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Over 92 per cent say “Yes” to Referendum
Commission for Holding Referendum issues Announcement No 10/2008

The full text of the Announcement is as follows:—

Union of Myanmar
Commission for Holding the Referendum
Announcement No 10/2008
11th Waxing of Kason, 1370 ME
(15 May 2008)

1. The referendum was held successfully on 10 May 2008 in 278 of 325 townships in the Union of Myanmar.
2. The Commission issued Announcement No 8/2008 dated 6 May 2008 that the referendum for 40 townships in Yangon Division and seven townships in Ayeyawady Division which were hit by Cyclone ‘Nargis’ will be held on 24 May 2008.
3. The population of the Union now is 57,504,368 and the population of those who have attained the age of 18 years and who are eligible to vote is 27,369,957.
4. The following are the results of the referendum held in 278 townships on 10 May 2008.
   (a) Number of eligible voters 22,708,434
   (b) Number of those who cast vote 22,496,660
   (c) Number of those who cast ‘Yes’ vote 20,786,596
   (d) Number of those who cast ‘No’ vote 1,375,480
   (e) Number of cancelled votes 334,584
5. In the 278 townships, 22,496,660 or 99.07 per cent of 22,708,434 eligible voters cast vote in the referendum.
6. The commission hereby announces that 20,786,596 of 22,496,660 voters cast ‘Yes’ vote, accounting for 92.4 per cent.

(Aung Toe)
Chairman
Commission for Holding the Referendum

Legal action for any relief aid embezzlement
National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee releases announcement
NAY PYI TAW, 15 May—The National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee released an announcement today.

The Announcement is as follows:—

1. Some areas in Myanmar were hit severely by the Cyclone ‘Nargis’. Now the nation is accepting the relief supplies donated by internal and international donors with much gratitude.
2. The Emergency Supply Supervisory Committee consisting of departmental officials and non-governmental organizations is accepting and systematically keeping proper accounts the cash and relief aid donated by internal and international donors. Then, the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Subcommittee consisting of departmental officials and non-governmental organizations is immediately delivering the items to the victims in the storm-hit areas.
3. Hence, wellwishers at home and abroad may contact the nearest Myanmar embassies, offices of the Military Attache, responsible persons of Natural Disaster Preparedness Subcommittees in the respective wards, townships, districts, states and divisions, other service agencies and official organizations and donate humanitarian aid.
4. Anyone may inform if he witnesses or knows that the cash assistance and relief supplies donated to the storm victims are kept for self-interest, traded, used for particular persons and organizations, or misappropriated for other purposes. We hereby announce that we have made all necessary arrangements to conduct investigation into the cases to expose the offenders and take punitive action against them in accordance with the law.

National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Humanitarian spirit further cements good neighbourly relations between Myanmar and Thailand

Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein met Thai Prime Minister Mr Samak Sundaravej and members at the Sedona Hotel on 14 May.

At the meeting, the Thai Prime Minister said that Thailand provided assistance to Myanmar after the storm, and he said that continued assistance would also be provided via Myawady, a border town.

In response, Prime Minister General Thein Sein said Thailand was providing relief supplies to the nation. Arrangements were made to transport the items promptly to the disaster-hit areas, he said.

The supplies from Thailand included those donated by the Thai King, those by Thai government and Princess Sirindhorn and those by the people. The relief items such as foodstuff, clothes and medicines donated by the people from four corners of the nation, international and local social organizations and well-wishers are now adequate for the victims.

After the call, the Thai Prime Minister said that he came to realize the rescue and relief efforts of Myanmar due to his firsthand experience rather than hearsay. The two prime ministers observed measures being taken to expedite the relief tasks in order to fulfill the requirements of the victims by the administrative office and control office at the relief camp of Ward 17 in Dagon Myothit (South) Township.

Myanmar and Thailand are good neighbourly countries helping each other and sharing same culture and traditions. So, the Thai Prime Minister’s visit to Myanmar is believed to forge the friendly relations between the two countries.

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 16 May, 2008

Swedish Ambassador calls on NPED Minister

YANGON, 15 May — Swedish Ambassador Mr Lennart Linner and Myanmar Consul Dr Myint Han to Sweden called on Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha at National Archives Department, here, this morning.

At the call, the Swedish Ambassador, on behalf of the people of Sweden, expressed sympathy for damages and losses in the storm. He thanked the Myanmar government for its management to send relief aid presented by Sweden to the storm-hit regions through the Myanmar Red Cross Society.

He added that Swedish government plans to provide more relief aids to Myanmar, and he said he would like to know assistance being rendered to the victims.

The minister said that the storm crossed some townships in Ayeyawady Division and townships in Yangon Division from Hainggyikyun at night on 2 May and on 3 May morning. The storm and tidal waves caused damages and losses to townships in Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions.

After the storm, the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee met in Nay Pyi Taw, and the Head of State sent the ministers to supervise the relief tasks. The Prime Minister also managed relief activities in the storm-hit regions. A total of 21 relief camps are being opened at the regions.

The minister explained sending of relief supplies from abroad to the relief camps via Yangon International Airport by helicopter and by car and health care services including basic needs being provided to the victims.

In addition, the minister made clarification on completion of the first phase relief tasks, matters related to delivery of supplies to the relief camps for the second phase and rehabilitation measures for long-term.

Later, the Swedish Ambassador expressed thanks for clarification of the minister and reported on arrangements for more assistance of the Swedish government.—MNA

MWAF takes part in carrying relief supplies

YANGON, 15 May — Vice Presidents of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Daw Khin Lay Myint and Daw Khin Thet Huy, central executives, chairperson of Yangon Division Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Mar Mar Wai and more than 300 members of WAO in Yangon Division assisted in loading onto ships of relief supplies

To the storm victims in Ayeyawady Division at Phongyi Street, No 1 jetty and War Dan street jetty this morning.

Vice-Presidents of MWAF Daw Khin Lay Myint, Daw Khin Thet Huy and members distributed soft drinks, bottled drinking water and snacks to workers of Inland Freight Handling Committee and members of Myanmar Police Force taking part in loading.—MNA

Storm-hit areas using rain water effectively

YANGON, 15 May — The local people had run into difficulties due to lack of drinking water because sea water flowed into the drinking water ponds caused by the storm that hit Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions on 2 and 3 May.

Now, South West monsoon has set in delta region. It is heavily raining in the regions of Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions. The local people from some places that cannot acquire drinking water are utilizing rain water beneficially using tarpaulins like ponds.

In addition, well-wishers are constantly donating foods, drinking water and relief aids and sending them to the storm victims. Officials concerned are supervising measures being taken for the distribution of relief items to the storm victims to minimize loss and wastage.—MNA
**US Democrats win Mississippi special election**

**ATLANTA, 15 May**—Mississippi Democrat Travis Childers won a US House of Representatives seat in a special election on Tuesday that analysts said should serve as a warning to Republicans gearing up for November’s congressional elections. Childers defeated Greg Davis in a runoff to fill a vacant seat in Mississippi’s first congressional district, according to projections reported by local media.

Vice President Dick Cheney and the state’s Republican governor campaigned against Childers in a district considered safe territory in part because it voted heavily for US President George W Bush in 2004. Advertisements run for Davis in this conservative part of the country attempted to link Childers to Senator Barack Obama, the frontrunner for the Democratic nomination, who is viewed by some Mississippi voters as too liberal.

The win expanded the Democratic majority in Congress to 236 versus 199 seats held by the Republican Party, according to the chairman of the Congressional Democratic Caucus, Maryland Representative Chris Van Hollen, who described it as a “political thunderbolt.”

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**Bomb at Spain police barracks wounds three**

**MADRID, 15 May**—A car bomb exploded at a police barracks in the Basque Country in northern Spain early on Wednesday, wounding 3 people and leaving at least 2 trapped in the rubble of a building, police said.

A police rescue team using dogs was searching for the people trapped in the wrecked Civil Guard barracks in the town of Legutiano, where the bomb exploded just before 3 am (0100 GMT), a spokeswoman for the Basque Country police said.

There was no warning before the attack, which took place in an area that is often the target of Basque separatists. No one has claimed responsibility, police said.— MNA/Reuters

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**Indonesia expects four carriers off EU ban list**

**JAKARTA, 15 May**—The Indonesian Government is expecting four Indonesian air carriers to be removed from the European Union air ban list in July, in a first step toward the removal of all the country’s carriers, local Press said Wednesday.

The four are flag carrier Garuda Indonesia and Mandala Airlines, both passenger carriers, as well as cargo carriers Airfast Indonesia and Premi Air, reported major newspaper The Jakarta Post. The call was made during Tuesday’s meeting between Indonesian and EU officials to discuss bilateral, regional and international issues.— MNA/Reuters

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**Obama’s big boost for White House**

Barack Obama has been given a massive boost in his bid for America’s top job after former Democratic rival John Edwards gave his backing.

Edwards, the 2004 vice presidential nominee, who dropped out of the Democratic race in January, announced his endorsement live on TV in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

He told the cheering crowd: “The Democratic voters of America have made their choice and so have I.”

He was heavily courted by both Obama and rival Hillary Clinton in the past few months.

“It seems to me that Obama’s inevitability as well as his gentle handling of Clinton’s downward spiral has worked in Obama’s favour in attracting the Edwards’ endorsement. With Edwards’ enormous appeal to working class voters, it is possible Obama may be testing the waters in his quest to capture the white working class voter that has eluded him so far in his battle against Hillary Clinton.”

The movie came a day after Obama lost to Clinton in a nominating contest in West Virginia.

But the defeat was not enough to put much of a dent in his lead in the Democratic race.— Internet

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**Peres says M-E skies clouded over by Iran’s ambition**

**JERUSALEM, 15 May**—Israeli President Shimon Peres said Tuesday that the skies of the Middle East are clouded over by Iran’s ambition. Peres made the remarks in a speech at the opening ceremony of the “Facing Tomorrow” Presidential Conference in Jerusalem that will host US President George W Bush later this week.

He told the audience that “fanatic, religious ambition aimed at taking over the entire region, and terror, including Iranian terror, have no shape and no future”—MNA/Xinhua

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**Poland says US shield offer not yet acceptable**

**WARSAW, 15 May**—Poland said on Tuesday that recent US proposals to strengthen Polish defences in return for hosting a controversial American missile shield fell short of its demands.

“Washington wants to install 10 land-based interceptors in Poland as part of an anti-missile system designed to protect the United States and its NATO allies from attack, by what it calls “rogue states”, especially Iran. Russia opposes the plan,” Prime Minister Donald Tusk told reporters.

“The bilateral, regional and EU officials to discuss the initiative last week. Polish daily Gazeta Wyborcza said on Tuesday the United States was increasingly frustrated by lack of progress in talks with Poland and quoted an unnamed source as saying Washington wanted to know by mid-July whether Warsaw would host the shield.”

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**Bomb taken on 14 May, 2008 shows an aerial view of the badly stricken town of Yingxiu in Wenchuan County of southwest China’s Sichuan Province, two days after a massive earthquake. —XINHUA**

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**A view of a market that was destroyed by a fire on Monday night in New Baghdad district on 14 May, 2008.—INTERNET**
Metta dispensed, merits shared for the dead, storm victims

**YANGON, 15 May**—The Buddhist people dispensed Metta and shared merits for those who died in storm-hit regions and for storm victims at Wizaya Mingala Dhammathabin on Kaba Aye Hill yesterday morning and afternoon.

Similar ceremonies were held by Christians at the Cathedral at the corner of Bogyoke Aung San Street and Shwedagon Pagoda Road, Islamists at the hall of Choliajamai Mosque on Bo Sun Pat Street and Hindu people at Goddess Sandi Maha Peinne Temple on Bo Aung Kyaw Street.

**YANGON, 15 May**—CEC member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt together with two vessels carrying relief items went to Ngwethazin-1 village in Shaukchaung tract, Mawlamyinegyun Township on 10 May.

The minister met 1000 storm-victims and presented relief supplies including 120 bags of rice, 5000 packets of noodle, 100 sacks of potato, 3600 packages of purified drinking water and 60 tarpaulins to local people.

Lt-Col Maung Maung San and party of local battalion on 12 May met with local people of Kyarhong village and performed medical treatment. They also distributed needed medicines and supplies to local people.

A medical team led by Dr Saw Lwin gave medical treatment to 250 patients.

At Yay Kyaw Htain village in Kyathar village-tract, they presented supplies including 130 bags of rice, 150 sacks of potato, 4000 packages of purified drinking water and 70 tarpaulins to local people by hand.

**Telephone lines under repair**

**YANGON, 15 May**—The Emergency Communications Subcommittee of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw yesterday morning delivered an address at the coordination meeting on repairing the damages of telephone lines in Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions caused by the storm, at Mayangon Overseas Exchange.

Chief Engineers reported on clearing of debris by Tatmadawmen and private entrepreneurs, re-erecting of posts and the plans for installation of cables.

The minister gave instructions on re-opening of exchanges and reconstruction of the buildings.

The minister accepted 15 BTS comprising 30,000 CDMA 450 mobile phones worth 3.3 million US dollars and blankets worth 10,000 US dollars donated by ZTE Corporation (Myanmar) of the People’s Republic of China.

The minister inspected installation of fiber transmission cable linking Mingaladon and Htaukkyant and the functions of Htaukkyant Microwave Station.

After viewing machinery at Htaukkyant Exchange, he gave necessary instructions.

**MWJA donates cash and kind to storm-affected areas**

**YANGON, 15 May**—Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association held a meeting (1/2008) to donate cash and kind to storm-hit victims at the association here yesterday.

Chairman of MWJA U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung) made a speech and Secretary Dr Tin Tun Oo briefed on the purpose of the meeting.

At the ceremony, the officials of MWJA accepted K 3.3 million and robes worth K 300,000 donated by wellwishers of the association.

Those wishing to donate cash and kind to the victims may contact MWJA No 529,531 at the corner of Merchant and 37th Streets on 2nd floor of Sarpey Beikman Building Ph 252417, 385273.
Emergency aid flowing into relief camps in Ayeyawady Div

Yangon, 15 May—Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung of the Ministry of Defence inspected accommodation of tasks for distribution of relief supplies, process of choosing and wrapping relief items, unloading of 60 barrels of edible oil worth K 22,170,000 from the trucks, loading of relief items onto the trucks to transport them to Labutta and Hainggyikyun at Pathein Airport yesterday.

At the relief camps, officials concerned briefed Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung on arrival of storm victims, extension of relief camps and measures taken for food and accommodation. Regarding the reports, Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung gave instructions on systematic accommodation of the storm victims, shelter security, construction of toilets, arrangements for food, accommodation and health care services, compilation of population and distribution of relief items to the storm victims.

Next, he inspected relief supplies of local and foreign donors at the hall of Palace Ground. Afterwards, the Adjutant-General proceed to Pyapon by Tatmadaw helicopter loaded with relief supplies. At the sports ground, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing briefed the Adjutant-General on distribution of relief supplies to the storm victims and measures taken for supplying water and electricity.

Next, Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and Minister Maj-Gen Soe Naing comforted the storm victims who are undergoing medical treatment and provided cash assistance to them and inspected hospital repairs.

Afterwards, Yarana Company Chairman U Hay Myint, Managing Director U Win Aung of Dagon International Company and officials of Pyae Phyoe Aung Company briefed them on arrangements for construction of hospitals, education schools, department buildings and halls.

In meeting with Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung and officials concerned at Bogale Township, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, the Adjutant-General gave instructions on compilation of population in the villages and measures to be taken for supply of safe drinking water and reconstruction with added momentum.

Afterwards, he comforted the storm victims who are undergoing medical treatment at Bogale Township Hospital and then arrived back Pathein by helicopter. 

Singapore donates humanitarian assistance

Yangon, 15 May—Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Robert Chua today handed over humanitarian assistance packages worth S$ 100,000 (US$ 72,000) for the first tranche donated by the Khoo Teck Puat Foundation. This will be followed by subsequent tranches in the near future. —MNA

International relief supplies flow in by air

Yangon, 15 May—The international community is providing relief supplies to the storm-hit areas. Ten donor countries have transported relief items by air 30 times and by two naval ships to Myanmar International Thilawa Port Terminal from 6 up to 14 May. The following table shows donor countries, aircraft, relief supplies and tonnage.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Donor country</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Aircraft</th>
<th>Goods</th>
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<td>6-5-08</td>
<td>C-130</td>
<td>foodstuff, water, medicine</td>
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<td>C-130</td>
<td>foodstuff, water, edible oil</td>
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<td>8-5-08</td>
<td>C-130</td>
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<td>10-5-08</td>
<td>C-130</td>
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<td>C-130</td>
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<tr>
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<td>13-5-08</td>
<td>C-130</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>14-5-08</td>
<td>C-130</td>
<td>foodstuff, medicine</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MPMEEA donates cash and medicines to storm victims

Yangon, 15 May—Organized by Myanmar Pharmaceuticals and Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs’ Association, a ceremony to donate K 3,750,000 and medicines worth K 72,298,673 donated by members of the association to storm victims was held at Yangon People’s Hospital yesterday.

Myanmar Pharmaceuticals and Medical Equipments Entrepreneurs’ Association presented K 1 million and Sun Pharmaceuticals Industries Ltd, K 1.1 million; Success & Success Int’l Ltd presented medicines worth K 10 million; TCW Int’l Trading Co Ltd, K 9744000; United Pharma (Yangon) Co Ltd, K 5140000; Thudha Dana Co Ltd, K 5050000; Zydus Cadila Healthcare Ltd, K 5000000; Concordia Int’l Co Ltd, K 3001000; Medi Power Co Ltd 1060800 and Network Marketing Ltd, K 1012800 to Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint.


Storm survivors receive medical treatment in Bogale Township. —MNA

(To be continued)
THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR  Friday, 16 May, 2008

Information Minister comforts storm victims in Hlinethaya

YANGON, 15 May—Member of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan met the storm victims at the relief camps opened at No 7 Basic Education Middle School, No 15 BEPS and No 5 BEMS in Hlinethaya Township, Yangon Division this morning. The minister comforted the victims of Nos 1, 2, 3, 15 wards and Kazin village at No 5 BEMS. In meeting the victims, he said the government is making strenuous efforts for relief, supply and reconstruction tasks at national level in the storm-hit areas. In Yangon Division, transportation, electricity and water supply were back to normal within a week and so were the daily routine of the people. In addition, necessary provisions for the people whose houses were damaged are being made. Later, the minister provided rice and relief aid for them. After that, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan cordially comforted the storm victims there.—MNA

Health care provided in Hainggyikyun

YANGON, 15 May—A youth volunteer doctors team led by Dr Daw Aye Khine Nyunt gave lockjaw vaccine and provided health care to the storm victims in Hainggyikyun on 13 May. They brought together with them medicines and clothes worth more than 3.8 million kyats.

At the Station Hospital, they donated varieties of medicines to doctors of Hainggyi, Kyaukchaung, Pyin Station Hospitals.

The team cared for about 300 people and service personnel at Township Police Station, wards and villages and the vaccine was injected into over 700 people and donated varieties of medicines for ad-hoc use.—MNA

Commission for Holding Referendum holds meeting No 9/2008

NAI PYI TAW, 15 May—The Commission for Holding Referendum for Approval of the Draft Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar held the meeting No 9/2008 at the hall of the commission, here, this morning.

Chairman of the Commission Chief Justice U Aung Toe presided over the meeting and Secretary U Win Ko acted as MC.

The Chairman delivered an address, Commission members took part in the discussions.

Next, the meeting discussed tasks of the referendum for approval of the draft constitution. The meeting ended with concluding remarks by the chairman.

MNA

Relief works carried out in Dedaye

YANGON, 14 May — The volunteers have taken part in the relief works in Dedaye Township in Ayeyadwady Division. On 13 May, Tatmadawmen and officials have carried out distribution of provisions and food, fumigation and putting chlorine in the tube wells. Personnel of Asia World and Khittaya Youth donor group in Pyay and social organization members have also participated in the reconstruction of schools and supply of clothes and household goods to the victims. There are 17 relief camps in the township.—MNA

Latest casualty figures

NAI PYI TAW, 15 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 43,318 people died, 1,403 were injured and 27,838 went missing in all regions struck by the storm.—MNA

Specialists raise awareness of infectious diseases in Kungyangon Township. — HEALTH

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan comforts storm survivors at a relief camp in Hlinethaya Township. — MNA

Doctors provide medical care to storm survivors in Hainggyikyun. — MNA
Prime Minister visits relief...

(from page 16)

There had been losses and damages in the township to a certain extent. Members of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee went on inspection tour of the respective storm-hit regions while making necessary arrangements for the storm victims. Relief tasks have already been undertaken at present. Rehabilitation tasks have begun. The requirements of the township have also been fulfilled. First priority is to repair and rebuild hospitals. To be able to open schools in time, it needs to take assistance of the companies that are shouldering the responsibility of construction tasks in respective townships and to repair damaged schools speedily.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party oversaw the storm victims accommodated at the tarpaulin tents donated by Singapore and use of wellwishers-donated relief items. Next, the Prime Minister inspected opening of clinic and progress in providing health care services to the storm victims.

Later, the Prime Minister enjoyed a Video feature together with the storm-hit children at the tarpaulin tent donated by Japan. Next, the Prime Minister and party inspected accommodation for the storm victims, the storm-hit families at the tarpaulin tents donated by India and use of relief items.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister presented relief items donated by respective regions to the families and gave instructions to them to cultivate the spirit of overcoming the effects of the natural disaster because our people are capable of encountering obstacles and overcoming them.

The Prime Minister and party arrived back Yangon following the inspection of losses and damages caused by the storm and reconstruction tasks in the township in a motorcade.— MNA

Diplomats visit relief camps in Dagon Myothit (North), Kyauktan

YANGON, 15 May—Diplomatic corps residing in Yangon and Bangkok and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu made a tour of Dagon Myothit (North) and Kyauktan townships this afternoon.

During the tour, they visited the relief camp in Dagon Myothit (North) Township, where local authorities and responsible officials explained facts about the damages inflicted by the storm and progress in carrying out the relief measures.

Next, the diplomats observed the relief camp at Ward 16 in Dagon Myothit (North) Township. Later in the afternoon, they proceeded to Kyauktan Township. Responsible personnel welcomed them and conveyed them around the Sinkan relief camp. Lt-Col Moe Aung of local station and officials concerned briefed them on the losses and damages and relief and rehabilitation tasks and replied to the queries raised by the diplomats.— MNA

Air Force transports relief aid

NAV PYE TAW, 15 May—Tatmadawmen of Defence Services (Air) have participated in the relief and rehabilitation works in the storm-hit areas.

They transported 3.8 tons of relief supplies to Bogale, Labutta, Thongwa, Kyan, Pathein and Pyapon townships yesterday. A total of 330.92 tons of relief aid have been transported up to now.— MNA
More relief items from abroad arrive at Yangon International Airport

YANGON, 15 May —
AN-12 flight carrying over 11 tons of supplies donated by churches of Thailand, IL-76 flight carrying 32 tons of pumps, water purifiers, medicines, foods, construction materials and generators by WFP, five C-130 flights carrying 46 tons of foodstuffs, blankets, purified drinking water, health equipment, tarpaulin, medicines and others by the US, MI-512 and MI-518 flights carrying 3.67 tons of 450 blankets, 1,000 ground sheets, 50 packages of purified drinking water, 250 boxes cereal, 4,800 packets of biscuit and 200 beds by Khoo Tect Puat of Singapore, IL-76 flight carrying 41 tons of 20 general-purpose tents, 10 family tents, plastic rolls, kitchen utensils, one clinic, six generators and two vehicles by Switch Agency for Development Corporation, two C-130 flights carrying 27 tons of foods and goods by Thai Embassy to Myanmar, IL-76 flight carrying 36 tons of hospital equipment, tents, vegetable oil, canned meat and sugar by Red Cross Society of UAE, AN-12 flight carrying 18 tons of tarpaulin sheets and kitchen utensils by ICRC, CA-905 Air China flight carrying 200 medical kits worth 2.05 million US$ by Yunnan Government and AN-12 flight carrying 20 tons of nutritious milk powder by UNICEF arrived at Yangon International Airport today.

Likewise, 8M-332 flight carrying 12.38 tons of food and clothes donated by Baiyoke Hotel Group Eagle and Sea of Thailand, two flights carrying 21.42 tons of rescue equipment by IFRC, AT-MA flight carrying 14 tons of medicines and communication devices by WFP and over 20 tons of milk powder by UNICEF arrived at Yangon International Airport last night.

The relief aid has been sent to the storm-hit regions by helicopter, by car and by vessel.

MNA

Volunteers carry out relief, rehabilitation works

NAY PYI TAW, 15 May —
Tatmadawmen of Defence Services (Navy) has carried out the relief and rehabilitation works in storm-affected areas.

Tatmadawmen of a Pyapon-based vessel and members of Union Solidarity and Development Association of Pyapon township distributed relief supplies to victims at Apyaung Village in Pyapon township by boats yesterday.

They went to Sanpya, Achalay, Ahmaw, Kalahteik, and Phonegyithaung villages along the river and conveyed patients and injured persons to a health care centre to provide medical treatment.—MNA

A plane carrying relief aid donated by WFP arrives Yangon International Airport.—MNA

A plane carrying medicines donated by Yunnan Provincial Government of People’s Republic of China arrives Yangon International Airport.—MNA

Two planes carrying relief aid and food donated by Khoo Tect Puat of Singapore arrive Yangon International Airport.—MNA

Storm survivors seen with relief aid in Bogale Township, Ayeyawady Division. — MNA
Relief aid shipped to storm victims in Labutta

YANGON, 15 May—Relief aid have been transported to the storm victims in Labutta Township, Ayeyawady Division by ship without delay. Banyadala ship left Phonegyi street jetty in Lanmadaw Township yesterday afternoon to transport foodstuffs, clothes, corrugated iron sheets and construction materials, water proof sheets and rolls, bottles of purified drinking water, torches, generators, edible oil and water purifiers to Labutta.

Likewise, relief aids loaded onto Win Sein-1 and Ngapokthin ships at Wardan street jetty and onto Maykha ship at Phonegyi street jetty in Lanmadaw Township for storm-hit regions in Ayeyawady Division.

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Rehabilitation under way in Kyauktan

YANGON, 14 May—Officials, Tatmadawmen and social association members are carrying out relief and rehabilitation tasks in Kyauktan Township. Yesterday, they presented rice, gram, potatoes, brown slab-sugar, dried noodles and biscuits to the storm victims. In addition, the victims were accommodated at tents donated from abroad. A total of 70 health staff including Red Cross members of the township are providing health care services to the victims. A total of 10 relief camps are being opened in Kyauktan Township and relief and rehabilitation tasks are being carried for 1,935 victims of 550 households.

Referendum held in Kawthoung

YANGON, 15 May—Referendum for the approval of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar took place at the townships in Kawthoung district on 10 May morning. Eligible persons cast vote at 121 polling stations in total, 57 in Kawthoung and 64 in Bokepyin townships.

Reconstruction tasks discussed

YANGON, 15 May—Chairman of the Committee for Reconstruction of Towns and Villages Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein held a meeting with departmental officials and owners of construction companies at the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development here yesterday. They discussed measures to be taken by entrepreneurs for reconstruction of storm-hit towns and villages and urged to cooperate with respective departments.
Iranian President to offer proposals in nuclear row

**TEHERAN, 14 May—** Iran will soon put forward new proposals to resolve its dispute with the West over its nuclear programme, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Tuesday.

But Ahmadinejad also made clear the Islamic Republic would not bow to UN demands and halt sensitive nuclear work Western powers suspect made clear the Islamic Republic would not bow.

Ahmadinejad said over its nuclear programme, which big powers have no monopoly on resource management, a process which can make fuel for power plants or material for warheads.

Teheran has repeatedly ruled out any suspension of its nuclear programme, which has prompted three rounds of UN sanctions since 2006, and says it has its own ideas on how to help defuse the row.

Former Swiss military pilot Yves Rossy, also known as “Fusionman”, flies in the southern Swiss Alps near Bex on 14 May, 2008. Rossy is the first man ever to successfully fly with wings, powered by four engines on his back. —INTERNET

**Shemlan (Lebanon), 14 May—** Soldiers in combat gear patrol picturesque villages above Beirut, but the state’s show of force is doing little to convince residents divided along sectarian lines that peace in the mountains will last.

“The Druze will never forget that Hezbollah has pointed its guns at them,” Wassim Timani, a grocer in the predominantly Druze town of Alley, told Reuters.

“Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah had better remember that the Druze fought the Israelis as well. He has no monopoly on resistance,” said Munira Ghawi, referring to the leader of the Shi’ite group.

Ghawi had come to the mountains with her husband from Beirut, a city now all but paralysed by barricades. Like many she was checking on the welfare of relatives threatened by the opening of new sectarian wounds.

Narrow streets wound their way through forests, old mansion houses and ramshackle buildings thrown up during the chaos of the 1970-1990 civil war, a sectarian bloodletting some fear could return to Lebanon, after a week of fighting between Hezbollah fighters and pro-government gunmen. —MNA/Reuters

**World’s oldest irrigation system safe after China quake**

**BEIJING, 15 May—** The safety of the world’s oldest operating irrigation system was not compromised by Monday’s quake, though the system sustained minor damage, the Ministry of Water Resources said on Wednesday.

The quake caused cracks in the V-shaped dike of the Dujiangyan project, which is more than 2,000 years old, and there were collapses in a sluice control room and a standby power generator room, it said.

The city of Dujiangyan, near the epicentre in Wenchuan County, was one of the worst-hit regions in the 7.8-magnitude earthquake.

The ministry urged protection of the Zipingpu Reservoir between Dujiangyan and Wenchuan, and on the upper stream to Dujiangyan.

It said the irrigation system and Dujiangyan City “would be swamped” if major problems emerged at the dam at the reservoir.

The emergency response office of the Sichuan government said on Tuesday that cracks had appeared on the surface of the dam at Zipingpu and workshops collapsed, while all hydropower generators came to a halt. — MNA/Xinhua

**LA police shoot dead passenger**

**LOS ANGELES, 14 May—** Police officers mistakenly shot and killed a passenger in an approaching car and wounded the driver, a newspaper report said on Monday.

The officers said they shot at the approaching car because they believed they were under fire, but no weapons were found in the car and no one has been charged, according to the Los Angeles Times.

The passenger was identified as 19-year-old Michael Byoune of Los Angeles, who died at the scene from gunshot wounds to the torso, Los Angeles County coroner’s investigator Jerry McKibben was quoted as saying.

The officers were in their patrol car in Inglewood near downtown Los Angeles about 1:40 am on Sunday when they heard gunfire and pursued a man who was running, said Inglewood Police Sergeant Hector Ramirez. —MNA/Xinhua

**Eight killed after two trains collide in B’desh**

**DHAKA, 14 May—** Eight people were killed and about 30 injured after two trains collided early morning on Wednesday in Bangladesh’s Brahmanbaria District, 80 km northeast of capital Dhaka, the police said.

Ataul Kibriya, police head of the district, told Xinhua by phone that the accident happened at around 1 am (0000 GMT Tuesday) when a Sylhet (northeastern city)-bound train from Dhaka rammed into another train standing at the station, leaving six of the stationary train’s passengers dead on the spot and dozens injured.

Of the injured, two died after being sent to hospital. Two relief trains rushed to the spot and started salvage operation after the accident. A railway inquiry team from Dhaka is investigating the accident. — MNA/Xinhua
Chen Xiaoma lines up his putt on the 9th hole during the first round of action in Shanghai. Chen shot an opening six-under-par 66 to take a three-shot lead in the Shanghai Championship.

INTERNET

Visitors climb the spiral glass stairway during the press preview for the new Apple store in Boston, Massachusetts on 14 May, 2008.—INTERNET

A researcher works on developing a human bird flu vaccine. South Korea will build its own factory to produce human bird flu vaccine, as authorities battled the country’s worst outbreak among poultry.—INTERNET

Images of the Day

Photo composition of the snowcapped Pastoruri, in the province of Huaraz, north of Peru, showing its “severe illness” caused by heavy climate changes. Since 1977, the snow on the “white range” has receded about 20 metres, said Marco Zapata of the Natural Resources National Institute (INRENA, for its initials in Spanish) on 13 May.—INTERNET

A baby bottle fed by her mother. Early exposure to chemicals used in the making of products such as baby bottles or plastic food wraps may lead to obesity, according to new research presented on Wednesday.—INTERNET
European Union market

Fiji signs $666m sugar deal with EU

**WELLINGTON, 14 May—** Fiji signs a $666 million deal with the European Union for the supply of 300,000 tons of sugar per annum. The deal is the largest ever in the country's history and is expected to generate significant economic benefits for Fiji. The agreement, signed by Fiji's Prime Minister, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, and EU Commission President, Ursula von der Leyen, will see Fiji selling sugar to the EU market for the next five years.

The deal is significant for Fiji's economy as the country is a major sugar producer and the EU is a major market for Fiji's sugar exports. Fiji's sugar industry is a major contributor to the country's GDP, accounting for 7% of the country's total exports. The new deal will see Fiji increase its sugar exports to the EU market from 200,000 tons per annum to 300,000 tons per annum, thereby doubling its exports to the EU.

The deal also comes at a time when Fiji is facing an economic slowdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The new deal is expected to provide a much-needed boost to Fiji's economy and help create jobs for the country's young workforce.

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The new deal is expected to create jobs for Fiji's young workforce and help mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the country's economy.

**Vietnam raises second-hand automobile tariffs**

HANOI, 14 May—Vietnam's Finance Ministry has raised automobile tariffs for second-hand cars, effective immediately. The new tariffs, which apply to all second-hand cars, will be subject to the new tariff on vehicles specified in the new tariff on vehicles effective from 13 May.

The new tariffs are expected to reduce imports of second-hand cars into Vietnam, thereby benefiting domestic car manufacturers. The new tariffs are also expected to generate additional revenue for the government.

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China’s trade surplus decreased slightly last month from a year ago amid declines in international trade growth triggered by the global economic slowdown.—INTERNET
Ronaldo says he is eight kilos overweight

RIO DE JANEIRO, 14 May — Brazilian striker Ronaldo said on Tuesday that he was eight kilos over weight but hoped to shed most of the excess within a month.

“I am 1.84 metres tall and today weigh 95 kilos,” the AC Milan striker said during a Brazilian television programme aimed mainly at housewives.

“In the 2002 World Cup, I weighed 87 kilos and that is what I’m trying to get back to. That’s the weight I need to reach if I’m going to get back to my best.” Ronaldo ruptured a tendon in his left knee earlier in his career.

Ronaldo later said he was ashamed about the incident, which he described as a stupid mistake.

China’s Lin Dan (R) greets the audience after beating Thailand’s Boonsak Ponsana in the quarterfinals of the Bank BRI 2008 Thomas Cup men’s team badminton competition in Jakarta, capital of Indonesia, May 12, 2008. China beat Thailand 3-0. —INTERNET

Belgian Henin retires from tennis

BRUSSELS, 14 May — World number one Justine Henin of Belgium on Wednesday announced her retirement from professional tennis with immediate effect.

“It’s the end of a wonderful adventure but it’s something I have been thinking about for a long time,” said the Belgian.

Henin, 25, winner of seven Grand Slam titles, was expected to defend her French Open crown later this month but instead turned her back on the sport.

World number one Justine Henin of Belgium on Wednesday announced her retirement from professional tennis with immediate effect. —INTERNET

Nedved not to play for Czech Republic at Euro 2008

PRAGUE, 15 May — Pavel Nedved was not included in the 23-member Czech national team for the upcoming European Championships as coach Karel Bruckner called up the training camp, the Czech news agency CTK said on Wednesday.

Some have suggested inviting Nedved, who plays in Italy, after midfielder Tomas Rosicky sustained an injury.

The national team will sum up in Prague on Monday and leave for Austria on Tuesday. It is going to play two friendly matches before the Euro 2008, with Lithuania on 27 May and with Scotland on May 30. —INTERNET

Rangers boss tells team to forget Euro heartbreak and complete treble

MANCHESTER, England 15 May — Walter Smith has urged his Rangers players to forget the disappointment of their UEFA Cup final defeat here on Wednesday and concentrate on completing the domestic treble that remains in their grasp.

Rangers can add the Scottish Premier League and Scottish Cup titles to the League Cup they have already secured this season and Smith said his squad had to retain their focus for the remaining four matches of the campaign.

“We are disappointed to lose a final at the end of what has been a very long campaign for us,” Smith said after seeing his side beaten 2-0 by Zenit St Petersburg, whose technical superiority finally yielded two goals in the final 20 minutes of Wednesday’s final at the City of Manchester stadium.

“Obviously it will be difficult to judge how much the disappointment takes out of the players. But what is at stake for them is that we have an opportunity with four games to go to win two trophies so I would hope that we can overcome the disappointment we have suffered. If we win our next three games in the SPL and become champions we will be happy.”

Rangers’ cause was not helped by the refusal of SPL bosses to extend the season, which would have enabled Smith’s men to avoid playing last weekend, as Zenit were able to do.

But Smith refused to blame the intense end-of-season schedule for his side’s wilting at the end of what was their 64th match of a campaign that started in late July last year.

“I don’t think that had any influence on the result,” Smith said. “The players tonight were ready to play and we were just coming into the match when they scored and that first goal changed the whole complexion of the game.”

Rangers’ hopes of securing a first European trophy in 36 years were crushed 18 minutes from time, when midfielder Igor Denisov combined smoothly with man-of-the-match Andrei Arshavin before slotting home for the Russian champions. —INTERNET

S P O R T S

Drivesafely
Two moderate earthquakes jolt northern Philippines

Manila, 15 May—Two moderate earthquakes hit northern Philippines before dawn Wednesday without causing casualty or damage, said the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

A magnitude-4.8 quake was recorded at 05:48 a.m. local time (2148 GMT Tuesday) in Dinagat Town in Isabela Province. The quake was tectonic in origin and its epicentre was 21 kilometres northeast of Dinagat, said Phivolcs.

A magnitude-4.2 quake, also of tectonic in origin, was recorded at 12:38 a.m. local time (1638 GMT) with its epicentre traced 102 kilometres east of Cauayan in Isabela, said Phivolcs.

Appa Sherpa to challenge Mt Everest record, again

Kathmandu, 15 May—Again, 48-year-old Appa Sherpa is likely to break his own record of successfully scaling Mt Everest for 17 times.

Record-holder climber Appa Sherpa has joined an expedition at the Khumbu region, some 140 kilometres east of Nepali capital Kathmandu, and is likely to accompany the team to the top of the world, local newspaper The Himalayan Times reported on Wednesday.

“Appa did not have any plan to scale Everest this season but when he heard of the expedition and its objective of highlighting the threats posed by Glacier Lake Outburst Flooding (GLOF) and creating awareness about the importance of environmental conservation of mountain ecosystems among the locals in the Sagarmatha area, he said he would join the team and their cause,” AngTshering Sherpa, the chairman of Asian Trekkings Pvt Ltd, which is managing the expedition, told this daily.

Weather

Thursday, 15 May, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, southwest monsoon has advanced into the Deltaic areas, rain or thundershowers have been fairly widespread in Shan and Kayah States, lower Sagaing Division and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls in Rakhine and isolated heavyfalls in Ayeyawady Division. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below May average temperatures in Shan and Kayah States, (5°C) to (6°C) below May average temperatures in Kachin and Rakhine States, lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi Divisions. (7°C) below May average temperatures in Kayin State, upper Sagaing, Magway, Bago and Yangon Divisions and about May average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (0.78) inch, Mawlamyine (6.02) inches, Gwa (4.37) inches, Pathein (4.29) inches, Bago (2.13) inches, Zaungtu (1.77) inches, Kyaikphyu (1.38) inches, Magway (1.14) inches and Chaung U (0.94) inch.

Maximum temperature on 14-5-2008 was 83°F. Minimum temperature on 15-5-2008 was 73°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 15-5-2008 was 89%. Total sunshine hours on 14-5-2008 was (1.5) hours approx.

Rainfall on 15-5-2008 was 0.03 inch at Mingaladon, (0.08) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.12) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (21.57) inches at Mingaladon, (24.96) inches at Kaba-Aye and (27.36) inches at Central Yangon. Maximun wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from Southeast at (18:30) hours MST on 14-5-2008.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (09:30) hours MST today, a low pressure area forms over East Central Bay and adjoining Rakhine area. It is moving North-Northwest slowly without any significant development. Monsoons over East Sea and South Bay and weather is partly cloudy to cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 16-5-2008: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Shan and Kayah States and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State, Bago, Yangon, Ayeawady and Tanintharyi 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: Continuation of rain in the whole Country.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 16-5-2008: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 16-5-2008: Intermittent rain which may be heavy at times. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 16-5-2008: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).
Prime Minister visits relief camp in Twantay Township

Rehabilitation already begun in storm-hit areas

NAY PYI TAW, 15 May—Chairman of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Prime Minister General Thein Sein, accompanied by Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence and officials, went on an inspection tour of the relief camp opened at Shwesandaw Ward of Twantay Township this afternoon.

At the relief camp, Chairman U Aung San Tha of Township Peace and Development Council briefed the Prime Minister and party on blowing of the storm in the township, losses and damages, opening of relief camps, accommodation of the storm victims and progress in rendering assistance and Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha gave a supplementary report on the extent of loss and damages in the township and progress in carrying out rehabilitation tasks.

Next, the Prime Minister again asked the severity of the storm and losses and damages and gave instructions, saying that the storm crossed the regions of Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions.

(See page 7)

Weather report

NAY PYI TAW, 15 May—The Meteorology and Hydrology Department today announced that according to the observation conducted at 6.30 am today, there was a low pressure area over the middle-east part of the Bay of Bengal and Rakhine State. However, it did not develop at all. It was crossing slowly to north and north-west. It is forecast that the low pressure area is not in a position to develop in next six hours.

Due to the influence of the low pressure area, rains will be from isolated to scattered in Rakhine State and northern part of Ayeyawady Division. Frequent squalls with moderate to rough seas will be experienced in the delta, along Rakhine Coast and off the Myanmar coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 30 mph to 40 mph. —MNA

Hainggyikyun receiving aid, other help

YANGON, 15 May—Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein inspected the supply of relief aid to storm victims at the relief camps in Pyinkhaing and Thetkethaung Villages, Hainggyikyun and explained health reminders to be followed for prevention against the infectious diseases on 11 May.

The Commander-in-Chief (Navy) looked into repairing of the damaged buildings and met the storm victims at Basic Education High School in Hainggyikyun on 13 May. The Commander-in-Chief (Navy) gave instructions on reconstruction tasks to officials and on matters of supplying relief aid sent by the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee to storm victims.

The Commander-in-Chief (Navy) attended a donation ceremony of medicines contributed by the volunteer doctors group at the station hospital of Hainggyikyun yesterday.

The Commander-in-Chief (Navy) comforted the storm victims from Kanchaing, Kyaukchaung, Kanyinchaung (South and North), Kontan and Mekhaye Villages in Hainggyikyun and fulfilled their requirements. —MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects temporary accommodations for storm victims donated by the government of India in Twantay. —MNA

Prime Minister visits relief camp in Twantay Township

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(See page 7)