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Saturday, 10 May, 2008

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

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

Lt-Gen Myint Swe provides food, medicines to storm-hit regions

YANGON, 9 May—Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence comforted storm victims in Twantay, Kawhmu and Kungyangon townships this morning.

At Yangon International Airport, he inspected relief items donated by local and international wellwishers.

Accompanied by Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha and Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, Lt-Gen Myint Swe left for Twantay by helicopter, carrying relief aid for the victims. He supervised unloading of the relief items onto vehicles.

While in Twantay, Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspected provision of health care services to the victims at the relief camps and presented food and medicines to them.

On arrival at Kawhmu, they were welcomed by Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi. At the relief camps, they consoled the victims and provided food and medicines.

At Latkhokkon Model Village of Kungyangon Township, they comforted the storm victims at the relief camp of Latkhokkon BEHS and presented relief supplies to them. Later, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party arrived back in Yangon. — MNA



Lt-Gen Myint Swe presents relief aid to storm victims in Twantay Township.—MNA



Lt-Gen Myint Swe comforts storm victims of Kawhmu Township.—MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 10 May, 2008

Provide necessary assistance to storm victims with goodwill

Some townships of Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions were hit hard by the severe cyclone “Nargis” on 3 May, and relief measures have been taken in those regions since 4 May.

Relief supplies were provided to the disaster-hit regions, and steps are being taken for further providing relief aid to the storm victims. Communications were cut off in some villages but relief measures such as providing goods, drinking water and medicines as well as restoring communication services are now being taken.

Access to drinking water is difficult in the storm-hit townships of Ayeyawady Division, for wells and lakes of those regions were filled with sea water. Hence, local people of those regions are to pay heed to the warnings of the Ministry of Health. Medical teams have been formed and are being sent to hospitals that are taking care of the storm victims so that they can provide effective treatment.

The National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee and the respective sub-committees have been taking relief measures for those who survived the storm. As a result, situation in the storm-hit regions is now improving.

Arrangements are being made for timely distribution of construction materials in order to rebuild the damaged structures in anticipation of the rainy season. It is learnt that construction entrepreneurs will give a helping hand to the reconstruction tasks for timely completion of the project.

At a time when the government is taking relief and reconstruction measures in all seriousness the international and local social organizations and well-wishers are providing the storm victims with foods, medicines and cash and kind.

We firmly believe that with the aid and goodwill of the entire national people the storm victims will be able to overcome the hardships and live a peaceful life soonest.

Aid workers loading up a helicopter with relief supplies.—MNA



People's Desire

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

Pilgrims pay homage to Shwedagon Pagoda



YANGON, 9 May — People paid homage to Shwedagon Pagoda this morning. They also offered flowers, water, oil lights and joss sticks to the pagoda.

Moreover, some pilgrims practiced meditation at the stupas and prayer halls on the platform of the pagoda. — MNA

People visit the Shwedagon Pagoda.

MNA

People pay homage to Sule Pagoda

YANGON, 9 May — People this morning offered flowers, water, oil lights and joss sticks to Sule Pagoda dedicated to the Lord Buddha.

Some of the pilgrims practiced meditation at the prayer halls and platforms of the pagoda. — MNA



Pilgrims visit the Sule Pagoda.

MNA

Tatmadaw helicopters transport relief supplies to Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 9 May — Tatmadaw helicopters have transported continuously relief items to the storm-hit areas in Ayeyawady Division from the morning to evening today.

Minister for

Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung, Maj-Gen Htin

Aung Kyaw of the Ministry of Defence together with health staff went to the affected-areas in order to carry out relief works by helicopter.

Six helicopters

transported relief weighing 38,433 kg to Pyapon, Dedaye, Bogale, Labutta, Mawlam-yinegyun and Kyaiklatt for 16 times.

MNA



Relief supplies being unloaded from a helicopter.—MNA

Tanks, missiles roll through Red Square on Victory Day

MOSCOW, 9 May— Missiles, tanks and other heavy weaponry rolled through Moscow's Red Square in the annual Victory Day parade on Friday,revivingatradition of the Soviet era and demonstrating Russia's growing military confidence.

Victory Day,marking the defeat of Nazi Germany,is Russia's most important secular holiday, both honoring the enormous sacrifices of World War II, in which

nearly 9 million Red Army soldiers are estimated to have died, and asserting the country's military strength.

Russia has nearly quadrupled its defence spending in recent years, aiming to resuscitate the military forces that deteriorated in the post-Soviet period.

But President Dmitry Medvedev, in a speech opening the parade, said "the true purpose of weapons and military

equipment is to give reliable defence of the homeland."

Medvedev, who took office Wednesday, stayed away from controversial statements such as predecessor Vladimir Putin's parade speech last year, which implied parallels between the US and the Adolf Hitler's Third Reich.

But he said "we must not allow contempt for the norms of international law."

Internet



Russian truck-mounted Topol intercontinental ballistic missiles roll in the annual Victory Day parade at the Moscow Red Square, on 9 May, 2008. Kremlin in left background and State Historical Museum at right.—INTERNET

Hezbollah gunmen seize control of Beirut neighbourhoods

BEIRUT , 9 May— Shiite Hezbollah gunmen seized nearly all of the Lebanese capital's Muslim sector from Sunni foes loyal to the US-backed government on Friday in the country's worst sectarian clashes since the 15-year civil war.

At least 11 people have been killed and more than 20 wounded in three days of street battles in West Beirut between the Iranian- and Syrian-backed Hezbollah fighters and gunmen to the government, security officials said.

The satellite TV station affiliated with the party of Lebanon's top Sunni lawmaker, Saad Hariri, was forced off the air. Gunmen set the offices of the party's newspaper, Al-

Mustaqbal, on fire in the coastal neighborhood of Ramlet el-Bayda.

Clashes tapered off by mid-afternoon but Hariri and Druse leader Walid Jumblatt remained besieged in their West Beirut residences. Prime Minister Fuad Saniora and several ministers were holed up in Saniora's downtown office surrounded by troops and police.

A rocket-propelled grenade hit the fence of Hariri's heavily protected residence, security officials said on condition

of anonymity because they were not allowed to speak to the media.

The unrest shut down Lebanon's international airport and barricades set up by both side closed major highways. The seaport also was closed, leaving one land route to Syria as Lebanon's only link to the outside world.

Arab foreign ministers called an emergency meeting for Sunday in Cairo, Egypt to discuss the crisis, Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesman Hossam Zaki said.

Internet



A masked Shiite gunmen stands guard during clashes in Beirut, Lebanon, on 9 May, 2008. Iranian- and Syrian-backed Shiite opposition gunmen seized control of several Beirut neighborhoods from Sunni foes loyal to the US-backed government on Friday. Eleven people have been killed and more than 20 wounded in three days of street battles, security officials said.—INTERNET

Mobile communications in Africa making progress

CAIRO, 9 May — The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) said in a report that Africa is making unprecedented growth in the sector of mobile communication services in recent years, the Egyptian official MENA news agency reported on Wednesday.

The ITU report on African telecommunications contains an extensive overview of key sector developments of information and communication technologies in the region, MENA quoted an ITU Press release as saying.

Africa records the highest annual growth rate

in numbers of mobile subscribers and had some 65 million new subscribers in 2007, said the report.

MNA/Xinhua

Rocket hits BBC bureau in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 9 May— The British Broadcasting Corp says a rocket hit the building housing its Baghdad bureau, causing damage but no injuries.

The rocket hit the roof, damaging equipment and opening a large hole. It was part of a barrage that fell short of the heavily fortified Green Zone in downtown Baghdad on Friday. Patrick Howse, the BBC bureau chief in Baghdad, said that the "rocket struck the roof of the BBC Baghdad bureau. It caused structural damage but no one was injured." He says it left an approximately 3 foot by 5 foot hole in the roof.

Internet



Afghan refugee children cover their face outside their makeshift house during a sand storm in Kabul, Afghanistan, on 8 May, 2008.—INTERNET

Air China sets up 24 hr command centre for Olympics

BEIJING, 9 May 9— Air China, the official airline panther of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, set up Thursday a 24-hour

command center to ensure smooth air traffic during the Games.

Cai Jianjiang, Air China's president said the company had invested 568 million yuan (about 81 million US dollars) to improve its ground control system and train employees. The company had recruited 300 new stewards and selected 562 volunteers from current staff to work for the Games.

The new centre would facilitate the coordination between the airline and the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC), and other key units such as the venue operation team at the Beijing Capital International Airport, said Cai. — MNA/Xinhua

On the march to the Golden Land

Si Thu Aung

Today, Myanmar is in its turning point for its future. Myanmar will be able to look forward to a prosperous future of the Golden Land only if the people from all strata of life make the choice for the correct path in the interest of the nation, weighing internal and external prevailing situations and putting aside the personal affairs, personality cult and self-interest.

Every observer has to admit that the world affairs are not very encouraging whatever point of view they are assessed from.

From the point of the world economy, fuel oil prices are going up at the unprecedented level. The price of a barrel of crude oil is well over 110 US dollars. Due to the fall in US dollar value, great budget deficit, and collapse of property mortgage market, the US, the world's leading economic power, is heading for economic crisis. In consequence, there is a sign of the world economic decline.

With regard to the climate and the environment, in 2007, many parts of the world faced severe drought, floods, strong wind and cold wave. So, many world people got into great troubles. That had adverse effects on the production of agricultural produce severely, followed by a sharp increase in consumer prices and difficulties of crop-importing countries.

Regarding the world security, international organizations and international laws that can guarantee the sovereignty and territory of small countries are no longer reliable. It is very disheartening to note that powerful countries and organizations are attempting to monopolize the world affairs in various sectors by using force with the concept 'might is right'.

Here, the order of the day for small countries is that the people are to build consolidated unity to keep themselves strong.

Nevertheless, in small countries today, politicians are vying each other for power, thereby making the people form different groups, and creating disintegration among national people, bloodshed, and armed conflicts stemming from racialism and attachment to the religion concerned. Those countries are facing unrests. To make matters worse, the situations are attracting alien interference.

In the IT Age, the countries that cannot build national unity have become well behind other countries in development and are engaged in constant battle against poverty.

Similarly, Myanmar has suffered internal armed conflicts costing a large number of lives of the people for more than half a century since regaining independence. Due to the disunity among national brethren, the nation has lagged behind other regional countries, whose development was less than Myanmar in the past, in terms of development.

In this regard, there is no need to put all the blame on the individuals. In the world, the easiest work is to blame someone, whereas the most difficult work is to review and find out own weaknesses of oneself and to correct the ways. If some people are indulging themselves in doing the easiest thing, there will not be any positive improvement. Achievement will be within reach only when real challenges can be overcome.

There is tangible proof of progress that since 1988, the Tatmadaw government has managed to

make reforms in the political, economic and social sectors of the State despite various forms of disruptions, sanctions and disturbances.

I do not want to present the progress in figures of infrastructures such as roads, bridges and dams because they have been stated many times in daily newspapers and publications. I would like all to realize that the living conditions of the people are now improving owing to the achievement in building infrastructures.

In relation to the trade sector, there has been a marked increase in the international trade for more than six-seven times in spite of a variety of difficulties and the nation has enjoyed trade surplus if compared with that before 1988, as a result of the exercise of the market economy and attracting local and foreign investors.

As regards the agriculture sector, after 1988, Myanmar became in the list of largest beans and pulses exporting countries in Asia and the world's second largest beans and pulses exporting country. The rice output exceeds the domestic consumption of a growing population and the surplus is exported, resulting from the construction of clusters of irrigation facilities, river water pumping stations and roads and bridges across the country including rural areas whereas there is international food shortage.

In the past, Sagaing and Sittoung bridges are only two large river-crossing transport facilities, and Kyetmauktaung Dam and Karboe Dam are only two large irrigation facilities. And the nation owned only small factories such as textile factories, brick factories and cement plants. No one can deny that the remarkable development of the nation justifies the efforts the Tatmadaw government is making with might and main.

With respect to internal peace, the government has managed to put an end to the armed conflict that followed independence through the means of building mutual trust. As a result, more than one dozen armed groups have returned to the legal fold. I would say that is a miracle achievement if compared with the fact that many regional and global countries have not yet achieved success in their bid to make peace with armed groups for many years with the help of international organizations. Because of fruitful results of peace and stability, poppy fields have become tea and rubber plantations and the sounds of arms and bombs have been replaced with the sounds of festive social occasions.

Maybe those with too much envy, covetousness and ill-will say that is the duty of the government and there is no need to appreciate it for such achievement. It is not strange that a teacher teaches his students. But he deserves honour if he has managed to help all the students of his class pass the examination for three years in a row and help many of his students win distinctions in the exams.

Members of the Tatmadaw government are among the ordinary people. So, there might be some achievements as well as weak points. But, there is a salient point that the government has managed to lay good foundations in a short time for a brighter future of the nation or future governments.

Twenty-five per cent of the members of the forthcoming government will be Tatmadaw member representatives. In fact, the social, economic and

political foundations the ruling government has built are for the sake of our posterity. The government is dedicating itself to nation-building tasks for enabling the nation, which lagged behind other countries in development, to stand tall in the world.

The new constitution will serve as a bridge built by the Tatmadaw government to transform the nation into the Golden Land. If the constitution is applied in a correct way with goodwill and patriotic spirit, it will guarantee a prosperous future of the nation. And the people will be in a position to lead an easy life in future.

If a citizen really loves his motherland, he will have to view the constitution with political and cultural points of views. The people cannot be automatically equipped with mature and polite political activities just by introducing democracy to the nation. In the process, it usually takes several generations.

If it is permitted to exercise democracy, the public rule, irresponsibly instead of doing so in a disciplined way, a nation may face a similar situation in which French revolution that was conceived in Bastille Prison riot took place and many people were beheaded with the use of guillotine.

Actually, the difference between democracy and mobocracy is political maturity. When the constitution is approved, there will be many factions in the legislative hluttaw such as the ruling party and the opposition party, and the majority and the minority. Then, the ruling party and the opposition party will have to suppress grudge against each other even if they cannot show loving-kindness for each other. And they will have to show mutual respects even though they do not want to work together. The majority of the representatives should not ignore the wishes of the minority, and the minority should honour the attitude of the majority. They should abide by the constitution in the interest of the people instead of giving priority to the wishes of the group concerned.

There is no reason to entertain any doubts between civilian representatives and Tatmadaw member representatives. The Tatmadaw will be always ready to willingly support the people's representatives who will serve the interests of the nation. And it will not remain indifferent when some persons ignore the national interest and give priority to their self-interest and hold negative attitude. I wish politicians would realize that the appointment of Tatmadaw member representatives is just to control future possible conflicts, not to gain domination.

In our country, since the Di-Archy period or before the independence, the situations of the nation had been in disorder due to the fact that politicians used various sorts of political tricks. If they continue to follow that example and engage in conflicts and remain disunited, our bad reputation will go down in the annals of the history of the nation.

The entire people should not miss the unique opportunity. The people are exhorted to work in concert in building a new nation with a prosperous future, while ignoring the personal affairs and personality cult.

Translation: MS

Relief aids for storm victims

YANGON, 9 May—Entrepreneurs, merchants and well-wishers from the states and divisions donated cash and kind to the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee and Yangon Command for storm victims on 7 May.

U Win Aung (Dagon International Co.Ltd) donated 3,500 bags of rice and 25 engines and 16 units of heavy machinery worth K 15.7 million, U Thein Han of Myanmar Edible Oil Merchants Association 11,600 viss of oil, U Wai Phyo (Yathacho Co.Ltd) K 14 million and 300,000 packets of Yum Yum instant noodles worth K 36 million, KB U Kyaw Win K 50 million and 500 bags of rice, Myanmar Timber Entrepreneurs Association K 10 million, Myanmar Pulses and Beans and Sesame Entrepreneurs Asso-

ciation 10,000 viss of gram, U Sein Wan (Super Lamp Co Ltd) 20,000 fluorescent lamps worth K 1.5 million and K 3.5 million, Chairman of Aung Aung Enterprise U Myat Thin Aung medicines worth K10 million, Chairman of National Prosperity Company U Soe Tun Shein shad-like fish worth K 30 million, MD U Htay Yin (Myanmar Steel Co) 2,000 CI sheets worth K 17 million, Hman Cho medical shop embrocaton worth K 5 million, U Tun Myint-Daw Aye Aye Nyunt and family (Kss Special Biriani) K 3 million, Myanmar Onion Association 10,000 viss of onion, U Than Oo (Bayintnaung Brokarage) K 5 million, Myanmar Farm and Crops Association and Myanmar Fruit and Vegetables Association K 5 million each, Golden Land East

Asia Land 3,000 bags of rice, U Khin Maung Aye of CB Bank K 100 million, Myanmar Bank Association K 200 million, Dr Sai San Tun (Alpine) 1 million bottles of purified water worth K 50 million and K 50 million, MD U Maung Weik (U Maung Weik Family Co) K 50 million, U Ko Ko Htwe (Royal Family Co) 1,500 bags of rice, clothes and medicines worth K 100 million, U Zay Thiha-Daw Nanda Hlaing K 30 million, Shwe Thanlwin U Kyaw Win K 300 million, Chairman of Htoo Trading U Tay Za rice, edible oil, medicines, water and CI sheets worth K 1,000 million, U Aung Thet Mann (Aye-ya Shwewa Co) rice and purified water worth K 500 million and other wellwishers donated cash and kind for storm victims.

MNA



Ministers Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and Dr Kyaw Myint present relief items for storm victims in Bogale.—MNA

Wellwishers donate water purifying machines to storm-hit regions

YANGON, 9 May —

U Win Myint (Shwe Nagar Min Co), U Khin Shwe (Zay Gabar Co), U Htay Myint (Yuzana Co), U Win Aung (Dagon International Co), Dr Ko Ko Gyi (Diamond Star Co), U Kyaw Win (Shwe Thanlwin Co), U Aung Thet Mann (Ayeya Shwewa Co), U Zaw

Zaw (Max Myanmar Co), U Wai Phyo (Yatharcho Industrial Co), U Sai Ba Nyan (Mawushaung Co), U Ko Ko Htway (Tawwin Family Co), U Nyein Aung (Dynamic Group), U Kyaw Kyaw Win (Sinma Co), U Tin Myint (Bagonbila Co), U Ohn Hsaing (Vice-Chairman of Onion Entrepreneurs

Association) and Dr Sein Myint (Supreme Group) donated one water purifying machine each, totaling 16 for cyclonic storm 'Nargis'-hit seven townships in Ayeyawady Division and two townships in Yangon Division through the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee.—MNA



Volunteers unloading relief supplies for storm-hit villages in Labutta Township.—MNA



Responsible persons of Dr Reddy's Lab present medicines for the people in storm-hit areas.—MNA

Khind Electro World holds lucky draw festival

YANGON, 9 May —Lucky Draw Festival of Khind Electro World is being held till the end of May.

The customers will be presented Khind and Mistral Electrical products such as refrigerator, Air Con, Air Cooler with remote, remote control Tower Fan, remote control Stand Fan, semi-auto washing machine and etc by purchasing an item worth over K 10,000 during the festival.

The ceremony to announce lucky draw

winners will be held at the sales centre of Khind Electro World on Alanpya Pagoda Road at 3 pm on 7 June. The winners will be invited to attend the prize-giving ceremony.

Khind Electro World distributes over 90 kinds of electrical and electronic products including various kinds of fans, water heaters, vacuum cleaners, emergency lights, gas stoves and cooker hood produced from Malaysia.

Those products may be bought at Khind

showrooms 1 and 2 (Ph: 242307 and 380475), Sein Gay Har Supermarket on Pyay Road and all its branches, Asia Light, Blazon, Orange, Super One, Ocean Centre, Star Mart, Capital Hyper Mart, Victoria, Gamonepwin and all its branches. Pyanhlwar (Parami), Naing Electric (30th Street), Super Power and Kyaw electronic and sales agents' shops in every town.

During the festival, Khind products will be sold at a discount.

MNA

Dr Reddy's help for storm victims

YANGON, 9 May—Dr Reddy's Lab, India-based Pharmaceuticals Co, presented medicines worth K 15 million for the

people in storm-hit areas through Medical Superintendent Dr Daw Nu Nu Tha and officials at Yangon General Hospital on 7 May.

Similarly, the company presented medicines worth 1.1 million to the doctors who are carrying out relief works in Patheingyi.—MNA

Forestry Minister meets storm victims in Dedaye, Bogale Townships

NAY PYI TAW, 9 May—Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung on 4 May looked into the damages caused by cyclonic storm in Dedaye and met with departmental officials and townselders at the meeting hall of Township General Administration Department.

The minister donated K 3 million to the storm victims at the relief camp opened at Kyaikdeyon Pagoda.

The minister attended the meeting on obtaining supplies for storm victims and held a discussion with departmental officials, townselders and rice entrepreneurs at the relief camp in Bogale on 6 May.

The minister accepted medicines and food donated by local and foreign wellwishers carried by Tatmadaw helicopter from Yangon.

The minister looked into damages of the villages along Satsan road in Satsan village of Bogale Township and presented supplies to the storm victims.

The minister presented the storm victims and handed over supplies to them.

While in Bogale, Sayadaw Dhammaduta Ashin Hsekinda donated K 2.5 million, 1,000 sets of robes and two chainsaws to the minister.

Later, the minister provided relief supplies to the victims at the relief camps.—MNA



Relief items being delivered at the relief camp in Dedaye Township.—MNA

Prompt freight-handling tasks inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 9 May —The coordination meeting to ensure prompt freight-handling and operating was held at Myanma Five Star Line, here, yesterday.

Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe

explained smooth flow of export and import works and freight-handling at the port.

Departmental heads reported on freight-handling of foreign going liners at MITT and efforts being made for clearing of the waterway. The Yangon-Dalla ferries resumed transport services on 4 May. In addition, the watercraft carrying relief supplies have run from Yangon to Bogale, Labutta and Mawlamyinegyun Townships since 7 May.

The minister inspected clearing of the waterway at Yangon River and gave instructions to officials on prompt freight-handling.

Later, he supervised inspection and handling over of containers to owners at Bo Aung Kyaw Jetty and loading of commodities onto foreign going liners at Sule Wharf. — MNA

Tatmadawmen clean roads

YANGON, 9 May — Traffic in 61 regions including downtown Yangon, Mingaladon, Indaing, Hmawby, Taikkyi and Bago returned to normal as altogether 8,475 Tatmadaw members cleared fallen trees, lamp-posts and debris that blocked the roads and streets of those regions. And continued efforts were being made to clear the remaining blocked roads and streets. MNA



Patients from Ayeyawady Division being transported by air.—MNA

Relief items sent to storm-hit regions

YANGON, 9 May — Six helicopters were flying up and down from Yangon to the delta region of Ayeyawady Division

that was struck by the severe cyclonic storm ‘Nargis’ from morning to afternoon today for sending relief items, foods,

medicines and doctors there. They were also transporting three orphans and three injured people, it is learnt.—MNA

MWAF, MMCWA provide relief aids to storm victims

YANGON, 9 May — Patron of Yangon Division Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Mar Mar Wai and party presented relief supplies

worth 3 million to the storm victims at relief camps in Yangon South District and Dagon Myothit(South) on 7 May and Hlinethayar and Shwepyitha Townships this morning, and viewed giving health care services.

Similarly, Chairperson of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Mar Mar Wai and party provided relief items worth 3 million donated by Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Yangon Division MCWSC to the storm victims.

MNA



Relief supplies for storm victims being loaded onto ships.—MNA

Diplomat team arrive at Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 9 May —Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the Union of Myanmar Mr Tran Van Tung and Military Attache Senior Colonel Fan Lianfeng of the People's Republic of China this morning arrived at Nay Pyi Taw by air to observe the casting of votes at the referendum in Nay Pyi Taw. They were welcomed at the airport by Secretary of the Commission for Holding Referendum U Win Ko and members of Nay Pyi Taw Pinyinmana District Sub-commission.—MNA



Emergency patients from storm-hit regions arrive in Yangon by helicopter.—MNA

Directorate of Medical Services takes part in relief works

NAY PYI TAW, 9 May —Servicemen of the Directorate of Medical Services went to Haingyikyun on 5 May, Pathein in Ayeyawady Division and Kungyangon in Yangon Division on 6 May and storm-torn townships and villages in Ayeyawady Division on 7 May and gave medical treatment to the storm victims. They also carried out packing medicines and sending relief supplies to the affected-areas in cooperation with the officials of Ministry of Health.—MNA



Emergency patients from storm-hit regions being helicoptered to Yangon.—MNA



Members of Myanmar Police Force clearing downed trees on a road.—MNA

Efforts being made for supply of power in Yangon Division

Some townships restore electricity

YANGON, 9 May — Yangon City Electricity Supply Board is making arrangements for supply of power to districts of the city where electricity was out due to the storm.

On 3 May, No 2 Military Hospital (500-bed), Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar), Myanma Radio and Television and other important places in Dagon Township were supplied with electricity. On 4 May, Yangon General Hospital, City Hall, Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Office, Myanma Foreign Trade Bank, Shwedagon Pagoda, Children's Hospital, Central Women's Hospital and foreign embassies were facilitated with power.

On 5 May, Myaing Hay Wun Housing, CNG Filling Station No 003, Yayku Pumping Station, University of Computer Studies, Yayku Radio Retransmission Station and Yangon West General Hospital, factories and workshops and houses in Mayangon, Ahlon, Dagon, Hline and Kyimyindine townships were supplied with power. Likewise, electricity was provided to foreign embassies, telephone exchanges, sub-power stations, Myanmar Info-Tech Corporation, Hline University Campus, University of Medicine-1 (Yangon), diplomats' residences, offices and wards of Dagon, Ahlon, Mayangon, Pabedan, Hline, Kyimyindine, Lanmadaw, Kyauktada and Kamayut townships were supplied with electricity on 6 May; Sule Pagoda, housing estates, embassies, factories, workshops, hotels and wards in Lanmadaw, Kyimyindine, Bahan, Kyauktada, Kamayut, Dagon, Seikkan, Kyimyindine, Hline, Mayangon, Latha, Ahlon and Sangyoung townships on 7 May; some wards and housing estates in Kyauktada, Sangyoung and Kamayut townships on 8 May; Sedona hotel, Shwephonepawint Pagoda, housing estates, telephone exchanges, departmental offices, industrial zones and newspaper houses, in Yankin, Dagon Myothit (South), Botahtaung, Yankin, Pazundaung, Mingala Taungnyunt and Thingangyun townships on 6 May; some wards, housing estates, hospitals, banks and Botahtaung Pagoda in Botahtaung, Dagon Myothit (South), Pazundaung, Mingala Taungnyunt and South Okkalapa townships on 7 May; industrial zones, housing estates, hospitals and wards in Mingala Taungnyunt and Dagon Myothit (South) townships on 8 May.

Likewise, Phayagong Power Station in Thanlyin Township resumed its functions on 8 May; factories, Yangon International Airport, GSM Tower Station and Steel Plant got electricity on 4 May; Insein General Hospital, Insein Jail, CNG Filling Stations, Phygyi Water Pump and a ward in Taikkyi Township on 5 May, housing estates, Insein Locomotive Factory, sugar mill and wards of Okkan, Taikkyi and Insein townships on 6 May, Khittaya power station, CNG station, Hlinethaya power station on 7 May and Defence Services Medical Academy, military hospitals, Myawady TV Station and factories in Hmawby and Insein townships on 8 May.

A total of 4,247 employees under the ministry together with the chairman and workers of YESB are making concerted efforts for supply of power to the people.

MNA



Helicopters carry relief aid, medicines and doctors to storm-hit areas in delta.—MNA

Latest casualty figures

NAY PYI TAW, 9 May —According to the latest figures of the death toll till 6 pm today, there have been 23,335 deaths, 1,403 injured and 37,019 missing in all storm-hit regions.

MNA

**Streams of
international
emergency
aid flowing
into
Myanmar**



Indonesian aid arrives Yangon on board two C-130 aircrafts.—MNA

**Merchants in Muse
donate relief supplies to
storm victims**

YANGON, 9 May — Local people and Muse-Namkham Merchants Association donated foods and personal goods for storm victims at a ceremony held at the meeting hall of 105th-Mile Border Trade Zone Inspection Centre in Muse District on 6 May.

Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut accepted K 11.77 million donated by Muse-Namkham Merchants Association, assorted cookies worth K 2.8 million by member of MNMA U Win Naing, assorted cookies worth K 2 million by Executive Officer U Zaw Win of Muse District PDC, plastic sheet worth K 1 million by Chairman of MNMA U Han Sein and dried noodles worth K 1 million by Secretary U Sai Aung Ba.

Afterwards, Commander Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut inspected loading of construction materials, food stuff, personal goods, medicines and clothes for the storm victims onto 14 trucks by members of Tatmadaw, Police Force, Fire Brigade and Red Cross at the border trade zone.—MNA



Relief supplies from People's Republic of China being unloaded from Jade Cargo.
MNA



Relief aid from China arrives at Yangon International Airport.
MNA



Relief aid for storm-hit regions in Ayeyawady Division being loaded onto a truck. —MNA

International relief supplies...

(from page 16)

boxes of medicines donated by Malaysia arrived at Yangon International Airport by air this morning.

Altogether 200 packages of canned food by PG Airline, 22.49 tons of blankets, dried noodles, biscuits, medicines, clothes and tents donated by Indonesia, 18 tons of biscuit donated by WFP and 1.8 tons of 500 blankets, 1000 beds and 130 six-capacity tents arrived at Yangon International Airport by air this afternoon. The accepting teams received the donations and sent them to the storm-hit areas by car, boat and helicopter as soon as possible. — MNA



Emergency aid and construction materials from WFP and WHO arrive at Yangon International Airport. —MNA

Myanmar, in accordance with prevailing principles, accepts with appreciation offer of relief goods, financial assistance from any government or agency

Deputy Foreign Minister meets US Charge' d'Affaires

NAY PYI TAW, 9 May—Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu met the US Charge d' Affaires Ms Shari Villarosa at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Yangon at 17:00 hours on 9 May 2008 and explained Myanmar's principles in receiving disaster relief assistance for the people affected by the cyclone Nargis.

During the meeting, the Deputy Minister recalled that on 5 May 2008, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and the Minister for Information met the diplomatic corps at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Yangon and briefed them on the impact of cyclone Nargis and the disaster situation in the cyclone-stricken areas. At that briefing, it was made clear that Myanmar

would be pleased to receive from any country and agency, disaster relief supplies such as tents, plastic sheets, corrugated iron sheets, food and medicines, blankets, clothings, communication equipment.

The Deputy Minister added that however rumours were spreading that the Myanmar Government was making selective acceptance of donations and was declining disaster assistance from certain western countries. In fact, disaster relief assistance donated by countries near and far, has been accepted by the authorities concerned and systematically transferred to disaster-stricken areas with immediate effect.

He also said that financial assistance from any country could be provided through the respective Myanmar Missions while disaster relief goods could

be brought in to Yangon International Airport or Yangon International Seaport where they would be received by the authorities concerned for immediate transfer and distribution to the affected people in the disaster-stricken areas. The US Charge d' Affaires then handed over a note to the Deputy Minister offering relief supplies to be delivered in the coming days from the US Government.

The Myanmar side has already replied its acceptance of the offer for assistance with thanks.

The Government of the Union of Myanmar, in accordance with its prevailing principles, has not refused but accepted with appreciation the offer of disaster relief goods and financial assistance from any government or agency.—MNA



Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu meets US Charge d'Affaires Ms Shari Villarosa.— MNA



Ministers Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and Dr Kyaw Myint console storm victims of Mawlamyinegyun. —MNA



Emergency aid arrive at villages in Kyaiklat Township.— MNA



Tatmadaw members carrying out relief activities in Kyauktan Township. — MNA

Navy transports relief aid to Ayeyawady Div

YANGON, 9 May — Clothes, plastic sheets, packages of noodles, towels, tarpaulins, kitchen utensils, canned fish, edible oil, blankets, bottled drinking water and corrugated iron sheets for the storm victims in Dedaye, Kyaiklat and Pyapon Townships were loaded onto a cargo ship of Defence Services (Navy) at Pansodan Jetty today.— MNA

Relief supplies sent to Labutta, Bogale and Mawlamyainggyun townships

YANGON, 9 May— Relief supplies are being sent to the townships in Ayeyawady Division by boat from No 1 jetty, Phonegyi road in Lanmadaw township here. The three ships, 120 tons each on board, carrying edible oils, household utensils, potato, textiles and food, have started to sail to Labutta, Bogale and Mawlamyainggyun townships this evening. MNA

Tatmadaw vehicles transport relief aid to disaster-hit regions

YANGON, 9 May — A total of 24 Tatmadaw vehicles transported relief supplies from the donation centre at Fire Services Department (Head Office) to disaster-hit regions this evening. Among the vehicles, eight vehicles left here for Dedaye at 5.30 pm, five vehicles to Kungyangon at 8 pm and 11 vehicles to Pyapon at 10 pm respectively.—MNA

USDA members, YCDC staff perform clearance of debris

YANGON, 9 May — Altogether 1000 USDA members and 800 YCDC staff together with members of Fire Services Department and Red Cross Society cleared the piles of trees, branches and rubbish with the use of heavy machinery along Kaba Aye Pagoda Road from Jivatana Sangha Hospital in Bahan Township to 8-mile Junction this morning. MNA

Adjutant-General, Commander supervise...

(from page 16)

victims at the relief camp in the precinct of Tilawkamazein Pagoda.

In Kyaiklat, the Adjutant-General gave instructions to departmental personnel.

In Pyapon, the chairman of the Township PDC and Head of Ayeyawady Division Police Force Police Col

In meeting with departmental officials at the office of Bogale Township MCWA, the chairman of the Township PDC reported to the Adjutant-General and the commander on damages and losses in the township and opening of relief camps, Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung and officials on performing of relief tasks, clearing of debris and supply of water. Later, the Adjutant-General left necessary instructions. MNA



Patients being transported from Ayeyawady Division to Yangon. MNA





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

Minister supervises supply of power in downtown Yangon

YANGON, 9 May—Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint on 7 May inspected supply of power at Hlinethaya 100 MVA main power station and rebuilding of No 31 pylon of Hlinethaya-Athok 230 KV national

grid. The minister also supervised preparations for re-erecting of pylons along Yangon-Hlinethaya road and functions of Hsinmalaik 66 KV power station. The station is supplying power to Hsinmalaik, Orthopaedic Hospital and Myanma

Shipyard. He inspected supply of electricity from Thakayta Power Station to Pazundaung, Botahtaung, Kyauktada, Tamway and Mingala Taungnyunt Townships through Thida 66 KV sub-power station of Pazundaung Township.—MNA



Members of Tatmadaw and social organizations loading relief aid onto a helicopter.—MNA

Htoo Trading, Air Bagan present relief supplies to storm victims in Bogale

YANGON, 9 May—Htoo Trading Co Ltd and Air Bagan provided relief supplies for the cyclone 'Nargis' victims in Bogale Township, Ayeyawady Division yesterday.

At the relief supplies-giving ceremony, staff of Htoo Trading Co Ltd and Air Bagan presented cash and kind to the chairman of Bogale Township Peace and Development Council.

Next, they went to the relief camps in the township, and consoled the

storm victims and presented clothes and foodstuff.

Htoo Trading Co Ltd donated rice, edible oil, eggs, purified drinking water, medicines, foodstuff, blankets, clothes, corrugated sheet nails, robes, tents and K 100 million. The company will make cash and kind donation tomorrow.

The company for the first phase will provide relief items worth K 1000 million for the storm

victims and arrangements are being made to send the relief items to the storm-hit areas through officials concerned. Air Bagan Airway invited well-wishers to donate foodstuff and relief items through the branch offices of Air Bagan Airway in Bangkok, Thailand and Myeik, Kawthoung, Mandalay, Myitkyina, Heho, Lashio and NyaungU and it will transport the donations of well-wishers free of charges.—NLM

Works coordinated for secure and smooth transport

YANGON, 9 May—Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Secure and Smooth Transport held a meeting at Yangon Command this afternoon.

Chairman of the committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Yangon Command

Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win said that functions of all the filling stations in Yangon have been resumed, and more CNG stations have been opened. All the bus lines, trains and Inland Water Transport-owned and private-owned vessels have launched their regular runs in Yangon

Division and from and to other states and divisions. Works returned to normal for supply of electricity and water, and to provide communication services. The attendees reported on work progress. The commander attended to the needs and gave concluding remarks.

MNA



Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin supervises transporting of food for victims in Twantay Township.—MNA

Deputy Minister meets construction entrepreneurs

YANGON, 9 May — Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein met construction entrepreneurs at the office of Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Asso-

ciation yesterday and held discussions on rebuilding tasks for cyclone Nargis-hit townships and villages in Ayeyawady Division.

This morning, the deputy minister inspected

removal of debris being carried out by 300 personnel on Chindwin road, Innaya Road, at the compounds of Kaba Aye Pagoda, Pyithu Hluttaw and Seinle Kantha.

MNA



Htoo Trading Co Ltd and Air Bagan provide relief supplies for the cyclone 'Nargis' victims in Bogale Township.—NLM

Gates acknowledges mistakes in treatment of troops

FORT BLISS (Texas), 8 May—US Defence Secretary Robert Gates here said the military had made mistakes in treating returning combat troops including in their physical and mental health care and by providing some sub-standard housing.

In a visit to Fort Bliss, Texas, Gates announced a change in government procedures to encourage troops returning from Iraq and Afghanistan to seek treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) without fear of losing their security clearances and harming their careers.

The announcement came just a day after closing arguments in a San Francisco federal court case in which veterans allege the US Department of Veterans Affairs is unable to deal with the growing number of PTSD cases emerging from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

Gates acknowledged not all of the more than 1.5 million military service members who have been deployed overseas have received needed medical treatment and accommodations. “I know that the department is not perfect and mistakes have been, and will be made. Things happen too slowly,” Gates said in a speech to a group of junior officers.

“I share your

frustration,” he added. Gates initiated an overhaul of the military’s medical system after a scandal last year at Walter Reed hospital in Washington where soldiers were found living in a building infested with mice, mold and cockroaches and many soldiers were unable to get treatment because of bureaucratic red tape.

MNA/Reuters

Early treatment of stomach infection prevent cancer

WASHINGTON, 8 May — Based on research using a new mouse model of gastritis and stomach cancer, researchers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology say that prompt treatment of Helicobacter pylori (H. pylori) infections reverses damage to the lining of the stomach that can lead to cancer.

In the 1 May issue of Cancer Research,

researchers say their study results should lay to rest any question about whether — and when — antibiotic treatment of H. pylori can eliminate or reduce risk of developing gastric, or stomach cancer.

“We concluded that H. pylori eradication prevented gastric cancer to the greatest extent when antibiotics were given at an early point of infection, but that eradication



Shoppers and residents watch the live coverage of the Olympic torch ascent to Mount Everest shown on a huge television screen in Beijing on 8 May, 2008.—INTERNET

Thailand bans chatting on phone while driving

BANGKOK, 8 May—Those using mobile phone without using hands-free devices while driving a vehicle in Thailand will break the law face a fine and endanger losing their driving licenses starting from Thursday.

Violators will get a grace period of two weeks, during which they will get a warning about the danger. From 20 May onwards, offenders will face a fine, according to Bangkok’s Deputy Metropolitan Police Bureau chief Panu Kerdlarbpol, quoted by Bangkok Post newspaper on Thursday.

After the grace period ends, offenders will be fine 400 to 1,000 baht (about 12.5 to 31.3 US dollars,) They will also receive 10 penalty points.

Normally 60 points will result in the suspension of the driver’s license. But drivers who break the phone ban a second time will also have their license suspended. They will be required to attend a three-hour driving safety course, and sit an exam to get their license back.

Police have been told to take pictures of drivers who break the ban, to serve as evidence.

Some argue that the penalty is still too light for the offenders and would not produce great effect. However, Panu believes if the ban is enforced strictly, the number of road accidents will decrease.

As drivers, who use hands-free devices such as Small Talk or Bluetooth to talk on the phone will be exempt, the ban has driven up the sales of these devices, not popular in the past for Thais recently.

MNA/Xinhua

Combodia could mediate between DPRK, S Korea

PHNOM PENH, 8 May—Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen has suggested that Cambodia could mediate between the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) and South Korea

as unlikely most countries it enjoys good relations with both, local newspaper Mekong Times said Wednesday.

Speaking at the inauguration of a South Korean-funded project to

revitalize National Road 3 Hun Sen revealed that the recently-elected president of South Korea, himself a former adviser to Hun Sen, had asked him to relay a message to the DPRK Prime Minister during a recent official visit.

The fact that Cambodia has had strong diplomatic ties with South Korea since 1996, does not mean that Cambodia ignores the DPRK, he added.—MNA/Xinhua



In this photo provided by Microsoft Corp, a Zune digital media player with video capabilities is shown. Microsoft said late Monday, 5 May, 2008 that it will now sell TV episodes for playback on the Zune, a move that brings its digital media player a step closer to the much more popular iPod from Apple Inc.

INTERNET

US soldier killed in northern Iraq

BANGKOK, 8 May—A US soldier was killed and another injured in an insurgent’s attack on their patrol in the Nineveh Province, the US military said on Wednesday.

The incident took place on Tuesday, a military statement said, without providing details about how or where exactly the incident occurred.

The latest death brings the number of US soldiers who have been killed in Iraq to more than 4,070 since the outbreak of the Iraq war in 2003, according to media count based on Pentagon figures.

US and Iraqi officials believe that Nineveh Province is one of the last strongholds for the al-Qaeda militants in northern Iraq.

MNA/Xinhua

Former Guantanamo prisoner killed himself in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 8 May—A suicide bomber who killed himself in an attack in Iraq last week had been detained at the US naval base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, for several years, the Pentagon confirmed Wednesday. Abdullah Saleh al-Ajmi, 30, a former Kuwaiti soldier, was repatriated to Kuwait in November 2005. CBS News quoted Pentagon sources as saying.

MNA/Xinhua

China sets up first space station for data relay

BEIJING, 8 May — China successfully established a space station for the data relay of its space vehicles on Thursday. This was accomplished by settling its first data relay satellite, *Tianlian I*, at E. 77 degrees over the equator at 4:25 pm.

The satellite was launched on 25 April on a *Long March-3C* carrier rocket from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in the southwest Sichuan Province. Since then, the satellite has carried out a

series of actions including the unfolding of its solar sail, the ignition of its engine and changing its positioning on four occasions.

The successful positioning has largely increased the coverage of the country's space measuring network, timely transmission of space data and reduced the risk of future space missions. It also improved the efficiency of ground control and its command, and in carrying out problem analysis and

space rescue, according to an expert with the Xi'an centre.

In the coming days, the centre will conduct comprehensive measuring on the satellite. The satellite will be officially handed over to clients after it is confirmed to be operating in a normal and stable manner. The satellite would not go into operation until the launch of the *Shenzhou VII* manned space mission, scheduled for the second half of 2008.

MNA/Xinhua



A child has her mouth disinfected in prevention against a kind of intestinal virus, identified as enterovirus 71 or EV71, at a kindergarten in Tianjin municipality, on 7 May, 2008.—INTERNET

China registers nearly 20,000 HFMD infections

BEIJING, 8 May — The number of hand-foot-mouth disease (HFMD) cases reported in China this year jumped to 19,962 as of Wednesday, resulting in 28 deaths, according to a *Xinhua* tally of local official figures. The figure stood at 15,799 on Tuesday, *Xinhua* found.

The rising number was not a sign of a deteriorating situation, but mainly because of a recent order by the Ministry of Health that made HFMD a class C epidemic, the incidence of which must be reported.

The southern Guangdong Province updated the number of infections to 4,876 late Wednesday, including 33 EV71 positive cases, according to the provincial health admini-

stration. Local experts said the number of HFMD cases would continue to rise in the province as the peak season has yet to arrive.

The northern Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region reported 131 sporadic infections, according to Wang Wenrui, an official with the region's

disease control and prevention centre.

The local government has ordered the shut down of all kindergartens and implementation of morning inspection at primary schools in the worst-hit Dengkou County until the epidemic eases.

MNA/Xinhua

Hundred evacuated in Maine amid record flood

BOSTON, 8 May — A river swollen by heavy rain and melting snow overflowed its banks along the US-Canadian border, forcing hundreds of people to flee homes and businesses in Fort Kent, Maine, and closing two border crossings.

The St John River rose 30 feet (nine metres) and spilled into the town

leaving stores and homes on Main Street under seven to eight feet (2.1-2.4 metres) of water said John Bannen. For Kent's director of Community Development. Police and Border Patrol blocked off downtown Fort Kent on 1 May morning.

Less than 24 hours earlier about 600 people were forced to leave the



The world's first platypus twin puggles born in captivity are shown at Taronga Zoo in Sydney in 2003. The task of laying bare the platypus genome of 2.2 billion base pairs spread across 18,500 genes has taken several years, but will do far more than satisfy the curiosity of just biologists, say the researchers recently.—INTERNET

Obesity can increase dementia risk by up to 80%

WASHINGTON, 9 May — Being obese can increase the risk of Alzheimer's Disease by as much as 80 per cent, according to a study published on Wednesday in the May issue of *Obesity Reviews*.

But it's not just weight gain that poses a risk. People who are underweight also have an elevated risk of dementia, unlike people who are normal weight or

overweight, said the research papers.

US researchers carried out a detailed review of 10 international studies published since 1995, covering just over 37,000 people, including 2,534 with various forms of dementia. Subjects were aged between 40 and 80 years when the studies started, with follow-up periods ranging from three

to 36 years.

All kinds of dementia were included, with specific reference to Alzheimer's Disease and to vascular dementia — where areas of the brain stop functioning because the blood vessels that supply them are damaged by conditions such as high blood pressure or heart disease.

MNA/Xinhua



Smoke and ash rise for thousands of meters through a thick layer of clouds from the crater of the Chaiten volcano in southern Chile, on 7 May, 2008.—INTERNET

Vietnam reports 10 deaths from HFMD

HANOI, 8 May — Vietnam detected, in the first four months of this year, nearly 3,000 patients of hand, foot, mouth disease, of whom 10 died, according to local newspaper *Youth* on Thursday.

Most of the patients are children from the southern and central regions. A number of sufferers have been infected with EV-71 virus.—MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Heerenveen beat NAC 2-0

AMSTERDAM, 9 May— Brazilian substitute Paolo Henrique struck twice in the last 15 minutes to give Heerenveen a 2-0 home win over NAC Breda on Thursday in the first leg of their playoff for a UEFA Cup place.

Henrique broke the deadlock after NAC goalkeeper Jelle ten Rouwelaar could only parry a header from Gerald Sibon. The Brazilian added his second in the 83rd minute from another rebound.

The second leg will be played on Monday with the winners going through to the UEFA Cup first round. The losers will then play a two-legged playoff against either NAC Nijmegen or Groningen for the remaining Dutch place in the competition.

Nijmegen beat Groningen 1-0 in Thursday's first leg of their tie. Jermain Lens scored the winner in the 71st minute, eight minutes after Groningen had been reduced to 10 men by a red card for defender Gibril Sankoh.

MNA/Reuters

Atletico Madrid beat Espanyol 2-0

MADRID, 9 May— Atletico Madrid beat Espanyol 2-0 away to strengthen their hold on fourth place and a Champions League berth in the Primera Liga on Thursday. Two goals in three first-half minutes from Sergio Aguero and Diego Forlan put the visitors in control and only the woodwork prevented Maxi Rodriguez from making it three when his spectacular volley hit the crossbar and then the post.

Espanyol, who have not won in eight, stay 11th. The result leaves Jaier Aguirre's Atletico three points short of third-placed Barcelona, who were hammered 1-1 at the Bernabeu by champions Real Madrid on Wednesday.—MNA/Reuters



Lorena Ochoa, of Mexico, pumps her fist as she records a birdie on the 14th green during the first round of the Michelob Ultra Open LPGA golf tournament at the Kingsmill Resort in Williamsburg, Va, on 8 May, 2008. Ochoa finished the round with a 6-under par 65.—INTERNET



Marshall Greene, right, defending champion of the men's elite division of the U. Bank Pole, Pedal, Paddle, trains on 7 May, 2008, with Sarah Max, who finished second in the women's elite, on the course at the Mt Bachelor Nordic Ski Center outside Bend, Ore. The race draws thousands of competitors each year to ski, bike, run and kayak down Mt Bachelor to the center of town.—INTERNET

Rijkaard to leave Barca, Guardiola to take charge

MADRID, 9 May— Rijkaard will leave Barcelona at the end of the season and former captain Pep Guardiola will take over as coach of the team, club president Joan Laporta announced on Thursday.

Former Netherlands international Rijkaard took charge of Barcelona in 2003 and led them to back-to-back league titles and victory over Arsenal in the Champions League final to Paris in 2006.

However, his side have failed to win any silverware for the past two seasons and suffered a humiliating 4-1 defeat by arch-rivals Real Madrid on Wednesday. That defeat combined with Villaneal's victory over Recreativo Huelva means the Catalans will miss out on automatic qualification for the Champions League and cannot finish any higher than third in the Primera Liga.

Rijkaard's contract was due to run to 2009. Laporta, who made it clear that Rijkaard's assistants Johan Neeskens and former player Eusebio would also be leaving the club, said that Guardiola had been the board's unanimous choice as the new coach.

MNA/Reuters

Ramos says Berbatov has made decision on his future

CHIGWELL, (England), 9 May — Tottenham Hotspur striker Dimitar Berbatov has made a decision on his long-term future, the club's manager Juande Ramos said on Thursday.

Asked if he could change the Bulgarian international's mind, Ramos told reporters: "No I understand perfectly well that big clubs want to sign him, I've spoken to him many times a Reuters.

MNA/Reuters

Liverpool will sell Crouch for 15m pounds

LONDON, 9 May — Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez put a 15 million pound (29.30 million US dollars) price tag on England striker Peter Crouch on Thursday and said he could leave at the end of the season.

Crouch, who joined from Southampton in 2005, has struggled to nail down a place in Liverpool's first team and Benitez said he would not stand in his way if he decided to leave.

"He is a good player and a good professional and he wants to play every week," Benitez told Liverpool's website (www.liverpoolfc.tv).

"We know that Portsmouth and other clubs are linked with him in the press but as of this moment we haven't received any official offer".

"If we receive an offer we will talk because I want the best for Crouch and the best for the club. I think 15 million pounds would be a good price."

Crouch, who has scored 14 goals in 26 appearances for his country, has started just nine Premier League matches this season scoring five goals.

Benitez also said that Australia midfielder Harry Kewell would be released at the end of the season.

MNA/Reuters

Holders Roma to face Inter in Italian Cup final

MILAN, 9 May — Holders AS Roma will meet Inter Milan in the Italian Cup final for the fourth consecutive season after drawing 1-1 at Catania on Thursday to progress 2-1 on aggregate.

Serie A leaders Inter and second-placed Roma are assured of a Champions League place next season so Italy's third UEFA Cup spot will now go to the seventh-placed team in the league.

AC Milan, Fiorentina, Udinese and Sampdoria, one of whom will go into the Champions League qualifiers, are therefore guaranteed a UEFA Cup spot because eighth-placed Genoa cannot overhaul them with two games left.

Midfielder Alberto Aquilani converted a penalty on 27 minutes after Mirko Vucinic was fouled to put Roma in full command of the semi-final, second leg following their 1-0 win in last month's first leg.

Cristian Silvestri headed in a free kick unmarked for the hosts two minutes later and the Sicilians could have had a penalty when Roma goalkeeper Gianluca Curreli pushed Marco Biagianti, but generally the visitors controlled the game.

The final will be played in Rome on 24 May. "It will be a great satisfaction to play in front of our own crowd in another final. It confirms the hard work, of these lads," Roma boss Luciano Spalletti told Rai television.

MNA/Reuters



Serena Williams of the US returns a backhand to Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland during their German Open tennis match in Berlin. Williams won 6-3, 6-1.—INTERNET

သဘာဝဘေးအန္တရာယ်ကျရောက်သောဒေသများရှိ ပြည်သူများအတွက် ကျန်းမာရေးသတိပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်

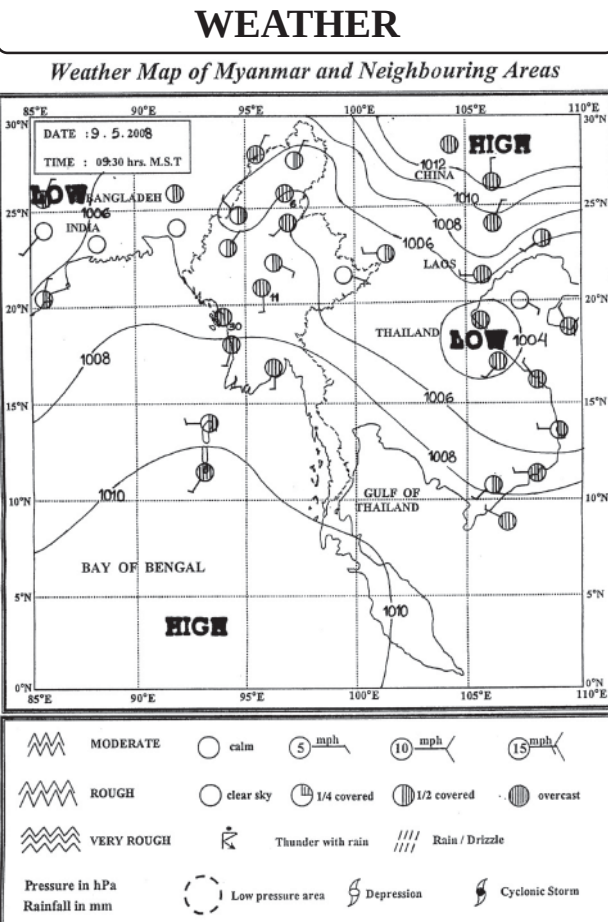
- ၁။ ရာသီဥတုဒဏ်ခံနိုင်သည့် အမိုးအကာအောက်တွင် နေထိုင်ကြရန်၊
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- ၆။ အတတ်နိုင်ဆုံး သန့်ရှင်းသော ယင်လုံအိမ်သာကို သုံးစွဲကြရန်၊
- ၇။ ကူးစက်ရောဂါများ မဖြစ်ပွားစေရေးအတွက် မိလ္လာနှင့် အမှိုက်သရိုက်၊ အညစ်အကြေးများကို စနစ်တကျစွန့်ပစ်ကြရန်၊
- ၈။ ထိခိုက်မှုအန္တရာယ်မဖြစ်စေရေးအတွက် သတိပြုဆောင်ရွက်ကြရန်၊
- ၉။ ရေကြီးပါက မြေအန္တရာယ်တွေ့ကြုံရတတ်သဖြင့် သတိပြုကြရန်၊
- ၁၀။ ခြင်္သေ့ကိုက်မခံရအောင် သတိပြုနေထိုင်ကြရန်၊
- ၁၁။ တစ်ကိုယ်ရေသန့်ရှင်းရေး ဂရုပြုဆောင်ရွက်ရန်၊ အစာမစားမီနှင့် အညစ်အကြေးကိုတင်ပြီးတိုင်း လက်ဆေးကြရန်၊
- ၁၂။ သဘာဝဘေးအန္တရာယ်ကျရောက်ပြီးသည့်အခါ အဆုတ်ရောင်ရောဂါ၊ ဝမ်းပျက်ဝမ်းလျှောရောဂါ၊ မြွေဆိုးကိုက်အန္တရာယ်၊ ထိခိုက်မှုအန္တရာယ်နှင့် အခြားကျန်းမာရေးပြဿနာများ ဖြစ်ပွားတတ်ပါသည်။ ဖြစ်ပွားပါက အနီးဆုံးကျန်းမာရေးဌာနသို့ အမြန်ဆုံးသွားရောက်ပြသကြပါရန် သတိပေး နှိုးဆော် အပ်ပါသည်။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန



Huddle from above: The Swiss team celebrate their upset win over Sweden during the preliminary round at the 2008 IIHF World Championships in Quebec City, Canada.—INTERNET

<div></div> <p>Saturday, 10 May View on today</p> <p>7:00 am 1. တောင်တန်းသာသနာပြု ဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်</p> <p>7:25 am 2. To be healthy exercise</p> <p>7:30 am 3. Morning news</p>	<p>7:40 am 4. လှုပ်ရှားပုံပြင်စိတ်ပျော်ရွှင်</p> <p>8:00 am 5. Land of flower</p> <p>8:45 am 8. International news</p> <p>11:00 am 1. Martial songs</p> <p>11:10 am 2. ရုတ်စရာအရွယ်ကစားကြမယ်</p> <p>11:40 pm 3. Round up of the week's TV local news</p>	<p>1:00 pm 4. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “စစ်သုတ္တံ” (အပိုင်း-၂၀)</p> <p>1:50 pm 5. “ပိုင်နိုင်နိုင်မြဲအောင်” (အကယ်ဒမီထွန်းထွန်းဝင်း၊ ခန့်စည်သူ၊ မျိုးစန္ဒာကျော်၊ ခင်မိုးမိုးအေးထင်ပေါ်၊ သုညဟံသာ၊ ငွေစင်သွန်း) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-သက်တင်)</p> <p>2:20 pm 6. မောင်းကတောရေလှေတစ်</p> <p>2:35 pm 7. အတီးပွဲ</p> <p>2:45 pm 8. International news</p>	<p>4:00 pm 1. Martial songs</p> <p>4:10 pm 2. Dance of national races</p> <p>4:25 pm 3. “ရုတ်စရာအရွယ်ကစားကြမယ်” (ရာဇာဇေဝင်း၊ နိုင်နင်းဝေ၊ ဒါရိုက်တာ-ခင်နီနီမူ)</p> <p>4:40 pm 4. အဆေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ - ဒုတိယနှစ် (ဒဿနိကဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ဒဿနိကဗေဒ)</p> <p>5:00 pm 5. Songs to uphold National Spirits</p>	<p>5:15 pm 6. မဟာနံသွယ်သွယ်ဆိုကြမယ်</p> <p>5:30 pm 7. ရုတ်စရာအရွယ်ကစားကြမယ်</p> <p>6:00 pm 8. Evening news</p> <p>6:30 pm 9. Weather report</p> <p>6:35 pm 10. မြို့မြို့ကြွကြွယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက</p> <p>6:45 pm 11. “ဧရာဝတီအလှတပါးရတနာပုံတံဆိပ်”</p> <p>7:00 pm 12. နိုင်ငံစီးပွားအလေးထား ကျေးလက်ထုတ်ကုန်များ (နာမည်ကျော် ထင်ရှားပေါက်သနပ်ခါး)</p>	<p>7:15 pm 13. “စည်းလုံးခြင်းရဲ့အရသာ” (ကိုကိုလင်းမောင်၊ မြတ်ကေသီအောင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-အောင်မောင်လှမျိုး)</p> <p>8:00 pm 14. Local news</p> <p>15. International news</p> <p>16. Weather report</p> <p>17. မြန်မာ့ရုပ်ရှင် “မရုတ်တတ်သောမိန်းမနှင့် အချစ်ခင်သောယောက်ျား” (အပိုင်း-၁) (လွင်မိုး၊ ထွန်းအိန္ဒြာမိုး) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-နောင်ထွန်းလွင်၊ ညိုညိုထွန်းလွင်)</p>
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Friday, 9 May, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Shan, Rakhine States, lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions, isolated in Kachin, Chin, Kayin and Mon States, Magway, Bago and Yangon Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above May average temperatures in Kachin State, upper Sagaing, Magway and Bago Divisions, (3°C) below May average temperatures in Yangon Division and about May average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Monywa, Chauk and Magway (41°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfalls recorded were Gwa (1.58) inches, Yangon (Central) (1.34) inches, Kyaukpadaung (1.18) inches, Yamethin (1.02) inches, Kanbalu (0.78) inch, Mogoke (0.47) inch, Haka (0.43) inch and Thipaw (0.39) inch.

Maximum temperature on 8-5-2008 was 92°F. Minimum temperature on 9-5-2008 was 76°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 9-5-2008 was 85%. Total sunshine hours on 8-5-2008 was (3.2) hours approx.

Rainfall on 9-5-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and (1.34) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (19.41) inches at Mingaladon, (21.77) inches at Kaba-Aye and (23.70) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (9) mph from Southwest at (16:40) hours MST on 8-5-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 10-5-2008: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Rakhine State and Taninthayi Division, isolated in Kachin and Shan States, lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago and Yangon Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 10-5-2008: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in the afternoon or evening. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 10-5-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in the afternoon or evening. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 10-5-2008: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers in the afternoon or evening. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Weather outlook for second week of May 2008: During the coming weekend, likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.

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.

Adjutant-General, Commander supervise relief tasks in Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 9 May – Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe, supervised loading of relief supplies onto helicopters for storm victims at Patheingyi Airport yesterday morning.

They inspected storm-hit areas of Pyapon and Dedaye townships and Thandek village by helicopter.

After inspecting damages and losses of Dedaye Township, they met departmental officials at the office of the Township PDC. Major Myo Htut Aung of the local battalion and officials reported on loss and damages due to the storm and opening of relief camps.

The Adjutant-General comforted the victims at the relief camp opened at the prayer hall of Kyaikdeyon Pagoda and presented relief supplies to them.

The Adjutant-General and the commander viewed distribution of bags of rice and cash assistance donated by Dhammaduta Ashin Hsekinda to the
(See page 10)



Members of Tatmadaw and social organizations carrying airlifted emergency aid for victims in Ayeyawady Division.—MNA

International relief supplies continue to arrive in Yangon



Relief supplies from the People's Republic of China arrive in Yangon.—MNA

YANGON, 9 May — Altogether 5.5 tons of construction materials and personal goods donated by Ukraine Republic, 40 tons of biscuits, emergency medical equipment and constructional materials donated by WFP and WHO, 20 tons of 100 packets of dried milk, 30 boxes of flour, 100 packages of soap, 100 packages of towels, 100 packages of toothpaste and brushes, tinned fish, 30 tents, 5 water purifying items and medicines donated by Republic of Korea, 3.2 tons of biscuits, blankets, dried noodles and chocolates donated by Singapore, 56 tons of tents, foods, water purifiers, medicines and blankets worth over US\$ 500,000 by the People's Republic of China, 37 medical kits donated by Myanmar citizens in Singapore and 32
(See page 9)

INSIDE

On the march to the Golden Land

PAGE 4

SI THU AUNG

*** To ratify Constitution let's go to the polling booth**