

Senior General Than Shwe comforts victims in Pathein, Labutta, Myaungmya

NAY PYI TAW, 20 May -Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in- Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe visited relief camps in Pathein and comforted Ecothe victims this afternoon.

The Senior General left for Labutta at 3 pm. He met and comforted the victims at relief camps. He gave necessary guidance concerning the reports of the minis-ters. At 4.30 pm, the Senior General and party left for Myaungmya in a motorcade and consoled the victims of Labutta who are accommodated in Myaungmya.

Prime Minister receives Under Secretary-General of UN Emergency Relief Coordinator



NAY PYI TAW, 20 May-Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein received a team led by Under Secretary-General of the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Mr John Holmes at Zeya Thiri Beikman on Konmyinthta, Yangon this morning.

Present on the occasion were Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Director-General of the Government Office Col Thant Shin and Director- General of Protocol Department U Kyaw Kyaw.

National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee issues News Release No. 6

NAY PYI TAW, 20 May-The National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee issued News Release No. 6 today.

The full text of the announcement is as follows:-

News Release No. 6

1. Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, accompanied by officials, has inspected relief and rehabilitation tasks around Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions since 18 May.

2. After comforting the victims, the Senior General gave guidance on collection of precise data and figures and effective implementation of rehabilitation works after laying down plans systematically. He also gave guidance on compilation of the list of orphans in the storm-hit areas and opening of orphanages in Pyapon District and Labutta.

3. For the time being, the collected storm-victim children are under care according to a special programme in Maubin and Myaungmya, and plans are under way to comply with the guidance stated in para (2).

National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee

Date: 20-5-2008

Place: Nay Pyi Taw

State Flag flown at half mast to mourn victims



YANGON, 20 May- The storm Nargis hit Ayeyawady, Yangon and Bago divisions and Mon and Kayin states starting from 9 am on 2 May to 12.30 pm on 4 May. The State Peace and Development Council issued Announcement No 6/2008 on 19 May that the Cyclone hit Ayeyawady and Yangon divisions, claiming many lives and causing enormous destruction to houses, religious buildings, schools, hospitals, watercraft, crop plantations, and food supplies, and the three days from 20 May to 22 May 2008 inclusive were designated as the days of mourning for the loss of lives of the people and the flags had to be flown at half mast.

Therefore, State flags were seen flying at half mast starting from 9 am today to mourn the victims at the government offices, City Hall, district, township, ward PDC offices, schools, hospitals, hotels and houses in Nay Pyi Taw.

Similarly, State flags were being flown at half mast starting from 9 am at the government offices, City Hall, offices of the Division, District, Township and Ward Peace and Development Councils, schools, hospitals, hotels and houses in Yangon Division. Foreign embassies in Yangon were also flying the State flags of the nations concerned at half mast.

Likewise, State flags were seen flying at half mast to mourn the victims starting from 9 am at the government offices and houses the whole country including Mandalay,

Taunggyi and Patheingyi. In like manner, vehicles and people made a three-minute silence to mourn the victims at 9:00 today.

Minister for Foreign Affairs arrives back after attending Special ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting



NAY PYI TAW, 20 May-Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win arrived back here by air this morning from Singapore after attending the Special ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting held on 19 May 2008 in Singapore.

While in Singapore, Minister U Nyan Win attended the Working Lunch of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers held at 12.30 hours at the Shangrila Hotel and informally exchanged views on the matters on agenda of the Special ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting. Minister U Nyan Win briefly explained the situation of damages caused by the Cyclone Nargis, relief and rehabilitation efforts and needs for international assistance.

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win then attended the Special ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting held at the Ball Room of Shangrila Hotel at 2:30 pm. The Meeting discussed and agreed to the establishment of an ASEAN-led coordinating mechanism to facilitate the effective distribution and utilization of international assistance, the holding of a Pledging Conference in Yangon for providing international assistance for the Cycloneaffected victims in Myanmar and to dispatch medical teams from all the ASEAN countries to Myanmar.

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win also attended the Press Conference held by Chairman of the ASEAN Standing Committee, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore Mr George Yeo.

During his stay in Singapore, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win met separately with Mr Thongloun Sisoluth, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lao PDR at 08.00 hours, with Mr Norpoddon Patama, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand at 08.45 hours and with Mr Pham Gia Khiem, Foreign Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, at 10.00 hours on the 19th May and held informal discussions on matters relating to the Special Meeting.

The Chairman's Statement was issued at the conclusion of the meeting. Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, together with his Thai counterpart Mr Norpoddon Patama, attended the signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Union

of Myanmar and the Kingdom of Thailand on the establishment of the Dawei Deep Seaport at the Shangrila Hotel at 09.00 hrs on the same day. At 4.45 pm on 19th May 2008, Minister U Nyan Win also held discussion with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia Dr Rais Yatim and then received from his counterpart a Bank Draft amounting one million US dollars donated by the Government of Malaysia to the victims of Cyclone Nargis in the Union of Myanmar.

Ministers receive delegation led by Under Secretary-General of UN Emergency Relief Coordinator



YANGON, 20 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 received a delegation led by Under Secretary-General of UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Mr John Holmes at the meeting hall of the National Archives Department of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development on Pyidaungsu Yeiktha Road here this morning.

Also present on the occasion were the director-general and deputy directors-general of MNPEC, officials of UN Emergency Relief Office and resident representatives of UN agencies.

At the meeting, Mr John Holmes said that the Ministers receive delegation led by Under Secretary-General of UN Emergency Relief Coordinator UN Secretary-General and all of them are deeply touched by the loss of lives and property caused by cyclone Nargis that hit Myanmar recently, and that he had learnt that the Myanmar government had designated the three days as the days of mourning for the loss of lives of the people.

Next, the ministers explained the situation of Myanmar, saying that the severe cyclone Nargis hit Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions on 2 and 3 May and with unusual high tides it caused loss of lives and property. And they explained prompt action taken by the government shortly after the storm, immediate delivery of relief supplies donated by local and international organizations to storm-hit regions by helicopter, relief and rehabilitation work which calls for a lot of construction materials for rebuilding of houses, schools, hospitals and dispensaries, water pumps, tractors, fuel and fertilizer for regenerating farmlands, trawlers and fishing nets for fisheries, cooperation of UN, INGOs and the government in relief and rehabilitation mission, and thanked UN, INGOs and donor countries for their contributions.

Afterwards, Mr John Holmes said that they are desirous of extending a helping hand to Myanmar in her rehabilitation of storm-hit regions, and that they will cooperate with Myanmar government in that regard. And he explained what they would be taking in the rehabilitation drive, and expressed his pleasure for explaining of relief and rehabilitation work by the ministers and said that they are here for just humanitarian aid and nothing politics.

Relief supplies flow to storm victims in Ayeyawady Division



YANGON, 20 May- Relief supplies are timely flowing to storm victims in Ayeyawady Division by Tatmadaw helicopters, by vessels and by car.

Vehicles loaded with relief supplies left the Trade Warehouse near Kyaikwaing Pagoda Street of Mayangon Township for Bogale, Labutta, Pyapon, Ngaputaw and Hainggyikyun Townships this morning.

Those wishing to donate relief items to the storm victims may contact the Trade Warehouse near Kyaikwaing Pagoda Street of Mayangon Township (Tel-09-8600526 and 09- 8600701).

More relief supplies from international community arrive at Yangon International Airport



YANGON, 20 May- International community are sending more relief supplies for the storm-hit regions.

Five C-130 planes from the USA carrying blankets, nylon ropes, plastic sheets, water buckets, nails, water bottles, plywood and foodstuff weighing over 42 tons arrived at Yangon International Airport at 8.35 am, 9.30 am, 9.35 am, 3.35 pm and 4.15 pm today,

AN-12 plane from Denmark based UNICEF carrying medicines and hospital equipment weighing over 16 tons at 8.40 am, a plane from Switzerland carrying mosquito nets weighing 4 tons, a plane from IFRC carrying relief items and kitchen wares weighing 6.68 tons, a plane from UNICEF carrying waterpurifying tablets weighing 0.48 ton, a plane from Korean Red Cross carrying health related items weighing 3 tons at 9.05 am, Y7-100 plane from Laos carrying varieties of medicines for Laotian medical team at 10.30 am, MAI plane carrying 111 packages of relief supplies provided by Baiyoke Hotel Group at 11.30 am, DC-8 plane from Save The Children of Britain (UK) carrying tarpaulin, mosquito nets, water buckets and construction materials weighing 39 tons at 1 pm, IL-76 plane from Finland Red Cross carrying tarpaulin, tent related items and kitchen wares weighing over 40 tons at 1.20 pm, IL-76 plane from WFP carrying biscuit weighing 40 tons at 1.35 pm, AN-12 plane from Spanish Red Cross carrying tarpaulin, kitchen wares and personal health related items weighing 14.52 tons at 2.40 pm and DC-8 plane from Red Cross of the Netherlands carrying personal health related items weighing 35.89 tons at 3.20 pm. Similarly, PG-701 plane from Myanmar citizens in Thailand carrying blankets, mosquito nets and towels weighing 2.9 tons arrived at Yangon International Airport and MI-518 plane from Singaporean Red Cross carrying varieties of medicines weighing over 6 tons on 19 May.

Relics enshrined in Maha Bodhi Buddha Image



YANGON, 20 May - A ceremony to enshrine relics in Maha Bodhi Buddha Image in Buddha Gaya Monastery in Sangyoung Township was held yesterday in conjunction with a ceremony to pour water at Bo Tree in the monastery.

At the ceremony, the congregation received the Nine Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Subodha and donated offertories to Sayadaws and members of the Sangha. The Sayadaws enshrined the relics into the Buddha Image and poured water at Bo Tree along with devotees.

Relief aids distributed to storm victims in Mingala Taungnyunt Township



YANGON, 20 May-Member of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presented relief supplies to storm victims in Mingala Taungnyunt Township today.

First, Minister Brig- Gen Kyaw Hsan visited Thatamabyuha Dhammayon in Patheinyunt Ward where storm victims from three wards in the township are taking shelter and comforted them. The minister distributed rice and relief aids to the victims. Afterwards, he went to Satsan Ward in Mingala Taungnyunt Township and comforted storm victims at the relief camp set up at No 7 Basic Education High School in the township. He presented rice and relief aids to the victims on his visit.

At 1 pm, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan met with storm victims at the relief camp set up at Yedwington Dhammayon Building in Yedwington Ward in the township and comforted them. He also distributed rice and relief supplies to the victims.

At the meetings with storm victims in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, the minister briefed on relief efforts being made by the government, the people, the Tatmadawmen, police and members of social organizations.

Navy participates in rehabilitation work

NAY PYI TAW, 20 May-Tatmadawmen of Defence Services (Navy) have performed the rehabilitation works in the storm-affected areas.

One military vessel based in Bogale loading 37.5 tons of clothes, plasticcontainers, bed sheets, snacks, bed roll, blankets, soft drinks, household goods, milk powder, tarpaulin, pumps, tents, purified water bottles and robes transported to Kadonkani rehabilitation camp in the township on 18 May.

Similarly, a Labutta based military vessel loading 25 tons of rice, palm oil, tarpaulin, rubber sheet, purified water, clothes, pipe, pumps, soap, tents, dry noodles, dry fish, generator, snack, salt, potato, gram and diesel also transported to Polaungyi rehabilitation camp in the township. A military vessel carrying specialists, nurses and relief aids was sent to Setsan from Bogale.

Rehabilitation works in progress in Labutta

NAY PYI TAW, 20 May- Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung of the Ministry of Defence together with Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung went to Labutta by Tatmadaw helicopter loaded with bags of rice from Patheingyi on 18 May. They went to Theitpangongyi village together with Minister for Co-operatives Maj-Gen Tin Htut and personnel. The Adjutant-General and party handed over bags of rice to responsible persons and inspected living condition of storm victims in tents.

The Adjutant-General instructed responsible persons to take measures to avoid hunger and health problems, to collect figures of population in storm-hit villages, to make arrangements for building permanent dwelling instead of temporary ones for storm victims in performing reconstruction tasks, to report needs for farming and fishery work as the State will fulfil any requirements of the storm victims, to deliver foodstuff and provide health care service and necessary assistance to storm victims in their respective assigned areas, to report the requirements of the storm survivors in timeliness as telephone service has already been provided to forward camps.

Next, the Adjutant-General and ministers inspected reconstruction works in Labutta by car and left for Patheingyi.

Cash and kind for storm victims

NAY PYI TAW, 20 May-Departments concerned, social organizations, families of Tatmadawmen and wellwishers from respective states and divisions have provided cash and kind to storm victims.

Departments concerned and wellwishers from Shan State (North) presented K 90,046,350; families of Tatmadawmen and wellwishers from Shan State (South) and Kayah State, cash and relief aid worth K 2,192,800; from Kayah State and Mon State, cash and relief aid worth K 3,410,500; wellwishers from Tanintharyi Division, construction materials worth K 1.9 million; wellwishers from Sagaing Division, cash K 1,497,450 and relief aid worth K 43,184,800 through the financial subcommittee for storm victims.

Up to yesterday, the cash and kind donated by wellwishers totalled K 7,854,848,955.

Health workers leave for storm-hit regions

YANGON, 20 May-Three ships carrying health workers left Wadan Jetty here for storm-hit villages in Ayeyawady Division yesterday morning.

The health workers on board the ships were seen off by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint and officials of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Transport.

On board the ship to leave for Bogale Township are one physician, two specialists, eight general practitioners and one male nurse.

On board the vessel to leave for Pyapon Township are one physician, three specialists, seven doctors and one male nurse.

On board the watercraft to leave for Labutta Township are one physician, one assistance director of Medical Reserch Department (Lower Myanmar), three specialists, six doctors and one male nurse.

Blankets, pillows for YGH

YANGON, 20 May-Agga Maha Thiri Thudamma Theingi Daw Khin Nan Mon and family of No 9 on Anawrahta Road in 14 Ward, Yankin Township presented 85 blankets and 85 pillows worth K 272,000 to the storm victims, receiving treatment at Yangon General Hospital, on 14 May.

Robes donated to storm-hit monasteries

YANGON, 20 May- Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung today paid respects to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jagara at Min Kyaung Parriyati Monastery in Kyauktan and donated 206 sets of robe for 103 storm-hit monasteries.

Afterwards, the minister together with the deputy minister paid homage to Shwedagon Pagoda in the afternoon. He also viewed Maha Pasana Cave and State Parriyati Sasana University (Yangon) on Kaba Aye hill in Mayangon Township.

Orange Supermarket donates dry noodle to victims

YANGON, 20 May - Orange Supermarket in Yangon donated 10000 packages of dry noodles to the storm victims here from 10 to 14 May.

Employees of Orange Supermarket distributed dry noodles to the storm victims in Homelan Wards in Sangyoung Township, to the storm victims in storm-hit wards in Mayangon Township and to the victims in Thingangyun Township on 10, 11 and 12 May respectively.

Arrangements have been made to donate cash and kind to the storm victims in Ayeyawady Division. Those wishing to donate provisions to the storm-hit areas in Ayeyawady Division may contact the Orange Supermarket.

33 KV pylons set up in Shwepyitha, Mingaladon Tsps



YANGON, 20 May- Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint met with industrialists at Industrial Zone No 1 in Shwepyitha Township yesterday and inspected control and supply of electric power.

Upon arrival at Hlawgar Sub-power station in Mingaladon Township, the minister heard reports by officials concerned on construction of power line and distribution of electricity.

He then looked into replacing nine pylons at Pyinmapin Industrial Zone Sub-power station in Mingaladon.

The minister and party inspected setting up of 33KV pylons along Hlinethaya-Nyaugdon road in Hlinethaya Township, Sethmu 1 Street in Yankin Township and KabaAye Pagoda road.

Khaing Khaing Sangda Motorcar Manufacturing Co Ltd donates a car



YANGON, 20 May- Khaing Khaing Sangda Motorcar Manufacturing Co Ltd donated a Sangda truck for use in reconstruction of Hainggyigyun that was ravaged by the severe storm at a ceremony held at Ayeyawady Naval Region Command at noon yesterday.

General Manager Mr Yu Jian Chen of the company handed over the related documents to Commander of the command Commodore Win Shein and officials.

The commander gave the certificate of honour to the wellwisher and expressed thanks.

Factories in Yangon inspected

YANGON, 20 May- Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung today inspected Ahlon Soft Drink and Ice Factory under the Myanmar Foodstuff Industries on Strand Road, No 1 Gas Factory of the Myanmar Paper and Chemical Industries on No 5 Thanlyetsun Street in Botahtaung Township, the cosmetics factory of the Myanmar Pharmaceuticals Industries in Thuwunna, the rubber factory of the Myanmar General and Maintenance Industries in Thangangyun Township, No 21 Blanket Factory of the Myanmar Textile Industries, No 1 Garment Factory in Mayangon, and the soap liquid factory of the Myanmar Pharmaceuticals Industries.

Thai medical team provides medical treatments to storm victims

YANGON, 20 May – The Thai medical team, together with Myanmar health staff, has provided medical treatments and health care services to the storm victims at the relief camps in Labutta today. On 18 May, the Myaungmya Township-based team met with Thai Ambassador Mr Bansarn Bunnag and Director of the Ministry of Health Dr Khin Maung Lwin. The team from the Ministry of Health, Thailand, is currently in Myanmar under the arrangement of the Ministries of Health and Foreign Affairs of Myanmar.

IWT vessels resume regular run in storm-hit areas

YANGON, 19 May-The Inland Water Transport of the Ministry of Transport resumed four ferry vessel services and 14 passenger and freight vessel services from Yangon Division to Ayeyawady Division.

A total of eleven vessels including the abovementioned vessels and other six passenger-and-freight vessels from Monywa and Mandalay arrived here.

In supplying relief aids to the storm-hit areas in Ayeyawady Division, 28 vessels have run for 35 times.

Resettlement tasks carried out in Bogale

YANGON, 20 May-Under the supervision of member of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, priority is being given to reconstruction of monasteries, basic education schools, township hospital and offices in storm-affected Bogale, Ayeyawady Division.

The leading committee and sub-committee together with Htoo Trading Co are also implementing resettlement tasks such as transport, health, communication and power supply.

Egyptian Govt to contribute cash to storm relief efforts

YANGON, 20 May - The Egyptian Committee for International Relief has allocated a sum of LE 250,000 (approximately US \$ 45,000) as a contribution to the relief efforts for the victims of the cyclone.

Moreover, the Emergency Relief Agency of Egypt (affiliated to the Arab Medical Union), in collaboration with the Islamic Relief Agency in Britain, has embarked on a relief project that includes dispatching tents, blankets, drinking water and medicines to the victims of the cyclone.