Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attend ceremony to offer Myathabeik and Shwekyathingan (Golden lotus robes) and consecrate Uppatasanti Pagoda

NAY PYI TAW, 9 March—A ceremony to offer Myathabeik and Shwekyathingan (Golden lotus robes) to Uppatasanti Pagoda and to consecrate the pagoda was held at the cave of the Uppatasanti Pagoda this morning.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and family offered alms, fruit, flowers, water and golden lotus robe to Maha Manimaya Kassapa Buddha Patima Yadana Jade Image.

Present on the occasion were State Ovadacariya Sayadaws, members of the Sangha led by Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammanojotika Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara, Secretary Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Jade Image.

People come out en masse to witness the ceremony.
Fullmoon Day of Taboung, day of religious significance

Today, the fullmoon day of Taboung, 1370 ME, is a day of religious significance for the Buddhist devotees.

Myanmar month Taboung falls between the cold season and the hot season. In the Pisces that coincides with Taboung, seasonal flowers such as Ingyin (Pentacms) and Tharaphi (Calophyllum ameenum) are in full bloom.

As Kaludayi Minister supplicated to the Buddha for an itinerary to Kapilavut, the Buddha left Rajagaha for Kapilawut on the first waning of Taboung and delivered sermons to His father King Suddhodhana and Gotami.

At present, the ceremony to enshrine the upper reliquary and hoist Shwehtidaw, Yadana Seinbudaw and Yadana Hngetmyatnadaw atop the Uppatasanti Pagoda in accord with the Buddhist traditions. The State Peace and Development Council is making all-out efforts for perpetuation, promotion and propagation of the Buddha Sasana. In that regard, it has been holding religious ceremonies in line with the Myanmar traditions and customs.

On every fullmoon day of Taboung religious titles are presented to monks, nuns and lay persons who are outstanding in performing religious duties. Indeed it is a remarkable contribution towards promotion and propagation of the Buddha Sasana.

We firmly believe that all the Buddhist devotees, ever honouring the attributes of the Buddha, will be able to enjoy physical and spiritual well-being through making donations, keeping percepts and practising meditation.

Commander meets governmental employees

NAY PYI TAW, 9 March — Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Thaung Aye met with staff of Information and Public Relations Department in Sittway on 26 February and gave instructions to them.

Afterwards, Commander Maj-Gen Thaung Aye held meetings with superintending engineers and senior engineers of the state/district/Township Public Works at Rakhine State PDC office and officials and staff of the departments under Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation at the office of Myanmar Agricultural Services in Sittway.

On 27 February, the commander visited Saatin Hydropower Project in Buthiduang Township and presented cash assistance to the staff working at the project. He also met with residents in Mawmari Chuang Village.

Supervisory Committee for Banks, executive committee of MBA hold 108th meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 9 March — Supervisory Committee for Banks and the executive committee of Myanmar Bank Association held 108th meeting at Ministry of Finance and Revenue today.

At the monthly meeting, Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun urged the executives of the banks to make strenuous efforts for development of the banking services in accordance with the rules and regulations.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Brig-Gen Hla Thein Swe, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein, directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under Ministry of Finance and Revenue and presidents and managing directors of private banks.

The deputy minister and the Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar discussed matters related to banking services. Participants of the meeting also reported on the monthly banking services and the meeting ended with concluding remarks by Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun.

Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun speaks at the 108th meeting of Supervisory Committee for Banks and the executive committee of Myanmar Bank Association.—MNA

Chairman of Alpha Health & Care Ltd (Myanmar) Prof. Gao Yihuai and advisors seen at opening of the branch of Alpha Health & Care Ltd.—MNA

Chairman of Alpha Health & Care Ltd (Myanmar) Prof. Gao Yihuai and advisors seen at opening of the branch of Alpha Health & Care Ltd.—MNA

Alpha Health & Care Ltd (Myanmar) opens

YANGON, 9 March—Alpha Group Ltd (New Zealand) has opened its branch in Myanmar, Alpha Health & Care Ltd at a ceremony in Pale Condo, here, yesterday evening, attended by president of Myanmar branch advisory group Maj-Gen Chetata Thainzarnado (Retd), Chairman of Alpha Health & Care Ltd (Myanmar) Prof. Gao Yihuai, Thai Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr. Bansarn Bunnag, vice-president of advisory group Dr Khin Shwe (President of Zaykaba Co Ltd), CEO of Alpha Health & Care Ltd Mr Gao Wei, staff and guests.

The branch was officially opened followed by a dinner held at Mya Yeik Nyo Royal Hotel. The chairman of Alpha Health & Care Ltd (Myanmar) and Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaiak spoke on the occasion. The chairman of the branch presented letter of accreditation to the advisory group and presented gifts to special guests.

Alpha Health & Care Ltd (Myanmar) opened at Pale Condo on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, now market 15 kinds of traditional medicines. Alpha Group Ltd (New Zealand) is a well-known pharmaceuticals supplier in about 20 countries.—MNA
China says we don’t want Western-style democracy

BEIJING, 9 March — China will never become a Western-style democracy, the head of the country’s rubber-stamp parliament said on Monday, an apparent response to renewed calls for political reform from both inside and outside the country.

In an address to the annual nine-day meeting of the National People’s Congress, Wu Bangguo laid out extensive arguments seeking to justify China’s one-party communist system and draw clear distinctions with multi-party political systems in the West.

China, he said, would never introduce a system of “multiple parties holding office in rotation,” nor would it allow a separation of powers among the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government, or a legislature made up of lower and upper houses.

Wu’s remarks, emphasizing the primacy of the “path of socialism with Chinese characteristics,” appeared to be a deliberate rebuttal to critics at home and abroad calling for greater liberalization, including legalizing opposition parties and direct elections for legislative bodies.

His remarks on the issue were considerably longer than in last year’s address, in which he made only passing reference to China’s rejection of separation of powers and a bicameral system.

Wu also appeared to rule out moves toward greater judicial independence, saying the all-powerful Communist Party would continue to dictate standards and priorities that it expected courts and prosecutors to adhere to.

Chinese President Hu Jintao, left, and Wu Bangguo, right, chairman of the National People’s Congress, arrive at the second plenary session of the National People’s Congress in Beijing’s Great Hall of the People, China, on 9 March, 2009. — Internet

US military says to cut 12,000 troops in Iraq by September end

BAGHDAD, 9 March — The US military said Sunday that 12,000 of its troops stationed in Iraq will pull out from Iraq by September end this year.

The pullout of the combat power will be reduced from 14 brigades to 12 brigades. On Friday, US President Barrack Obama announced a plan to withdraw most troops from Iraq by the end of August 2010, leaving about 35,000 to 50,000 of the current total of around 140,000 troops behind.

For his part, Dabbagh confirmed that the US military and the Iraqi government have agreed the cut of 12,000 US troops in the next six months.

Meanwhile, “4,000 British troops will withdraw in July 2009, according to an agreement signed previously between Iraq and United Kingdom,” he added.— Internet

Canadian soldier killed by roadside bomb in Afghanistan

OTTAWA, 9 March—One Canadian soldier was killed and four were injured Sunday when an improvised explosive device detonated near their armored vehicle during a patrol in southern Afghanistan, Canada’s National Defence Department said.

The incident happened just after noon time in the Shah Wali Kot District, which is located north-east of Kandahar City, the department said in a press release on its website. The injured personnel were evacuated by helicopter to a medical facility at the Kandahar Airfield, where they remain in stable condition.

So far 112 Canadian soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan. Canadian diplomats and two aid workers have also been killed there. — Internet

Roadside bomb kills three Afghan police

KABUL, 9 March—A roadside bomb struck a police van killing three police and wounded three others in Ghazi Province south of Afghanistan on Sunday, provincial police chief Mohammad Zaman said.

“The gruesome incident occurred in Qalai Rozi area outside provincial capital Ghazi city today at 11:pm when police were on patrol, leaving three policemen dead and three others injured,” Zaman told Xinhua. — Internet

Insurgent logistical facilities destroyed near Afghan capital

KABUL, 9 March—The Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) and the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) troops arrested an alleged weapon and explosive supplier along with a number of weapon ammunition in Logar Province, some 80 km south of Afghan capital city Kabul, said an ISAF statement issued here on Sunday.

“The operation was conducted on Saturday in direct response to Afghan citizen concerns about insurgents trying to bring Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) into Kabul city,” the statement said.

It added that the combined forces approached the compound quietly under the cover of night and the insurgents were unprepared and unable to attack ANSF and ISAF forces due to the swift approach.

“For his part, Dabbagh confirmed that the US military and the Iraqi government have agreed the cut of 12,000 US troops in the next six months.

Meanwhile, “4,000 British troops will withdraw in July 2009, according to an agreement signed previously between Iraq and United Kingdom,” he added.— Internet

A policeman injured in a suicide bombing attack given medical treatment in a hospital in Baghdad, Iraq, Sunday, on 8 March, 2009. A suicide bomber struck police lined up at the entrance of the main police academy in Baghdad on Sunday, killing some 30 people and wounding dozens of others, officials said. — Internet

An Iraqi woman mourns the death of her son outside the al-Kindi hospital in Baghdad. A suicide bomber on a bicycle has killed at least 28 people and wounding 58 more outside a police academy in Baghdad. — Internet

Iraqi man wounded in a bomb blast sits inside the Imam Ali hospital in the Shiite enclave of Sadr City in Baghdad, Iraq. — Internet

A policeman injured in a suicide bombing attack given medical treatment in a hospital in Baghdad, Iraq, Sunday, on 8 March, 2009. A suicide bomber struck police lined up at the entrance of the main police academy in Baghdad on Sunday, killing some 30 people and wounding dozens of others, officials said. — Internet
Recession on track to be longest in postwar period

WASHINGTON, 9 March—Factory jobs disappeared. Inflation soared. Unemployment climbed to alarming levels. The hungry lined up at soup kitchens. It wasn’t the Great Depression. It was the 1981-82 recession, widely considered America’s worst since the depression.

That painful time during Ronald Reagan’s Presidency is a grim marker of how bad things can get. Yet the current recession could slice deeper into the US economy.

If it lasts into April—as it almost surely will—this one will go on record as the longest in the postwar era. The 1981-82 and 1973-75 recessions each lasted 16 months.

Unemployment hasn’t reached 1982 levels and the gross domestic product hasn’t fallen quite as far. But the hurt from this recession is spread more widely and uncertainty about the country’s economic health is worse today than it was in 1982.

Back then, if someone asked if the nation was about to experience something as bad as the Great Depression, the answer was, “Quite clearly, ‘No,’” said Murray Weidenbaum, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers in the Reagan White House.—Internet

Plane crashes into Lake Victoria

KAMPALA, 9 March—Police say a cargo plane has crashed near Uganda’s main airport into Lake Victoria. There is no immediate word on casualties.

Police spokeswoman Judith Nabakooba says the plane crashed on Monday morning near Bugunga Island. She says a team has been sent out to check on casualties.

Further details were not immediately available.

Many airlines in Africa fly old or outdated aircraft and infrastructure is often not properly maintained. Some airlines are banned from flying in Europe.—Internet

Explosion outside bank in Greece; no injuries

ATHENS, 9 March—A bomb exploded outside of a Citibank branch in Athens early on Monday, causing some damage to the building but no injuries. The bomb went off behind the building at 3 am on Monday (0100 GMT, 9 pm EDT on Sunday) in the Nea Ionia district of the Greek capital, according to police statement.

There was no claim of responsibility for the attack.

The target pointed to Greek far-left militant groups, which have become increasingly aggressive following the police shooting of a 15-year-old boy in December—an incident that sparked the country’s worst riots in decades.

Outside Citibank offices in Athens last month, police destroyed a car bomb that contained enough explosives to crumble a four-story building.

There has been no claim of responsibility.—Internet

File photo shows vehicles from Japanese auto giant Honda lined up in front of a car carrier ship ahead of export at a pier in Narashino, suburban Tokyo. Japan announced on Monday a record monthly current account deficit and the first in 13 years, as the global economic downturn choked exports and sent the economy deeper into recession.—Internet

Oil rises above $46 as investors eye OPEC cuts

SINGAPORE, 9 March—Oil prices rose to above $46 a barrel on Monday in Asia as investors anticipated another OPEC production cut will shrink global supplies.

Benchmark crude for April delivery rose 81 cents to $46.33 a barrel by midday in Singapore on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Oil prices rose $1.91 on Friday to settle at $45.52.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries plans to meet 15 March in Vienna, and some of the group’s leaders have said a production cut is likely.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Hossein Nozari was quoted by the official IRNA news agency Sunday saying OPEC members have “almost” completely complied with the 4.2 million barrels a day of output quota reductions announced since September.

Nozari also said OPEC should coordinate supply policy with non-OPEC producers.—Internet

Israel believes Iran can build nuclear weapons

JERUSALEM, 9 March—Iran is now capable of producing atomic weapons, Israel’s top military intelligence officer said on Sunday, sounding the highest-level warning that Iran’s arch-enemy has achieved independent nuclear capability.

At a Cabinet meeting, the chief of military intelligence, Maj Gen Amos Yadlin, did not say Iran already has an atomic bomb. Participants said. However, he said, Iran has “crossed the threshold” and has the expertise and materials needed for one.

The participants spoke on condition of anonymity because the Cabinet meeting was closed.

They said Yadlin told them that Iran continues to accumulate uranium for enrichment and hopes to exploit the Obama administration’s intention to open a dialogue as a cover for developing nuclear weapons.

Yadlin’s comments follow a similar assessment by the US military chief, Adm Mike Mullen.

He said a week ago that Iran has enough fissile material to build a bomb now.

Israelis officials have long identified a nuclear Iran as the most serious threat to the Jewish state.

Iran’s president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, has repeatedly called for destruction of Israel, and Iran has tested long-range missiles that could strike Israel.—Internet
US scientists identify key protein in immune cells division

WASHINGTON, 9 March—US researchers said on Sunday that they had identified a key protein that is required for immune cells called B lymphocytes to divide and replicate themselves.

The discovery of the role of the CD98hc protein may help find new therapy targets for diseases such as multiple myeloma that are caused by unchecked B cells growth.

Scientists have known for nearly 25 years that CD98hc, common to all vertebrates, probably played a role in their adaptive immune system, but it wasn’t known how this protein functioned.

“This protein was used as a marker of activation because it was found in low levels on resting lymphocytes,” said first author Joseph Cantor from the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine.

“But when B or T lymphocytes were stimulated by antigens — for instance, to protect the body against bacteria — levels of CD98hc went up 20 fold.”

The researchers generated a mouse model lacking the CD98hc protein in B-lymphocytes. When vaccinated, these mice were unable to mount a normal antigen response.

CD98hc, common to all vertebrates, probably played a role in immune cells division.

A herdsman rides a horse in the snow in the Kanasi scenic area, northwest China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, on 8 March, 2009. Cole flowers have become an attraction to tourists to visit Guiding County in the spring.—Xinhua

Four people shot dead in North Moravia

PETRAVKA, 9 March—A 41-year-old man shot four people dead during a family party and then attempted to commit suicide in a restaurant here on Sunday, local media reported.

The perpetrator was taken to hospital with serious wounds.

The victims are the murderer’s alleged former girlfriend, her parents and another man, police said.

The tragedy occurred when the man entered the restaurant and immediately opened fire.

He hit a 25-year-old woman, her mother, father, and another man. They all died on the spot, the police said.—Xinhua

Four people shot dead in North Moravia

A herdsman rides a horse in the snow in the Kanasi scenic area, northwest China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, on 8 March, 2009. Cole flowers have become an attraction to tourists to visit Guiding County in the spring.—Xinhua

Chinese company establishes scholarship for aerospace research

BEIJING, 9 March—China Aerospace Science & Industry Corp (CASIC) announced on Sunday the establishment of a scholarship worth 5 million yuan (about 714,280 US dollars) for aerospace research in five prestigious domestic universities.

The five universities are Tsinghua University, Harbin Institute of Technology, Beijing Institute of Technology and Northwestern Polytechnical University.

The scholarship will be open to both undergraduate and postgraduate applicants. Winners will be offered payment ranging from 5,000 to 10,000 yuan per person.

Xu Dazhe, general manager of CASIC, said the company would this year employ more than 2,000 fresh graduates to help reduce unemployment despite a shrinking market demand amid the global financial crisis.

CASIC is a centrally administered state-owned enterprise which is engaged in the research and development of missile systems, launch vehicles and other aerospace products.—Xinhua

Floods hit Angola’s province, leaving 22,000 people homeless

LUANDA, 9 March—Heavy rains have caused floods in Angola’s southwestern province of Kunene, leaving more than 22,000 people homeless, Angola’s official news agency ANGOP reported on Sunday.

Jose Nascimento Veyeleinge, spokesman of the provincial commission of civil protection, was quoted as saying that the floods washed away houses and destroyed farmlands in the province’s Covelai, Kwanhama and Namacunde districts.

Most of the floods victims, he said, are now accommodated in three sheltering centres as well as in public schools and in family houses located in safe areas. The commission spokesman added that the provincial government is doing its best to identify safe areas to shelter the floods’ victims.

According to Eugenio Laborinho, executive coordinator of the national commission for civil protection, the level of the water is decreasing, allowing a more effective intervention in some localities.—Xinhua

Paris train kills two soccer fans

PARIS, 9 March—A commuter train hit a group of soccer fans in a Paris suburb, killing two boys aged 10 and 17, local media said on Sunday.

Eleven others were injured in the accident, three of whom were in serious condition and six have already left the hospital, the reports said.

The tragedy occurred at around 11:30 pm local time (2230 GMT) Saturday night when the fans of the Lille soccer team had watched their team beat Lyon at the Stade de France stadium and then took a short cut along the tracks to get their cars, a railway official Jean-Pierre Farandou said.

The accident caused serious disruption on railway transport as thousands of soccer fans had to take subway or buses back home.

The traffic returned to normal service around 4:00 (0300 GMT) in the early morning on Sunday, railway company said.

French Transport Secretary Dominique Bussereau has ordered a probe into the accident. Meanwhile, a judicial investigation was already underway.

Xinhua
Nikkei closes at lowest level in 26 yrs

Tokyo, 9 March—Tokyo’s Nikkei index closed at its lowest level in more than 26 years on renewed jittery over the Japanese and global economy.

The 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average lost 87.07 points, or 1.21 percent, from on Friday to 7,086.03, marking its lowest finish since 6 Oct, 1982 when the Nikkei closed at 6,974.35.

The broader Topix index of all First Section issues on the Tokyo Stock Exchange was down 10.86 points, or 1.51 percent, to 710.53, its lowest level since December 1983. Stocks declined across the board, led by real estate, insurance and pharmaceuticals issues. Major gainers included mining, oil and coal product issues.

Traders believe the fall was largely triggered by a batch of new dismal economic data released Monday, including the first current account deficit in 13 years.

Bucking the trend was Sony, rising 49 yen, or nearly 3 percent, to 1,764 yen, following the dollar’s rise to the lower 98 yen level on Monday in Tokyo from the lower 97 yen level on Friday.

Trading volume on the main section came to 1,737.60 million shares, down from Friday’s 2,051.95 million.

Aussie cyclist cheats death in Alaskan wilderness

MELBOURNE, 9 March — A Melbourne man has told how he cheated death for four gruelling days while lost in the hostile Alaskan wilderness.

Yair Kellner, 53, survived on cheese slices and energy bars, melted snow for drinking water and dug snow caves for shelter from driving rain, fierce wind and temperatures approaching 17°C.

He had been contesting one of America’s most brutal snow trail races, the Iditarod Trail Invitational from Knik to McGrath. “It was scary enough that I wasn’t scared,” Mr Kellner told the Anchorage Daily News. “I didn’t have time to be scared,” he said.

He vanished last on Tuesday, 160 kilometres into the iconic 560 kilometre snow trail race where competitors use bicycles, snow skis or snowshoes to traverse the harsh and remote terrain. Mr Kellner had been cycling the notoriously tough course. “If you’re not prepared for this race, it will kill you,” organizer Bill Merchant said. —Internet

Tourists crowd along the Bai Causeway on West Lake of Hangzhou, capital of east China’s Zhejiang Province, on 8 March, 2009. Residents and tourists enjoyed the beautiful spring view of West Lake and the warmth of spring on Sunday. —Xinhua

Fla shuts pirate radio station over drugs, gangs

Federal Communications Commission officials and deputies from the Orange County Sheriff’s gang unit busted a pirate radio station they say was reportedly broadcasting information on how to buy drugs and find prostitutes.

Balthazard Senat and Christopher Robert Roth were arrested Friday and charged with unauthorized transmission and possession of cannabis with intent to deliver. Officials say Roth was a DJ for the radio station. A spokesman for the sheriff’s office and a person answering the phone at the Orange County Corrections Department had no information on whether the men had retained attorneys.

Black tigress found in Sri Lanka

The carcass of a black tigress was found in southern Sri Lankan on Friday, a local newspaper said.

The Daily Mirror said the carcass of a black tigress was found after it got caught to a poacher’s snare in Deniyaya, around 125 miles (about 201 km) southeastern of the capital Colombo.

The newspaper quoted the Wild Life Department as saying that the black tigress’ length from head to tail is 1.1 meters, the height is 0.61 meter and the tail alone had measured up to 0.71 meter.

Violent winds send Mediterranean cruise passengers into sea

Four passengers had to be rescued from the sea after the cruise ship they were boarding was ripped from its mooring in high winds, pitching the gangway into the water.

The incident happened as passengers tried to board the MSC cruise ship, Fantasia, in Palma, Majorca. It was part-way through a Mediterranean cruise. Video footage shows the passengers swimming for their lives after gusts of up to 110km per hour snapped the ropes holding the ship fast.

One passenger was treated for head injuries, and all four had hypothermia.

Speeder found in stolen car with stolen items, dog

First of all, police said he was speeding. Second, the 18-year-old wasn’t wearing a seat belt and was driving on a suspended license. But that was least of his troubles.

According to police, when the man was pulled over on Tuesday they found a marijuana cigarette. Then they found out the car he was driving was reported stolen. Then they found $27,000 worth of stolen goods in the car.

When officers asked about the small dog on the front seat, the man could not tell them anything about it.

China to launch 15 to 16 satellites in 2009

BEIJING, 9 March — China plans to launch 15 to 16 satellites this year, Zhang Jianqi, deputy chief commander of the manned space project, said here on Monday.

Though the global financial crisis is taking toll on world economy, it has no impact on China’s space programmes,” Zhang, a deputy to the National People’s Congress (NPC), the country’s top legislature, told media.

China is at present “batch-producing” the three spacecraft, Shenzhou-8, Shenzhou-9 and Shenzhou-10, according to Zhang.

Billings firefighter Ben Jares, centre, heads out on an ice rescue sled to retrieve Duke, a St Bernard dog who was frozen to the ice on a pond at Peter Yegen, Jr Golf Club in Billings, Mont. Despite suffering from the cold and exhaustion, Duke was treated at a vet clinic and released to his owners that afternoon.

The 502-pound deep sea video camera “Eye-in-the-Sea” aboard the Research Vessel Point Lobos, is lowered into the Pacific Ocean 22 miles off the California coast. The Eye-in-the-Sea is the world’s first Web camera that will offer a window into the darkness of the deep ocean.

Pemba, a four-month-old red panda cub, receives some grapes during his 44th red panda cub bred in the zoo’s international breeding programme for the endangered species since 1977.
**$50t lost in global crisis, developing Asia suffers worst**

**Manila, 9 March**—The global crisis slashed value of financial assets worldwide by 50 trillion US dollars in 2008, with developing Asia suffering the worst among emerging market regions, according to a study released on Monday.

Losses on financial assets in developing Asia last year totalled 9.6 trillion dollars, or just over one year’s worth of gross domestic product (GDP), said the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in its latest study.

"Asia was hit harder than other parts of the developing world because the region’s markets have expanded much more rapidly," said the ADB study, entitled "Global Financial Turmoil and Emerging Market Economies: Major Contagion and a Shocking Loss of Wealth."

It said that the value of financial assets rose to 370 per cent of GDP in 2008, with developing Asia in 2007 from 250 per cent of GDP in 2003. In Latin America, the ratio only rose by 30 per cent, with the result that estimated losses on financial assets were a much lower 2.1 trillion dollars, or 57 per cent of GDP.

“This is by far the most serious crisis to hit the world economy since the Great Depression,” said ADB President Haruhiko Kuroda. While the ongoing crisis originated in the United States and some European countries, Kuroda said that by now no region or country is insulated.

**UK, Saudi agree China can give more to IMF**

**Riyadh, 9 March**—Britain has not asked Saudi Arabia to contribute more money to the International Monetary Fund to help stabilize struggling economies, but Saudi Arabia agrees that China should do more, a British minister said on Sunday.

“We are not making a special request to Saudi Arabia (for additional resources),” Foreign Office Minister Mark Malloch-Brown told reporters after meeting Saudi Finance Minister Ibrahim al-Assaf.

Assaf was “comfortable” with Britain’s suggestion that China make a larger contribution to the IMF, Malloch-Brown said.

Britain is lobbying to increase the resources of international lending institutions to help countries combat the financial downturn and supports the IMF’s push to double its resources to $500 billion US dollars.

Malloch-Brown said on Friday he would seek extra funds from Saudi Arabia, the world’s largest oil exporter which has enjoyed huge state revenues in recent years.

Britain’s Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, asked Saudi Arabia to stump up more money for the IMF during a visit to Riyadh in November but in public Saudi Arabia reacted coldly to the idea.

Malloch-Brown told reporters in London on Friday China was a natural candidate to give the IMF more help. Japan has already injected 100 billion US dollars to bolster fund resources. The minister said Britain was ready to contribute more. The G-20 group of developed and developing countries meets in London on April 2 in an effort to end global financial turmoil and put the world economy on a path to recovery.

"The need for an agreement in London ... which addresses the scale of the problem and gives people confidence wherever they live ... is critical,” Malloch-Brown said in Riyadh.

**Developing world may need $700b**

**Dar Es Salaam, 9 March**—Developing countries could face a financing gap of 270 billion US dollars to 700 billion US dollars this year as trade income dwindles and rich nations vie for capital to deal with a global slump, the World Bank said on Sunday.

The World Bank said even at the lower end of that estimate, resources of international institutions would not be sufficient to meet the financing needs as more and more emerging and developing countries are hit.

"Should a more pessimistic outcome occur, unmet financing needs will be enormous,” the World Bank said in a paper prepared for meetings of the G-20 group of countries in London in April. The World Bank spends billions of dollars annually fighting poverty in developing countries.

Last week, the International Monetary Fund said developing countries would need 25 billion US dollars, and possibly as much as 140 billion US dollars, in 2009 to meet their financing needs.—MNA/Reuters

A representative of Bollywood Times company shows a genuine version of a DVD (left) and a counterfeit one in one of the stores allegedly selling fake DVDs and CDs in Paris. Bollywood film studios and producers have joined forces with a former top Mumbai police officer to crack down on film piracy, which is thought to cost the industry hundreds of millions of dollars.—INTERNET

A child dancer participates in the closing of the annual Brahma carnival in Asuncion, on 7 March, 2009.—INTERNET

**BCC sees UK economy shrinking by 2.8% this year**

**London, 9 March**—Britain’s economic downturn will be deeper than previously thought this year and the recovery will be muted, the British Chambers of Commerce said on Monday.

According to the lobby group’s latest forecasts, the economy will contract by 2.8 per cent this year, markedly worse than its January prediction for a decline of 2.2 per cent, and driven by sharp falls in consumer spending, investment and inventories.

Britain’s economy shrunk by 1.5 per cent in the three months to December 2008, its fastest rate since the 1980s. The BCC said it expected the cumulative decline in GDP in the current recession to come in at 3.7 per cent, much more severe than the 2.5 per cent recorded in the recession of 1992-1993.—MNA/Reuters
Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Kyi Kyi Ohn, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, the ministers, the chief justice, the attorney-general, the auditor-general, the chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the mayors, the deputy ministers and wives, members of Leading social associations.

At the ceremony, Staff Officer Saddhammajotikadhaja U Thura of Religious Affairs Department of the Ministry of Religious Affairs acted as master of ceremonies.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and family presented alms, fruits, flowers, water and golden lotus robe to Maha Manimaya Buddhapatima Kassapa Buddha Patima Yadana Jade image in the cave.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San presented alms, fruit, flowers, water and golden lotus robe to Maha Manimaya Konaghamana Buddha Patima Yadana Jade image in the cave.

Secretary-1 of the SPDC Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Kyi Kyi Ohn offered alms, fruit, flowers and water to Maha Hsutaungpyi Buddha Image.

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Senior General Than Shwe and wife... (from page 1)

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San offer alms, fruit, flowers, water to Maha Manimaya Konaghamana Buddha Patima Yadana Jade Image.

MNA

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MNA

The opening ceremony of Malini Mingala Lake in progress.—MNA

The New Light of Myanmar Tuesday, 10 March, 2009

8
Senior General Than Shwe and wife...

(from page 8)

Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara.

Vice-Senor General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San donated offertories to the Nyaungdon Sayadaw. Next, General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Prime Minister General Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, Lt-Gen Tin Aye and wife Daw Kyi Kyi Ohn donated offertories to the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha.

The Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence and the commander also donated offertories to the Nyaungdon Sayadaw. Next, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaw Kyaw and the congregation received sermon delivered by the Nyaungdon Sayadaw. Merits gained were shared. The master of ceremonies read out a message to invite the State Ovadacariya Sayadaws, State Sangha Maha Nayaka Sayadaws, Sayadaws of State Central Working Committee of the Sangha and members of the Sangha to consecrate the four jade Maha Manimaya Yadana Buddha Patima images kept in the cave of the Uppatasanti Pagoda and Maha Hsutaungpyi Pagoda. Afterwards, 1080 Sayadaws and members of the Sangha led by the Chairman Sayadaw of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee consecrated the Buddha images and the pagoda by reciting Desanadaws and Gathas.

At 8.35 am the ceremony was successfully concluded with the three-time recitation of Buddha Sasanam Ciram Titthatu.

At 9.30 am, a ceremony to open Abayadana, Jivitadana, Aryudana Mingala and Malini Mingala Lake took place in the south of the precinct of the Uppatasanti Pagoda.

After the ceremony had been opened, Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaw Kyaw and family and the lay persons sprinkled gold and silver water on fish and turtles. The master of ceremonies read out the Gatha of Metta Pokvaka Arsisa Pathana.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaw Kyaw and family released the fish and turtles (See page 10)
Senior General Than Shwe and wife…

(from page 9)

into the Malini Mingala Lake and fed them.

Then, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Prime Minister General Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Kyi Kyi Ohn, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, the commander and the ministers released fish and turtles into the lake.

Later, Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyai Kyai Aung and the congregation recited the Zaya Mingala Aung Gatha and the ceremony successfully concluded at 9.45 am.

Junior Davis Cup Tennis Tournament concludes

YANGON, 9 March—The last day’s events of Junior Davis Cup Tennis Tournament, which was hosted in Myanmar, concluded in Theinbyu Tennis Court today.

A total of seven teams participated in the U-16 Junior Davis Cup and Uzbekistan stood first, Pakistan second and Myanmar, third. A total of four teams took part in the U-16 Junior Fed Cup and Malaysia stood first, Kyrgyzstan, second and Sri Lanka, third.

Myanmar secured first, Singapore, second and Sri Lanka, third in the men’s U-14 World Junior Tennis Competition. Myanmar also seized first, Singapore, second and Sri Lanka, third in the women’s U-14 World Junior Tennis Competition.

The teams in the first, second and third places directly qualified in Junior Davis Cup, World Junior Tennis Competition.

Pyay-Paukkhaung-Ottwin Road under construction

NAY PYI TAW, 9 March—Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Brig-Gen Hla Min inspected transport of stones, laying gravel, and tarring Pyay-Paukkhaung-Ottwin Road in Ottwin Township on 28 February.

On 1 March morning, the commander attended the ceremonies to broadcast fertilizers at the farm of U Tin Win and at the farm of U Tin Aung of Kongyi Village-tract, and the ceremony to grow summer paddy at the farm of U Win Myint of Nyaungbintha Village-tract. He observed the samples of paddy seeds, rice and fertilizers.

He inspected the written contest of Tatmadaw code of conduct to mark the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day in Southern Command.
NAY PYI TAW, 9 March—The entertainments to mark the Festivities to mark Shwehtidaw and Seinbudaw hoisting ceremony of Uppatasanti Pagoda continued for ninth day in the ground south of the pagoda yesterday evening. Pho Chit Drama troupe performed entertainments and Documentary Film Division of Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise showed the activities on Shwehtidaw hoisting ceremony and movies titled “Ngar-tha-tabar-yaun-kyar-mein-ma” and “Moe-baw-khon-tet-ka-laik-chin-dei” to over 91,300 local people.

On the tenth day evening, the audience were entertained by Pho Chit Drama troupe and movies titled “Koe-hse-tha-leik-mei” and “Ah-may-hnit-tha-mei-nyar” of Documentary Film Division were shown.

—MNA

Golf tournaments and fun fairs to be held

YANGON, 9 March—Myanmar Golf Club 2009 Annual At Home tournament and fun fairs will be held at the 9th miles golf club on 20, 21 and 22 March. The golf class aged between 60 and 70 and another aged over 70 will be held on 20 March. Gold, silver and bronze level golf events will be held on 21 March. On 22 March, fun fairs in conjunction with prize presentation ceremony will be held. In the evening, families of the association can take part in the reception and entertainment.—MNA

—MNA

On job training course for deputy township judges

YANGON, 9 March—The on-job training course No 19 for deputy township judges was opened at training division (Hlinethaya) of Supreme Court here this morning with an address by Deputy Chief Justice U Thet Soe. Also present on the occasion were the Supreme Court’s justices, the Director-General (Judiciary), directors, additional directors, deputy directors, the division judge, district judges, course instructors and trainees. The 9-week course is being attended by 45 trainees.—MNA

—MNA

Alinthit self-reliant library opens

NAY PYI TAW, 9 March—A ceremony to open Alinthit self-reliant library was opened in Aleywa, Nyaungbintha village tract, Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana on 5 March. Assistant Director U Soe Paing of Information and Public Relations Department (Head Office), Nay Pyi Taw District IPRD staff officer U Aye Pe and Chairman of Library Establishment Committee U Zaw Lwin formally opened the library.

—MNA

Booths and stalls opened at festivities to mark Shwehtidaw and Seinbudaw hoisting ceremony of Uppatasanti Pagoda.—MNA

Local people enjoying themselves in festivities to mark Shwehtidaw and Seinbudaw hoisting ceremony of Uppatasanti Pagoda. —MNA

A play is staged to mark Shwehtidaw and Seinbudaw hoisting ceremony of Uppatasanti Pagoda. —MNA
The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.
Potter book fetches $19,120 at auction

DALLAS, 9 March—A soft-cover copy of the first Harry Potter book sold for $19,120 in a rare books auction in Dallas, the auction company said on Sunday.

The 1997 first edition of “Harry Potter and The Philosopher’s Stone” is one of only 200 copies of the first printing issued in illustrated wrappers by the London publisher Bloomsbury, a statement said. The book came with an illustrated card signed by author J K Rowling, Heritage Auction Galleries said in the statement.

Exercise increases longevity for middle-age men

BEIJING, 9 March—Men can have their life span extended by two more years if they started exercising when they are 50, say researchers.

The study conducted by Swedish researchers found that exercise increases the length of life, nonetheless, almost half of middle-age men don’t exercise. But Dr. Karl Michalsson, a senior lecturer in the Department of Surgical Sciences at Uppsala University and the study’s lead author, said the study offers more proof that “it’s not too late for a man after the age of 50 years to invest in health and longevity by becoming more physically active.”

Exercising has the same beneficial effect on life span as quitting smoking in middle age.

Lucas Cranach the Elder painting stolen from church in southern Norway

OSLO, 9 March—Thieves made off with a Renaissance painting estimated to be worth up to $US2.8 million ($4.4 million) from a church in southern Norway at the weekend.

The thieves climbed a ladder in the early hours of Sunday morning and smashed a window at the Larvik church to grab the painting, “La de smaa bern komme til meg”, by German Renaissance artist Lucas Cranach the Elder (1472-1553), the head of the police operation Petter Aronsen told Norwegian news agency NTB.

Visitors view printing seals at the China’s Xiling Seal Carving Society in Hangzhou, capital of east China’s Zhejiang Province, on 8 March, 2009. The First Zhejiang Women’s Printing Seals Exhibition opened on Sunday, displaying pieces of printing seals from over 120 women artists. —XINHUA

Terrier wins controversial Crufts

BIRMINGHAM, 9 March — A Sealyham Terrier named Charmin has won Best In Show at Crufts, following a turbulent year for the event.

The RSPCA and sponsor Pedigree pulled out of partnerships with the dog show, following claims about breeding malpractice in a BBC documentary. But thousands of spectators attended the four-day event at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham.

Charmin’s owner, Margery Good, of Pennsylvania, said she was “very excited and very pleased” to have won.

Ms Good added: “He’s such a special dog. He is my best buddy. He proved himself tonight and made every step just right.” “It’s been a very exciting evening.”

The reserve prize was taken by a standard poodle called Donny. Some 28,000 dogs were estimated to have attended the show, the third highest figure since the show was founded in 1891. The Kennel Club, which runs Crufts, broadcast the event live on the Internet for the first time, and predicted that visitor numbers would match last year’s record crowd of 160,000.

The Kennel Club has insisted the vast majority of dogs are healthy but it has acknowledged there were some problems with certain breeds.

Pentagon natural nanoscale ice structure discovered

LONDON, 9 March — Researchers said they have discovered a novel natural nanoscale ice structure formed of pentagons, a step towards developing new materials that can be used to seed clouds and cause rain, according to the journal Nature Materials published on Monday.

“For the first time, we have shown that ice can build an extended one-dimensional chain structure entirely from pentagons and nonhexagons” said Angelos Michaelides, one of the researchers. “This discovery…suggests that when people are searching for new ice nucleating agents which can be used to seed clouds and cause rain, they do not necessarily need to focus on materials that have hexagonal surfaces - other types of surfaces may be good too,” Michaelides said. The team led by researchers at the London Centre for Nanotechnology examined ice formation on a very well defined, atomically flat copper surface and carried out ab initio calculations to predict what the microscopy results would be. — MNA/Xinhua

Tea farmers select tea leaves at Jintingdong town of Suzhou in east China’s Jiangsu Province on 8 March, 2009. The baking process of famous tea variety of Biliuochun began recently, a little behind latest years due to the low temperature this spring. Biliuochun, the specialty of Suzhou, is listed one of the top 10 tea varieties in China.—XINHUA

Internet
**S P O R T S**

**Ronaldo scores first goal for Corinthians**

SÃO PAULO, 9 March—Brazilian striker Ronaldo has scored his first goal for Corinthians having played for the first time in more than a year last week following a serious knee injury. The 32-year-old World Cup winner, and three-time FIFA World Player of the Year, came on after an hour in the 1-1 draw against São Paulo in a derby match on Sunday.

Ronaldo headed home in the second minute of injury time for the equaliser to send the Corinthians supporters into frenzied celebrations. “I am delighted. It was a unique and very moving moment,” Ronaldo said.

**USA stop Swiss, set up Davis Cup quarter-final clash with Croatia**

BIRMINGHAM, 9 March—Andy Roddick delivered the winning point in dominant style on Sunday as the United States wrapped up a 4-1 Davis Cup victory over Switzerland in their World Group first-round tie.

The victory sends the 32-time champion Americans into a quarter-final against 2005 champions Croatia in July — the weekend after Wimbledon — with the Europeans holding a 2-0 record in the series. With the US taking a 2-1 lead into the final day of action, Roddick hammered out a 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 victory over Stanislas Wawrinka in Sunday’s first reverse singles match to secure the victory.

Andy Roddick celebrates his win over Stanislas Wawrinka of Switzerland in the first set during the fourth rubber of their Davis Cup tie at Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex, Arena in Birmingham, Alabama.—INTERNET

**Hat-trick hero Inzaghi steals show**

AC Milan forward Filippo Inzaghi celebrates after scoring his third goal during his team’s Serie A football match against Atalanta at the San Siro Stadium in Milan on 8 March, 2009.—INTERNET

**Wenger’s revitalised Arsenal will take Champions League fight to Roma**

LONDON, 9 March—Arsene Wenger has warned Roma that Arsenal have the resources to deliver a knockout blow to the Italians in Wednesday’s Champions League showdown. The Gunners warmed up for their last 16 second leg trip to the Eternal City by easing into the FA Cup quarter-finals with a 3-0 win over Barnley on Sunday.

After suffering a goal famine in recent weeks, Wenger’s side feasted on a selection of mouth-watering strikes in the fifth round tie at the Emirates Stadium. Arsenal’s victory set up a last eight home tie against Hull later this month, with a semi-final against Chelsea lying in wait for the winners, but Wenger’s true focus remains on Europe.

**Y E Yang gets breakthrough win at Honda Classic**

PALM BEACH GARDENS, 9 March—Y E Yang said winning the Honda Classic is more significant to him than beating Tiger Woods three years ago. His rehabilitation lasted 10 months, but the South Korean pulled ahead of John Rollins to win the first PGA Tour victory. The Korean took command with three straight birdies on the front side and wouldn’t fold, two-putting from 50 feet on the finishing hole for a winning par. With birdies on the front side and wouldn’t fold, two-putting from 50 feet on the finishing hole for a winning par.

Y E Yang, of South Korea, celebrates after winning the Honda Classic golf tournament in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla, on 8 March, 2009. Yang shot a final round of 2-under 68 to finish one shot ahead of John Rollins and pick up his first PGA Tour victory. The Korean took command with three straight birdies on the front side and wouldn’t fold, two-putting from 50 feet on the finishing hole for a winning par.

**DR Congo shock Ghana to win African Nations Championship**

ABIDJAN, 9 March—Democratic Republic of Congo shocked Ghana 2-0 Sunday to win the maiden African Nations Championship final. Dioko Kaluyutuka put the ‘Leopards’ ahead one minute into the second half at Felix Houphouet-Boigny Stadium in the Ivory Coast economy capital and Mbenza Bedi added a second in 76 minutes.

It was the first triumph for DR Congo in an African Football Confe-deration (CAF) national team tournament after losing on penalties three times and the junior championship twice.

Pre-tournament favourites Ghana entered the final as the team to beat having outclassed DR Congo 3-0 seven days ago in the mini-league phase of a competition for local-based footballers. Congolese coach Mutumble Santos said he learnt from the heavy loss to Ghana and this was soon apparent as his star striker Mabil Mputu came close several times in the early stages. 

**Djokovic in awe of mighty Nadal as Spain advances to Davis Cup quarters**

PARIS, 9 March—Novak Djokovic is just two places behind Rafael Nadal in the world rankings, but on Sunday it felt like a chasm. World number three Djokovic slumped to a 6-4, 6-4, 6-1 defeat to Nadal as defending champions Spain romped into the Davis Cup quarter-finals with a 4-1 first round win over Serbia.

Djokovic admitted he was in awe of the Spaniard who showed no ill-effects from the knee injury which had kept him off the circuit for a month before the Benidorm claycourt tie. “He showed why he’s the best in the world and so dominant on this surface,” said Djokovic after his 11th defeat to the world number one in 15 career meetings.

Spanish Rafael Nadal (centre) is congratulated by his teammates after his victory against Serbian Novak Djokovic during their four Davis Cup matches on 8 March, in Benidorm, eastern coast of Spain.—INTERNET

**Jermaine Jenas scores against Italy**

LONDON, 9 March—Jermaine Jenas scored against the home side as England beat Italy 2-1 in a friendly on Saturday. Jenas scored his first international goal for three years and was a key factor in England’s win. They are now third in the world rankings after this victory.

**Yuri alarm continues at Chelsea**

CHELSEA are in serious trouble after a 3-0 FA Cup defeat to Hull City in the fifth round tie at the Emirates Stadium on Saturday. The London club fell from second in the Premier League table to fourth after their third successive defeat, and needing only 1 hour, 53 minutes to finish.
Philippine troops on alert after death of NPA leader’s daughter

COTABATO (the Philippines), 9 March—Philippine security forces are on maximum alert in southern Mindanao region after the murder of a leftist rebel leader’s daughter.

Robelyn Pita, 21, a teacher by profession and daughter of Leonardito Pita, known as Commander Parago of the rebel New People’s Army (NPA), was abducted by unidentified gunmen in the southern city of Davao on 4 March and found dead the next day floating in a river in Carmen town in nearby Davao del Norte Province.

She died of several stab wounds in her chest, reports said. The NPA is the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines. It has been waging a guerilla campaign on the countryside for 39 years. MNA/Xinhua

RELATIVES OF A POLICEMAN KILLED IN A SUICIDE BOMBING CRY OUTSIDE A HOSPITAL IN BAGHDAD, IRAQ, ON SUNDAY, 8 MARCH, 2009.

INTERNET

WEATHER

Monday, 9 March, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin, Rakhine and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above March average temperatures in Chin, Shan, Rakhine and Kayah States, upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) above March average temperatures in Kachin State and Magway Division and about March average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Chauk (42°C) and Mibin and Magway (41°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 8-3-2009 was 97°F. Minimum temperature on 9-3-2009 was 68°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 9-3-2009 was 82%. Total sunshine hours on 8-3-2009 was (9.1) hrs approx. Rainfall on 9-3-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (Nil) at Mandaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) m/s from South at (23:00) hours MST on 8-3-2009.

Bay influence: According to the observations at (06:30) hrs MST today, a low pressure area has formed over the Southwest Bay. Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Southwest Bay and partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 10 March 2009: Isolated rain or thundershowers are possible in Kachin State and Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine and Mon States, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers is possible in the Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 10-3-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 10-3-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 10-3-2009: Partly cloudy.
Myathabeik, Shwekyathingan for consecrated Uppatasanti Pagoda

The aerial view of Uppatasanti Pagoda in consecration ceremony.

MNA

A total of 1080 members of the Sangha led by Chairman of SSMNC Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara consecrating the Uppatasanti Pagoda.

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