

To approve the State Constitution is a national duty of the entire people today. Let us all cast “Yes” vote in the national interest.

Senior General Than Shwe sends message of congratulations to President of Russian Federation

NAY PYI TAW, 8 May — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Mr Dmitry Medvedev, on his assumption of duties as the President of the Russian Federation on 7 May 2008. — MNA

Prime Minister comforts storm victims in Kungyangon, Kyauktan townships

NAY PYI TAW, 8 May—Chairman of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Prime Minister General Thein Sein consoled the victims at the relief camps in Kungyangon and Kyauktan townships, and attended to the needs this afternoon.

The Prime Minister, accompanied by Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, ministers and departmental officials, left Yangon by air at 2 pm today and inspected the damages of the houses and buildings and flooded paddy fields in Kungyangon Township, by helicopter.

Upon arrival at Kungyangon, the Prime Minister heard a report by Chairman U Kyaw Win of the Township Peace and Development Council on loss of houses and buildings in storm-hit rural and urban areas and health care services being provided to the victims at 22 relief camps. Col Than Naing Oo of No 77 LID gave a supplementary report.

In response to the report, the Prime Minister

gave instructions on the works.

The Prime Minister comforted the victims from urban and rural areas at the relief camp in No 2 Basic Education High School.

He expressed thanks to the health care team led by Lt-Col Myat Khaing of the Directorate of Medical Services of the Ministry of Defence and specialists from Asia Tawwin Specialist Clinic for giving treatment to the monks and people at the relief camp.

In meeting with the victims at Swan-in Myitta three-storey monastery, the Prime Minister consoled the victims, saying that they have to show resilience to overcome the aftershocks of the natural disaster.

He accepted 1800 bags of rice, 8000 CI sheets and medicines donated by U Tun Myint Naing of Asia World Co and 1000 blankets by Managing Director U Kyaw Kyaw Soe of New Comet Trading Co Ltd.

(See page 11)

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects a relief camp in Kyauktan. — MNA



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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 9 May, 2008

For entire people to follow public health care notices

The Ministry of Health is scaling up community health care to help the people enjoy longevity and good health and keep themselves free from diseases. It is required of the entire people to respect and follow the public notices about health care because health care service is their concern.

In particular, local people in the disaster-hit areas are to take great care in their day-to-day activities. In this regard, they have to stay in the shelters that are resistant enough to bad weather, wear warm clothes in order not to catch cold, and use clean fly-proof latrines.

They have to drink water added with chlorine or boiled water only and pay a serious attention to personal hygiene.

It is notable that natural disasters such as strong winds and floods are followed by tuberculosis, diarrhoea, snake bite, and other health problems.

Now, the government is carrying out relief, supply and rehabilitation works in the disaster-affected areas in Ayeyawady and Yangon divisions. International and local social organizations and wellwishers are donating medicines, cash, foodstuff and relief supplies to the victims.

Therefore, the entire people have to follow the public notices about health care in order that they may be free from infectious diseases and other diseases that may break out, following climate changes and natural disasters.

People's Desire

- * Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- * Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- * Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- * Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Relief supplies sent to storm-hit delta



Relief items being sent to the storm-hit areas.—MNA

YANGON, 8 May — Under the arrangement of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee, foodstuff, clothes and construction materials were sent to cyclonic storm-hit areas, Pyapon, Mawlamyainegyun, Labutta, Bogale from this morning to night by five helicopters.

Led by Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing and Deputy Minister for

Health Dr Mya Oo and accompanied by 20 doctors and electricians, generators, medicines and medical equipments, rations were sent to Pyapon by two helicopters and medicines,

foods, construction materials and bottled drinking water to Mawlamyainegyun, Labutta and Bogale townships by three helicopters.

MNA

Service personnel and staff clear fallen billboards in Yangon

YANGON, 8 May — Service personnel and staff of Yangon City Development Committee and companies continue to clear the fallen billboards and damaged roofs in Yangon caused by severe cyclonic storm ‘Nargis’ with the use of heavy machinery in groups this morning. — MNA

Clearance works performed in Yangon

YANGON, 8 May — The fallen trees, billboards and lamp-posts, and rubbish in Yangon are being cleared by Tatmadawmen, members of Myanmar Police Force, staff of Yangon City Development Committee, members of social organizations and local people since 3 May.

Today, the trees fallen on the motor roads in Pabedan, Botahtaung and Mingalar Taungnyunt townships were cleared by Tamadawmen from Indaing Station of Yangon Command, billboards fallen in many parts of Yangon by staff of YCDC and companies, trees

fallen along Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road from Shewgondine Traffic Light to 8 Mile Junction by members of Yangon Division USDA and Kayin and Mon State USDAs, and trees fallen on the roads in the townships in Yangon by Tatmadawmen of the Yangon Command by means of heavy machinery and men-power.

It was seen that today, thanks to clearance of debris on the roads, more vehicles including buses are running attracting more and more passengers at the bustops.

MNA

Buses and cars running along the Merchant Street in Yangon.—MNA



Sharpton arrested as hundreds protest NYC police shooting

NEW YORK, 8 May — The Rev Al Sharpton was among dozens arrested Wednesday as demonstrators blocked traffic at the height of the evening rush hour to protest the acquittal of three detectives in the 50-bullet shooting of an unarmed black man on his wedding day.

Police said 216 people were arrested, including Sharpton, two survivors of the shooting and the slain man's fiancée. They lined up and put their hands behind their backs

as police arrested them on disorderly conduct charges.

Sharpton, the two survivors and the fiancée were released about four hours later, said Sharpton spokeswoman Rachel Noerdlinger.

The demonstrators prayed, sang and chanted slogans including "no justice, no peace" as they converged on six heavily used bridges and tunnels that carry traffic to and from Manhattan island. The protests were part of a coordinated campaign

to urge federal authorities to investigate the shooting of Sean Bell in November 2006.

The three officers were acquitted of state charges last month in a case that from the start ignited protests and spurred criticism of police tactics. One of the officers fired 31 shots, emptying his clip two times in a few short seconds.

Xinhua



File photo shows a South Korean woman walking past mobile handsets displayed at an electronic shop in Seoul. Mobile telephones have topped the list of gifts sought by South Korean children, a survey said recently.—INTERNET

China calls for strengthening regional security cooperation

SINGAPORE, 8 May — All governments and defence establishments in the Asian region should join hands to meet the challenges and promote common security through enhanced mutual understanding and mutually beneficial cooperation, a senior Chinese military official said here on Thursday.

Speaking at the security policy conference of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum (ARF), Chen Xiaogong, Assistant Chief of General Staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, noted that differences among countries in security concepts have brought further complication for regional security dialogue and cooperation. Against this backdrop of ongoing global transformation, prosperity and stability in the Asia-Pacific region bear upon not only the interests of countries in this region, but also world peace and development.

The Major General said that as a permanent member of the UN Security Council and a member of ARF, China has always been an active participant and an ardent advocator for regional security cooperation.—Xinhua

Clinton vows to fight on for Democratic presidential nomination

WASHINGTON, 7 May — Despite a weak showing in Tuesday's US Democratic presidential primaries, Sen Hillary Clinton of New York said Wednesday that she will remain in the race "until there's a nominee."

Speaking to reporters in Shepherdstown, WV, the former first lady did not

make it clear whether that meant through the roll call of the states at the Democratic National Convention this summer.

Meanwhile, Democratic presidential front-runner Sen Barack Obama of Illinois picked up the support of at least four convention superdelegates Wednesday, building on the momentum from his strong showing Tuesday.

He was home in Chicago during the day as his aides spread word that he would soon begin campaigning in states likely to be pivotal in the fall campaign.

They also relayed word of the four endorsements, expected to be made public later in the day.

In Tuesday's primaries, Obama beat Clinton 56-42 percent in North Carolina as Clinton scored a 51-49

percent win over Obama in Indiana. The overall impact of the two contests is to expand Obama's lead in delegates without fundamentally altering the nature of the race.

Obama now has 1,842 delegates to 1,646 for Clinton in CNN tally. It takes 2,024 delegates to win the nomination in Denver this summer.

Xinhua



Russian spaceship "Buran 002" is transported on a ship over the Rhine River in Cologne, western Germany, while being transported to the Technik Museum in Speyer, southwestern Germany.

INTERNET

Explosions in Afghanistan kill five including two NATO soldiers

KABUL, 7 May — Two soldiers serving the NATO-led ISAF force were killed in an explosion during a patrol in eastern Afghan province Khost

attacks near the provincial capital killed three including a local senior police officer, the NATO and police said.

Two soldiers of International Security

Assistance Force (ISAF) died and two soldiers sustained injuries in a blast in Sabari district of Khost, the ISAF said in a statement.

One civilian was also killed, it added, without giving more details or releasing the casualty's nationality.

The ISAF, deployed in Afghanistan with UN mandate to help with stabilizing security and reconstruction, has a total of 47,000 multi-national troops.

Xinhua

Six injured in strong earthquake in E Japan

TOKYO, 8 May — Six people were slightly injured in a strong earthquake which jolted a wide range of areas in eastern Japan's Kanto region early Thursday morning.

It briefly cut off power to some 4,500 households in Tsukuba City, northeast of Tokyo, officials of relevant government section said.

Xinhua



Somalis burn tyres and throw stones during a demonstration against record high inflation worsened by the devaluation of the local currency in the face of rising food prices, in the country's capital of Mogadishu.—INTERNET

The most appropriate constitution (3)

Soe Mya Kyaw

Today, let's talk about the rights of national races and democracy rights.

As you know, our country is home to more than 100 national races. So, it is fair to say that this constitution bestows as many rights as it can upon all national races. May I compare this constitution with the previous two constitutions for better understanding?

The previous constitutions had some defects regarding the rights of national races, and that provoked the armed insurrection and destabilization. So, this constitution entrusts all due rights to all national races according to the objective conditions of the nation.

The 1947 constitution prescribed states for four national races: Kachin, Kayah, Kayin and Shan. And the 1974 constitution prescribed three more states for Chin, Mon and Rakhine national races. However, this constitution prescribes one self-administered division and five self-administered zones in addition to the seven states. Moreover, the Regions and States will have respective hluttaws, governing bodies, and courts in order that national races will have the rights to administer their regions' affairs by their own. Similarly, the self-administered areas will have the rights to form leading bodies to exercise the legislative, executive and judicial powers.

Then, there might be a question — is there no chance for the ethnic minorities to enjoy any democracy rights whereas the national races that have got states, self-administered division and self-administered zones have access to the rights? It is like this, you see. It is impossible to vest self-administered areas in all national races. Rights are bestowed on the national races that deserve due rights in accordance with the principles. However, the national races that have less population are vested with due rights.

In Shan State for example, Shan national race, and five other national races, namely Pa-O, Palaung, Danu, Kokang and Wa have got a state and self-administered areas. So, there is no need to vest them with more particular rights. However, every national race residing in Shan State has the right to elect a representative from among its population if its population constitutes at least 0.1 per cent of the population of the nation. That representative will become a representative of Shan State and he will have the right to participate in the legislative functions, representing his national race. He will become the minister for national race affairs in the Shan State governing body. And he will have the right to deal with the affairs of his national race.

Ayeyawady Division is for Bamar national race. So, in Ayeyawady Division, Bamar national race will not get any more rights. However, every national race residing in this division with a population that makes up at least 0.1 per cent of the nation's population will enjoy such rights. Kayin national race in Ayeyawady Division, for instance, has a population of over 1.5 million. So, Kayin people will have a representative in Ayeyawady Region hluttaw. The representative will become a minister of Ayeyawady Region government, and he will have the right to carry out affairs of his national race. These conditions will be effective the whole country.

Then, you might ask how about the national

races with less population? A national race residing in self-administered division or zone with a population of more than 10,000 without self-administered division, self-administered zone, State or Region will have the right to elect a representative from among its population to the division/zone leading body. The representative will have the rights to take part in the legislative and executive functions. This constitution thus vests a national race with less population with due democracy rights.

There will be at least a representative from every township to the Pyithu Hluttaw. Various national races reside in every township, so there will be representatives of national races. So, they will have the rights to participate in the legislative functions at the central level, representing the township concerned. Furthermore, 12 representatives each from the States and Regions will be members of the Amyotha Hluttaw. So, the representatives of national races will make up the majority, and they will have the rights to carry out the affairs of the national race concerned. Therefore, I would say this constitution guarantees national races all possible democracy rights. In the world, constitutions giving such rights to ethnic minorities are very rare.

Not only that. This constitution also guarantees many other positive principles in the interest of the nation and the people. For instance, the principle "The State shall never start aggression against any other nation" guarantees the people peace and no war. And the principle "No foreign troops are permitted to be deployed within the borders of the Union" is adopted in all seriousness. In the region, some countries permitted foreign troops in their territories. In consequence, in these countries, many young women were raped by foreign troops. The populations of people of mixed parentage are growing into new ethnic groups. And they have many problems that remain unsolved. I am getting tired of hearing about such news stories. I would like the people to understand that this constitution gives many guarantees to prevent the nation and the people from coming under any foreign aggression.

Now, I would like to explain the point "The Tatmadaw to be able to participate in the national political leadership role of the future State". It is common knowledge that the Tatmadaw played a leadership role in the national politics in the independence struggles and in safeguarding the independence. And it is still playing the leadership role, standing by the nation and steadfastly loyal to the national politics. So, all should realize why that point is prescribed for the Tatmadaw. Nevertheless, anti-government groups, without trying to work out the issues, are irresponsibly making accusations that it is because the Tatmadaw is desirous of holding on to the power. I think they have insincere intention to do so.

It is the Tatmadaw that managed to help regain independence, that managed to lift the nation from being named Yangon Government due to the multi-coloured armed insurgency and save from the situations to lose independence again. Frankly speaking, it had to address the deteriorating situations of the nation for ensuring the continued rule of the AFPFL government. When the AFPFL split into two factions, the Tatmadaw had to serve as the Caretaker Government. If the

Tatmadaw had not taken up State duties in the 1988 unrest, the nation would have gone through a real hard time. Those historic events strengthen the fact that the Tatmadaw should play the leadership role in the national politics.

In truth, there is no need to ask why the Tatmadaw wants to engage in the national politics. Whenever politicians committed misconduct, they were disunited, and vied each other for power, they turned to armed revolt, and the Tatmadaw had to sacrifice many lives of its members. The majority of the politicians remained indifferent whatever it was. Likewise, the people had to withstand various forms of havoc triggered by the activities of the politicians. So, I don't think it is prudent to let opportunist politicians to monopolize the political affairs at will. The Tatmadaw does not want to let any situations to happen that make the people get into troubles, nor can it sacrifice the lives of its members due to the plots of the politicians. Tatmadaw members have to sacrifice their lives in times of emergency. So, they should have the rights to give advice and make suggestions of politicians' acts, shouldn't they? Therefore, it has become clear that the Tatmadaw should participate in the national political leadership role of the future State.

According to the new State constitution, Tatmadaw member representatives will constitute 25 per cent of the total representatives in the legislative hluttaws at all levels. It is very clear, if the Tatmadaw, as the anti-government groups said, is desirous of holding on to the power, it will appoint greater number of Tatmadaw member representatives. It is required of the people to understand that the appointment of Tatmadaw member representatives is just to avert undesirable situations, not to gain domination in the hluttaw. Thus, I believe that the participation and leadership role of the Tatmadaw are necessary for successful transition to democracy, whether internal and external anti-government elements are happy with the situations or not. If you know about the Tatmadaw from the very beginning to the very end, I am sure you will agree with me.

Actually, politicians by nature are harmful to the nation. I think you know that in 1949-50, the government lost inter-unity and it was branded Yangon government. It was largely due to the policy of the BCP that the independence that was regained through begging was just sham one, and the independence that was regained through a fight was real independence. The demand of integrating Ayeyawady Division into Kayin State prompted the worsening situations. Overall, the root causes of those conditions were racism and dogmatism of politicians.

The split of the ruling party, vying of the pocket armed groups and multi-coloured armed insurrection around 1959-60 were the evil consequences of the plots of politicians. It is politicians that tried to come to power under the pretext of federal system. In fact, federal system is a system that can lead to collapse of the Union. I don't think power-craving politicians could not foresee possibility of disintegration of the Union if the federal system came into force. What do you think the nation would be like if the Tatmadaw failed to take over State duties, then?

(See page 5)

Lt-Gen Myint Swe meets with entrepreneurs, traders

YANGON, 8 May – Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence met with the president and executive members of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the entrepreneurs in Yangon at the meeting hall of the Yangon Command this afternoon.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe clarified matters related to reconstruction and emergency work for bringing the situation back

to normal in Nargis-hit areas in Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions.

He continued to say that Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions were hit by Nargis cyclone on May 2 and 3. There have still been shortages of water and electricity outage. So, Tatmadawmen and Myanmar Police Force members are carrying out the reconstruction tasks. So far, there have been difficulties in transportation in Ayeyawady Division.



Lt-Gen Myint Swe briefs on emergency works in storm-hit areas in Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions. — MNA



Members of the Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force and social organizations remove trees on Strand Road in Yangon. — MNA

Work is being done for the smooth transportation urgently. Foodstuff has been sold at cheap price to the cyclone-hit areas in the divisions through district and township PDCs. Work for the transport convenience is being carried out. Due to emergency conditions, goods are being transported by the choppers and vehicles to Ayeyawady Division. Rice warehouses and rice mills are being repaired, he added. He urged the

entrepreneurs to collectively take part in the reconstruction tasks.

Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win reported on road clearing tasks for smooth transportation and arrangements for running factories in the industrial zones and workers.

Next, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein called on the entrepreneurs and traders to cooperate with the government for rapidly delivering construction

materials and consumer goods to the storm victims.

U Win Myint, President of UMFCCI and the entrepreneurs reported on cash and kind being collected.

Those present donated cash, construction materials and foodstuff and Lt-Gen Myint Swe expressed thanks for the donations.

The relief items are being transported to the cyclone-hit areas and water purifiers are to be installed in each township of Ayeyawady Division.—MNA

The most appropriate constitution...

(from page 4)

For us, the memories of the 1988 unrest are still fresh. The people who hated the one-party system took to the streets for democracy. However, opportunist politicians exploited the deteriorating conditions of the nation for their political gains. As a result, the riots grew into anarchic unrest. Politicians manipulated the people to launch riots for their coming to power, but they were not in a position at all to control the raging mobs. In the end, the Tatmadaw had to tackle the deteriorating situations to save the motherland.

The Tatmadaw has understood well the innate nature of politicians. So, it will have to safeguard the nation as far as it can in order that the nation will not suffer similar experiences. So, Tatmadaw member representatives are necessary in the hluttaws and governing bodies to deal with plots of opportunist politicians. However much that point is criticized, we people believe that will not harm the essence of democracy because 25 per cent of the representatives cannot dominate 75 per cent of the representatives.

Myanmar is not the only country in which some representatives are appointed directly in the hluttaw (parliament) instead of by holding elections. In the world, over 30 countries including neighbouring countries such as Thailand and Indonesia have practiced that system for long. For example, in Britain (United Kingdom), all the 659 members of the House of Lords are non-elective seats. They are hereditary representatives and eminent persons recognized by the Queen.

In Thailand, the Senate is made up of 150

representatives. Of the 150, a representative each is elected from 76 provinces, and the remaining 74 MPs are intellectuals and intelligentsia, service personnel and outstanding persons directly appointed by the Election Commission. Then, nearly 50 per cent of the MPs are directly-appointed representatives. However, that does not attract any criticism, and the appointment of Tatmadaw member representatives is blamed variously, reflecting the dishonesty of the internal and external anti-government groups.

These days, the voices of “No Vote” and “Vote No” are running high. Why are they doing so? Their real intention is to disrupt the drive for approval of the constitution. Not only internal anti-government groups but also a certain powerful country will not happy with the approval of the constitution. As I explained to you, the principle “No foreign troops are permitted to be deployed within the borders of the Union” is a bitter pill to swallow for the countries that are desperate to station their military bases in our country. Moreover, if the constitution is approved, there will be no puppet government in the country. I think they underestimated our country and the people. Now, they are trying to throw sand on the meat they could not eat. The congressmen of the country are putting pressure on their President to disrupt the processes for approval of the constitution, and to dissuade international community from recognizing the constitution if it is approved. The President of the country said that he would try to submit the issue of the State constitution to United Nations Security Council for the release of the Presidential Statement of the Chairman of the UNSC.

Likewise, anti-government groups at home

do not know what to do now. If the constitution is approved, the 1990 election results they stick to will be dissolved automatically. They are terrified at the thought of invalidity of the results. They dare not stand for election in the multi-party general elections to be held in accordance with the new constitution the people will approve. I think they know they will lose in the elections because of the acts they have been committing since 1988. That is why they are resorting to various means with the intention that the new constitution will not be approved. There will be no one who is as stupid as us if we believe and rely on what internal and external elements with negative attitude are saying.

So, it is very important for us not to get ourselves caught in the trap of the destructive elements. We people have realized that the new constitution is the most suitable one for the nation and the people. And a constitution is essential for a nation and its people. It is better than no constitution. We accept and believe that living in accordance with the law under the constitution is safer and more peaceful. What should we do, then, my friend?

Very clear, we will have to unanimously cast “Yes” vote for the new constitution. Only then, will it be possible for us to get the most discipline-flourishing and developed democratic nation. We have to be convinced that casting “Yes” vote for approval of the constitution is shouldering a national duty.

In conclusion, I would like to urge all to lead an easy life in the new democratic nation after casting “YES” vote for the constitution in the referendum.

Translation : MS



Prime Minister General Thein Sein speaks at the meeting of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee.

MNA

Officials and people urged to assist storm victims with goodwill

NAY PYI TAW, 8 May — The National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee held the coordination meeting at the hall of Yangon Command Headquarters, here, this morning, attended by Chairman of the NDPCC Prime Minister General Thein Sein.

In his speech, Prime Minister General Thein Sein said that as cyclonic storm 'Nargis' hit at some places in Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions on 2 and 3 May, the relief work commenced on 4 May. The government formed the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee and 10 sub-committees to see that those who remained alive would survive.

Now, the stability prevails at the storm-hit areas. The Prime Minister said that he went on inspection tours and observed the objective conditions, and he immediately provided necessary assistance for the storm-hit regions and made arrangements for the future plans. In addition, officials carried out effective relief work using Tatmadaw helicopters to distribute instant foods, essential items and drinking water to some storm-hit areas.

He continued to say that relief camps are temporarily opened in the storm-hit townships. He stressed the need to accommodate the victims at the safe places of

neighbouring townships for enabling them to have potable water and hygienic food. He said that arrangements are being made to provide construction materials for reconstruction of the damaged buildings before the rainy season. He noted that some construction entrepreneurs have offered help for the construction of the buildings. Thus, it is necessary to coordinate with them.

In addition, he stressed the need to send more medicines to forward camps and hospitals and medical teams to provide effective treatments to the victim patients as soon as possible. Moreover, he

said that it is necessary to announce the telephone numbers and donation centres for enabling the wellwishers from various parts of the country to donate cash and kind to the victims. He instructed officials to join hands with the storm victims to correctly and speedily update the lists of the damage and loss, dead and missing. In conclusion, the Prime Minister urged not only officials but also all the people to assist the victims with goodwill.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence reported on relief and rehabilitation tasks, preparations for providing health care services to the storm victims, donations of water purifiers and

tablets by wellwishers and arrangements for providing money, heavy machinery and expertise of national entrepreneurs in reconstruction of storm-hit townships and villages.

Chairmen and officials of subcommittees submitted the reports on work done in their respective sectors and future tasks.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win reported to the Prime Minister on resumption of local trains and bus lines as usual, sales of fuel for vehicles, re-running of factories at Hlinethaya Industrial Zone after electricity supply,

opening of rice shops, daily providing of rice and aids to relief camps and arrangements for reconstruction of schools, hospitals and dispensaries.

Those present took part in the discussions.

After attending to the needs, the Prime Minister urged officials of the committees to join hands in the tasks to assist the victim citizens as the relatives.

Also present at the meeting were Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, deputy ministers, the director-general of the Government Office, the secretary of Yangon Division PDC and officials. — MNA

Helicopters transport relief supplies to storm-hit areas in Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 8 May — Tatmadaw helicopters transported relief supplies

to the storm-hit areas in Ayeyawady Division continuously. A helicopter

carrying 30 tents, 110 packages of preventive medicine

against diarrhoea, 5 packages of metro, 5 packages of paracetamol, 2 packages of

preventive medicine against lockjaw, 100 packages of mineral salt and 150 packages of glucose left here for Bogale at 11.35 am. A helicopter carrying 100 packages of mineral salt, 150 packages of medicines, 20 packages of noodle, drinking water containers and one generator left here for Pyapon at 11.40 am, a helicopter carrying 30 tents, 150 packages of glucose, 5 packages of metro, 5 packages of paracetamol, 100 packages of preventive medicine for diarrhoea and 100 packages of mineral salt left here for Labutta at 2.15 pm today. — MNA

packages of mineral salt, 100 packages of preventive medicine against diarrhoea and 2 packages of preventive medicine against lockjaw left here for Mawlamyinegyun at 11.50 am and a helicopter from Hmawby Airbase carrying 30 tents, 150 packages of glucose, 5 packages of metro, 5 packages of paracetamol, 100 packages of preventive medicine for diarrhoea and 100 packages of mineral salt left here for Labutta at 2.15 pm today. — MNA



Emergency aid for storm victims in Ayeyawady Division being loaded onto a helicopter. — MNA

Commander presents aid to relief camps in Kyimyindine

YANGON, 8 May — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win presented rice, edible oil, foods and medicines to the storm victims at the relief centre in Alatt Chaung village, Kyimyindine Township today.

The commander inspected travelling of vessels in Pan Hlaing river. Next, the commander and Secretary of Division PDC U Hla Soe provided K 2 million, rice, edible oil, drinking water, foods and medicines to the victims at the monastery in the village.

He observed medical treatment for the victims at a temporary health care centre opened at No 15 primary school in the village.

Next, he inspected the damaged building and the fallen trees in the village.— MNA



Tatmadawmen unloading relief aids for storm victims in Kyauktan Township.—MNA

Downed trees on Yangon-Pyay road cleaned

YANGON, 8 May — Fallen trees caused by storm Nargis between the junctions of 8-mile and Hledan on Yangon-Pyay road have been removed by members of Tatmadaw and employees of Shwe Taung Co Ltd with heavy machinery today.

The dumpers of the Public Works under the Ministry of Construction and Shwe Taung Co Ltd have carried the removing logs and the branches to the safety sites.

Members of Tatmadaw, rescue workers from Shan State (South) and social organization members will clean the fallen trees on Kaba Aye Pagoda road tomorrow.—MNA

USDA members clearing downed trees on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road.—MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Myint Thein view clearance of debris on a road in Yangon.—MNA

Minister and deputy minister meet entrepreneurs at Hlinethaya Industrial Zone

YANGON, 8 May—Chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein met with private entrepreneurs at Hlinethaya Industrial Zone on 7 May. In his meeting with the entrepreneurs, the minister explained to them about conditions of the storm-hit areas, progress in carrying out relief and rehabilitation tasks, donations to the storm victims by local private companies and relief supplies provided by foreign countries.

Next, Member of MIC Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein briefed on progress in carrying out relief and rehabilitation tasks.

Afterwards, Chairman of Supervisory Committee for Hlinethaya Industrial Zone No 5 U Mya Maung briefed on assistance rendered by private entrepreneurs to wards and villages in Hlinethaya Township.

Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Myint Thein inspected fallen trees cleared by Asia World Company with the use of heavy machinery from Hledan to the 8th mile (Insein Road), Shwetaung Company from Hledan to the 8th mile (Pyay Road), Aden Company along University Avenue Road and Construction Special Group (1,2,3,4 and 5) of the Ministry of Construction along the Strand Road. —MNA



Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspects removal of debris by volunteers.—MNA

USDA members clear fallen trees

YANGON, 8 May — Under the arrangements of Yangon Division Union

Solidarity and Development Association this morning, 1000 members of the Division USDA and 200 members of Kayin and Mon State USDAs cleared fallen trees caused by cyclonic storm 'Nargis' from Shwegondine Traffic Light in Bahan Township to 8-mile Junction in Mayangon Township in four groups with the use of 10 vehicles of Yangon City Development Committee.

USDA members from other states and divisions will take part in cleaning works, it is learnt. —MNA

Volunteers remove fallen trees in Yangon

YANGON, 8 May — CEC Member of Union Solidarity and Development Association (Yangon Division In-charge) Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin yesterday and today inspected removal of fallen trees due to cyclonic storm Nargis in Yangon.

He went to Bahan Township yesterday and encouraged volunteers removing fallen trees on roads in the township.

Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa went to Mayangon, North Okkalapa and Bahan townships today and encouraged USDA members volunteering for removal of fallen trees on the roads and cleaning the roads in the townships.

Members of USDA and employees of YCDC volunteered to remove the fallen trees on the roads.—MNA



Members of the Tatmadaw unloading Thai-donated bottles of drinking water, candles, hammers and dry noodles from a plane at Yangon International Airport.—MNA

Plane-loads of foreign emergency aid...

(from page 16)

C-130 plane from Thailand carrying 15 tons of bottled drinking water, candles, hammers and dried noodles at 2.50 pm.
Planes carrying relief supplies from foreign countries will continue to arrive in Yangon the next days.

Planes and vessels carrying relief supplies from foreign countries arrived continuously in Myanmar. Item-accepting teams systematically accepted relief supplies at the jetties and airports and immediately distributed them to the disaster-hit areas by air, water and road without delay. —MNA

Relief teams of Shan State (South) arrive in Yangon

YANGON, 8 May —Under the arrangement of the Shan State Peace and Development Council, relief members arrived in Yangon at 11.30 pm on 7 May.
A total of 300 members comprise members of USDA, fire brigade and RedCross.
Chairman of the Shan State PDC Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Thaung Aye and officials met with the relief members at the Shan State Sports ground on 6 May evening. The Commander delivered a speech and donated cash assistance. Products of the Shan State (South), clothes, food and consumer goods are being provided to the storm victims.
MNA

Myanmar thanks international community and organizations for their emergency aids



*Medicines and boxes of chocolate sent from Singapore arrives at Yangon International Airport.
MNA*



Members of the Tatmadaw unloading mosquito nets, tarpaulin, plastic, medicines and food worth US \$ 300,000 donated by Italy. — MNA

Wellwishers may donate cash and kind to storm victims

YANGON, 8 May — The people at home and abroad, wishing to donate cash and kind to storm victims may contact Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint at Fire Services

Department (head office) near the Tooth Relic Pagoda (Tel – 098600026) and Director-General U Than Oo of Relief and Resettlement Department (Tel – 098600025).

MNA

Navy takes part in relief works

NAY PYI TAW, 8 May — After the strike of cyclonic storm Nargis, relief and rehabilitation works are now being done for storm victims in time. Service men led by Commander of Ayeyawady Naval Region Command Commandore Win Shein handed 15 tons of supplies carried by naval vessel of the Republic of India over to Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-

Gen Maung Maung Swe at Thilawa Port on 7 May evening.

Relief and rehabilitation works are being undertaken with nine naval vessels of Armed Force (Navy) at Labutta, Mawlamyinegyun, Bogale, Pyapon, Dedaye and Patheingyi townships and with one naval vessel between Yangon river mouth and Thameehla island.—MNA

Air Force participates in evacuation in storm-hit areas

NAY PYI TAW, 8 May — Helicopters and aircraft of Armed Forces (Air) have participated in tasks for evacuation, transportation of emergency patients to Yangon and transportation of relief aids to the cyclonic-storm Nargis-hit areas.

Relief aids arrived at Yangon

International Airport and Mingaladon Air Base were airlifted to the storm-hit areas by helicopters and aircraft of Armed Forces (Air).

Air bases donated food worth over K 3.7 million and cash to relief centres.

MNA



Tatmadawmen unloading relief aids from India at Yangon International Airport. — MNA



Tatmadawmen loading trucks with relief aids airlifted from Bangladesh. — MNA



Tatmadawmen loading a helicopter with relief aids to be transported to storm hit-areas in Ayeyawady Division. — MNA

Repairing of power lines, supply of electricity inspected

YANGON, 8 May — Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspected reconstruction of suspension pylon No 57 of Thakayta-Hlawga 230 KV national grid and preparations for supply of power from the power station of No 2 Industrial Zone in Dagon Myothit (South) Township yesterday.

He viewed supply of power from Thakayta Natural Gas Turbine and damages to the lamp-post of 66 KV national grid and power lines in Dagon Myothit (South) Industrial Zone caused

by the storm.

In Thanlyin Township, the minister supervised repairing of power lines and lamp-posts and efforts being made for supply of power.

At Kyaikkasan Power Station in Tamway Township, the minister inspected supply of electricity to urban areas, Yankin Centre and Central Bank of Myanmar.

The minister and party also viewed replacement of power lines and lamp-posts along Saya San Road.

MNA

Energy Minister provides relief aids to storm victims in Kawhmu, Kungyangon, Dedaye

YANGON, 8 May— Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi inspected storm-hit areas in Kawhmu and Kungyangon in Yangon Division from 4 to 6 May.

He supervised distribution of relief aids to the storm victims and fulfilled the needs for the relief and resettlement works.

The Minister provided storm victims in Kawhmu with foodstuff and bottled drinking water on 7 May.

Next, he met with officials, townselders and responsible persons of storm-hit wards and villages at the relief camp in Kungyangon and coordinated with them reconstruction works and providing of foodstuff and drinking water.

The Minister had a discussion about health care

service with Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint and Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo who were also there.

Afterwards, Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi and Minister Dr Kyaw Myint looked into unloading of noodle packings, drinking water bottles and tarpaulins donated by Asia World Company.

Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi comforted the storm victims and responsible persons of Asia World Company donated relief aids to them.

He met with officials and responsible persons of storm-hit areas in Dedaye, Ayeyawady Division, and coordinated with them relief and reconstruction works and providing of foodstuff and donated bags of rice to the storm victims.

Next, he met with storm victims at the relief

camp and attended to the requirements.

He looked into health care service being given to the storm victims at emergency clinic in Kungyangon and comforted the patients.

It is learnt that health care service is being provided by doctors and health staff led by Physician Dr U Kyaw Zin Thant and Dr U Khin Maung Swe free of charge.

It is learnt that foodstuff, drinking water, medicines, clothes and other personal goods are being provided to storm victims in Kawhmu, Kungyangon, Dedaye by the State and well-wishers and plans are being made to reconstruct damaged schools, hospitals, monasteries, government office buildings and houses as quickly as possible.

MNA



An emergency patient from Ayeyawady Division is being conveyed to Yangon by helicopter. — MNA



Health personnel are being helicoptered to storm-hit areas in Ayeyawady Division to provide health care to victims. — MNA

SWRR Minister accepts cash and kind from wellwishers



A lay person hands over foreign exchange donated by Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kusala for the storm victims to Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe.

MNA

YANGON, 8 May— Local and foreign wellwishers donate cash and kind to storm Nargis-hit regions of Myanmar.

This afternoon, Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Kusala of Dhammawantana Monastery of Bahan Township donated US\$ 99,500 to member of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and

Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe at the NDPCC at Fire Services Department (Head Office) in Mayangon Township.

Likewise, Deputy Minister for SWRR Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint and officials accepted cash and kind donated by wellwishers including K 10 million by U Aung Zaw Myint-Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Theingi Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin, K 10 million by Managing Director U

Maung Maung and wife Daw Lily Myint (Full Moon Dragon Co Ltd), US\$ 100,000 by YMEC Co of China, US\$ 20,000 by Laos, US\$ 15,000 by Dong Wan, Ha (Yangon Pan Pacific International Co Ltd), 10,000 T-shirts worth K 20 million by Yuzana Co and others.

Similarly, wellwishers contact the NDPCC for making donations to the storm victims.

MNA

Communication station in Hainggyikyun reopened

YANGON, 8 May — The communication station in the cyclone-torn Hainggyikyun of Ayeyawady Division has been reopened today.—MNA

Some wards in Dagon Myothit (South) Tsp have access to electricity

YANGON, 8 May — Some wards in Dagon Myothit (South) Township have access to electricity. Out of 49 transformers used before in the township, 24 have been already repaired and are in use.

The places which have access to power are Sipinhaya Street,

Ayeyawun Street, Industrial Zone 1 and Industrial Zone 2. No efforts are spared to supply electricity back to the remaining wards.

There has been a power outage in some townships on account of the cyclonic storm 'Nargis'. Experts from Ministry of Electric

Power made efforts for resumption of power phase by phase.

Power consumption in Yangon before was over 200 Megawatts. As a result of efforts made by EP staff part by part, over 40 Megawatts is now being supplied.

MNA

Latest casualty figures in cyclonic storm "Nargis"

NAY PYI TAW, 8 May — Due to cyclonic storm (Nargis) on 2 and 3 May, there have been deaths, injuries and missing in

Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions.

According to the latest figures of the victims up to 3 pm today, a total of

22,997 people died, 1,403 were injured and 42,119 went missing in all regions struck by the storm.

MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein comforts storm victims in Kungyangon Township. — MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein accepts sacks of rice, medicines and blankets from donors. — MNA

Myanmar receiving emergency relief provisions, making strenuous efforts to transport them without delay to affected areas

NAY PYI TAW, 8 May — The Government and the people of Myanmar are grateful to the friendly nations, the United Nations, International Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations, private individuals and others for their sympathy and condolences expressed and the kind generosity in donating emergency relief provisions as well as the financial support for relief and resettlement of the victims in cyclone affected areas.

Foreign countries had sent, with prior consent, chartered aircraft loaded with emergency provisions that landed in Myanmar soil without any hindrances or difficulties. To date Myanmar received a total of eleven such chartered flights. Some are scheduled to arrive in a few days time. Myanmar authorities, on their part, have been making their best efforts to forward and distribute the donated provisions to the victims in a timely manner by using helicopters, boats and motor vehicles.

An incident took place in connection with a chartered plane from Qatar that landed in Yangon International

Airport on 7 May, 2008. The aircraft, along with emergency provisions, has a search and rescue team and a media team on board. The relevant parties from Myanmar side did not have prior information on the present of such teams. Myanmar side understood that only handing over of donated emergency provisions would take place. Currently, Myanmar has prioritized receiving emergency relief provisions and is making strenuous efforts to transport those provisions without delay by its own labour to the affected areas. As such, Myanmar is not yet ready to receive search and rescue teams as well as media teams from foreign countries. The aircraft left on the same day.

Myanmar highly appreciates the generosity as well as the readiness of the international community including the State of Qatar to contribute assessment and coordination teams as well as emergency rescue and relief teams.

At this juncture, the international community can best help the victims by donating emergency provisions such as medical supplies, food, cloths,

electricity generators, and materials for emergency shelters or with financial assistance. Myanmar will wholeheartedly welcome such course of action.

The donors and the international community can be assured that Myanmar is doing its best, together with its people, experts, officials and philanthropic organizations, and with the generosity of the international community to relieve the sufferings of victims of cyclone Nargis.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Water being pumped out from a tank to supply to residents in Yangon. — MNA



Prime Minister comforts storm...

(from page 1)

The Prime Minister by car inspected the conditions of Kungyangon that was hit by the strong wind.

The Prime Minister from helicopter inspected the conditions of Letkhokkon Village that is adjacent to the sea.

On arrival at Kyauktan Township, the Prime Minister heard a

report by Township PDC Chairman U Maung Maung Khin, on the relief camps, caring of the victims and health care. After asking some questions for further information, the Prime Minister fulfilled the requirements.

He inspected ravaged buildings by car, and meals for the victims at the relief camp in Myoma

BEMS in Kyauktan. He comforted the victims.

At the relief camp in Shwe Hmaw Wun Sasana Beikman monastery, the Prime Minister consoled the victims and instructed responsible persons to keep the relief camps clean, and presented instant noodle packages and purified drinking water to them.

MNA

YCDC supplies water to townships

YANGON, 8 May — The Yangon City Development Committee has carried out water supply tasks to the townships in Yangon since the evening of 6 May.

In doing so, Gyobyu, Hlawga, Ngamoeyeik (Ahtetyu) waterworks have been supplying 140 million gallons of water per day as of 7 May.

In addition, over 5 million gallons of water from 27 tube wells are being supplied to the residents of Kyauktada, Pabedan, Latha, Lammadaw, Botahtaung and Dagon Townships with the use of generators.

Likewise, a total of 30 water bowsers from YCDC, Fire Brigades,

departments and USDA are carrying water to 16 townships and supplying over 150,000 gallons of water being generated from the three 8-inch tube wells in Maha Bandoola Park daily. 95 per cent of normal water supply system has been completed.

MNA

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Donate blood

Salaries rise fastest in 12 years in Germany

BERLIN, 8 May — Salaries have been rising more faster than any time since 1996 in Germany, German Federal Statistical Office said on Tuesday.
According to the Wiesbaden-based office, in January 2008, monthly salaries and hourly wages of employees in trade and industry in Germany rose 3.3 per cent compared to January 2007. "That is the highest increase in salaries since April 1996 and in wages since July 1996," the office said in a statement.
It noted that consumer prices had risen 2.8 per cent over the same period, indicating that most workers were better off. Salaries in the public sector rose 4.4 per cent, well above the average. However, German unions have shown increasing demand for higher pay in recent months, securing pay increases well above the inflation rate.
In February, steel workers in the key north-western states gained a hike of 5.2 per cent over 13 months. Train drivers have also secured a considerable rise, following a damaging year-long series of strikes.— *MNA/Xinhua*

World's biggest passenger aircraft A380 to fly to Beijing ahead of Olympics

BEIJING, 7 May — The world's biggest aircraft A380 will be operated on one of the three regular flights from Singapore to Beijing during the first week of August to meet the expected surge in passenger numbers during the Olympics. A total of 5.56 million people are expected to arrive at Beijing Capital International Airport during the Games in August.
From 2 August to 8 August, the A380 flight will leave Singapore at 8:30 am local time and reach Beijing at 2:40 pm, according to the Singapore Airlines Beijing Office. The returning flight will take off from Beijing at 5:05 pm local time and arrive in Singapore at 11:20 pm. Singapore Airlines is the first and the only carrier that operates the A380. It operates the aircraft from Singapore to Sydney and London respectively.
MNA/Xinhua

Roadside bomb kills eight troops in Somalia

BAIDOA, Somalia, 8 May — A roadside bomb killed eight Somali government soldiers and wounded six others when it tore through a convoy in the central town of Baidoa on Wednesday, witnesses said.
Islamist insurgents from the al Shabaab militia who are battling the interim government and its Ethiopian military allies had vowed to retaliate after a US air strike killed their leader last week.
Witness Abdiqadir Aden said the blast destroyed one military vehicle as the convoy drove into Baidoa from a nearby army camp. Baidoa is the seat of Somalia's parliament. "The roadside bomb killed eight government troops, including their unit leader, and wounded six others," Aden told *Reuters*.
Internet

Riots sweep Beirut as demonstration delays in Lebanon

BEIRUT, 7 May — Riots swept Beirut on Wednesday as supporters of the Hezbollah opposition and government backers clashed in neighbourhoods on Wednesday, leaving at least eight people injured.
Clashes between opposition and ruling coalition supporters erupted in west Beirut's Cornish Mazraa at about 8:40 am (0540 GMT). Five people, including two soldiers and three civilians, were injured when masked men throw a sound bomb on the area.
Both sides accused each other of starting the riots. Hezbollah's Al Manar TV said a supporter of majority leader MP Saad Hariri's Moustaqbal party threw a sound bomb on opposition demonstrators.
Later, followers of the pro- and anti-government camps engaged in violent clashes in the residential districts of the capital. The Lebanese Army troops had to stand between rival camps to prevent conflict.
Tension escalated as staccato bursts of automatic rifle fire echoed across several Beirut districts amidst efforts by Army and police patrols to contain the violence, according to local Naharnet news website.
The unrest paralyzed Beirut international airport for six hours. Air navigation through Beirut Rafik Hariri International Airport halted early Wednesday when opposition protestors blocked roads leading to the facility, and only got resumed six hours later. But the airport roads were blocked till 6:00 pm local time (1500 GMT).
A total of 32 incoming and outgoing flights were cancelled, local Naharnet reported, adding that a number of small jets were removed from the airport to nearby airports.
The clashes coincided with tension caused by a major demonstration called by the Labour Union, which was scheduled later in the day to protest workers' living conditions in addition to a general strike. But it was cancelled due to the closure of roads.
Lebanese General Federation of Labour Unions (GFLU) called for a massive strike throughout Lebanon on Wednesday to protest against a modest increase of monthly salaries. The GFLU has warned the government it would go on strike if the Cabinet did not approve a pay raise by 63 percent.
The GFLU has demanded increasing the minimum wage to 960,000 Lebanese pounds (about 640 U.S. dollars). But the Lebanese Cabinet announced Tuesday morning to raise the minimum wage from 300,000 (200 dollars) to 500,000 Lebanese pounds (about 333 dollars).— *Xinhua*

US expert defends building anti-missile system in Europe

PRAGUE, 8 May — A US expert has defended the deployment of US anti-missile systems in Europe, the planned shield in Central Europe would contribute to the security of both the United States and Europe.
Jack Crouch, a former aide to US President George W Bush, said on Tuesday at a conference that NATO must make it clear that the US system would serve the alliance, which should have the capability of protecting its members, the Czech news agency CTK reported.
Warning Europe is at risk of being attacked by missiles sooner than the United States, Crouch said the system is not cheap, but Washington trusts the investment.
He also said existing anti-missile installations in the US states of Alaska and California are not sufficient to ensure security and anti-missile systems will be efficient if they are globally deployed.
Washington plans to build a radar base in the Czech Republic's Brdy military district, some 90 kilometres southwest of Prague, as well as an interceptor missile base in neighbouring Poland.
But Russia is strongly opposed to the system, saying the plan poses a threat to its strategic interests. Some 70 per cent of Czech citizens also oppose the project.
MNA/Xinhua



A car was blown onto the roof of a house nearby a road in Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture, Jilin Province, on Tuesday, 6 May, 2008.— *INTERNET*



A stall is decorated with potatoes in the potato fair in Dhaka, capital of Bangladesh, on 7 May, 2008. The three-day mega potato fair arranged by the Bangladeshi caretaker government was aimed popularizing the vegetable as a top food item to ease pressure off the main staple rice amid bumper potato harvest in the country and a skyrocketing price of rice. —XINHUA

Kabuki artist spins excellent Kunqu role

BEIJING, 7 May — Chinese and Japanese artists are currently performing a rare blend of their countries' quintessential art-forms in Beijing.

The classic Kunqu play, "The Peony Pavilion," premiered at the Huguang Guild Hall on Tuesday. It featured veterans from the Suzhou Kunqu Opera House—Kunqu being the oldest form of Chinese opera — and revered Japanese Kabuki artist Tamasaburo Bando.

Bando, known for his

female Kabuki roles, played the melancholic Du Liniang, who dies during her attempts to try and recollect a romantic dream.

"The most difficult part for me was to master the lyrics," the 58-year-old Bando, who speaks little Chinese, told the Beijing Evening News. To prepare for the role, he carefully studied the lip movements of former Du Liniang artist Zhang Jiqing by watching videos of her performances.

The hard work paid off. Zhang Jiqing was present

at Tuesday's show and was blown away by Bando's performance, calling him "a great artist."

Bando says his personal idol is the late Mei Lanfang, the greatest Chinese opera artist of all time. He says Mei Lanfang's portrayal of Du Liniang left an everlasting impression on his mind. In the future, Bando hopes to see more male performers doing female Kunqu roles—which, according to him, is needed to ensure Mei Lanfang's legacy lasts forever.

"Coming to Beijing helped me realize my dream of tracing the footsteps of Mei Lanfang," Bando says. He recalls how thrilled he was to learn a decade ago when he first visited the Huguang Guild Hall that Mei Lanfang once performed there.

In another play of the show on Tuesday, Bando presented a Kabuki portrayal of ancient Chinese beauty Yang Guifei.

The show will continue every night at the Huguang Guild Hall until 15 May.

Internet



"Le Pont du chemin de fer a Argenteuil" — a painting of a bridge with two trains passing over the Seine while pleasure boats float below — was sold at a Christie's sale for 41,481,000 dollars, said Rik Pike, a spokesman for the auction house. —INTERNET

Vietnam spots new bird flu outbreak

HANOI, 8 May — Bird flu has stricken fowl flocks in Vietnam's southern Can Tho city over the past few days, raising the total number of affected localities in the country to three, according to Vietnam's Department of Animal Health on Thursday.

The bird flu outbreak killed 1,131 poultry, including 1,070 chickens raised by a household in the city's Phong Dien rural district. Local veterinary forces on Wednesday culled the remainders of 829 healthy fowls in the affected flocks to prevent the disease's spread.

Vietnam currently has three localities having poultry being hit by bird flu: northern Son La province, southern Vinh Long province and southern Can Tho city, the department said.

Bird flu outbreaks in Vietnam, starting in December 2003, have killed and led to the forced culling of dozens of millions of fowls in the country.—Xinhua

Death toll from China viral outbreak rises to 30

HAIKOU, 8 May — Contagious hand-foot-mouth disease (HFMD) had led to 30 deaths in China as of Thursday morning, according to Xinhua's tally based on confirmed death reports from provincial-level health bureaus.

Two children died of the enterovirus 71 (EV71) virus, which caused them to develop HFMD, in the southernmost Hainan Province, a provincial health department official said on Thursday. He did not say when they had died.

According to the latest figures from the provincial health department, 180 cases of HFMD were reported by Thursday, of which five were confirmed to be infected with the EV71 virus.

The central province

of Hunan and the southwestern Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region reported their first and only HFMD deaths on Wednesday.—Xinhua

Ancient tea trees found in central China

BEIJING, 8 May — Botanists have recently discovered ancient tea trees in central China's Wudang Mountains which were an integral part of a centuries-old Taoist tea culture.

Eleven such trees were discovered on Tuesday in a primeval forest behind a Yuan dynasty temple. The largest tree was almost five metres tall, China News Service reported. — Internet



Torchbearer, highly-acclaimed Chinese director Lu Chuan (R) lights the torch for next torchbearer Zhang Ziyi, famous Chinese actress, during the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games torch relay in Sanya, south China's Hainan Province, on 4 May, 2008.—XINHUA

Alcohol drinks increases cancer risk dramatically

CANBERRA, 8 May — A new report by the Cancer Institute of New South Wales (NSW) reveals that four standard alcoholic drinks per day increases a man's risk of developing bowel cancer by 64 percent.

For women, just two standard drinks per day increases their risk of developing breast cancer by up to 22 percent. and for both men and women, two standard drinks a day increases the risk of developing mouth cancer by 75 percent.

NSW Assistant Health Minister Verity Firth, who will release the report on Thursday, said the alarming links to cancer have been generally ignored in community debate over alcohol consumption.

"In fact, alcohol consumption is a significant risk factor for a number of cancers, including those of the breast, bowel, throat and mouth," Firth said in a statement on Thursday.

The report, entitled Alcohol As A Cause Of Cancer, also found 12 percent of all breast cancer cases in NSW could be directly linked to excessive consumption of alcohol.

Firth said the World Health Organization now listed alcohol as a top-rated Group 1 carcinogen.

The 2006 NSW Population Health Survey found 70 percent of NSW adults drank alcohol, with 17.6 percent drinking at risky or high-risk levels.

Internet

SPORTS

Ribery, Podolski seal win for Champions Bayern

BERLIN, 8 May — French midfielder Franck Ribery and Germany striker Lukas Podolski fired Bundesliga champions Bayern Munich to a 2-0 win over Arminia Bielefeld on Wednesday, but the German giants show no sign of easing up.

Bayern were crowned champions after the 0-0 draw at Wolfsburg on Sunday and the celebrations began at the Allianz Arena in Munich after they beat Bielefeld.

Ribery put his side ahead with a first-half strike while Podolski, replacing broken-nose victim Miroslav Klose, scored early in the second half.

"We will travel to play Duisburg now on Saturday looking for another win and then I am looking forward to my last game on 17 May," said Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld, who will coach the Swiss national side next season.

"Of course we are pleased with the way things are going, but we want to stay professional until the end."

After another clean sheet, Bayern are now just two games away from the record for the lowest number of goals conceded in a Bundesliga season.

Internet

Inter defeats Lazio 2-0 to advance to Italian Cup final

BEIJING, 8 May — Vitor Hugo Gomes Passos and Julio Cruz scored second-half goals and Inter Milan defeated Lazio 2-0 to earn the Nerazzurri a spot in the Italian Cup final.

Gomes Passos, nicknamed "Pele," connected in the 52nd minute on a hard shot from inside the area. Cruz scored in the 85th with Inter playing with 10 men due to the expulsion two minutes earlier of defender Marco Materazzi for a hard foul.

After playing to a scoreless draw in the first leg, Inter fielded a team largely of second-choice players while resting its regulars for Sunday's league game against Siena.

A win Sunday will clinch Inter's third-straight Italian league championship.

Lazio had several good chances in the first half as the Rome-based team sought an early goal and a win that would have saved a disappointing season. Cristian Ledesma hit the post on a free kick in the second minute and Lazio's strikers Tommaso Rocchi and Goran Pandev each came close before the end of the half.

"We play pretty well, but we have trouble scoring and that happened again tonight," Lazio coach Delio Rossi said. "We really wanted this game and the team is very disappointed." —Internet

Russia drops visa requirement for Champions League final

MOSCOW, 8 MAY —Russia has waived entry visa requirements for fans with a valid ticket for the 21 May Champions League Final in Moscow, a match organizer told Reuters on Monday.

"A fan can come without a visa and...enter Russia with a valid ticket," said Alexei Sorokin, the Russian official coordinating preparations for the match. "It is an unprecedented decision by the Russian government."

Tens of thousands of English fans are expected to travel to the match with Manchester United and Chelsea facing each other in the final at the Luzhniki Stadium.

Internet

Olympic torch reaches Mount Everest summit

BEIJING, 8 May -- A team of climbers trudged through snow and ice to carry the Olympic torch to the summit of Mount Everest on Thursday, fulfilling a long-held goal of the Chinese government to have the Olympic flame lighted on top of the highest mountain in the world.

The ascent of the north face of Mount Everest, whose icy summit is at 8,850 meters, or about 29,000 feet, was the most ambitious leg of what is expected to be the longest Olympic torch relay in history. The torch that climbers carried to the top at 9:18 am on Thursday was a side torch; the main torch is making its way through the southern province of Guangdong and will continue through every province of China before arriving in Beijing in early August.

The torch was lit at 9:12 am by Norbu Zhamdu and then carried on a 30-meter relay to the peak, according to Xinhua, the state news agency. The team captain, Nyima Cering, was the third torch bearer and shouted the 2008 Olympic slogan, "One

world, one dream."

Photos showed a team of climbers bundled in red down jackets and wearing oxygen masks. The climbers held up the Chinese national flag and two white flags with the Olympic rings. The summit attempt had been repeatedly delayed by bad weather that forced the team to sit for days at high-elevation camps.--Internet



Climbers hold the Olympic torch along with the Olympic flags and Chinese national flag at the top of Mount Everest on Thursday. —XINHUA

Tottenham in talks with Barcelona over Eto'o

MADRID, 8 May— English first division side Tottenham are in talks with Barcelona over the Spanish giant's Cameroonian international striker Samuel Eto'o, sports daily Marca reported Wednesday.

"Tottenham's next target is clear, it is Samuel Eto'o," the newspaper said, adding the English club has already approached Barcelona "to sound out the possibility of carrying out this recruitment".

Barcelona "has shown itself to be more than welcoming and the two sides have agreed to meet next week to negotiate the transfer," the newspaper added without citing sources.

The Catalan club will "not start discussions below the bar of 35 million euros (54 million dollars)" for the three-time African Player of the Year, it added.

Internet

Chelsea offers 70 million euros for Real's Ramos

MADRID, 8 May — Chelsea have offered Real Madrid 70 million euros (108 million dollars) for their defender Sergio Ramos Real, who clinched their second straight Spanish league title over the weekend, was "reflecting on the offer" for the 21-year-old Spanish international who is under contract with the club until 2013, the newspaper said without citing named sources.

If the offer is accepted, the former Sevilla defender would become "the most expensive defender in history", it said. "His transfer would not only be the solution to the problems of the club's accounts but it would also open the door to the recruitment of a megacrack," the newspaper said.

The report emerges after Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich was in Madrid earlier this week for a basketball tournament.—Internet

De La Hoya wins easy decision; sets up Mayweather rematch

CARSON, (Calif), 8 May — Oscar De La Hoya showed he could still beat a contender. Next up is cashing in again like a champion. In what was little more than a tuneup for a much bigger fight, De La Hoya kicked off his retirement tour Saturday night before an appreciative crowd by pitching a near shutout over a game but overmatched Steve Forbes.

De La Hoya got a chance to shake off ring rust and put on a show in front of his hometown fans, who came out in big numbers to cheer him on against a fighter whose previous biggest claim to fame was losing in the final of the "Contender" reality series. He didn't disappoint, battering the smaller Forbes around on his

way to an easy 12-round decision win in his first fight in a year.

The win set up a September rematch with Floyd Mayweather Jr, who beat De La Hoya by split decision last May in what was the richest fight ever. And, even though De La Hoya was a 17-1 favourite, his dominating performance against Forbes will likely do what De La Hoya wanted by helping sell the second fight with Mayweather.

"This is the same style I'm going to use for Mayweather," De La Hoya said. "This is the same plan for Mayweather."

De La Hoya won all 12 rounds on one judge's scorecard and 11 out of 12 on the other two. He bloodied Forbes face, but he failed to knock out an opponent who had never been stopped in 38 previous fights, like he had vowed to do before the bout.

The Associated Press had De La Hoya winning every round, and scored it 120-108.

"I was hoping I'd stop him or knock him out," De La Hoya said. "I'm a little disappointed."

Forbes seemed happier that he had made it through 12 rounds than De La Hoya seemed about winning the fight.

"It was an excellent fight and an honour to fight Oscar," Forbes said. "I felt strong and it was great to be in there like that and have the opportunity to get in there and not go down. I hope by fighting him I proved I am a top level fighter."

Internet



Oscar De La Hoya, left, throws a punch at Steve Forbes during their junior middleweight boxing match, on 3 May, 2008, in Carson, Calif De La Hoya won the bout by a unanimous decision.—INTERNET

Kuwait wants an Islamic food fund, pledges \$100m

KUWAIT, 6 May — Kuwait, a Gulf Arab oil exporter, proposed on Tuesday the creation of a fund to provide basic foods to poor people in Islamic countries and pledged to donate 100 million US dollars.

“Kuwait ... is offering an initiative to establish a fund for decent life in Islamic countries to provide basic foodstuff for those who are in need quickly,” the ruler

Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah told an Islamic economic conference.

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said on Friday that rising food prices have developed into a global crisis. Concerns about food security mounted this month as rice prices hit records in Asia and the United States warned that staples for the world's hungry were getting much more expensive.

“Kuwait announces its contribution of 100 million US dollars to launch this fund,” Sheikh Sabah said, adding that the proposed fund would also contribute to programmes to increase agricultural production. *MNA/Reuters*

US Hispanic population hits 45.5 million

WASHINGTON, 6 May — The number of Hispanics in the United States grew to 45.5 million last year, and the country's largest minority group now makes up more than 15 per cent of the US population, the US Census Bureau reported on Thursday.

Hispanics surpassed

Blacks as the largest US minority in 2003 and continued to widen the gap by growing at nearly three times the pace of the Black population, Census Bureau figures showed.

The Hispanic population grew by 1.4 million in the year ending 1 July, 2007, while the Black population grew by

540,000 to reach a total of 40.7 million, the agency said in a report on minority populations in the United States. Sixteen states had a Hispanic population of more than 500,000. California was the largest at 13.2 million, followed by Texas at 8.6 million and Florida at 3.8 million.—*MNA/Reuters*



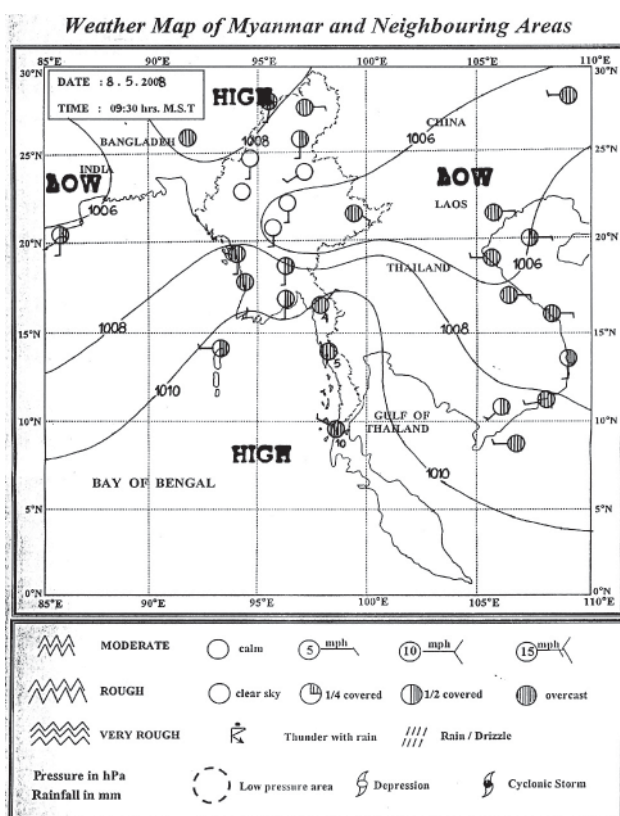
A salvage truck loads a tornado-damaged vehicle as cleanup efforts begin in Suffolk, Va, on 30 April, 2008.— INTERNET

သဘာဝဘေးအန္တရာယ်ကျရောက်သောဒေသများရှိ ပြည်သူများအတွက် ကျန်းမာရေးသတိပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်

- ၁။ ရာသီဥတုဒဏ်ခံနိုင်သည့် အမိုးအကာအောက်တွင် နေထိုင်ကြရန်၊
- ၂။ အအေးမမီစေရန် 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 အညစ်အကြေးကိုင့်တွယ်ပြီးတိုင်း လက်ဆေးကြရန်၊
- ၁၂။ သဘာဝဘေးအန္တရာယ်ကျရောက်ပြီးသည့်အခါ အဆုတ်ရောင်ရောဂါ၊ ဝမ်းပျက်ဝမ်းလျှောရောဂါ၊ မြွေဆိုးကိုက်အန္တရာယ်၊ ထိခိုက်မှုအန္တရာယ်နှင့် အခြားကျန်းမာရေးပြဿနာများ ဖြစ်ပွားတတ်ပါသည်။ ဖြစ်ပွားပါက အနီးဆုံးကျန်းမာရေးဌာနသို့ အမြန်ဆုံးသွားရောက်ပြသကြပါရန် သတိပေး နှိုးဆော် အပ်ပါသည်။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

WEATHER



Thursday, 8 May, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thunder-showers have been fairly widespread in Taninthayi Division, isolated in Shan, Kayin and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above May average temperatures in Sagaing and Magway Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) below May average temperatures in Bago and Taninthayi Divisions and about May average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperatures were Chauk, Minbu and Magway (42°C) each, Monywa and Aungmye (41°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfalls recorded were Zaungtu (0.44) inch, Kawthoung (0.40) inch, Dawei (0.20) inch, Mawlamyine (0.15) inch and Aungmye (0.12) inch.

Maximum temperature on 7-5-2008 was 94°F. Minimum temperature on 8-5-2008 was 75°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 8-5-2008 was 79%. Total sunshine hours on 7-5-2008 was (6.0) hours approx.

Rainfall on 8-5-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (19.41) inches at Mingaladon, (21.77) inches at Kaba-Aye and (22.36) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (7)

mph from Southwest at (15:30) hours MST on 7-5-2008.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea, Southwest Bay and Central Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 9-5-2008: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Mon, Kayin and Rakhine States, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, isolated in Kachin and Shan States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago and Yangon Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 9-5-2008: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in the afternoon or evening. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 9-5-2008: Isolated rain or thundershowers in the afternoon or evening. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 9-5-2008: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in the afternoon or evening. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Let us all

- * who are equipped with ardent patriotism,
- * who cherish genuine independence,
- * who aspire perpetuation of sovereignty,
- * who loathe foreign interference and manipulation, and
- * who oppose puppet government with strings of colonialists,

VOTE “YES” for ratification of the Constitution.

Plane-loads of foreign emergency aid arriving in Yangon



Aircraft carrying relief supplies arrive at Yangon International Airport.—MNA

YANGON, 8 May— Foreign countries are providing relief supplies to cyclonic storm Nargis-hit areas in Myanmar.

TG-303 plane from Singapore carrying 160,000 tablets and 36 boxes of chocolate arrived here at 8.45 am; Air Bus-

300 from Italy carrying mosquito nets, tarpaulin tents, water containers, plastic, medicines and foodstuff worth US\$ 300,000 at 10 am; Mandarin plane from China (Taipei) carrying three tons of bottled drinking water, biscuit and noodle

packages at 11.17 am; C-130 plane from Bangladesh carrying 9.5 tons of medicines, tablets, tarpaulin tents, plastic, potato, longyi and biscuit at 2.15 pm; Illusion plane from India carrying relief supplies at 2.30 pm and (See page 8)

Relief aids shipped to Nargis-hit areas in Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 8 May — Three ships loaded with relief aids left here for the

cyclonic storm Nargis-hit areas in Ayeyawady Division today.

Warazein Ship loaded with over 100 tons of relief aids including CI sheets, cooking utensils, clothes, dry noodles, biscuits, tarpaulin, bottles of drinking water, nails, blankets and foods left No 1 Jetty in Lanmadaw Township for Labutta this afternoon. Bala Yekyaw Ship loaded with over 70 tons of relief aids including zinc sheets, cooking utensils, clothes, dry noodles, biscuits, tarpaulin, bottles

of drinking water, nails, and generator left for Mawlamyinegyun at 5 pm. Bala Minhtin Ship loaded with over 70 tons of relief aids including zinc sheets, clothes, dry noodles, tarpaulin, bottles of drinking water and nails left for Bogale at 6 pm.

Those relief aids shipped to the areas today includes 22 tons of 8 kinds of goods worth over K 395 million donated by North-East Command. Relief supplies are shipped to the storm-hit areas daily.

MNA



Vessels carrying relief items for the storm victims leave Yangon for Ayeyawady Division.—MNA

INSIDE

The most appropriate constitution (3)

PAGES 4+5

SOE MYA KYAW

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To ratify Constitution Let's go to the polling booth