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

**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

**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

**Prime Minister inspects loading of supplies onto ships for storm victims in Ayeyawady Division**

NAI PYI TAW, 11 May – Chairman of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Prime Minister General Thein Sein this afternoon inspected loading of supplies onto the ships. The supplies were provided by nations of the world and international organizations for storm-hit townships in Ayeyawady Division.

The Prime Minister, accompanied by Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, the ministers, the auditor-general, the deputy ministers, senior military officers and departmental heads, arrived at the jetty on Phonegyi Street in Seikkan Township at 2.30 pm. He inspected loading of supplies for the storm victims in Ngaputaw Townships onto Bala Ye Kyaw vessel of Inland Water Transport.

The Prime Minister visited Ko Lu Chaw and group, of Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon, who are contributing voluntary service in transport of supplies.

The supplies provided from international communities have been delivered to Pathein and Labutta Townships by Banya Oo and Ngagyi vessels. The Tatmadaw members, MPF members, inland freight handling workers and 30-member Ko Lu Chaw and group led by Thadoe Saw and Aung Khine helped in transport of supplies.

The Prime Minister and party inspected the delivery of supply in convoy to Ayeyawady Division and gave necessary instructions. They went to Wahdan jetty where they inspected loading of supplies for the storm victims in Pyapon, Bogale, Mawlamyinegyun and Dedaye Townships onto the navy vessels.

The Prime Minister met with the Tatmadaw and MPF members and gave instructions on safety of the vessels and delivery of the supplies right to the victims as soon as possible. The Prime Minister and party inspected removal of fallen trees, installation of telephone and power lines and erecting lamp-posts and running of vehicles along Yangon-Insein Road and

(See page 9)
**Beware of weather changes**

Storm, floods, drought and heat waves often occur due to the weather changes in the world. Some 13 million of people die every year as there are fewer environments that can protect such natural disasters. Moreover, over three million people die of diarrhoea, malaria and protein deficiency annually.

Crops are ruined and there is scarcity of water due to the weather changes in various parts of the world. Yearly, over 40,000 children may also die in the inland regions of Asia and Africa.

On the World Health Day in 2008 the issues of weather changes were discussed for possible cooperation. Such weather changes pose a threat to the health and life security of the mankind and cause the change of environment.

Governments of the nations of the world, international organizations, social organizations and entrepreneurs are making efforts for reduction of the spread of infectious diseases and danger the human beings encounter.

The Myanmar government is carrying out the tasks for raising socio-economic life of the people and upgrading public health care services. Local authorities and organizations, health staff, social organizations and the entire people need to prevent diseases and fight against them and undertake relief and resettlement tasks in concert in case of natural disasters.

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**Commander presents relief aids to storm victims in Seikkyi-Khanaungto**

YANGON, 11 May – Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Hay Win this afternoon comforted storm victims at the relief camp opened at Dhammapiti Monastery in Seikkyi-Khanaungto Township.

The commander presented K 2 million donated by Yangon Division PDC, 500 bags of rice each by Shwe Thanlwin U Kyaw Win and family and U Kyu Khin and family, 3,000 bottles of drinking water by U Maung Win and family, snacks, biscuits, foods, rice and purified drinking water by KSB Co of Singapore to the victims.

Yangon Division PDC also donated one 5 KVA generator, wires, bulbs and fluorescent lamps worth K 2.6 million to the victims. — MNA

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**Relief aids flowing into Ayeyawady Division**

YANGON, 11 May – Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe inspected arrival of relief aid at Pathein Airport and loading of the relief items onto vehicles to be transported to storm-hit townsips yesterday.

In Ayeyawady Village of Pyapon Township, the commander comforted the local people and presented instant noodle, biscuit, rehydration salt and drinking water to the victims.

The commander sent a medical team together with relief supplies to storm-hit villages by Tatmadaw helicopter.

In the afternoon, the commander, together with Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, left Pathein Airport carrying relief aids for Maubin. At No 1 relief camp in Ward 3 of Maubin, they comforted the victims. They also visited relief camp No 2 at BEHS No 1 in Ward 4. In Wakema, they presented clothes to the victims and viewed distribution of packets of rice to them.

A total of 1,503 victims have been accommodated at five relief camps in Maubin Township, 433 victims at four relief camps in Wakema Township and 7,394 victims at 23 relief camps in Myaungmya Township. — MNA

An emergency patient of Kwinpauk village being airlifted for medical treatment.

MNA
China issues law to manage disaster relief donation

Beijing, 11 May — The Chinese Ministry of Civil Affairs issued a regulation to better manage disaster relief donations here on Thursday.

The new regulation focused on embezzlers who will be ordered to return donations and will also face legal action.

The donations recovered will only be used for disaster relief, the regulation reads.

Gaza power station shut down for shortage of fuel

Gaza, 11 May — The sole power plant in the Gaza Strip was shut down on Saturday afternoon after running out of industrial diesel, its director Mujahed Salama said on Saturday.

According to Salama, the Gaza Power Station was shut down from 5 pm (1400 GMT) on Saturday, and could not be reopened until fuel shipment was delivered by Israel.

Residents in Gaza said that after the shut down, Gaza City is in total blackout and only the southern and northern part of the strips still have electricity supplies because their power were provided by Egypt and Israel.

Salama said the last time the power plant received fuel shipments from Israel was on Wednesday and the amount was only enough to keep the station running for three days.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Gaza power station shut down

Khartoum, 11 May — An overnight curfew has been imposed on Khartoum after Darfur rebels attacked a suburb of Sudan’s capital.

“Nous are announcing a curfew in the state of Khartoum from 5 pm (1400 GMT) until 6 am starting from today May 10th, 2008,” an Army spokesman said on state television.

Darfur rebels fought battles with Sudan’s Army in the North Kordofan Province bordering Khartoum on Friday and Saturday, according to a local government official and witnesses.

The shooting in west Omdurman could be heard down the telephone of one resident who telephoned Reuters on Saturday.

Skeletons found in E Canada date back to 19th Century

Ottawa, 11 May — Two nearly intact skeletons found near a historic site in Canada’s Quebec Province date back to the 19th Century or even earlier, archaeologists say.

The skeletons were discovered by construction workers in February while breaking ground for new washroom facilities for the Plains of Abraham, a famous historic site which sits outside Quebec City.

Bioarcheologist Vanessa Oliver-Lloyd said Friday that the skeletons may be buried before 1900, because a drain was placed underground in 1900 and the coffins were below the drain.

Somali insurgent ambush troops outside Mogadishu

Mogadishu, 11 May — Islamist insurgents killed five government soldiers in an ambush outside the capital Mogadishu on Saturday, adding to days of bloodshed that have cast a pall over rare peace talks.

More than 35 people have died since Thursday in clashes between rebels and allied Somali-Ethiopian troops that broke out a week after a militant leader was killed in a US airstrike.

Residents said the insurgents targeted government troops in Yaqbaraweyn, a small town west of the capital, and also fought with Ethiopian forces in Towliq, north of the city.

Argentine police seize 460 kilos of cocaine

Buenos Aires, 11 May — Argentine police Friday seized 460 kilos of cocaine valued at two million US dollars and arrested six suspected drug dealers in the country’s capital city.

Officers discovered 260 kilos of cocaine after they broke into a house in southern Buenos Aires. The rest of the drugs were found in a pickup parked nearby.

They also confiscated 26,000 US dollars and some documents.

Police said the drug trafficking gang was importing drugs from Colombia and storing them in houses in southern Buenos Aires for further distribution.

During the raid, a police officer was hit by a bullet in the leg and transferred to hospital, a police spokesman said, adding that the injured man was recovering well.

Iraqi soldiers secure the site of a roadside bomb attack that targeted their convoy which police said killed two civilians and wounded five others in central Basra, 550 km (342 miles) south of Baghdad, on 10 May, 2008.

INTERNET

People gather at Plaza Garibaldi to celebrate Mother’s Day in Mexico City, early Saturday, 10 May, 2008. — INTERNET

Birds fly off after an IED (Improvised Explosive Device) explodes in the Shiite enclave of Sadr City in Baghdad, Iraq, on 10 May, 2008. — INTERNET

Mother’s Day in Mexico City, early Saturday, 10 May, 2008. — INTERNET
Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and Vice-Quartermaster-General Maj-Gen Htin Aung Kyaw inspect loading of goods for storm-hit areas onto ships. — MNA

Auditor-General inspects loading of supplies

YANGON, 11 May — Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and Vice-Quartermaster-General Maj-Gen Htin Aung Kyaw of the Ministry of Defence this morning inspected supplies being loaded onto ships to be delivered to Labutta, Bogale and Mawlamyine Townships at No 1 jetty on Phonegyi Street, Lanmadaw Township and those being loaded onto Tatmadaw (Navy) ship to be bound for Pyapon, Mawlamyine, Bogale and Dedaye Townships at Wardan Jetty, Lanmadaw Township.

52 GSM Radio Stations return to normal

YANGON, 11 May — Among damaged 56 GSM Radio Stations caused by storm in Yangon Division, 52 stations have resumed functions and efforts are being made to restore the remaining four stations, it is learnt.— MNA

Ko Lu Chaw group participates in relief works

YANGON, 11 May — Vessels are continuously transporting supplies from No 1 Jetty of Phonegyi Street of Lanmadaw Township to the storm victims in delta region of Ayeyawady Division. Some 30 actors (villains) led by academy actor Aung Khine and Thadoe Saw (Ko Lu Chaw Group) participated in loading relief supplies onto the vessels to be transported to Labutta, Bogale and Mawlamyine Townships. They took part in the clearing of fallen trees caused by the storm in the precinct of Kyaikkasan Pagoda in Thingangyun Township.

Those who wish to participate in the relief works may contact at academy actor Aung Khine (Ph-0951-52545) and Thadoe Saw (Ph-391296). — MNA

Servicemen of Defence Services Martial Art and Sports Institute take part in clearance of debris along the roads in Kyauktada Township. — MNA

Servicemen take part in clearance of debris

YANGON, 11 May — Servicemen of Defence Services Martial Art and Sports Institute totaling 150 performed clearance of debris along the roads in Kyauktada Township with the use of heavy machinery and manpower this morning. They continue to clear the blocked streets in Pabedan Township tomorrow. — MNA

Workers loading a ship with relief supplies for victims in Ayeyawady Division. — MNA

Three ships carrying supplies leave for storm-hit townships

YANGON, 11 May — Three ships each carrying 1 ton of supplies such as clothes, foods and 10,000 pieces of chopping hoes for storm victims this evening left No 1 Jetty at Phonegyi Street in Lanmadaw Township for disaster-stricken Bogale, Labutta and Mawlamyine Townships, Ayeyawady Division. — MNA
Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win comforts storm victims in Hlinethaya Township

YANGON, 10 May—Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win met with officials at the office of Hlinethaya Development Affairs Committee this morning. After hearing the reports on outbreak and control of diseases, prevention of epidemic diseases in Yangon Division, the Commander attended to the requirements. He inspected sanitation and fumigation works. Next, the Commander inspected the relief camp at No 7 BEMS in Atwinpadan village and comforted the storm victims.

MNA

Mobile connection functions normally

YANGON, 11 May—Altogether 25 Mobile Radio Stations and 20 Auto Exchange Booths returned to normalcy and the communications system functioned normally in some townships on 5 May. So far, 53 mobile radio stations, out of 56, in Yangon have been facilitated with communications system thanks to efforts of staff of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications in cooperation with the servicemen. Out of 52 extension exchange booths, 47 booths restored communications up to 11 May. Efforts are being made to restore the connections in the townships and most of auto telephones will communicate soon.

Europe-Asia Underwater Fiber Optic connection (SEA-ME-WE3), Cross-Border Fiber Optic connection and satellite connection are in good condition and Telephone Channel 2149 and oversea connection as well as internet can be used now. MPT Satellite Terminal returned to normalcy on 6 May.

Myanma Posts and Telecommunications has installed CDMA 450 mobile telephone system and satellite phone system to be used in relief works in Pathein, Pyapon, Bogale, Dedaye, Myaungmya, Mawlamyinegyun, Hainggyi Townships in Ayeyawady Division and Yangon area and Twantay, Dala and Kungyangon Townships in Yangon Division.

MNA

YCDC staff clearing debris on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road.

Volunteers carrying relief goods to be delivered to Ayeyawady Division.—MNA

Yangon returning to normal due to collective efforts.—MNA

MPT staff repairing telephone services. —MNA
Diplomats observe casting of votes at a polling station in Mandalay. — MNA

People cast votes at polling stations in Mawlamyine, Mudon

YANGON, 11 May
Member of Commission for Holding Referendum U Aung Myo, the Chairman of Mon State Subcommission and members observed casting of votes by the people at polling stations in Mayangon ward and Maungngan ward in Mawlamyine, Mon State yesterday morning.

U Aung Myo also visited polling station No 1 in Naungkhayi village and viewed casting of votes by Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj- Gen Thet Naing Win and families of the battalion. They also visited polling stations in Mayangon ward and Phuttan ward.

Next, member of the Commission U Aung Myo and party went to Polling station No 2 in Myoma 3 ward of Mudon and observed casting of votes by the people.

Mr Philemon Arobaya, Charge d’Affaires of the Indonesian embassy and Mr Kim Kwang Chol, Counsellor of the embassy of Democratic People’s Republic of Korea accompanied by personnel observed casting of votes at polling station No 4 in Phuttan ward in Mawlamyine.

Afterwards, they visited polling station No 2 in Myoma 3 ward of Mudon. They also observed casting of votes by voters at polling station No 1 in Zayyarmon ward in Kyaukti.

Referendum for Approval of Constitution held in Kayah State

NAY PYI TAW, 11 May
The Referendum for the Approval of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar took place in Lorkaw, Dimawhso, Pruhso, Shadaw, Bawlake, Phahsaung and Meisei Townships in Kayah State at 6 am yesterday simultaneously.

A total of 220 polling stations were opened in the state and people cast votes.

Japanese Counsellor Mr Mitsuji Suzuta and Malaysian Second Secretary Mr Mohamad Syahmi Bin Jaafar observed the casting of votes at the polling stations. — MNA

Diplomats visit polling stations in Magway

YANGON, 11 May
Minister Counsellor of the Royal Thai Embassy Mr Prasas Prasawvinthchai and Chinese Third Secretary Mr Xu Tao visited Nos 1 and 2 polling stations in Pyidawtha ward, No 1 polling station in Aung Yadana ward, Yinsee village No 1 polling station and Nyaugnkang village No 1 polling station in Magway Township yesterday.

They observed activities of polling station officer and members and the Referendum law and rules. A total of 267 polling stations were opened at 14 wards and 61 village-tracts in Magway Township. — MNA

Referendum held in Myeik

YANGON, 11 May
The Referendum for the Approval of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was held at 781 polling stations in 20 townships of Myeik, Dawei and Kawthoung Districts in Taninthayi Division at 6 am yesterday simultaneously.

Chinese Counsellor Mr Wang Zongying, Third Secretary Ms Chelsia Wheeler of the US Embassy and Deputy Director U Thuha Han of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs together with member of Commission for Holding Referendum U Maung Hla, sub-commission members of Taninthayi Division U Tun Wai and U Tin Tun visited the polling stations in Myeik. — MNA

Polling station members issuing ballot papers at a polling station in Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon. — MNA
NAY PYI TAW, 11 May — Vietnamese Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr Tran Van Tung and Chinese Military, Navy and Air Attaché Senior Colonel Fan Liangfeng who were here for observing the referendum for ratification of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar left for Yangon by air at noon today. They were seen off at Nay Pyi Taw airport by Joint-Secretary of the Commission for Holding Referendum U Than Aung and members of Nay Pyi Taw Pyimmana District sub-commission. — MNA

Japanese First Secretary observes referendum in Kachin State

YANGON, 11 May — Eligible persons cast vote at respective polling stations in the Referendum in Kachin State yesterday. In the evening, Ms Satoko Toku, first secretary of the Japanese embassy to Myanmar together with member of Commission for Holding Referendum Dr Tin Aung Aye, Chairman of Kachin Sub-commission U Maung Maung Win and members, Chairman of District/ Township Subcommission observed polling station officers and members inspecting ballot boxes, counting votes, counting of votes-in-favour, votes-against and cancelled votes separately and packing of votes-in-favour, votes-against, cancelled votes and remaining ballot papers into separate bundles in the presence of over 10 eligible voters at polling stations in Minyat and North Shansu wards. People cast votes at 1,069 polling stations in Kachin State.— MNA

Diplomats observe referendum in Sittway Township

YANGON, 11 May — Referendum for the approval of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar took place in Sittway, Maungtaw, Kyaukpyu Districts and 17 townships in Thandwe Districts in Rakhine State from 6 am to 4 pm yesterday and the people cast votes. Commission member U Thein Shwe Maung, Chairman of Rakhine State sub-commission U Ye Naing Aung and members conducted tasks of polling station officers and members at the polling stations in Sittway Township.— MNA

Diplomats observe referendum in Hinthada District

YANGON, 11 May — Charge d’Affaires ai of Indian Embassy Major Kumar Bharti and Malaysian First Secretary Mr Wan Mohd Khalid, Third Secretary Mr Joselito Chad of the Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines and Assistant Director U Aung Ko of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs together with Commission member U San Lwin and U Tin Hsan, Ayeyawady Division sub-commission member U Mann Tin Soe and Hinthada District sub-commission Chairman U Kyi Tin observed casting of votes at the polling stations in Zalun yesterday. Next, they visited the polling stations in Hinthada and observed counting of ballot papers at No 8 polling station in Zalun. — MNA

Diplomats observe referendum in Thayawady District

YANGON, 11 May — Deputy Chief of Mission of Republic of Korea Mr Chung In-Gyun and Vietnamese First secretary Mr Vo Si Luc together with Commission member U Chit Hla, Bago Division sub-commission U Maung Maung and Thayawady District sub-commission chairman U Kyaw Khang Soe and members observed casting of votes at No 1 polling station. Next, they also observed casting of votes and counting of ballot papers at No 1 polling station of Zaypaing ward in Thayawady. — MNA

Diplomats observe referendum in Taikkyi Township

People cast votes at a polling station in Hpa-an. — MNA

People cast votes at a polling station in Lashio. — MNA

People cast votes at a polling station in Taikkyi Township. — MNA

Polling station members issue ballot papers to eligible persons in a polling station in Htantabin Township. — MNA

People cast votes at a polling station in Myaing Township. — MNA
Relief items continue to arrive in storm-hit regions of Ayeyawady Div

Yangon, 11 May — Five Tatmadaw helicopters carrying 23,605 tons of tents, kitchen utensils, medicines, dry rations and bottles of drinking water for storm victims left here for Labutta, Bogale, Mawlamyineguyun, Dedaye, Pyapon, Maubin and Pathein Townships, Ayeyawady Division.

Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo were on board the helicopters to supervise the tasks. — MNA

International relief supplies continue to arrive in Yangon

(from page 16)

nets and medicines donated by Pakistan arrived at Yangon International Airport today. In addition, the items for office and toilet, 4 generators, 11 water purifiers and communication devices donated by WFP also arrived at the airport yesterday.

Relief supplies donated by wellwishers from abroad have been arriving continuously by air and by sea. The groups for accepting the relief aids are distributing them to the storm-hit areas by helicopter, by car and by boat without delay. — MNA

C-130 aircraft carrying medicines, blankets and tents donated by Greece at Yangon International Airport. — MNA

Foreign relief aid delivered to victims

Yangon, 11 May — Two vessels loading relief aid sent by foreign countries for storm victims of some townships in Ayeyawady Division left No 1 Jetty on Phonegyi Street in Lanmadaw Township for Labutta this afternoon.

This evening, Tatmadawmen and members of Myanmar Police Force loaded relief items onto one vessel for the victims of Pathein and Ngaputaw.

A naval boat carrying supply goods left for Dedaye, Pyapon, Bogale and Mawlamyineguyun this afternoon.

MNA

Volunteers unloading oil barrels from a helicopter. — MNA
Prime Minister inspects loading of supplies...

(from page 1)

Yangon-Pyay Road. They proceeded to Yangon International Airport and inspected the supplies in the warehouses donated by international communities and loading of goods onto the vehicles. About 500 tons of supplies are being delivered to the storm victims by eight Tatmadaw aircraft and helicopters, by navy vessels, 16 vessels of Inland Water Transport and 300 trucks. The Prime Minister and party greeted members of Shan State Union Solidarity and Development Association (Taunggyi) who were at the airport to help in transport of goods to the storm-hit areas. — MNA

SWRR Minister performs relief works in Bogale Township

Yangon, 11 May
— Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe together with Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo left here for Bogale this morning and flew over the storm-hit areas.

At control office in Bogale, the minister and the deputy minister together with Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tan discussed matters on relief and resettlement and health care services for the storm victims in Bogale Township.

Next, they inspected the damages and supply of water in Hsatsan village.

In meeting with the local people, Col Tin Aung of the local station reported on damages of Hsatsan village-tracts, arrival of supplies, distribution works and requirements.

Next, Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe gave accounts of relief, settlement tasks and health care services and works to be done. Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo gave talks on preventive measures against infectious diseases.

After hearing reports presented by local people, the minister attended to the needs and presented foodstuff, medicines and purified drinking water to officials. — MNA

Navy presents supplies to storm victims in Kyauktan

Yangon, 11 May
— A team led by Commander Moe Aung of Thanlyin Station together with the chairman of Thanlyin Township Peace and Development Council inspected chosen site for new relief camp in Kyauktan Township and fulfilled the requirements to set-up the tents provided by the People’s Republic of China.

Next, the commander and party inspected distribution of supplies donated by the State and wellwishers to the storm victims at Kyauktan Township BEHS No 1. Afterwards, they met officials and local people at Chaungwa village in the township and gave instructions on rebuilding tasks and health care services.

They made arrangements for reconstruction of four lakes in the village and presented supplies to the storm victims. — MNA

Servicemen remove rubbish in Mingala Taungnyunt, Pazundaung, Botahtaung

Yangon, 11 May
— Over 300 servicemen of regiments and units under No 11 LID removed branches of fallen trees and rubbish along roads in Mingala Taungnyunt and Pazundaung townships with the use of heavy machinery today.

Over 200 servicemen of Indaing Station also performed clearing of branches of broken trees and rubbish in Botahtaung Township with the use of heavy machinery this morning. On completion of clearing the rubbish, they will erect some fallen lamp posts. — MNA

Shwe Than Lwin Co donates rice, drinking water, personal goods

Yangon, 9 May
— Chairman of Shwe Than Lwin Co U Kyaw Wu and staff donated 300 bags of rice and drinking water to 601 households residing on Panhlaing road, Home-Land ward in Kyimyindaing Township here.

Shwe Than Lwin Co also donated 500 bags of rice, 1000 bottled water, soft drinks, dried fish, salt, dry noodle, personal goods and foodstuffs to the storm victims in Dalla Township. — MNA
Minister U Soe Tha gives accounts of relief works in Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions at news briefing. — MNA

Government already spent K 20 billion for emergency aid

News briefing held on relief measures in Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions

YANGON, 11 May – A news briefing on relief measures undertaken by the Government of the Union of Myanmar was held at the hall of National Archives Department on Pyidaungsu Yekhtha Road in Dagon Township this afternoon.

Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha explained relief measures taken in Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions.

Also present on the occasion were 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, resident representatives of UN agencies and officials, responsible persons of social organizations and NGOs.

In his speech, Minister U Soe Than said that as you all aware, on 2 May night and early morning of 3 May, the severe cyclone crossed the coast of Myanmar with the wind direction from the north-east towards Hainggikyun, Labutta, Mawlamyinegyun, Bogale, Pyapon, Kyaiaklat, Dedaye, Kungyangon, Kawhmu, Kyauktan and Twantay.

Due to this severe storm, unprecedented high tide caused damages and the loss of lives of people and animals in Bogale, Pyapon, Labutta, Mawlamyinegyun, Dedaye, Kyaiaklat and Hainggikyun in Ayeyawady Division and Kungyangon, Kawhmu, Kyauktan and Twantay in Yangon Division.

The higher authorities have immediately instructed the Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation, the Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, the Minister for Forestry, the Minister for Cooperatives and the Minister for Immigration and Population to leave for cyclone hit-areas in Ayeyawady Division on 3 May.

The ministers led by the Prime Minister arrived at Yangon on 3 May at 7.30 pm in order to take necessary measures effectively at the central level. On 4 May, the Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation arrived at Labutta, the Minister for Forestry at Bogale and the Minister for PBANRDA at Mawlamyinegyun.

On 4 and 5 May, the Prime Minister managed relief arrangements in Yangon and arrived at Pathein on 6 May to control the relief tasks. Seven relief camps were opened. Respective ministers carried out relief tasks in Labutta, Mawlamyinegyun and Bogale. In Pyapon and Kyaiaklat, authorities of District PDCs performed the relief tasks. The Minister for Energy supervised the relief tasks in Kungyangon. Likewise, relief tasks and medical treatment were performed in Twantay, Kyauktan and Kawhmu beginning 4 May and things mostly returned to normal there on 5 May. In the first phase, performing of relief tasks, distribution of medicines and foods and providing of tents were being carried out. In the second phase, efforts are being made for fulfilling the shelter needs of the victims from the tents to housings. In the third phase, arrangements are being made for providing necessary assistance to the victims to do their businesses.

The international aids from China, India, Thailand, Laos, Malaysia, Indonesia, Cambodia, Singapore, Bangladesh, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, Italy, Ukraine and Russia arrived at Yangon by air. So far, the government has spent over K 20 billion on the relief campaign. In addition, more foods, accommodation, medicine and health care services are being provided to the victims.

Health staff made a field trip right down to villages. Twelve relief camps were opened in storm-hit regions for relief and resettlement tasks and six camps were opened in severely storm-stricken areas and three base camps were also opened. Supplies from abroad are being delivered to those areas by truck, helicopter and vessel.

Aids from any nations are accepted and delivery of relief goods can be handled by local organizations. Arrangements are made daily for direct delivery of the supplies to the areas by boats, helicopters and trucks. Tents, medicines and food were transported by helicopters.

There are few storm-hit areas where officials concerned do not visit. The supplies were dropped in flooded areas where the helicopters could not land.

In connection with the health care services, medical teams were formed and they went to the villages. The Minister for Health and the deputy minister and the Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement visited the storm-hit areas every day and made arrangements for the victims.

As the first phase, effective treatment was given to injured people after the storm.

Reconstruction works are being carried out in a systematic manner. Tasks were assigned to entrepreneurs to engage in reconstruction of Mawlamyinegyun, Bogale, Pyapon, Kyaiaklat and Kungyangon that were hit hard by the storm. In cooperation with the ministries the entrepreneurs are trying their utmost in the reconstructing of storm-stricken structures.

Arrangements have been made for farmers as well as those who are engaged in fisheries to be able to do their respective works.

Relief supplies provided by the international organizations are being sent to the respective storm-hit regions soonest by helicopter, boat and car. Myanmar thanks UN agencies for their assistance, and welcomes countries and organizations that have wished to contribute their shares in the relief and reconstruction drive.

Next, 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 replied to queries raised by those present and the news briefing ended.

After the briefing, ministers and deputy ministers cordially greeted those present on the occasion. — MNA
Cash donated to storm victims

NAY PYI TAW, 11 May—Wellwishers are continuously donating cash and kind to storm victims. Today’s donations to the storm victims were K 25 million by the Northern Command, K 25 million by Kachin State Peace and Development Council, K 300 million by entrepreneurs in Hpakant, over K 28.9 million by Stations, Regiments and Units under Northern Command, K 30 million by Kachin State Women’s Affairs Organization and Maternal and Child Welfare Association, K 1 million each by families of Northern Command and Kachin State PDGs and K 1 million by U Kyaw Thiha (Myanmar Win Gate Company). MNA

Mon State donates salt for victims

YANGON, 11 May—Mon State donated 18,600 viss of salt for storm victims in Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions yesterday. It has already donated corrugated iron sheets worth K 70 million and clothes worth K 5.8 million for the storm victims, it is learnt. — MNA

Energy Minister provides relief aid

YANGON, 11 May—Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi comforted storm victims in Kyonda Village in Dedaye Township, Ayeyawady Division this morning. The minister donated provisions to Sayadaw of YwaU monastery in the village. The minister supplied rice, purified drinking water, medicines, food, water proof, tarpaulin and others to storm victims.—MNA

PRC Ambassador donates cash to storm victims

YANGON, 11 May—The Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to Myanmar handed over US$ 20,000 donated by Chinese Embassy, US$ 6,000 and K 350,000 by the office of Economic and Commercial Counsellor and Chinese Merchants in Myanmar through Chairman of Sub-Committee for Accepting and Disbursement of Funds Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe at the Central Bank of Myanmar here today. The Chinese Ambassador also conveyed a message saying the PRC government wished people of the storm-hit areas overcome the hardships sooner.—MNA

Rescue operations carry on

YANGON, 10 May—Search and rescue operations to search for missing people in the storm are being carried out every day. Three rescue teams including a team led by staff officer U Tin Thein of Sangyoung Township Fire Services Department is searching for the missing people in Ayeyawady Division by Tatmadaw helicopter.—MNA

WFP aid arrives at Yangon

YANGON, 11 May—Air Bus A-300 carrying 70 tents, 1200 blankets, 80 mosquito nets, 10 pieces of 10000-litre-capacity water tanks, 20 pieces of 5000-litre-capacity water tanks, 15 pieces of 1000-litre-capacity water tanks, 1000 pieces of tarpaulin,1080 kitchen-used-machines donated by World Food Programme (WFP) arrived at Yangon International Airport this evening. MNA

Members of Search and Rescue Team leave for storm-hit areas in Ayeyawady Division.—MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi presents supplies to storm victims of Kyonda village in Dedaye Township.—MNA

Chinese Ambassador presents cash donations to Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe.

MNA
PKK blasts kill civilian, hurt guards in S-E Turkey

DIYARBAKIR, (Turkey), 10 May — Three people were killed and a dozen were wounded on Friday in a series of explosions in southeastern Turkey blamed on separatist Kurdish guerrillas, security sources told Reuters.

The three landmine blasts, set off by remote control, took place in the tormented southeastern provinces of Siirt and Batman and in eastern Bingol Province, said security sources, who declined to be named.

Ankara is conducting a military operation, backed by attack helicopters, tanks and artillery against separatist Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) guerrillas in the restive and mountainous parts of southeast Turkey.

Amid widespread public anger over PKK attacks, the government has sent tens of thousands of troops to the border region. Over the week dozens of Turkish F-16 warplanes have also gone on bombing raids against suspected PKK positions deep inside neighbouring northern Iraq.

More than a dozen killed in Somali clashes

MOGADISHU, 10 May — Clashes between Ethiopian troops and Islamist insurgents have killed more than a dozen people in southeastern and central regions of Somalia, residents said.

Islamist fighters, opposed to Ethiopian soldiers in Somalia to support its interim government, ambushed a convoy of Ethiopian forces in the central Hiraan Region on Wednesday, triggering an exchange of mortar bombs and machinegun fire. “Ethiopian troops killed four civilians and eight insurgents,” said resident Rage Osman. But Islamist spokesman Abdirahim Issa Adow told Reuters on Thursday that only two fighters had been killed, including a senior Mujahedin, and three wounded in the fighting.

“The enemy troops mercilessly killed many civilians after we attacked them because they treat all Somalis the same,” he said. “We will carry on fighting the Ethiopians until they leave our country.” — MNA/Reuters

Bomb explosion kills one in Vietnam

Hanoi, 10 May — A fragmentation bomb exploded in Vietnam’s central Nghe An Province, killing one local scrap collector, according to local newspaper Pioneer on Friday.

The 40-year-old man named Nguyen Phung was found dead with many serious wounds in a rice field in Dien Ban District after the explosion on Thursday.

According to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund of the United States, during the Vietnam War in 1965-1975, the US Armed Forces deployed more than 15 million tons of bombs, mines, artillery shells and other ordnance in Vietnam, in which 10 per cent did not detonate as designed.

Local scrap collectors often seek and saw unexploded ordnance (UXO) for metal and explosive, while small children play ammunitions by breaking them, resulting in hundreds of deaths and injuries annually. There are still over 300,000 tons of UXO in Vietnam, according to the country’s estimates.

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Smuggling of diesel foiled in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 10 May — The Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) in Tawau, eastern Sabah State, foiled an attempt to smuggle out 100,000 liters of subsidized diesel when it seized a barge loaded with the fuel, local media reported on Friday. The preventive operation was carried out 1.2 nautical miles off Batu Tinagat, Sabah State, MMEA Sabah and Labuan public relations officer, Syed Kamalur Sufian Syed Kadiron Mustafa said.

A train runs through Canada. Canadian authorities quarantined a Via Rail passenger train after one person died and several were seriously ill on Friday, local media said.

US forces kill 14 militants in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 10 May — US forces have killed 14 militant in the Baghdad slum of Sadr City, a stronghold of the Mujahedin, to anti-American Shi’ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, the military said on Friday.

The gunfire was fired in several clashes on Thursday, the military said in a statement.

It said air strikes and tanks were used to attack militiamen attempting to launch rockets from the slum or shoot at US troops on patrol. Hospitals in Sadr City said they had received four bodies and 51 wounded. Among the wounded were children.

Fighting has raged in Baghdad since Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki ordered a crackdown on militias in late March.

Several hundred people have been killed in fighting that shows no sign of easing. Aid workers have warned of a looming humanitarian crisis in the slum, home to two million people.
Death toll from China viral outbreak rises to 32

BEIJING, 10 May — Contagious hand-foot-mouth disease (HFMD) has left 32 children dead and sickened 24,934 in China as of Thursday, according to Xinhua’s tally based on confirmed death reports from provincial-level health bureaus.

An eight-month girl died of the disease early Monday morning in Fanyu District of Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong Province, despite emergency medical treatment, the provincial health administration said late Thursday night.

The baby, a native of central China’s Henan Province, tested positive for enterovirus 71 (EV71) — a virus that can cause a severe form of the disease.

So far, Guangdong has reported four deaths and a total of 7,103 infections in the outbreak of HFMD this year, including 34 cases of EV71 positive.

WHO spokesperson advises on HFMD prevention, cure

GENEVA, 10 May — The World Health Organization’s (WHO) Epidemic and Pandemic Alert and Response Department (EPR) spokesperson Gregory Hartl spoke to Xinhua on Thursday about effective prevention and cure measures for hand-foot-mouth disease (HFMD).

Hartl, who also served as project leader of the EPR’s Information Management and Communications, said HFMD can be transmitted through the respiratory tract and fecal waste, and that cases of the disease have previously been reported in many countries around the world.

Vietnam to hold on-line meeting to save expenses

HANOI, 10 May — The Vietnamese government will conduct more on-line meetings among officials to save expenses.

Vietnam News newspaper reported on Thursday that Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung has asked the government’s Office to hold more on-line meetings with provincial authorities, so as to save expenses on travel and reduce lengthy meetings.

Other localities have also planned to hold on-line meetings between departments and offices.

The government plans to spend 15 billion VND (940,000 US dollars) this year to purchase equipment for on-line meetings, and more meetings among government officials will be conducted on-line via TelePresence technology, said the report.

Oil holds near record above $124 on funds buying

Tokyo, 10 May — Oil held near record highs above $124 US dollars a barrel on Friday, as a surge in heating oil futures following sharp declines in stocks triggered heavy buying by investment funds.

Funds were keen to shift their money into the oil market after seeing US crude rise about 13 per cent since the start of the month, but some traders said they were wary about extending their buying as recent rallies have been too rapid, US crude for June delivery rose 67 cents at 124.36 US dollars a barrel by 0356 GMT on the Globex electronic trading platform, after reaching another record high of 124.61 US dollars on Thursday.

Amsterdam airport to suffer delays due to strike

BRUSSELS, 10 May — Baggage handlers working for passenger service group Menzies Aviation at Amsterdam’s Schiphol Airport went on strike on Friday.

The airport has warned passengers to be prepared for delays and possible cancellations.

Menzies Aviation is one of several baggage handling companies operating at Schiphol, the busiest airport in the Netherlands.

The unions demand a 3.5-percent pay rise while the company is offering 1.5 per cent, Dutch news agency ANP reported.

Some 20 per cent of the company’s workforce of 500 are on strike, a spokesman for trade union De Unie told ANP.

Menzies is responsible for processing some 10 per cent of Schiphol baggage.

Among the 16 airlines it serves are Alitalia, Corendon, Cathay Pacific, Delta and Japan Airlines.
Manchester United 2-0 victory over Wigan

LONDON, 11 May — Cristiano Ronaldo scored his 41st goal of the season and Ryan Giggs added a second for insurance to confirm Manchester United as champions in a day of drama at both ends of the table in the Premier League.

The Portugal international held his nerve after 53 minutes at the JJB Stadium. Scoring Chris Kirkland, the Wigan Athletic goalkeeper, the wrong way after Wayne Rooney had been bundled over in the penalty area by Emmerson Boyce. Giggs scored a second to calm United nerves ten minutes from time with a clinical left-footed finish. Victory was always going to be good enough for Sir Alex Ferguson to celebrate his 10th Premier League title in 16 seasons, no matter what closest challengers Chelsea did. Avram Grant’s side drew 1-1 with Bolton Wanderers at Stamford Bridge and lost their captain John Terry to injury.

There had been concerns in some quarters that Wigan, managed by Steve Bruce, the former Manchester United central defender, might capitalise, but they gave their all in a tight match and had their chances, most notably in the first half when Luis Antonio Valencia went on a surging run and crossed for Marcus Bent, who could only find the side netting with his attempt on goal, and in the second when Emile Heskey headed just over the bar with goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar beaten.

There was also controversy late in the first period when Paul Scholes, who had already been booked, cynically blocked off the run of Wilson Palacios by the right touchline. The former England midfielder — who had been booked earlier — was given a stern talking to by referee Steve Bennett but escaped a second caution and a dismissal.

Chelsea entered Sunday knowing they could do nothing if United, with their vastly superior goal difference, won their match, so their game with Bolton Wanderers was rendered somewhat irrelevant.

Even so, after a lacklustre first half, they exerted some pressure when Andriy Shevchenko scored from close range midway through the second half only for Bolton to equalise through Kevin Davies in stoppage time.

The game, though, was marred by a serious shoulder injury to Terry, the Chelsea captain. The England central defender is now almost certainly out of the Champions League final with Manchester United on 21 May after being carried off in agony following a collision with goalkeeper Petr Cech.

Millions to tune in for Premier League decider

LONDON, 11 May — Newcastle manager Kevin Keegan may have had a point when he described the Premier League as predictable but that will not reduce the excitement of Sunday’s last-day deciders at Stamford Bridge and the JJB Stadium.

There is indeed not much new in Manchester United seeking their 10th Premier League title in 15 years nor Chelsea’s third in the last four, yet all over the world millions will tune in to see which of English football’s cash-rich superpowers prevails this time.

Answers to yesterday’s Crosswords Puzzle

BROKER WINDOW
A L A E A
R E
L S N O W STORM T
T I
D I P S
I G E R T L I S
C A N D I D A R T E R
S A N G T E R
D E T A I L D I F F E R
A B U T I T A N I E
G U R U C N H E T A
G E N C H A I N E D A
E G R E E
K A T T A N L A B I A L

Galatasaray wrest title back from Fenerbahce

ISTANBUL, 10 May — Galatasaray won the Turkish league title for the 17th time on Saturday with a 2-0 win against Gencelbirigli Ofas, wresting the championship back from their Istanbul rivals Fenerbahce.

The victory in the final match of the season lifted Galatasaray to 79 points, six ahead of second-placed Fenerbahce, who lost 2-0 at Trabzonspor.

Galatasaray fans poured into Istanbul’s streets, singing club songs, sounding car horns and waving red- and yellow flags after the final whistle at the club’s ageing Ali Sami Yen stadium, where 20,000 supporters watched the team parade the trophy.

Galatasaray took the lead in the 36th minute when Arda Turan sped down the right wing and crossed for veteran striker Hakan Sukur to score with a simple tap-in. — MNA/Reuters

Hamburg’s Joris Mathijesen, left, and Cottbus’ Dimitar Rangelov struggle for the ball during the German first division Bundesliga soccer match between Energie Cottbus and HSV in Cottbus, Germany, on 10 May, 2008. Cottbus won the match 2-1 and will stay in the first division. — Internet
Japan finds another case of bird flu in dead swan

Tokyo, 11 May — Japan has found the H5N1 strain of bird flu in another swan in the northernmost main island of Hokkaido, the prefectural government of Hokkaido said on its website Saturday.

The case was confirmed from a dead swan found five days ago near Lake Towada, close to the northern tip of the main island of Honshu.

Vietnam detects transnational drug trafficking ring

Hanoi, 11 May — Vietnamese and Lao police have arrested six people involving in a transnational drug trafficking ring, seizing 64,000 amphetamine pills, Vietnam News Agency reported on Friday.

Two people from Laos and one from Vietnam aged 39-41 were arrested in Laos on Thursday when transporting the drug in the country.

Three others involved in the ring were also detained on the same day.

Under Vietnam’s laws, anyone possessing, trading or trafficking heroin of 600 grams or above can be sentenced to death or life in prison.

Vietnam finds another case of bird flu in dead swan

Japan has found the H5N1 strain of bird flu in another swan in the northernmost main island of Hokkaido, the prefectural government of Hokkaido said on its website Saturday.

The latest case is the third in Japan this year. In late April, several swans were found with the H5N1 strain on the shores of Lake Towada, close to the northern tip of the main island of Honshu.

MNA/Reuters

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours MST:

During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Kayin and Mon States, Taninthayi Division, fairly widespread in Yangon Division, scattered in Shan and Kayin States, Bago Division and isolated in remaining area with isolated heavyfall in Mon State. Day temperatures were (5°C) to (6°C) above May average temperatures in Kachin State and Upper Sagaing Division, (3°C) to (4°C) below May average temperatures in Lower Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and about May average temperatures in the remaining State and Divisions. The significant day temperatures was Mirbu (41°C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Thuton (3.46) inches, Loikaw (1.61) inches, Dawei (1.54) inches, Pyay (1.45) inches, Coco Island (1.42) inches and Kengtung (1.34) inches.

Maximum temperature on 10-5-2008 was 92°F. Minimum temperature on 11-5-2008 was 72°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 11-5-2008 was 84%. Total sunshine hours on 10-5-2008 was (3.5) hours approx.

Rainfall on 11-5-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (19.41) inches at Mingaladon, (22.12) inches at Kaba-Aye and (23.74) at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Southwest at (18:30) hours MST on 10-5-2008.

Bay inference: The atmospheric unsettle condition was formed over the North Andaman Sea and adjoining East Central Bay of Bengal. Southwest monsoon is starting to advance into the Southern Myanmar areas. Weather is cloudy in the Adaman Sea, East Central Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 12-5-2008: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kayin, Mon and Rakhine States, Ayeyawady, Bago, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, scattered in Kachin, Shan, Chin and Kayah States, Upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions with isolated heavyfall in Mon State and Taninthayi Division, Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Frequent squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach about (45) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Southwest monsoon is likely to advance to the Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 12-5-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in the afternoon or evening. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 12-5-2008: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 11-5-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in the afternoon or evening. Degree of certainty is (60%).
Donations of King of Thailand handed over

YANGON, 11 May — A ceremony to hand over donations made by the King of Thailand for storm-victims was held at the Yangon International Airport here this morning.

General Chalit Pukpasuk of Royal Thai Armed Forces handed over the donations to Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Commander of Mingaladon Air Base Brig-Gen Zin Yaw and officials, senior military officers and departmental personnel. General Chalit Pukpasuk was accompanied by Thai Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr Bansarn Bunnag and officials.

The donations include 25 tents and 2,000 of emergency bags weighing 13 tons. — MNA

International relief supplies continue to arrive in Yangon

YANGON, 11 May — As the international community have been donating relief supplies to storm-hit areas, 76 TD aircraft carrying 35 tons of medicines and water purifiers and accessories donated by ICRC, C-130 aircraft carrying 13 tons of tents and emergency items donated by the King of Thailand, C-130 aircraft carrying 18.18 tons of 56 packages of medicines, 600 blankets and 60 tents donated by Greece, Boeing -727 carrying 16.18 tons of 2500 blankets, 220 plastic rolls, 1200 bottles of water, 25 containers and 2400 beds donated by JICA of Japan, AX-26 aircraft carrying 5.3 tons of 26 kinds of personal goods donated by Petronas Oil Company of Malaysia, two C-130 aircraft carrying altogether 22.4 tons of 2000 pieces of plastic mat, 300 tents, 2000 mosquito nets.

(See page 8)