

National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee issues News Release No 1

NAY PYI TAW, 17 May – The National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee issued News Release No 1 today.

The News Release No 1 is as follows:

News Release No 1

1. In the Union of Myanmar, a severe cyclone “Nargis” hit the coastal areas of Ayeyawady Division on 2nd and 3rd May 2008 causing tremendous casualties and devastation and also swept Yangon Division causing loss and damages.
2. The National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee held its meeting at 8.30 am on 3rd May 2008 in Nay Pyi Taw and the Central Committee Chairman the Prime Minister and member Ministers rushed to the storm-hit regions to provide close supervision on rescue and relief works for the victims.
3. The Government immediately allocated 5 billion kyats as initial fund and over 20 billion kyats have been spent so far. Moreover, the Government accepted donations from local and foreign wellwishers immediately and the donations were accepted as follows.
 - (a) Cash amounting to 5.588 billion kyats and relief items worth 1.79 billion kyats totalling 7.378 billion kyats from internal wellwishers up to 16th May.
 - (b) Cash amounting to 1.62 million US dollars and 2,096.71 tons of relief supplies from foreign donors up to 16th May.
4. However, some foreign news agencies broadcast false information and thus some international and regional organizations are assuming that the Government has been rejecting and preventing aids for storm victims. Those who have been to Myanmar understand the actual fact.
5. Hence, the information is released that the Government and the people of Myanmar with thanks are accepting donations in cash and kind for the storm victims.

**National Disaster Preparedness
Central Committee**

Dated: 17-5-2008

Place: Nay Pyi Taw

National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee issues News Release No 2

NAY PYI TAW, 17 May – The National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee issued News Release No 2 today.

The News Release No 2 is as follows:

News Release No 2

1. As the severe cyclone “Nargis” hit the Union of Myanmar, internal and international wellwishers have been donating cash and kind for the storm victims continuously.
2. The donations for the victims are accepted systematically by the Donation Accepting and Supervision Body and distributed without delay to the storm-hit regions by the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee. The distribution of donations to the storm-hit regions up to 16th May 2008 is as follows.
 - (a) 363.924 tons of foods, medicines, purified water bottles, clothes and tents by helicopters and aeroplanes of Tatmadaw (Air).
 - (b) 872.8 tons of foods, medicines, construction materials, clothes and tents by vessels of Tatmadaw (Navy)
 - (c) 1,471.5 tons of foods, medicines, purified water bottles, construction materials, water purifiers, clothes and tents by Tatmadaw vehicles.
 - (d) 2,905.5 tons of foods, medicines, construction materials, clothes and tents by vessels of Inland Water Transport.
 - (e) Over 500 truck loads of construction materials by 35 private construction companies daily.
3. Though it is difficult to send the relief items to different places fully and immediately, forward camps and middle camps are kept open to see that there are no needless delays.
4. Hence, the news is released that the donated relief items sent by local and international wellwishers are distributed promptly to the storm victims. The relief items reaching the victims in time and consumed by them were shown to foreign guests, foreign diplomats in the country, INGO members and the EU Commissioner. In addition, officials of UN agencies, representatives of donor countries, personnel of INGOs and individual wellwishers are also invited to witness the relief work.

National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee

Dated: 17-5-2008

Place: Nay Pyi Taw

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 18 May, 2008

Participate with heart and soul in reconstruction tasks

The world sees natural disasters triggered by climate changes such as earthquake, volcanic eruption, floods and strong wind that cost a large number of human lives.

Also in Myanmar, some states and divisions were hit hard by a severe storm on 3 May, leaving a heavy loss of lives and property.

The government, mobilizing the cooperation of the people, social organizations and departments, has carried out relief and rehabilitation tasks phase by phase with the local and international assistance such as searching and evacuating storm victims, providing temporary shelters, fulfilling their basic needs, and giving health care to the victims.

Rescue and relief works can be expedited effectively thanks to the measures the government has taken to materialize the relief undertakings as scheduled. Now, local organizations, entrepreneurs and the people are working hard to step up the rehabilitation tasks for regenerating the natural disaster-hit areas.

It is required to reconstruct the destroyed hospitals and health care centres in order to provide health care to the storm victims. Likewise, the damaged schools in the disaster affected areas need to be repaired with the assistance of donor companies in time.

Necessary measures are being taken constantly to attend to the basic needs of the people in the relief camps, while specialists are making field trips to the storm-struck areas to provide health care.

Therefore, at a time when health care is being provided to the victims and basic needs are being fulfilled in the areas, companies and organizations have to participate with heart and soul in the tasks the government is implementing for reconstruction of the ravaged buildings in order to complete the reconstruction tasks sooner.



In memory of Daw Aye Kyi of Building-L, 2nd Floor of Shwe Ingyin Yeikmon, Thuwuna, Daughter Dr Daw Sann Myint and grandchildren Dr May Sann Maung, Dr Min Thura and family recently donate K100,000 to Jivitadhana Sangha Hospital through U Maung Maung, Secretary of Administration of the hospital.—H

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



Drinking water being supplied to the storm victims in Labutta Township, Ayeyawady Division.—MNA

Meeting to coordinate re-running industrial zones in Yangon held

YANGON, 17 May — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win said that as arrangements have been made for factories and workshops in industrial zones of Yangon to resume going into commercial operation as usual the

establishments need to restore their power lines, and that at present 175 megawatt is being distributed to downtown Yangon, at a meeting between Yangon Division Peace and Development Council, Yangon City Electric Power Supply Board and chairmen of industrial zones and entrepreneurs held at the

meeting hall of Yangon Command yesterday afternoon. Next, chairmen of the respective industrial zones and officials reported to the commander on work being carried out to resume running factories and workshops as usual, renovation of transformers and resuming of work by employees. After that, the Chair-

man of Yangon City Electric Power Supply Board explained measures being taken by YCEPSB, Soe Electric Company, Yangon Transformer and industrial zones for supply of power soonest. After fulfilling the requirements, the commander made the concluding remarks, which brought the meeting to an end.—MNA

MMA (Pathein) provides health care to victims

YANGON, 17 May — Executives of the Society of General Practitioners of Myanmar Medical Association (Pathein) provided health care services to storm victims beginning 7 May.

The medical team comprising Dr Aung Nyein, Dr Sit Tin, Dr Thein Myint and Dr Nay Aung left for Pyinkhayaing, Phonedawpyae, Didugon, Thingangon and Thetkethaung village-tracts on 7 May. Women doctors are also giving health care services to the victims at the temporary clinic.

Those wishing to donate medicines and cash

may contact Dr Kyi Pe, Tel: 042-24292, Secretary Dr Sit Tin, Tel: 042-24425 and Joint-Secretary Dr

Min Hsaung, Tel: 042-24290. Dr Reddy pharmaceutical company donated

medicines worth K 1.2 million to Chairman of MMA (Pathein) Dr Kyi Pe. — MNA



Health personnel of Universities' Hospital and Ya Ya Ya Japanese Scholars collectively carry out clean-up work of the fallen trees and fence in the compound of the hospital.—H

Russia, China, India seek Afghan anti-drug "belt"

YEKATERINBURG, (Russia), 16 May – China, India and Russia called on Thursday for the creation of a security belt around Afghanistan to halt the spread of heroin.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said a joint communique on boosting links between the three large developing countries would look at enhanced cooperation on humanitarian aid, fighting terrorism and combating drug trafficking.

"We discussed the situation around Afghanistan, where the drug threat emanates. It would help to build drug-secure belts around Afghanistan," Lavrov said after holding talks with his Chinese and Indian counterparts in this Urals city. Afghanistan, devastated by three decades of Soviet occupation and civil war, accounts for 93 per cent of world opium output, according to United Nations data.

Around 90 per cent of the global supply of heroin

emanates in Afghanistan, with output increasing since the fall of the Taleban regime in late 2001.

One of the main drug trafficking routes from Afghanistan lies across sparsely populated post-Soviet Central Asia to Russia. From there Afghan drugs make their way to Europe.

Lavrov, together with his Indian and Chinese counterparts, said they wanted to boost cooperation after talks in

Yekaterinburg. The city sits on a major geographic division along-side the Ural mountains that divide Europe from Asia.

"I believe that against the backdrop of a multi-polar world it is necessary to advance cooperation between Russia, China and India, the three countries that are rapidly growing and enjoying strong economic growth," said Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi.

MNA/Reuters



People are guided to an army boat which will take them away from their earthquake-hit hometown of Wenchuan, Sichuan Province, on 16 May, 2008. China struggled to bury the dead and help tens of thousands of injured, homeless and hungry on Friday, four days after a massive earthquake which is expected to have killed more than 50,000.—INTERNET



Visitors look at carpets and household knits from the Rhodope mountain region, during an exhibition called 'The colours of Rhodope' representing folklore diversity in the region, in the Bulgarian capital Sofia, on 13 May, 2008.—INTERNET

A Los Angeles City fire helicopter makes a water drop on a brush fire near the Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles on 15 May, 2008.—INTERNET

inside Ecuador that killed a guerilla leader and briefly raised fears of border clashes among the three neighbours.

International police agency Interpol said earlier on Thursday the FARC documents were real and showed no tampering, but also said it could not verify the contents. Chavez dismisses Bogota's charges as US-backed propaganda.

MNA/Reuters

Chavez reviews Colombia ties after Interpol report

BOGOTA, 16 May — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez on Thursday warned he was reviewing ties and commerce with Colombia after an Interpol report authenticated rebel documents that Bogota says prove the leftist has supported guerillas.

Accusations based on the files are reheating tensions after a March

diplomatic crisis in the Andean Region, where Colombia has become Washington's staunch ally and Venezuela and Ecuador are among the fiercest critics of US policies.

Colombia, which along with the United States labels the FARC terrorists, seized the laptops in a March raid on a rebel camp

Seven die in clashes in Sadr City

BAGHDAD, 16 May — Clashes between Shi'ite militiamen and security forces in Baghdad's Sadr City slum killed seven people and wounded 19 overnight, Iraqi police and hospitals said on Thursday.

The dead were all men and the wounded included three women and three children, they said.

The US military, which has been engaged in nearly two months of urban warfare with militants in Sadr City and other strongholds of Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, said it knew of two deaths in fighting overnight.

"We killed two thugs," Lieutenant-Colonel Steven Stover, a spokesman for US forces in Baghdad, said. "Baghdad is relatively quiet."

MNA/Reuters



Thousands displaced by floods in Philippine

MANILA, 16 May —Thousands of Filipinos were displaced after flash floods destroyed several houses in five villages in Negros Occidental, central Philippines, reported local television network ABS-CBN News Thursday.

The provincial office of the Department of Social Welfare and Development said more than 5,821 people were displaced by flash floods, while 10,000 others were affected by floods.

The Philippines Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration said on Wednesday that Luzon in northern Philippines and the central region of Visayas were expected to come under heavy rains as an active low pressure area developed into a full-blown typhoon near Visayas.

The weather bureau has also warned of landslide and floods that could be brought about by heavy rains and storms. —MNA/Xinhua

Two Russian police killed in Dagestan

Moscow, 16 May — Two police officers were killed while patrolling a small village in central Dagestan on Thursday, Russian news agencies reported.

The Interfax news agency quoted Dagestan's

Interior Ministry as saying a vehicle with three officers was shot at during a routine patrol of the village Gubden. Two were killed and one was wounded.

In October last year attackers burned down the house of Gubden's police chief about 10 days after unknown gunmen opened fire on Russian riot police in the village, wounding two, Interfax reported at the time.

In September 2007 the Islamic judge of a local mosque in Gubden was killed before morning prayers, with an armed underground Dagestani Islamist group claiming responsibility, according to the Chechnya Weekly, a US watchdog newsletter.

MNA/Reuters



A helicopter carrying supplies for storm victims arrives in Bogale Township.—MNA

Air Force participating in rehabilitation tasks

NAY PYI TAW, 17 May – Helicopters of the Defence Services (Air) transported 16.7 tons of relief supplies to Bogale, Setsan, Kyeinchaung, Hlaingpok, Mawlamyinegyun, Wakema, Myaungmya, Pathein, Dedaye, Kyondah, Lekkhokkon, Kungyangon, Labutta, Pyinsalu, Pyapon, Hainggyi, Polaung, Hlinebon and Kwinpauk regions yesterday.

So far, a total of 358.18 tons of relief goods have been transported to the storm-hit regions. — MNA

Personal goods donated to storm victims

YANGON, 17 May — Edible oil agents and Fruit and Vegetables Entrepreneurs of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw Lewe, Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon, Yamethin and Pyawbwe townships today donated clothes, mosquito nets, blankets, personal goods, saucers and basin bowls worth K 10 million to local people in storm-hit regions through the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee. — MNA

KOICA assists in Irrigation Technology in Myanmar

YANGON, 17 May— The representatives of the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the Irrigation Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, signed the Record of Discussions for a project with the aim to upgrade Myanmar infrastructure of water control by sharing Korea’s knowledge and modern facilities to avoid the floods in the future on 6 May, 2008.

The signing ceremony of the Project “Capacity Building for Irrigation Technology in Upper Myanmar” was made by KOICA survey team, consisting of KOICA resident representative, KOICA officer in-charge from Headquarters and four irrigation experts, as well as the Director General of the Irrigation Department and other officials from the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.—H



Officials of Irrigation Department and KOICA exchange notes at the signing ceremony.— H

Cash and kind for storm victims

NAY PYI TAW, 17 May — Departments concerned, social organizations, families of Tatmadawmen and wellwishers have provided cash and kind to storm victims.

Departments concerned and wellwishers from Shan State (North) presented K 61,949,860, donors from Shan State (East), cash and kind donation worth K 431,700, families of Tatmadawmen and wellwishers from Shan State (South), K 914,350 and supplies worth K 2,241,200, wellwishers from Kayin State, K 700,000 and foodstuff, clothes and personal goods worth K 17,809,610, wellwishers from Taninthayi Division, construction materials, clothes and foodstuff worth K 6,949,000, wellwishers from Sagaing Division, K 66,543,850 and supplies worth K 10,388,860 and donors from Mandalay Division, foodstuff, clothes and medicines worth K 32,716,000 for storm victims through the subcommittee.

Up to 17 May, the cash and kind donation totalled K 7,709,071,305. — MNA

International relief supplies flowing by air to Myanmar

YANGON, 17 May—The international community is providing relief supplies to the storm-hit areas from 6 up to 16 May. Eight passenger flights have transported relief items by air 36 times to Myanmar. The following table shows flights name, aircraft, relief supplies and weight.

No	Flight Organization	Date	Aircraft	Goods	Ton
1	Thai flight(T.G)	7-5-08	A-300-600	generator, tent, electric wire	12.82
		7-5-08	A-300-600	tent	11.38
		8-5-08	A-300-600	tent	5.6
		10-5-08	A-300-600	relief supplies, biscuit	10
		10-5-08	A 300-600	communication device, antenna	0.4
		11-5-08	A 300-600	tent	6
		12-5-08	A 300-600	foodstuff, personnel supplies, medicines, towel, tooth paste/brush, water purifier/	8
				purified tablets	
		13-5-08	A 300-600	kitchen utensil	4
		13-5-08	A 300-600	kitchen utensil	2.4
		14-5-08	A 300-600	rescue relief supplies	3.4
		15-5-08	A 300-600	medicines	1.52
		16-5-08	A 300-600	pot, plate, personnel supplies	9.1
2	Thai Air Asia	15-5-08	B-737	bucket, clothes, blanket, steel food carrier	1.2
		16-5-08	B-737	tarpaulin, plastic bucket	23
3	Bangkok Airways	9-5-08	A-320	cannel food, foodstuff box	2.09
		11-5-08	A-320	Drip bottle	3.6
		13-5-08	A-320	medicine	1.45
		14-5-08	A-320	medical equipment	7.8
4	Singapore Airways (Silk Airline)	7-5-08	A-319	medicines	1.3
		9-5-08	A-320	chocolate, biscuit, mosquito net	3.2
		10-5-08	A-320	tent, blanket, biscuit,	2.4
		10-5-08	A-320	6-capacity tent, ground sheet	2.9
		11-5-08	A-320	foodstuff	3
		13-5-08	A-320	household supplies	0.6
		13-5-08	A-320	tent	2.8
		14-5-08	A-320	relief supplies	3.26
		15-5-08	MI-518	blanket, ground sheet, purified water, foodstuff	2.23
		16-5-08	MI-518	bed roll, relief supplies	2.39
5	Malaysia Airline	9-5-08	B 737-400	medical equipment	0.38
		14-5-08	B-737	medical equipment	2.8
6	International Airways	14-5-08	MD-82	clothes, personnel supplies	12.3
		16-5-08	MD-82	rescue supplies	9.38
7	Jet Star Airline	9-5-08	A-320	medical equipment, satellite phones	0.3
		16-5-08	B-727	medicines	1.5
8	Mandarin Airline	8-5-08	B-737	Biscuit, instant noodles, purified water	3
		15-5-08	B-737	medicines	2.13

(To be continued)



Diplomats, resident representatives of ASEAN Secretariat and officials of UN agencies and ECHO view arrival of supplies to Labutta Township.—MNA

Diplomats, resident representatives of ASEAN Secretariat and UN agencies visit relief camps in Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions

YANGON, 17 May—The group (1) comprising diplomats of the embassies based at home and in foreign countries to the Union of Myanmar, responsible persons and resident representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat and UN agencies, led by Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, left here by helicopter and arrived at Kyondah village relief camp in Dedaye Township at 8 am today.

The minister briefed them on the natural disaster that occurred in the divisions, and relief, supply and rehabilitation tasks under the supervision of the Chairman of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee the Prime Minister, committee member ministers, deputy ministers and officials.

Member of the group viewed the control office of the relief camp, solar energy system, accommodation of victims in tents, distribution of relief items, supply of electric power with the use of a generator, clinic, water purifying machine, supply of drinking water from tube-wells, mess, kitchen, and latrines. Officials conducted them round the camp.

On arrival at Dedaye, they were briefed by the minister on conditions of the township, and work progress in relief, supply and rehabilitation tasks.

In response to the queries raised by group members, the minister and officials explained relief, supply and reconstruction works being carried out in priority.

The guests observed accommodation of the victims family-wise, supply of electricity and drinking water, storage of supplies, and clinic.

They proceeded to Kungyangon in Yangon Division. At the relief camp in the township sports ground, Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi gave an account of losses due to the storm, and relief, supply and rehabilitation undertakings.

They viewed health care provided to the victims by the team led by Commandant Brig-Gen Tin Maung Aye of No (1) Defence Services General Hospital (1000-bed) Mingaladon, and tents, distribution of relief items and drinking water.

At the control office in Kungyangon Basic Education High School No 2, the minister and group members viewed the goods donated by local and international donors. Next, they distributed relief aid to the victims.

They arrived back here in the afternoon.

Similarly, the group (2) consisting of diplomats of the embassies based at home and in foreign countries to the Union of Myanmar, responsible persons and resident representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat and

UN agencies, led by Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu and heads of department, left here by air and arrived at Pyapon Township at 8.15 am today. They viewed the conditions of the township by car.

Next, they observed supply of electricity, phone lines installed, dispensary, medical store, mess, kitchen, latrines and supply of purified water. Officials conducted them round the camp.

At relief camp (1), Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing dealt with the losses in the township. Replying to the questions, the ministers and officials clarified rehabilitation works in addition to relief and supply tasks.

The group members proceed to Bogale. They were welcomed there by Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung and officials. At Bogale Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association Office, local authorities explained losses, progress in relief, rehabilitation works and health care services.

Minister U Soe Tha and officials replied to the queries of the resident representatives and diplomats. The minister, the deputy minister and group members observed health care to the victim patients and water purifiers. At the relief camp in Bogale BEHS No 1, they looked into health care services, accommodation of the victims, supply of drinking water, and storage of relief items.

They proceeded to Setsan village relief camp in Bogale Township and inspected the control office, accommodation of the storm victims, distribution of relief goods, supply of electricity, dispensary and supply of drinking water. They arrived back here at 1 pm.

Likewise, the Group-3 made up of diplomats, resident representatives of UN agencies and officials of ECHO led by Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe left here this morning by helicopter and arrived at Maubin at 7.45 am.

At the office of Maubin District Peace and Development Council, they heard a report presented by Chairman of Maubin District PDC on losses and damages caused by the severe storm.

Next, Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and diplomats inspected the resettlement of storm victims, supply of drinking water, meals and messing room.

They proceeded to Mawlamyinegyun where they were welcomed by Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt and officials.

At the Dhammayon of local battalion, they heard a report presented by Lt-Col Tun Tun on losses and damages caused by the severe storm, and Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and Minister Col Thein Nyunt gave supplementary reports.

Next, the ministers and officials replied to queries raised by the diplomats.

After looking into damages to Mawlamyinegyun by car, they arrived at the jetty of Ship Entrepreneurs where they viewed the arrival of relief supplies.

On arrival at No 1 Basic Education High School of Mawlamyinegyun, they met with the Headmistress and teachers and saw to the damages caused by the storm.

They then heard a report on health care services presented by officials of the Ministry of Health at Mawlamyinegyun Township People's Hospital and inspected the hospital.

When they arrived at Labutta by helicopter, they were welcomed by Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Tin Htut and Col Kyaw Lin Tun of South-West Command.

At the Bayint Naung Yeiktha, the ministers and diplomats heard a report presented by Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut on accommodation of storm victims, installation of telephone lines and renovation of the hospital.

Next, ministers and officials replied to queries raised by the diplomats.

On arrival at Labutta Township People's Hospital, they inspected the OPD and medical ward and heard a report presented by Director of Health Department U Soe Lwin Nyein on medical treatment given to the patients.

Next, they went on to Ayeyawady Jetty in Labutta and observed the prompt transport of relief supplies by the double-dacker Maykha of Inland Water Transport.

After that, they viewed the accommodation and meals of storm victims in shelter boxes at the relief camp opened at Yadanadipa Sports Ground.

Afterwards, Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and diplomats welcomed Chairman of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Prime Minister General Thein Sein who arrived at Labutta from Patheingyi at 1.20 pm.

They then looked into the repair of roof at Labutta BEHS No 2.

After inspecting the relief camp opened at Hlaingphone Village BEHS, Labutta Township, Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and diplomats left the village and arrived back here in the evening.

MNA

MWAF donates robes to monks in storm-hit regions

YANGON, 17 May— Vice-Presidents of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Daw Khin Lay Myint and Daw Khin Thet Htay, the CEC members, the heads of department and the leaders of working groups presented 50 sets of robes worth K 466,500 to members of the Sangha in storm-hit areas through Deputy Minister for Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint at the Fire Services Department (Head Office) in Mayangon Township this morning. — MNA

Medical Universities, training schools under repair

YANGON, 17 May— Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein this morning inspected reconstruction work of Universities of Medicines, lecture halls, nursing and midwifery trainingschoolsand general hospitals. He gave instructions and attended to the needs.—MNA



Vice-Presidents of MWAF Daw Khin Lay Myint and Daw Khin Thet Htay present 50 sets of robes worth K 466,500 for storm-hit monks to SWRR Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint.
MNA



Indian medical team arrives

YANGON, 17 May— A 47-member medical team comprising specialists, technicians and nurses led by Dr Prafull Mohan of India arrived at Yangon International Airport by IL-76 flight this afternoon to provide health care services to the victims in the storm-hit areas of Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions.

Indian medical team including specialists, experts and nurses led by Dr Prafull Mohan arrive at Yangon International Airport.
MNA

They were welcomed there by Indian Military Attaché Colonel Manoj Mukund Naravane and officials of the Indian Embassy, Director-General U Myint Tun of the Fire Services Department and officials. The IL-76 flight also carried 15 tons of medicines donated by India. — MNA

Members of medical team led by Dr Pichit Siriwan of Thai Red Cross Society and medicines arrive at Yangon International Airport.—MNA

Thai medical team arrives at Yangon International Airport

YANGON, 17 May —Two C-130 flights carrying a 30-member medical team comprising 15 specialists, one psychiatrist, one contagious disease specialist, one veterinarian and 12 nurses led by Dr Pichit Siriwan of Thai Red Cross Society landed at Yangon International Airport this afternoon. They were welcomed by Thai Ambassador Mr Bansarn Bunnag and embassy staff, Director-General U Myint Tun of Fire Services Department, Medical Superintendent Dr Daw Nu Nu Tha, Director Dr Kyee Myint of Health Department and officials. The flights also carried 10.45 tons of medicines donated by Thailand. — MNA





Diplomats, resident representatives and officials of UN agencies and ASEAN Secretariat observe accommodation of storm victim families at relief camp in Dedaye Township.—MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects rehabilitation...

(from page 16)

The Prime Minister said as monsoon is setting in, arrangements will be made for farmers to carry out their farm work by opening tractor camps under the leadership of Agricultural Mechanization Department. Necessary farm equipment will also be provided for people who earn their living by engaging in farming or fishery.

The Prime Minister and party arrived back Yangon from Pyapon by Tatmadaw aircraft at 4.30 pm. Relief works have all been completed in the disaster-hit townships in Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions. Likewise, enough work has been done for looking after the victims. In addition, officials concerned are fulfilling all requirements by opening rear, middle and forward relief camps.

As regards communication, Myanma Posts and Telecommunications has arranged to ensure communication not only in downtown areas but also at forward relief camps. Ministry of Livestock and Fishery has also made arrangements to breed livestock such as poultry and cattle.—MNA

Deputy Health Minister visits Dedaye, Kungyangon, Kawhmu townships

YANGON, 17 May—Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo yesterday morning facilitated a field medical team with medicines and asked after families of warded storm victims at Dedaye Township People's Hospital.

Next, the deputy minister consoled storm victims being admitted to the hospital and looked into the storage of blankets, operation theatre, female medical ward, delivery room, X-ray unit and gave necessary instructions.

After that, the deputy minister inspected

supply of drinking water, health care centre, shelter boxes, latrines, messing and bathing places and gave instructions to officials concerned.

Later, he inspected supply of drinking water, latrines and water guard and opening of clinic for storm victims at the Sasana Beikman Dhammayon relief camp in Dedaye Township and the Dhammikayon relief camp in Kungyangon Township and attended to the needs.

Next, he visited storm victims receiving medical treatment at the OPD of Kungyangon

Township People's Hospital, delivery room, renovation of operation theatre, medical store, X-ray unit and re-roofing of the hospital.

On arrival at the Central Relief Camp in Kawhmu Township, the deputy minister inspected supply of drinking water, opening of clinic for storm victims, messing room and latrines and fulfilled the requirements.

At the relief camp in Hsinchan Village, he viewed medical treatment given to storm victims by a field medical team made up of specialists, use of latrines, supply of

Myanmars in Brunei donate medicines

YANGON, 17 May—Myanmar citizens in Brunei donated 237 packets of assorted medicines for storm-hit regions to officials through the Embassy of the Union of Myanmar in Brunei today.—MNA



Deputy Health Minister Dr Mya Oo inspects supply of drinking water to relief camp in No 2 ward of Dedaye Township.

MNA

Construction materials and foodstuff arrive Myaungmya

YANGON, 17 May—MV *Ngagyi* carrying about 60 tons of construction materials and foodstuff arrived at Myaungmya on 15 May.

Members of Township Fire Brigade and social organizations and local people led by Lt-Col Nyi Nyi Thein Zan of relief control committee and Chairman of Myaungmya Township Peace and Development Council U Aye Han unloaded the supplies from the ship.

The supplies donated by Japan, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Singapore and Thailand for storm victims for Labutta were transported to 27 relief camps in the township by motor vehicles.

The supplies include tents, personal goods, medicines and foods. In Myaungmya over 10,000 people were accommodated in 27 relief camps.

Officials concerned provided health services and foods to the victims.—MNA



Basic Education High School of Mawlamyinegyun Township under reconstruction.—MNA



Relief supplies for storm-hit regions donated by Thailand arrive at Yangon International Airport. —MNA

Progress of rehabilitation and reconstruction inspected in Mawlamyinegyun Township

YANGON, 17 May – Member of the Natural Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt is supervising relief tasks in Mawlamyinegyun.

On 15 May, a naval vessel and Min Than Toe Double Decker carrying the minister, accompanied by Chairman of the Township Peace and Development Council U Aung Kyaw Khaing, departmental officials, Secretary of Township Union Solidarity and Development Association U Ko Ko Lwin and specialist Dr Aung Myo Tun of North Okkalapa General Hospital and officials along with relief aid arrived at Kyahon Village.

They supplied relief goods donated from abroad to about 2,000 storm victims of Kyahon Village-tract.

Staff of the Development Affairs Committee and members of social organizations roofed the monastery. Members of the medical team provided health care services to the patients.

In Kyatshar Village of Mawlamyinegyun Township, they systematically presented food and relief aid donated from abroad to over 3,000 victims. Specialists also provided medical treatment to 150 patients on board Min Than Toe Double Decker. Staff of DAC and social organization members roofed the village dispensary and cleaned the pond.

The minister and party also supplied relief goods to over 1,000 victims from Kyonlamugyi Village and its surrounding villages. Specialists also provided health care services to the patients.

The minister and party viewed reconstruction of villages along Myinkakon and Ayeyawady Rivers.

A total of 33,295 victims from 84 villages of seven village-tracts in Mawlamyinegyun Township have been accommodated in their respective villages with the use of tents donated from abroad. The Township Natural Disaster Preparedness Committee is providing rice and foodstuff for them.

MNA



Relief items donated by Department for International Development from Britain arrive at Yangon International Airport.

MNA

International relief supplies arrive at Yangon International Airport

YANGON, 17 May –AN-12 flights carrying 38 tons of five temporary clinics, five boats, four generators, 55 shelves, life jackets, extinguishers and construction materials donated by WFP, AN-12 flight carrying 11 tons of supplies donated by JICA, four C-130 flights carrying 50 tons of 1440 packages of medical equipments, plastics, purified drinking water, blankets and foodstuff donated by the US, three IL-76 flights carrying 82 tons of 14 boats and accessories, water tanks, medical equipment and plastic sheets donated by Department for International Development in Britain, C-130 flight carrying 12 tons of medicines and foodstuff donated by Thailand and an aircraft carrying 33 tons of water tanks, water purifiers, tarpaulins and emergency lights donated by IFRC arrived at Yangon International Airport today.

Similarly, TG-303 flight carrying 9 tons of kitchen utensils donated by IFRC arrived at Yangon International Airport last night.

Relief supplies donated by international communities have been sent to storm-stricken areas without delay by helicopter, vehicles and vessel.

MNA

Electric Power No 2 Minister inspects power supply tasks

YANGON, 17 May – Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspected production and distribution of concrete lamp posts of Yangon City Electricity Supply Board in Hlinethaya Township yesterday.

The minister also looked into production of steel fix and steel sieve to be used in construction of concrete lamp posts and measures being taken for meeting the set standards.

Next, the minister inspected erecting pylons and installation of 33 KV Double Circuit power lines linking sub-power station and industrial zones being carried out by skilled workers along Hlinethaya-Nyaungdon motorway.

In the afternoon, the minister together with Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Win Myint oversaw installation of power lines, connections and supply of power at Maubin District Electrical Engineer's Office in Ayeyawady Division. – MNA

Rehabilitation tasks carried out in Hainggyikyun

NAY PYI TAW, 17 May – Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung arrived in Hainggyikyun by helicopter with relief supplies yesterday.

The adjutant-general and officials inspected progress of repair of Hainggyikyun BEHS and houses in wards, unloading construction materials, foodstuff and kitchen utensils from a vessel and gave instructions on repair works, arrangements for farm works and supervising tasks for distribution of supplies.

Next, the adjutant-general oversaw condition of villages in Hainggyikyun and Labutta Townships by helicopter.

On his arrival at Labutta Township, the adjutant-general together with Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun and officials transported relief supplies by helicopter to the storm-hit villages.

Next, the adjutant-general together with Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Tin Htut inspected rehabilitation tasks being carried out by Tatmadawmen, staff of Ayeyar Shwe Wah and Max Myanmar companies and wellwishers, giving medical treatments at the clinics opened by Directorate of Medical Services of the Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Health, and gave necessary instructions.

Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung together with Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Tin Htut and Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin discussed progress of rehabilitation tasks and requirements in storm-hit areas.— MNA

Minister visits storm-hit villages

YANGON, 16 May—Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung presented supplies to storm victims at Sitkon monastery in ward 7 and Welpyan monastery in ward 9 in Thongwa Township yesterday.

Next, the minister offered robes and provisions to the Sayadaw of Anauk monastery in Migyaungkan village and donated 50 robes to members of the Sangha of 18 monasteries in seven village-tracts in the townships.

At the compound of Htangyi pagoda in Phayagyi village, the minister met with the villagers and presented supplies to them.

A team led by township USDA Secretary Dr Myint Thein gave medical treatment to the villages.

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung presented supplies to the storm victims of ward Nos 1 and 3.

MNA



Labutta Township People's Hospital under repair.

MNA

Storm-hit areas gain easy access to telecommunication links through CDMA-450

YANGON, 17 May – To ensure better telecommunications and to do relief work in time in the storm-hit areas of Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, Myanma Posts and Telecommunications under the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs has been providing coastline and off shore sea mobile system (CDMA 450) telephone services for ad-hoc use since 5 May.

Kungyangon, Kayan, Kyauktan and Kawhmu have got easy access to telecommunications links with

Yangon on 5 May, and Myaungmya on 7 May, Ngapudaw, Bogale on 8 May, Dedaye and Hainggyikyun on 9 May, Pyapon on 10 May, Labutta and Kyaunggon Townships on 16 May gained easy access to telecommunication links with Ayeyawady Division.

All the storm-hit areas have had access to telecommunications links through CDMA 450 system and there have been easy communications between local, foreign and the storm-hit areas.—MNA

Bumrungrad International Hospital provides medical equipment

YANGON, 17 May—The Thai Ambassador and Resident Representative of Bumrungrad International Hospital Dr Moe Nyan Kyaw presented medicines and medical equipment worth US\$ 100,000 donated by Thailand-based Bumrungrad International Hospital

to storm victims to officials of Yangon General Hospital, Children's Hospital and Myanmar Medical Association yesterday. Air Bagan transported the medicines and medical equipment from Thailand to Myanmar free of charge. — MNA

Health care coverage for Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 17 May—Health employees of medical teams formed by Ayeyawady Division Health Department under the Ministry of Health for

taking care of storm victims provide health care services to storm victims in Labutta, Ngaputaw, Pyapon and Bogale Townships daily.— MNA



Tents provided for storm victims in Dedaye Township. —MNA



Diplomats, resident representatives of UN agencies and ASEAN Secretariat present relief items from home and abroad to the survivors in Kungyangon Township.—MNA



Minister of Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi accepts 480,000 litres of diesel of PTT Public Company Limited from Thai ambassador Mr Bansarn Bunnag.—MNA

**Rehabilitation
task gaining
ground in
storm-hit
areas**



Labutta People's Hospital under reconstruction.—MNA



Diplomats, resident representatives and officials of UN agencies and ASEAN Secretariat visit relief camp in Satsan village, Bogale Township.—MNA

Malaysia '08 rice imports to rise 30%

KUALA LUMPUR, 16 May — Malaysia's rice imports are likely to jump almost a third to 900,000 tons this year, as the nation steps up efforts to boost reserves and rein in inflation to stave off social unrest.

The government will also unveil two programmes next month to increase food supplies to maintain reasonable and

stable prices, Agriculture Minister Mustapa Mohamed said.

Global prices of staple foods have risen more than 40 per cent in the last year, causing shortages, hoarding and riots in some developing countries.

"Normally we import 700,000 tons a year," Mustapa told reporters. "We have signed a deal to buy 200,000 tons more to boost our stockpile."

The minister said Malaysia was also looking

at a proposal to buy 300,000 tons this year on top of the 900,000 tons.

"To maintain reasonable and stable prices, I will be announcing in June, two programmes to ensure food supply in the country," Mustapa told a conference earlier, but did not elaborate.

Malaysia, which meets nearly 70 per cent of its rice demand from domestic production, is studying a proposal to increase land under paddy cultivation.

MNA/Reuters

Honda's ASIMO robot conducts the Detroit Symphony Orchestra recently.—INTERNET



Norway's oil production to be lower in 2008

STOCKHOLM, 16 May — Oil production in Norway will be slightly lower in 2008, but gas production will maintain continuous growth, according to forecasts by the Norwegian Government in its revised budget for 2008 published on Thursday.

Total oil production is estimated at 2.4 million barrels per day (bpd) in 2008, down from a previous estimate of 2.5 million bpd and also slightly lower than in 2007, the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy said in a statement, adding that oil production is

expected to continue to decrease gradually in the coming years.

Gas sales in 2008 are estimated at 100 billion cubic metres, which is roughly 10 per cent higher than in 2007. Gas sales are expected to keep growing in the coming years, the Ministry said.

Due to high oil prices, the country's net cash flow from the petroleum sector

has reached a record level in Norway, the Ministry said.

The country's net cash flow from the petroleum sector is estimated to hit 356 billion kroner (about 70 billion US dollars) in 2008, 54 billion kroner (about 10.5 billion US dollars) more than the previous estimation, the ministry added.

MNA/Xinhua

Rescuers march into Hongbai Township as the road is blocked by the landslides in Shifang in southwest China's Sichuan Province on 15 May, 2008.—INTERNET



A file photo shows a model shows Vodafone KK's 3G handsets 703SHf, the company's first model mobile phone embedded with a Mobile FeliCa smartcard, over a card reader, demonstrating how the handset can be used at a reader-equipped cash register to make payments, during an unveiling in Tokyo.—INTERNET

Vietnam to export less rice

HANOI, 16 May — Vietnam may lower volume of rice for export to 4.4 million tons in 2010, 4.3 million tons in 2015 and 3.8 million tons in 2020 from 4.5 million tons in 2007 to ensure national food security, local newspaper *Labour* reported Thursday.

Vietnam is estimated to produce roughly 37.6 million tons of paddy rice in 2010, and over 39.6 million tons in 2020 from

35.9 million tons in 2007, the newspaper quoted the assessment of the country's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development as reporting. Around 1.7 kilos of paddy rice turns out one kilos of rice.

Vietnam's rice consumption per capita will decrease, but the total consumption is forecast to annually rise one per cent in the coming years due to the country's bigger

population, and higher rice demand for the two local animal feed and rice processing industries as well as for reserve.

Vietnam exported nearly 1.6 million tons of rice worth 775 million US dollars in the first four months of this year, posting year-on-year surges of 11.6 per cent and 72.7 per cent, according to the country's General Statistics Office.

MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia's AirAsia X to offer KL-Perth flights

KUALA LUMPUR, 16 May — Malaysia's low-cost carrier AirAsia X will start a new direct service to Perth, Western Australia, from Kuala Lumpur on 2 November, its director Tony Fernandes said here on Thursday.

The average fare to Perth, including other cost like fuel surcharge, will be just under 400 ringgit (122 US dollars), he said

at the launching of the carrier's destination to Perth here.

For those opting for the business class seats, the return fare is about 2,000 ringgit (612 US dollars), he said.

The long haul, low cost carrier will offer six return flights per week between Perth and Kuala Lumpur, and is already planning to increase the flights to daily

return flights by March 2009, Malaysian national news agency Bernama reported.

The route will be serviced by the airline's new wide-bodied Airbus A330 aircraft, giving passengers a level of service not normally expected from low cost airlines, AirAsia X said in a statement on Thursday.

MNA/Xinhua

OPEC lowers global oil demand prediction for 2008

VIENNA, 16 May — The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) forecast an average daily global oil demand of 86.95 million barrels for 2008 in its monthly report released on Thursday.

This estimate was 0.02 million barrels less than the previous forecast in April.

OPEC said the oil demand of the United States would remain unchanged this year, while demand from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries would slightly decrease. It said non-OECD countries such as India, on the contrary, would have a stronger demand.

MNA/Xinhua

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Algerian court jails 20 for life in drugs case

ALGERS, 16 May — An Algerian court sentenced 20 people, including a Libyan national, to life imprisonment on Wednesday after finding them guilty of smuggling cannabis, court officials said.

The accused, all alleged members of a drug smuggling ring, were arrested in western Algeria near the Moroccan border in February. Police said they had 144 kilos of

cannabis resin which they were trying to smuggle from Morocco to Libya.

The court in the western town of Oran, 400 kilometres (250 miles) from Algiers, sentenced seven other suspected members of the gang to between two and 20 years' imprisonment, they said.

The Algerian Government has stepped up a campaign against drug trafficking this year, fearing smugglers might

link with radical Islamists to fan violence in the Maghreb, where al-Qaeda's north African wing is trying to expand its support beyond its base in Algeria.— *MNA/Reuters*

McCain's wife urged to release tax returns

COLUMBUS (Ohio), 16 May — Republican presidential candidate John McCain came under criticism on Wednesday for his wife Cindy's refusal to release her tax returns.

The Arizona Senator last month released his tax records for 2006 and 2007 but not those of his much wealthier wife, who inherited a multimillion-dollar Anheuser-Busch beer distributorship, from her father. Her net worth is estimated at around 100 million US dollars.

The McCains, who married in 1980, say there is no need for Cindy McCain to release the tax documents because the couple keep their finances separate. Citing privacy concerns, the candidate's wife told NBC's "Today" show last week she would not release the returns even if she became first lady.

Some newspapers

have joined Democrats in calling for the release of Cindy McCain's tax records. "The candidate should get his wife to reconsider," "The Washington Post wrote in an editorial on Wednesday. "The last thing the country needs in a new president is more secrecy." — *MNA/Reuters*

China punishes 17 disaster-relief disruptive rumourmongers

BEIJING, 16 May — China's public security departments have punished 17 rumourmongers in the wake of the disastrous earthquake as of Thursday, according to the Ministry of Public Security here on Thursday.

Public security bureaux in 11 provinces and municipalities including Hebei, Liaoning and Anhui, found more than 40 messages that circulated malicious rumours about the earthquake on the Internet and found 17 people were responsible.

The ministry failed to mention what exactly the rumours were, but claimed that these people "spread false information, made sensational statements and sapped public confidence".

Among them, two were put in custody by local public security bureaux, a means of punishment that ranges from one to 15 days' detention, another two were asked to write apologies and another 13 were given warnings. — *MNA/Xinhua*

US House panel votes to cut European missile funds

WASHINGTON, 16 May — A US House of Representatives committee voted on Wednesday to withhold over half of about 720 million US dollars sought by the Bush Administration to start building missile defence sites in Poland and the Czech Republic.

The Democratic-controlled House Armed Services Committee cut 233 million US dollars in research and development and 140 million US dollars for military construction projects, pending approval from the two countries for the projects, among other things.

The action was part of

the committee's version of a 540-billion-US-dollar-plus fiscal 2009 defence policy bill.

The Senate Armed Services Committee said 1 May it had agreed to fully fund President George W. Bush's request for 719.8 million US dollars to start deploying up to 10 interceptor missiles in Poland and installing a tracking radar in the Czech Republic.

Boeing Co would install the interceptors;

Raytheon Co would build the radar system.

Funding for the European sites would total 4.5 billion US dollars through 2013, according to military spending plans sent to Congress in February by Bush.

Eventually, differences between the House and Senate defence authorization bills must be ironed out and signed by the president to take effect.

MNA/Reuters

2.2m die annually from occupational accidents

LAGOS, 16 May — More than 2.2 million people lose their lives through occupational accidents and from work-related diseases associated with chemicals released in the work environment, local media Wednesday quoted an official with the International Labor Organization (ILO) as having said.

Amadi Njoku, the Director of the ILO office for Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone, stated this Tuesday in Abuja during a regional workshop on chemical hazard communication for the Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS) countries.

The ILO official said the situation was worse in less developed societies due to poor education and lack of information on the hazards and ways to mitigate them.

"In general, the health situation in the world is improving and life expectancy has increased. However, occupational diseases and injuries still force millions of people out of work, many of them forever," he said.

"Every year, 2.2 million women die in occupational accidents and from work-related diseases," he added.

Njoku said by conservative estimates, workers suffer 270 million occupational accidents and 160 million episodes of work-related diseases each year, adding that out of the number, about 35 million were caused by chemicals.— *MNA/Xinhua*

Pakistan, India to resume peace talks next week

ISLAMABAD, 16 May — Pakistan and India will resume their peace talks next week, said Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman Muhammad Sadiq on Thursday.

Indian External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee will travel to Islamabad and hold "ministerial-level review of the fourth round of Pakistan-India composite dialogue on 21 May" with his Pakistani counterpart Shah Mahmood Qureshi, said Sadiq.

The ministerial meeting will be preceded by the foreign secretary-level review meeting on 20 May, Sadiq told a weekly news conference.

The two sides will review the progress made on all the eight issues under the fourth round of composite dialogue and set the timetable for the fifth round.

MNA/Xinhua





Sanxingdui Ruins Museum, the age-old heritage site, became one of the victims of the Monday earthquake in western China. — XINHUA

Less pollutant vehicles gaining ground in France

PARIS, 16 May — Environmental conscious French people are increasingly buying more fuel efficient cars, which emit less greenhouse gases responsible for global warming and climate change, France's Agency for Environment and Energy Management (ADEME) has said.

However, according to a report covering 2007 published by the agency earlier this week, the four-wheel polluting monsters are also gaining a lot of ground among consumers in the country, the French media reported on Wednesday.

According to

ADEME, nearly 50 per cent of all vehicles sold last year, compared to 47 per cent in 2006, belonged to the so-called "green" auto classes dubbed A, B and C, which emit less than 140 grammes of carbon dioxide per kilometre.

With an estimated average emission of 149 grammes carbon dioxide per kilometre for all sales of new cars, France has maintained thus the third largest of most sober

European countries behind Portugal and Italy, according to the report.

MNA/Xinhua

Sri Lankan Special Task Force soldiers walk at the scene of a bomb explosion in Colombo on 16 May, 2008. — INTERNET



New rumbling from Chilean volcano worries experts

SANTIAGO, 16 May — Chile's Chaiten volcano groaned, rumbled and shuddered on Thursday, raising new concerns among authorities, as lightning bolts pierced the huge clouds of hot ash hovering ominously above its crater.

Chile's National Emergency Office, ONEMI, said heavy ash kept shooting from the volcano in southern Chile as it generated small tremors.

On the ground, heavy flooding hit the area around Chaiten as falling ash swelled rivers, overflowing their banks.

"There's been

additional volcanic activity that we're really worried about," regional governor Sergio Galilea told reporters.

The Chaiten volcano, 760 miles (1,220 kilometres) south of the capital Santiago, started erupting on 2 May for the

first time in thousands of years, spewing ash, gas and molten rock into the air. — MNA/Reuters

Ring-tailed lemurs play at the Amneville's zoo, eastern France. Researchers at two US universities have found that, at least for smaller primates like squirrel monkeys and lemurs, climbing is no more difficult and energy-consuming than walking. — INTERNET



Thai Princess, Red Cross donate for China quake relief

BANGKOK, 16 May — Thailand's Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn on Thursday made a personal donation of 100,000 RMB (some 14,286 US dollars) in cash to help disaster relief in China after a strong earthquake hit the southwestern province of Sichuan.

Earlier on the day, representatives of the

Thai Red Cross Society and the Chaipattana Foundation under royal patronage, also passed on a donation of 200,000 US dollars to China Red Cross Society.

Princess Sirindhorn, met Zhang Guoqing, Charge d'Affaires of the Chinese Embassy, at Bangkok's Chitrada Palace Thursday after-

noon to hand him her letter in Chinese to Chinese President Hu Jintao, expressing her condolence to victims of the 7.8-magnitude earthquake on May 12 that has claimed over 15,000 lives and left many villages and towns in debris, and good wishes for the Chinese' relief work.

MNA/Xinhua

NASA "Phoenix" spacecraft ready for Mars landing

WASHINGTON, 16 May — NASA's Phoenix Mars Lander is preparing to end its long journey and begin a three-month mission to taste and sniff

fistfuls of Martian soil and buried ice.

The lander is scheduled to touch down on the Red Planet on 25 May according to the mission updates

released on Tuesday.

Phoenix will enter the top of the Martian atmosphere at almost 13,000 mph (about 20,000 km per hour). In seven minutes, the spacecraft must complete a challenging sequence of events to slow to about five miles per hour (about 8 kilometres per hour) before its three legs reach the ground.

"This is not a trip to grandma's house. Putting a spacecraft safely on Mars is hard and risky," said Ed Weiler, associate administrator for NASA's Science Mission Directorate. "Internationally, fewer than half the attempts have succeeded."

MNA/Xinhua

Bayer pulls US Trasylol supplies after study

BOSTON, 16 May — Bayer AG is removing remaining supplies of its heart-surgery drug

Trasylol from the US market after a long-awaited study found it raised the risk of death

compared to two alternatives, US regulators said on Wednesday.

The announcement followed publication earlier on Wednesday of a Canadian study by the *New England Journal of Medicine* that showed patients given Trasylol had a more than 50 per cent higher death rate than patients who got other, cheaper drugs.

"Thus, in all likelihood, this is the end of the aprotinin story," Dr Wayne Ray and Dr Michael Stein of Vanderbilt University in Tennessee wrote in a commentary on the study. — MNA/Reuters

SPORTS

FA want Grant answers
Chelsea boss quizzed over
Steve Bennett comments



Avram Grant

LONDON, 16 May—The Football Association have written to Chelsea coach Avram Grant to ask him to explain his remarks about referee Steve Bennett.

Grant called Bennett's integrity into question after Manchester United's 2-0 win at Wigan last Sunday earned a tenth Premier League title for Sir Alex Ferguson.

Chelsea, level on points with United before kick-off, could only draw at home with Bolton.

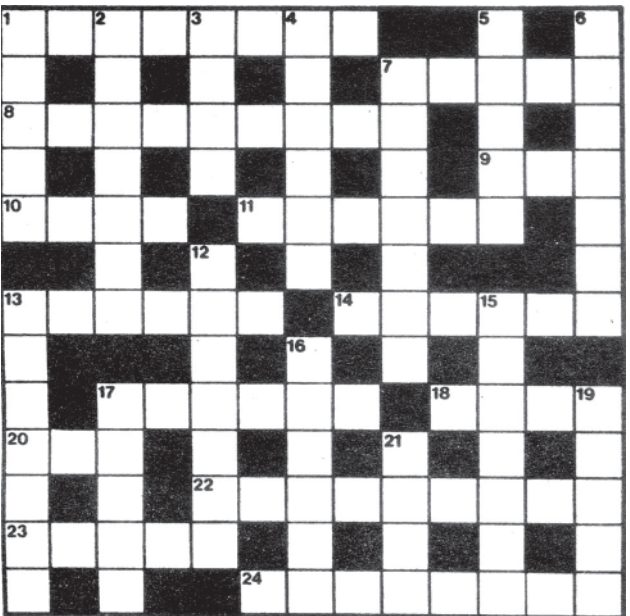
But Bennett came under fire for not awarding Wigan a penalty for handball and then opting not to send off Paul Scholes for a second bookable offence when he fouled Wilson Palacios.

At his Champions League media conference on Wednesday Grant said: "I told you that I believed in the tradition of the fair English game. I will not say anything against it. But what happened is what I expected.

"In England there are very good referees, but there are some - a few that you can influence, like you saw.

"I think in our game against Manchester United at Old Trafford, the referee (Mike Dean) influenced the result for sure. We know that.—Internet

CROSSWORDS PUZZLE



- ACROSS**

 - 1 Expecting
 - 7 Gazes over closely
 - 8 Abundance
 - 9 Barley beard
 - 10 Monarch
 - 11 Push
 - 13 Bright, encouraging
 - 14 Determine
 - 17 Ship's gear
 - 18 Floating matter
 - 20 Through
 - 22 Forcible control
 - 23 Each
 - 24 Halt sharply (4,4)
- DOWN**

 - 1 A frolic
 - 2 Wide extent
 - 3 Ingenuous
 - 4 Nil
 - 5 Negotiate
 - 6 Donkeyish
 - 7 Read
 - 12 Food trade
 - 13 Fast sailing-vessel
 - 15 Slope
 - 16 Private chamber
 - 17 Endeavoured
 - 19 Silenced
 - 21 A strut

Tevez targets United stay
Argentine eyes permanent
contract at Old Trafford



Carlos Tevez

LONDON, 16 May — Manchester United striker Carlos Tevez would 'love' to sign a permanent contract at Old Trafford.

Tevez is currently on a two-year loan with United and club officials are investigating the best way to reach an agreement with Kia Joorabchian, who holds the rights to the Argentina international through Media Sports Investment, and formalise a contract.

The 24-year-old has made an impressive start to life with United following a controversial move from West Ham last summer and he helped the Red Devils to retain their Premier League title.

And ahead of the UEFA Champions League final showdown with Chelsea in Moscow

on Wednesday, a match which can be seen live on Sky Sports 1, Tevez has expressed a desire to secure a long-term stay at United.

"I would certainly love to extend my contract," said Tevez. "I would go and sign right now if the opportunity was there."

Tevez's United teammate Cristiano Ronaldo recently expressed a desire to play in Spain in the future to alert Real Madrid.

And Tevez has indicated that he could also be interested in an eventual move to the Primera Liga.

"La Liga is a possibility eventually but that day is a long way off," Tevez added.

"I know a lot of South Americans prefer to play in Italy or Spain when they move to Europe but I am really pleased that I came here.

"This is the best league in the world and I am among some of the best footballers in the world.

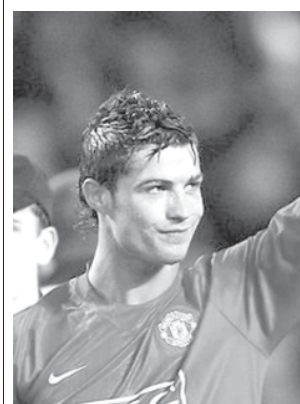
"I am not one to be making comparisons between clubs but Manchester United are right up there with anyone in the world.

Internet



File photo shows Maria Sharapova at the Pacific Life Open tennis tournament in Indian Wells, California. Sharapova will take over as world number one next week after Justine Henin asked to be removed from the rankings following her retirement, the governing body of women's tennis (WTA) said on Thursday.—INTERNET

Ron reveals Real admiration
Portuguese content at United,
curious about Madrid



Cristiano Ronaldo

LONDON, 16 May—Cristiano Ronaldo has spoken of his admiration for Real Madrid in a candid interview that will alert the Spanish giants and alarm Sir Alex Ferguson.

Madrid have made no secret of their admiration for the PFA and Football

Writers' Player of the Year and it would appear the feeling is reciprocated - with Ronaldo refusing to rule out playing in Spain in the future. A wonderful campaign for the Portuguese has seen Manchester United retain the Premier League title, while they could make it a double on Wednesday evening should they see off Chelsea in the UEFA Champions League final in Moscow. It was only earlier in the week that Ronaldo moved to play down speculation over a switch to Madrid, with the 23-year-old keen to reaffirm his commitment to Old Trafford.—Internet



Chinese women's basketball team outplayed visiting Poland 91-72 in Wuxi, Southeast China, on Thursday, winning seven of the eight games played since their gathering for the Olympics earlier in March—XINHUA

Pompey cool Crouch talk
Pompey chief executive surprised by transfer talk

LONDON, 16 May—Portsmouth chief executive Peter Storrie has played down talk the club have met with Liverpool's Peter Crouch.

It had been suggested Storrie and manager Harry Redknapp met for talks with the England international on Thursday evening ahead of the FA Cup final.

However, Storrie is shocked by the possible meeting as they pair were with the team relaxing and having a meal in Brighton and were not in Liverpool.

Storrie believes the story might have come out to disrupt the team's preparations ahead of the FA Cup final as they will not be looking towards next season until next week.

"That's quite amazing, apparently Harry and I were in Liverpool last night," Storrie told Sky Sports News. "I don't know how we did that as we were out with the team at a lovely restaurant in Brighton.

"I don't know why people make up these daft and ridiculous stories up.—Internet



Peter Crouch

သဘာဝဘေးအန္တရာယ်ကျရောက်သောဒေသများရှိ ပြည်သူများအတွက် ကျန်းမာရေးသတိပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်

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

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

OBITUARY

Daw Khin Su

Age (77) years

No (45), Zizawar Street, Ground Floor,
Pazundaung Township

Second daughter of (U Khin Nyunt+Daw Mya Chit), daughter-in-law of (U Ba Tin+Daw Ngwe Thant), dear wife of St Paul U Tin Lay (English Lecturer) (a) Thomas Minus, sister of U Than Lwin+Daw Tin Tin Nyunt, mother of Margaret Minus, Peter Minus, George Minus, Eddie Minus, John Minus, Joseph Minus, Rosalia Minus, Augustine Minus, Elizabeth Minus, grandmother of 15 grandchildren expired in (New General Hospital, Yangon) at (3:25) am Saturday. The cortege will leave on Monday 19th May to Yeway Cemetery at 15:00 hours.

Bereaved family



A real crowd : Baby crocodiles at a farm in Ziguinchor, Casamance, southern Senegal.

INTERNET



Sunday, 18 May
View on today

7:00 am

1. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်
ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

2. To be healthy
exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. သတ္တသတ္တဘာဏ်တော်မူခန်း

8:00 am

5. The smiling of Angkor

8:45 am

6. International news

11:00 am

1. Martial song

11:10 am

2. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ(၃၈)မြောက်လာ

11:20 pm

3. တစ်ပတ်အတွင်းနိုင်ငံတကာသတင်းစဉ်

11:40 am

4. မြန်မာ့ဒီဇိုင်းဇာတ်လမ်း

သည်းခြေကြိုက် (အပိုင်း-၂)

(လူမင်းနန္ဒာလှိုင်)(ဒါရိုက်တာ-

ကျော်စောလင်း (အတွေးပုံရိပ်)

12:30 pm

5. တေးဂီတအစီအစဉ်

12:50 pm

6. မြတ်ဗုဒ္ဓ၏မဟာဗုဒ္ဓဝင်

2:30 pm

7. Musical programme

2:45 pm

8. International news

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:10 pm

2. Musical programme

4:30 pm

3. Musical programme

5:00 pm

4. မျိုးချစ်စိတ်ဓာတ်ရှင်သန်

ထက်မြက်ရေး တေးများ

5:15 pm

5. ဆိုကြမယ်ပျော်ကြမယ်

5:30 pm

6. Musical programme

6:00 pm

7. Evening news

6:30 pm

8. Musical programme

7:00 pm

9. Musical programme

7:20 pm

10. ရွှေယံစုံညီမြန်မာပြည်

7:30 pm

11. Musical programme

8:00 pm

12. News

13. International news

14. Weather report

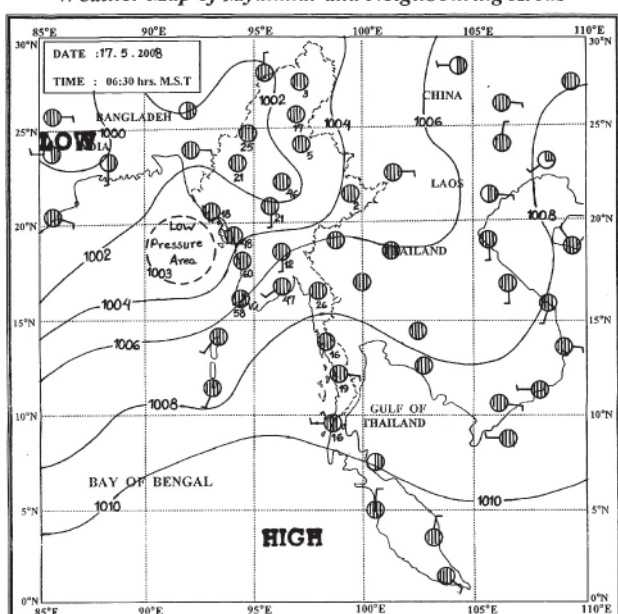
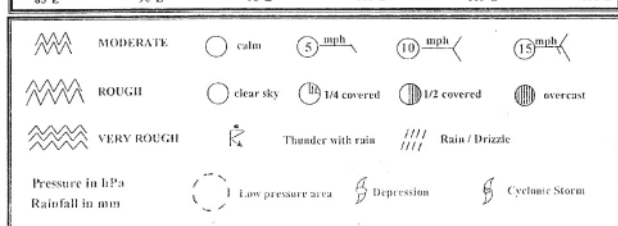
15. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

“မာယာထောင်ချောက်”

(အပိုင်း-၂၂)

WEATHER

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Saturday, 17 May, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours

MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been fairly widespread in Yangon Division and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with locally heavyfalls in Rakhine States and Mandalay Division and isolated heavyfalls in Magway and lower Sagaing Division. Day temperatures were (3°C) below May average temperatures in Bago and Yangon Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) below May average temperatures in Kachin, Southern Shan, Rakhine States and Mandalay Division, (7°C) to (8°C) below May average temperatures in upper Sagaing and Ayeyawady Divisions (9°C) to (10°C) below May average temperatures in lower Sagaing, Magway Divisions and about May average temperatures in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (0.47) inch, Kyauktaw (3.46) inches, Thandwe (3.30) inches, TadaU (3.11) inches, Kyaukse (2.64) inches, Gwa (2.60) inches, Pyinoolwin (2.56) inches, Pathein (2.48) inches, Myinmu (2.44) inches, Mandalay and NyaungU (2.13) inches each, Yangon (central) (2.08) inches, Kyaukpyu and Bago (2.01) inches each, Yangon (Kaba-Aye) (1.85) inches, Yangon (Mingaladon) (1.30) inches, Sagaing (1.66) inches and Magway (1.61) inches.

Maximum temperature on 16-5-2008 was 88°F. Minimum temperature on 17-5-2008 was 70°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 17-5-2008 was 92%. Total sunshine hours on 16-5-2008 was (1.9) hours approx.

Rainfall on 17-5-2008 was (1.30) inches at Mingaladon, (1.85) inches at Kaba-Aye and (2.08) inch

at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (23.27) inches at Mingaladon, (27.48) inches at Kaba-Aye and (29.76) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from Southwest at (12:30) hours MST on 16-5-2008.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (06:30) hrs MST today, the low pressure area over East Central Bay and adjoining Rakhine State still persists. Monsoon is vigorous in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weather is partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 18-5-2008: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Rakhine and Mon States, Sagaing, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions and scattered to fairly widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State, Ayeyawady, Yangon, Mandalay and lower Sagaing Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Frequent squalls with rough seas are likely off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) to (45) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of strong monsoon in the Andaman Sea and South Bay.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 18-5-2008: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 18-5-2008: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 18-5-2008: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects rehabilitation and reconstruction in Labutta, Pyapon townships

Pyapon District General Hospital provided with facilities, staff and medicines

NAY PYI TAW, 17 May – Chairman of the Natural Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Prime Minister General Thein Sein, accompanied by Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe, ministers and officials, arrived at Labutta by helicopter this afternoon.

The Prime Minister cordially greeted diplomats from Yangon and abroad who observed Labutta.

Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Tin Htut who was supervising rehabilitation tasks in Labutta reported on arrival of supplies from local and abroad via Yangon and distribution of the aid to the relief camps, arrangements being made for basic needs of

the victims and rebuilding of Township People's Hospital, schools and offices.

The commander submitted reports on reconstruction of towns and villages in the division.

The Prime Minister presented CDMA-450 telephones to be used in reconstruction of the township to Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut.

The Prime Minister presented prizes to engineers from Myanma Posts and Telecommunications who performed smooth and speedy communications.

U Zaw Zaw of Max (Myanmar) Co presented reports on participation of his company in reconstruction tasks.

After hearing the reports, the Prime Minister gave instructions on more reconstruction tasks.

At the Township People's Hospital, the Prime Minister and party inspected roofing of the building and greeted doctors from Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw and officials.

At Labutta Port, they viewed unloading of relief supplies including construction materials donated from abroad and at home from vessels.

On arrival at Pyapon, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing who is supervising rehabilitation tasks in Pyapon Township reported on efforts being made for turning the township into normalcy and participation of companies. The Prime Minister attended to the needs.

They proceeded to Pyapon District General Hospital. The Prime Minister greeted specialists from hospitals of Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon, the Head of District Health Department, doctors and nurses.

In his speech, the Prime Minister said that the hospital has been provided with necessary facilities such as health staff and medicines. Therefore, doctors and nurses are to give priority to providing health care services to the patients.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister, officials and wellwishers handed over donations for the hospital to Head of District Health Department Dr Thi Thi Win.

Next, the Prime Minister and party comforted the patients and presented relief supplies donated by wellwishers.

On his arrival at Labutta and Pyapon, the Prime Minister met with officials, saying that relief works have been completed and there have been enough work for looking after the victims.

Now, priority is given to resettlement. Arrangements are to be made for those who are at nearby relief camps after the storm to return to their places of their own volition. Returning to their homes, they will have to be provided with accommodation, clothing, kitchen utensils and food. Those responsible are to inform the victims so that they can take food from nearby relief camps if necessary.

(See page 7)



Prime Minister General Thein Sein greeting diplomats and UN resident representatives in Labutta Township. —MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein giving meal to children in Hlaingphone village, Labutta Township. —MNA