thailand will arrive Yangon International Airport today and a plane loaded with relief aids from the People's Republic of China will arrive here today. Relief aid from Singapore is expected to arrive here within a week and other countries have made arrangements to donate relief aid to Myanmar. We also want to express thanks to those countries which show sympathy for loss and damage of Myanmar due to the storm.

Items that are in need are tents, plastic, tarpaulin, CI sheets, clothes, drinking water, medicines, instant foods, blankets, clothes, nails and zinc sheets.

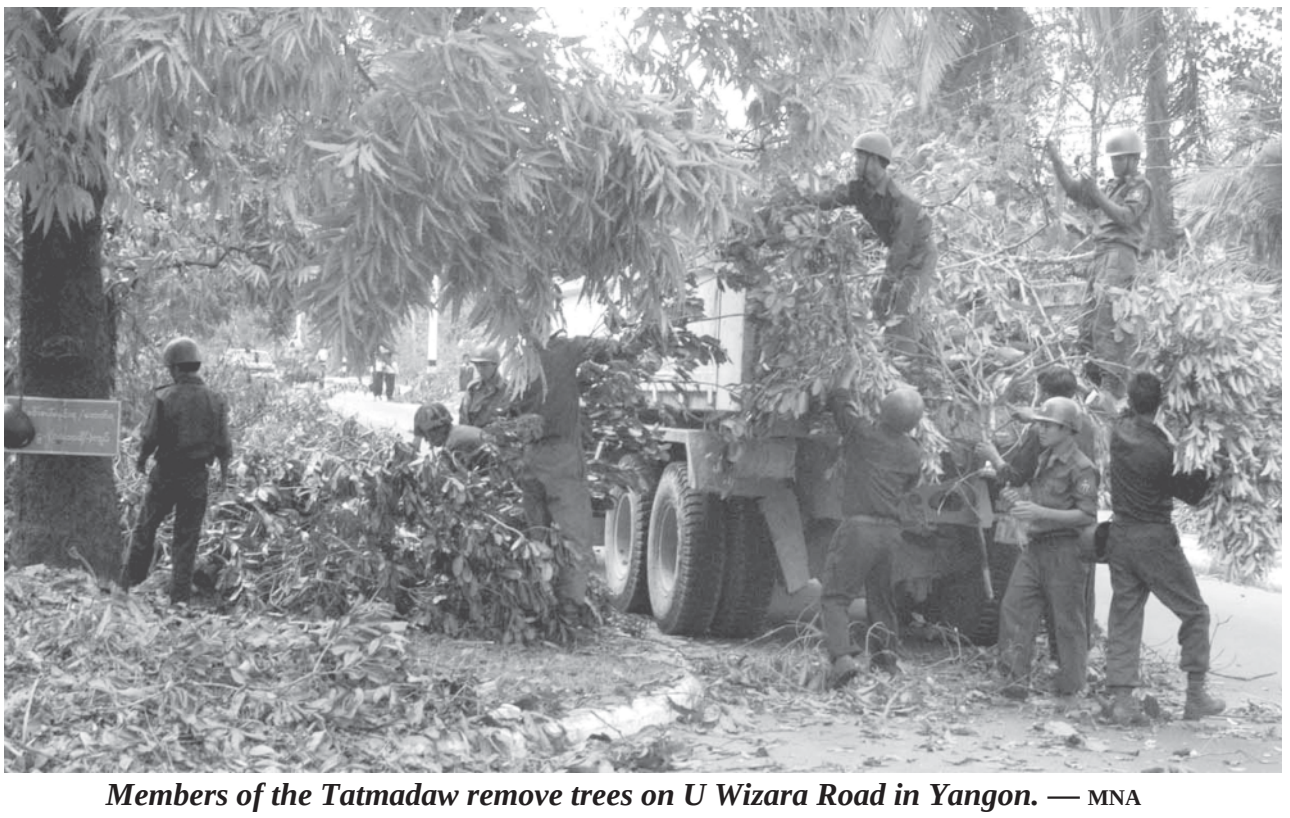
There are rumours related to the loss and damage and people should not believe them. The State-owned media has released information and news. Relief and rehabilitation works are being carried out as a national duty. People are to inform the local authority if they find those who spread rumours.

As the affected area is large, tasks to be carried out are huge. Therefore, there would be difficulties to perform these tasks. Joining hands with NGOs, the people and donors from local and abroad, the government will work hard to carry out relief and rehabilitation works until these efforts meet with success, the minister said.

Officials concerned replied to queries raised by journalists and the press conference ended.

MNA

Food and medicines donated by Royal Thai Armed Forces arrive at Yangon International Airport. — MNA



Members of the Tatmadaw remove trees on U Wizara Road in Yangon. — MNA

International organizations donate medicines, foods, cash and relief items to storm victims in Myanmar

YANGON, 6 May — Local and international organizations are donating relief supplies such as food, medicines and cash to storm victims at the rehabilitation and reconstruction sub-committee office opened at the Fire Service Department (Head Office) in Mayangon Township, Yangon Division.

Among those relief supplies are instant foods worth US$ 20,000 and tarpaulin worth US$ 30,000 donated by UNHCR, foods and medicines worth US$ 300,000 donated by World Vision.

Moreover, contacts are being made to the sub-committee office to donate relief items to the storm victims. The relief items donated are tents, medicines, water purifiers, plastics and cutters by the Bangladeshi Ambassador; 330 tent-sets each holding six people and 50 generators and accessory wires worth US$ 260,000 by the Japanese Government; instant foods and tarpaulin worth US$ 50,000 by UNHCR; rice and 18 tons of biscuit worth US$ 5 million by World Food Programme (WFP); tents, foods, clothes, mosquito nets and water purifiers worth US$ 3 million by World Vision; clothes, medicines, construction materials and tents by Save the Children Myanmar; medicines by Forciv Myanmar; tents and medicines by Mercy Relief of Singapore; US$ 100,000 by the Thai Government; two plane-loads of relief items and two war ship-loads of relief items by the Indian Government; one plane-load of relief items by the People's Republic of China; one plane-load of relief items by Lao People's Democratic Republic; foods, medicines and water purifying items by UNICEF (Myanmar); and tents, medicines, blankets, warm clothes and water purifiers by Universal Navigation Pte Ltd (UNPL).

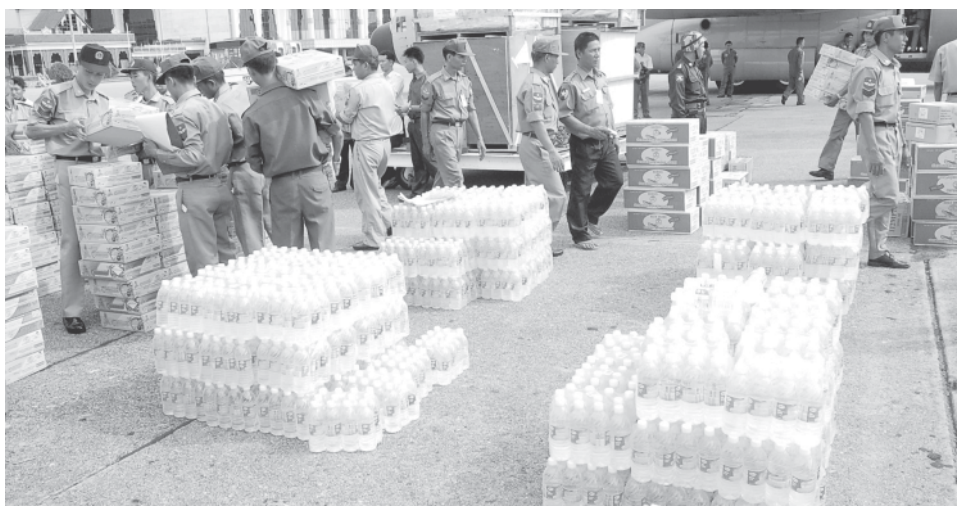
Other international organizations are making offer to provide such relief aid to Myanmar. —*MNA*

Wellwishers may donate cash and kind to storm victims

NAY PYI TAW, 6 May — The storm cyclone, Nargis caused many losses and damages to Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions. Those wishing to donate cash and kind to storm victims may contact District and Township Peace and Development Councils in states and divisions.

MNA

***A helicopter with food and medicines donated by Royal Thai Armed Forces to distribute to storm victims being unloaded.*—MNA**



***General Songkitti Jakkabatr hands over food and medicines donated by Royal Thai Armed Forces to Lt-Gen Myint Swe.*—MNA**

***Tatmadawmen remove trees on a road in Yangon.*—MNA**

Yangon International Airport serves regular international and domestic flights

NAY PYI TAW, 6 May — Yangon International Airport was temporarily closed on 3 and 4 May. As from 5 May morning, domestic and international airlines have resumed their flights.

Starting from today, Myanma Airways regularly flies Yangon-Mandalay-Monywa-Homemalin-Monywa-Mandalay-Yangon, Yangon-Sittway-Yangon, Yangon-Myeik-Bokepyin-Myeik-Yangon, Yangon-Mandalay-Myitkyina-Putao-Myitkyina-Mandalay-Yangon, Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon flights, Air Mandalay Yangon-NyaungU-Mandalay-Heho-Tachilek-Mandalay-Heho-Yangon, Yangon-Dawei-Myeik-Kawthoung-Myeik-Dawei-Yangon, Yangon-Dawei-Thandwe-Yangon, Yangon Airway Yangon-NyaungU-Mandalay-Heho-Yangon, Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay-Tachilek-Mandalay-Nay Pyi Taw-Yangon and Air Bagan Yangon-Nyaung U-Heho-Yangon, Yangon-Bangkok-Yangon, Yangon-Mandalay-Myitkyina-Putao-Myitkyina-Mandalay-Yangon, Yangon-Heho-Mandalay-NyaungU-Yangon flights.

International airlines, Thai Air Asia and Thai Airways International, regularly fly Yangon-Bangkok-Yangon flights, Silk Air, Yangon-Singapore-Yangon and Air China Yangon-Kunming-Yangon flights.—*MNA*

Deputy Minister inspects Medical Universities

YANGON, 6 May— Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe inspected University of Medicine-2 (Yangon), University of Pharmacy (Yangon) this morning. In the afternoon, he also inspected University of Medicine-1 (Yangon), University of Community Health and University of Nursing (Yangon) which were damaged by the cyclonic storm Nargis.

He instructed those responsible to continue carrying out the repsective work.

MNA

Red Cross members and volunteers unloading food and medicines from a helicopter in Bogale, Ayeyawady Division. — MNA

Relief aids donated to storm victims

NAY PYI TAW, 6 May— Military commands, social organizations and wellwishers from states and divisions are donating relief aids to the storm victims out of the national spirit.

Tatmadawmen and their families of the Eastern Command and the people of Shan State (South) donated 100,000 viss of potatoes worth K 29 million; Tatmadawmen and their families of the Central Command and the people of Mandalay Division, 90 rolls of tarpaulin, 22,000 packets of noodle, 16440 packets of varieties of snack, 4800 tins of soft drinks, 4,000 men's wear, 4,000 women's wear, 2500 shirts and kinds of clothing worth K 33,354,500; Tatmadawmen and their families of the Triangle Region Command and the people of Shan State (East), 150 packets of noodle, 3000 tinned fish, 72 viss of edible oil, 79 packets of kinds of snack, clothing and 3 portable sewing machines worth K 4,236,940; Tatmadawmen and their families and the people of Magway Division, 7400 viss of pulses and beans, 15000 viss of onion, 5000 viss of potatoes, 330 viss of edible oil, 300 men's wear, 300 women's wear and 300 blankets worth K 10,224,800 and Kanbawza Company Limited, 54000 viss of potatoes and 400,000 chicken eggs worth K 45,660,000.

MNA

Vice-Mayor comforts storm victims

YANGON, 6 May — Central Executive Committee Member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice Mayor Col Maung Pa went to relief centres in Dagon Myothit (East) and Thakeyta townships and comforted the storm victims and distributed rice and foodstuffs to them. He also went to South Okkalapa Township and inspected the removal of trees which were fallen during the storm and supply of drinking water to storm victims in Thingangyun Township today. — *MNA*

MWAF presents supplies in Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 6 May — A ceremony to donate relief supplies to storm victims in Ayeyawady division by Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation was held at the meeting hall of Ayeyawady Division Women's Affairs Organization office on 4 May afternoon.

Patron of Ayeyawady Division WAO Daw Win Win Maw briefed on donation of MWAF to the victims and presented aids to each district through officials of Pathein, Myaungmya and Pyapon districts

Donations included were clothes, noodles and biscuits worth K 2 million.

MNA

A ceremony to donate relief aids to storm victims organized by MWAF in progress. — MNA

Latest casualty figures in cyclonic storm 'Nargis'

NAY PYI TAW, 6 May – There have been deaths, injuries and missing in Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions caused by severe cyclonic storm (Nargis) on 2 and 3 May.

According to the latest figures of the victims up to 12 noon on 6 May, a total of 21,793 people died and 40,695 went missing in Ayeyawady Division while 671 lost their lives, 359 missing and 670 injured in Yangon Division. There have been 22,464 deaths, 670 injuries and 41,054 missing in all storm-hit regions up to now. —*MNA*

Red Cross members and volunteers unloading food and medicines donated by Royal Thai Armed Forces in Labutta Township. — MNA

An emergency patient arrives at Yangon by air from Ayeyawady Division.—MNA

Minister discusses rehabilitation tasks in Kyaikto Township

NAY PYI TAW, 6 May— Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun met the secretary, executives of Union Solidarity and Development Association and townselders of Kyaikto Township at the local regiment of the Township on 4 May. They cordially discussed losses and damages caused by the storm. The minister fulfilled the requirements.

On 5 May, the minister attended the rice and provisions donation ceremony of Fatkalate village Pariyatti Sarthintaik of the township and donated K 1 million for Dhammayon of the monastery.

Next, the minister met and gave a speech to members of the township Peace and Development Council, township commission, the secretary, executives of Union Solidarity and Development Association and townselders and officers of the ministry at the meeting hall of the township PDC.

The minister presented cash donation to the storm-hit victims.

Then, the minister inspected Myanma Small Loans Department of the township and gave necessary instructions.—*MNA*

BBC journalist holding tourist visa deported

NAY PYI TAW, 6 May — A Journalist who is working for BBC was deported yesterday as he broke visa rules and regulations. Mr Andrew William Harding, a British citizen, arrived Yangon International Airport on Thai airway TG 3069 flight at 12.45 pm yesterday and showed his tourist visa to enter Myanmar . He was deported on the same flight.

Andrew William Harding also entered Myanmar with tourist visa in 2006. During his stay in Myanmar from 6 to 13 June 2006, he interviewed anti-government groups and aired false accusations and fabricated news in his Undercover Burma programme. He showed his tourist visa and entered Myanmar again in 2007. During the stay in the country from 7 to 12 September, he met with those creating unrest in Yangon and put their demands for the unrest in his broadcast.

As he broke the visa rules and regulations and entered Myanmar, he had already been black-listed.

His previous passport number when he entered the country was PP No 706355621, and he held PP 761225197 and tried to enter Myanmar yesterday. Journalists from news agencies in western countries illegally entered the country very often and made fabricated news with the help of anti-government groups.

Without taking action against the British journalist, the government deported him for the sake of friendly relations between the two countries. — *MNA*

Unscrupulous persons manufacturing rumours in some townships of Yangon Division

People urged not to believe rumours and slanderous news, help expose rumour-mongers, inform immediately to authorities if they hear rumours

NAY PYI TAW, 6 May— The cyclonic storm 'Nargis' cost lives and property in some townships in Yangon. State level officials, members of the Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force and social organizations and the people are carrying out relief and resettlement tasks in collaboration.

Nevertheless, some unscrupulous persons are now manufacturing rumours.

A rumour spread among those who visited Shwegondine Specialist Clinic on Shwegondine Street in Bahan Township, Yangon, at 6 am yesterday that an earthquake would occur soon. So, authorities concerned warned them that the rumour was groundless, saying that the people should judge the rumours with reasoning power.

Similarly, a rumour went around at midnight on 4 May that about 400 people were heading for Sangyoung Township to commit robbery and terrorist acts. So, the dwellers of Linlun Ward (South), Linlun Ward (North), Moutlasaunggon Ward and Wailuwun Ward got together ward-wise, striking alarms. And holding sticks and swords, they set up security posts street-wise. Security members of the Myanmar Police Force thus addressed the issue to ease their worries and anxieties.

Likewise, a rumour spread in some wards in Hline Township yesterday afternoon that there were some robberies in Hline Market on Railway Station Road in Kamayut Township. Therefore, authorities conducted investigation into the case and found out that at about 8 am the same day, some people under worries were jostling each other to buy goods at the market; that so, the person in-charge of the market closed the doors of the market; and that some owners closed their shops and returned home. Members of Hline Township Police Force supervised the shops, and the market reopened at about 12.30 pm.

A rumour surfaced in Kyimyindine Township at 2 pm yesterday that a store near Baho Sanpya fish market was burglarized. So, authorities concerned investigated the case and found out that it was just a rumour invented by some unscrupulous persons. In like manner, a rumour came out in Kyimyindine Township at about 6 pm yesterday that some looters would come from the other side of Kyimyindine to the evening open air market in Eastern Magyeedantaung Ward. Therefore, officials concerned and security members had to take security measures.

Hearing a rumour that an earthquake would happen, local people came down to the streets from their houses near the corner of Strand Road and Natsin Street at about 5 pm yesterday, and about 500 people gathered. Officials concerned made an explanation that that was merely a rumour. So, the people returned home at 6.30 pm.

At about 5 pm yesterday in Bogalay Market in Botahtaung Township, a rumour spread that a news agency aired a news story that there would be an earthquake between 4 pm and 6 pm. Officials concerned explained to them that it was just an invented story. Considering the storm victims to be the relatives, the government is carrying out relief and resettlement services effectively.

However, destructive elements are committing destructive activities by manufacturing rumours with the intention of creating public panic and destabilizing the State.

Therefore, the people are cautioned that they should not believe the rumours and should place trust in the news stated in the newspapers and aired on radio and TV, and they are urged to inform authorities concerned if they hear rumours and help expose the rumour-mongers.—*MNA*

Members of the Tatmadaw removing fallen trees caused by storm on U Wizara Road. — MNA

The most appropriate constitution

Soe Mya Kyaw

Dear Friend,

As you know, the draft State constitution is going to be approved through a referendum this May. This is the process of laying the foundation for a new era for the nation and the entire people, isn't it? So, I believe it is vital to ensure the successful holding of the referendum for the approval of the constitution.

I think you have heard that internal and external anti-government groups are instigating the people to boycott the referendum, not to cast vote, and to cast 'No' vote. In addition, they are criticizing the constitution with negative attitude. As a matter of fact, they are bearing jealousy because they know they will not come to power. The people have taken a similar lesson. When our country regained independence in 1948, Communists said that the independence the colonialists gave willingly was merely a sham. And they claimed that they had to launch a fight for true independence and rose against the government, didn't they? In reality, they were desperate to seize the power, but their dream didn't come true. So, they were shouting that the independence was a sham to mislead the people, and they disrupted the processes. Now, they are using the Communists' method. In other words, the opportunists are trying to disrupt the processes the people are carrying out for democracy. So, it is up to the people to decide whether they will rely on the opportunists at the expense of the referendum or they will continue to work till they achieve the processes.

Openly speaking, it is a long time they have been trying to disrupt the processes. So, however much internal and external saboteurs are saying no vote or vote no, the people should say will vote yes.

Actually, the constitution is not the concern of a particular person, party or society alone, nor is that of the Tatmadaw or the State Peace and Development Council. That is the concern of the whole nation and the entire people, in other words it is the national concern.

If the nation is going to exercise democracy, a constitution is essential. Similarly, whatever system the nation practices such as Communism, Socialism or Capitalism, a constitution is a must. That is why the government is now working hard for the emergence of a State constitution. However, destructive elements at home and abroad are misleading the people into misunderstanding that the government is trying for the approval of the constitution just in its interest. It is true that the Tatmadaw government is playing a leading role in this regard. But, that is not for it, but for the entire people. That is the national concern. So, we people are responsible for helping approve the constitution. We have to see to it.

You and me are both service personnel and we have realized that service personnel are to be free from party politics. However, the approval of the constitution is just national duty, not party politics. So, all service personnel have to contribute towards the drive for approval of the constitution.

Let's discuss the draft constitution. It is not too much if I say that now this constitution is the most appropriate for our nation and the people. I would say, according to the time and condition, this constitution is the most suitable one for the nation and the people.

I have many reasons to approve it. First, that is based on the prevailing conditions of the nation and is free from fiction, craving, and attachment. Secondly, it is also based on the fact guaranteeing the nation will not suffer bitter experiences again. So, it is sure that our posterity will not face any forms of the bitter experiences we have gone through. Thirdly, it is based on Our Three Main National Causes which is the national political policy of the entire people. So long as Our Three Main National Causes is upheld, our country and the people have a prosperous future. That is why I say that this constitution is the most suitable one for the people.

The delegates made a thorough study and held discussions according to the conditions of the nation and took time to adopt the constitution. As you know, more than 1000 representatives from the eight delegate groups wrote the constitution at the National Convention. It is common knowledge that the delegates included representatives of national races from various townships across the nation, well-experienced intellectuals and intelligentsia, representatives of the people from all walks of life, and representatives of the national race armed groups that had returned to the legal fold. And they took time to hold discussions thoroughly. Moreover, they studied the 1947 constitution and 1974 constitution and the constitutions of many other countries thoroughly and repeatedly. Then, they referred to suitable principles and omitted unfit ones. So, I would say, it is impossible to better this constitution.

But, I don't mean there is no need to make any amendments to the constitution. It can be amended according to the conditions and circumstances. It prescribes Chapter (12) "Amendment of the State Constitution". If the constitution has some weaknesses, amendments can be made in accordance with the provisions. For example, the democracy practices of the US are different from that it exercised when it regained independence. When it regained independence in 1776, only White men had the right to vote. Even White men who met education standard and wealth standard could enjoy the right. White women, Black men and Black women had no right to vote. About 80 years after that, Black men had the right to vote and over 100 years after that, Black and White women had the right to vote. So, we have to understand and accept the evolution process of democracy practice.

We have to bear in mind that democracy practice can improve slowly according to how much the people are mature in view and knowledge. I am sure, we have to take time to improve democracy practice in our country according to these two requirements. The chapter "Amendment of the State Constitution" has been prescribed. So, we will have to make some necessary amendments in accordance with the prevailing conditions of our country.

The draft constitution guarantees a prosperous future of our country and people. You can notice that if you study it thoroughly. Regarding the first point, you will know that the constitution guarantees stability and peace of the Sate, and all due rights of national races. It prohibits secession from the Union. It prescribes Our Three Main National Causes and independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy. It guarantees that our country will honour the principles of peaceful co-existence among international community. Moreover, Tatmadaw member representatives make up 25 per cent of the total representatives in hluttaws and governing bodies. That is aimed to ensure checks and balances in order to avert unnecessary consequences. The draft constitution can guarantee stability and peace of the State best. So, I would say, every citizen who favours stability and peace of the State should cast 'Yes' vote for it.

Another point is that the draft constitution guarantees development of the nation and the people and a brighter future of an individual and every family. Every citizen by nature wants to see the nation and the people enjoy development and every citizen wants to have a prosperous future and is desirous of development of their families. This is the desire of every citizen. By the way, our country went through the period in which there was no guarantee for development of the nation and the people. Please, look back to the conditions of the nation from 1948 to 1988. A period of 40 years is quite enough to develop a nation whatever system it exercises: the parliamentary democracy system or one-party Socialist system. But, there was no hope for development of our country. Due to activities for coming to power of the party concerned, political conflicts, and internal armed insurrection, our country was reduced to a least developed country (LDC), wasn't it?

Unlike in the past, now the nation has developed at the unprecedented level. There have been tangible changes for the better in various sectors such as agriculture, transport, education, health, economy and communication. We are both sons of farmers. So, let's evaluate the agriculture sector. As you know, ours is an agricultural country. So, our country will develop if the agriculture sector improves. Water is the major requirement for agriculture. Our country will never develop if we rely on rain water like our forefathers. I am sure you know that. So, today, the government has materialized many projects for development of the agriculture sector. Our country had only 138 dams in more than 900 years from the time of King Anawrahta to 1988. In 19 years, the Tatmadaw government has constructed 210 dams, over 300 river water pumping stations and over 7000 underground water tapping stations. How amazing it is! As a result, we can do the multiple cropping pattern and we have enjoyed better income and a higher living standard. It is a tangible proof. I can present many other similar examples if I compare figures and data of other sectors in the past and at present. They are known to all people, so I don't want to mention them. Overall, our country is now enjoying development. If we can maintain this development momentum, our country will develop to a greater degree. Now, the people have opportunities to enjoy the fruits of development equally. So, I would like the entire people to realize that the draft constitution guarantees sustainable development of our country.

That is why I have said that the draft constitution is the most appropriate for the people. I will tell you some more points about that later. What is important in this regard is that we know what are suitable for us and we value them. Let me stop here. I will write you again later.

Translation: MS

****

ADVERTISEMENTS

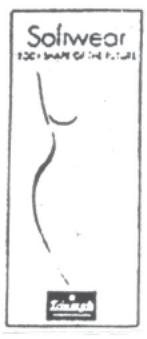
TRADE MARK CAUTION

TRIUMPH INTERNATIONAL AG, a Company incorporated in Germany, of Marsstrasse 40, D-80335 Munchen, Germany, is the Owner of the following Trade Marks:-

AMO

Reg. No. 1093/1959

in respect of " Foundation garments i.e. bodices, corsets, corselettes, roll-ons, hip-shaping garments, suspender belts, girdles, dancing belts, brassieres and parts and accessories of such foundation garments".



Reg. No. 4282/1997

MAGIC 3 CLIX

Reg. No. 4283/1997

Reve

Reg. No. 4284/1997

Poesie

Reg. No. 4285/1997

Compliment

Reg. No. 4286/1997

Solfege

Reg. No. 4287/1997

Sweeties

Reg. No. 4288/1997

Maximizer

Reg. No. 4290/1997

in respect of " Class 25: Clothing, footwear, headgear".

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 TRIUMPH INTERNATIONAL AG
P. O. Box 60, Yangon.
Dated: 7 May 2008

Russia, Belarus to strengthen military cooperation

MOSCOW, 6 May — Russia and Belarus will strengthen cooperation in the military-political and military fields, visiting Russian Defence Minister Anatoly Serdyukov said in Minsk Wednesday, *ITAR-TASS* reported.

"Cooperation in the defence sector between the Armed Forces of our states continues to develop," Serdyukov said at a meeting of senior Belarussian and Russian military officials.

He added that NATO's expansion, US plans to deploy missile defence facilities and the situation in the Middle East confirms the need for closer coordination of Russian and Belarus' actions in such fields.

MNA/Xinhua

Rescuers work to recover a boat that sank at the Solimoes River, about 50 miles (80 km) from Manaus, Brazil on 4 May, 2008. A boat carrying around 110 people, more than twice its capacity, sank on Sunday at dawn on a major river in the Amazon rain forest, rescue workers said.—XINHUA

UNSG pays tribute to victims of chemical warfare

UNITED NATIONS, 6 May — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon paid tribute on Tuesday to victims of chemical warfare, calling for the elimination of all chemical weapons.

In a message marking the Day of Remembrance for Victims of Chemical Warfare, Ban urged the world to use this "solemn occasion" to honour the victims and ensure their suffering will not be forgotten nor repeated.

Citing the Chemical Weapons Convention, which entered into a force on 29 April, 1997, Ban reminded all states parties to the convention of their obligation to destroy existing chemical weapons stockpiles by 29 April, 2012.

"I call upon all possessor states to complete their destruction according to the agreed deadlines," he said.

The Secretary-General also expressed grave concern that some key states have not adhered to the convention.

"I urge those states that have not yet ratified or acceded to it to do so without further delay," he stressed.

Since 1997, the membership of the Chemical Weapons Convention increased to 183 states parties, covering 98 per cent of the world's population.

"Achieving complete elimination of chemical weapons and universal adherence to the Chemical Weapons Convention are genuine ways of honouring the memory of all victims of chemical warfare," he said.

Ban pledged the world organization's cooperation with relevant international bodies to "promote full implementation and universality of the convention".

MNA/Xinhua

Spain refuses to extradite former Argentine president

MADRID, 6 May — Spain's National Court on Monday rejected requests from Argentine judges to extradite former Argentine president Isabel Peron charged with human rights abuses.

The court ruled that there was insufficient evidence to back the accusations against Peron and that the statute of limitations had expired after 20 years.

Argentina accuses Peron of links with the Argentine anti-Communist alliance or the "Triple A" death squad, held responsible for the death or disappearance of at least 1,500 people during Peron's 1974-1976 rule.

In January 2007, the Spanish authorities arrested the former Argentine president, who has lived in Madrid in exile for decades, and asked her to report to a police station every 15 days.

Peron, 77, the wife of three-time President Juan Domingo Peron, ruled the country after his death and was overthrown in a March 1976 coup.

MNA/Xinhua

Morocco, European security body agree to boost coop.

RABAT, 1 May — Moroccan Foreign Affairs Minister Taieb Fassi Fihri has held talks here with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)'s Parliament Speaker Goran Lennmarker on ways and means of boosting cooperation between Morocco and the organization.

Lennmarker said in a Press statement issued on Monday that the talks were essentially focused on cooperation between Morocco and OSCE, especially in the fields of economy and immigration, while stressing the two sides' willingness to achieve a "real and intense cooperation".

Morocco's application to obtain an advanced status within the European Union also featured in the discussions, according to Lennmarker, who had earlier held talks with the Moroccan Parliament Speaker Mustapha Mansouri.

MNA/Xinhua

US funds more emergency aid to ease food crisis

WASHINGTON, 6 May — The US Government has released an additional 40 million US dollars in emergency food aid to help ease the global food crisis, the State Department said on Tuesday.

The fund from the US Agency for International Development (USAID) was provided to the World Food Programme after President George W Bush authorized the USAID 200 million dollars earlier this month, the State Department said in a statement.

It said that with the 240 million dollars, the USAID will provide emergency food aid to countries including Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Kenya and Haiti.

According to the State Department, the country has set aside 1.36 billion dollars to help reduce the food crisis in the world.

MNA/Xinhua

Norway, Sweden conduct cross-border air exercise

STOCKHOLM, 6 May — Norway and Sweden conducted a cross-border Air Force exercise in Norwegian air space for the first time, reports from Oslo said on Wednesday.

Three Swedish Jas Gripen aircraft crossed the border Monday afternoon to participate in a joint exercise with the Norwegian Air Force in an area of Nordland county in northern Norway, the Norwegian public broadcaster NRK reported.

"We are opening the border between the countries in this cooperation, and in this way we cut costs," Swedish Air Force Major Karl-Johan Edstroem was quoted as saying.

"Earlier, we needed consent from both the Norwegian and Swedish governments each time we crossed the border. Now all that is needed is for me and my counterpart in Norway to agree before we carry out the exercise," Edstroem added.

Norway is a member of NATO while Sweden is a military non-aligned country.

MNA/Xinhua

Artificially bred red ibis reproduce in wild

XI'AN, 6 May — A pair of artificially bred red ibis that were among the first batch of 26 released into the wild a year ago in northwest China have successfully produced three chicks.

The pair began to build their nest on a tall Chinese pine tree near Zhujiazui village in Ningshan County of Shaanxi Province, in February, and the female produced three eggs between 15 and 19 March. The chicks hatched about one month later.

"The successful breeding of red ibis in the wild indicates the end of its endangered status is nearing," said Chang Xiuyun, Shaanxi Wildlife Conservation Association's deputy secretary-general. "It also provides very good experience for the restoration of this species in its historical habitats."

Thirteen pairs of artificially-bred red ibis, aged two to three years, were released on 31 May last year at Zhaigou village, Ningshan, in an area with a dense populations of loach, eel and fingerlings, typical prey of the red ibis.

Twelve birds had adapted to the wild, said Zhang Shoucheng, Ningshan Forestry Bureau's director. Six returned to the release base, five have been confirmed dead and three missing.

Zhang said another batch of red ibis would be released into the wild at the end of May or beginning of June.

"At this period, the most important thing is the nutrition of the young birds," said Chang. "To solve the problem, we have frequently put food near their habitat to ensure rich food sources."

Xinhua

With state-of-the art antenna technology, the new AT&T DECT 6.0 cordless phone gives consumers the ultimate freedom to roam throughout their home. INTERNET

A statue of Friedrich Schiller outside the headquarters of Deutsche Bank AG in a file photo. Schiller, who lived between 1759 and 1805, wrote plays which are still performed regularly both in Germany and abroad. His poems including the Ode to Joy which Beethoven set to music in his Ninth Symphony.— INTERNET

Scientists puzzled over intense swarm of earthquakes

LOS ANGELES, 6 May — An unusually intense swarm of earthquakes has struck beneath a small suburb of Reno in Nevada, leaving residents shaken and scientists puzzling over the cause, the *Los Angeles Time* said on Thursday.

Totaling more than 1,000 over the last two months, more than 20 quakes of magnitude 2 or higher have hit on some days, and the intensity and frequency of the quakes have been increasing rather than following the normal pattern of tailing off, according to the paper.

Researchers say they have never seen anything quite like the "Mogul earthquake sequence," as they have named it.

"We don't know what is going to happen next," said geologist James Dolan of University of Southern California, who has been watching the unfolding seismic activity. But a swarm like this "makes you perk up your ears and start considering the possibility that you might be in a heightened period of hazard."

The swarm of quakes has unnerved the roughly 3,000 residents who live around Mogul, a sparse community of ranch homes about two miles (3.6 kilometers) west of Reno, the report said. —*Xinhua*

Canada pledges extra $49.5m in food aid

OTTAWA, 6 May — Canada pledged an extra 50 million Canadian dollars (49.5 million US dollars) for international food aid on Wednesday and said it would also allow its money to be used to buy food abroad and not tie it to purchases of Canadian produce.

Responding to a UN plea for extra help to offset a dramatic rise in world food costs, Ottawa promised to bring its total food aid in the 2008-09 fiscal year to 230 million Canadian dollars.

"With today's announcement of an additional 50 million Canadian dollars and the untying of our food aid, Canada is responding to the terrible impact that rising food costs are having on the world's most vulnerable people," International Cooperation Minister Beverley Oda said in a statement.

The untying of aid means that it can be purchased outside Canada. Previously, half of all the food shipped to poorer countries had to be bought within Canada but Oda said such a condition meant the aid was about 30 percent less efficient. Oda said Ottawa would put a special emphasis on buying food in developing countries.—*MNA/Reuters*

Indian man gets life term for raping British tourist

JAIPUR (India), 6 May — An Indian court sentenced a guesthouse owner to life in prison on Wednesday for raping a British tourist last December.

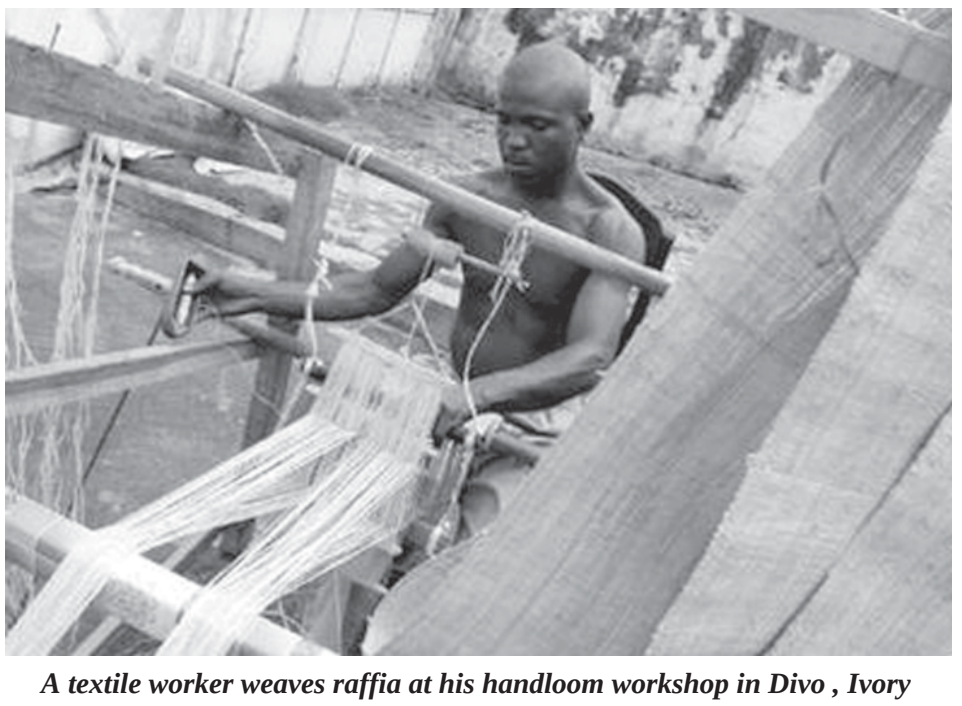
The sentencing comes after an increase in attacks on foreign tourists in India and after the govermment ordered the police to provide more protection to foreigners.

In February this year, Scarlett Keeling, a 15-year-old British girl, was raped and murdered in coastal Goa, prompting criticism of the police for failing to protect her.

On Wednesday, a court in Rajasthan state found a 32-year-old man guilty of raping a British tourist on the pretext of supplying a blanket to her room last December.

"The court has also imposed a fine on him," BS Rao, the public prosecuter said from Udaipur City, where the sentencing took place.

The Udaipur police arrested the man after the British tourist, who is in her forties, sent an e-mail to the British High Commission in India, detailing what happened to her. — *MNA/Reuters*



A textile worker weaves raffia at his handloom workshop in Divo , Ivory Coast on 5 May, 2008. Raffia is widely used by several African peoples, particularly the Dida people in Ivory Coast's southern region of Divo. The palm fibre material is used to make loincloth, dresses and skirts.— INTERNET

SPORTS

Real Madrid fought their way back after a sending off and going a goal down to snatch a dramatic 2-1 victory at Osasuna and win their 31st Spanish league title on Sunday. — XINHUA

Lawrie wins Spanish Open play-off

SEVILLE, 6 May —Ireland's Peter Lawrie beat Ignacio Garrido at the second play-off hole to win the Spanish Open in Seville.

After four birdies in his last six holes, Lawrie looked set to win without sudden death until Garrido closed with a 30ft birdie putt to tie on 15-under.

Both men birdied the first extra hole, but Garrido then saw his pitch to the same green spin back into the water.

Garrido had been aiming to follow in the footsteps of his father, Antonio, who won the Spanish title in 1972.

Peter Lawrie

But the wind was knocked out of his sails on the first play-off hole when Lawrie made a 25ft putt to match his birdie three.

Lawrie's victory makes it three Irish wins in a row on the European Tour after Darren Clarke's Asian Open success and Damien McGrane's China Open victory.

"It's nice to keep it in the Irish contingent," he said. "It spurs you on—you play practice rounds with them and think 'why can't I do it'?"—*Internet*

Croatia coach Bilic agrees new two year contract

ZAGREB, 6 May — Coach Slaven Bilic has agreed to extend his Croatia contract for two more years, local media reported on Wednesday.

The new deal is worth 1.2 million kuna (257,300 US dollars) a year and will take the former Croatia defender up to the 2010 World Cup finals in South Africa. Bilic will sign the contract on Friday, according to the *Vecernji List* daily.

"The coach's salary will have a fixed value but additional rewards will depend on his team's successes," national soccer federation (HNS) vice-president Ivan Brlekovic told the daily.

Bilic, who has been linked with several top European teams, previously said he wanted to stay with Croatia for two more years before moving to a foreign club. Croatia have been drawn alongside Austria, Poland and Germany in Euro 2008 Group B in June. Bilic's side plan two warmup games, at home to Moldova on 24 May and against Hungary in Budapest on 31 May. — *MNA/Reuters*

Power of top four concerns Keegan

LONDON, 6 May — Newcastle boss Kevin Keegan fears the domination of the Premier League's top four is a threat to the top flight.

Manchester United, Chelsea, Arsenal and Liverpool will again head the division for the third season running as they leave the rest trailing in their wake.

"Maybe the owner thinks we can bridge that gap - but we can't," said Keegan after Monday's 2-0 loss to Chelsea.

"This league is in danger of becoming one of the most boring but great leagues in the world."

Keegan replaced Sam Allardyce at St James' Park in January and his comments will have extra resonance as he is renowned as one of the game's eternal optimists.

He feels fifth is the best the clubs outside the 'big four' can realistically aim for- even with plenty of funds.

Kevin Keegan

"But these are the sorts of difficulties that should get easier to address once we build a squad that competes at the right end of the table."

And Keegan is positive he will get the funds he needs from owner Mike Ashley to improve his squad, saying: "I have no proof of that yet but I have no doubts he will (back me).

"If I can get three or four players in to add to what I have got here - and we have that bit of luck you need with no injuries to key players - then we might be able to win the second division of the Premier League."

Internet

Pressure now on Man Utd, Grant says

MANCHESTER, 6 May- Chelsea boss Avram Grant believes title rivals Manchester United are under more pressure going into Sunday's final game of the Premier League season.

Chelsea's win at Newcastle moved them level on points with leaders United, who are favourites for the title because of a superior goal difference.

United travel to Wigan on the final day, while Chelsea play host to Bolton.

"Now we must beat Bolton and see what United do. The pressure is on them," said Grant.

"I said we will never give up. We have given a good, good battle. Nobody thought about us as a candidate for champions. We will keep on fighting.

"I have to stay positive. We will fight until the last moment."

Chelsea have rallied in the second half of the season in which they also booked a spot in the Champions League final - against United.

And Grant hailed his players' efforts this season, saying: "We have to battle with things on and off the pitch but the team have got better and better, especially in recent months.

Internet

British women to take on Germany

LONDON, 6 May —Britain's women have been drawn alongside defending Olympic champions Germany at this summer's Beijing Games.

The Germans, surprise winners in Athens four years ago, are also the reigning European champions.

Britain, currently ranked 10th in the world, will also face world number two Argentina, Japan (sixth), New Zealand (seventh) and the USA (11th).

Britain's men will face 2004 champions Australia, runners-up Holland, Pakistan, South Africa and Canada.

The other pool sees world champions Germany face Spain, Korea, New Zealand, Belgium and hosts China.

The pools were organised on world rankings, with GB (eighth) having to face three teams rated above them.

The men booked their place at the Olympics via a qualifying tournament in Chile last month.

England women's team secured Britain's Beijing place at the EuroHockey Nations Championship last August.

Internet

Nadal wins fourth Barcelona title

BARCELONA, 6 May— Rafael Nadal continued his domination of the clay-court season with victory over fellow Spaniard David Ferrer in the final of the Barcelona Open.

The world number two took the title for the fourth straight year with a 6-1 4-6 6-1 win over the second seed. After starting strongly and dominating the first set, Nadal dropped serve twice as Ferrer took the second.

But the champion stepped up a gear in the decider, moving 5-0 up and sealing the title in two hours 14 minutes.

Having also won the Monte Carlo Masters last Sunday, Nadal heads to next week's Rome Masters as a strong favourite.

Rafael Nadal

He has now won 103 of 104 matches on clay since 2005, with the only defeat coming against Roger Federer in Hamburg last year.

"The first set I played very well, almost perfect, but he was very strong in the second set and I am just very happy to have won here again," said Nadal.

"When I did make mistakes, in the second set, David was unstoppable but I kept very focused throughout and I am very happy to be the first man to win four years in a row."

Ferrer admitted: "The one thing I wanted to do was to not let him dominate early on but he started so strongly.

"I think I played a good match but what can you do? That's Rafa.

"He has been playing at this level for four years now and you never have a moment to relax against him."—*Internet*

သဘာဝဘေးအန္တရာယ်ကျရောက်သောဒေသများရှိ ပြည်သူများအတွက်ကျန်းမာရေးသတိပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်

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။ ခြင်ကိုက်မခံရအောင် သတိပြုနေထိုင်ကြရန်၊
၁၁။ တစ်ကိုယ်ရေသန့်ရှင်းရေး ဂရုပြုဆောင်ရွက်ရန်၊ အစာမစားမီနှင့် အညစ်ကြေးကိုင်တွယ်ပြီးတိုင်း လက်ဆေးကြရန်၊
၁၂။ သဘာဝဘေးအန္တရာယ်ကျရောက်ပြီးသည့်အခါ အဆုတ်ရောင်ရောဂါ၊ ဝမ်းပျက်ဝမ်းလျောရောဂါ၊ မြွေဆိုးကိုက်အန္တရာယ်၊ ထိခိုက်မှုအန္တရာယ်နှင့် အခြားကျန်းမာရေးပြဿနာများ ဖြစ်ပွားတတ်ပါသည်။ ဖြစ်ပွားပါက အနီးဆုံးကျန်းမာရေးဌာနသို့ အမြန်ဆုံးသွားရောက်ပြသကြပါရန် သတိပေး နှိုးဆော် အပ်ပါသည်။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

France's Le Pen selling bullet-proof car on eBay

PARIS, 6 May—French far-right leader Jean-Marie Le Pen is looking to make a bit of extra cash by putting his old bullet-proof car up for sale on eBay.

Le Pen, who stunned France in the 2002 presidential election when he finished second, put his party headquarters up for sale earlier this year after humiliating defeats in presidential and legislative elections last year left his group deep in the red.

Another drain on Le Pen's finances was the 10,000 euro (15,580 US dollars) fine he incurred in February when a court found him guilty of "contesting crimes against humanity" for saying the Nazi occupation of France was "not particularly inhumane". Asked why the car was up for sale, a National Front spokesman said: "Money, money, glorious money." — *MNA/Reuters*

The space shuttle Discovery is shown atop launch pad 39A after transport from the Vehicle Assembly Building on 3 May, 2008 in Cape Canveral, Florida to begin prelaunch processing for the STS-124 mission. Discovery and its crew is planned to deliver the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's Japanese Experiment Module- Pressurized Module and the Japanese Remote Manipulator System to the International Space Station with launch scheduled for 31 May. —INTERNET

Bus catches fire in Shanghai, leaving three dead

SHANGHAI, 6 May — Three people died and 12 were injured when a bus caught fire in Shanghai at about 9:00 a.m. on Monday, said police.

The cause of the fire was still under investigation. The injured have been sent to hospital, according to the police.

The fire was put out within half an hour. Fire fighters estimated there were about 50 passengers on board the route 842 bus.

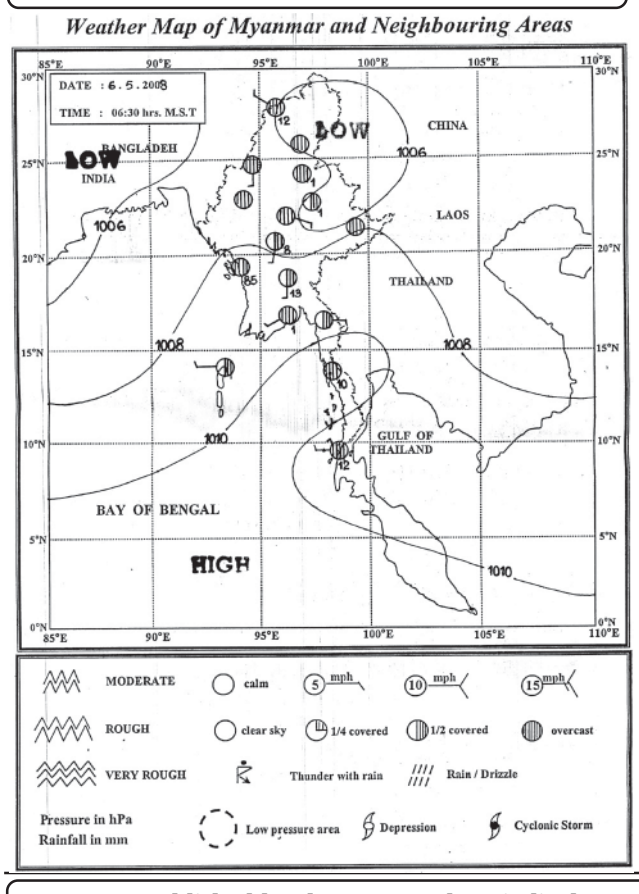
The fire broke out when the bus was running along the Huangxing Road in Yangpu District, in the northeast of Shanghai.

Normal traffic around the accident site resumed at around 10:30 am, as police had moved away the wreckage.

Xinhua

WEATHER

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Tuesday, 6 May, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Taninthayi Division, scattered in Rakhine State and Bago Division and isolated in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State and Bago Division. Day temperatures were (3°C) above May average temperatures in Kachin State, (3ºC) to (4ºC) below May average temperatures in Shan and Kayah States, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions and about May average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temparatures were Monywa, Myingyan, Nyaung U, Minbu and Magway (40ºC) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfalls recorded were Kyaukpyu (3.34) inches, Zaungtu (3.23) inches and Bago (1.57) inches.

Maximum temperature on 5-5-2008 was 91ºF. Minimum temperature on 6-5-2008 was 73ºF. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 6-5-2008 was 79%. Total sunshine hours on 5-5-2008 was (6.5) hours approx.

Rainfall on 6-5-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, (0.04) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.12) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (19.41) inches at Mingaladon, (21.50) inches at Kaba-Aye and (22.36) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from South at (14:30) hours MST on 5-5-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 7-5-2008: Weather will be partly cloudy in lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, rain or thundershowers will be isolated to scattered in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 7-5-2008: Likelihood isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 7-5-2008: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 7-5-2008: Likelihood isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

R 489 Published by the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information, Union of Myanmar. Edited and printed at The New Light of Myanmar Press, No 22/30 Strand Road at 43rd Street, Yangon. Cable Newlight, PO Box No. 43, Telephones: Editors 392308, Manager 392226, Circulation 392304, Advertisement 392223, Accounts 392224, Administration 392225, Production/Press 392369

Nargis victims in Ayeyawady Division receiving emergency aid

NAY PYI TAW, 6 May — Chairman of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Prime Minister General Thein Sein has been providing close supervision on effective relief activities to the storm victims in Ayeyawady Division.

Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe visited such coastal regions as Ayeya, Kadonkani, Kyaine Chaung and Sarmar villages this morning and took part in relief works, presenting instant foods, drinking water, medicines and clothes to the victims.

In the afternoon, food and drinking water were distributed to Hlaingphone, Kathahmyin, Mainmahlagyun and Gunnyogyigyun villages.

Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe, Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Tin Htut and Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo performed relief activities in coastal regions such as Theikpan Kongyi and Kwinpauk and gave drinking water, medicines and foods to the victims. In some cases, they air-dropped water and instant foods. They saw to the airlift of 12 emergency patients to Pathein for medical treatment.

In the afternoon, they supplied drinking water and food to Pathein, Labutta, Thingangyi and Saluseik by helicopter and said that they would send relief supplies to the victims by motor boats.

The Adjutant-General, the commander and the Minister for Cooperatives presented relief supplies to storm-hit people at Pyinsalu in Labutta Township yesterday.

Volunteers carry a patient airlifted from Ayeyawady Division by helicopter at Yangon International Airport. —MNA

The Adjutant-General, the commander and the minister distributed urgently-needed drinking water to the disaster-hit households after carrying it from Labutta Township by helicopter.

(See page 5)

Royal Thai Armed Forces donates food, medicines to storm victims

YANGON, 6 May — Royal Thai Armed Forces donated food and medicines to victims of cyclonic storm Nargis today.

At the donation ceremony held at Yangon International Airport, Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence accepted the donation.

At the ceremony, General Songkitti Jakkabatr of Thailand expressed sympathy for the storm victims, and said that more relief aid from Thailand will be donated to the victims.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe thanked Thailand for the donation and accepted the donation handed over by General Songkitti Jakkabatr.

Afterwards, four helicopters airlifted nine tons of foodstuff and medicines to Mawla-myinegyun, Labutta, Bogale and Pyapon townships which were hit hard by the storm.

General Songkitti Jakkabatr and party left here for Thailand by Royal Thai Air Force flight at 4.15 pm.

The donation ceremony was also attended by Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, senior military officers, Ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar Mr Bansarn Bunnag and officials.—*MNA*

Tatmadawmen and volunteers unloading food and medicines donated by Royal Thai Armed Forces from a plane in Yangon International Airport.—MNA

INSIDE

The most appropriate constitution

The draft constitution can guarantee stability and peace of the State best. So, I would say, every citizen who favours stability and peace of the State should cast 'Yes' vote for it.

PAGE 11

SOE MYA KYAW