

Senior General Than Shwe meets storm victims

Government takes prompt action to carry out relief and rehabilitation work



Senior General Than Shwe comforts storm victims at the relief camp in Kungyangon Township.

MNA

Myat Hein, Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence Chairman of Yangon Division PDC Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, officials of the SPDC Office, Senior General Than Shwe arrived in Kungyangon by Tatmadaw helicopter at 7.50 am.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected condition of

storm-hit Kungyangon and rehabilitation work in a motorcade. At the briefing hall of the relief camp at Aung San Thuriya Hla Thaung Sports Ground, Senior General Than Shwe heard a report presented by Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi on loss and damages in Kungyangon Township, distribution of relief supplies, and reconstruction of hospitals, schools, government offices and religious buildings by Asia World Co and progress of rehabilitation and reconstruction tasks.

(See page 8)

NAY PYI TAW, 19 May—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe this morning inspected storm-hit Kungyangon in Yangon Division and storm-hit Dedaye and Pyapon in Ayeyawady Division and consoled storm victims there.

Accompanied by General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Member of the SPDC Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen

Senior General Than Shwe inspects arrangement of shelter for victims in Dedaye Township.

MNA



Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 20 May, 2008

Overcome difficulties through concerted efforts

The severe storm that hit Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions caused heavy loss of life and destruction to some regions of the divisions with houses and structures destroyed and trees, lamp-posts and billboards knocked down.

Traffic, power supply and communications were disrupted by the fallen trees and lamp-posts, thereby causing delays to commodity flow.

Better transport is indispensable for commodity flow, trade and commerce as well as for improvement of socio-economic life of the people. Therefore, the Tatmadaw and the people cleared the debris caused by uprooted trees in concert with the use of heavy machinery in order to bring about better transport. At present, with better transport, one can travel from one place to another, thereby contributing to swift commodity flow and trade and commerce.

Domestic and overseas airlines, inland water transport and train services which were temporarily disrupted returned to normal a few days after the severe storm.

Traffic in downtown Yangon has returned to normal with all roads and streets serviceable. As relentless efforts were made for restoring power supply, most of townships in the affected regions are now being supplied with electricity.

In the meantime, hospitals in the affected regions have been facilitated with doctors, nurses and medicines so that they can fully provide health care services to storm victims.

Disasters can occur any time. The State, the Tatmadaw and the people are to make concerted efforts in times of emergency. Only then, will they overcome any difficulty caused by the catastrophe.



Water pouring ceremony at Bo tree at Botahtaung Pagoda in progress.—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

Devotees water Bo trees at pagodas

YANGON, 19 May — Pagodas in Yangon were packed with devotees today as board of trustees of the pagodas celebrated ceremonies to mark Buddha's Birthday which falls on Full Moon Day of Kason today.

Members of the Sangha consecrated Buddha Images and religious associations and devotees watered Bo trees at Shwedagon, Maha Wizaya, Sule, Botahtaung, Shwephonepwint, KabaAye, Kyaikwaing, Kohtetgyi, Chaukhtetgyi, Maelamu and Buddha's Tooth Relic pagodas today.

Pots filled with water were arranged at the pagodas so that devotees could pour water to Bo trees at the pagodas till 9 pm.

As Buddha also gained the enlightenment and entered Parinivvana on the same day. The Full Moon Day of Kason is celebrated as a religious significant day. — MNA



Sayadaws water a Bo tree at Shwedagon Pagoda on Fullmoon Day.

MNA



Devotees pour water at a Bo tree at Sule Pagoda.—MNA

Storm victims of Pyapon get relief supplies

YANGON, 19 May—A wellwisher group, comprising entrepreneurs of local companies and led by Dagon International Co Ltd Chairman U Win Aung, donated relief supplies to the storm victims at Kyaikkasan pagoda in Leik Ukon compound, Ward 18, Pyapon Township, on 17 May.

Relief supplies included bags of rice, gram, potatoes, clothes, sweaters, mosquito nets, medicines, purified water, foodstuff and tarpaulin.

Member of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing and officials viewed the donation and afterwards greeted the storm victims.

Similarly, vehicle dealers association of South Okkalapa donated clothes, purified water and foodstuff worth K 2 million to the storm victims in Hmawby Ward in Pyapon.—MNA

Shwephonepwint pagoda packed with devotees on Fullmoon Day. —MNA



Abbas says to quit if no peace deal reached in 2008

JERUSALEM, 18 May—Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Sunday said he would resign if he fails to reach a peace agreement with Israel by 2009, according to Israeli lawmaker Yossi Beilin's office.

Abbas made the remarks during a meeting with Beilin, a strong proponent for a peace agreement with the Palestinians, on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharmel-Sheikh, where

US President George W. Bush met with several Middle East leaders in efforts to push forward the sluggish peace process.

"I didn't take the presidency upon myself in order to serve the role of president but rather to pursue a mission, and I have no point in continuing in this capacity if it becomes apparent that we can't reach peace," Abbas said, which was quoted by a statement released by Beilin's office.

Abbas added that Israel

will not have a better negotiation partner than the current leadership of the Palestinian National Authority, which "believes the Palestinian interest is a historic reconciliation with Israel and a Palestinian state alongside it."

Since Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert resumed the long-stalled peace talks and pledged to forge a deal within 2008 at a US-hosted conference in Annapolis, Maryland, the Palestinians have complained that the peace talks are not making progress.

Internet

A Chinese man carrying his mother on his back in a basket takes a rest on a fallen rock on the way to a shelter following Monday's powerful earthquake in southwest China's Sichuan province, on 16 May, 2008.

INTERNET



Colombia rejects Venezuela border incursion charge

BOGOTA, 19 May—Colombian authorities on Sunday rejected charges from Venezuela that their troops had crossed the frontier in the latest incident to test fraying relations between the Andean neighbors.

Venezuela over the

weekend accused 60 Colombian soldiers of entering its territory in what Caracas said was a provocation that aimed to destabilize the region.

The tension exacerbates sharp divisions in the Andes, where Colombian President Alvaro Uribe is

a close Washington ally and Venezuela's Hugo Chavez a purveyor of anti-US sentiment.

"There has been no incursion," Colombian Defense Minister Juan Manuel Santos told local radio, saying a river in the area would have prevented troops crossing. "It would have been practically impossible for it to happen as they say."—*Internet*

Gunman kills 8 in midnight shooting spree in Philippines

MANILA, 19 May—Eight people have been killed by a lone gunman who fired a M-16 rifle at four houses late Sunday night, local media reported Monday.

Neighbors told police investigators that the gunman went from one house to the other and fired random shots in Calamba city of northern Laguna Province. Six other people were injured, the TV network ABS-CBN News reported.

Local police chief Superintendent Ricardo Padilla told ABS-CBN News that a retired senior police officer has been placed under custody in connection with the shooting spree.

Padilla said the police have difficulty in determining the real motive, but investigators suspected the lone gunman may have grudges against the victims or was under the influence of drugs.—*Internet*

Twelve people killed in S Africa in xenophobic attacks

JOHANNESBURG, 18 May—Twelve people were murdered this weekend following the xenophobic attacks against foreigners in Gauteng Province, Police said on Sunday.

Police Spokesman Govindsamy Mariemuthoo said the "sporadic violence" that has rocked the city had claimed 11 lives in the Eastern Rand and one in Alexandra.

Mariemuthoo said the violence spread to Hillbrow, Jeppe, Cleveland and central Johannesburg, over the weekend.

Internet



A Pakistani soldier stands guard at the site of a suicide attack in Mardan on 18 May, 2008. A suicide bomber killed at least 13 people on Sunday in an attack close to the gates of an Army training centre in the northwestern Pakistani town of Mardan, military and provincial officials said.—INTERNET

AU optimistic on Chad-Sudan relations after talks

KHARTOUM, 19 May—The new head of the African Union said on Sunday he was optimistic tensions between Chad and Sudan would ease, after holding talks in both countries.

Sudan cut diplomatic relations with Chad last week, blaming it for an attack on Khartoum which killed more than 200 people. Chad denies responsibility and has

accused Sudan of masterminding attacks on N'Djamena in the past.

"We are confident... that we are going to engage in a process of de-escalation concerning Chadian-Sudanese relations," AU chief Jean Ping told reporters in Khartoum after two hours of talks with President Omar Hassan al-Bashir. Ping arrived on his first mission to Sudan from

the Chadian capital at the weekend after talks with President Idriss Deby.

"I got information coming from the two capitals which made me optimistic," he said, declining to give any further details. Ping said the African Union should investigate accusations by Sudan and Chad of support for rebels in their respective countries.—*Internet*



Policemen inspect the remains of a vehicle used in a car bomb attack that targeted an Iraqi Army patrol in Baghdad on 18 May, 2008. —INTERNET

Egypt deploys signal corps force in Darfur

CAIRO, 18 May—Egypt has deployed its signal corps force in the western Sudanese region of Darfur as part of the AU-UN Hybrid Force there, the Egyptian MENA news agency reported on Sunday.

The corps comprising 92 technicians took position in Darfur, which will be followed by another 83-strong force of Signals battalion to join the Egyptian contingent in the war-torn region, MENA quoted a statement by the UN Information Center in Cairo as saying.

Deteriorating security, harsh conditions and other obstacles in Darfur have considerably slowed the deployment of the UN-African Union Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) in the Sudanese region, according to UN peacekeeping chief Jean-Marie Guehenno.

When fully operational, UNAMID, authorized by the UN Security Council in July, 2007, will become the largest peacekeeping force in the world, with almost 26,000 troops and police officers and nearly 5,000 civilian staff.—*Internet*

Medical team helps storm victims with medical treatment

YANGON, 19 May — A medical team led by Dr Daw Mya Mya Yi and Dr Daw Kyi Kyi Nyunt of Yangon General Hospital on 16 May opened a health care centre at the Dedanaw Home for the Aged in Dedanaw Village, Kungyangon Township, Yangon Division and gave medical treatment to storm victims and presented clothes donated by Myanmar Nurses and Midwives Association and University of Nursing (Yangon) to them.

The medical team also gave talks on use of purified water, personal hygiene and systematic disposal of garbage to local people.

Next, they opened a health care centre at Gangaw Monastery in Ingalon Village and provided storm victims with health care services.

The team is made up of doctors, nurses and technicians from the Central Women's Hospital and University of Medicine-2, North Okkalapa and gave medical treatment to 104 storm victims.

MNA



Solar energy system seen at relief camp in Kyondah village in Dedaye Township.—MNA



Medical treatment being given at relief camp in Kyondah village in Dedaye.—MNA

A&I Minister inspects embankments in Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 19 May — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo together with Deputy Minister U Ohn Myint on 16 May inspected Alekyun and embankment Nos 1, 2 and 3 in Ngapudaw Township and presented relief supplies to the storm victims at Hsinchaya village in the township.

The minister looked into embankments and sluice gates in Labutta Taungkyun and Labutta Myaukyun, Uthayaw and Ugaungpu embankments and presented relief supplies to storm victims in Pyinsalu Township. He also inspected embankment Nos 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Betukyun.

Next, the minister met with personnel in Bogale and gave instructions on rehabilitation tasks, reconstruction of embankments, growing of monsoon paddy and oversaw Daunkgyikyun embankment, Ashaykyun and Anaukyun of Daunkgyikyun by helicopter and presented relief items to storm victims at Htawpaing relief camp.

At Pyapon Township Audit office, the minister together with Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing met with chairmen of Pyapon District and Township PDCs and departmental personnel and gave necessary instructions.

Next, they inspected water purifying machine that can provide 2000 bottles of purified drinking water per hour.—MNA

Industry 1 Minister inspects factories

YANGON, 19 May — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung inspected the damages due to the storm-hit No 2 Soap Factory under the Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industries here on 17 May.

After preparing the damages, the factory restarted 60 percent of its production process. Next, the minister inspected

production process of Diamond Soft Drinks and Ice Factory of Myanmar Foodstuff Industries, Paint Factory of Myanmar Paper and Chemical Industries, the printing section of No 1 Cigarette Factory of Myanmar Foodstuff Industries and No 2 Textile Mill of Myanmar Textiles Industries.

The minister visited

No 2 Flour Mill (Yangon) of Myanmar Foodstuff Industries, Finishing Wood-based Factory (Bayinnaung) of Myanmar General and Maintenance Industries, Marble Slab (Phawkan) of Myanmar Ceramics Industries, production of lamp-posts at Concrete Factory and Packaging Paper Factory of

Myanmar Paper and Chemical Industries. At the factories, the minister gave instructions to officials to make more effort for the production process of the factories.

MNA

Navy extends helping hand to storm victims

NAY PYI TAW, 18 May — Officers and other ranks from two naval vessels of Tatmadaw (Navy) based in Pyapon and Dedaye Townships together with doctors, nurses and local Red Cross members went to Hteinwaing, Donchaung, Tamangyi, Kyaikkatha, Payleik,

Tatme, Gaygu, Thnhatt and Kyatphamwetaung Villages by boat and participated in the health care services in storm-hit areas and in clearing of fallen trees in the compounds of monasteries and schools on 17 May.

Likewise, a naval

vessel based in Yangon carrying CI sheets, robes, tarpaulins, school uniforms, bottles of drinking water, barbed wires, edible oil, utensils and kitchen items weighing 20 tons left here for Hainggyigyun, Ayeyawady Division yesterday.—MNA



Timber dumped in Pyapon Township.—MNA

UN's Emergency Relief Coordinator visits relief camps in Labutta, Bogale, Wakema

YANGON, 19 May — Under Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator of the United Nations Mr John Holmes and party, accompanied by Deputy Director-General of the Protocol Department under Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Soe Win and Acting Resident Representative of UN Mr Daniel B Baker, flew to Labutta in Ayeyawady today and visited a relief camp there.

They were welcomed there by Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Tin Htut and officials concerned.

During the visit, they viewed providing medical treatment to survivors of the storm by the special medical team of the Tatmadaw.

Maj-Gen Tin Htut

briefed them on damages, rescue works, providing relief aids to survivors, rehabilitation, setting up of relief camps, arrangements for storm survivors and transportation of relief aids to storm-affected areas in Labutta. The minister and officials concerned answered the questions raised by Mr John Holmes and party.

Afterwards, officials concerned conducted Mr John Holmes and party around the relief camp.

During the visit, Mr John Holmes and party went to People's Hospital in Labutta and viewed providing medical treatment to patients and conditions of the hospitals which have been repaired.

They also viewed damages at the town in a

motorcade and unloading relief aids from a watercraft and transportation of relief aids to the storm-affected areas in the township by boat.

Afterwards, they flew to Satsan Village in Bogale Township where Col Tin Aung of No 66 Light Infantry Division briefed them on damages, providing relief aids to survivors and health care services at the relief camp.

After visiting Satsan Village, they flew to Wakema and visited the relief camp set up at No 1 Basic Education High School where storm survivors in Labutta Township are taking shelter. At the relief camp, they questioned the storm survivors. They flew back Yangon this afternoon.

MNA



Mr John Holmes and party visit relief camp in Satsan Village in Bogale Township. — MNA

Relief aids donated to storm victims

YANGON, 19 May—As wellwishers and donors have been donating cash and supplies to storm victims, Humanitarian Coordinator for Southeast Asia Mr Jean Michel Jordan, on behalf of Swiss Agency and Development and Cooperation (SDC) donated 5 multi-purpose tents, 2 rolls of Tarpaulin and 2 generators worth US dollars 2,5190 and

Muslim Aid (Serving Humanity) US dollars 3000 worth water purifying tablets through acting Director-General of Social Welfare Department U Aung Tun Khine at Fire Services Department(Head Office) in Mayangon Township here this afternoon. The acting Director-General accepted the donations and spoke words of thanks.—MNA

Laotian medical service team arrives in Yangon

YANGON, 19 May—A medical service team of the Lao People's Democratic Republic arrived at Yangon International Airport in a flight Y7-100 yesterday.

The 23-member team, led by Professor Dr Bounthaphany Bounxouei and Professor Dr Vanliem Bouravong, was welcomed there by Laotian

Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Kouily A Souphakhet, the director-general of department of fire services and officials concerned.

MNA

Relief supplies shipped to Mawlamyinyun

YANGON, 19 May—The vessel 'Thanpadaytha' left No 1 Jetty of Phoneygi Road, here, for Mawlamyinyun, Ayeyawady Division, today after loading 159 tons of relief supplies donated by

international and internal well-wishers. Relief supplies onboard the vessel were foodstuff, clothes, blankets, canvas tents, tarpaulins, roles of tarpaulin, galvanized iron sheets and construction materials, bottles of purified water, generators and water purified machines.—MNA



A medical team from Laos arrives at Yangon International Airport. — MNA



Chinese medical team arrives in Yangon

YANGON, 19 May—A medical service team of the People's Republic of China arrived at Yangon International Airport with two IL-76 flights yesterday.

The 50 member team, led by Dr Xiang Shi Ping, was welcomed there by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Guan Mu and officials concerned of the Ministries of Health and Foreign Affairs.

Two ambulances, two minibuses, medicines and foodstuff weighing 32 tons were on the same flights.—MNA



A medical team led by Dr Xiang Shi Ping arrives at Yangon International Airport. — MNA



Let’s replace earth bricks with stone ones

Kyaw Min Lu (Shwepyitha)

The world has seen natural disasters since its early stage. Every country has ever faced natural disasters such as earthquake, storm, floods, volcanic eruption and tsumani. In a natural disaster, the loss of human lives and property is based on the strength of the disaster. So, natural disasters are unavoidable.

Our country suffered the cyclone ‘Nargis’ recently. In fact, a storm has no border. According to the climate changes, a storm moves along its route. Myanmar people have never faced such a severe storm in their life, so they did not think that the storm would be very destructive. Despite the public notices about the upcoming natural disaster on radio and TV as well as in the newspapers, the people did not take it serious. They did not have firsthand experiences about severe storms, so they did not care about the possible natural disaster.

Although the storm has abated, the victims have not been in a position yet to lead a comfortable life because the disaster was followed by monsoon. Therefore, they have to continue to show resilience now.

The storm and its aftershocks are receiving media coverage for public information. Since 3 May, the Prime Minister has been supervising the relief and rehabilitation tasks in the storm-hit areas, while ministers and deputy ministers are making field trips to the villages, and the Vice-Admiral, the Adjutant-General, military commanders and commandants are rendering assistance to the victims. In addition, servicemen, members of the Myanmar Police Force, Red Cross Society, Union Solidarity and Development Association and duty-conscious people are contributing voluntary services with heart and soul.

My eyes were filled with tears when I watched on TV that the Prime Minister comforted the victims, gave away snacks and fed meals to the children in the relief camps. The Prime Minister has frequented the storm-affected areas. So, it is fair to say that all the members of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee are now shouldering rehabilitation tasks with might and main. It is tangible proof that relief and rehabilitation works are being carried out in an effective way. Ministers, deputy ministers, departmental officials, entrepreneurs, well-wishers, social organizations and artistes are contributing cash donations and voluntary services wholeheartedly.

Therefore, it can be deduced from those profound evidences that Myanmar people have no experiences about a severe cyclone, but they are capable of preparing themselves for the worst. And they are strongly equipped with family spirit and Union Spirit and they remain united in times of emergency.

While braving the natural disasters, the nation invited humanitarian relief from the international community. Now, international relief supplies are continuously flowing into the nation. Ships with relief aid on board from the Republic of India arrived at the nation. Many aircraft from various international airlines are landing on Yangon International Airport every day. So far, the aircraft have run 165 flights. The government, the people and the Tatmadaw are capable of dealing with the disaster, as evidenced by the scenes that relief supplies donated by internal and international donors are being unloaded from the airplanes, and they are being distributed by car, by helicopter, by sea and by military warship, the aid was being provided to the victims, the victims are taking shelters in the tents, health care is being given to the victims, and servicemen and duty-conscious people are carrying relief supplies in the rain.

The loss of human lives and property is heavy.

Thousands of people were killed and missing. The nation lost a large number of cattle, crops, houses and infrastructures. In the private sector, agriculture, fishery, salt and industrial enterprises were ravaged, while a huge number of State-owned building in the electric power, communication and transport sectors and social infrastructures were destroyed severely. The area of the affected regions is very large, and some of them rely much on waterways for transport. About 2000 square miles of land came under the tidal waves triggered by the storm. It is a formidable task to make these areas return to normal.

However, now many plans in this regard have been translated into reality. In compliance with the instruction of the Prime Minister **“Every survivor shall continue to survive”**, emergency tasks were launched as soon as possible. Now, hundreds of thousands of storm victims have been evacuated to the relief camps. In order to achieve such great success, members of the Tatmadaw (Army) were rescuing the victims in the lands, while vessels of the Tatmadaw (Navy) were searching and rescuing victims in the rivers and creeks in the delta. Moreover, helicopters of the Tatmadaw (Air) took part in the rescue tasks. While carrying out rescue works along the coast of the nation, the Navy vessels at the risk of lives managed to rescue 18 foreigners from Panama-registered cargo ship MV Comsic Leader that was stranded in the southern part of Thameehla Island.

Emergency tasks are divided into three phases—rescue phase, relief phase, and rehabilitation and resettlement phase. The government allocated five billion kyats as initial funds on these phases. So far, more than 50 billion kyats have been spent. Internal and international donors have donated a large number of supplies. Up to 18 May, the supplies totaled cash donations and supplies worth 7.808 billion kyats by internal donors, and 1.62 million US dollars and 2671.10 tons of relief items by international community. They will continue to donate relief aid to the nation. Myanmar is very grateful to the donors for their generous donations.

The State is trying its best to send all relief supplies to the storm victims as soon as possible. It can also be found that the donation accepting and supervisory committee is accepting cash and kind donated at home and abroad and distributing them to the storm-hit regions without delay. There are tons and tons of relief items. So, navy ships, Tatmadaw aircraft, Tatmadaw vehicles, private vehicles and ships owned by Inland Water Transport totaling hundreds have to be carrying relief supplies again and again.

It is known to all that the area of the delta region is very vast and it has limited transportation. But the region has now smooth transport. It is because in the time of the Tatmadaw government, more bridges were built across rivers and creeks and a network of roads emerged. It will be difficult for such a great amount of relief items to reach every storm-hit region immediately. Despite the difficulty, the State is taking systematic measures for relief aid distribution by opening 12 forward relief camps, six middle relief camps and three rear relief camps in order not to cause delay. To take systematic measures and for emergency, CDMA and satellite phones have been distributed.

In reality, it is very lucky for us to be born and bred in a country blessed with worldly values. While the State is contributing a lot to the sector of relief aid distribution, public wellwishers, monks and companies are also contributing their donations. They tried their utmost to make contributions wherever necessary. It is the undeniable fact that those participating in relief work and

reconstruction tasks including the Prime Minister and helpful young people are making great effort to give assistance to all the storm-ravaged regions. It is a great honour for Myanmar that a tremendous national task has been implemented successfully.

Health care is of utmost importance for the storm victims. It is necessary to cure the people with injuries and illness due to the storm as well as prevent infectious diseases following the natural disaster. That is why the deputy health ministers themselves are meeting the victims and many medical teams led by specialists are in the storm-hit regions to give health care services. We have now been able to breathe a sigh of relief although we were worried about the victims’ health in the aftermath of the storm.

UN agencies such as WHO, WFP, ICRC, and INGOs such as World Vision, Save the Children Myanmar and Forciv Myanmar actively participated in relief and rescue work. Accompanied by relief and rescue teams concerned, those organizations rendered humanitarian aid to the victims with heart and soul. It is also hoped that they will continue their cooperation and aid till the successful completion of the work.

Thanks to the cooperation and assistance of the State, the Tatmadaw, various departments, public donors and INGOs, rescue and relief works have been nearly completed. Besides, as the third step, reconstruction and resettlement works have been started in some regions. Some towns and villages started repairing their hospitals, schools, departments and houses. Like a phoenix, we have to make our own efforts to rise from the ashes. We have to shape our own future. Again, I am very glad to hear that private construction companies have been assigned to implement reconstruction tasks in the storm-ravaged regions.

The delta region, known as the granary of Myanmar, suffered great destruction of its farmlands. Some embankments also broke. In spite of any difficulties, agricultural work has to be carried out soon as monsoon is setting in. The ministry concerned has taken steps to repair the damaged dams and embankments. Plans are under way to distribute paddy strains resistant to sea water, fertilizers, pesticides and diesel to the farmlands to which sea water flowed. As hundreds of thousands of cattle were lost, arrangements are being made to import cattle. Meanwhile, plans are under way to shift to manageable scale mechanized farming by using power tillers.

All necessary measures are also being taken to provide drinking water and open schools in time in the storm-battered regions. Measures were taken in Yangon as well as in other towns regardless of region. In Yangon, mobile phone lines have resumed their operation and households have enjoyed electricity day by day. Most of the roads and streets have been cleared and they have now returned to normal.

Overall, we had to suffer the cyclone Nargis and its aftershocks as we have never experienced such a storm. No country, government and people can bear such a severe storm.

The severer the storm, the more damage and casualties. We did have great damage and loss. But now the storm has left and we overcome it. Because we made concerted efforts with the strength of the State, the Tatmadaw, the people and donor countries. Now I have breathed a sigh of relief for the victims. All in all, we have undertaken a historic national task successfully.

(To be continued)
(Translation: MS+ST)

Ministers meet officials of UN Agencies and INGOs



Minister U Soe Tha briefs on systematic distribution of relief aids to storm survivors.—MNA

YANGON, 19 May—Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint met resident representatives of UN agencies and officials of international non-

governmental organizations and social organizations from abroad totaling 52 at the meeting hall of National Achieves Department of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development yesterday and discussed systematic distribution of relief supplies to storm victims.

Minister U Soe Tha

said the relief supplies donated by international communities were sent immediately to the storm-hit areas. The list of relief items and storm-hit areas was recorded precisely.

The supplies donated by the UN agencies and INGOs were directly sent to those areas. These organizations need to inform the sub-

committees and natural disaster preparedness committees at different levels under the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee so that the committees can make arrangements for distribution of the supplies to the storm-hit areas. Moreover, NDPCC had issued news release No 3 on 17 May 2008. In the news release it is said

effective action would be taken against those who misappropriated the relief items for their self-interest and other purposes.

He said it is necessary for the UN agencies and INGOs to cooperate with the government in speedy delivery of the relief supplies to the victims. The UN agencies and INGOs need to inform

NDPCC of donations and the places they delivered the supplies. They also need to contact township natural disaster preparedness committees at different levels. The committees concerned are ready to provide necessary assistance to those organizations.

Those present took part in the discussions.

MNA

Telephone service in Pyapon under repair

YANGON, 19 May—Employees of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications in Pyapon and Nay Pyi Taw have repaired communication cables in Pyapon

Township.

Out of 750 telephone lines, over 100 telephone services and 450 CDMA mobile phones are in good condition. About 400 telephone lines are

expected to be on service in a week.

Public communication phones in Pyapon have already been repaired.

MNA

Relief aids for Bogale

YANGON, 19 May—A group of local companies and wellwishers donated the relief aid to storm victims in Bogale Township, Ayeyawady

Division, yesterday.

Wellwishers led by Thidagu Sayadaw Dr Shin Nannisara, local companies and Bogale Township Association

(Yangon) donated rice, edible oil, chilli, food, clothes and others to storm victims in Pyapon and Bogale.

MNA



Responsible personnel of Htoo Trading hand over relief aids to storm survivors.—NLM

Staff of Htoo Co and Air Bagan assist relief works in Bogale Township

YANGON, 19 May—The staff of Htoo Trading Co Ltd and Air Bagan have been assisting the storm victims in relief and resettlement tasks in Bogale Township since 6 May. They donated materials for relief and resettlement works to storm victims in Kyeingyichang village on 18 May.

They also donated 900 bags of rice, 15 power tillers, 10000 baskets of paddy strains, foodstuff, 3 pumps, medicines and 3 toilets. They are also providing free health care service to storm victims with 10 doctors.

They have also repaired Bogale Township People's Hospital, BEHS Nos1,2, BEMS 1, BEPSs in Autpaing and Aung Thapyae villages, communication office, retransmitting station, Township Dhammayon, Township Sangha Nayaka Committee and 4 monasteries.—NLM



A library seen after being repaired in Bogale.—MNA



Senior General Than Shwe meets with storm victims in relief camp in Kyonda village in Dedaye Township.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe meets...

(from page 1)

After attending to the needs, Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance, saying that the government took prompt action to carry out the relief and rehabilitation work in storm-hit regions shortly after the storm, and has laid down and is implementing the three phases of Disaster Preparedness Programme. And it has spent K 50 billion of funds on the project.

In the first phase, priority is being given to fulfilling the food, clothing and shelter needs of storm victims and prompt medical attention. In the second phase, reconstruction of ravaged villages, accommodation of local people, renovation of roads, bridges and communication links and rehabilitation tasks such as opening of temporary clinics and schools are being carried out in affected villages, he added.

In the meantime, measures for regenerating agricultural, fishing and salt-making works and providing cattle, tractors, boats and fishing nets to storm-hit regions are being taken.

In the third phase, steps are to be taken for growing of windbreakers capable of preventing disaster and building of causeways linking villages, he disclosed, and stressed the need for officials to carry out relief and rehabilitation works and take disaster preparedness measures in an effective way.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe greeted and consoled storm victims being accommodated in shelter boxes at the relief camp.

After that, Senior General Than Shwe looked into clinics of Directorate of Medical Services.

At 9.10 am, Senior General Than Shwe and party arrived at the relief camp in Kyonda Village, Dedaye Township where they heard a report presented by Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi on opening of the relief camps in villages of the township. And Senior General Than Shwe gave necessary instructions.

Later, Senior General Than Shwe and party viewed medical treatment being given to storm victims of the relief camp.

Next, they looked into measures taken for supply of electricity through solar power system, opening of CDMA Station, supply of drinking water, supply of electricity to the relief camp with generators and cooking with the use of gas stoves, and greeted storm victims.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe and party proceeded to Pyapon where they were welcomed by

Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Commander of South-West Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe and Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing.

Accompanied by the Adjutant-General, the Commander and ministers, Senior General Than Shwe inspected measures being taken for rehabilitation of Pyapon.

On arrival at Saya Zawgi Yapyi Hall, Senior General Than Shwe heard a report presented by Minister Maj-Gen Soe Naing on loss and damages in storm-hit Pyapon and Kyaiklatt Townships, opening of relief camps, distribution of relief items, supply of drinking water, medical treatment given by Directorate of Medical Services, local health staff and doctors from India, prevention of waterborne and infectious diseases and reconstruction work being carried out by Dagon International Co, Yuzana Co and Pyae Phyo Kyaw Co.

The commander gave a supplementary report.

After hearing the reports, Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance, saying that the nation-building endeavours cannot be carried out by the government alone. The policy of the State is that only when the State, the Tatmadaw and the people make concerted effort will the nation-building endeavours meet with success.

In line with the policy, the Tatmadaw has

been striving together with the people under the leadership of the State in building of the nation since its assumption of the State responsibilities, he noted.

The nation has been able to overcome any crisis and difficulty through the concerted efforts of the State, the Tatmadaw and the people, he said.

The country was hit hard by the severe storm but relief and rehabilitation works are being carried out through the concerted efforts.

In future also, the nation-building endeavours will be carried out in line with the policy of the State and it is sure that the nation will meet with success in the long-run.

In addition to relief and reconstruction work, continued efforts will be made for disaster preparedness, he disclosed.

In that regard, causeways linking villages and embankments need to be built in coastal regions and regions close to the sea. And hospitals and dispensaries in storm-hit regions are to be upgraded while striving for upgrading of 200-bed hospitals and 100-bed hospitals in major cities and opening of more rural health care centres in strategic regions.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe and party went to Relief Camp No 1 where they inspected the accommodation of the victims. He then comforted and encouraged the victims. The Senior General looked into supply of drinking water.

Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected reconstruction of Pyapon People's Hospital by car. Next they proceeded to Dedaye, Pyapon District, in the afternoon and inspected reconstruction tasks there.

On arrival at the control office in Bogyoke Street, Senior General Than Shwe heard a report by Energy Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi on damage to Dedaye, rescue work, distribution of relief supplies and reconstruction and resettlement tasks being carried out by Eden Group Co. Commander Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe reported on matters related to surplus rice and rerunning of rice mills and Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo on reclamation of land and repair of dams and reservoirs.

Senior General Than Shwe gave necessary instructions. Next, he and party went to the relief camp near Dedaye Bridge where they inspected accommodation and comforted the victims. Later, the Senior General enquired about the providing of health care by medical staff and arrived back in Yangon in the afternoon.

MNA



Senior General Than Shwe inspects supply of electric power with solar system to relief camp in Kyonda village in Dedaye Township.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe inspects...

(from page 16)

work and resettlement in storm-hit areas in Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions. Senior General Than Shwe gave necessary guidance.

Present were General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Prime Minister General Thein Sein, members of SPDC Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence and Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein said duties were assigned to members of NDPCC ministers to carry out region-wise relief work. Achievements have been made due to the

cooperation of social organizations, local people, departmental personnel, national entrepreneurs and artistes.

He said priority was given to food, clothing and shelter needs and health care services of the storm victims in relief camps. Now work can be done properly, he added.

He said national entrepreneurs and social organizations are taking part in reconstruction of damaged buildings by the storm.

As regards the health of the victims, the physicians from central level joining hands with local health staff are carrying out disease preventive measures.

He said relief measures are being taken in storm-hit areas and arrangements are being



A convoy of cars carrying relief aids arrive in Pyaw Bwe.—MNA

made for local people to live in shelter. Most of the local people began to live in their own places. Arrangements have also been made for rebuilding of their houses in the open season, he said.

He said as the second phase, necessary assistance is being provided for farmland reclamation, establishment of tractor stations and cultivation camps and fishing in storm-affected areas.

Relief work and health care services can now be handled and tasks for reconstruction of buildings and houses in flooded areas are being implemented, he added.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe and the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) reported on measures taken in storm-hit areas in Yangon Division and Haingyi Island.

The Senior General said that it was necessary to keep accurate records of the affected areas in order that resettlement work could be carried out systematically and effectively. Resettlement work had to be assigned to the troops deployed region-wise. In the first stage, temporary shelters should be set up in the affected regions for the victims to be able to return to their respective towns and villages. Enough plastic sheets should be provided. And at the same time, measures should be taken for building strong houses when the rainy season was over. Moreover, roofing sheets should be provided sufficiently for the remaining houses and other buildings.

To provide health care services, temporary clinics

have been opened in strategic areas and more health assistants should be appointed. Regarding education, measures should be taken for the reopening of schools up to basic education level. For the time being, priority should be given to supply of food and safe drinking water. Moreover, it was necessary to rebuild the main livelihoods of the local people – fisheries, agriculture and salt-making industries.

Reclamation of land would have to be done for agriculture, small boats, powered boats and fishing nets provided for fisheries and salterns prepared for salt works.

In the first stage, the needs for food, clothing, shelter and medical care should be met and at the same time development work such as reconstruction of villages, resettlement, livelihood, transport and communication would have to be done. In the second stage, besides development work, coconut and betel nut trees should be planted in front of houses, embankments built behind houses and bridges constructed where necessary to prevent natural disasters.

Shortly after Cyclone Nargis hit, the State Peace and Development Council formed the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee with the Prime Minister as its

head and initially allotted K 5 billion for relief operation. However, over K 50 billion has been spent on relief and reconstruction work up to now and the government will use more funds if and when necessary.

Senior General Than Shwe and party visited relief camps in Yangon Division and comforted the victims.

At 3.40 pm, Senior General Than Shwe and party went to Atwinpadan relief camp in Hlinethaya Township. They inspected accommodation of the victims in the tents donated by nations of the world.

Senior General Than Shwe inspected water supply for the victims and cordially greeted them.

He also inspected arrival of relief items, installation of hand pumps and construction of fly-proof latrines and repair of No 7 Basic Education Middle School before the school season and gave guidance.

Senior General Than Shwe and party went to special relief camp on Yadanabon Street in Ward 17 in Dagon Myothit (South). He cordially met the victims in the camp and the clinic.

Senior General Than Shwe and party also met the victims in the relief camp on Maungmagan Kantha Road in Ward 16 in Dagon Myothit (North).—MNA

Relief supplies from foreign countries arrive

YANGON, 19 May —AN-12 flight carrying 10 tons of construction materials donated by Red Cross Society of Canada, five C-150 flights carrying about 50 tons of medical equipment, water bottles, purified water, blankets and plastics donated by the United State of America, MAI

carrying 6 tons of dry noodles, purified water and clothes donated by Baiyoke Hotel Group of Thailand, AN-10 flight carrying 12 tons of clothes, tarpaulin sheet and medicines donated by the US, DC-8 aircraft carrying 24 tons of medicines and tents

donated by IFRC and DC-8 flight carrying 38 tons of medicines and medical equipment donated by UNICEF arrived at Yangon International Airport today. The relief supplies donated by foreign countries have been transported to the storm-hit regions without delay.—MNA



Relief supplies of UNICEF for storm victims arrive at Yangon International Airport.—MNA

Earthquake report

YANGON, 19 May — A moderate earthquake of intensity 5.9 Richer Scale with its epicenter (Region

Indonesia) outside of Myanmar about 1100 miles south of Kaba-Aye Seismological obser-

vatory, was recorded at 21 hr 01 min 50 sec MST today.

MNA

**Rehabilitation
task goes
on with
greater
momentum**



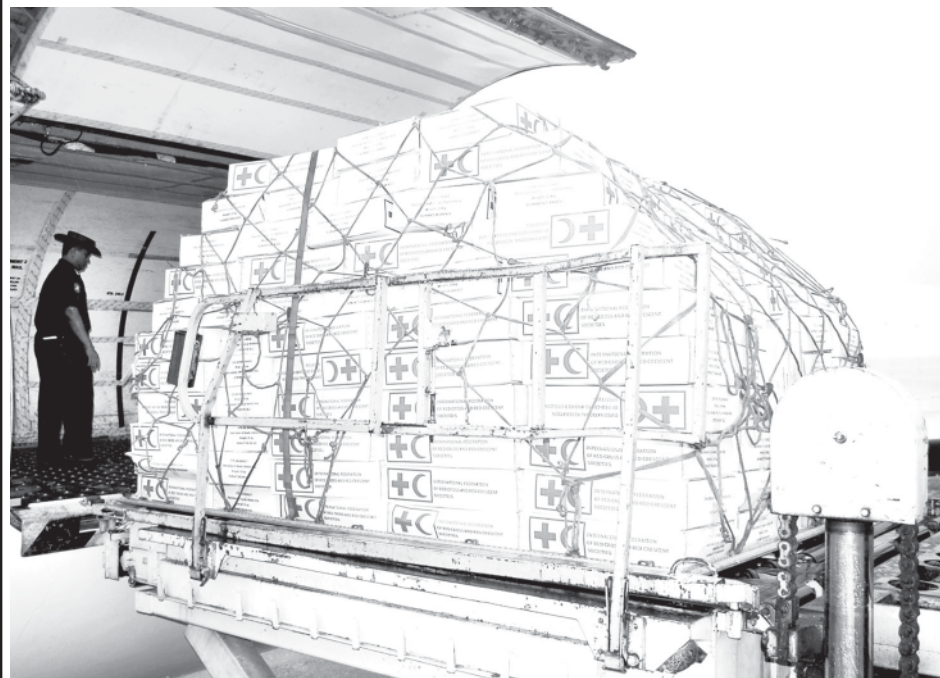
Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint greets specialists and nurses who will leave for storm-affected regions.—MNA



Members of MAAF hand over relief aids donated by wellwishers to victims of Dagon Myothit (Seikkan).—MNA



Health staff of Ministry of Health and Directorate of Medical Services giving medical treatment to patients in Labutta Township.—MNA



Relief aid donated by IFRC seen at Yangon International Airport.—MNA

Obama plans Iowa trip with victory in sight

ROSEBURG, (Oregon), 18 May—Senator Barack Obama, hoping that a pair of contests in Oregon and Kentucky on Tuesday will allow him to essentially clinch the Democratic nomination, will make a symbolic return to Iowa, the state that launched his underdog bid for the White House.

Polls suggest Obama will win Oregon comfortably while his rival, Senator Hillary Clinton, is expected to prevail in Kentucky by a wide margin.

But the Obama campaign expects that when the results from the two contests are added to his existing tally, he will

have racked up more than half of the pledged delegates awarded in the state-by-state contests, making him the likely winner in his battle with Clinton to become his party's nominee to face presumptive Republican nominee John McCain in November.

MNA/Reuters

British Union strike threats add to Brown's woes

LONDON, 18 May — British Prime Minister Gordon Brown faced a summer of industrial unrest on Friday when union leaders warned that a million public sector workers were poised to strike over pay.

The union warnings came only days after Brown ended a revolt in his Labour Party by offering emergency tax cuts.

Brown's popularity has crumbled in the polls less than a year after he took over from Tony Blair, raising doubts over whether he can stay on as prime minister.

Labour was pushed into third place in local elections this month and risks losing a safe

parliamentary seat next Thursday in a contest triggered by the death of the sitting member.

After weeks of party dissent over the abolition of a 10 per cent tax band that had benefited low-earners, Brown's

government announced it would borrow an extra 2.7 billion pounds (5.3 billion US dollars) at a time when the public finances are tight in order to fund tax cuts for 22 million people.

MNA/Reuters



Dancers Stella Arauzo (R) and Adrian Galia from the Antonio Gades company perform "Carmen" during a dress rehearsal in Madrid on 13 May, 2008. — XINHUA

India to resume Pakistan talks, meet new leaders

ISLAMABAD, 18 May — India's Foreign Minister travels to Pakistan this week for his first meeting with leaders of a new civilian government and to review a peace process that has been in the doldrums for more than a year.

Indian External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee will meet his Pakistani counterpart, Shah Mehmood Qureshi, on Wednesday, a day after their top civil servants hold talks.

The nuclear-armed rivals launched peace efforts in 2004 after nearly going to war a fourth time after Islamist militant attacks in India linked to a nearly 20-year revolt,

which Pakistan sympathises with, against Indian rule in the Kashmir region. While ties have warmed, the two sides have made no signifi-

cant progress on their main dispute over the divided, Muslim-majority Himalayan region they both claim.

MNA/Reuters

A gosling looks for food in front of a plastic coyote posted as a scarecrow on a lawn, in Tewksbury, Mass, on 15 May, 2008. The plastic model is designed to scare away geese and keep them off the lawn, but appeared to have little effect on the young bird.—INTERNET



Tourists take photos inside the grounds of the Royal Palace, the residence of the King of Cambodia, in Phnom Penh in this file photo. INTERNET



Iran blames US for attack on diplomats in Baghdad

TEHERAN, 18 May — Iran has denounced "terror attack" on its embassy staff in Baghdad and held the United States responsible for violating diplomatic immunity in Iraq, the official IRNA news agency reported on Saturday.

Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki made the remarks, while strongly condemning the terror attack, said IRNA.

"Such incidents are related to the presence of those who are responsible for the insecurity in Iraq and their presence provides the excuse for them," Mottaki was quoted as saying.

The top Iranian diplomat also asked Iran's Ambassador to Baghdad

Hassan Kazemi Qomi to work with Iraqi officials to transfer the wounded embassy staff to Iran for medical treatment, according to IRNA.

An Iraqi Interior Ministry source said on Friday that five Iranian embassy staff were wounded when their vehicles came under fire on Thursday night in northern Baghdad.

"Unknown gunmen opened small-arms fire on two sport utility vehicles (SUV) of the Iranian embassy at about 9:30 pm (1900 GMT) near Buratha Shiite mosque in Atefiyah neighbourhood," the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

MNA/Xinhua

Lebanese Army says internal fighting serves Israel

BEIRUT, 18 May — Lebanese Army Commander General Michel Suleiman considered that Lebanon's internal fighting would only serve Israel, local Elnashra website reported Saturday.

Suleiman, during an inspection tour of Army positions and outposts in southern Lebanon, said "embroilment of the resistance in the infighting is tantamount to an explicit service to the Israeli enemy," while the later prepares an new aggression on Lebanon.

Internal fighting also "prepares the environment for terrorism," Suleiman added.

He affirmed that the reason the Lebanese Army did not use "artilleries" was to preserve civil peace during the last week's clashes, "in order to stop blood shed, and prevent more internal divisions".

The Army commander said that all parties should give up "provoking and escalating" language which have been use for the past years and have resulted in the latest internal clashes. —MNA/Xinhua

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UK banks may swap up to \$175b mortgage assets

LONDON, 18 May— Britain’s banks are set to swap between 80 billion and 90 billion pounds (175 billion US dollars) of mortgage-backed assets for Treasury bills, nearly twice the base level set by the Bank of England last month, the Financial Times reported on Friday.

The British Bankers’ Association said details of which banks were accessing the facility were confidential, but a spokesman said “it wouldn’t be surprising” if banks were accessing more funds as there were still strains in the market.

“All of the banks are planning to use this facility,” an industry source said. “The reports in the market at the time were that it would be 50 billion to 100 billion, so this doesn’t feel un-expected.”

Citing debt market sources, the FT said banks had approached rating agencies about how to structure deals that will receive the necessary

triple-A rating.

With banks still reluctant to lend to each other many months into the credit crunch, the Bank of England last month unveiled a plan to swap lenders’ risky mortgage assets for at least 50 billion pounds of government debt. The Bank said at the time that there was no upper limit and that the total value of the rescue plan would depend on banks’ operational needs. Governor Mervyn King said it could well “go higher” than 50 billion pounds as the figure had been based on discussions with top banks, but 119 institutions were eligible.

MNA/Reuters

Released Pakistani Ambassador tells about captivity

ISLAMABAD, 18 May— Pakistan’s Ambassador to Afghanistan Tariq Azizuddin has said that the kidnappers had not shown harsh attitude during his abduction.

Talking to reporters here at his residence Saturday, Azizuddin said that he remained in Pakistan during the entire period and the kidnappers forced him to make a video-film requesting the government to get his release.

Azizuddin was released late Friday. He was heading to the Afghan capital Kabul with his driver when he disappeared in the Khyber tribal district bordering

Afghanistan on 11 February. Azizuddin said that during his captivity his guard and driver stayed with him. He said that the kidnappers were local people and they called each other Mujahid. He said that before his release the kidnappers were very disturbed. They said that they had reports of action against them.

Speaking on the same occasion, Adviser on Interior Rehman Malik ruled out any deal with the kidnappers and said that Azizuddin was released by the law enforcement agencies. He said no one was released in exchange for the ambassador.

MNA/Xinhua

Anti-Qaeda members killed in Iraq’s Diyala Province

BAGHDAD, 18 May— Gunmen attacked an anti-Qaeda group base in a town in Iraq’s Diyala province on Saturday, killing three of the group members and wounding six others, a provincial police source said.

The attack took place in the morning when some 20 armed men stormed the base of the

Awakening Council group in the town of Wajihyah, 20 kilometres east of the provincial capital Baquba, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Around midday, a woman suicide bomber blew up an explosive vest outside another base of Awakening Council

group in central Baquba, killing a policeman and a nearby woman and wounding more than ten other people.

Several council members were among the wounded people.

The Awakening Council involves local armed groups, especially some powerful anti-US Sunni insurgent groups, who fight the al-Qaeda network after the latter exercised indiscriminate killings against both Shiite and Sunni Muslim communities.—MNA/Xinhua

Saudi ready to pump more oil, sees no need

RIYADH, 18 May—The world’s top oil exporter Saudi Arabia told the world’s largest energy consumer the United States it was ready to pump more oil, but saw no need to do so for now, a US official said on Friday. On his second visit to the kingdom this year, US President George W Bush met Saudi King Abdullah on Friday to renew his appeal for more oil from OPEC to tame record oil

prices.

The kingdom reiterated its pledge to give customers all the oil they want, but saw no unmet demand, Stephen Hadley, Bush’s national security adviser, told reporters after the meeting.

US oil prices hit a record near 128 US dollars a barrel on Friday. The US says more oil would help lower prices, while OPEC officials blame the high price on factors beyond

their control, such as speculation and the weak dollar.

MNA/Reuters

French FM welcomes agreement to end Lebanese crisis

PARIS, 18 May—French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner has welcomed the signing of an agreement, concluded under the auspices of the Arab League, by the Lebanese Government and the Hamas-led opposition, to end a crisis that had turned into an armed struggle over the past few days.

“I welcome the agreement, signed under the aegis of the Qatari Prime Minister of and the Arab League, with a view to ending the crisis that has engulfed Beirut over the last few days,” the Foreign Minister said in a statement Thursday.

“I would like to reaffirm the support of France to the institutions of

Lebanon, especially the government and the Lebanese Army”, whose work “was crucial in

creating the necessary conditions to end the crisis”, said Kouchner.

MNA/Xinhua



United Auto Workers leave a union meeting in Detroit, on 18 May, 2008. American Axle and Manufacturing Holdings Inc workers received details of a tentative contract agreement that could settle an 11-week strike by the UAW union.—INTERNET

France’s domination of Moroccan auto-market threatened

RABAT, 18 May—French automakers’ continued domination of the Moroccan car market has come under a serious threat from Asian manufacturers who are slowly penetrating all the major sectors of the Northern African country’s economy, industry sources said. “The high penetration of Asian cars could soon threaten the dominance of French brands which still represent 40 per cent of the market,” Abderrahim Benkirane, president of the Moroccan Association of Motorvehicle Importers (AIVAM), said in an interview with the Thursday edition of the *Le Matin* daily.

MNA/Xinhua

Juice may beat fruit for preventing heart disease

NEW YORK, 18 May — Grapes, apples and their juices can prevent the development of atherosclerosis in hamsters eating a high-fat, high-cholesterol diet, French researchers have found.

Fruit juices had a more powerful anti-atherosclerotic effect than the fruit itself, Dr Kelly Decorde of the Universite Montpellier and colleagues found, showing for the first time that processing fruit can have a “major impact” on its health benefits.

Most of the fruit people eat is processed, the researchers say, but information on the nutritional composition of a fruit is typically limited to its raw form.

To investigate how juicing might

affect the content of phenolic compounds, which are powerful antioxidants contained in fruits, the researchers fed hamsters grapes, grape juice, apples, apple juice or water, along with a diet designed to promote atherosclerosis — the buildup of fatty plaque deposits in the arteries that can lead to heart attacks or strokes.

A control group of animals ate normal chow.

The amount of fruit the hamsters consumed was equivalent to three apples or three bunches of grapes daily for a human. Hamsters given juice drank the equivalent of four glasses daily for a person weighing 70 kilos (154 pounds).

MNA/Reuters



A Eurofighter combat jet. Two senior executives at Britain’s largest defence firm, BAE Systems, were questioned by US authorities probing corruption claims over a massive arms deal with Saudi Arabia, the Sunday Telegraph said.—INTERNET

Listening to music found to lower blood pressure

NEW YORK, 18 May — Listening to half an hour of music each day may significantly lower your blood pressure, according to research reported at the American Society of Hypertension meeting in New Orleans this week.

In the study, researchers found that people with mild hypertension (high blood pressure) who listened to classical, Celtic or Indian (raga) music for just 30 minutes a day for one month had significant reductions in their blood

pressure.

“Listening to music is soothing and has often been associated with controlling patient-reported pain or anxiety and acutely reducing blood pressure,” study investigator Dr Pietro A Modesti, of the University of Florence in Italy, noted in a written statement from the meeting. “But for the first time, today’s results clearly illustrate the impact daily music listening has on ambulatory blood pressure.”

Ambulatory blood

pressure refers to readings taken repeatedly over the course of a day.

A total of 48 adults ages 45 to 70 who were taking medication to control mild hypertension took part in the study. Of these, 28 listened to 30 minutes of “rhythmically homogenous” classical, Celtic or raga music daily while practicing slow, controlled breathing exercises. The remaining 20 participants, serving as the control group, made no changes to their daily routine. — MNA/Reuters



A dog shows off its skills during a flying disk performance at the VenusFort family dog Festa in Tokyo recently. —INTERNET

Online maps reveal noise levels across England

LONDON, 18 May — Maps showing noise levels in towns across England were published on Friday in an attempt to reduce the disruption caused by factories, planes, trains and cars, the government said.

Residents in 23 towns and cities will be able to check how noisy their area is by visiting a new government website, www.defra.gov.uk/noise-mapping.

The site collapsed on

Friday morning due to “unprecedented demand”. A message said engineers were working on the problem.

Ministers say the maps represent the most thorough attempt yet to grasp the scale of a problem that some studies have linked to serious illness and educational difficulties.

The maps, drawn up to meet a European Union directive, will be used to help cut noise in the worst-affected areas.

“They will provide a springboard to go forward and tackle unnecessary and unreasonable noise pollution,” said Environment Minister Jonathan Shaw.

MNA/Reuters

Russian cargo spaceship docks with “ISS”

MOSCOW, 18 May — A Russian cargo spaceship has docked with the International Space Station (ISS), the Mission Control near Moscow said on Saturday. The Progress M-14 spaceship docked with the station at 01:39 Moscow Time on Saturday (2139 GMT), the Mission Control said.

The cargo spaceship delivered some 2.5 tons of food, water, fuel, equipment and gifts from the crews’ families to Russian cosmonauts Sergei Volkov and

Oleg Kononenko and NASA astronaut Garrett E Reisman.

The spaceship, which blasted off from central Asia’s Baikonur space centre in Kazakhstan Thursday, is an unmanned version of the Soyuz spacecraft. It is expected to be filled with waste and burst during its way back to Earth after undocking.

The Progress is one of two cargo types of spacecraft supplying the ISS.

MNA/Xinhua

Spanish police arrest five suspected hackers

MADRID, 18 May — Five suspected hackers who were accused of attacking government websites in the United States, Asia and Latin America have been arrested, Spanish police said Saturday. They were arrested this week in the Spanish cities of Barcelona, Burgos, Malaga and Valencia.

Among the arrested are two 16-year-old youths who belong to “one of the most active groups of hackers on the Internet,” which have disabled 21,000 web pages in two years, the police said in a statement.

The members of the group have never met, but they have allegedly organized and coordinated attacks over the Internet, working in particular with hackers in Latin America, according to the police. — MNA/Xinhua



Italy’s Daniele Bennati, second from left, outsprints Paolo Bettini, fourth from left, to win the eight stage of the Giro, Tour of Italy cycling race, from Civitavecchia to San Vincenzo, on 18 May, 2008.

INTERNET

SPORTS

Mourinho hopes to find coaching job within one month



Jose Mourinho

LISBON, 19 May — Former Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho said Sunday that he hoped to return to coaching within four weeks.

“There’s a week left before the end of leagues. I still don’t know where I’ll work but I hope to be working in one month,” Mourinho was quoted as saying.

“I don’t know where (I’ll be working) but I’m sure that I will be working.”

The 45-year-old, who left Chelsea last September, recently denied reports he had held talks with Serie A leaders Inter Milan.

Mourinho, who lifted the Champions League with Porto before guiding Chelsea to two Premiership titles and an FA Cup, is one of the most sought-after coaches following his abrupt departure from Chelsea.—Internet

Valencia agree to let Canizares leave at end of season

MADRID, 18 May — Valencia have agreed with goalkeeper Santiago Canizares to rescind his contract from the start of next week, the Primera Liga club said on Friday.

"I want to thank him for everything he has given this club. He has been an icon and we wish the very best of luck," president Agustin Morera told a news conference. "We would have liked it all to have finished in a better way but he deserves to leave the club with a big send off." — MNA/Reuters

Ibrahimovic stars as Inter win third straight Italian title

ROME, 19 May — Inter Milan won their third straight Italian Serie A title with a 2-0 victory at Parma on Sunday.

Sweden forward Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored both goals after coming off the

bench to secure the nerazzurri’s 16th Scudetto crown.

AS Roma’s hopes of snatching the title on the last day of the season faltered as they were held to a 1-1 draw at Catania, but

Ibrahimovic’s double rendered their result meaningless anyway.

“That was tough, particularly the last month and a half,” Inter midfielder Dejan Stankovic told Sky TV. “Everyone can say what they want but we’re the best. Congratulations to Roma who play great football and who believed until the end but Inter have been top for the last two years.

“It’s more exciting to win it on the final day, with this weather (heavy rain) and with Parma who were fighting for their lives.”

Fiorentina claimed the last Champions League qualifying position after finishing fourth following their 1-0 win at Torino.

Internet



Inter Milan supporters celebrate in front of the gothic cathedral after their team clinched the Italian soccer title, in downtown Milan, on 18 May, 2008. Inter Milan won its third straight Italian league title Sunday as Zlatan Ibrahimovic returned from a six-week injury layoff and scored twice in a 2-0 win over Parma in the final round of the season.—INTERNET

Australia to bid for club World Cup

MELBOURNE, 18 May — Australia will bid to host the Club World Cup in 2009 and 2010, Football Federation Australia (FFA) said on Sunday.

The tournament involves the champion clubs from world governing body FIFA's six confederations and another from the host country.

Japan, which is bidding again, has hosted the last three tournaments and will host it later this year. The United Arab Emirates are also bidding, the FFA said in a statement.

"We believe Australia has very strong credentials," FFA chief executive Ben Buckley said in the statement.

"Australia has quality facilities, good systems and infrastructure and the capacity to develop more, stable governance and football fans and all-round sports fans who are knowledgeable and passionate."

Buckley said the FFA was keen on hosting major soccer events. — MNA/Reuters



Fiorentina forward Osvaldo of Argentina scores with a bicycle kick during the Italian Serie A top league soccer match between Torino and Fiorentina at the Olympic Stadium in Turin, Italy, on 18 May, 2008. Fiorentina beat Torino 1-0 to secure fourth place and Italy’s final Champions League berth.—INTERNET



Wayne Odesnik from USA returns a ball during his 1st round match against Ivo Minar from Czech Republic at the ARAG ATP World Team Championship in Duesseldorf, western Germany on 18 May, 2008. Odesnik won the match 6-2, 6-1.—INTERNET

Laudrup to leave Getafe at end of season

MADRID, 18 May — Getafe coach Michael Laudrup announced on Friday he will leave the Primera Liga side at the end of the season.

The former Denmark international steered Getafe to the UEFA Cup quarter-finals in their debut campaign in Europe, a second successive final of the King's Cup and ensured they will remain in the Primera Liga for a fifth season in a row.

"My time at the club has come to an end," Laudrup told a news conference.

"I'm making this announcement so that the club can have a chance to look for a replacement and in order to express my thanks to them for having given me this opportunity. "This club is a very recent arrival to the first division, but despite that people said to me when I took over here that I had gone to a club which had great expectations. —MNA/Reuters

ပညာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
ကျောင်းအပ်နှံရေးသိတမ်းပတ်
မေလ ၂၅ ရက် မှ ၃၁ ရက် အထိ

ကျောင်းနေအရွယ်ကလေး ကျောင်းအပ်နှံရေး
ပြည်သူ့အားလုံး ပါဝင်ဆောင်ရွက်ပေး

Giovani hat-trick gives Rijkaard a winning send off

MADRID, 18 May — A hat-trick from Giovani dos Santos helped Barcelona to a 5-3 victory away to relegated Real Murcia on Saturday which gave coach Frank Rijkaard a winning send off in his last league game in charge.

Murcia took an early lead through Juan Ochoa, but three from Giovani and one each from Samuel Eto'o and Thierry Henry made sure of third place in the Primera Liga for Barca.

games, three ahead of fourth-placed Atletico Madrid who visit Valencia on Sunday. Barca have the superior head-to-head record over Atletico.

Murcia striker Alonso headed against the crossbar early on and had another pushed round the post soon after as the visitors struggled under the high ball. —MNA/Reuters

Cafu, Serginho to leave AC Milan

MILAN, 18 May — Cafu and Serginho will leave AC Milan at the end of the season, the Brazilian full backs said on Friday.

Last season's European champions are letting the pair go after deciding to bring in fresh blood following a poor campaign, with Barcelona defender Gianluca Zambrotta a target.

World Cup winner Cafu, 37, will return to Brazil but is unsure if he will retire.

"I have had five marvellous years in which I have managed to win everything," the former AS Roma right back told Milan Channel.

MNA/Reuters

သဘာဝဘေးအန္တရာယ်ကျရောက်သောဒေသများရှိ ပြည်သူများအတွက် ကျန်းမာရေးသတိပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်

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

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Strong quake hits Indonesia's Sumatra

JAKARTA, 19 May—Earthquake hit magnitude of 6.0 rocked Bengkulu Province in Sumatra Island of Indonesia on Sunday afternoon, but there were no reports of damage or casualty, the country's meteorology agency said.

The quake struck at 19:17 Jakarta Time (1217 GMT) with its epicentre at 73 kilometres southeast of Mukomuko Town in the province and with a depth of 15 kilometres below the sea bed, official of the agency Jajat Sudjatmiko said.

The intensity of the quake was felt up to the nearby province of West Sumatra, but the intensity was wholly weak, he said.

"The shakes of the quake was so weak that they caused no damage or casualty" he told Xinhua.

MNA/Xinhua

Seven killed as storm "Halong" sweeps across N Philippines

MANILA, 19 May—At least seven people were killed and thousands forced to leave their homes as tropical storm "Halong" swept across the

northern Philippines over the weekend, the Philippine Star reported on Monday.

The National newspaper quoted the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC), the national disaster relief agency, as saying that the identities of the three dead remained unconfirmed.

NDCC spokesman Anthony Golez said the victims were mostly killed by electrocution or fallen objects such as trees and iron sheets.

MNA/Xinhua



Tuesday, 20 May
View on today

<p>7:00 am</p> <p>1. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော် ယောဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ဥပ္ပါတသန္တိပါဠိတော်</p>	<p>7:25 am</p> <p>2. To be healthy exercise</p> <p>7:30 am</p> <p>3. Morning news</p> <p>7:45 am</p> <p>4. ပြည်ထောင်စုတိုင်းရင်းသားရိုးရာ အက</p> <p>8:00 am</p> <p>5. ကြေးမုံရိပ်သွင်တေးနယဉ်</p> <p>8:30 am</p> <p>6. International news</p>
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<p>4:00 pm</p> <p>1. Martial song</p> <p>4:15 pm</p> <p>2. Musical programme</p> <p>4:30 pm</p> <p>3. Musical programme</p> <p>4:45 pm</p> <p>4. Song to uphold National Spirits</p> <p>5:00 pm</p> <p>5. Musical programme</p>	<p>5:20 pm</p> <p>6. Sing & enjoy</p> <p>6:00 pm</p> <p>7. Evening news</p> <p>6:30 pm</p> <p>8. Weather report</p> <p>6:35 pm</p> <p>9. ကြယ်ပွင့်များရဲ့ရင်ခုန်သံ</p> <p>6:55 pm</p> <p>10. သုတစုံလင်ရွှေညက်ရှင်</p>
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7:10 pm

11. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်တယ်---ချစ်တယ်" (အပိုင်း-၂၁)

8:00 pm

12. News

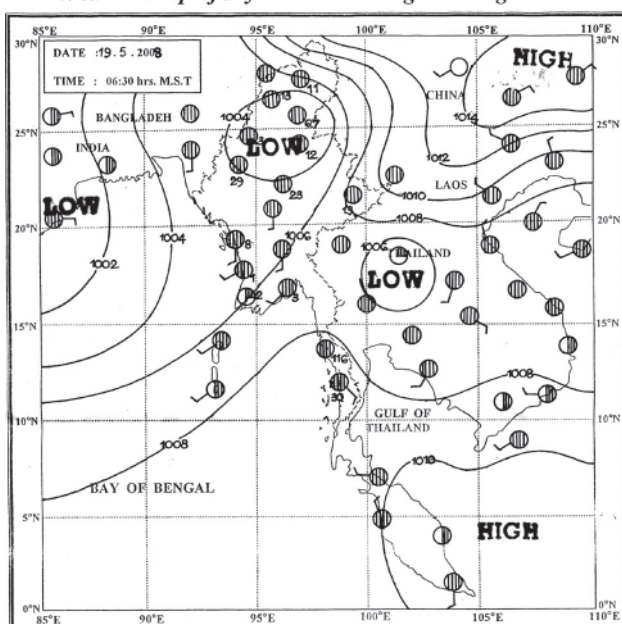
13. International news

14. Weather report

15. မြန်မာ့ရုပ်ရှင် "သိပ်ချစ်တယ်ဒီက" (အပိုင်း-၁) (ရန်အောင်၊ ဇိုးသု၊ ထွန်းအိန္ဒြာ၊ မေသညာဦး) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကျော်စောလင်း၊ သမီး-ငြိမ်းပြာရည်)

WEATHER

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



	MODERATE		calm		5 mph		10 mph		15 mph
	ROUGH		clear sky		1/4 covered		1/2 covered		overcast
	VERY ROUGH		Thunder with rain		Rain / Drizzle				
Pressure in hPa Rainfall in mm									
	Low pressure area		Depression		Cyclonic Storm				

Monday, 19 May, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Magway Division and Kayah State, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Shan and Chin States, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions, scattered in Kayin State, lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Yangon Divisions, fairly widespread in Rakhine State and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with locally heavyfalls in Mon State and Taninthayi Division. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below May average temperatures in Kachin, Shan and Mon States, upper Sagaing and Ayeyawady Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) below May average temperatures in Rakhine State, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and about May average temperatures in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Mawlamyine (9.37) inches, Thaton (6.69) inches, Longlon (5.59) inches, Dawei (4.61) inches, Mogok (3.00) inches, Myitkyina (2.79) inches, Myeik (2.56) inches and Machanbaw (2.36) inches.

Maximum temperature on 18-5-2008 was 84°F. Minimum temperature on 19-5-2008 was 74°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 19-5-2008 was 89%. Total sunshine hours on 18-5-2008 was (0.3) hours approx.

Rainfall on 19-5-2008 was (Tr) at Mingaladon, (0.12) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.04) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (23.70) inches at Mingaladon, (27.95) inches at Kaba-Aye and (30.28)

inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from Northwest at (15:30) hours MST on 18-5-2008.

Bay inference: Monsoon is strong in the South Bay and Andaman Sea and weather is partly cloudy in the East Central Bay and Andaman Sea and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 20-5-2008: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kachin, Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, fairly widespread in Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions, scattered in Mandalay Division and isolated in the remaining States and Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State and Taninthayi Division. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of continuation of thundery conditions in the Central Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 20-5-2008: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 20-5-2008: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 20-5-2008: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Senior General Than Shwe inspects relief and rehabilitation work in Yangon Division

Rebuilding of main livelihoods of local people necessary

NAY PYI TAW, 19 May – Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, accompanied by General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, member of SPDC Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence and officials of SPDC Office, arrived in Yangon from Nay Pyi Taw by Tatmadaw aircraft yesterday to inspect relief and rehabilitation work in storm-hit areas in Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions.

Senior General Than Shwe was welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Prime Minister General Thein Sein, Lt-

Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Devel-

opment Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, Chairman of Yangon

City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and senior military officers.

At 2.20 pm at Yangon Command, Chairman of National Disaster Preparedness Central Commit-

tee Prime Minister General Thein Sein and members reported on relief (See page 9)

Senior General Than Shwe hears a report on rehabilitation work in storm-hit areas by Prime Minister General Thein Sein.

MNA



Half-mast flags to mourn victims for three days

NAY PYI TAW, 19 MAY – The State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has released Announcement No (6/2008) dated 19 May, 2008. The full text of the announcement is as follows:

Union of Myanmar
State Peace and Development Council
Announcement No (6/2008)
Fullmoon Day of Kason, 1370 ME
(19th May, 2008)

Days of mourning designated

1. Cyclone Nargis started to enter the Union of Myanmar through Hainggyigyun at 9:00 am on 2 May, 2008, and left only at 12:30 pm on 4 May, 2008.
2. The Cyclone hit Ayeyawady, Yangon and Bago Divisions and Mon and Kayin States in the Union of Myanmar claiming many lives and causing enormous destruction to houses, schools, hospitals, religious buildings, watercraft, plantations and forests including food supplies.
3. It is hereby announced that the three days from 20 May 2008 to 22 May 2008 inclusive have been designated as the days of mourning for the loss of lives of the people and the flags shall be flown at half mast starting from 9 am on those days.

By order

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