

More relief supplies from S'pore

By JERMYN CHOW

SINGAPORE-BASED aid agency Mercy Relief flew its first batch of emergency supplies to Myanmar yesterday, more than a week after Cyclone Nargis slammed into the country.

The supplies, worth \$42,000, include tents, mosquito nets and utensils. They were bound for the country's biggest city, Yangon.

A second shipment of aid is expected to reach the country tomorrow.

Both are being flown free of charge by Singapore-based carrier Silkair.

Singapore's efforts to rush relief aid to Myanmar are taking off after initial resistance from the country's ruling junta.

The government is allowing relief aid to enter the country but not workers and experts from foreign aid agencies.

Yesterday, three members of the Red Cross here received the nod to enter Myanmar. The group will lay the groundwork for a nine-member medical team scheduled to arrive later this week.

Meanwhile, three members of The Salvation Army will collect their visas today and are expected to touch down in Myanmar tomorrow.

Members of the Mercy Relief team will have to cool their heels though as they have not received the go-ahead to enter Myanmar.

Meanwhile, donations are still pouring into the aid agencies here.

The Singapore Red Cross passed the one-million-dollar mark yesterday, less than a week after it launched its public appeal.

The business community is also chipping in to help the cyclone-hit victims.

The Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry, for instance, made a \$50,000 donation to Mercy Relief yesterday.

Furniture retailer Barang Barang has pledged 10 per cent of three days of sales proceeds from its five retail outlets to the Singapore Red Cross.



PHOTO: AP

CLEAN WATER: A Singapore Red Cross Society worker demonstrating the use of a locally designed hand-powered water-purification system to be sent to Myanmar.

How to donate

Cash donations

» Singapore Red Cross Society
Address: Singapore Red Cross Society
- 15, Penang Lane, Singapore 238486.
Cheques payable to Singapore Red Cross Society. Write your name, organisation, mailing address, contact numbers, and "For survivors of Myanmar cyclone" on the back.

» Mercy Relief

Hotlines:

1900-112-1010 (\$10)

1900-112-1050 (\$50)

Cheques payable to Mercy Relief

Limited. Address: 172, Pasir Panjang Road, Singapore 118558.

Or transfer money via ATM or Internet banking to DBS account 054-900493-6.

» Islamic Religious Council
Cheques payable to Muis. Write "Humanitarian relief effort in Myanmar" on the back. Or drop donations into donation boxes at any mosque.

» The Salvation Army
Cheques payable to The Salvation Army. Write "Myanmar cyclone

disaster relief" on the back. Address: The Salvation Army, Myanmar Cyclone Disaster Relief, Ang Mo Kio P.O. Box 640, Singapore 915605. Street collection will be held on May 15 at selected shopping centres. Or use donation boxes at Starbucks stores.

Donations in kind

Drop-off locations at Peninsula Plaza, North Bridge Road:

» Thapyay Nu Golden Family Pte Ltd, #05-05;

» Polaris Burmese Library, #05-12A;

» Golden Lightning Moon Pte Ltd, #02-63;

» Sin Myanmar, #03-55.