Prime Minister inspects rehabilitation tasks in Ayeyawady Division

NAY PYI TAW, 13 May — Chairman of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Prime Minister General Thein Sein accompanied by Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, the ministers, directors-general and officials concerned arrived in Pyapon, Ayeyawady Division, from Yangon by helicopter yesterday.

He heard reports by Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing, who is making arrangements for rehabilitation tasks there, on milling of rice at rice mills, accommodation of the storm victims in the canvas tents donated by international communities and distribution of corrugated iron sheets in the town.

The Prime Minister thereupon gave necessary instructions and inspected reconstruction of People’s Hospital, departmental buildings, and dwellings, arrival and distribution of sawn timber at Thiri Annawa Hall in the town.

The Prime Minister and party also looked into completion of the setting up of canvas tents donated by international communities to systematically accommodate the storm victims. On his arrival at Pathein by helicopter, the Prime Minister held a work coordination meeting on rehabilitation with Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Brig-Gen Kyaw Swe, the ministers and officials concerned who reported on measures taken for the storm victims in the town. The Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and the Adjutant-General gave supplementary reports. The Prime Minister gave necessary instructions. — MNA

Cash and robes donated to monks in storm-hit areas

YANGON, 13 May — Wellwishers donated cash and robes to monks in storm-hit Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions at the Control Office of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council yesterday. A total of 3,995 sets of robes and K 2.6 million were donated to monks in storm-hit areas. — MNA

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

Wednesday, 14 May, 2008

Companies to work in harness with government for reconstruction of ravaged hospitals, schools and houses

Some areas in Myanmar were hit hard by a fierce storm on 2 and 3 May. The townships, wards and villages in Ayeyawady and Yangon divisions were severely ravaged by the disaster. Moreover, the tidal waves triggered by the storm claimed a large number of human lives.

The National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee, subcommittees and local authorities without any delay headed for the disaster-affected areas. Now, they are expediting the relief and resettlement works, health care services and tasks for the survivors to continue to survive the aftershocks.

Now, relief supplies such as medicines, foods, purified drinking water, clothes, treated mosquito nets and tents from international community are flowing to the storm-hit areas, while local well-wishers, military commands and companies are constantly donating foodstuff, clothes, household utensils and cash assistance.

The government is speeding up the relief tasks. So, local organizations, entrepreneurs and people will have to carry on the rehabilitation tasks.

Monsoon is going to set in soon. So, plans are under way to reconstruct the hospitals, schools, departmental offices and houses in priority.

At a time when rehabilitation undertakings are being carried out effectively for providing health care and foods for the victims in order that the areas will not face disaster-bound diseases, companies in various fields should engage in the humanitarian works in collaboration with the government for ensuring completion of the construction programmes sooner.

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

H&T Minister distributes relief aids to storm victims in Pyapon, Kyaiklat

Tatmadawmen volunteer for unloading relief aids from a helicopter in Pyapon Township. — MNA

Ma Ma noodle donated

YANGON, 13 May—Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing received relief aids donated by business companies and traditional medicines production companies from 8 to 11 May in Pyapon to donate them to storm survivors in Pyapon and Kyaiklat townships.

Relief aids donated from 8 to 11 May include the bottles of purified drinking water, clothes, traditional medicines, water proof, personal goods for storm victims from Pyapon and Kyaiklat townships.

The donors are Yuzana, Dagon International, Pyae Phyo Kyaw, Shwe Family, Zaykaba, Thawta Win Construction, Myat Mitta’Mon, Htoo Trading, Min Zarni and Myanmar Belle Companies, Thamanya motor vehicle association Family, Payamatta Association (Mingala Market), Phyo Tha Htoo, Shwe Wa Lin, Htet Lin, Htun Shwe Wa and Hmancho traditional medicine.

The minister distributed drinking water bottles, traditional medicine and personal goods to 1780 storm victims in Pyapon and Kyaiklat townships.

Minister Dr Kyaw Myint distributes relief aids to storm victims in Pyapon, Kyaiklat

AMDA help for victims

YANGON, 13 May—The Association of Medical Doctors of Asia (AMDA) donated K 6 million for providing health care to victims at a ceremony held at the Superintendent office of Yangon General Hospital here this afternoon. Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint accepted the donations from Program Director Ms Yoshie TAKEHISA of AMDA. — MNA

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AMDA help for victims

Minister Dr Kyaw Myint graces the handing over of cash donated by AMDA to be spent on health care services in storm-hit areas. —HEALTH
Death toll in China quake exceeds 12,000

DURANGYAN (China), 13 May—The toll of the dead and missing soared as rescue workers dug through flattened schools and homes on Tuesday in a desperate attempt to find survivors of China’s worst earthquake in three decades.

The official Xinhua News Agency said the death toll exceeded 12,000 in Sichuan Province alone, and 18,645 were still buried in debris in the city of Mianyang, near the epicentre of Monday’s massive, 7.9-magnitude quake.

The Sichuan Daily newspaper reported on its Web site that more than 26,000 people were injured in Mianyang.

The numbers of casualties was expected to rise due to the remote-ness of the areas affected by the quake and difficulty in finding buried victims. —Internet

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Darfur rebel leader vows more attacks

KHARTOUM, 13 May—Darfur rebel leader Khalil Ibrahim said on Monday he would launch more attacks on Sudan’s capital Khartoum until the government fell.

“This is just the start of a process and the end is the termination of this regime,” Ibrahim, whose Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) attacked Khartoum at the weekend, said in a satellite phone call. “Don’t expect just one more attack.”

Ibrahim said he was speaking from Omdurman, the western Khartoum suburb where the attack occurred — just across the Nile river from the heart of the capital.

Government officials have said the last rebels fled the area on Sunday evening, and no independent verification of Ibrahim’s statement about his whereabouts was immediately available.

The weekend attack was the first time fighting had reached the capital in decades of conflict between the traditionally Arab-dominated central government and rebels from far-flung regions in the oil-producing nation—Africa’s biggest country.

President Omar Hassan al-Bashir’s government arrested Islamist opposition leader Hassan al-Turabi and four top members of his party on Monday, aides said. JEM leaders were supporters of Turabi in the past but he denies backing the rebels. —MNA/Xinhua

Poll: Clinton leads in West Virginia

WASHINGTON, 12 May—US Democratic Presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton still retains advantage in the coming primaries in West Virginia and Kentucky despite calls on her to drop the race, according to a poll released on Monday.

A survey conducted by Suffolk University on 10 and 11 May found the New York senator leading her rival, Illinois Senator Barack Obama, by 60 percent to 24 percent, in West Virginia that is to hold its primary on Tuesday.

It also found that 67 percent of Democratic voters in the state said Clinton should stay in the race, while 24 percent preferred her to quit.

Obama’s favourability was relatively low, 44 percent favourable to 41 percent unfavourable, compared to Clinton, 70 percent favourable to 21 percent unfavourable, the poll showed.

US Democratic Presidential candidate Senator Hillary Clinton (D-NY) campaigns during a rally at Logan Middle School in West Virginia, on 12 May, 2008. West Virginia holds its Presidential Primary on 13 May.

Since 1960, West Virginia has voted for Democratic party in eight of the 12 general elections, indicating the state is a must-win for Democratic presidential candidate, polls said. —Internet

Iraqi Deputy Minister escapes bomb attack

BAGHDAD, 13 May—An Iraqi Deputy Minister survived a roadside bomb explosion near his convoy in central Baghdad on Sunday, an Interior Ministry source said. “Fadhel Mahmoud, Deputy Minister of Finance Ministry, escaped unhurt from a roadside bomb explosion targeting his convoy near the Iranian embassy in Karradat Maram neighbourhood,” the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Six people, including some of Mahmoud’s bodyguards, were wounded in the attack which took place in the morning when he was heading for his office, the source said. —MNA/Xinhua

Death toll in Lebanon mountain battle at 36

BEIRUT, 13 May—At least 36 people were killed in fierce clashes on Sunday between Hizbollah gunmen and supporters of a pro-government Druze leader in mountains east of Beirut, security sources said on Monday.

One source said the dead included 14 Hizbollah fighters. Hizbollah and allied fighters overran several positions of gunmen loyal to Walid Jumblatt in the Aley District before the Druze leader agreed to hand over his positions to the Lebanese Army. —MNA/Reuters
YANGON, 13 May—A medical team comprising 19 specialists and 10 nurses provided medical treatment to the victims at the storm-hit area in Twantay township on 11 May. The medical team was led by the Specialist of Yangon Division Health Department under the Ministry of Health.

The medical team gave medical treatment to the residents of east and west Kuncha, Myathida wards and Myakantha village at the relief camp of Basic Education Primary School in Kunchan ward, the residents of east and west Obo, Minpaw, Aungthidi, Ma Baydar wards at the relief camp of Min Kyaung Monastery, the people of Kanthaya, Aungthidi wards at the relief camp of BEPS in Kyongyi ward, the residents of Shwesandaw, Bayinnaung, Shansu, Nyaungtada and Ngakhonema wards at the relief camp of Shwesandaw BEPS in the township.

A total of 1169 people including 684 chronic patients, 446 child patients and 39 menses patients received treatment provided by the team. They chlorinated in the tube wells at the relief camps in the township.—MNA

Specialists give medical treatment to the victims in Twantay Township.—HEALTH

Minister Dr Kyaw Myint accepts medicines worth K 60 million donated by AA Medical Product.—HEALTH

Shwe Thanlwin Co Ltd donates supplies for storm-hit townships

YANGON, 13 May—Companies and entrepreneurs are providing supplies to households in storm-hit townships in Ayeyawady Division.

Shwe Thanlwin Co Ltd shipped 1,000 bags of rice, 60 bags of gram, clothes for men and women, 300 mosquito nets, 1,000 basins, 2,000 T-shirts, 500 spoons, 10,000 viss of edible oil and a water purifier worth K 7.3 million for victims of 20 villages in Labutta, Bogale and Ma Wlami ne g yun Townships in Ayeyawady Division. Pale Kyi vessel loaded with the relief aids will leave for the storm-hit areas at No 1 jetty in Lannadaw Township yesterday. Patron and chairman of Shwe Thanlwin Co will personally donate the supplies under the close supervision of Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo. Shwe Pazan family donated supplies worth K 10 million for the storm victims.—MNA

Downed trees on roads in Yangon cleared

YANGON, 13 May—Fallen trees on roads and streets here triggered by the storm were removed by the Ministry of Construction and private companies yesterday. About 300 people under Ministry of Construction with the help of 11 trucks and one heavy machinery cleared the fallen trees on Inya Road, at Pyithu Hluttaw and Kaba Aye Maha Pasana Cave and on Thaton Road while Shwe Taung Company with 18 heavy machinery cleaned trees on Pyay Road, the junction of 8-mile and Hledan. Likewise, Asia World Company cleaned trees on Yangon-Insein Road, Hledan Road, Thamine Road and at Yangon International Airport using 36 machines, 8 chain saws. —MNA

Traffic lights being repaired on Sule Pagoda and Bogyoke Aung San Streets in Yangon.—MNA

Relief aids for the victims being distributed by helicopter in Bogale Township.—MNA

Specialists give medical treatment to the victims in Twantay Township.—HEALTH

Reports on the relief activities of the Ministry of Health are handled by MNA.
NAY PYI TAW, 13 May — Departments and organizations from States and Divisions, families of Tatmadawmen and wellwishers are donating cash and kind to storm-hit victims.

Military officers and their families of the Ministry of Defence donated for the first time K50 million, wellwishers from Kachin State K256,110,000, wellwishers from Shan State (East) K613,775 and relief supplies worth K4,530,780, wellwishers from Shan State (South) and Kayin State K7,548,915 and personal goods, foods and clothes worth K90,951,400, wellwishers from Kayin and Mon States K11,710,800 and personal goods and clothes worth K17,862,500, wellwishers from Taninthayi Division K4,829,500 and clothes and personal goods worth K3,076,610, families of Tatmadawmen and wellwishers from Mandalay Division foodstuffs, medicines, clothes and personal goods worth K127,864,700, and wellwishers from Magway Division K147,000.

The relief supplies provided to storm-hit areas in Ayeyawady Division were provided from Yangon to the storm-hit areas in Ayeyawady Division by helicopters this morning. Two Tatmadaw helicopters carried today relief supplies such as canvas tents, dried foods, medicines and medical equipment, electrical equipment, generators, utensils, clothes, blankets, mosquito nets and purified water bottles, weighing 5200 kilogram, to villages with difficult access in Bogale, Pyapon and Dedaye townships.

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi and officials concerned were onboard the flights to supervise the relief supply tasks. — MNA

Relief supplies provided to storm-hit areas in Ayeyawady Division

Information Minister discusses provision of aid to victims with social organizations

YANGON, 13 May — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan met with those of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon and Myanmar Music Asiayon at the meeting hall of Myanma Radio and Television on Pyay Road here at 3 pm today.

The meeting was attended by the chairmen, secretaries and executives of the respective organizations.

Chairman of MMPA U Myint presented a report to the minister, saying that the Asiayon is in the process of providing aid to its members; that it is taking part in the clearing of debris on roads and streets; and that it has made arrangements to raise funds for storm victims through organizing football matches and staging of Anyeint and drama at some cities where there is favourable weather.

Next, Chairman of MMA U Maung Maung Latt presented a report, saying that Asiayon has made arrangements to raise funds for storm-hit regions through staging music concert with the participation of famous vocalists at some cities where there is favourable weather.

Afterwards, Chairman of MWJA U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) said that private book shops provided aid to storm victims and the association has already taken steps to donate cash and kind to storm victims; that it has constantly stated news on the clearing of debris on roads and streets and donations made by the government and social organizations for storm victims in the aftermath of the storm through print media; and that it will make public the notification calling on the people to make donations for storm victims.

In response to the reports, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said that the organizations present on the occasion are the ones that have contributed their shares together with the government in time of emergency faced in the nation; that this time also the ministry will attend to the needs of the organizations in the drive for providing aid to the storm victims. And the minister stressed the need for the three organizations to state news on health, rehabilitation and assistance provided to storm victims, and make the people realize the efforts of the government and the people and the instigation of internal and external destructive elements. — MNA

Wellwishers from States and Divisions donate cash and kind to storm-hit victims

YANGON, 13 May — Departments and organizations from States and Divisions, families of Tatmadawmen and wellwishers are donating cash and kind to storm-hit victims.

Military officers and their families of the Ministry of Defence donated for the first time K50 million, wellwishers from Kachin State K256,110,000, wellwishers from Shan State (East) K613,775 and relief supplies worth K4,530,780, wellwishers from Shan State (South) and Kayin State K7,548,915 and personal goods, foods and clothes worth K90,951,400, wellwishers from Kayin and Mon States K11,710,800 and personal goods and clothes worth K17,862,500, wellwishers from Taninthayi Division K4,829,500 and clothes and personal goods worth K3,076,610, families of Tatmadawmen and wellwishers from Mandalay Division foodstuffs, medicines, clothes and personal goods worth K127,864,700, and wellwishers from Magway Division K147,000. The total amount of donation of cash and kind amounted to K575,245,980. The total amount of donation until today amounted to K5,538,374,216.

Relief supplies provided to storm-hit areas in Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 13 May — Relief supplies were being provided from Yangon to the storm-hit areas in Ayeyawady Division by helicopters this morning.

Two Tatmadaw helicopters carried today relief supplies such as canvas tents, dried foods, medicines and medical equipment, electrical equipment, generators, utensils, clothes, blankets, mosquito nets and purified water bottles, weighing 5200 kilogram, to villages with difficult access in Bogale, Pyapon and Dedaye townships.

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi and officials concerned were onboard the flights to supervise the relief supply tasks. — MNA
Adjutant-General inspects relief camps in Wakema, Myaungmya Townships

NAY PYI TAW, 13 May — Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung of the Ministry of Defence arrived at Wakema township together with relief supplies by Tatmadaw helicopter yesterday morning.

At Manawbukha Yeiktha, He instructed relief workers to compile the lists of storm victims according to their townships and villages, to make a list of distribution of relief supplies, to accommodate victims at relief camps systematically, to see to the losses and damages and to ask for necessary relief supplies in time.

The Adjutant-General met with victims of Hantharwady and Basic Education Primary School (Mibbine) relief camps in Wakema township. And he also presented supplies and cash assistance to the victims.

The Adjutant-General inspected the control office of relief camp in Sasanna Beikman. And he comforted patients in Wakema hospital and presented supplies and cash assistance to them.

Afterwards, the Adjutant-General proceeded to Myaungmya where he met with members of the relief control team and attended to the needs.

Next, he consoled the storm victims of the relief camps at Sanana Beikman, No 4 Basic Education High School and No 6 BEHS and fulfilled the requirements.

YANGON, 13 May — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence inspected relief camps for storm victims opened in Hlinethaya, Dagon Myothit (North), Dagon Myothit (South) Townships in Yangon Division and gave necessary instructions to officials concerned this afternoon.

Upon arrival at Atwin Padan relief camp in Padan village of Hlinethaya Township, Lt-Gen Myint Swe together with Member of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan looked into health care services, dust bins, drinking water ponds, power supply, sinking of tube wells, disposal of garbage, construction of toilets, arrival of relief supplies and condition of VCD players and cordially greeted the storm victims and consoled them.

Next, they left for Dagon Myothit (North) Township. At Atwin Padan relief camp, arrangements have been made for the households to stay at tarpaulin tents donated by foreign countries and accommodate the storm victims along with food.

At the meeting hall of Hlinethaya Township Peace and Development Council Office, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan met with the chairman of the Township PDC and officials concerned and discussed measures for speeding delivery of relief supplies to the cyclone victims and attended to the needs.

At the meeting hall of Pazundaung Township PDC, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan met with the chairmen of Pazundaung and Mingala Taungnyunt Township PDCs and officials concerned and discussed measures for sending relief supplies to storm victims, clearing debris and sector-wise reconstruction and attended to the needs.

On arrival at the relief camp opened at No 16 Ward of Dagon Myothit (North) Township, Lt-Gen Myint Swe oversaw health care services, arrival of drinking water and relief supplies, gave necessary instructions to the officials concerned, cordially greeted the storm victims and consoled them.

At the relief camp, arrangements have been made for the households to stay at tarpaulin tents donated by foreign countries and accommodate storm victims along with food.

Upon arrival at the relief camp opened at No 17 Ward of Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspected health care services, drinking water supply, distribution of relief supplies to the storm victims, construction of toilets and VCD players provided, cordially greeted the storm victims, consoled them and made arrangements to fulfill the requirements.

At the relief camp, arrangements have been made for the households to stay at tarpaulin tents donated by foreign countries and accommodate the storm victims as well as food provided.

Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe gave necessary instructions to the officials concerned and left there in the afternoon. — MNA

MMCWA donates cash to storm victims

YANGON, 13 May — CEC members of the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association on 9 May donated K 600,000 and medicines to storm victims who are receiving treatment at Yangon General Hospital.— MNA
Diplomats observe referendum in Lashio

YANGON, 13 May — Mr Kiengthaung Suvarasam of Thai Embassy and Second Secretary Mr G-T Situnorang of Indonesian Embassy, accompanied by U Thet Win Tu of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs arrived at Lashio on 9 May morning.

On 10 May, they, together with member of Commission for Holding the Referendum U Khun Myat, Shan State sub-committee chairman U Maung Maung Aung, and District/Township commission member, visited Ward 1 polling station, Ward 2 polling station, Mea Hin Village-tract polling station and Ward 12 polling station. They arrived at Hopeik village polling station at 2.50 pm and viewed the counting of ballot papers and the programmes for closing the polling station.—MNA

Rehabilitation works and disaster...

(from page 16)

Under the second phase, the government is working in concert with departments and national construction entrepreneurs for resettlement of the victims, rebuilding of the destroyed houses, and building of new houses wherever necessary for rehabilitation of the victims.

Plans are well under way for various regions and government enterprises to produce and distribute construction materials under special programmes, to import such materials, and to enable local and international social organizations to provide construction materials for reconstruction of government offices and houses. As the third phase, measures are being taken for rehabilitation of storm-struck areas and enterprises and productive forces of the people.

The major businesses of the people in the disaster-hit areas are agriculture and fishery. So, it is required to give priority to rehabilitation of the agricultural sector. It is needed to rehabilitate the flooded areas and the areas flooded by sea water. Works are to be carried out construct embankments to the arable lands from being flooded by sea water, to construct sluice gates, to repair destroyed dams, and to provide paddy strains that are resistant to sea water along with farms and implements and cattle, and to fulfill the requirements including providing motorboats and water pumps.

He instructed departments concerned to work in harmony to have mission accomplished in respective sectors.

Now, the world is facing climate changes. Many areas that were not expected to come under any natural disasters are dealing with natural disasters. Rehabilitation works and disaster preparedness tasks are to be carried out in tandem, he said.

Next, Director-General of Agricultural Planning Department U Tin Htut Oo reported on requirements for reclamation of farmlands in some townships in Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions, collection of paddy strain and arrangements for distribution and storage of paddy seeds and provisions of cattle, tractors and farm implements.

Director-General of Irrigation Department U Khin Zaw reported on repair of dams and embankment and sluice gates before cultivation season and requirements.

Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo reported on collecting correct data at grassroots levels in storm-hit areas and measures taken for administrative machinery, Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin on production of water pumps, tractors and agricultural equipment and electric wires, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Huy on distribution of fertilizer and fuel and Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Col Thurein Zaw on compilation of correct figures in storm-affected regions.

Those present discussed provision of supplies from international organizations and friendly nations, delivery of relief goods provided by local and foreign organizations to storm-affected areas, livestock breeding, prevention of animal disease and timber.

Next, Maj-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence reported on losses, relief and resettlement, communications, power supply and arrangements for provision of paddy seeds, powered boats and Maj-Gen Khin Zaw of the Ministry of Defence on arrangements for provision of cattle. Vice-Chairman of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Tha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo fulfilled the requirements.

He said arrangements are to be made for convenience of the storm victims with humanitarian spirit and he called for cooperation in undertaking of agricultural and livestock breeding tasks.

The meeting came to a close at 4.30 pm.—MNA

Power lines installed in Hline Tsp

YANGON, 13 May — Staff of Yangon City Electricity Supply Board and officials of Hline Township electrical engineer’s office installed 400-volt power lines at the corner of Shwehintha Tower and Inlayalay for resuming power of Township.

Installation of power line along Pyay Road in the township has been completed and electric power lines will also be installed in streets and lanes. —MNA

Latest casualty figure

NAY PYI TAW, 13 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 34,273 people died, 1,403 were injured and 27,838 went missing in all regions struck by the storm.

MNA
More international aids arrive

YANGON, 13 May — Donors from abroad have provided relief aids for the victims in storm-hit regions simultaneously.

C-17 flight carrying 32 tons of blankets, tents, bed rolls, chlorine and various kinds of medicine donated by Australia, MCW-443 carrying 38 tons of plastics, mosquito nets, kitchen-ware and blankets donated by UNHCR, Silk Air M-512 carrying 116 packages of tent donated by MERCY Relief, the Social Organization of Singapore, C-130 aircraft carrying 13 tons of medicines, plastics, first-aid kits, foods and chlorine tablets donated by Royal Thai Air Force, two C-130 flights carrying relief supplies donated by United States of America, 15 tons of flour, milk powder, tents, water purifiers and chlorine tablets donated by KOICA of the Republic of Korea, 1.45 tons of medicines for prevention against malaria and pesticides donated by the Red Cross Society of the People’s Republic of China, 18 tons of relief items donated by WFP and ICRC, 38 tons of tents, medicines and plastics donated by Doctors Without Borders, foods and clothes donated by Myanmar citizens in Thailand through Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok, TG-305 carrying 4 tons of kitchen utensils, blankets and other aid donated by Thai Airways arrived at the Yangon International Airport today.

Similarly, AN-12 carrying 11 tons of relief supplies donated by WFP also arrived at the Yangon International Airport yesterday.

The relief aids from abroad have been sent to the storm-hit regions by helicopter, by car and by boat.

MNA
Relief aids shipped to storm victims

YANGON, 13 May
— Relief aids have been transported to the storm-hit regions in Ayeyawady Division by boat without delay.

Taungthaman ship transported 50 tons of relief items to Bogale and Mawlamyinegyun townships. Sakawa ship 50 tons of relief aids to Dedaye township and Aung Khine Phyoo ship 150 tons of relief supplies to Pyapon township from Wardan street jetty in Lanmadaw Township today.

Moe Kyaw ship loaded with 107 tons of relief supplies to Labutta township, Bala Kyaw Thu ship with 78 tons of relief

News about sinking of relief-supplies-loaded ship untrue

NAY PYI TAW, 13 May — A BBC broadcast quoting AFP aired at 8 pm on 11 May that a ship carrying members of Red Cross Society and relief supplies capsized after it was struck by a tree that floated down in the current in the storm-hit area, that all the relief supplies were lost in the mishap but there were no casualties.

The fact was that the vessel named “Sein Win Kyi” carrying five members of Red Cross Society, 350 passengers and 10 tons of relief supplies headed for Mawlamyinegyun from Yangon at about 4 pm on 10 May. While approaching Thanyotone near Bogale at 3.15 am on 11 May, it hit a submerged log resulting in the inflow of water as deep as one feet and an half in it. Except that goods got wet, there were no damages and losses to people and other articles. After repairing the damage of the vessel, it continued the journey at 2.45 pm and reached the destination town of Mawlamyinegyun at 4.10 pm the same day.

Five members of Myanmar Red Cross Society were U Winna Shein (Field Supervisor Officer, Myanmar Red Cross Society), U Tun Tun Win (Assistant Instructor Officer, Myanmar Red Cross Society), U Tun Tun Win (Assistant Instructor Officer, Myanmar Red Cross Society), U Yu Phyo (Volunteer Red Cross Member, Lanmadaw Township Red Cross Society), Daw San San Win (Volunteer Red Cross Member, Dagon Myothit (North), Red Cross Society) and Daw Kyu Kyu Win (Volunteer Red Cross Member, Dagon Myothit (North), Red Cross Society. — MNA

Tents donated by international community set up for victims in Twantay Township. — MNA

Relief aids arrives in Hlinethaya. — MNA

Planes carrying international relief aid seen at Yangon International Airport — MNA

Members of Tatmadaw, Fire Brigades and USDA unloading relief aids. — MNA

Navy doctors leave for Hainggyi Island

YANGON, 13 May
— Family Doctors of Tatmadaw (Navy) fully equipped with medicines and medical equipment left here this morning for Hainggyi Island via Pathein to provide health care services to storm victims there. — MNA
China opens centre on WTO dispute settlement mechanism

SHANGHAI, 12 May—A research centre on World Trade Organization (WTO) dispute settlement mechanism was set up in Shanghai on Sunday, the first of its kind in the country.

The China-WTO Dispute Settlement Mechanism Centre (CWTO-DSMC) will offer suggestions and solutions to trade disputes for government and businesses, said Geng Biaohua, deputy director of the centre.

The centre was jointly founded by the Shanghai Institute of Foreign Trade and the Shanghai WTO Affairs Consultation Centre, a non-governmental organization.

“Such a research institute will help Chinese Government and businesses further familiarize themselves with WTO rules and learn how to resolve disputes using the dispute settlement mechanism,” said Zhang Yuejiao, one of the five counselors for the centre.

In November last year, Zhang was appointed by the WTO Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) as a member of the seven-person Appellate Body, which issues final rulings in trade disputes. She is the first Chinese judge on WTO’s highest court.

Vietnam’s exports to EU to surge in 2008

HANOI, 12 May—Vietnam’s exports to the European Union (EU) will rise to 12.1 billion US dollars this year from 9.4 billion US dollars last year, local newspaper Vietnam Investment Review reported on Monday.

Vietnam’s shoe industry continues to lead, with export turnover expected to reach 2.7 billion US dollars in 2008, up from 2.1 billion US dollars in 2007. Vietnam had a 7.2 per cent share of the EU shoe market last year. Exports of garments and textiles take the second place, with revenue expected to surge by 20 per cent to nearly 1.7 billion US dollars this year.

Seafood exports to the EU will bring in a record 1.2 billion US dollars this year, up 25 per cent against last year. Exports of wood products will also grow 30 per cent to 780 million US dollars in 2008, according to prediction by the Ministry of Industry and Trade. Coffee export will, however, see a slight decrease to 820 million US dollars, due to a fall in domestic output. The EU imports more Vietnamese coffee than anywhere else, accounting for half of Vietnam’s total coffee exports.

Airbus to implement further cost-cutting measures

PARIS, 11 May—European plane maker Airbus is planning to implement additional cost-saving measures, including massive relocations, as part of efforts to finance the A350 programme, France’s Les Echos daily reported in its Friday edition.

The abandonment of the sale of two industrial sites in France, whose proceeds were to be used to finance the development of the new long-haul A350, is expected to lead to the implementation of additional cost-cutting measures, especially with regard to employees of the concerned sites, said the daily.

“As a next step, sites Meaulte and Saint-Nazaire-Ville will both be outsourced to other players. As for the sites of Nordenham, Varel and Augsburg, we are a transitional phase that should eventually lead to their sale to one or more financial partners,” Airbus CEO Thomas Enders was quoted as saying in a letter addressed to all employees.

China’s own jumbo jet company to be established

SHANGHAI, 12 May—China is set to unveil its own jumbo jet company in Shanghai on Sunday, marking a crucial stage for the country’s research and development of giant passenger planes.

The new company, China Commercial Aircraft Co, will have a registered capital of 19 billion yuan (about 2.7 billion US dollars), with the central government and the Shanghai Government among the major shareholders, sources close to the matter told Xinhua.

Shareholders of the new company will also include China Aviation Industry Corporation I (AVIC I), the country’s largest aircraft producer, and China Aviation Industry Corporation II (AVIC II).

It is widely believed that Zhang Qingwei, Minister of the State Commission of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defence, would be the company’s board chairman.

Vodafone spokesman says not pursuing MTN bid

LONDON, 12 May—Vodafone Group, the world’s largest mobile phone group by revenue, has no intention of pursuing a bid for the South African company MTN, a spokesman said on Sunday.

Reports in Britain’s Sunday Telegraph and Sunday Times newspapers said Vodafone was considering making a bid for part or all of MTN which could cost around 20 billion pounds ($39.02 billion US dollars).

“We have no intention of pursuing a bid for MTN,” a spokesman said. The two papers said Vodafone’s interest had been triggered by India’s top mobile operator Bharti Airtel which said last month it was in exploratory talks with MTN that may or may not lead to a deal.

Chinese President Hu Jintao (C) poses with Panasonic’s Chairman Kunio Nakamura (L) and President Fumio Otsubo in front of a giant plasma television during Hu’s visit to Panasonic head office in Kadoma city, western Japan on 10 May, 2008.—INTERNET

A nurse treats dengue patients in a government hospital in Manila. The Philippines recorded 9,176 cases of dengue fever nationwide from 1 January to 5 April this year, an increase of almost 34 percent over the same period last year, the health department said on 10 May, 2008.—INTERNET

China’s new long-haul A350, being developed in cooperation with Airbus, is expected to lead to a surge in China’s exports to the EU.

A child displays a creation from BHS For Kids Clothes Summer 2008 collection during a fund raiser fashion show for a local charity in Amman, Jordan on 10 May, 2008.—INTERNET

A nurse treats dengue patients in a government hospital in Manila. The Philippines recorded 9,176 cases of dengue fever nationwide from 1 January to 5 April this year, an increase of almost 34 percent over the same period last year, the health department said on 10 May, 2008.—INTERNET

A child displays a creation from BHS For Kids Clothes Summer 2008 collection during a fund raiser fashion show for a local charity in Amman, Jordan on 10 May, 2008.—INTERNET

Airbus to implement further cost-cutting measures

PARIS, 11 May—Euro-
People view cultural relics at the Western Xia Museum near the Imperial Tombs of the Western Xia Kingdom (1038-1227), in Yinchuan, capital of northwest China’s Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, on 6 May, 2008.—Xinhua

Amorphophallus titanum (or titan arum). One of the most spectacular plants to be found in the wet tropics zone of the Princess of Wales Conservatory is the titan arum. With its huge flowering structure (inflorescence) rising up to 3m above the ground and its single immense leaf, it certainly is a giant among plants, as its name suggests. Coupled with its characteristic foul stench, and the rarity of flowerings, this plant has always hit the headlines. (Photo: discovery163.com) —INTERNET

A parrot slam-dunks during a performance at the Laohutan Ocean Park in Dalian, a port city in northeast China’s Liaoning province, on 2 May, 2008. —Xinhua

Dancers perform at the International Tourism Fair in Havana, on 6 May, 2008.—INTERNET

Two young ladies from the Netherlands form the shape of a heart with their arms while posing for a souvenir photo taken by a friend, right, at the park around the castle in Heidelberg, Germany, on 8 May, 2008.—INTERNET
Sudan cuts diplomatic relations with Chad

KHARTOUM, 12 May—Sudan broke off diplomatic relations with Chad on Sunday after an attack by Darfur rebels on the capital Khartoum that the government said was supported by Chadian President Idriis Deby.

On Saturday, the rebels fought Sudanese troops in a suburb of Khartoum in a bid to seize power but officials said the attack was defeated. It was the first time fighting had reached the capital in decades of conflict between the traditionally Arab-dominated central government of Africa’s biggest country and rebels from peripheral regions. “We are now cutting off our diplomatic relations with this regime,” President Omar Hassan al-Bashir said on state television.—MNA/Reuters

FLASH FLOOD KILLS FOUR IN CENTRAL VIETNAM

HANOI, 12 May—Flash floods killed four locals in Vietnam’s Central Highlands province of Dac Nong, local media reported on Monday.

The flood swept away the victims on Sunday, including two girls, one in seven and the other in two, in Tuy Duc district of Dac Nong province, according to the newspaper Saigon Liberation.

The local administration has immediately sent rescue forces to the spot, and in association with military, helped evacuate hundreds of families to safe places and search for the missing and bodies of dead people.

MNA/Xinhua

Drive safely
Japan eyes new emissions cut goal for 2050

TOKYO, 12 May — Japan, the world’s fifth biggest polluter, will announce a target next month for cutting domestic greenhouse gas emissions by 60-80 per cent from current levels by 2050, media reported on Sunday.

The target, more ambitious than Japan’s current proposal for the world to halve emissions by 2050, is aimed at boosting its leadership in climate talks as host of the Group of Eight summit in July, the Nikkei and Asahi Shimbun newspapers said. While the European Union and Canada also favour a goal of halving global emissions by 2050, developing nations have said they would not sign up for such a goal unless the United States did far more to curb emissions. The Nikkei said Japan would also set out plans to create a carbon credit exchange, where companies can trade emission rights, but did not give details.

Japan is seeking to take a more active role in global talks on fighting climate change and has pushed for an industry-focused framework for a new United Nations climate treaty to follow the Kyoto Protocol, which ends in 2012.

A file photo shows a farmer tends organic tomatoes at a greenhouse in Langfang, Hebei Province, near Beijing, China.—INTERNET

“Rammasun” maintains strength toward N-Philippines

MANILA, 12 May — Typhoon Rammasun maintained its strength toward northern Philippines while a new low-pressure area was spotted off central Philippines early Sunday, said the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

As of 2 am local time (1800 GMT Saturday), Rammasun was 980 kilometres east of northern Luzon, said PAGASA, which warned residents in southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao to take precautions against land-slides and flash floods.

Rammasun, locally known as Butchoy, was the first major tropical storm to hit the country this year, which is visited by about 20 typhoons each year on average.

The typhoon packed maximum winds of 185 kilometres per hour (kph) near the center and gustiness of up to 220 kilometres per hour, and was moving north at 20 kilometres per hour, said PAGASA.

Meanwhile, a low-pressure area was spotted at 260 kilometres west of Mindoro, central Philippines, said PAGASA without elaborating if it would grow into another typhoon. — MNA/Xinhua

Bird flu hits one more Vietnamese locality

HANOI, 12 May — Bird flu has recently hit Vietnam’s southern Long An province, raising the total number of localities currently affected by the disease to five, according to local newspaper Pioneer Monday.

Specimens from 290 dead ducks out of a flock of over 2,000 raised by two households in the two districts of Tan Thanh and Thanh Hoa were tested positive to bird flu virus strain H5N1, the paper quoted the provincial veterinary agency as reporting. However, the country’s Department of Animal Health has yet to confirm the outbreaks in Long An. Now, bird flu is hitting Son La, provinces of Vinh Long and Tra Vinh, and Can Tho City in the southern region, the department said Sunday.

Bird flu outbreaks in Vietnam, starting in December 2003, have killed and led to the forced culling of dozens of millions of fowls in the country. — MNA/Xinhua

16 reported dead in Missouri, Oklahoma tornadoes

OKLAHOMA CITY, 12 May — At least 16 people were killed on Saturday in Missouri and Oklahoma after tornadoes swept through the area, authorities in the two states said.

A swarm of tornadoes that struck southwest Missouri killed 10 people, Missouri Emergency Management spokeswoman Susie Stonner said.

Six people were also killed in the small northeastern Oklahoma town of Picher, officials said.

“Basically a 24-block area is virtually destroyed,” said Michelann Ooten, a spokeswoman for the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management.

She added that Oklahoma Governor Brad Henry had ordered National Guard troops to arrive in Picher by Sunday morning to help in rescue and recovery operations.

Local television footage from Picher showed widespread devastation. Homes were ripped from their foundations, trees were stripped of leaves and sheet metal was twisted like paper. — MNA/Reuters
**Sports**

Novak Djokovic of Serbia holds the trophy after defeating Stanislas Wawrinka of Switzerland in the final of the Rome Masters men’s tennis tournament in Rome on 11 May, 2008. **Xinhua**

**Federer hopes to carry Olympic flag again**

**Hamburg (Germany), 13 May —** Roger Federer hopes to carry his 27th birthday on 8 August by carrying the flag again for Switzerland at the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games.

“It’s my birthday on the day of the opening ceremony,” Federer told reporters on Monday at the Hamburg Masters. “Maybe I will carry the flag again for Switzerland. I’d be very honoured.”

“The Olympics is a dream for all sportspeople,” added Federer, who was surprisingly beaten in the second round by Tomas Berdych four years ago in Athens and lost the bronze medal match in 2000.

Rafael Nadal, ranked second in the world behind Federer, is also looking forward to playing in Beijing and staying at the Olympic Village -- even if it means slumming it a bit.

“The Olympics will be important,” said the Spaniard, who played in the doubles at the 2004 Games. “It’ll be a nice experience to be with the top sportsmen of the world.” **— MNA/Reuters**

**Lyon’s title chase goes down to wire for a change**

**Paris, 12 May —** Olympique Lyon, used to running away with the Ligue 1 title, will have to fight until the final minute of the season in their bid to claim a seventh successive crown.

Not since their first title in 2002 have Lyon had to wait until the final day to seal the championship.

Nine points ahead of second-placed Girondins Bordeaux on March 30, they saw that lead melt to just two points five matches later after a patchy spell. They are still only two points clear with a match left after they beat Nancy 1-0 on Saturday and Bordeaux stayed in contention with a 2-0 win over Sochaux.

The title will be decided next Saturday when Lyon travel to Auxerre and Bordeaux visit Racing Lens.

Lyon are still in pole position, a much better goal difference meaning they need just a draw. They will also face Auxerre opponents with nothing to play for, unlike Bordeaux, who can expect a challenge from relegation-threatened Lens.

“We have won nothing yet,” Lyon midfielder Mathieu Bodmer told reporters. “We saw again that Bordeaux would not give up but our fate remains in our own hands.”

Coach Alain Perrin said looking for a draw would be wrong.

“A point should be enough but we’ll play to win,” he said. It has been a strange season for Lyon. Not as dominant as in previous years, they again failed to make an impact in Europe, leaving the Champions League at the last-16 stage. They can still, however, make this campaign one to remember with their first league and Cup double to play for. They will face Paris St Germain in the French Cup final on 24 May. **— MNA/Reuters**

**Rijkaard saddened by Nou Camp defeat**

**Madrid, 13 May —** Barcelona coach Frank Rijkaard gave a rare display of emotion after his side’s 3-2 loss to Real Mallorca on Sunday, admitting he was upset that he lost his match at the Nou Camp after scoring the Premier League runners-up Chelsea have struggled to back-to-back league titles and victory in the Champions League in his first three seasons at the Nou Camp.

Sporting director Txiki Begiristain said the fans’ reaction was a measure of their respect for the Dutchman who steered the club to back-to-back league titles and victory in the Champions League in his first three seasons at the Nou Camp. **MNA/Reuters**

**Tiny Vaduz secure spot in Swiss top division**

**Bern (Switzerland), 13 May —** Liechtenstein’s only professional soccer team FC Vaduz won promotion to Switzerland’s top division on Monday after winning the second division title with a 0-0 draw away to Chiasso.

Coached by Switzerland’s most capped international player, Heinz Hermann, the team from the tiny Liechtenstein capital did just enough to finish a point clear of nearest rivals Bellinzona.

Bellinzona, who pulled off their own impressive feat by reaching this year’s Swiss Cup final, won their final match 4-1 to set up a promotion-play-off match against top division side St Gallen.

Vaduz have been playing in the Swiss league since 1932, after one year of playing Austrian opposition, but had never managed to gain promotion to the top flight. **MNA/Reuters**

**Japán’s Ai Sugiyama returns the ball to Russia’s Vera Zvonareva during the women’s first round match of the Italian Open tennis tournament in Rome, on 12 May, 2008. — INTERNET**

**Bosingwa agrees three-year deal with Chelsea**

**London, 13 May —** Porto defender Jose Bosingwa has agreed a three-year deal with Chelsea and will join the Premier League runners-up after Euro 2008, the London club said on Monday. “Jose Bosingwa has agreed terms with Chelsea Football Club. He has agreed a three-year contract,” said a statement on the club’s website (www.chelsea fc).”

“I always had a dream to play in England and Chelsea is a club where I can prove myself and improve as a player,” he said in an interview with Chelsea TV. Porto said on their website (fcporto.pt) on Sunday that Chelsea would pay 20.5 million Euros (31.75 million US dollars) for the 25-year-old Kinshasa-born Portuguese international, regarded as one of the best right backs in Europe.

Premier League runners-up Chelsea have struggled at right back this season with Paulo Ferreira out of favour and Juliano Belletti making little impact since signing from Barcelona. Manager Avram Grant has even used midfielder Michael Essien out of position on the right side of defence.

Bosingwa joined Porto from Boavista in 2003 and is a former team mate of Chelsea defenders Ricardo Carvalho and Ferreira and also played at Porto under former Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho. **MNA/Reuters**
UK girl, 18, has had three hearts

Brisco, 12 May — An 18-year-old British girl has had no fewer than three hearts — the one she was born with and the other two transplanted hearts, media reported on Monday.

Leanne Nicholson, a medical miracle, and lucky to be alive, is recovering at her home in Choppington, Northumberland, from her second heart transplant three months ago.

Until the age of 12, Leanne was a normal and healthy child. But in April 2002 a virus — unnamed and unknown — swept through her body, attacking the muscle tissue of her heart.

She was diagnosed with severe cardio-myopathy, literally “heart muscle disease.” Her heart was so damaged by the virus that the doctors said it was as though she’d suffered three major heart attacks.

The first transplanted heart came from a young woman who had died of a head injury. And the transplant was, to everyone’s huge relief, a success in 2002.

But after just 14 months, Leanne went into chronic rejection. Her body began to recognize the heart as an alien tissue and started to attack it so powerfully that even the strongest immuno-suppressive drugs did not work.

Surgeons attempted to fit Leanne with a pacemaker to regulate her heartbeat and help it keep a regular rhythm. But the operation was not a success because the heart was too weak, so in 2003 Leanne was once again pushed to intensive care with heart failure.

MNA/Eachua

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Wednesday, 14 May, 2008

7:00 pm
1. Myanmar news
2. Weather report
3. 11:00 am
4. 10:00 am
5. 9:00 am
6. 8:00 am
7. Musical programme
8. 7:00 am
9. Exercise

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

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°) mps.
YANGON, 13 May — The United States of America donated relief aid to the disaster-hit areas of Myanmar. Relief aids arrived here today.

One C-130 aircraft of US Air Force carrying 6,340 bottles of drinking water, 3,150 blankets, 4,200 mosquito nets—totaling 9-ton—at 10.35 am and another C-130 aircraft with 120 plastic sheets, 1,250 blankets and 6,340 bottles of drinking water—totaling 11.64-ton—at 2 pm arrived at the Yangon International Airport. The American representatives handed over the relief items to the team accepting the supplies at the airport. — MNA

More US relief supplies arrive

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