Established 1914

Volume XVI, Number 31                   Fullmoon Day of  Kason 1370 ME            Monday, 19 May,  2008

Senior General Than Shwe visits relief camps in Yangon Division
Over K 50 billion spent on relief and rehabilitation tasks so far

NAY PYI TAW, 18 May – Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe accompanied by General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, member of SPDC Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe, senior military officers and officials of SPDC Office flew to Yangon from Nay Pyi Taw by special flight to inspect storm-hit areas of Yangon and Ayeyawady Division this afternoon.

At Yangon Command HQ Chairman of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Prime Minister General Thein Sein reported on relief works and rehabilitation tasks in storm-stricken regions to Senior General Than Shwe.

Senior General Than Shwe made discussions on the reports and gave guidance on works to be done. Next, Senior General Than Shwe and party visited relief camps in Hlinethaya, Dagon Myothit (South) and Dagon Myothit (North) and comforted the storm victims.

(See page 7)

Senior General Than Shwe visits a relief camp in Dagon Myothit (South).—MNA

Four political objectives
* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
* National reconsolidation
* Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
* Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives
* Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
* Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
* Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
* The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives
* Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
* Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
* Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
* Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

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

Monday, 19 May, 2008

**Fullmoon Day of Kason**

Today is the Fullmoon Day of Kason (The Buddha Day). The significant day is related to the events of the Lord Buddha according to the expression of prophecy, birth, Bo tree and attaining Nirvana.

On this very day in the past, Dipankara Buddha prophesized that Hermit Sumedha would one day become a Buddha. On the Fullmoon Day of Kason, Prince Siddhatha, the would-be-Buddha, was born. Moreover, the Bo tree, one of the objects and persons appeared at the same moment of the birth of the would-be-Buddha, grew on that day.

It was the Fullmoon Day of Kason, He Himself realized the Four Noble Truths and became enlightened. On that day He attained Nirvana.

In the month of Kason trees and flowers become dry because of the intense heat of the sun. This is why the Buddhists pour cool water at Bo trees in the precincts of the pagodas.

By pouring water at the Bo trees, the people believe that they will be healthy and may live long and be free from diseases.

On this auspicious day, the Buddhists keep Sabbath at the pagodas and monasteries, do meritorious deeds and pay obeisance to the monks. They have great reverence for the Lord Buddha and practice His teachings.

We believe all Myanmar Buddhists will do various kinds of meritorious deeds on the Fullmoon Day of Kason.

**All this needs to be known**

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased

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**Sports Minister presents supplies to storm victims in Dagon Myothit (East)**

**Yangon, 18 May**—Member of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint inspected the sales of corrugated iron sheets and nails for storm victims at the office of Union Solidarity and Development Association in Ward 11 of Dagon Myothit (East) Township on 16 May morning.

The minister also supplied rice, edible oil, bottles of purified drinking water, clothes and tarpaulin to storm victims from Wards 7, 1, 2 and 3.

The minister met the rector and officials concerned at the meeting hall of Dagon University.

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**Yangon Media Group leads donation of relief supplies to storm victims**

**Yangon, 17 May**—Yangon Media Group accepting relief supplies donated by wellwishers is distributing them to the people residing in storm-hit regions.

The media group presented cash, rice, gram, medicines and noodle, foodstuffs and clothing sent by the wellwishers to storm victims in 17 Ward of Dagon Myothit (South), Kyunchaung village of Kungyangon in Yangon Division and Hnakhoungchaung, Chaunggyi of Dadeye Township, Kyondah and Mawlamyinegyun Townships in Ayeyawady Division for the second time.

The media group will take change of sending cash and kind donated by wellwishers to assistance-needed regions for the third time.

Those wishing to donate cash and kind to the storm victims can contact the media group (Tel-095019906 and 095154591).—MNA
Oil prices hit record high of $127 on Goldman forecast

New York, 16 May — Crude future soared above 127 US dollars a barrel for the first time on Friday after investment bank Goldman Sachs raised its oil price forecast.

Light, sweet crude futures for June delivery rose 2.17 dollars to close at 126.29 dollars a barrel, trading up 3.74 dollars.

Goldman Sachs, the most active investment bank in the energy markets, raised its average oil price forecast for the second half of this year to 141 dollars from 107 dollars a barrel on Friday.

About 3,500 evacuated after derailed train leaks acid

WASHINGTON, 17 May — About 3,500 people were evacuated in Lafayette, Louisiana, on Saturday after a derailed freight train began leaking acid, police said.

Six cars of the freight train derailed early Saturday and one of them began leaking hydrochloric acid, which was believed to cause respiratory problems and skin and eye irritation.

An estimated 8,000 to 10,000 gallons of the acid has been spilled, and homes, business and two nursing homes in a 1.6-km radius of the accident spot with an estimated population of 3,500 people were evacuated, according to the police.

The acid sent a toxic cloud over the area, and at least five people were taken to a hospital for treatment, said Craig Stansbury, an official of the Lafayette Parish sheriff’s office.

“We’re advising them to take enough supplies for approximately 48 hours,” he said. The US railway administration will investigate the accident.

US military deaths in Iraq war at 4,079

WASHINGTON, 17 May — As of Saturday, 17 May, 2008, at least 4,079 members of the US military have died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

The figure includes eight military civilians killed in action. At least 3,326 died as a result of hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.

The AP count is one lower than the Defence Department’s tally, last updated Friday at 10 a.m. EDT.

The British military has reported 176 deaths; Italy, 33; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 21; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Denmark, seven; El Salvador, five; Slovakia, four; Latvia, three; Estonia, Georgia, Netherland, Thailand, Romania, two each; and Australia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, South Korea, one death each.

Buried man saved almost 129 hours after China quake

CHENGDU, 18 May — A 46-year-old man was saved alive Saturday night after being buried for almost 129 hours in the rubble in the quake-ravaged southwest China’s Sichuan Province, but he was immediately sent to hospital to have his legs amputated.

The survivor, Zhang Xiaoping, was pulled from the debris of collapsed residential buildings at about 11.06 pm.

Residents of Lady of the Oaks Retirement Manor are evacuated on 17 May, 2008, after authorities issued a mandatory evacuation order for about 3,000 residents who live within a one-mile radius of an early morning train derailment in Lafayette La. The train was leaking hydrochloric acid.—INTERNET

US Marine sentenced for sex abuse of Japan teen

TOKYO, 17 May — A US court martial sentenced a Marine to four years in prison on Friday for sexual abuse of a 14-year-old girl on the southern island of Okinawa, in an incident that has sparked widespread public anger. Many on the island, home to about half the nearly 50,000 US military personnel in Japan, are calling for troop numbers to be cut back, citing concerns over crime, noise and pollution.

A string of incidents this year, including the killing of a taxi driver, have forced the United States, pacifist Japan’s most important security ally since World War Two, to apologise and vow to raise standards of behaviour. — MNA/Reuters
Rehabilitation tasks in progress in Yangon

YANGON, 18 May — Member of Natural Disaster Preparedness Central Committee, Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsannet, met people of Pazundaung Township this morning and explained supply of relief aid and progress in rehabilitation tasks being carried out in storm-hit regions. At Basic Education High School No 2 on Maha Bandoola Street in Pazundaung Township, the minister met storm victims from Wards 1, 2, 8, 9 and 10 at 9 am. He also met with the victims from Wards 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 at No 3 BEHS.

At the meetings, the minister explained measures for relief supply and rehabilitation tasks being taken as the national duty by the government, contributions of the government, Tatmadaw, members of Myanmar Red Cross and Yangon Police Force, social organization personnel, social organization members and wellwishers to the storm survivors, efforts made for turning the conditions of the local people to normalcy in a short time, and transport, power and water supply and health care services being facilitated as usual to the Yangonites within a week, and he presented rice and relief aid to them.

Afterwards, the minister cordially greeted the victims. — MNA

Specialists Team of MWAF, MRCs provide health care services to storm victims

YANGON, 18 May — A specialists team of the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation and the Myanmar Red Cross Society led by Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe provided health care services to storm victims at the relief camp in Latkaik Village of Kawmhu Township yesterday morning. The medical team comprised eye specialists Dr Daw Nilar Thein and Dr Daw Chaw Wai Lwin, physician Dr Daw Aye Aye Gyi, pediatricians Dr Daw Yuzana Saw Myint and Dr Daw May Hsu Han, GPs Dr Daw Nwe Nwe Hlai and Dr Daw Ohnmar Swe, Dr Tint Nang and Dr Aye Win Myint Phyoe of Workers’ Hospital, doctors and students from University of Medicine-I and Magway University of Medicine and wellwishers of Kandawgyi Pale Health Family.

Pal Health Family led by Dr Daw Khan Hsan Nwe presented relief aid and dispensary to storm victims to Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Hay Win. The medical team provided medical treatment to 165 patients of storm victims. — MNA

International relief supplies flowing by air to Myanmar

YANGON, 18 May — A total of 18 donor countries are providing relief supplies to the storm-hit areas from 8 to 16 May. The flights have transported relief items 57 times to Myanmar. The following table shows flights name, aircraft, relief supplies and tonnage.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Flight Organization</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Aircraft</th>
<th>Goods</th>
<th>Tonnage</th>
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<td>C-130</td>
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<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
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<td>IL-76</td>
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<td>IL-76</td>
<td>mosquito net, plastic sheet,</td>
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<td>IL-76</td>
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<td>IL-76</td>
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<td>DC-8</td>
<td>tent, blanket, mosquito net,</td>
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<td>38</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>13-5-08</td>
<td>C-17</td>
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<td>39</td>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>8-5-08</td>
<td>IL-76</td>
<td>medicine, food</td>
<td>39.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsannet meeting with residents in Pazundaung Township.—MNA
Rehabilitation and reconstruction for Ayeyawady Div

Yangon, 18 May — A total of 12 vehicles carrying CI sheets and construction materials, blankets, kitchen utensils, foodstuff, purified water, oil and fluorescent lamps to be used in carrying out rehabilitation and reconstruction tasks for storm victims left here for Labutta, five vehicles for Dedaye and two vehicles for Myaungmya today. MNA

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan calls on Minister for Health

Yangon, 18 May — Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan Mr Hitoshi Kimura called on Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint at the old office of the Ministry of Health this morning. Present were Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo and the deputy directors-general under the Ministry of Health.

The Japanese Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs was accompanied by Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Yusuke Nagawa, Deputy Director-General of Asia and Oceania Affairs Bureau Mr Kazuhiko Ishikawa and Myanmar in-charge of First South-East Asian Affairs Department Mr Hideyuki Yazama.

The Japanese Deputy Minister explained the bilateral cooperation with five organizations in Myanmar and Japan would like to send an emergency medical team to Myanmar. Minister Dr Kyaw Myint said the bilateral cooperation is useful and discussed health matters.

Minister U Soe Tha meets British Foreign Office Minister Lord Malloch Brown and party.

Yangon, 18 May — Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha received British Foreign Office Minister Lord Malloch Brown, the British Ambassador to Myanmar and Ms Sue Wardell of Department for International Development (DFID) and delegation members at National Archives Department under the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development at 2.30 pm today.

At the meeting, the British Foreign Office Minister discussed matters related to relief aid being provided and assistance to be rendered in the reconstruction period. Minister U Soe Tha explained matters relating to prompt measures taken during the storm, relief and reconstruction work being carried out and cooperation with international organizations in reconstruction tasks. — MNA

Supply of power, installation of power lines inspected

Yangon, 18 May — Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint attended the supply of electricity in Yangon at the hall of Yangon City Electricity Supply Board, here, yesterday morning.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Win Myint reported on priority being given to supply of power in Ayeyawady Division. Officials submitted respective reports. The minister instructed them to place emphasis on supply of electricity for the people and attended to the needs.

In the afternoon, the minister inspected repairing of power line along Bayintnaung Road in Insein Township and installation of power line to CNG filling station No 012 (Ywama). The minister also viewed substitution of pylons and lamp-posts in Mayangon and Bahan townships, and supply of power from Hlinethaya Power Station to sub-station No 1 and No 2. — MNA

We were hit by the unavoidable storm but don’t get misled by “rumours”
YANGON, 18 May—Member of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan paid homage to Shwephonepwint Pagoda and inspected renovation tasks of damaged religious buildings this morning.

First, secretary of pagoda board of trustees U Win Aung briefed the minister on damages to religious buildings due to the storm. After hearing the report, the minister gave instructions to systematic renovation of the buildings with the help of the technicians and attended to the needs. —MNA

YANGON, 18 May—Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha received Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan Mr Hitoshi Kimura and party at the National Archives Department on Pyidaungsu Yeiktha Road, here, this afternoon.

At the call, the Japanese Deputy Minister, on behalf of the people and the Japanese Government, expressed sympathy for the damage and loss of Myanmar hit by the cyclonic storm, and discussed current relief assistance programme of Japan for the victims and future plans.

Minister U Soe Tha explained undertakings of the government for the storm victims, rehabilitation tasks, resumption of agriculture, meat and fish and salt industries in the storm hit regions and fulfilling the requirements of the victims for rehabilitation. —MNA

YANGON, 18 May—Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu received British Foreign Office Minister Lord Malloch Brown at Sakura Room of Chatrium Hotel on Natmauk Road here at 10.30 am today.

Also present on the occasion were Director-General U Paw Lwin Sein of Training, Research and Foreign Languages Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Deputy Director-General Daw Yin Yin Myint.

The guest was accompanied by British Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr Mark Canning, Director Ms Sue Wardell of Department for International Development and members.

At the meeting, the Foreign Office Minister said that British people felt terribly sad about Myanmar people who had suffered from the evil consequences of the severe storm; that the British government is ready to participate in the ASEAN-led international drive in rehabilitation of regions hit hard by the storm; that it is our hope that the humanitarian aid extended by the British government can lead to further fostering relations between the two nations; and that the aid extended by the British government is not for political gains but for storm victims of Myanmar.

Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu thanked the Foreign Office Minister and said that the Myanmar government will cooperate with ASEAN nations and United Nations in rehabilitation of storm-hit regions; and that the rehabilitation drive will begin to take shape in a few days. —MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspects renovation tasks of religious buildings at Shwephonepwint Pagoda.—MNA

NPED Minister receives Japanese Deputy Minister

Deputy Foreign Minister receives Japanese counterpart

Deputy FM receives British Foreign Office Minister
YANGON, 18 May – Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint received British Foreign Office Minister Lord Malloch Brown at the hall of Yangon General Hospital this morning.

It was also attended by Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo, the deputy directors-general of departments under the ministry, British Health Minister meets British Foreign Office Minister

Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr Mark Canning, Director-General Ms Sue Wardell of Department for International Development of Britain.

British Foreign Office Minister said it is heartening to see the cooperation between the two countries. The 3 Diseases Fund Project stands witness to the cooperation between Britain and the Myanmar Ministry of Health. Next, he said he would like to know health matters after the storm in some regions of Myanmar.

Health Minister explained that 12 forward camps, six middle camps and three rear camps are kept open in accord with the guidance given by the Head of State, infectious diseases which may break out after the storm are under control, preventive measures against DHF are being carried out and plans are underway to give anti-measles injections to the children under five before they reach home.

... (from page 1)

State Peace and Development Council formed National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee led by the Prime Minister as the severe cyclone ‘Nargis’ hit Myanmar and the Government immediately allocated 5 billion kyats as initial fund for relief works. So far, over 50 billion kyats have been spent on relief works and rehabilitation tasks and the State will allocate funds as necessary later.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe... 

YANGON, 18 May – Wellwishers have provided cash and kind for storm victims.

Vietnamese Ambassador Mr Tran Van Tung and Deputy Director of Dong A (Money Transfer) Mr Tran Huu Tai, Thien Le, Tran Nhat Minh of Vietnam Relief Effort and the Vietnamese Buddhist Family and Sister Dieu Heu and party presented rice, edible oil and dry noodle worth US$ 27000 for storm victims to Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint and officials at Fire Services Department (Head Office) in Mayangon Township, here, this afternoon. —MNA
Local and international donors may contribute relief funds and supplies for the victims earnestly and generously


The News Release No 3 is as follows:-

News Release No 3

1. As Nargis cyclone hit the Union of Myanmar, local and international donors have been sending donations in cash and kind. The donations are accepted systematically and distributed promptly to the storm-hit areas by committees concerned. Arrangements have also been made to take deterrent action against those who misappropriate relief funds and supplies. It was announced on 15th May as follows.

News Release of the National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee

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 Attaché, 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.

2. Hence, local and international donors may contribute relief funds and supplies for the victims earnestly and generously.

National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee

Dated: 17-5-2008
Place: Nay Pyi Taw

No infectious diseases except normal diseases common to the storm-hit areas are found


The News Release No 4 is as follows:-

News Release No 4

1. In the Union of Myanmar, a severe cyclone “Nargis” occurred on 2nd and 3rd May 2008 causing tremendous casualties and devastation in the coastal areas of Ayeyawady Division. The storm also swept Yangon Division causing loss and damages.

2. The National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee held its meeting at 8.30 am on 3rd May 2008 in Nay Pyi Taw and the civil and military medical teams were sent immediately to the storm-hit regions to provide health care services to the victims.

3. Hence, altogether 2,029 members of 122 medical teams joining hands with local health staff are earnestly providing disease prevention and treatment works in Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions.

4. However, some foreign news agencies broadcast false information to the effect that the storm victims did not get health care services in full and there were dangers of cholera and other infectious diseases to break out.

5. The Government of the Union of Myanmar with its own strength as well as with the international assistance has been taking disease preventive measures and providing treatment fully to the storm victims. No infectious diseases except normal diseases common to the storm-hit areas are found.

National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee

Dated: 17-5-2008
Place: Nay Pyi Taw

Foreign aid flowing to victims


The News Release No 5 is as follows:-

News Release No 5

1. Relief supplies donated by foreign countries, UN agencies, INGOs and individual donors are now flowing constantly to the victims of the Cyclone ‘Nargis’ that hit the Union of Myanmar.

2. Of the supplies, some go to the Emergency Supply Supervisory Committee for the storm-hit areas, while some, directly to some UN agencies and INGOs.

3. It is required that all the relief funds and supplies go to the storm victims. So, the Emergency Supply Supervisory Committee will work in collaboration with the organizations stated in para (2) in this regard.

National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee

Dated: 17-5-2008
Place: Nay Pyi Taw
YANGON, 18 May—UN Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator Mr John Holmes, Regional Coordinator (Designate) Mr Bishow Parajuli, Director Mr Kabisis Rochanakorn of the Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA, Geneva) and Ms Shanya Harris, Special Assistant to Mr John Holmes, arrived at Yangon by TG-205 at 6.40 pm today.

They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu and party. — MNA

YANGON, 18 May—AN-12 flight carrying 13.6 tons of medicines donated by a social organization in the US, TG-303 flight carrying 4 tons of 34

YANGON, 18 May—Organized by the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thai health care organization of Ministry of Health of Thailand and Mekong regions disease control led by Director Dr Khin Maung Lwin (Health and Education) of the Ministry of Health left Yangon for Labutta and Myaungmya Townships of Ayeyawady Division by Tatmadaw helicopters this morning. They together with the health staff of the Ministry of Health will carry out relief tasks for the storm victims in Labutta and Myaungmya Townships of Ayeyawady Division.

YANGON, 18 May—As relief supplies are being delivered to the storm-hit regions in Ayeyawady Division, materials for reconstruction and resettlement was sent to Bogale and Kadonkani by Tatmadaw helicopters this morning. — MNA
Rehabilitation task goes on with greater momentum

Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspects Hlinethaya Sub-power station (2).—MNA

Volunteers preparing meal for the storm victims at a relief camp in Maubin Township.—MNA

Health staff giving medical treatment to a patient at a relief camp in Mawlamyinegyun Township.—MNA

Spraying of insecticide being carried out at a relief camp in Pyapon Township.—MNA
China’s HFMD toll rises to 43 as girl in Jiangxi succumbs

NANCHANG, 17 May — A 22-month-old girl from Ganzhou, a city in east China’s Jiangxi Province, died of hand-foot-mouth disease (HFMD) in a hospital on Thursday, health officials said.

Her death took the national toll from HFMD, an epidemic disease that mainly affects children, to 43.

The Jiangxi Provincial Centre for Disease Control and Prevention on Friday confirmed that lab work showed the girl had been infected with enterovirus 71 (EV71). The child was from a village in Wudang Township, Longnan County. It was not immediately known when she fell ill.

There have been 1,424 HFMD cases in Jiangxi this year, of which 90 were determined to be caused by EV71. Three other HFMD patients in the province were said to be in critical condition.

Clinton steps up fundraising effort after W Virginia win

LOS ANGELES, 17 May — With her campaign deep in debt, US Senator Hillary Clinton is attending two fundraisers here Thursday in what could be her final visit to Southern California as a 2008 presidential candidate.

One of the two events is at the Century Plaza Hotel near Los Angeles and already “sold out”, SimFarar, one of Clinton’s national finance chairs, told a local political news website Thursday. Media reports said the Clinton campaign is about $20 million US dollars in debt, including about $1 million US dollars she loaned in what she called a demonstration of her commitment to remain in the race through the last primary on 3 June.

If Clinton is not repaid the money she loaned the campaign by the time the Democratic Party nominates a candidate, US federal law limits the amount she can be reimbursed to $250,000 dollars. Clinton’s fundraising was aided by her landslide victory in Tuesday’s West Virginia primary, which resulted in $1 million dollars in donations, according to the reports.

CBS buys CNet for $1.8b

NEW YORK, 17 May — Media company CBS Corp announced Thursday that it is buying CNet Networks Inc, an online news and information provider for 1.8 billion US dollars.

The price of 11.50 dollars per share represents a massive premium of 45 percent over CNet’s closing stock price on Wednesday, “Our idea is to have our content wherever, whenever you can get it, and adding CNet just makes that happen faster,” said CBS’s CEO Leslie Moonves, who is trying to expand the company’s reach on the Internet.

CNet is known for technology reviews, news and advice but has also expanded into entertainment areas with a stable of sites that includes 2DNet, GameSpot.com, TV.com, mp3.com. It also owns the highly valuable Internet domain name News.com.

2,309 tourists confirmed safe in China’s quake-hit areas

BEIJING, 17 May — As of 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, 2,309 domestic and overseas tourists were confirmed safe in the quake-hit regions after a devastating earthquake rocked southwestern China’s Sichuan Province, official said here on Friday morning.

Among 5,167 tourists in the quake-hit regions, 832 are overseas tourists, 2,309 are confirmed safe according to a report by the Chinese Ministry of Civil Affairs on Friday.

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Watchdog criticizes EU plan to share DNA data

BRUSSELS, 17 May — The European Union has rushed through rules giving police access to DNA databases across the bloc without regard for proper safeguards, a data protection watchdog said on Thursday.

“Some cases it will be a nightmare not only for citizens but also law enforcement authorities…”

European Data Protection Supervisor Peter Hustinx said.

“However Hustinx said it was already clear the safeguards would be largely based on an existing model which he said did not address differences in various EU national legislations, and which was too complex to function efficiently.

He criticised Germany, which held the rotating EU presidency at the time, for chairing negotiations that meant the rules were adopted in barely four months.

“I’m afraid we can’t do much to repair the problem … I found it regrettable that the Germany Presidency used the dynamics of the presidency to get something adopted that should not have been adopted in this way,” he said.

“The safeguards are not clear, harmonised or even available,” he said.

Thousands flee north-south Sudan clashes in Abyei

Abyei, (Sudan), 16 May — Thousands of civilians fled clashes between Sudan’s former north-south civil war foes in the oil-rich central town of Abyei on Thursday, local officials said.

The clashes, sparked by a local dispute, have highlighted the tension in an area claimed by both Khartoum and South Sudan. More than three years after a 2005 peace deal, they have not agreed on borders or a local government for the region.

Sporadic gunfire could be heard on the second day of clashes and smoke rose from the town. “Most of the civilians have left town. There are about 25,000 east of Abyei,” said Malony Tong, a local official from the former southern rebel Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM), “It is not calm”.

Around 50 civilians sought refuge at the gates of the UN peacekeeping compound but were not allowed to enter. International UN staff were being evacuated.

Study says lung cancer patients live longer with alimta

WASHINGTON, 17 May — Adding a little extra chemotherapy after finishing the initial course helped advance lung cancer patients live longer without having their tumours grow.

Patients with advanced lung cancer who took Eli Lilly and Co’s Alimta after finishing their normal course of chemotherapy lived cancer-free for two months or 40 per cent longer than patients who took a placebo.

The preliminary results released ahead of the annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) suggest that adding extra months of chemotherapy after a patient has finished the initial course, and before any tumors begin to come back, may help many live longer, doctors said.

Speaker summons Susilo over planned fuel price hike

JAKARTA, 17 May — Indonesian House of Representatives Speaker Agung Laksono said Friday he had invited President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono to a consultative meeting on the government’s plan to raise fuel oil prices.

“The written invitation for the consultative meeting was sent yesterday (Thursday),” Laksono was quoted by the national Antara news agency as saying.

He said the consultative meeting should be held as soon as possible, before the government actually decides to increase the fuel oil prices in late May.

The leaders of all the political factions in the House and the related House commissions would also be involved in the consultative meeting as it would be the only opportunity for them to discuss the matter with the president, Laksono said.

Cambodia donates $100,000 to China for quake relief

PHNOM PENH, 16 May — The Cambodian Government on Thursday donated 100,000 US dollars for the relief to the earthquake victims in China.

On behalf of the Cambodian Government, Hor Namhong, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, handed over the donation to Chinese Ambassador Zhang Jinfeng, along with a letter of condolence from Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen to Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao.

“I feel extremely saddened that your country has suffered the loss of thousands of lives, injuries and extensive damages due to the powerful earthquake in Sichuan Province, central part of China,” Hun Sen wrote in the letter dated May 14.

Canada says will not follow US’ move on polar bears

OTTAWA, 16 May — Canada is home to two-thirds of the world’s polar bears, will not follow the United States and list the animals as an endangered species.

Environment Minister John Baird indicated on Wednesday.

“Whatever the US does, we will not follow,” Baird told reporters.

The European Union has expressed concerns over the US plan.

Canada is an estimated 15,500 polar bears.

However Hustinx said it was already clear the safeguards would be largely based on an existing model which he said did not address differences in various EU national legislations, and which was too complex to function efficiently.

He criticised Germany, which held the rotating EU presidency at the time, for chairing negotiations that meant the rules were adopted in barely four months.

“I’m afraid we can’t do much to repair the problem … I found it regrettable that the Germany Presidency used the dynamics of the presidency to get something adopted that should not have been adopted in this way,” he said.

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UAE, Britain sign MoU on peaceful uses of N-energy

ABU DHABI, 17 May — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Britain signed here Thursday a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the official Emirates News Agency reported.

The memorandum was signed by UAE Minister of Foreign Trade Sheikha Lubna bint Khalid Al Qasimi and British Minister of State for Trade and Investment Digby Jones, according to the report.

The memorandum establishes a framework, through which the two nations may cooperate on the further development of the UAE’s civilian nuclear infrastructure and support the efforts of the international community to prevent nuclear proliferation.

It further contemplates training and other knowledge-sharing arrangements in various peaceful applications of nuclear energy, including the generation of electricity, nuclear medicine and agriculture.

“We welcome the United Arab Emirates’ responsible approach to developing a civil nuclear programme and the UAE Government’s commitment to maximizing security, confidence and transparency, including non-proliferation or reprocessing capability policies and strategies,” Jones said.

UNICEF offers aid for China quake victims

UNITED NATIONS, 17 May — The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) offered on Thursday in-kind contributions to support China’s national relief effort in earthquake-stricken regions.

“Tents, blankets and school kits have already been procured by UNICEF and will start to arrive in affected areas within the next 48 hours,” said UNICEF Executive Director Ann M Veneman in a statement.

“The procurement of health, water and sanitation materials is also underway and these supplies will be dispatched to China as soon as possible,” she said. Veneman said that UNICEF is working closely with the Chinese Government and people to assist suffering children in the aftermath of the earthquake that struck Sichuan Province on Monday.

She noted that students were “prominent among the victims of the quake, which struck during school hours and resulted in the collapse of a number of school buildings”. “UNICEF stands ready to further assist as China’s national disaster relief efforts continue,” she added.

US spacecraft finds Mars colder than expected

WASHINGTON, 17 May — NASA announced on Thursday that new observations from its Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter indicate that the crust and upper mantle of Mars are stiffer and colder than previously thought.

The findings suggest any liquid water that might exist below the planet’s surface and any possible organisms living in that water would be located deeper than scientists had suspected.

“We found that the rocky surface of Mars is not bending under the load of the north polar ice cap,” said Roger Phillips of the Southwest Research Institute in Colorado, the lead author of a new report appearing in this week’s online version of Science.

“It implies that the planet’s interior is more rigid, and thus colder, than we thought before.”

The discovery was made using the Shallow Radar (SHARAD) instrument on the Orbiter, which has provided the most detailed pictures to date of the interior layers of ice, sand and dust that make up the north polar cap on Mars. The radar pictures show a smooth, flat border between the ice cap and the rocky Martian crust.

India mulls idea of emulating Malaysia monorail project

KUALA LUMPUR, 17 May — Indian Government is mulling the idea of emulating Malaysia’s monorail project, India’s Railway Minister Lalu Prasad said in Putrajaya, the administrative centre of Malaysia, on Friday.

The minister said he was impressed with the monorail set-up in Malaysia, which he visited on Thursday.

“We will be initiating discussion soon (on the possibilities of emulating the monorail project),” he said after witnessing the signing of an agreement between Indian Railway’s subsidiary, Iron International Ltd and the Malaysian Government.

The agreement was about an electrified double-tracking project between Seremban (capital of Malaysian central Negeri Sembilan state) and Gemas (small town of Negeri Sembilan state) worth 3.45 billion ringgit (1.06 billion US dollars).

Australia starts kangaroo cull, activists vow action

CANBERRA, 17 May — Australia’s military began culling hundreds of kangaroos at a defence base near the nation’s capital on Friday, enraging animal rights activists who vowed to stop the killings.

Authorities say the animals threaten other local species through overgrazing.

A handful of protesters were watched by police on Friday. “We are expecting hundreds of people and if they start killing them we’ll be going inside the fence. We will have a 24-hour guard on them,” said Wildlife Protection Association spokesman Pat O’Brien, adding the cull could damage tourism. The eastern grey kangaroos, which feature on Australia’s coat of arms, are living on a military communications base on the outskirts of Canberra. — MNA/Reuters

This artist’s concept obtained from NASA depicts a type of dead star called a pulsar and the surrounding disk of rubble. Astronomers are puzzled by the discovery of a pulsar with an unusual orbit never before seen in similar fast-spinning neutron stars that beam regular pulses of radio waves. — Internet

An employee of LG Electronics’ home appliances store checks its LCD televisions displayed for customers at a store in Seoul. — Internet

A giant soccer ball is pictured on Lake Leman in Geneva on 13 May, 2008. — Internet
Carvalho: Stop Ronaldo Defender wants second Champions League medal

LONDON, 17 May—Ricardo Carvalho has put his own future on hold to concentrate on keeping 31-goal machine Cristiano Ronaldo at bay in the Champions League final.

The 29-year-old is uncertain about whether he will be staying at Stamford Bridge, but insists he will put all of his efforts into stopping Ronaldo and co in Wednesday's all-English final. "Ronaldo has been fantastic for the Premier League," Carvalho said.

"We have to try to not give him too much space. It is difficult to stop him but if you focus and work with your team-mate, it will be easy." Chelsea are still licking their wounds after handing the title to Manchester United when they could only draw with Bolton on Sunday while United beat Wigan on the final day of the season.

But the Portuguese defender thinks revenge could be sweet and wants to revert once again in the European success which saw him lifting the prestigious trophy with Porto.

"Sunday was disappointing, but now we have to look forward to playing the final. It is an important game for the players and the club. The last few days will be more difficult, when you start to think about the game. In my first final, we got the result and I got the cup. It was a fantastic day.

Carrick pens new United deal Midfielder signs four-year contract

LONDON, 17 May—Michael Carrick has signed a new four-year contract with Manchester United.

The midfielder moved to Old Trafford from Porto last summer, signed a new four-year deal at Stamford Bridge, but insists he will be staying at Stamford Bridge, but insists he will put all of his efforts into stopping Ronaldo and co in Wednesday’s all-English final. "Ronaldo has been fantastic for the Premier League," Carvalho said.

"We have to try to not give him too much space. It is difficult to stop him but if you focus and work with your team-mate, it will be easy." Chelsea are still licking their wounds after handing the title to Manchester United when they could only draw with Bolton on Sunday while United beat Wigan on the final day of the season.

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Grant — My tactics work Israeli demands Blues go for glory in Moscow

LONDON, 17 May—Chelsea boss Avram Grant believes he has silenced the Blues boo-boys by mastering tactical substitutions to win big games. The 52-year-old was taunted by the Chelsea fans in the early part of the season for his decision-making. But with victories over Arsenal, Liverpool and Manchester United thanks to important team changes - the Israeli coach believes he’s finally won over the critics.

"Against Arsenal we brought on Nicolas Anelka and Juliano Belletti and changed the system. We scored two goals to win the game and could have scored more,” Grant said.

Munich’s Luca Toni, center, challenges for the ball with Berlin’s Steve von Bergen, left, and Rodolf Skacel during the German first division Bundesliga soccer match between FC Bayern Munich and Hertha BSC Berlin in Munich, Germany, on 17 May, 2008.—Internet

Players of CSKA Moscow jubilate with a Cup of Russia trophy, after they defeated Amkar Perm 6-3 in a penalty shot out in Moscow on 17 May, 2008.—Internet

Andersen — We are grafters Brazilian star dreaming of Champions League glory

win the Premier League, he now wants to cap his first season in England by winning the Champions League.

Andersen, who will be in the squad for Wednesday’s final against Chelsea in Moscow, knows hard graft can be the difference between winning and losing.

"A team with players like (Wayne) Rooney, (Carlos) Tevez, Cristiano Ronaldo, (Michael) Carrick, (Paul) Scholes and other star players, you don’t need to do much, you just need to control the game and could have scored many more goals," he said.

"That’s something I do and if I have the chance I will try to help my team the best that I can and make the most of the moment.

Answers to yesterday’s Crossword Puzzle

BREGNAINT  TAX
EXAXOPORRES
AMPLITIDERIEI
NAPAGRAWN
KINGTHIRUSTI
SCGTN
CHEEYDECIDE
LOCODN
ITACKLESUM
PEREOPPLUL
PERESTRAINT
EVERYONE
RDSTOPDEAD

FA Cup glory for Pompey Solitary Kanu strike proves too much for Cardiff

LONDON, 17 May—Portsmouth ended their long wait for a second FA Cup victory as they defeated Cardiff 1-0 in the final at Wembley on Saturday.

Both Premier League outfit Pompey and their Championship opponents, Cardiff, went into the 127th cup final hoping to follow up previous respective successes in 1939 and 1927.

And it was Pompey who etched their name in the record books for the second time as a solitary first half strike from Nwankwo Kanu proved too much for Cardiff.

The series of dramatic shocks and giant-killings in this term’s competition has done much to restore the nostalgic magic of the FA Cup.

Grant, right, scores the opening goal during the FA Cup final soccer match.

Internet

Portsmouth’s Kanu, right, scores the opening goal during the FA Cup final soccer match.

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Grant — My tactics work Israeli demands Blues go for glory in Moscow

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“Against Arsenal we brought on Nicolas Anelka and Juliano Belletti and changed the system. We scored two goals to win the game and could have scored more,” Grant said.

Internet

FA Cup following the 113-year domination of Manchester United, Chelsea, Arsenal and Liverpool.

Pompey and the Bluebirds, though, served up an inevitably tense finale as Kanu’s goal proved to be the conclusion to the tournament and booked a place in next season’s Uefa Cup.
Weather report (Issued at (06:00) hours MST on 18th May 2008)

According to the observations at (05:00) hrs MST today, the low pressure area over East Cental Bay and adjoining Rakhine State has been unimportant.

Earthquake report (Issued at (01:00) hours MST on Sunday)

A moderate earthquake of intensity (6.0) Richter Scale with its epicentre outside of Myanmar (REGION, CHINA) about (1200) miles northeast of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory, was recorded at (23) hrs (42min (52) sec) on MST on 17th May, 2008.

Philippines braces for landfall of “Halong”

MANILA, 18 May—The National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) of the Philippines Saturday warned residents in low-lying areas against possible flashfloods and landslides, the NDCC said. Residents along coastal areas of western Luzon and western Visayas as are alerted against big waves generated by this tropical cyclone. The public and the DCCs (disaster coordinating councils) concerned are advised to take appropriate actions,” it added.

The local weather bureau Philippine Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration has raised public storm warning signals over most of Luzon and Metro Manila due to the imminent landing of “Halong,” locally known as “Cosme”—MNA/xinhua

WEATHER

Summary of observations recorded at 9:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Chin State and Magway Division, fairly widespread in Bago and Yangon Divisions and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with isolated heavyfalls in Taninthayi Division. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below May average temperatures in Shan, Kayah States, Sagaing, Bago and Ayeawady Divisions, (7°C) to (8°C) below May average temperatures in Rakhine and Magway Divisions. (9°C) below May average temperatures in Mandalay Division and about May average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (0.40) inch, Launglon (3.46) inches, Pathein (2.99) inches, Pakokku (2.44) inches, Dawei, Mawlamyine and Ye (2.38) inches each, Gwa (12.17) inches, Pinlaung (2.05) inches, Maungtaw (1.65) inches, Hsipaw and Mogok (1.14) inches, Kanbaw and Mandalay (0.94) inch each, PyinOoLwin (0.90) inch, Sagaing and Kyaukse (0.67) inch each and Myingyan (0.63) inch.

Maximum temperature on 17-5-2008 was 86°F. Minimum temperature on 18-5-2008 was 70°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 18-5-2008 was 97%. Total sunshine hours on 17-5-2008 was (2.2) hours approx.

Rainfall on 18-5-2008 was (0.43) inch at Mingladon, (0.53) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.48) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (23.70) inches at Mingladon, (27.83) inches at Kaba-Aye and (30.24) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Southwest at (15:30) hours MST on 17-5-2008.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (06:00) hrs MST today, the low pressure area over East Cental Bay and adjoining Rakhine and adjoining Rakhine is unimportant. Monsoon is strong to vigorous in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weather is partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 19-5-2008: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kachin, Rakhine and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon, Ayeawady and Taninthayi Divisions fairly widespread in Shan and Kayin States and scattered in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State, Yangon, Ayeawady and Taninthayi Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with rough seas are likely at time off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) to (45) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of thunder conditions in the Central Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 19-5-2008: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 19-5-2008: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 19-5-2008: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).
**Relief and Rehabilitation supplies provided to storm victims in Bogale Township**

YANGON, 18 May – Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung on 13 May inspected construction of tents for the storm victims at Independence Monument Ground in Bogale.

At BEHS No 1, the minister viewed reconstruction of the building by Htoo Co and distribution of relief aid and purified water for the victims.

He attended the cash donation ceremony of East Thanlwin Co for the victim. U Tun Kyaw of the company donated K 3 million and US$ 3,000.

At Bogale Township Hospital, the minister consoled the patients.

At the relief camp in Bogale, U Gennes, on behalf of Myanmar Red Cross Society, handed 150 bags of rice and relief aid worth K 35 million to officials.

On 14 May, the minister donated offertories to the Sayadaws from monasteries in Bogale Township at the respective monasteries and presented relief supplies donated from abroad to the victims.

At the relief camp opened at BEHS No 1, the minister inspected delivery of foodstuff to the victims.

On 15 May, he provided relief aid to the victims in Kyumthaya and Kyetpyay villages. In the evening, the minister consoled the patients at the Township Hospital. In the late evening, he attended the cash donation ceremony at the relief camp.

The Ministry of Forestry is distributing timber for reconstruction of the storm-hit towns. On 16 May, the minister inspected arrival of timber in Bogale.

In the evening, he attended the cash and kind donation ceremony at Bogale Township MCWA Office. Officials accepted the donations.

The minister offered donations to monasteries in the townships.

At Bogale Home for the Aged, he paid homage to Sitagu Sayadaw Ashin Dr Nanissara and made donations. After visiting the clinic of the home, the minister donated K 1 million to the clinic. — MNA

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Relief and Rehabilitation supplies provided to storm victims in Bogale Township — MNA

**A clinic is opened at a relief camp in Bogale Township.**

**Relief supplies donated by Red Cross Society of Canada arrive Yangon International Airport.**

**Vehicles carrying rehabilitation supplies arrive Pyapon Township, Ayeyawady Division.**