PM calls for speedy measures for rehabilitation as monsoon sets in and schools reopen soon

Prime Minister General Thein Sein delivers address at meeting on rehabilitation in storm-hit areas in Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 12 May — A meeting on rehabilitation in storm-hit areas in Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions was held at the meeting hall of Yangon Command this morning, with an address by Chairman of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Prime Minister General Thein Sein.

Also present were Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win, the ministers, the deputy ministers the director-general of the Government Office, heads of departments, chairman of companies and guests.

First, Lt-Gen Myint Swe said that sub-committees formed for taking measures against the natural disaster in the country are carrying out their tasks and the private companies and organizations in cooperation with the government are also undertaking relief and resettlement tasks. The companies that visited the storm-hit areas were to report on difficulties encountered in those areas and requirements to be fulfilled by the State, he said.

Next, chairman of the companies and officials reported on their experiences in storm-hit townships in Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions, arrangements for reconstruction of schools and hospitals on priority basis and provision of food, clothing and shelter needs and health care services.

Chairman of Towns and Villages Reconstruction Committee Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein reported on arrangements for reconstruction of towns and villages and low-cost housing projects.

Bankers and construction entrepreneurs reported on cooperation in the respective sectors.

Commander Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and Ministers Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein and Brig-Gen Thein Zaw reported on reconstruction work. Lt-Gen Myint Swe took part in the discussions.

Next, Prime Minister General Thein Sein said most of the townships in Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions were severely hit by the storm that occurred on 2 and 3 May. A large amount of property and a great number of human lives were lost in the tidal waves caused by the storm.

He said the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee held its meeting as soon as the disaster occurred.

The Chairman of the Central Committee and the ministers rushed to the storm-hit areas and carried out relief tasks, he said.

In Yangon, commuter service has resumed as usual and power and water supply operates to some extent due to the measures taken by the government. Situation in storm-hit areas has improved as the relief tasks for survivors in two divisions were undertaken properly and well, he said.

He said the ministries concerned and officials are making arrangements for restoration and reconstruction of hospitals, schools, departmental offices and residential areas on priority basis with the participation of private companies.

(See page 9)

Donation of robes for monks invited

YANGON, 12 May — Altogether 10,000 sets of robes for monks in storm-hit Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions are in need, and well-wishers who wish to donate the clothing may contact Director U Zarni Win of the Religious Affairs Department (Tel 0951 35837 or 0986 00115), Director U Khin Maung Win of RAD (Tel 0920 06672) and Deputy Director U Soe Naing of office of Yangon Division Religious Affairs’ (Tel 0951 91507), announced the Religious Affairs Department. — MNA

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

*Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views*

*Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation*

*Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State*

*Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy*

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**Breed fresh water and sea fish and prawns for economic development**

The demand of fish and meat has become high with an increase in the global population. Nowadays, not only deep sea fishing but also fish breeding are being carried out extensively.

In Asian region, fresh water and sea prawns and crabs are being extensively bred and produced in addition to variety of carp, Hamilton’s carp, river catfish, giant sea perch, golden Hamilton’s carp, Tilaviya, kind of fresh water catfish and others.

In Myanmar, there are over 200,000 acres of fish breeding ponds. And Ayeyawady Division constitutes over 50 per cent of the total number of the fish breeding ponds. The production capacity of fish breeding ponds in Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions is over 3,000 viss of fish per day. Efforts are to be made for fish breeding ponds in the disaster-hit townships to continue producing fish and prawns.

In the meantime, steps are to be taken for getting fish breeding ponds and their environs clean and acquisition of quality feed stuff.

Breeding of poultry and pigs, setting up of toilets and disposal of garbage near a fish breeding pond are to be strictly prohibited to see to it that there is no outbreak of disease in the pond.

At present, the fresh water fish and sea fish breeding is making progress, and systematic breeding of fish and prawns is to be introduced with the application of modern breeding techniques. Only then, will the nation be able to enjoy self-sufficiency in fish and prawns and export the surplus.

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**Peoples Desire**

**Tatmadawmen clear cables and fallen trees in Yangon.** —MNA

**An emergency patient being conveyed to Yangon.** —MNA

**Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspects Mansan-Lashio power supply project**

NAY PYI TAW, 11 May—Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspected construction works of Mansan-Lashio 66 KV power cables and 230/66/11 KV 60 MVA Mansan sub-power station.

He called for safety of worksites, timely completion of the project, meeting of the set standard and minimization of wastages.

Next, the Minister and party looked into installation of 60 MVA transformer, Electrical Installation, construction of Switch Yard Foundation and Control Building. —MNA

**USDA, DAC supply water to people of Pazundaung Township**

YANGON, 11 May—Pazundaung Township Union Solidarity and Development Association and Township Development Affairs Committee jointly supplied 1,600 gallons of water to Ward 10 of Pazundaung Township on 5 May, 10,800 gallons of water to Wards 1,2,3,6,7,8,9 and 10 of the township on 6 May, 14,400 gallons of water to Wards 1,2,3,6,7,8,9 and 10 of the township on 7 May, 6,000 gallons of water to Wards 1,2 and 6 of the township on 8 May, 5,600 gallons of water to Wards 1,2,3,6 and 7 of the township on 9 May by water tankers. —MNA

**Aid for pensioner victims**

YANGON, 11 May—Household goods are being sold to the pensioner storm-victims at reasonable price at Waizayanda Dhammayon in 8th street of No 3 ward in South Okkalapa Township, at ward 24 Peace and Development Council in Thuwunna in Thingangyun Township, at Township Development Council in Dagon Myothit (North), at Township Internal Revenue Department in North Okkalapa Township. —MNA
**Chinese V-P, Chavez meet on bilateral ties**

CARACAS, 12 May—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez met with visiting Chinese Vice Premier Hui Liangyu Friday and the two leaders vowed to broaden cooperation in economy and trade, energy, agriculture and fight against poverty.

During the meeting, Hui conveyed to Chavez greetings from Chinese President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao.

Hui said under the joint efforts of the two countries, the Sino-Venezuela strategic partnership has ushered in a stage of full development, featuring close high-level contacts and deepened mutual trust, growing bilateral trade and optimized trade structure; remarkable progress in cooperation in energy, agriculture, infrastructure and science and technology; and close cooperation and mutual support in international and regional affairs.

Hui also said the Chinese Government has attached great importance to the consolidation and development of the strategic partnership. China is willing to work together with Venezuela to expand bilateral cooperation in economy and trade, energy, agriculture, fight against poverty and infrastructure under the principle of mutual benefit, win-win and common prosperity, to benefit the Chinese and Venezuelan people. Hui added.—MNA/Xinhua

**Death toll in China earthquake rises to 8,500**

CHONGQING, 12 May — A massive earthquake struck central China on Monday, killing more than 8,500 people, trapping nearly 900 students under the rubble of their school and spilling ammonia from a chemical plant, state media reported.

The 7.8-magnitude earthquake was among the worst to strike China in decades, devastating a hilly region of small cities and towns in Sichuan and nearby provinces. The official Xinhua News Agency said 8,533 people died in Sichuan and dozens of other deaths were reported elsewhere.

Xinhua said 80 percent of the buildings had collapsed in Beichuan county in Sichuan province after the quake, raising fears the overall death toll could increase sharply.

**Fire at Scottish refinery extinguished**

LONDON, 12 May—Scotland’s Grangemouth refinery, which closed due to a two-day strike last month, was forced to delay its return to full production after a fire broke out on Saturday, the plant’s operator and the fire service said.

A spokesman for the refinery’s operator Ineos said the site was operating at roughly 80 percent of capacity when the fire broke out in the diesel line.

“It is expected to extend the timing of the restart at the site,” Ineos communications manager Richard Longden said by telephone on Saturday.

The 200,000 barrels per day refinery was shut down late last month because of a two-day strike over proposed changes to pension arrangements.

**US fire managers predict bad year for blazes**

Salmon (Idaho), 12 May—US fire managers are forecasting a grim year for blazes in drought-plagued Western states, just weeks after a premature start to the Southwest’s wildfire season.

This comes even as the US Forest Service, the lead agency for fighting fires on vast swaths of public and private lands, is reassessing a years-old model that sought to contain all blazes at all times.

Environmental and financial strains paired with demographic changes have made that strategy ineffective in an era of record-size fires sweeping across the West, experts say.

“We can’t do things like we did in the 1970s and 1980s,” said George Weldon, deputy director of fire, aviation and air for a regional Forest Service office in Montana. “The fire environment in a lot of situations is exceeding our capabilities to control large fires that burn the entire summer.”

**Mexican drug gangs step up police murder war**

Cuautitlan, 12 May—Mexican police chief Felipe Calderon’s fight against well-armed cartels that smuggle cocaine, marijuana and amphetamines to the United States.

He came home for a reunion with family and friends and arrived in his official vehicle, but the hired assassins were waiting for him,” police spokesman Jaime Torres said.

Local media said the gunmen fired some 50 bullets at Roman. Roman’s name had been on top of a death list that drug traffickers left at a Ciudad Juarez police monument in January.
YANGON, 12 May —
Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Thaung Aye at 12.15 pm yesterday met and encouraged Tatmadawmen, members of People’s Police Force, departmental personnel and members of social organizations in the hall of the stadium in Taunggyi who were loading foodstuffs, consumer goods, clothing and other supplies to be sent to the storm victims.

Relief goods included clothes, robes, 160 bags of onion, two bags of garlic, 16 bags of salt, 90 cartons of canned fish, one bag of potatoes and 371 cartons of other food supplies worth over 51.9 million kyats.

Local people of Shan State (East) have been continuously donating relief goods, which will be sent to the storm victims in time.—MNA

Commander attends donation ceremony for storm victims

NAY PYI TAW, 12 May — The cash donation ceremony of Sagaing Division for storm victims was held at the City Hall of Monywa on 7 May morning. It was attended by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Brig-Gen Myint Soe, division/district/township level officials, entrepreneurs, townswelders and donors.

The commander and officials accepted K 10 million donated by Division PDC, K 10 million by North-West Command, K 10 million by Maternal and Child Welfare Association of North-West Command, departments, entrepreneurs and donors.

The donations to storm-hit areas were altogether K 100.8 million including 500 clothes donated by the weaving machines proprietors in Sagaing Division.

Navy takes part in reconstruction tasks

NAY PYI TAW, 12 May — A Tatmadaw (Navy) vessel transported 14.5 tons of relief items such as foods and clothes from Pathein to Labutta yesterday while a Tatmadaw (Navy) cargo ship transported 170 tons of foods, medicines, clothes and drinking water from Yangon to the storm-hit regions today.

Moreover, officers and other ranks of the Tatmadaw (Navy) took part in the reconstruction tasks in storm-hit Dedaye, Bogale and Pyapon.

Navy removes branches of fallen trees on Anawrahta Road in Yangon. — MNA

Medicines donated to storm victims

YANGON, 12 May —
A ceremony to donate medicines by AA Medical Products Ltd for the health care service of storm victims in storm-hit townships was held at the office of the Medical Superintendent in Yangon General Hospital this afternoon.

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint accepted K 60 million donated by U Myat Thin Aung-Daw Khin Myint Myint and U Zaw Moe Khine-Daw Saw Nay Nwe.—MNA

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Donors invited to donate robes, offertories to monasteries in storm-hit areas

YANGON, 12 May—Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence and Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Hay Win met with donors at Yangon Command here today and discussed matters related to donation of robes and offertories to monasteries in storm-affected areas in Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions. At the meeting, Lt-Gen Myint Swe invited wellwishers to donate robes and offertories to monks in the storm-affected areas in the delta region and in Yangon while the government is also fulfilling requirements in the areas. As monasteries in the delta region in Ayeyawady Division and in Yangon Division were destroyed by the storm, monks in the areas are in need of robes and offertories. After the meeting, donors gave lists of items to be donated to the monasteries. Those wishing to donate robes to the monasteries may contact the control office of Yangon Division PDC, Ph 099600184; 099600185, and the office of Yangon Division PDC in Kyauktada Township, Ph 370510; 370509; 370506.—MNA

MMPA to provide cash to storm victims

YANGON, 12 May—Myanma Motion Picture Asiayon will supply K 10,000 each to the members of MMPA who have suffered from the Storm. Treasurer U Zaw Min (Mingala) of MMPA contributed K 3 million and Academy Winner Daw Khin Lay Theint K 300,000 to the funds for the storm victims. Wellwishers will also contribute to the funds to provide K 10,000 each to the storm victims of the MMPA. The storm victims of MMPA can contact the MMPA to receive aids tomorrow. MMPA members have participated in the rehabilitation task in the storm-hit areas. Those wishing to take part in the tasks and to receive aids may contact MMPA No 16, Wingaba Road in Bahan Township Ph 727831.—MNA

Htoo Trading Co Ltd, Air Bagan present relief aids

YANGON, 12 May—The staff of Htoo Trading Co Ltd and Air Bagan donated relief aids to the storm-hit victims of Pyapon and Bogale townships yesterday. The staff of Htoo Trading Co Ltd and Air Bagan presented K 100 million for the victims of Pyapon township through Police Commander of Ayeyawady Division Police Force Col Thura Tin Hla. They also donated 1500 bags of rice, 2 nozzle pumps, 2 tanks, 300 plates and bowls, 2 Htawlagyis to the storm-hit victims in the township. Next, they provided clothes, foods and cash to the victims at the relief camps in Bogale Township. They continued to donate relief aids and cash to the victims and have taken part in the rehabilitation tasks of the township. The staff members have carried out repairing the roofs of the buildings, supply of drinking water pumping 10 nozzle pumps from tube well, construction of 8 tanks, 60 fly-proof toilets and preparing for the cooking places, to prevent infectious diseases and giving medical treatment with 8 doctors in the township.—NLM
Volunteers unloading canvas from a helicopter in Kyondar Village in Dedaye Township. — MNA

Representatives of US view relief aids at Yangon International Airport. — MNA

Relief aids seen at Yangon International Airport. — MNA

Volunteers unloading relief aids donated from the US to transport to storm-hit areas. — MNA

US relief supplies arrive in...

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construction materials and progress of relief works.

Vice-Admiral Soe Thein and party, American delegates viewed helicopters loaded with relief supplies leaving for storm-hit areas. The guests inspected relief aid donated by local and international donors and left Yangon International Airport at 4 pm.

The relief aid donated by the USA totalled 10,800 mosquito nets, 8,300 bottled drinking water and 1,350 blankets weighing 24,000 pounds or about 11 tons.

MNA
People from states, divisions donate relief aids to storm victims

NAY PYI TAW, 12 May — Donors from states and divisions have donated cash and relief aids to storm victims and so far, cash and relief aids has reached K 5,159,690,436 to date.

Today’s donation includes construction materials, household goods, clothes and foodstuff worth K 114,319,600 from the families of Tatmadawmen and people in Mandalay Division and K 360,000 from the people in Magway Division, and today’s donation reaches K 380,967,990. — MNA

Commander, Minister inspect loading of relief aids for storm-hit areas

YANGON, 12 May — Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Maung Shein and Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe inspected loading of relief aids onto trucks in Sittway to storm-hit areas on 10 May. Those relief aids were donated by Rakhine State government, households, goods worth K 18,047,690 from families of Tatmadawmen and people in Taninthayi Division, K 97,481,850 donated by the people in Ayeyawady Division, medicines, foodstuff, clothes and household goods worth K 22,604,150 from the people in Kayin and Mon states, foodstuff, construction materials, clothes and household goods worth K 10,236,000 from the people in Kayah State; relief aids, clothes and foodstuff worth K 10,284,000 from the people in Ayeyawady Division, and K 107,000 worth K 8 million. — MNA

Myanmar Brewery Ltd donates K 100 million to MRCS in aid for storm victims

YANGON, 12 May — Myanmar Brewery Ltd donated K one hundred million to Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) in aid of storm relief efforts to storm victims in Yangon and Ayeyawady Division. The company’s programme since 2001, and also helped and assisted business partner shopkeepers and staff who were affected by the recent storm, and donated cash to MRCS for storm victims, and further aid will be provided. Secretary Dr Hla Pe and party of MRCS then accepted K one hundred million. — MNA

Chinese Counsellor Mr Wang Zongying and Third Secretary of US Embassy Ms Chelsia Wheeler visit Polling Station-1 in Myeik. — MNA

Referendum for Approval of Constitution held in Shan State (East)

YANGON, 12 May — The Referendum for the Approval of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar took place simultaneously in 10 townships of Shan State (East) on 10 May morning. People cast votes at 504 polling stations in the state from 6 am to 4 pm. Members of Commission for Holding Referendum U Saing Ye and U Arh Le and Chairman of Shan State (East) Sub-commission U Mya Aung and members visited polling station No 1 in Ward (1), polling station No 1 in Ward (2), polling station No 1 in Ward (3), polling station No 1 in Ward (4), polling station No 1 in Ward (5), polling station No 1 in Kettaung Village and polling station No 1 at the fork of Yanlu street of Mineziz Village-tract. In the evening, polling station officers and members inspected ballot boxes, counting of ballot papers. Polling station officers packed votes-in-favor, votes-against and cancelled votes into separate bundles and presented them to the ward and village-tract sub-commissions. — MNA

Tents being set up for storm victims in Dedaye. — MNA
International relief supplies continue to arrive

Yangon, 12 May — IL-76 flight carrying 30 tons of eight kinds of relief supplies donated by Russian Federation, A-6 MX-A flight carrying 34.5 tons of medicines, blankets, mosquito nets, clothes, generators and water purifiers donated by World Doctors Group in France and French Red Cross Society, IL-76 flight carrying 34 tons of mosquito nets, water purifiers, tarpaulin, nylon ropes, pumps, tanks, life jackets, life boats and instant foods donated by Doctors Without Border based in Switzerland, IL-76 flight carrying 28 tons of instant foods donated by India, two C-130 flights carrying medicines, foods, clothes, tents and other supplies donated by Malaysia, C-130 flight carrying 11 tons of medicines, foods and tents donated by Greece and C-130 flight carrying supplies donated by the United States of America arrived at Yangon International Airport today.

Likewise, Air Bus A-300 carrying 24 tons of tents, blankets, mosquito nets, tanks, tarpaulin and kitchen machines donated by WFP and 747 flight carrying 61.5 tons of construction materials donated by Cares Group in Dubai, UAE arrived here yesterday evening. International relief supplies that arrived here were immediately sent to the respective storm-hit regions.— MNA

Air Force transports relief aids

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 May — The Tatmadaw (Air) today transported 35.08 tons of relief supplies to the storm-hit regions and delivered 273.39 tons of relief items to the respective locations as part of the relief and reconstruction drive being carried out for storm victims.— MNA

More international aid arrives

Myanmar
Government providing shelters for storm victims who...

(from page 1)

Construction tasks will be speedy through cooperation between the government and the companies. The Prime Minister spoke of the need for the companies responsible to launch their projects in the areas concerned as soon as possible. The government will provide necessary assistance for the companies, he added.

More relief supplies shipped to storm victims

YANGON, 12 May—Ships have been carrying relief aids including foods, clothes, pure drinking water bottles, CI sheets and constructions materials, tarpaulins, tents, torches, edible oil and water purifiers for victims to storm-hit townships of Ayeyawady Division from Phonegyi street jetty and Wardan street No2 jetty. BanyaOo ship loaded with 65 tons to Pathein, Bandoola ship with 85 tons to Labutta and Moe Kyaw ship with 75 tons to Labutta, totaling 225 tons left here today.

Similarly, Taing Aye ship loaded with 45 tons to Bogale and Tawhaiwun ship with 50 tons to Mawlamyinegyun, totaling 95 tons left here today.

Cash and kind provided to relief camps in Bogale

YANGON, 11 May—A ceremony to donate relief supplies to the storm-hit victims was held at the control office opened at Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association in Bogale Township on 8 May.

Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung attended the donation ceremony. Wellwishers presented medicines, dry rations and eggs for the storm victims. The minister gave foods and clothes to the victims of the storm-hit villages at the jetty in the township.

Next, he visited volunteers who are conducting clearance of debris and distributing relief supplies and presented medicines and dry rations for the patients.

The minister donated relief aids to the storm victims at the relief camps of No 1 BEH, No 2 BEMS, Zayyamaydani and Mahawithutayama monasteries in the township.

The minister inspected unloading medicines and tents donated by wellwishers from abroad from helicopter.

Next, the minister attended the cash and kind donation ceremony of Air Bagan Ltd at the control office in the township. The officials of Air Bagan Ltd donated K 100million, 1000 bags of rice, 50 52-gallon tanks of palm oil, medicines and dry rations work K 100 million to the storm victims.—MNA
Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung visits relief camps in Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 12 May—Member of National Disaster Preparedness Committee Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe inspected stockpile of relief goods at Pathein Airport and distribution of the supplies to the storm-hit townships yesterday.

Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and the commander accepted bags of rice worth K 50 million donated by U Win Naing and Daw Wai Wai Mon of Shwe Hein Htet Jewelry Co and instant noodles, biscuit, canned fish, clothing, saucers, edible oil and condensed milk worth K 50 million donated by DKBA No 999 special Brigade, Hein Kabar Trading Co Ltd and wellwishers from Myanmar.

Relief goods were delivered to Kanbe, Betut, Thongwa, Daniseik, Pota and Pyin Khayaing Villages by helicopters. Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Commander Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe discussed delivery of supplies and requirements with Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo who arrived in Pathein.

The Adjutant-General, the commander and the ministers inspected repair of houses, delivery of relief goods by Eya Shwewa and Max Myanmar and removal of debris in Labutta. They met the victims at the sports ground and provided food and other supplies.

Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung gave instructions on repair of houses and removal of debris and distribution of supplies. They presented construction materials to the victims.

They went to Mawlamyineyegun where officials reported on accommodation of the victims and delivery of relief goods.

Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and party consoled the victims of villages in Bogale Township and they presented medical supplies donated by Htoo Trading and Air Bagan.

Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung met Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing who supervised the relief measures. He gave instructions on collecting damages and tolls, construction of fly-proof latrines and repair of schools and hospitals on priority basis.—MNA

Metta dispensed, parittas recited for the dead and victims of storm-hit regions

YANGON, 12 May—Nine State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaws, accompanied by Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and officials on board Tatmadaw choppers hovering, dispensed metta and recited parittas for the dead and victims in storm-hit regions to be free from all forms of danger at 9:45 am today.

Other faiths also performed rituals for the dead and victims in storm-stricken regions.

Measures coordinated for reconstruction of phone lines

YANGON, 12 May—A meeting took place at the International Expedite Mail Service here today to coordinate reconstruction of the matters on telephone lines that were cut in the natural disaster.

Chairman of the Emergency Communication Sub-committee of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Minister for Communications, Posts and Telecommunications Brig-Gen Thein Zaw instructed the officials to replace the broken phone posts and cables with new ones; repair post offices and communication links in Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions as soon as possible in cooperation with entrepreneurs; replace broken pylons with new ones; and apply long-term methods in the process. He attended to the needs.—MNA

Latest casualty figures

NAV Pyi Taw, 12 May—Due to the storm on 2 and 3 May, there have been deaths, injuries and missing in Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions. According to the latest figures of the victims up to 6 pm today, a total of 31,938 people died, 1,403 were injured and 29,770 went missing in all regions struck by the storm.—MNA

CPT employees repairing telephone lines in Yangon.—MNA
**China says broad prospects for China-Hungary eco coop**

**BUDAPEST, 11 May —** Jia Qinglin, head of China’s top political advisory body, said here Friday that China and Hungary have a solid foundation and broad prospects for expanding trade and economic cooperation.

Jia, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), made the remarks while attending a meeting of Chinese and Hungarian entrepreneurs in Budapest.

Jia said China’s development will provide a broad platform and rare opportunities for all countries including Hungary.

He said China will continue to stick to its policy of reform and opening up as well as its mutually beneficial and win-win strategy, and advance the process of economic globalization in the direction of balanced development, shared benefits and an all-win situation.

Jia said China will encourage all counties to share development opportunities and deal with risks and challenges together.

Trade and economic cooperation constitute an important part of the friendly cooperative relations between China and Hungary, Jia said, adding it is also a major driving force for the long-term sound development of bilateral ties.

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**Protesters-police clash kills two in Afghan east**

**SHINWAR, (Afghanistan), 11 May —** At least two people were killed and seven wounded in eastern Afghanistan on Saturday in clashes between police and demonstrators protesting against civilian deaths at the hands of foreign troops, witnesses said.

Several thousand protesters had blocked a highway through Nangarhar province linking the capital Kabul with Pakistan.

They said they were demonstrating against the killing of three civilians in the area by foreign forces in an overnight raid.

“Two of the protesters have been killed, six more wounded and one policeman has also been hurt by a stone,” said a witness named Mandozai, a retired Army officer who was among the protesters.

The protesters said five civilians had also been detained in the raid, in the Shinwar district of Nangarhar.

Both NATO-led and troops under US command are stationed in the province.

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**A tractor’s light is covered with volcanic ash in Futaleufu, near the Chaiten volcano, located some 1,450 km (900 miles) south of Santiago, on 8 May, 2008.—INTERNET**
China, Slovenia pledge more bilateral coop

LJUBLJANA, 12 May— Senior Chinese leader Jia Qinglin and Slovenia's President Danilo Turk Saturday hailed the bilateral friendly ties and pledged to promote cooperation in all fields.

During his meeting with Turk, Jia, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), said that the two countries have maintained regular exchange of high-level visits and the bilateral ties have developed smoothly since 1992 when the two countries established diplomatic relations.

Jia said that the Chinese Government regards Slovenia as a reliable partner and is willing to broaden pragmatic cooperation in all fields. He also said that China was keen on enhancing partnership with the European Union, which is currently chaired by Slovenia.

Turk said that Slovenia firmly adheres to the one-China policy and supports China's stands on Taiwan and Tibet issues.

MNA/Xinhua

At least six buried in S China landslide

NANNING, 12 May— At least six people were buried in a landslide in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region early on Friday, said an official of the regional work safety bureau.

Rescue operations are under way.

The landslide occurred at about 5:00 am in Benmujie Village, Basis City, said Wei Gan, director of the regional work safety bureau.

China’s stands on Taiwan and Tibet issues. Turk highlighted the importance of strategic partnership between China and the European Union. He also said that Slovenia is the current EU presidency holder would like to promote the further development of EU-China ties.

MNA/Xinhua

Three Turkish soldiers wounded in E-Turkey

ANKARA, 12 May— Three soldiers were wounded when a roadside land-mine exploded in eastern Turkish province of Bingol on Friday, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported.

A land-mine, which was planted by the outlawed Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK), exploded while a military vehicle was passing by in Adakli town of Bingol, the report said.

One non-commissioned officer and two privates were injured, it said, adding that the injured soldiers were taken to a nearby hospital.

Meanwhile, one non-commissioned officer and one village guard were wounded on Friday while they were detonating a land-mine planted by the PKK in Sirvan town of southeastern province of Sirt, said the report.

Also on Friday, a roadside land-mine planted by the PKK went off in Sason town of the southeastern Turkish city of Batman, killing three people and injuring several others on a minibus. — MNA/Xinhua

Health Ministry says HFMD outbreak in China declines

BEIJING, 12 May— The incidence of hand-foot-mouth disease (HFMD) in the worst-hit Chinese city was on decline, with discharged patients outnumbering those checking in to hospitals for the first time, China's Health Ministry said on Friday.

The ministry said on its website that the majority of the serious cases had recovered with no fatalities for seven consecutive days in Fuyang in east China's Anhui Province, which had reported the initial outbreak seven consecutive days in Fuyang in east China's Anhui Province.

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Meanwhile, one non-commissioned officer and one village guard were wounded on Friday while they were detonating a land-mine planted by the PKK in Sirvan town of southeastern province of Sirt, said the report.

Also on Friday, a roadside land-mine planted by the PKK went off in Sason town of the southeastern Turkish city of Batman, killing three people and injuring several others on a minibus. — MNA/Xinhua

Rabobank says Dutch housing prices to rise

BRUSSELS, 12 May— Housing prices in the Netherlands will continue to rise in the coming years, according to Rabobank, one of the country's leading banks, Dutch paper Financieele Dagblad reported Friday.

Housing prices in the Netherlands will grow 3 per cent on average both this year and next, which will virtually keep pace with inflation, Rabobank said in its Quarterly Report on the Housing Market published on Thursday.

The bank assumed in its prediction a modest rise in the mortgage interest rate, and a somewhat stronger growth in salaries. Thanks to continuing economic growth, and interactive multimedia content containing text, images, video and sound to users in the field of telecommunications; computer software and programs for the management and v-erations of wireless telecommunications devices; computer software for accessing, searching, indexing and retrieving information data from global computer network and global communication networks, and for browsing and navigating through web sites on said networks; computer software for sending and receiving short messages and electronic mail and for filtering non-informational material from the data, analog and digital radio transceivers or receivers for data, voice, image and video communication; electronic game: software for mobile networks; computer software for use in general purpose in database management; computer e-commerce software to allow user to place orders and make payments in the field of electronic business transactions via a global computer network or telecommunication networks; computer software for training and support for computer and mobile phone production in the field of telecommunications; computer game software for mobile handsets; computer software and programs for fraudulent music, movies, live broadcasting and interactive multimedia content containing text, images, video and sound to users in the field of telecommunications; computer software and programs for the management and v-erations of wireless telecommunications devices; computer software for accessing, searching, indexing and retrieving information data from global computer network and global communication networks, and for browsing and navigating through web sites on said networks; computer software for sending and receiving short messages and electronic mail and for filtering non-informational material from the data, analog and digital radio transceivers or receivers for data, voice, image and video communication; electronic game: software for mobile networks; computer software for use in general purpose in database management; computer e-commerce software to allow user to place orders and make payments in the field of electronic business transactions via a global computer network or telecommunication networks; computer software for training and support for computer and mobile phone production in the field of telecommunications; computer game software for mobile handsets; computer software and programs for fraudulent music, movies, live broadcasting.
Study says more American women living by bottle

LOS ANGELES, 11 May — Alcohol dependence has increased substantially among American women, particularly white and Hispanic women born since 1945, a new study shows. Alcohol use and dependence appear to have remained stable for men, while young Americans report having more lifetime alcohol problems than older Americans, despite having had less time to develop issues with drinking, according to the study published in the May issue of Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research.

“We found that for women born after World War II, there are lower levels of abstaining from alcohol, and higher levels of alcohol dependence, even when looking only at women who drank,” the study’s corresponding author, Richard A. Grucza, an epidemiologist at the Washington University School of Medicine, said in a statement. However, we didn’t see any significant tendency for more recently born women to have lower levels of abstinence or higher levels of alcohol dependence,” the researchers’ findings were based on an analysis of two national surveys conducted 10 years apart (1991-1992 and 2001-2002), comparing lifetime alcohol-use rates from the same age groups and demographics.

Dutch want banks to help fight illegal web casinos

AMSTERDAM, 11 May — Dutch authorities intend to crack down on illegal online casinos and are calling on banks to stop providing financial services to them, a Justice Ministry spokeswoman said on Saturday.

“It is illegal to offer gambling services in the Netherlands without a permit. These companies know they break the law,” she said. She confirmed that Swedish online gamer Unibet and Dutch firm Oranje Casino, were targets, but declined to give other company names.

The ministry has made a list of 30-50 Internet gamers and has asked banks to stop services to these companies. The spokeswoman said dossiers would be passed to the public prosecutor who would be tasked with bringing cases to court.

In the Netherlands only the Dutch state lottery De Lotto has a permit to offer online gambling, and last month the Dutch upper house defeated a bill that would have allowed Holland Casino to open a gambling website on a trial basis.

Japanese foundation funds food for Sichuan pandas

CHENGDU, 12 May — A non-government Japanese foundation resumed funding of bamboo planting in S-W China’s Sichuan Province on Saturday after a two-year suspension.

The Japan-Sino Green Exchange Foundation donated 6.5 million Japanese yen (63,200 US dollars) to the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding for planting 10 hectares of bamboo.

It is the third donation from the organization, which has periodically assisted the group and Cairo, Palestinian officials said.

The crossing at Rafah had been largely closed since early February, when Egypt resealed the border after Hamas gunmen blasted it open in defiance of an Israeli-led blockade of the coastal enclave.

With US backing, Egypt has been trying to broker an unofficial truce between Israel and Hamas to stop violence that has imperiled peace talks.

That proposed deal calls for Rafah to reopen under Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas’ control.
**SPORTS**

**United, Chelsea ready to battle in Moscow**

LONDON, 12 May — Manchester United and Chelsea will approach their looming Champions League final in contrasting moods after United wrapped up their 17th English championship on Sunday.

United's 2-0 victory at Wigan Athletic meant whatever Chelsea did at home to Bolton Wanderers would have been in vain, but the Blues' concession of a late equalizer robbed them of the chance to boost the same points total as the champions.

Manager Alex Ferguson said United will be buoyant as they prepare to travel to Moscow where they can clinch the double.

Chelsea, after expending so much effort in recent weeks to take the title race into the final four points, will be dusting themselves down for arguably their biggest ever game.

"If we had lost (the title) it would be difficult," Ferguson said of the May 21 date in the Russian capital. "When we lost the title at West Ham in 1995, we lost the FA Cup final the following week. We were dead then. We're not dead now, we're alive. We'll be bouncing into the final."

After taking stock of what they almost achieved against the odds, Chelsea will be turning their attention to their first appearance in Europe's showpiece clubfinal. Manager Avram Grant's first priority will be to make sure captain John Terry and striker Didier Drogba are fit.

Terry dislocated his elbow against Bolton while Ivorian Drogba suffered a knee injury.

"With (Terry's) character I'm sure there will be no problems," Grant told Chelsea's Web site (www.chelseafc.com).

His second task will be to lift his players for one last effort, although the Israeli played down the disappointment of going so close to snatching the title in his first season in charge.

"We cannot say we were disappointed because we were never in first place to lose it," he said. "We wanted to win the league but it was never in our hands."

Terry conceded that United were worthy Premier League champions, but warned Ferguson's side that they face a tough night in Moscow next week.

"We respect United, they have been fantastic. They are top of the league and deserve to be there," Terry, who has won every domestic honour with his club, told Sky Sports.

"But Moscow is a different story and we are aiming for that."

**River bounce back with 4-2 win, Estudiantes beat Boca**

BUENOS AIRES, 12 May — River Plate, knocked out of the Libertadores Cup in astonishing style by nine-man San Lorenzo, bounced back to beat Gimnasia-La Plata 4-2 in the Argentine championship on Sunday.

The win took Diego Simeone's team top of the Clausura championship on goal difference from Estudiantes, who beat Boca Juniors 1-0.

Boca were missing injured playmaker Juan Riquelme as they lost for the second time in the championship.

River and Estudiantes have 30 points from 14 games. Only four points separate them and sixth-placed Boca.

Independiente moved fifth, ahead of Boca on goal difference, by beating San Lorenzo 1-0 away to give new coach Claudio Borghi a winning start.

Uruguayan Guillermo Rodriguez scored the winner from a corner in the 46th minute.

Velez Sarsfield are third with 27 points after beating Rosario Central 2-1 on Saturday, ahead of San Lorenzo on goal difference.

**Portuguese playmaker Rui Costa retires**

LISBON, 12 May — Veteran Portuguese playmaker Rui Costa was given an emotional send-off as he confirmed his retirement from the game after Benfica's 3-0 win over Vitoria Setubal on Sunday.

"Retired with my fans, retired with pride, I feel happy now," the 36-year-old told 50,000 supporters at the Luz stadium in Lisbon after the final game of the Portuguese season. "There was a lot of emotion and sadness in my retirement but I feel proud of my career."

Costa, who retired from international football after Euro 2004 with 94 caps and 26 goals, returned last season to the club that launched his career after 12 years in Italy. Costa played for Fiorentina from 1994 to 2001 where he won two Italian Cups. Costa played for five seasons at AC Milan where he won one Serie A title in 2003/4 and the Champions League in 2002/3.

**Atletico secure place in Champions League**

MADRID, 12 May — Atletico Madrid secured a place in the Champions League qualifiers on Sunday after a goal from Diego Forlan earned them a 1-0 win over Deportivo Coruna and ensured they could finish no lower than fourth in the table.

The Uruguayan striker grabbed the winner when he fired a first-time shot under the keeper at the near post after Maxi Rodriguez had cut the ball back from the byline on the stroke of halftime.

Atletico's last appearance in the Champions League was in the 1996-97 season when they reached the quarter-finals.

Barcelona, who were thumped 4-1 by arch-rivals Real Madrid in midweek, suffered yet another humiliating defeat when they surrendered a two-goal lead to lose 3-2 at home to Real Mallorca in Frank Rijkaard's last game at the Nou Camp.

Mallorca striker Dani Guiza scored his 26th goal of the season to secure the islanders a stoppage-time win and spark a new round of protests from the discontented Barca fans. — MNA/Reuters

**Germany's team row during the men's eight final of the Rowing World Cup in the Bavarian village Oberschleissheim north of Munich on 11 May, 2008.**—INTERNET

**Cologne's Kevin Pezzoni (R) challenges Mainz's Nejmeddin Daghfous during their German Second Bundesliga soccer match in Cologne on 11 May, 2008.**—INTERNET

**The winner, Anton Golotsotskov from Russia performs on the floor during the apparatus finals at the European Men's Artistic Gymnastics Championships on 11 May, 2008 at the Mulley Sport Centre in Lausanne, Switzerland.**—INTERNET

**AS Roma's Christian Panucci (R) jumps to score against Atalanta during their Italian Serie A soccer match at the Olympic Stadium in Rome on 11 May, 2008.**—INTERNET

**Force India's Formula One driver Giancarlo Fisichella (top) of Italy and Williams' Formula One driver Kazuki Nakajima of Japan crash at the start of the Turkish F1 Grand Prix at Istanbul Park on 11 May, 2008.**—INTERNET

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**WEATHER**

**Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas**

**Monday, 12 May, 2008**

**Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours MST**:

During the past 24 hours, Southwest monsoon has advanced into the Southern Myanmar areas. Weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin, Chin States and lower Sagaing Division, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Kayin, Kayah and Mon States, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, fairly widespread in Shan State, scattered in Rakhine State and upper Sagaing Division and isolated in the remaining areas with isolated heavy falls in Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above May average temperatures in Kachin State and lower Sagaing Division, (5°C) above May average temperatures in upper Sagaing Division, (7°C) below May average temperatures in Mon State, (6°C) below May average temperatures in Taninthayi Division and about May average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperatures were Monywa (4°F) and M nhu (4°F). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kawthoung (3.1 inches), Bago (3.0 inches), Myeik (2.7 inches), Coco Island (2.5 inches), Hmawbi (2.4 inches), Pa y (1.9 inches) and Dawei (1.7 inches).

**Maximum temperature on 11-5-2008 was 92°F. Minimum temperature on 12-5-2008 was 70°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 12-5-2008 was 88%. Total sunshine hours on 11-5-2008 was (5.5) hours approx. Rainfall on 12-5-2008 was (0.79) inch at Mingaladon, (0.64) inch at Kaba-Aye and (Nil) at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (20.20) inches at Mingaladon, (22.76) inches at Kaba-Aye and (23.74) at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from Northeast at (09:30) hours MST on 12-5-2008. Bay inference: Yesterday atmospheric unsettle condition still persists over the Gulf of Mottama. Moderate to strong in the Adaman Sea and South Bay and weather is partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 13-5-2008: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kayah State, lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, scattered in Chin State and upper Sagaing Division and fairly widespread in Kachin, Shan and Rakhine States and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavy falls in Mon State, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**State of the sea**: Frequent squalls with moderate to rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) to (45) mph. Outlook for subsequent two days: Unsettled condition will prevail over the Gulf of Mottama. Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 13-5-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%). Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 13-5-2008: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (80%). Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 13-5-2008: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).
US relief supplies arrive in Myanmar

YANGON, 12 May—The United States of America donated relief aid to the disaster-hit areas of Myanmar at a ceremony held at Yangon International Airport this afternoon. Present on the occasion were Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Commander of Ayeyawady Naval Region Commodore Win Zin Yaw, officials, Administrator of US Agency For International Development Ms Henrietta Fore, Commander in Chief of US Pacific Command Admiral Timothy J Keating and party, Charge d’Affaires of US Embassy Ms Shari Villarosa and embassy staff.

C-130 aircraft of US Air Force carrying mosquito nets, blankets and bottles of drinking water arrived at the airport at 2 pm. The Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and party welcomed Ms Henrietta Fore, Admiral Timothy J Keating and party.

Ms Henrietta Fore handed over the relief items to Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint. Vice-Admiral Soe Thein in his speech thanked the US for the donation. He said that requirements for the victims have been fulfilled to an extent, that the Tatmadaw, the people and social organizations are now contributing voluntary service with heart and soul reaching all the affected areas, that relief and rehabilitation tasks call for a lot of relief supplies and funds; that so far, the nation does not need skilled relief workers yet; and that the donation will enhance friendship between the governments, armed forces and the peoples of the two countries.

Ms Henrietta Fore, Admiral Timothy J Keating and officials explained the programme that the US renders assistance to storm victims in the affected areas in Ayeyawady Division by specialists, physicians and nurses, supply of drinking water, foodstuff, clothes, tents and (See page 6)

Relief aids from the US arrive at Yangon International Airport. — MNA

Supplies delivered to storm-hit areas in Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 12 May—Tatmadaw helicopters delivered supplies to storm-hit areas in Ayeyawady Division from this morning to evening.

The supplies including tents, medicines, dry rations, utensils, robes, blankets, mosquito nets, bottled water, water purifiers, generators and electrical equipment weighing 29,194 kilos were delivered to Dedaye, Pyapon, Bogale, Labutta, Mawlamyinegyun, Kyaiktal, Maubin and Pathein townships by five helicopters.

Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi and officials were on board the choppers to supervise the tasks.

Commander of Mingladalon Air Base Brig-Gen Zin Yaw and Deputy Commander Col Thein Naing made arrangements for speedy delivery of the relief supplies. — MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi distributes relief aids to storm victims in Kyonda Village in Dedaye Township. — MNA