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

* 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
* 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
* 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

Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Israel

NAV PYI TAW, 8 May – Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Shimon Peres, President of the State of Israel, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the State of Israel, which falls on 8 May 2008. — MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein felicitates Israeli counterpart

NAV PYI TAW, 8 May – General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Ehud Olmert, Prime Minister of the State of Israel, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the State of Israel which falls on 8 May 2008.—MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects Nargis-hit areas, provides relief supplies to storm victims

NAV PYI TAW, 7 May—Chairman of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Prime Minister General Thein Sein who is supervising relief tasks for storm victims in a speedy and effective way in Ayeyawady Division presented 20 sets of TV, 10 DVD players and 10 satellite receivers to Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Brig Gen Kyaw Swe for the storm victims at various camps enabling them to enjoy the programmes at Mya E-ya Hall of the South-West Command this morning.

Upon arrival at Pathein Air Base, the Prime Minister and party assisted loading of supplies onto the helicopters. Afterwards, they encouraged Tatmadawmen, policemen, members of Union Solidarity and Development Association and Red Cross Society who were unloading relief supplies from Tatmadaw Y.8 Cargo Aircraft and loading onto the trucks at Pathein Air Base.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party looked into losses and damages in the villages of Ngaputaw by helicopter. Upon arrival at Hainggyikyun, they (See page 10)

Prime Minister General Thein Sein and party assist loading of relief supplies onto a helicopter for storm victims.— MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Take part in the tasks for relief and resettlement

Today modern technology has developed in the world and new and strange diseases have appeared. Moreover, the people in the world lose their lives and property due to natural disasters such as earthquake, volcanic eruption, flood and storm.

A great number of lives and a large amount of property in some regions in states and divisions were lost owing to the cyclonic storm “Nargis” that occurred in Myanmar.

Various sub-committees formed for preparedness of natural disasters have visited the storm-hit areas and provided necessary assistance to the victims. Relief and resettlement measures are being taken at the national level in the disaster-hit areas.

The National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee based in Yangon in cooperation with the Tatmadaw members, social organizations and the people is making arrangements for clearing debris in Yangon Division and other divisions and states, power and water supply and communications and repair of roads and railroads and for relief.

In Yangon, fallen trees and debris on major roads and streets in the townships have been removed with the use of heavy machinery and manpower. Passenger buses and vehicles are back on the roads.

Rice, drinking water, food, medicines and construction materials are being transported to storm-hit townships and villages speedily. Health care services are being provided to the people in those regions.

With the active participation of the people, relief and resettlement tasks will be implemented successfully and most speedily.

Minister for Foreign Affairs sends felicitations to Israeli counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 8 May — On the occasion of the Independence Day of the State of Israel, which falls on 8 May 2008, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Ms Tzipi Livni, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel.

YANGON, 7 May—

Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint together with officials arrived at Nyaunghnapin Water Purifying Plant in Hmawby Township here yesterday.

At the sub-Power Station, the minister heard reports on conditions of the Plant and the Station, arrangements for clean water supply to Yangon, installation of power lines from Hlawga sub-Power Station to the Plant, condition of power cables and the station and receiving electricity.

Next, the minister and party inspected conditions of sub-Power Station and transformers, purifying and supply of water and gave necessary instructions.

The minister looked into repair works along Yangon-Pyay Road and No 3 Highway Junction.

He went to sub-Power Station of Myawady Television Station and gave instructions on repair of power lines.

Next, the minister looked into power line connection to transport electricity from Ywama sub-Power Station to Bayintnaung sub-Power Station, conditions of transformers, Switch Yard and power lines at Ywama sub-Power Station and fulfilled the requirements.

Staff of Myanma Electric Power Enterprise repair a damaged lamp post caused by storm on Maha Bandoola Street.—MNA

Vessels transport relief supplies to Nargis-hit areas

YANGON, 7 May—

Vessels carrying relief supplies have left No 1 Jetty of Phonegyi Street of Lanmadaw Township for Nargis-hit areas in Ayeyawady Division this morning.

Malika vessel transported corrugated iron sheets, cooking utensils, tarps, towels, drinking water containers, noodle packages, blankets, clothing and foodstuffs to Labutta at 12 noon. Banyadalla vessel transported galvanized iron sheets, cooking utensils, tarps and drinking water containers to Mawlamyinegyn at 3 pm. Banyadalla vessel transported galvanized iron sheets, cutting cutters, tarpaulins, towels and drinking water containers to Bogale. Plans are under way to continue transporting relief supplies by vessels.—MNA
Medvedev takes Russian presidency from his mentor Putin

MOSCOW, 7 May—Dmitry Medvedev was inaugurated as Russia’s president on Wednesday, pledging to bolster the country’s economic development and civil rights, in what may signal a departure from his predecessor’s heavy-handed tactics.

Medvedev took the oath of office in the Kremlin’s golden-hued Andreyevsky Hall, bringing to an end Vladimir Putin’s eight years as president. But Putin is sure to continue to wield huge influence in the country.

Little more than two hours after becoming president, Medvedev nominated Putin to be prime minister.

Medvedev has pledged to continue the policies pursued by Putin, and some observers see him as more likely to be a handmaiden than an independent leader.

In his address, Medvedev said that one of his most important tasks would be “the development of civil and economic freedom.”

The 42-year-old president, formerly a first deputy prime minister and chairman of the state-controlled natural gas giant Gazprom, also pledged to fight endemic corruption, a problem that Putin has been unable to stifle.

Clashes erupt in Lebanon as Hezbollah stages strike

BEIRUT, 7 May—Protesters from the Hezbollah-led opposition clashed with supporters of Lebanon’s US-backed government Wednesday as a strike by the Shiite militant group paralyzed large parts of the capital Beirut.

The violence deepened tensions in a country already mired in a 17-month-old political crisis pitting the Iranian- and Syrian-backed Hezbollah against the government of Prime Minister Fuad Siniora. The troubles have left the country without a president since November.

The strike was called by labour unions after they rejected a last-minute pay raise offer by the government as insufficient. But instead it turned into a showdown between Hezbollah and the government.

The clashes began when government and opposition supporters in a Muslim sector of Beirut exchanged insults and began throwing stones at each other. Witnesses said security forces intervened and gunshots were heard, apparently troops firing in the air to disperse the crowds.

A cameraman for Hezbollah’s Al-Manar television station was hit by a stone in the forehead, while a soldier also was hit in the mouth by a stone.

Barack Obama wins in North Carolina, while Hillary Clinton narrowly wins the Indiana primary

COLUMBUS, 7 May—Senator Obama won 56% of the vote in North Carolina, while Senator Clinton won 51% of the vote in Indiana.

Robert Gibbs, the Obama campaign’s national press secretary, said that small-town residents were “bitter”, and racially charged comments by his former pastor, Reverend Jeremiah Wright.

Tonight we stand less than 200 delegates away from securing the Democratic nomination for president of the United States.” Analysts said Mr Obama’s win was vital after a recent difficult campaign stretch.

Barack Obama will chose the presidential nominee by 1,840 to 1,684, according to the Associated Press news agency.

Speaking to a raucous rally in Raleigh, North Carolina, Mr Obama said: “I am committed to putting the economy back on the road to recovery, making sure all Americans have the opportunity to achieve for themselves and their families.”

Roadside bomb kills two Afghan police officers

KABUL, 7 May—A roadside bomb hit a police vehicle in eastern Afghanistan on Wednesday, killing two officers, an official said.

The blast happened just outside the capital of Khost province as the officers traveled from their homes to work, said Wazir Pacha, a spokesperson for the provincial police chief.

The explosion was powerful and the car was destroyed in the blast, Pacha said. Insurgents often target the police force, which is more vulnerable and exposed than the better trained and equipped Afghan national army. Over 920 police officers were killed by militants in 2007.

On Tuesday, the U.S.-led coalition and Afghan troops detained 13 suspected militants during a raid in Zadran district of the neighbouring Pakhtia province, the coalition said in a statement. One man received a head injury during the operation, the coalition said. He was transported to a military hospital for treatment.

Troops found weapons and ammunition following the search of the compounds. Militants are active in the country’s east where they use the porous borders with Pakistan to move men and equipment into Afghanistan.
YANGON, 7 May—Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence presented foodstuff to cyclonic storm Nargis victims in Twantay and Kungyangon townships today.

Accompanied by Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence left here by helicopter bringing foodstuff for the victims in Twantay and Kungyangon Townships.

After meeting with the victims at the relief camps on Phayathonzu Pagoda in Kungyangon Ward, Basic Education Primary School in Kyongyi Ward and Affiliated BEMS in Kyundaw Ward in Twantay, they presented foodstuff to the victims. On arrival at Kungyangon, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun were welcomed by Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi and officials.

At the relief camp of Kungyangon BEHS No 2, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and the ministers met with the storm-hit victims and presented foodstuff, purified drinking water and tarpaulin to them. After falling of cyclonic storm Nargis, Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi has been making close supervisions for supply and rescue activities in Kungyangon and Kawhmu townships. Today, canned fish, coffeemix packets, instant noodles, biscuits, blankets, tarpaulin, clothes, soap, purified drinking water and pencils weighing 2.5 tons were distributed to the victims of Twantay and Kungyangon townships.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe and Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun left there by helicopter and arrived back here in the afternoon. — MNA

Relief aids for victims in Dedaye

YANGON, 7 May—Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe and party left here by helicopter for Dedaye where they provided relief aid including noodle packages, biscuits, packets of coffee mix, tea mix, rehydrated salt and drinking water bottles to the victims today.—MNA

Kanbawza Bank presents aid

NAY PYI TAW, 7 May—Kanbawza Bank Limited donated K 300 million, 54,000 viss of potato worth K 45,660,000 and 400,000 eggs for ‘Nargis’ victims in Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions to National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee, it is learnt. — MNA

Regular water transport to delta region resumes

NAY PYI TAW, 7 May—The Inland Water Transport of the Ministry of Transport resumed water transport services to delta region. Teinni vessel is transporting passengers on Yangon-Bogale-Mawkyun trip at 5 pm, Tataing Mway vessel on Yangon-Emme-Kyunkon trip at 3 pm and Tawhaaywun vessel on Yangon-Pathime trip at 2 pm.—MNA

Ferries are now transporting passengers from Pansodan Jetty in Yangon.— MNA
Wellwishers donate over K 1358.1 million to storm victims

YANGON, 7 May — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence attended a ceremony to donate cash to the storm victims donated by Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd and joint-venture companies today.

The donation ceremony was held at Central Hotel here and wellwishers donated K1358.1 million in total. Lt-Col Than Tun (Retd) handed over 500 sacks of rice and 1,000 CI sheets donated by Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Chairman of UMEHL and wife Daw Kyi Kyi Oha, and Col Myint Aung (Retd), Managing Director of Myawady Trading Ltd handed over K 1,089.5 million donated by companies and joint-venture companies to Lt-Gen Myint Swe. Lt-Gen Myint Swe, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Huay Win and Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe accepted cash amounted to K 268.6 millions donated by joint-venture companies of UMEHL.

Cash and kind donated to storm victims

NAY PYI TAW, 7 May — Social associations and wellwishers from States and Divisions have been donating cash and kind to the storm victims with national spirit.

Families of regiments and units and people in Kachin State donated K 103,465,200, jade entrepreneurs of Phakant region K 300 million, Kachin Special Region-1 K 30 million, Kachin Special Region-2 K 10 million, Jade Land Co K 30 million, U Lahasn Aung and party K 500,000, Hteinchon Aung and party K 30 million, U Lahsan Kyi Kyi Oha and party K 100 million, the Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council and family K 500,000, families of regiments and units and people 43.8 million, Shan State (North) USDA K 500,000, Shan State (North) MCWA K 500,000, Shan State (North) WAO K 500,000, Asia World Co K 20 million, Muse Township Merchants Association K 11.9 million, Shan Yoma Ayechanyay Co K 10 million, Tarmonene People’s Militia Troop K 1 million, Special Region-5, Shwe Hnin Hmon Co, Myanmar Thitauk Hnet Co, Pyi Taw Win Co, Padamya Uyin Co and Two Golden Horses Co K 5 million each, Yay Gabar Co K 2 million, Shauk Haw People’s Militia Troop K 1 million, Lonhtang People’s Militia Troop K 1 million, families of regiments and units in Mandalay Division and people 15,200 CI sheets, 1,080 pounds of nails, 253 noodle packages, 1,000 viss of vermicelli, 250 viss of onion, 8,500 egg, 300 construction materials, 3,000 men’s wear, 3,000 women’s wears, 3,500 blankets and 2,340 litres of purified drinking water worth K 120,773,700, Tong Ta H Co K 5 million, Gungo Co K 10 million, Shishine Co K 10 million, Golden Hill Tower K 1 million, five chainsaws, CI sheets worth K 63.5 million and five chainsaws worth K 6.5 millions, the people from Yadseh, Toungoo, Piy, Pyay, Pakkhaing and Paungde townships K 3,835,100. — MNA

Wellwishers may donate cash, kind to victims

YANGON, 7 May — A centre to collect cash and kind for the storm victims has been set up at Head Office of Fire Services Department in Mayangon Township, Yangon Division.

The centre has been supervised by Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Sub-Committee under the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee.

Those wishing to donate cash and kind to the victims may contact ph 09-86 00699, 09 86 00702 and 09 86 01103.

MNA
Let me go on, my friend.

In our country, the majority of the population are rural people. Without doubt, our country will develop if rural areas enjoy development. So, the draft constitution bestows the right to do agricultural activities upon rural folks. Positive changes can be more tangible only if they are compared with adverse effects. Our country once went through the period in which farmers had no access to the rights of farmland ownership and farming. I think you remember that when BCPs were powerful, they confiscated all the farmlands of our forefathers throughout the country, claiming the policy of the farmland allocation. It is unforgettable that our forefathers wept and waited due to the proletarian revolution launched by the BCPs claiming there would be no private ownership. However, now the constitution guarantees the right of farming, so we will have a prosperous future ahead of us.

According to the market economy, the prices of the crops we farmers produce sometimes rise and sometimes fall. However, the constitution prescribes a principle that the State shall help the peasants get equitable value for their agricultural produce. Moreover, the constitution guarantees that the government shall provide inputs such as dams, water pumping stations, underground water tapping projects, agricultural methods and high-yield crop strains. Is there any requirement else for farmers?

May I also present the rights of workers? Under the constitution, the State shall enact necessary laws to protect the rights of workers. In addition, necessary laws will be promulgated for State service personnel to have due security in service and sufficiency of food, clothing and shelter. So, we can rest assured that the constitution prescribes all due rights of workers.

The 1947 constitution prescribes a principle that says that private property can be nationalized in the interest of the State if necessary. Furthermore, in the time of the exercise of Socialism, private-owned property was nationalized in 1962. Priority was not given to private ownership, but to State ownership, cooperative ownership and collective ownership. In consequence, the private ownership of the people was very low. However, a principle of this constitution says that the State shall not nationalize private property. That is an important guarantee for the people. I would say this constitution is full of essence and it prescribes all necessary principles in the interest of the State and the people.

This constitution also gives the people a guarantee on the currency in circulation. In our life, the currency in circulation of the people was demonetized for three times. This constitution prescribes a principle that the State shall not demonetize the currency in circulation. I would like to say that this constitution also carries some principles in the interests of industrialists and entrepreneurs. It says that the State shall provide inputs such as technology, investments, machinery, raw materials etc. as much as it can for development of industries. And the State shall provide inputs such as technology, investment, machinery, raw materials etc as much as it can for changeover from manual to mechanized farming. It also introduces the market economy and permits all economic enterprises in, accordance with the law. The State also permits all economic forces such as the State itself, regional organizations, cooperative organizations, joint-venture organizations, private concerns, etc. to take part in economic activities for the sustainable national economic growth. The State shall prevent acts that harm public interests through monopolization or manipulation of prices by an individual or group with intent to jeopardize fair competition in economic activities. Besides, in the economic activities, the State guarantees not only property ownership but also innovation and copy right. On the whole, it is complete with all necessary points.

In addition, this constitution prescribes more rights of a citizen. Regarding the citizenship, fundamental rights and duties of citizens, the 1947 constitution prescribes 23 Sections, the 1974 constitution prescribes 34. And if a constitution does not guarantee the separate exercise of the three sovereign powers in collaboration, and there are some defects in the exercise of the three sovereign powers separately, such a constitution will have adverse effects to the nation and the people in future. As you know, the 1947 constitution is based on the parliamentary democracy system. According to this constitution, a party that wins the majority of votes in the elections will be in a position to gain domination in the hluttaw. Then, that party will monopolize the legislative power that is the most important power for a country. If so, it can monopolize making of the law at will. In the past, however much the opposition party submitted prudent bills that could serve the interests of the nation and the people, the winning party that won the majority of seats opposed the bills in order that they could not be adopted in the hluttaw. The chairman of the winning party became the Prime Minister of the cabinet that exercised the executive power. And some other leaders of that party became Deputy Prime Ministers. That meant the government or the winning party exercised the legislative and executive powers collectively at will. So, it could prescribe and monopolize the judicial power. As a matter of fact, in a country, the constitution must prescribe a condition in which the three sovereign powers are to be exercised in coordination as well as separately. At that time, the three sovereign powers were in the hands of a single party. So, in general, the constitution hardly guaranteed development of the nation and the people. So, the first priority was given to the interests of the party and interest of the State and the people got the second priority only. In consequence, our country got into a variety of difficulties. For example, the then Prime Minister missed the issue of religious affairs by exercising legislative and judicial powers in combination for political gains. In reality, he happened to give excessive promises for his party to win victory, while canvassing for votes. Then, his party won in the elections. However, that was followed by a large range of difficulties in the political, racial and religious issues due to that promise. Thus, the nation had to withstand various forms of stresses and strains. Up to date, it has yet to address some of those problems.

The 1947 constitution prescribed that the three sovereign powers were exercised separately. Nonetheless, the winning party was in a position to monopolize not only the legislative and executive powers but also the judicial power. It was common knowledge that that had adverse effects to development, stability and peace of the State and national unity. It was very heart-rending for the people at that time because the interest of the nation and the people is the interest of that party that got the first priority. The 1974 constitution favoured the one-party system and the Socialist economy. However, in practice, that constitution did not bring any fruits to the nation and the people. The 1974 constitution prescribed separate exercise of the three sovereign powers, but it was centralized even more than the 1947 constitution. The Myanmar Socialist Programme Party solely controlled and monopolized the hluttaw and People’s councils at all levels and the legislative, executive and judicial powers. The three sovereign powers were in the hands and under the complete control of that party for many years.

That constitution lacked guarantee for national development. The opportunity to collectively exercise the three sovereign powers was the root cause of the nation’s less development. So, the 1974 constitution and the one-party Socialist system met their end together. However, the constitution that will be approved in May is designed to carry as few loopholes as it can. Regarding the separation of the three sovereign powers, this constitution has been drawn, taking lessons from the weak points of the previous constitutions. To make it short and to the point for your comprehension, representatives of the parties will stand for election. The people will vote for the party and the person they like. The winners will become hluttaw members. However, the hluttaw is responsible for legislature, and it is not vested with the right to practise executive functions directly.

In the executive sector, the nation will practise the presidential system. Who will elect the President? The people will elect the President through indirect democracy, not through direct democracy. There will be three presidential colleges that are to be formed with the representatives elected by the people. In this regard, the three colleges will tentatively elect three Vice-Presidents: one each from among the representatives-elect of the Pyithu Hluttaw, from among the representatives-elect of the Amyotha Hluttaw, and from among the Tatmadaw member representatives of the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw. The President will then be elected from among the three nominees through the voting system by all the hluttaw members. (See page 7)
MPT to issue three new stamps to mark Referendum 2008

YANGON, 7 May — To mark the Referendum 2008, Myanma Posts and Telecommunications under the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs will issue three new stamps — two valued at K 100 each and one at K 200 — beginning 9.30 am on 9 May.

Sales of the stamps will be launched at State/Division Post Offices. The new stamps purchased on that day will be stamped with special seal at Nay Pyi Taw General Post Office, Yangon Post Office and Mandalay Post Office.

Minister distributes relief aid to storm victims

YANGON, 7 May — Minister for Commerce Brig. Gen Tin Naing Thein and party helicoptered to Kyakkaht to distribute relief supplies to storm victims and supervise rescue works in Kyakkaht this morning.

At the town hall of Kyakkaht, they met with departmental officials and discussed relief and rehabilitation tasks.

At Tilawkamarazein Pagoda, the minister met with storm victims and comforted them. Next, he gave instructions to officials concerned to ensure safe drinking water, to keep rubbish dumps clean for not causing diseases and provided relief supplies to the storm victims.

Next, the minister and party comforted the patients who are undergoing medical treatment at Kyakkaht People’s Hospital and inspected damaged classrooms at No 1 Basic Education High School. — MNA

Mayor supervises water supply facilities in downtown Yangon

YANGON, 7 May — CEC Member of Union Solidarity and Development Association (Yango Division In-charge) Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected supply of water to the 22nd Street between Strand Road and Maha Bandoola Street through Hlawga-Gyobyu Water Pipeline and Lannmadaw Street between Strand Road and Maha Bandoola Street in Latha Township by water tanker yesterday.

He also viewed water supply tasks through taps of tubewells in front of Maha Bandoola Park and the City Hall.

Undey the arrangements of YCDC, Lannmadaw, Latha, Pabedan, Kyauktada, Botataung and Pazuntaung townships have access to drinking water through Hlawga-Gyobyu pipelines, with additional water supply by means of tubewells and water tankers.

The mayor went over functioning of two 710 HP water pumps and three 280 HP water pumps at Yayku Water Pumping Station in Mayangon Township, and fulfilled the needs.

Yayku Water Pumping Station is distributing water to the townships in Yangon.

It had stopped because of power failure caused by the storm ‘Nargis’. On 5 May, a 1375 KVA generator was installed to operate the station. Now, the station gets back to its normal function and operation as electricity is available.

Since 5 May, drinking water is available in Yankin, Bahan, Dagon, Pabedan, Lannmadaw, Latha, Kyauktada, Botataung, Pazuntaung, Kamayut, Hlaing, Insein, Tamway, Mingalar Taungnyunt, Mingaladon, and Mayangon townships. Starting from 6 May, South Okkalapa, North Okkalapa, Thingangyun, Dagon Myothit (South), Dagon Myothit (North), Dagon Myothit (East), Thakayta and Dawbon Townships are being supplied with drinking water.

At Basic Education Middle School No 8 in Hlithaya Township, the mayor presented rice donated by Yangon Division USDA and fish by Yezana to the storm victims of Ward 20 of the township. — MNA

Ministry of Transport supplying drinking water to the people. — MNA

The most appropriate constitution (2)

(from page 6)

The Vice-President who wins the majority of votes will become the President of the State, and the other two persons, Vice-Presidents. Frankly speaking, the President and the Vice-Presidents may be from parties, among representatives-elect, or among ordinary people. Apparently, every citizen who possesses the qualifications set for the President and Vice-Presidents may become the President or Vice-Presidents.

In this regard, there is an restriction that the President and the Vice-Presidents shall have no rights to carry on the duties of and deal with the party concerned, if they are members of a party. If they are service personnel, they have to resign as government employees. And if they are hltutaw representatives, they have to resign as hltutaw representatives. The ministers and deputy ministers of the cabinet formed under the leadership of the President may be from among hltutaw representatives, party members, service personnel, ordinary people or pensioners. But, they have to possess the prescribed qualifications. If they become ministers, like the President, they will have to resign as service personnel. And if they are hltutaw members, they will have to resign as hltutaw representatives. If they are from parties, they shall not deal with the party concerned.

So, executive bodies will pay attention to the interests of the nation and the people, and they will be in a position to focus on executive functions without any domination of the hltutaw and party concerned. Moreover, the governing body that will exercise the executive power cannot dominate the hltutaw directly, and the hltutaw that will exercise the legislative power cannot have any influence over the governing body. If the hltutaw wants the governing body to implement something, at first it has to make laws and promulgate them. When the laws prescribe instructions or power for the governing body, the body will be able to do so.

In the judicial sector, judges will be appointed via the hltutaw who possess the prescribed qualifications, other than those from the hluttaw or the parties, and they will be assigned judicial duties. So, there will be no direct domination of the hluttaw over the judicial organ or the governing body. So, in the constitution, the sectors that will concern the separate exercise of the three sovereign powers are divided completely. However, there will also be coordination among the sectors. You notice that this constitution guarantees that the three sovereign powers will be exercised correctly and collaboratively, as well as separately in a correct way. So, I said that this constitution is more complete with due rights and better, and is the most appropriate one if compared with the previous constitutions.

I have to present a lot of strong points of this constitution. I would like to explain the rights of national races and Taungtwi member representatives who constitute 25 per cent of the total number of representatives, but that is enough for today.

Translation: MS
International emergency aid arrives in Yangon

Servicemen unloading foodstuffs donated by Laos from a plane in Yangon International Airport.
MNA

Water proof and generators donated by Japan arrive at Yangon International Airport.
MNA

Medicines, dried potatoes, clothes and tarpaulins donated by Bangladesh arrive at Yangon International Airport.
MNA

Relief supplies donated by foreign countries seen at Yangon International Airport.—MNA

Humanitarian aids of foreign countries being distributed to victims through fastest means

YANGON, 7 May—The Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries held the coordination meeting on meat and fish sector at the hall of the Myanmar Fisheries Federation on Bayintnaung Road in Insein Township, here, yesterday, with an opening address by Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein.

The presidents of Myanmar Fisheries Federation and the Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation reported on arrangements for production and distribution of meat and fish and responsible persons of Myanmar Fish Breeding Association, Myanmar Marine Products Entrepreneurs Association, Myanmar Offshore Trawlers Association and Myanmar Crab and Eel Association on their respective sectors.

Departmental heads of Directorate of Livestock and Fisheries, Fisheries Department and Livestock, Feedstuff and Dairy Enterprise submitted reports on arrangements being made for sales of meat and fish to storm-hit victims at reasonable prices and future plans.

(See page 11)
TRANSPORTATION services in Yangon have become smooth today.

Fallen trees, lamp-posts, billboards caused by the storm Nargis have been removed by members of Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force, Fire Brigade, YCDC staff, townselder as from 3 May. Members of the Tatmadaw, social organizations, governmental staff and residents volunteered to remove the fallen trees on Bogyoke Aung San Road, in front of Yangon General Hospital, North Okkalapa overpass, along the street of the Tooth Relic Pagoda, and in front of Yangon General Hospital from 4 May. Similarly, staff of the Ministry of Construction together with the local people continue to clear the fallen trees at the streets.

YANGON, 7 May—Over 250 employees of Air Bagan since 4 May have removed the uprooted trees, fallen lamp-posts and advertisement billboards along University Avenue near the Ministerial Office, along the road to Yangon International Airport, Pyay and Insein, U Wisara, Anawrahta, Maha Bandoola, Marchent, Strand roads, Sakawar road in Dagon Township and the ring-road of Kandawgyi Lake. —MNA

SMOOTH transportation services in downtown Yangon.

YANGON, 7 May—Transportation services in Yangon have become smooth today.

Fallen trees, lamp-posts, billboards caused by the storm Nargis have been removed by members of Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force, Fire Brigade, YCDC staff, townselder as from 3 May. Members of the Tatmadaw, social organizations, governmental staff and residents volunteered to remove the fallen trees on Bogyoke Aung San Road, in front of Yangon General Hospital, North Okkalapa overpass, along the street of the Tooth Relic Pagoda, and Inya Road and around Yangon General Hospital with the use of cranes and chainsaws. The company has also been providing foods for members of Tatmadaw, MPF, Fire Brigade and social organizations and staff of development affairs committees who are engaged in removing the debris. It has been supplying clean water to the wards. —MNA

Staff and local people clear fallen trees

Tatmadawmen and service personnel removing trees with the use of heavy machinery on a road in Yangon. —MNA

Blocked roads cleared

Tatmadawmen remove downed trees on a road in Yangon.—MNA

Tatmadawmen clearing fallen trees on a road in Yangon.—MNA

Smooth transportation in downtown Yangon

Smooth transportation services in downtown Yangon.
Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects Nargis-hit Ayeyawady Division

(From page 1)

Overseas arrival and stockpile of relief supplies to be provided to the storm victims in Hainggyikyun Basic Education High School.

The Prime Minister met with local people and consoled them. Afterwards, they inspected affected wards in Hainggyikyun town by helicopter and cordially met with the local people and encouraged them. After inspecting the quality of rice and edible oil, they viewed distribution of rice and edible oil to the storm victims.

The storm victims from three wards of Hainggyikyun were provided with rice and edible oil. Relief supplies were systematically distributed to the local people at Pannawady Naval Region Command.

At Pannawady Guest Hall, Commodore Myo Myint Than of Pannawady Naval Region Command briefed the Prime Minister on damaged houses in three wards and 22 of village/tracts of Hainggyikyun, arrival of relief supplies and distribution of relief supplies to the local people. After hearing the reports, the Prime Minister fulfilled the requirements.

After their way back to Pathain, the Prime Minister and party airdropped instant foodstuffs and bottled drinking water to urgently-needed villages from the helicopter due to difficulty in landing.

Under the supervision of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee, Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe, Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council of South-West Command, flew to coastal areas of Chaungwa, Thakathaung, Heiksun, Didegon and villages in Pynkhaing by helicopter and comforted storm victims and handed over food, drinking water and medicines to them.

A helicopter dropped packages of food and drinking water to some areas where the helicopter could not land.

Afterwards, Prime Minister General Thein Sein, accompanied by Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and Commander Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe, flew to Pyapon from Pathain by helicopter.

The chairmen of Pyapon district and township Peace and Development Councils reported to the Prime Minister on damages in Pyapon and villages near the town, establishment of relief centres and collection of relief aids. After hearing reports, Prime Minister General Thein Sein fulfilled the requirements and handed over food carried by the helicopter.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party proceeded to Kyaiatklat and inspected damages in the town. During the inspection tour, Prime Minister General Thein Sein urged officials concerned to make efforts for creating hygiene conditions and providing medical care to the victims at relief centres in the town. He also handed over foods airlifted by the helicopter to officials concerned.

Food, medicines, clothes and drinking water were also airlifted to Kyaiatklat this morning. Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party flew to Dedaye and gave instructions to officials concerned on providing health care to victims at the relief centre and matters on drinking water. He also made arrangements for providing rice and food to the victims in Dedaye, and handed over food to officials concerned.

Food, medicines, clothes and drinking water were airlifted to Dedaye this morning. The Prime Minister and his entourage arrived back in Yangon this evening.

(From page 16)

Members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, social organizations and wellwishers donated food, clothing and utensils.

The Prime Minister and party went to General Hospital (Pathain) and asked after health of 45 injured patients and four outpatients.

The Prime Minister instructed the officials concerned to send emergency patients to Yangon.

Food, drinking water, medicine and clothes were airlifted to Pyapon this morning.

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Prime Minister General Thein Sein observes health conditions of patients at General Hospital (Pathain). —MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein comforts storm victims at a relief camp in Labutta Township. —MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects loading of relief supplies onto the helicopters for storm victims in Ayeyawady Division. —MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein visits village in Meiktila Township. —MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein observes areas affected by Nargis in Aungmyo Township. —MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein visits victims in Aungmyo Township. —MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein observes flood victims in Ngut-Hlega Township. —MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein observes victims in Thitar Township. —MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein observes victims in Thitar Township. —MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein observes victims in Thitar Township. —MNA
Planes carrying relief supplies...

(flower from page 16)

of dry noodle and 1.2 tons of rice from Thailand by C-130 flight at 2.39 pm; 0.6 tons of dry pork, 1.4 tons of purified drinking water, three tons of corrugated iron sheets and nail, 200 medium-sized hammer and 1.1 tons of candles from the People’s Republic of China by 747 plane at 1.47 pm; supply aids from India by AM-32 flight at 3.14 pm and 3.30 pm; and 36 packages of various medicines from Singapore by MI-518 flight at 3.40 pm.

More aids from foreign countries will arrive here. The aids from the foreign countries are immediately distributed to the storm victims. MNA

Republic of India donates foodstuffs, medicines, general products to storm victims

YANGON, 7 May — The Republic of India donated medicines and medical equipment, foodstuffs, general products and 3 KVA generators to cyclonic storm Nargis-hit regions of Myanmar, at the jetty of Ayeyawady Naval Region Command at Thilawa Port here this afternoon.

Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Bhaskar Kumar Mitra said that he showed his sympathy for storm-hit areas in Myanmar. He added that today’s donation is for the first time and more donations will be made. Ministry for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe explained loss and damage in Myanmar due to cyclonic storm Nargis and thanked the Republic of India for the donations.

Next, the Indian Ambassador handed over the donations to the Minister.

The donations such as rice, gram, clothes, medicines and three KVA generators donated by the Republic of India have been distributed to the storm-hit areas. MNA

Volunteers loading relief supplies for storm victims in Ayeyawady Division onto a ship.—MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe meets UNDP Resident Representative Mr Daniel B Baker and party.

YANGON, 7 May — Member of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe received Korean Vice-Ambassador Mr In-Gyun Chang, the regional director of Care Myanamar, the Resident Representative of Doctors Without Border from Switzerland. UNDP Resident Representative Mr Daniel B Baker and party separately at the halls of Fire Services Department (Head Office) in Mayangon Township this morning and held discussions on relief items donations and health care for storm-hit areas.

Next, the minister and officials accepted cash and kind donated by wellwishers including K 1 million by SWRR Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and wife Daw Tin Tin Nwe and family and K 200,000 by member of SPDC Lt-Gen Ye Myint and wife Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint and family.

Arrangements are being undertaken to accept cash and kind donated by local and international organizations. — MNA

Humanitarian aids of foreign countries being...

(Yangon from page 8)

The minister gave necessary instructions. Yesterday afternoon, the Myanmar Investment Commission met entrepreneurs at the hall of Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development on Boggyoke Aung San Street, here.

Chairman of the MIC Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein explained relief and rehabilitation activities for storm-hit victims in Ayeyawady and Yangon divisions. MIC member Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein and Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein also explained arrangements for providing relief items to the storm-hit victims in Ayeyawady and Yangon divisions.

Officials accepted relief items worth K 300 million for the storm-hit victims donated by U Aik Tun; K 500 million for reconstruction tasks in Kungyangon Township by U Tun Myint Naing; K 100 million for Kungyangon Township and 300,000 corrugated iron sheets to be sold as one CI sheet per K 4,000 in three townships of Ayeyawady Division by U Chit Khang; 200,000 CI sheets to be sold as one CI sheet per K 4,000 in two townships in Ayeyawady Division and 10,000 250-gm packets of edible oil; rice bags worth K 50 million by U Ko Ko Hwe; and 100,000 drips by Dr Zaw Tun who is also providing medical care storm-hit patients at Shwegondaing Specialist Clinic.

In addition, Eden Co plans to remove the fallen trees and debris on University Avenue; Dagon International Co on Pyay Road (between Kyongyi Street and Hledan Junction); Shwedaung Co on Pyay Road (between Hledan Junction and 8 Mile Junction); Asia World Co on Pyay (between 8 Mile and Thamaing Junctions); and Shwe Thaing Lwin Co on Strand Road (along Lower Pazundaung Street).

Those wishing to donate cash and kind to storm-hit areas may contact Director U Khin Maung Than of Government Office’s Account No MD 000045 at Myanmar Economic Bank Branch (5) and may dial 0986-00026 of Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint.

Moreover, foreign countries have been donating humanitarian aids to Myanmar. The humanitarian aids will be distributed to the victims by helicopter, vehicle and watercraft as soon as possible. MNA
Relief aid distributed in Mawlamyinegyun, Bogale Tsps

NAVP TAW, 7 May — Adjutant-General Major-Gen Thura Myint Aung of the Ministry of Defence together with Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Theyn Swe presented relief supplies for the storm victims in Mawlamyinegyun to officials concerned at the local station, after carrying the supplies from Pathein Airport yesterday morning. The Adjutant-General accompanied by CEC Member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Ayeyawady Division In-Charge Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt inspected the condition of the villages hit by the storm in the township by airdropping relief supplies and drinking water to Kyinechaung Village.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein presents TV and DVD sets and satellite receivers to Commander Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe.

(News on page 1)— MNA

Relief supplies sent to delta region

NAVP TAW, 7 May — Under the arrangement of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee, the Inland Water Transport of the Ministry of Transport yesterday sent relief supplies and health staff from Yangon to delta region hit by severe cyclonic storm ‘Nargis’.

Hospitals in Kawhmu, Kungyangon inspected

NAVP TAW, 7 May — Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint and Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo this morning visited people’s hospitals in Kawhmu and Kungyangon townships, two of the disaster-hit areas.

Medicines donated for health care

NAVP TAW, 7 May — U Sein Myint and Daw San Kyu of Diamond Star Co Ltd donated medicines worth K 52,681,400 to Yangon General Hospital this afternoon. The donations are to be used for providing health care in natural disaster-hit areas. On their behalf, Manager Dr San Myint presented the donations through Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint. — MNA

MWAF officials comfort storm victims

NAVP TAW, 7 May — Vice-President of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Daw Khin Thet Huy, Leader of working group for Rehabilitation and ReintegrationDaw Tin Tin Nwe, Leader of working group for Social and Culture

Latest casualty figures in cyclonic storm Nargis

NAVP TAW, 7 May — There have been deaths, injuries, missing in the storm-hit areas on 2 and 3 May. According to the latest figures of the victims up to 5pm today, a total of 22,980 people lost their lives, 1,383 injured and 42,119 went on missing.

USDA and social organizations members provide foodstuff to storm victims. — MNA

Commerce Minister provides relief items in Kyaiiklat

YANGON, 7 May — Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein and party met with departmental personnel at township hall in Kyaiiklat Township this morning and gave instructions on relief and resettlement tasks.

Next, the minister met storm victims at the compound of Tilawka Marazein Pagoda and gave instructions on preventive measures against infectious diseases and provided relief items.

Minister inspects banking services

YANGON, 7 May — Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun inspected banking services and progress in repairing damages and losses due to ‘Nargis’ storm at Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank, here, yesterday.

He instructed officials to ensure smooth foreign banking services. At Myanmar Investment and Commercial Bank, the minister looked into domestic and foreign banking services through SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication). He also inspected branches of Internal Revenue Department, head offices and branches of Myanma Economic Bank, Pension Department, Myanma Insurance, Customs Department, and Myanma Small Loans Enterprise. — MNA

MWAF officials comfort storm victims

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USDA and social organizations members provide foodstuff to storm victims. — MNA
Al-Qaeda, cohorts remain worst terrorism threat

WASHINGTON, 7 May — Nearly seven years after the September 11 attacks, al-Qaeda remains the biggest terrorist threat to the United States and its allies, the US State Department said in an annual report on Wednesday.

The survey of terrorist trends and incidents in 2007 said al-Qaeda had used tribal areas of Pakistan to rebuild its leadership and replace killed or captured fighters, and has forged regional alliances with militants in Africa. The number of terrorist attacks worldwide fell slightly in 2007 to 14,499, from 14,570 in 2006. But the number of people killed in the attacks rose to 22,685, from 20,872 in the previous year, the US National Counter-terrorism Centre said.

Attacks in Afghanistan rose to 1,127 from 969 in the previous year, the centre said. Neighbouring Pakistan saw a year-on-year 100-per-cent increase in terrorist attacks in 2007, it said.

Dell Dailey, coordinator of the State Department Office for Counterterrorism, said al-Qaeda was “weaker now than it was” when it carried out the 11 September attacks — the result of United Nations and other multilateral anti-terrorism efforts as well as rising awareness among target countries.

The list of designated state sponsors of terrorism — Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Sudan and Syria — remained unchanged, despite efforts to remove North Korea from the blacklist through nuclear disarmament negotiations with Pyongyang.

The Venezuelan Government of Hugo Chavez was designated as having failed to cooperate with US anti-terrorism efforts, Dailey said.

Chavez had “deepened Venezuelan relationships with state sponsors of terrorism Iran and Cuba” and his sympathy for the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, had hampered cooperation with US ally Bogota, said the 312-page report. MNA/Reuters

Boat sinks in Brazilian Amazon, killing at least 16

BRASILIA, 4 May — A boat with some 80 people on board sank Sunday in the Solimoes River in Brazil’s northern Amazon as state, killing at least 16, local media reported.

The reports quoted the Department of Fire-Fighters in the city of Manacapuru as saying that some people on board managed to reach the river bank following the sinking. So far, there has been no information about the number of survivors from the accident.

The boat was transporting people from a party and sank near Manacapuru, fire-fighters who took part in the rescue operation were quoted as saying.

A group of 12 divers and about 20 firefighters were sent to the place of the accident to search for possible survivors.

The Brazilian navy also sent two motor boats with about eight service-men to take part in the operation. Rescue workers had recovered the bodies of 16 people by Sunday evening, reports said. Most of victims were women and several dozen other people were unaccounted for. — Xinhua

President Hugo Chavez pumped up the minimum wage by 30 per cent on Wednesday and said putting cash in workers’ pockets came before his battle with Latin America’s highest inflation rate. Hundreds of union members cheered as Chavez signed the decrees to raise wages, which will come into effect on 1 May.

The socialist President vowed to fight prices, which rose 22.5 per cent last year, but said the government was first committed to maintaining workers’ buying power.

He also raised public sector workers’ wages by 30 per cent. The minimum wage will now be 372 US dollars per month. Chavez said this was the highest in Latin America.

Many Venezuelan workers also receive benefits like subsidized food and housing.

Venezuela raised interest rates on Wednesday to encourage savings and soak up liquidity, as the country entered a bonanza from government spending of record oil income.

Chavez urged workers to save, but with interest rates still lower than inflation, many Venezuelans would rather spend, spurring a major shopping spree on consumer goods.

A series of debt issues by state sponsors of terrorism -- Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Sudan and Syria -- remained unchanged, despite efforts to remove North Korea from the blacklist through nuclear disarmament negotiations with Pyongyang.

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Brazil to hike fuel prices after 2-1/2-yr freeze

BRASILIA/RIO DE JANEIRO, 7 May — Brazil will raise refinery-gate gasoline prices 10 per cent and diesel prices by 15 per cent on 2 May in the first hike in 2-1/2 years, but a tax cut should reduce a subsequent rise in inflation, the government said on Wednesday.

The much-expected decision allowing state-run oil company Petrobras to raise the prices of two key fuels came after two days of meetings between Petrobras executives, President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and his ministers, who were concerned about stoking inflation.

Finance Minister Guido Mantega said shortly after Petrobras announced the hike that the government would reduce the so-called CIDE economic domain tax so motorists at the pump feel no impact from the refinery-gate gasoline jump.

He said CIDE, which will fall to 18 centavos (11 US cents) from 28 centavos a litre of gasoline and to 3 centavos from 7 centavos for diesel, was created as an anti-cyclical tax intended to mitigate the impact of price hikes on consumers.

Diesel prices would still increase over 8 per cent for consumers and a huge fleet of trucks and buses, Mantega said.

Inflation has been rising, fueled by growing demand during an economic boom, as well as high food prices.

World oil prices have nearly doubled since the last fuel price hike in Latin America’s largest country where Petrobras accounts for nearly all crude production and refining. — MNA/Reuters
**S P O R T S**

**Capello set semi target**

**LONDON, 6 May**— The Football Association have outlined their ambitious targets for the England national team.

Fabio Capello will be expected to lead the Three Lions to at least the semi-final stage of the 2010 World Cup or Euro 2012.

The England women’s team have also been presented with the same challenge, and FA chairman Lord Triesman is confident that the goals will be met.

This document sets out our goals for the next four years and how we intend to achieve them. The FA is prepared to speak and act for the greatest sport in the world. There is much to do, and we

**Silvestre accepts France fate**

**LONDON, 7 May**—Mikael Silvestre has all but conceded he will be overlooked by France for the European Championship.

The Manchester United defender returned to action last month against Roma following a cruciate ligament injury sustained at the start of the season.

Silvestre has looked sharp since his return but with the season fast running out of games, he accepts France will likely call on others for Austria and Switzerland.

Les Bleus are well stocked defensively and with the likes of Lilian Thuram, William Gallas, Philippe Mexes, Eric Abidal and Gael Clichy all capable of filling in at left-back, Silvestre is looking forward to a summer of rest and recuperation.

**Gunnens boss hopes current stars stand by his Arsenal vision**

**LONDON, 7 May**—Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger hopes further members of his squad do not follow Mathieu Flamini’s decision to leave Emirates Stadium.

Flamini completed his protracted move to Milan on Monday, signing for a free transfer as his contract at Arsenal was due to expire in the summer.

Alexender Hleb has also been linked with a switch away from North London, with Inter nationalazione reportedly keen to secure his services.

But Wenger is hopeful that he will not lose any more key players to the lure of lofty wages as he looks to build for the next season.

“It is a problem (the salaries on offer) but we did not master this situation (with Flamini) because when a player is out of contract he can sign wherever he wants,” said Wenger, speaking at a forum for Arsenal’s shareholders.

“I must say I am disappointed that he did that—but legally he can do it. But I hope that 95 percent of the team, the core of the team, says ‘come on, we have only just lost’.

“If our players are not capable of doing that and just want to walk out for bigger contracts, for me that would be the biggest disappointment.

“And it is just, because we were leading at Manchester United, we were leading at Chelsea and we were leading at Liverpool in the Champions League — and every time we just lost a little bit of focus and lost the game.

“Let’s come back and show we are winners. That is the real target of the team.”

Webster Clause” Wenger also voiced his determination to hold onto Hleb, who, according reports, may invoke the ‘Webster Clause’ which allows players to leave a club after three years of a longer fixed-term contract, provided they do not move to a club in the same country.

“What people say about the buy-out clause, it is not as simple as it looks,” Wenger said on the club’s official website. “It is much more difficult and the clubs are reluctant to do that (invoke the ‘Webster Clause’).

“We want to keep Hleb, we want him to be part of our team next year. It is as simple as that. We have lost one player (Mathieu Flamini), we do not want to lose more.”

**United eye trio**

**LONDON, 7 May**—Manchester United are being linked with a triple move on the Americas with Wilson Palacios, Antonio Valencia and Marcelo Moreno all said to be interesting Sir Alex Ferguson.

Wian duo Valencia and Palacios are attracting interest throughout England and Europe after a string of top-class performances for The Latics which has seen Steve Bruce’s side seal their Premier League status.

23-year-old midfielder Palacios has shone since moving to Wigan in 2008. He spent the previous six months on loan at Birmingham where Steve Bruce had him recommended by Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger.

Once Bruce moved to Wigan he snapped up Palacios — but his form is now attracting big attention, likewise with team-mate Valencia.

The Ecuadorian winger spent two-years on loan at The JJB before his deal was made permanent last season. Now Valencia seems set for a big-money move after his agent confirmed he was ready to leave.

**Owen — popularity not an issue**

**LONDON, 7 May**—Owen Hargreaves insists he is unconcerned by popularity stakes as long as he is doing his job for England.

Hargreaves, who has earned 41 internationals caps, has been forced to win over the critics during his England career after making his debut against Holland seven years ago.

The Calgary-born Manchester United ace — who could also have represented Canada, or Ukraine due to the time he spent with former club Bayern Munich — was hailed as the answer to England’s former problem area on the left of midfield when he burst onto the scene in 2001, but inconsistent form and doubts about his international eligibility saw him targeted by boo-boys.

Hargreaves now appears to have proved his doubters wrong after a productive run of form in a favoured central midfield role, but the 27-year-old insists he was never affected by speculation over his position on the international stage.

“Let’s come back and show we are winners. That is the real target of the team.”

“Webster Clause” Wenger also voiced his determination to hold onto Hleb, who, according reports, may invoke the ‘Webster Clause’ which allows players to leave a club after three years of a longer fixed-term contract, provided they do not move to a club in the same country.

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“We want to keep Hleb, we want him to be part of our team next year. It is as simple as that. We have lost one player (Mathieu Flamini), we do not want to lose more.”

**Fabio Capello**

“I have been working really hard during the season to get back so though I haven’t had many games I do still need a rest this summer,” Mikael told MEN Sport.

“I want a break and then come back fresh for next season.

“Unless there are a couple of injuries for France I don’t think I will be included.

“The manager has a few options in defence in the centre and at left-back.”

**Owen Hargreaves**

“I’m not out there to please everyone in the world.”

Hargreaves — who was the only England player to sample success in the quarter-final penalty shoot-out defeat to Portugal at the 2006 World Cup — told skysports.com.

“Sometimes people like you and sometimes they don’t. It is not my responsibility to please everyone. I have learnt that in my time.

“The most important thing is that my team-mates and my coaches are happy with me and, if they are, I will play.

“People should form their own opinion and a lot of the time people just jump on the bandwagon and don’t form their own opinion.”

**Internet**

**Donate blood**
WEATHER

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours MST:
During the past 24 hours, rain or thunder-showers have been scattered in Kachin State and Bago Division, isolated in Kayah, Kayin and Mon States, Sagaing, Mandalay and Yangon Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) above May average temperatures in Sagaing Division, (3°C) to (4°C) below May average temperatures in Kachin and Shan States, (5°C) to (6°C) below May average temperatures in Bago Division and about May average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperatures were Mawlamyine (44°C), Myitkyina (41°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfalls recorded were Mogok (1.85) inches, Kanbalu (1.46) inches and Taunggu (0.82) inch.

Forecast valid until evening of 6-5-2008:
Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Kachin, Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Ayeawady, Yangon, Bago and Tanintharyi Divisions, isolated in Shan State, lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of increase of rain in Rakhine State.
Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 8-5-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in the afternoon or evening. Degree of certainty is (60%).
Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 8-5-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in the afternoon or evening. Degree of certainty is (60%).
Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 8-5-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in the afternoon or evening. Degree of certainty is (60%).
Let’s go to the polling booth to cast vote.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects loading of relief supplies for victims in Ayeyawady Division

NAY PYI TAW, 7 May
Chairman of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Prime Minister General Thein Sein, who was supervising the relief measures for storm victims in Ayeyawady Division based in Pathein, inspected loading of relief supplies onto the ships for the victims in cyclonic storm Nargis-stricken areas in Ayeyawady Division yesterday. In the evening, the Prime Minister visited the relief camps and the people’s hospital, consolled and provided the victims with relief supplies.

At 8.45 am, the Prime Minister presented 25 WCDMA telephones to Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe for ensuring smooth communications in relief and resettlement at Mya E-ya Yeiktha in Pathein.

The Prime Minister and party inspected unloading of corrugated iron sheets from the vehicles for relief camps at Pangyan Jetty on Strand Road in Pathein.

They went to U Cho Rice Mill in Kungyan Ward where Daw Aye Aye Lwin, the rice mill proprietor, reported on arrangements for transport of 2,700 bags of rice out of 20,000 to the relief camps in Hainggyi Island.

The Prime Minister inspected loading of the bags of rice onto the ships, rice milling and storage of rice and unloading of rice by the Tatmadaw members.

Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Rice Millers Association U Myo Wai and Township Rice Millers Association donated 1,500 bags of rice to the relief camps in the division.

In the evening, the Prime Minister, Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and party went to No 3 Basic Education High School and consoled 89 victims from two villages from Labutta Township and eight villages from Ngaputaw Township and provided them with food, clothing and utensils.

Planes carrying relief supplies from foreign countries arrive at Yangon

YANGON, 7 May — Foreign countries donate cash and kind to cyclonic storm Nargis-hit areas in Myanmar.

A total of 330 6-person-capacity tarpaulin tents and 50 generators from Japan arrived at Yangon International Airport, here, by TG-303 flight at 8.40 am today. Likewise, two tons of medicines, one ton of dry potato, clothes and seven tons of tarpaulin from Bangladesh arrived here by C-130 flight at 11 am today; three tons of dry noodles and dry meat and USS 20,000 from Laos by X-7 flight at 11.05 am; two tons (See page 11)