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Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing offer provisions to Ovadaçariya Sayadaws, members of SSMNC, SCWCSAO, Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Sayadaws, title recipient Sayadaws

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attended the ceremony to offer meals to State Ovadaçariya Sayadaws, members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee and the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders, Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Sayadaws and title recipient Sayadaws organized by the State Peace and Development Council and families of Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) at Sasana Maha Beikmandaw in the precinct of Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw at 9.30 am today.

Also present on the occasion were State Ovadaçariya Sayadaws, members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee and the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders, Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Sayadaws and title recipient Sayadaws and nuns, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, Member of the State Peace and Development Council Thura U Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Prime Minister U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, Member of the State Peace and Development Council U Tin Aye, General Min Aung Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence and their wives, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command and wife, ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Auditor-General, the chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, deputy ministers, departmental heads, officials and guests.

(See page 8)

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing present offertories to Chairman of SSMNC Dr Bhaddanta Kumara-bhivamsa. MNA

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing offer meals to members of the Sangha.—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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 18 March, 2011

Prevent infectious diseases

Our planet nowaday is experiencing global warming and some countries are facing natural disasters such as volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, floods, wildfires and landslides.

Due to changes of weather, it is necessary to place special emphasis on health care services being provided to the people, and preventive measures are to be taken against common diseases in respective seasons.

At present, untimely rains and overheat may cause the diseases and complaints namely dengue hemorrhagic fever, malaria, diarrhea, dysentery, catching cold, cough and pneumonia.

Mosquito carries dengue hemorrhagic fever that infects among the people through spawning of mosquito at wells, ponds, water tanks and water pots. Priority is to be given to controlling mosquito due to infection of DHF. All the people are to carry out sanitation at their environs on the first priority as mosquito and fly carry infectious diseases.

Diarrhea and dysentery may cause infection among the people young and old at any time and any where. Especially, the said two depend on unclean environment and drinking water. Unclean foods and drinking water, unwashed hands and fly are vectors for diarrhea and dysentery.

All the national people are to pay attention to sanitation of their environs and take care of personal hygiene as part of measures to prevent common diseases. Moreover, they all are to take heed of health warnings issued by the Ministry of Health in all seasons.

Japanese nuclear radiation unlikely to affect Myanmar

No radioactive element in rainwater of Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March — Some nuclear facilities in Japan are facing nuclear disaster in the aftermath of massive earthquake of 9.0 Richter scale which shook Sendai on North Eastern parts of Japan on 11 March and triggered off 10-metre high Tsunami waves.

Very close neighborhood around the reactors is at risk of radiation and beyond 20 kilometres (12.5 miles) radius the threatened facility is safe for public, according to experts. It is far unlikely that Myanmar will be at risk of radiation stemming from Japan tens of thousands of miles away.

The Ministry of Science and Technology is detecting rain water to find out whether radioactive elements are in rainwater if the radiation of Japanese reactor affects the country. Findings revealed that there is no radioactive element in the rainwater of Myanmar.—*MNA*

People's Desire

*** Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views**
*** Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation**
*** Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State**
*** Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy**

Farmers receive loans, fertilizer in Shwebo District

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March — Chairman of Sagaing Region Peace and Development Concil Commander of North-West Command Brig-Gen Soe Lwin attended a ceremony to assist in agricultural techniques and to lease loans to farmers in Shwebo on 14 March.

During a ceremony, a responsible official reported to the commander on leasing loans and distributed bio fertilizer to farmers.

After the ceremony, the commander visited rice field in Wetlet Township and viewd farmers planting rice seedlings in the field.

The commander also visited Yadana Theinga Bridge construction project in Shwebo Township and inspected the construction works. —*MNA*

MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March—The State Peace and Development Council has confirmed the appointment of Director-General U Hsan Aung of Transport Planning Department under the Ministry of Rail Transportation on expiry of the one-year probation period.—*MNA*

Myanmar donates cash to Japanese Govt for quake, tsunami victims

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March — A ceremony to hand over donation of the Government of the Union of Myanmar to the Government of Japan, as humanitatrian assistance to the victims of the recent earthquake and Tsunami that struck Sendai City, Tohoku Region and North Eastern parts of Japan, was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Yangon, today.

After conveying words of sympathies, on behalf of the Government of the Union of Myanmar, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win handed over cash donation of US$100,000 to H.E. Mr Takashi Saito, Ambassador of Japan who returned words of thanks.

The ceremony was also attended by senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and staff members of the Japanese Embassy.

MNA

***Minister U Nyan Win presents US$ 100,000 for quake, tsunami victims of Japan through Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr.Takashi Saito.* —MNA**

48th Myanma Gems Emporium goes on for eighth day

***Mines Minister U Ohn Myint cordially greets local and foreign gems merchants.* —MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March—Chairman of the Central Committee for Organizing the 48th Myanma Gems Emporium Minister for Mines U Ohn Myint visited the emporium today.

Secretary of the emporium Managing Director U Thein Swe and members supervised the emporium.

Officials presented certificates of honour to responsible persons of Myanmar Gems Entrepreneurs Association and Jade Merchants Association from abroad who contributed to successful holding the emporium.

The emporium for the eighth day was attended by 8692 local and foreign gem merchants. Jade lots were sold through tender at Mani Yadana Jade Hall. From 14 to date, 10,870 lots of jade were sold through the tender system. Sales of jade lots will start through competitive bidding system tomorrow to 22 March.

MNA

80 people reportedly killed in US drone strike in Pakistan

Islamabad, 17 March —At least 80 people were killed in US drone strikes launched Thursday morning in different parts of Pakistan's northwest tribal area of North Waziristan, reported local state-run Urdu TV channel PTV, but the report failed to give details other than saying 12 missiles were fired at different targets in the afore-said area.

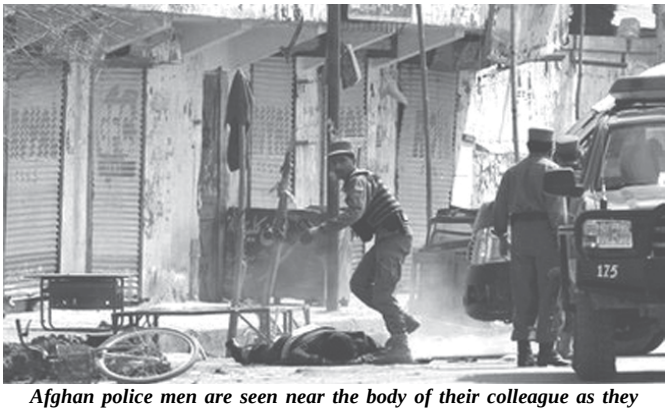
US drone.—XINHUA

Late Thursday morning, there came in the news that US drones launched a strike in the Datta Khel area of North Waziristan. Initial reports by most of the local media said that two missiles were fired at a house in which militants were said to be holding a meeting inside, killing 4 people and injuring several others.

The elder said that the strike killed 41 people including six tribal elders and some children. The injured were later transferred to the hospital in Miranshah and some of them were in critical condition, said hospital sources. The tribal elder rejected the reports that the target was a meeting held by militants. He said that all were local tribesmen. He said that the Madda Khel tribe had sold a chromite mine on 8.8 million rupees (slightly over 100,000 US dollars) to a man and both parties later disagreed over the payment method and the jirga was called to settle the dispute.

Member of National Assembly from the region, Kamran Khan, condemned the drone strike and said that mostly innocent people were killed and injured in the Thursday's strike. Residents said that they had seen four drones hovering over the area before and after the attack. They said two aircraft fired missiles.

Thursday's strike is the 23rd of its kind in Pakistan since 2011 and also one of the most deadly strikes in the country over the last few years. To date, at least 187 people have reportedly been killed in such strikes since this year.—*Xinhua*



Afghan police men are seen near the body of their colleague as they arrives at the site of explosion in Jalalabad, Afghanistan, on 7 March, 2011. An Afghan Interior Ministry spokesman says a roadside bomb in the eastern city of Jalalabad has killed two policemen and wounded another 25 people.—INTERNET

Blast kills two soldiers, injures five others in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 18 March—At least two soldiers were killed and 5 others injured in a blast that occurred Thursday morning in Pakistan's southwest Province of Balochistan, reported local Urdu TV channel Duniya. According to the report, the blast took place at about 9:20 am local time at the Dera Murad Jamali District in east Balochistan when a group of Frontier Corps soldiers on duty were attacked by a remote-control blast. No group has claimed the responsibility for the attack.—*Xinhua*

Vehicles burn as fire fighters douse the flames following a car bomb that ripped through a crowd outside a hospital in Iraq's restive northern city of Kirkuk on 16 March, 2011. XINHUA

Two children killed in NATO strike: Afghan official

KABUL, 17 March—A NATO air strike killed two children, an Afghan official said Tuesday, threatening to fuel a row over civilian deaths as a top US commander said foreign troops were halting the Taleban's progress.

NATO said it had targeted suspected insurgents in the raid, which took place near where nine people — who Afghan officials said were children collecting firewood — were killed in an air strike earlier this month.

The incident is likely to stoke controversy after President Hamid Karzai rejected an apology by General David Petraeus, the US commander of NATO-led troops in Afghanistan, over the earlier incident in eastern Kunar Province.

"Last night, two children who were irrigating their land were hit by a coalition air strike and both were killed," Abdul Marjan, the district chief of Sawkai in Kunar, told *AFP*.—*Internet*

Somali pirates hijack Indonesian flagged bulk carrier

NAIROBI, 17 March—About 30 to 50 Somali pirates have hijacked Indonesian flagged and owned bulk cargo carrier approximately 320 nautical miles North East of the island of Socotra in the Somali Basin, EU anti-piracy mission said on Thursday.

EU Naval Force Somalia spokesman Paddy O'Kennedy said the MV Sinar Kudus was pirated on Wednesday and within 24 hours of being taken, she was used to launch an unsuccessful attack on the MV Emperor. He said the MV Sinar Kudus, which is Indonesian flagged and owned, was on its way to Suez (Egypt) from Singapore when it was attacked.

"Details of the attack are not known at this time but initial reports from the crew stated that 30 to 50 pirates had boarded and taken control of the vessel," O'Kennedy said. The MV Sinar Kudus has a crew of 20, all Indonesian. He said a skiff with five pirates on board was launched from the Indonesian vessel and attacked the Emperor but was repelled by the armed force from the merchant vessel.—*Xinhua*

An Afghan disabled woman in a wheel chair asks for alms in Herat, west of Kabul, Afghanistan on 15 March, 2011. INTERNET

Over 40 insurgents killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, 17 March—NATO forces in separate operations in Afghanistan killed more than 40 Taleban insurgents over the past two days, the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) on Thursday said.

"International Security Assistance Force killed more than 30 insurgents in an ongoing offensive operation in Reg-e Khan Neshin District, Helmand Province during the past two days." ISAF said in a statement released here.

The ongoing operation is focused on disrupting the insurgent's ability to traffic narcotics and weapons, as well as destroy Improvised Explosive Device (IED) making facilities in the Province, some 555 km south of capital City of Kabul, it said.

According to the statement coalition forces killed more than 10 suspected Taleban insurgents in mountainous Kunar Province, some 185 km east of Kabul.

"Coalition forces killed more than 10 suspected insurgents in Shigal wa Sheltan District, Kunar Province, yesterday," the statement reads.

Coalition forces observed an unknown number of suspected insurgents with weapons near a combat outpost and declared an imminent threat.—*Xinhua*

Japan's Self-Defence Forces's helicopter scoops water off Japan's northeast coast on its way to the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Okumamachi Thursday morning, on 17 March, 2011. Helicopters are dumping water on a stricken reactor in northeastern Japan to cool overheated fuel rods inside the core.

INTERNET

SDF helicopters dumping water on No 3 reactor

TOKYO, 17 March—Helicopters from Japan's Self-Defence Forces have begun dumping water on the Number Three reactor building at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station in an effort to cool down a spent fuel storage pool.

Two *CH-47* helicopters began scooping up seawater and releasing it over the reactor on Thursday morning after another helicopter checked radiation levels in the air.

The first water-dropping operation was completed at around 10:15 AM. The mission is part of efforts to cool the storage pools at the Number Three and Four reactors. The cooling systems at both reactors are not functioning, raising fears that spent fuel rods could melt and release radioactive material outside the building. Water is believed to be evaporating from the Number Three reactor's storage pool. Authorities have confirmed that temperatures in the Number Four reactor's storage pool are rising. Efforts are also being made to douse the Number Three reactor from the ground. Eleven large-capacity fire trucks from the SDF are heading to the site.

The Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department has sent riot-squad trucks equipped with water cannons. The trucks were originally deployed to douse the Number Four reactor, but they will be used to spray water on the Number Three reactor instead. The work is expected to begin around noon.—*Internet*

The photo released by Tokyo Electric Power Co on 16 March, 2011, shows No3 reactor (L) and No4 reactor of the Fukushima Daiichi plant. The fire struck on early Wednesday at the building housing of the No4 reactor of the Fukushima Daiichi plant, 240 km (150 miles) north of Tokyo.

XINHUA

More than 5429 people confirmed dead

TOKYO, 17 March—Japanese police have so far confirmed 5429 deaths in Friday's devastating earthquake and tsunamis that hit northeastern Japan. 5429 people are still missing.

But the current number of missing people reflects only the number actually registered with the police. Police say the number may be in the tens of thousands.

In Miyagi Prefecture, 2,896 people have been confirmed dead and 2,362 are missing.

Iwate Prefecture has confirmed 1,705 deaths, and says 3,834 people are missing.

Fukushima has 542 confirmed deaths and more than 3,226 missing. In the Kanto Region, dozens of people died in the disaster, including 19 in Ibaraki and 7 in Tokyo. More than 315,000 people have sought refuge in about 2,300 shelters.

Internet

Japan Ground Self-Defence Force members search for the victims of Friday's tsunami in Miyako, Iwate Prefecture, northern Japan, on 14 March, 2011, three days after a massive earthquake and the ensuing tsunami hit the country's east coast.

INTERNET

Fukushima plant begins to install new power lines

TOKYO, 17 March—Tokyo Electric Power Company, the operator of the stricken Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, says it will begin work to install new power lines to restore the plant's cooling systems.

The 3 reactors at the plant lost cooling capabilities due to a power outage following the earthquake on Friday and damage to an emergency power generator from subsequent tsunami.

The company is taking measures such as injecting water to the reactors by using pump trucks, but recovery of the cooling functions is not in sight.

The company says it will start work to set up power lines from the high-voltage cables near the plant on Thursday afternoon in an effort to regain power supply.—*Internet*

High radiation levels detected 20 km from plant

TOKYO, 17 March—Japan's science ministry has observed radiation levels of up to 0.33 millisieverts per hour in areas about 20 kilometres northwest of the quake-damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. Experts say exposure to such radiation for 3 hours would result in absorption of 1 millisievert, or the maximum considered safe for 1 year. The ministry gauged radiation levels for 10 minutes from 8:40 PM local time on Tuesday at 3 places in Fukushima Prefecture, whose residents are being instructed to stay indoors.

The measurements produced readings as low as 0.22 millisieverts per hour. It is not known whether these levels have changed since the measurements.—*Internet*

A truck rests atop a building at the destroyed fish market in Ofunato five days after the devasting earthquake and ensuing tsunami. The official toll of the dead and missing rises to nearly 13,000.

INTERNET

6.1-magnitude quake hits near the east coast of Honshu, Japan

TOKYO, 17 March—An earthquake measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale jolted near the east coast of Honshu, Japan 1:13 pm local time (0413 GMT) on Thursday, the US Geological Survey said.

The epicentre, with a depth of 25.3 km, was initially determined to be at 40.19 degrees north latitude and 142.20 degrees east longitude.

The quake is 271 km east of Fukushima, where the Fukushima nuclear power plant was damaged by a 9.0-magnitude earthquake last Friday.

Xinhua

Health

A bottle of Potassium Iodide is seen alongside a bottle of strong iodine solution and potassium iodide oral solution. Hawaiians are rushing to get iodide pills to protect against radioactivity from a quake-crippled Japanese nuclear power plant, according to store owners on the Pacific island US state.
INTERNET

Parents: A safety net for adult children

MINNEAPOLIS, 17 March— There is evidence that parental assistance for children who are young adults promotes progress toward autonomy and self-reliance, US researchers say.

Study author Teresa Swartz and colleagues collected data to examine the conditions under which young adults are more likely to receive financial support for living expenses, or to live in the parental home.

Almost half of the respondents received either money for living expenses or lived with their parents, or both, in their mid-20s. However, only 10 percent to 15 percent received financial or housing help when in their early 30s, Swartz says. The likelihood of receiving financial help decreased 15 percent each year, and the likelihood of living with parents decreased by 18 percent each year, Swartz says. "These results indicate that young people do eventually become independent of parents as they grow older," she says.—*Internet*

Health Tip: Signs that headaches need attention

Most everyone suffers from an occasional headache. But frequent, severe headaches could be an indication of a more serious health problem.

The Womenshealth.gov Web site says these warning signs should prompt a visit to your doctor:

* Headaches that occur multiple times each month and persist for hours or days.
* Headaches that are so severe that work, school and home life are affected.
* Headaches accompanied by tingling or numbness, changes in vision, vomiting or nausea.
* Headaches accompanied by pain surrounding the ear or eye, convulsions or stiffness in the neck.
* Losing consciousness or feeling confused during headaches.
* A headache that follows an injury to the head.
* Headaches that suddenly occur when you've rarely had headaches in the past.

Internet

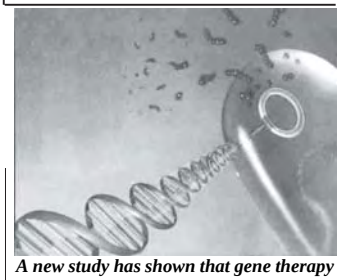
Gene therapy reduces symptoms in Parkinson's patients

BEIJING, 17 March— A new study has shown that gene therapy can reduce symptoms in patients with Parkinson's, media reports said Thursday. The study, published in the journal *Lancet Neurology*, is the first to show positive results in a test of gene therapy against a sham operation in 45 US Parkinson's patients.

The treated group showed a 23.1 percent improvement on a scale of Parkinson's symptoms six months after treatment, compared to a 12.7 percent improvement for patients who received sham surgery, according to the published research. "Gene therapy is no longer just a theory," said Michael Kaplitt, a neurosurgeon at New York-Presbyterian Hospital and Weill Cornell Medical Centre, and one of the study authors. "We are getting much closer to a reality where this treatment can be offered to patients."

In patients with Parkinson's disease, their brains get overactive after losing the normal supply of a chemical called GABA. The new treatment, gene therapy, works by inserting billions of copies of a gene into patients' brains that helps them produce more GABA.

Kaplitt said the results might spur similar treatments for other brain disorders like Alzheimer's, epilepsy and depression.—*Xinhua*



***A new study has shown that gene therapy can reduce symptoms in patients with Parkinson's, media reports said Thursday.*—XINHUA**

Business

Canada seeks closer economic ties with Africa

OTTAWA, 17 March— Canada was the largest foreign investor in Africa's mining industry and its businesses were well positioned to take a leading role in the continent's economic development, a senior official said Tuesday.

Peter Van Loan, the Canadian Minister of International Trade, was addressing a symposium on "Africa Rising: Entrepreneurship and Innovation Frontiers" in Canada's largest city of Toronto, an official release says.

"Canada is committed to strengthening its commercial ties with Africa and expanding trade with the continent," he said, adding that Canadian businesses offered expertise in key economic sectors in Africa.

Canadian companies had the expertise to take on a leading role in developing key sectors in Africa, such as telecommunications, agriculture, energy, transportation, infrastructure, natural resources and education.

In 2010, bilateral trade with Africa reached almost 13 billion Canadian dollars (13.2 billion US dollars).

On 27 Jan, 2011, Canada announced the start of free trade negotiations with Morocco, its first partner on the African continent and seen as a gateway to Mediterranean and North African markets. Canada has so far held discussions with close to 50 countries on its ambitious free trade and investment agenda.—*Xinhua*

***A monitor displaying the conversion rate of the US dollar against the Japanese yen is shown at a foreign exchange firm on Thursday, 17 March, 2011 in Tokyo, Japan. The dollar plunged to 76.53 Japanese yen late Wednesday in New York, falling far below the April 1995 low of 79.75 yen, as leaks of radioactivity from a stricken Japanese nuclear plant have deepened the Asian country's woes following last week's massive earthquake and tsunami.*—INTERNET**

Philippines to pursue open skies policy

MANILA, 17 March— Philippine President Benigno S Aquino III has signed Executive Orders (EO) No 28 and 29, which will further open up the country's aviation industry, Presidential Communications Development and Strategic Planning Secretary Ricky Carandang said Thursday.

EO 28 contains the reorganization of the Philippine Air negotiating panel and the air consultation panel, while EO 29 authorizes the Civil Aeronautics Board and the Philippine Air Panels to pursue more aggressively the international civil aviation liberalization policy. EO 29 aims to "ease restrictions" on domestic aviation. "To boost the country's competitiveness as a tourism destination and investment location, there is a need for the country to pursue more aggressively a liberalization policy in international aviation through the grant of third, fourth and fifth freedom rights and unrestricted capacities and frequencies to foreign air carriers, among others," EO 29 reads. The president has also given the Civil Aviation Authority one year to resolve the issue with the United States and the European Union (EU).—*Xinhua*

S Korean financial regulator tightens rules for savings banks

SEOUL, 17 March— South Korea's financial regulator announced a set of tightened regulations on savings banks Thursday in a bid to improve the financial health of the distressed sector.

The move came after the Financial Services Commission (FSC) suspended operations of eight local savings banks this year, which have been damaged by troubled construction project financing loans.

Major shareholders, who have been blamed for irregular lending practices at local savings banks, will be penalized for their wrongdoing with as much as 40 percent of fines against their illegal activities, the FSC said.

The regulator also tightened qualifications for non-executive directors at savings banks in an effort to keep major shareholder's wrongdoing in check.

To prevent riskier loans from growing more, the FSC plans to limit the ceiling of lending per borrower to 10 billion won (8.8 million US dollars) or 20 percent of their equity capital.—*Xinhua*

Woman gets 18 years for double killing

BELFAST, 17 March— A woman was sentenced to at least 18 years in a Northern Ireland prison for helping her lover murder their spouses 20 years ago.

The judge said Hazel Stewart, 48, has shown "little real remorse" for her actions as he gave her a life sentence with no release for at least 18 years, *The Irish Times* reported. Mr Justice Anthony Hart said he gave her a shorter minimum sentence than that of her former lover because Colin Howell, a dentist now serving at least 21 years, was the mastermind of the killings.

Trevor Buchanan, 32, a police constable, and Lesley Howell, 31, were killed by carbon monoxide poisoning in 1991. Their bodies were found in a garage in Castlerock in what was staged to look like a suicide.

Stewart was convicted 2 March by a jury. Howell admitted the killings two years ago.

Internet

The Yellow River runs through the Ulan Buh Desert in Dengkou County of north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, on 16 March, 2011. As temperature rises, ice in the Yellow River melts. Each year, 60 million tonnes of sand from the Ulan Buh Desert ends up in the Yellow River. **XINHUA**

The Soyuz TMA-01M spacecraft lands near the town of Arkalyk, Kazakhstan on 16 March, 2011.— **INTERNET**

Russian Soyuz returns safely from space mission

KOROLYOV, 17 March—A Russian Soyuz spacecraft carrying a US-Russian trio of astronauts landed safely in Kazakhstan on Wednesday after staying on the $100-billion International Space Station (ISS).

US astronaut Scott Kelly and Russian cosmonauts Oleg Skripochka and Alexander Kaleri arrived at 3:54 am ET, said Russia's Mission Control in Korolyov just outside Moscow.

"There has been a soft landing. The capsule is on earth," an announcer at Russian Mission Control said to huge applause.

The textbook landing will help allay growing concern about relying solely on Russia for rides to the space station, which is shared by 19 nations, just before NASA mothballs its shuttle later this year.

A mishap in October meant three astronauts had to remain an extra day in orbit, scrambling to free jammed latches.

Spectators watched the *Soyuz TMA-01M* enter the atmosphere, leaving behind two flight engineers, American Catherine Coleman and Italian Paolo Nespoli aboard the ISS, which is shared by 16 nations.

Reuters

China discovers virus that killed 36 after getting tick bites

BEIJING, 17 March—Chinese scientists have discovered a previously unknown virus carried by ticks which led to at least 36 deaths in six provinces by last September, according to the latest issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine* published Thursday.

The virus SFTSV (severe fever with thrombocytopenia syndrome bunyavirus) was recently discovered by scientists at the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

People with the virus can experience fever and multiple organ failure.

The presence of the virus was confirmed in 171 patients from six provinces in China. It resulted in at least 36 deaths by September 2010.

CDC Director Wang Yu said between late March and mid-July 2009, symptoms of the infectious disease in humans were reported in rural areas of central Hubei and Henan Provinces, but the cause of the symptoms were unknown then.

Major clinical symptoms included fever, thrombocytopenia, gastrointestinal symptoms, and leukocytopenia, and there was "an unusually high initial case fatality rate of 30 percent," Wang said.

Li Dexin, director of the CDC's virus institute, said farmers living in mountainous areas were most prone to tick bites which were prevalent between May and July.

The virus institute had conducted test on more than 600 shares of patients' blood serum, which showed that the SFTSV was the killer.—*Xinhua*

Microsoft web browser IE 9 on its way

BEIJING, 17 March—After one-year effort of developing, Microsoft is going to release its newest web browser Internet Explorer 9 at 9:00 pm Pacific time on Monday, according to media reports.

The IE 9 will be the first major Web browser to include a do-not-track tool that helps people keep their online habits from being monitored, which makes Google Inc. and Apple Inc. the only big providers of browsers that haven't yet declared their support for a do-no-track system in their products.

IE 9 can work on computers running Windows Vista and Windows 7 operating systems, but not compatible with Windows XP. This final release-to-Web version of IE 9 represents the ninth release since the first platform preview of the browser appeared at the MIX 10 Web developer event, said Ryan Gavin, the senior director of Internet Explorer business and marketing. Gavin pointed out that the browser has already made its mark in Microsoft's download history. "We're seeing now upwards of two percent share already on Windows 7 for IE 9, even in beta stage. It was the fastest adopted beta ever in Microsoft's history," he said.—*Xinhua*

Mexico detains 89 undocumented Central American migrants

MEXICO CITY, 17 March— Mexican migratory agents detained 89 Central American undocumented migrants in Tepeapulco municipality in Hidalgo state, centre of the country, the Interior Ministry said on Wednesday.

The Ministry said in a statement that the undocumented were detained in the last 48 hours, and that among them there are 58 Honduran, 16 Guatemalans and 15 Salvadorians. Among the detainees are 80 men, five women and four minors.

The operation was carried out by agents of the National Institute of Migration, state police and municipal police.

According to the National Institute of migration (INM) some 300,000 undocumented migrants enter Mexico each year illegally, most of them stay working in Mexico and very few are able to reach the United States.—*Xinhua*

Over 100 people evacuated from Western Australian flooded town

SYDNEY, 17 March—More than 100 people have been evacuated from a severely flooded town in Western Australia's east Kimberley Region, where 45 homes have been destroyed and another 20 remain uninhabitable, the government of Western Australia (WA) said on Wednesday.

The Department for Child Protection (DCP) said 103 people have been evacuated by helicopter and bus from Warmun to Kununurra in far northern WA.

Another 100 people were housed overnight at Turkey Creek, a small Aboriginal community situated between Kununurra and Halls Creek in northern WA and will be evacuated on Wednesday, the DCP said.—*Xinhua*

A man checks his surfing board near waves at Arpoador Beach, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 16 March, 2011. Strong winds and an extratropical cyclone created rough seas off the southeast coast of Brazil.— **XINHUA**

A PlayBook for fighting Apple and Google

Mike Lazaridis, president and co-chief executive officer of Research in Motion, holds the new Blackberry PlayBook with a screen projection of the device as he speaks at the RIM Blackberry developers conference in San Francisco, California on 27 September, 2010. INTERNET

WATERLOO, 17 March—Once upon a time, BlackBerry was king. Then came the iPhone, followed by Android. And BlackBerry seemingly lost its way — if not quite its throne.

Research In Motion is holding on to profit growth and impressive margins. For all the consumer appeal of Apple products, BlackBerry is still dominant in corporate mobile communications and RIM sells millions of its workaholic devices each quarter to a growing global audience.

But the attention of investors, analysts and developers is drifting elsewhere and the Canadian company, in the midst of a major platform and product transition, is seen possessing but a small window of opportunity to reinvigorate itself and match the momentum of rival mobile monarchs Apple and Google.

The PlayBook tablet computer, due to launch within weeks after a six-month pitch, is RIM's first product to use an industrial-strength operating system based on QNX, a powerhouse microkernel (rather than the typical monolithic kernel) which RIM bought last year and aims to incorporate into its future smartphones.—*Reuters*

Nikkei closes 5.68% higher

A man walks past a stock price board in a street, on 14 March, 2011 in Tokyo, Japan. XINHUA

TOKYO, 17 March—Tokyo stocks closed sharply higher Wednesday with the key Nikkei index up 5.68 percent.

The benchmark Nikkei 225 Average jumped 488.57 points to 9,093. 72. The broader Topix index was up 50.90 points, or 6.64 percent, to 817.63.

Trading volume on the main section shrank to 4905.37 million shares from 5777.15 million Tuesday. On the First Section advancing shares beat declining ones 1,541 to 121, with 15 others remaining unchanged.

Xinhua

Australian climate adviser sets range for carbon tax

CANBERRA, 17 March— Australian federal government climate change adviser Ross Garnaut on Thursday suggested that the carbon tax should be set at between 19.6 US dollars and 29.4 US dollars a tonne when it is introduced next year.

Earlier, the federal government announced its plan to introduce a fixed price on carbon from July 2012. The carbon tax will then morph into an emissions trading scheme in three or five years time. The details of the carbon tax and the amount of compensation are yet to be determined.

Professor Garnaut on Thursday released the latest update of his landmark 2008 climate change report, calling for an initial carbon price of between 19.6 US dollars and 29.4 US dollars a tonne.

He said the price should then rise at four percent per year before being replaced by a floating price in an emissions trading scheme in 2015.

Professor Garnaut said half of the revenue from a carbon tax should be returned to low to middle-income households through tax cuts, welfare changes and energy efficiency measures.

"Overall, lower and middle income earners in Australia will be better off directly as a result of these arrangements and in addition future generations of their family will be protected from dangerous climate change," he told the *National Press Club* in Canberra on Thursday.

He has also suggested some revenue go to businesses to invest in emissions-reducing technologies.

Xinhua

Iran launches bio-capsule into space

TEHERAN, 17 March — Iran has launched a bio-capsule into space with its Kavoshgar-4 rocket, the official *IRNA* news agency reported on Thursday, quoting the media bureau of Iran's presidential office.

The aero-space researchers of Iran's Space Organization launched the capsule on Tuesday, the bureau was cited as reporting by *IRNA*.

The purpose of the launch of the test-capsule was to study the performance of the system and the sub-systems of programming, said the report.

Xinhua

Photo taken on 16 March, 2011 shows a destroyed bus in Linfen, north China's Shanxi Province. A truck-bus collision killed 12 people on Wednesday in north China's Shanxi Province, local authorities said. The accident occurred at around 5 am in Yaodu District of Linfen City. Twenty-seven people were aboard the bus while three people were in the truck at the time of the accident.—XINHUA

12 dead in road accident in north China

TAIYUAN, 17 March—A truck-bus collision killed 12 people on Wednesday in north China's Shanxi Province, local authorities said.

The accident occurred around 5 am in Yaodu District of Linfen City. Twenty-seven people were aboard the bus while three people were in the truck at the time of the accident.

Nine people died at the scene, and three died later in hospital. Sixteen others were injured.

Police are investigating the cause of the accident.

Xinhua

19 pigs test positive to illegal additive in China's Henan Province

ZHENGZHOU, 17 March— Nineteen pigs in central China's Henan Province have tested positive to having a banned additive in their urine, the city government said Thursday.

Out of 689 pigs awaiting slaughter and processing by Jiyuan Shuanghui Food Co, Ltd, 19 tested positive to having Clenbuterol, an illegal additive poisonous to humans, according to a Jiyuan City government statement.

The city government is also investigating more than 1,300 pig farms and 130 feed and vet drug stores, said the statement. No results have been disclosed yet.

Fourteen people, including seven pig farm managers, six brokers and one purchaser of Jiyuan Shuanghui, were under police custody, according to the provincial government.

At least 6 officials and workers at local animal quarantine stations have been fired or suspended from duty, it said.

All suspected meat products have been taken off shelves, and all feedstuff and meat confirmed to contain the additive have been destroyed. Tests would be further performed throughout the province, said Li Mengshun, chief of the provincial animal husbandry bureau.

Xinhua

Photo taken on 16 March, 2011 shows the pigs at the Jiyuan Shuanghui, a subsidiary company of Shuanghui Group, in Jiyuan, central China's Henan Province. XINHUA

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party share merits gained.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe, wife…

(from page 1)

Staff Officer Saddhamma Jotikadhaja U Thura of the Religious Affairs Department acted as MC.

Members of the Sangha and the congregation opened the ceremony by reciting *Namo Tassa* three times.

Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party took the Nine Precepts from Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Presiding Nayaka of Bhamo Monastery of Mandalay Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa.

Members of the Sangha recited Metta Paritta.

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing offered robes and provisions to the Chairman Sayadaw.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San offered robes and alms to Secretary of SSMNC Presiding Nayaka of Chaukhtetgyi Phayagyi Sasana Nuggaha Monastery of Yangon Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Khemindasami.

SPDC member Thura U Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet presented robes and offertories to Vice-Chairman of the SSMNC Presiding Nayaka of Masoeyein Monastery of Mahaaungmyay Township of Mandalay Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Tejosarabhivamsa.

Prime Minister U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win donated robes and alms to Vice-Chairman Sayadaw Presiding Nayaka of Myasigon Monastery of Toungoo Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Pandavamsa.

Secretary-1 Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin offered robes and provisions to Vice-Chairman Sayadaw Presiding Nayaka of Lewun Monastery of Thaton Township of Mon State Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Sirinda.

SPDC member U Tin Aye also presented robes and provisions to Chairman of Tipitakadhara Ovadaçariya Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru (title recipient) Abbot of Paukmyaing Monastery of Mandalay Bhaddanta Aggavamsabhivamsa.

General Min Aung Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla offered robes and alms to Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru (title recipient) Abbot of Mandalay Maha Wizitayon Monastery Bhaddanta Viçarindabhivamsa.

The Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air) and senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence donated robes and provisions to members of the Sangha.

Secretary Sayadaw Bhaddanta Khemindasami delivered a sermon, and the Senior General and wife and party shared merits gained.

(See page 9)

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San offer provisions to Secretary of SSMNC Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Khemindasami.—MNA

Daw Kyaing Kyaing offers alms to a religious title recipient nun.

MNA

SPDC member Thura U Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet offer robes and provisions to Vice-Chairman Sayadaw of SSMNC Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Tejosarabhivamsa.

MNA

Secretary-1 Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin donate robes and offertories to Vice-Chairman Sayadaw of SSMNC Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Sirinda.—MNA

General Min Aung Hlaing of Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla offer robes and provisions to Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru (title recipient) Sayadaw Bhaddanta Viçarindabhivamsa.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe, wife…

(from page 8)

The ceremony came to an end with three-time recitation of Buddha Sasanam Çiram Titthatu.

Later, Daw Kyaing Kyaing, wife of Senior General Than Shwe, presented offertories to title recipient nuns.

After the ceremony, Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party offered meals to members of the Sangha.—*MNA*

Prime Minister U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win present robes and alms to Vice-Chairman Sayadaw of SSMNC Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Pandavamsa.—MNA

SPDC member U Tin Aye presents robes and alms to Tipitaka-dhara Ovaçariya Committee Chairman Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru (title recipient) Bhaddanta Aggavamsa-bhivamsa.

MNA

Dy Education Minister visits BEHS No.6 in Zabuthiri

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March — Deputy Minister for Education U Aung Myo Min met with supervisors and assistant supervisors at the office of Basic Education High School No.6 in Zabuthiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw District this morning. The deputy minister called on them to discharge their duties in accord with directives and rules and regulations. Next, Deputy Minister U Aung Myo Min inspected rooms at the exam centre.—*MNA*

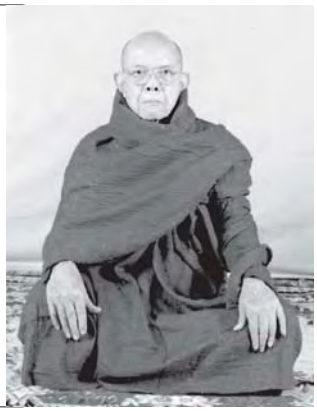
Myanmar Tennis Team leaves for Kuala Lumpur

YANGON, 17 March— A two-member Myanmar Tennis Team of Myanmar Tennis Federation left here for Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to take part in ITF 14&Under Asian Championships 2011 Group (I) Tennis Tournament to be held in Jakarta of Indonesia from 21 March to 4 April.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by officials of Sports and Physical Education Department and Treasurer of MTF U Tin Htoo.

Before in ITF 14&Under Asian Championships 2011 Group (I) Tennis Tournament, selected tennis players from Groups (II), (III) and (IV) will be in training for the competition together with selected coaches of ITF from 17 to 20 March.— *MNA*

State Ovadaçariya Sayadaw passes away



State Ovadaçariya Sayadaw Abbot of Maha Withutayama Monastery of Pakokku Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Sumangala.
MNA

YANGON, 17 March— State Ovadaçariya Sayadaw Abbot of Maha Withutayama Monastery of Pakokku in Magway Region Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Sumangala, aged 80 and 60 vasa, passed away at 9.20 pm on 16 March (Wednesday), according to the Department of Religious Affairs.

MNA

Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo provides necessary assistance to Myanmar citizens

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March—Ministry of Foreign Affairs today released a statement saying an earthquake occurred on 11 March in Japan is the worst in 140 years. The quake caused minor damage to five-storey Myanmar embassy in Tokyo and a crack appeared in it. In order to be free from danger, office on the second floor was moved to the first floor. So, the office was closed for about a half day. Now, the embassy is kept open and is carrying out consular affairs of Myanmar. In addition, the Embassy helps Myanmar citizens who want to depart from Japan. To be able to avoid dangers in the aftermath of the earthquake, the embassy will continue to provide necessary assistances to them.—*MNA*

Construction of tower across Hline River inspected

YANGON, 17 March—Deputy Minister for Electric Power No. 2 Dr Win Myint on 26 February morning inspected the Power System Protection and Test Lab (Yangon) of Myanma Electric Power Enterprise in Ahlon Township.

In-charge Superintending Engineer U Soe Min Tun reported on organizational set-up, strength of present staff, duty and functions and meter test boxes.

In the afternoon, the deputy minister visited the 230-KV Hlinethaya-Ahlon power grid (Hline river crossing) tower construction project on Strand Road in Ahlon Township. Officials reported on progress of works.

After inspecting the worksite, the deputy minister instructed officials to place emphasis on worksite safety and timely completion of tasks.—*MNA*

Nay Pyi Taw Thingyan Festival Tour Golf Cup on 14 April

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March—The Tour Golf Cup for Nay Pyi Taw Thingyan Festival 2011 will be held at Royal Myanmar Golf Course, Yepyar Tatmadaw Golf Course and City Golf Course from 14 to 16 April.

The tour will be categorized into gold and silver levels for the individual divisions. First and second prizes will be presented daily in the team event and from the first to the fifth prizes to the winners in the individual event.

The best team is well worth getting the Tour Gold Cup and gold prizes plus 1 million each, the second, sliver prizes and K 700,000 and the best player, gold prize and K 1 million and the second best player, silver prize and K 700,000, after partaking in the three golf courses each for three days.

Any team may be formed with six players including two Pros and players are to take part in the tournament at Handicap Zero level.

Golf enthusiasts may contact Nay Pyi Taw City Development Committee, Ph: 067-414617 or 414289 (Fax), not later than 8 April.

MNA

16151.1 acres of poppy plantations razed

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March —During the 2010-11 poppy cultivation season, 15708.8 acres of poppy plantations were destroyed from 1 September, 2011 to 6 March, 2011.

As more 442.3 acres of poppy plantations—428 acres in Mongping, Kengtung, Mongmit, Kutkai, Namhkam, Lashio, Mongton and Hsihseng in Shan State and 14.3 acres in Putao in Kachin State— were destroyed from 7 to 13 March, the poppy acreage which was under destruction reached 16151.1 acres.—*MNA*

Fire breaks out in Zabuthiri Township

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March— A fire broke out at a group of workers' hut in Zabuthiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw District on 13 March. The cause was due to amber. A total of nine huts were destroyed by the fire. Negligence was accounted for 77.57 percent of the fires occurred during February in 2011. Fire Service Department has reminded the public to be aware of fire and take preventive measures.

MNA

Farmers fetching much…

(from page 16)

With regard to price of fruit in the market, he explained, "Water melons could be sold at 900 to 1000 kyats per fruit depending on the size. We spent K 500,000-K 600,000 of cultivation cost per acre. Fruits from one acre fetched about K 1.4 million to K 1.5 million, so we bag about K 900,000 as net income. We sent the fruits to markets near Nay Pyi Taw, Mawlamyine, Yangon and nearby Tatkon. Due to utmost efforts in cultivation, we could get higher price this year than last year."

He continued to say that he grew 2000 water melon plants per acre. He removed young fruits except the best one. Before sowing the seeds, he soaked the seeds in water for 12 hours. Next, the seeds were kept in the paddy for two nights for warming. After that, each seed was sown in a small plastic bag. Within seven to eight days, the sprouts developed with three to four leaves. So, they could be grown in the field. The saplings must be fed with wastage of cow and kimira fertilizer, he said.

He further explained that the plants were to be fumigated if necessary. In about two months, the water melon can be plucked for sale, he added.

We had an interview with Ma Zar Zar Nyo of Khayansatgon Village, who was selling water melons near Shadaw Village. She said that she grew one acre of water melons Shadaw Village. Due to better market situation, she sent water melons to Muse. She cultivated 2000 plants of water melon on one acre of land. Customers arrived there and bought the fruits. Prices were fixed at K 900 to K 1000 per fruit. After harvesting water melons, she has planned to grow onion, chilli and green gram on the same land.

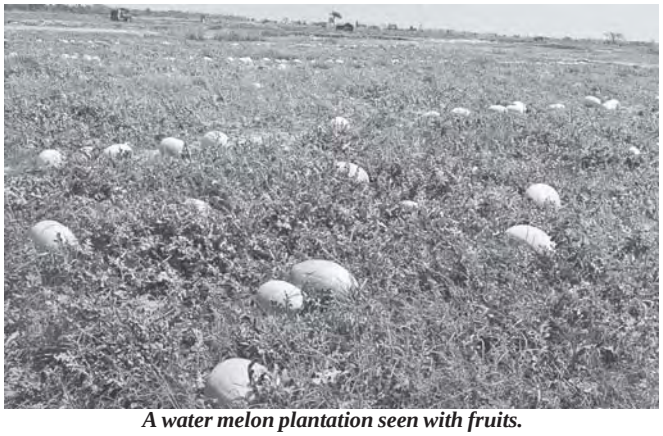
The largest amount of water melon can be harvested in February and March. This fruit contributes to the health of human. The succulent fruits can be free from thirsty in the hot and dry season.

Cultivation of water melon can fetch much income in a short time, so the farmers should grow water melon on a commercial scale.

Translation: TTA
Kyemon: 13-3-2011

Ma Zar Zar Nyo of Khayansatgon Village.

U Zaw Wan of Shadaw Village seen with a succulent water melon.



A water melon plantation seen with fruits.

Indian central bank raises key interest rates by 25 basic points

MUMBAI, 17 March— Indian central bank Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced on Thursday that it will hike key interest rates by 25 basis points (bps) to contain inflation.

Indian repo rate for RBI to inject liquidity to the system and reverse repo rate for RBI to drain liquidity from the market are lifted to 6.75 percent from 6.45 percent and 5.75 percent from 5.5 percent, respectively.

The monetary tightening move falls in line with market expectations but will bring some pressure to the banking system.

Meanwhile, RBI revised its inflation forecast by the end of March upwardly to around 8 percent from previous projection of 7 percent, due to higher international crude oil prices and domestic liberalization of petroleum pricing.

The central bank also warned that the continuing uncertainty on energy and commodity prices may vitiate Indian investment climate, posing a threat to current growth trajectory.

Though it's early to assess macroeconomic impacts of natural disaster in Japan, substitution of thermal for nuclear energy in Japan may exert further pressure on petroleum prices, said the monetary policy review issued by RBI.

Indian central bank has raised key interest rates eight times since March 2010 to curb persistent inflation with repo and reverse repo rate lift by 2 percent and 2.5 percent, respectively.

Xinhua

Troupers perform dance drama "Liberation" during the Shanxi Art Festival held at Shanghai Grand Theater in east China's Shanghai, on 16 March, 2011. Seven performance featuring traditional Shanxi characters, including the dance drama "A Handful of Sour Dates" and "Liberation" directed by Zhang Jigang, will be staged at the festival from 16 March to 6 April. —XINHUA

China Mobile buys handsets distributor at 36 mln USD

HONG KONG, 17 March—China Mobile announced Wednesday it entered into an agreement to acquire the entire share capital of China Topssion Communication Co, Ltd at 237 million yuan (about 36.05 million US dollars).

As China Mobile Communications Corporation, one of the vendors, is the ultimate controlling shareholder of China Mobile, the acquisition constitutes a connected transaction.

Other vendors include ZTE Corporation, Eastern Communications Co,Ltd, Beijing Digital China Limited, Ningbo Bird Co, Ltd and Shenzhen Huawei Investment & Holdings Co, Ltd.

After years of operation, Topssion has managed to accumulate rich experience in terminal business, with strong distribution and retail capabilities and a sizable sales volume.

Xinhua

Workers drag a submarine cable onshore in Chengsi Island, Zhoushan City, east China's Zhejiang Province, on 16 March, 2011.
XINHUA

Two men killed at Travelers camp in England

MILDENHALL, 17 March — A 40-year-old suspect was arrested Wednesday on suspicion of killing two men at a Travelers' camp in eastern England, police said.

The man, whose name had not yet been released, was being held for questioning, the *BBC* reported.

The double shooting occurred Tuesday at Willow Park, a trailer camp in the village of Beck Row near Mildenhall in Suffolk. One of the bodies was found in a burning car, and the fire spread to two trailers, the *Newmarket* Journal said.

Travelers are people who typically lead a nomadic or semi-nomadic life. In England they can be either Romani, the group formerly known as Gypsies, who originated in India, or Irish Travelers, a group that developed its own dialect and lifestyle.

Suffolk Chief Superintendent Stewart Gull said at a news conference the bodies were found Tuesday night after a local resident reported hearing what sounded like gunfire. He said both men had visible shotgun wounds.

Gull said the killings might be related to a 17 Feb shooting at Willow Park.—*Internet*

'Oliver Twist' workhouse saved from demolition

LONDON, 17 March — The British government announced Monday it has given protected status to a former workhouse thought to have inspired Charles Dickens' "Oliver Twist," a move that should save the building from demolition.

Heritage minister John Penrose said the austere Georgian edifice was "an eloquent reminder of one of the grimmer aspects of London's 18th-century social history."

He said the building had been given Grade II listed status, meaning it can't be demolished and any redevelopment must take account of its "special architectural and historic interest."

The run-down building in central London had been slated to be replaced by a new housing development, but local residents and academics fought a campaign to save it.

The young Dickens lived nine doors away and scholars say the sights and sounds of the building were probably the basis for the workhouse where orphan Oliver is incarcerated in his 1838 novel, and where he is punished after saying, "Please, sir, I want some more."—*Internet*

In this 24 Feb, 2011 file photo, people walk by a dilapidated brick building in central London, where historians believe its neighbour and author Charles Dickens used the building, which was once a workhouse, as inspiration for his novel Oliver Twist.—INTERNET

Explosion leaves two dead, two missing in central China

CHANGSHA, 17 March — A plant thought to have been abandoned exploded Wednesday, leaving two dead, two missing, in central China's Hunan Province, an official said Thursday.

The explosion occurred at 7:30 pm at the plant in Linwu County of Chenzhou City, which shattered windows of nearby houses, killed two people at the scene, said the official of the county's government. As of Thursday, two people were still missing.

An initial investigation found that the blast was caused by illegal explosives production, police said. Two suspects had been detained by police.

Xinhua

A girl demonstrates the traditional Chinese Suzhou Embroidery at the Ideal Home Show held at Earls Court Exhibition Centre in London, Britain, on 16 March, 2011.
XINHUA

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV HAL ADMIRALTY VOYNO(020N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HAL ADMIRALTY VOY NO (020N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.3.2011 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S HARTMANN ASIA CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Airlines monitoring radiation, making adjustments to flights in Japan

TOKYO, 17 March — Air carriers are watching the situation at Japan's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant closely, making contingency plans and routing adjustments to keep operations running smoothly and protect passengers and crew from radiation risks. German airline Lufthansa and Italian carrier Alitalia have rerouted flights to and from the Tokyo area to other Japanese airports.

Alitalia has rerouted Tokyo flights to Osaka, Japan.— INTERNET

Lufthansa's flights to and from Frankfurt and Munich are going to Osaka and Nagoya instead of Tokyo/Narita "in an effort to ensure that [the airline's] operations to Japan remain as stable as possible and provide sufficient capacity for its passengers," Lufthansa said in a statement. The altered schedule is expected to last as least through the weekend. Since Sunday, the airline has been scanning aircraft returning from Japan for radiation.

"To date, none of the tests has detected any radioactivity," the statement said.Alitalia started rerouting all of its flights in and out of Tokyo airports to Osaka on Wednesday. Spokesman Clemente Senni said the change is designed to guarantee uninterrupted service to its passengers.

Internet

Quake strikes near Vanuatu, but no tsunami threat

SYDNEY, 17 March—A 6.5-magnitude earthquake has struck in the Pacific Ocean near Vanuatu but officials say there is no danger of a destructive tsunami. The US Geological Survey said the quake hit Thursday afternoon about 50 miles (77 kilometres) northwest of the Vanuatu capital of Port Vila. It was 17 miles (26 kilometres) under the sea floor.

The Hawaii-based Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre said historical data showed no threat of a destructive widespread tsunami. —*Internet*

Scientists say quartz is key to understanding quakes

SALMON, 17 March— Underground quartz deposits worldwide may be behind earthquakes, mountain building and other continental tectonics, a discovery that may aid in predicting tremblers, according to a study released on Wednesday.

The findings by Utah State University geophysicist Anthony Lowry and a colleague at the University of London, to be published Thursday in the journal *Nature*, may solve a riddle of the ages about the formation and location of earthquake faults, mountains, valleys and plains. "Certainly the question of why mountains occur where they do has been around since the dawn of time," Lowry told *Reuters*.

Security guards stand in front of a 300 kg quartz piece two days before the opening of an exhibition of crystals discovered in the region of the Saint-Gotthard mount, in Fluelen, near Lucerne, on 29 March, 2007.—INTERNET

He and research partner Marta Perez-Gussinye examined temperature and gravity across the Western United States from a movable network of seismic instruments to describe the geological properties of the earth's crust. The scientists discovered that quartz crystal deposits are found wherever mountains or fault lines occur in states like California, Idaho, Nevada and Utah.

Reuters

Boy sells 'manly' scented candles

NEW YORK, 17 March — A 13-year-old boy from the US has launched his own line of scented candles meant for men, with fragrances that include bacon, New York-style pizza, sawdust and the smell of a fresh leather baseball mitt. Hart Main, from Marysville in central Ohio, said he got the idea for his "Mancans" when he was making fun of his sister for selling candles with girly scents for a school fundraiser.

Columbus station WCMH-TV reported he launched his company last Thanksgiving, making the candles using scores of empty cans from soup he donated to a soup kitchen. —*Internet*

***A boy from the US has launched a range of scented candles for men.* INTERNET**

Five dead in California plane crash

LONG BEACH, 17 March — A twin-engine plane crashed on takeoff from the airport in Long Beach, Calif, on Wednesday, killing five people and injuring a sixth, authorities said.

The dead included local developers Jeff Berger and Tom Dean, and bicycle advocate Mark Bixby, the *Long Beach Press-Telegram* reported. The identities of the other to people who died hadn't been released.— *Internet*

This dog has just been bought for £1m. So why is he so valuable?

The Tibetan mastiff is more commonly black and gold. — INTERNET

LONDON, 17 March —The assembled ranks of the press shook their heads in disbelief when, in 1979, Trevor Francis was revealed as the first £1m footballer. Now, someone has paid almost that sum for a red Tibetan mastiff.Big Splash, or Hong Dong in Chinese, has been sold for 10million Chinese yuan, some £945,000. But while Francis scored the winning goal for Nottingham Forest and his new master, Brian Clough, in the European Cup final three months later, Hong Dong's practical uses are decidedly limited.

So why so much money? For the same reason that a caffe latte costs a lot more than it used to, that last year 33 Chilean miners returned to a shut down mine, and that a vase sold for £53m in an auction in Ruislip, West London. Be it milk, copper, works of art or pedigree dogs, if the Chinese want something, they get it, whatever the price. "The Tibetan Mastiff in the UK will traditionally sell for £600 to £1,000," explained Bill Lambert of the Kennel Club. "The high price is a reflection of how the breed has become a fashionable and revered status symbol in China. Prices will similarly rise amongst certain breeds in the UK when they are perceived to be fashionable, but never to this extent."

Internet

Naked neck chicken mystery solved

EDINBURGH, 17 March — British scientists have helped discover why a type of chicken with a bald neck has such a distinctive appearance. Researchers at the Roslin Institute at the University of Edinburgh found the way vitamin A is converted by the skin on the Transylvanian naked neck chicken combined with a protein in the flesh allowed it to shed feathers around its neck.

A total of 12 scientists worked on the research from Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh and locations in France, Mexico and Switzerland.Dr Denis Headon, who led the research at the Roslin Institute, said: "We found that the substance produced from vitamin A on the skin combined with the protein BMP12 contributes to its vulture-like appearance.

"A genetic mutation affects BMP12 contributing to the loss of feathers. The skin on the neck is therefore primed to lose feathers as a result of this. "Not only does this help our understanding of developmental biology and give insight into how different breeds have evolved, but it could have practical implications for helping poultry production in hot countries, including those in the developing world."

Internet

British scientists have helped discover why Transylvanian naked neck chickens have such a distinctive appearance.— INTERNET

The countdown clock for the London Olympics is unveiled in Trafalgar Square in central London, England, on 14 March. The countdown clock stopped on Tuesday in an embarrassing incident less than a day after it was unveiled in a glitzy launch.

London 2012 countdown clock makes false start

London Olympic organisers were left red-faced on Tuesday when a huge clock in Trafalgar Square marking the countdown to the 2012 Games stopped just hours after being unveiled at a glitzy ceremony.

The steel digital clock measuring 6.5 metres tall and five metres long froze with 500 days, 7 hours, 6 minutes and 56 seconds to go before the start of the Games.

It had been unveiled on Monday by London Olympic organising committee (LOCOG) chairman Sebastian Coe and four British Olympic gold medallists, coinciding with 6.6 million Games tickets going on sale.

"We are obviously very disappointed that the clock has suffered this technical issue," a spokesman for Swiss watchmakers Omega said in a statement.

However, a LOCOG spokeswoman laughed off the malfunction, adding "it is not our clock."

Trafalgar Square is where Londoners gathered in 2005 to hear their city announced as winning bidders.

Omega said the clock, with its unique design for 2012, had been developed by experts and fully tested ahead of its launch.

"We are currently looking into why this happened and expect to have the clock functioning as normal as soon as possible," a spokesman added.

The clock's design draws heavily on the geometric lines of the 2012 logo and Greenwich Mean Time, organisers said.

Omega will also provide the timepieces for the Games, as they have done since 1932.

Babies play tricks.

The magic of North Korea: a disappearing plane

North Korea, renowned for its secrecy and incredible artistic performances, is now planning the ultimate magic show — complete with disappearing aircraft.

The North's state-run *KCNA* news agency reported that the capital Pyongyang would host a "new form" of magic show in which the aircraft, a bus full of passengers and elephant would be made to disappear.

The Pyongyang Circus, which has conducted 250 tours around the world, has won more than 70 awards including 36 gold prizes at 38 international circus festivals, *KCNA* reported.

Impoverished and isolated North Korea is famous for its mass gymnastics and dancing performances, with children trained from the age of five to perform in mass games such as the Arirang Festival to mark the birth of the state's founder Kim Il-sung.

German submarine lost during World War One found off Dutch coast

The Dutch Navy has discovered a German submarine which was lost along with its more than 40 crew members during World War One, the Dutch Ministry of Defence announced on Wednesday.

The Ministry said the missing SM U-106 submarine was found about 40 miles (64 kilometres) north of the Dutch island of Terschelling. It was discovered by the Navy vessel Hr Ms Snellius in October 2009, but its discovery was not announced until Wednesday.

"The news is only now released because the information had to be confirmed by German authorities and, where possible, relatives informed," the Ministry said in a statement.

News Album

Warrant issued for "Kill Bill" star Michael Madsen

BEIJING, 17 March— An arrest warrant has been issued for American actor Michael Madsen, who was absent from a hearing in his child or spousal support case, according to foreign media report Sunday.

Madsen, 53, allegedly owed nearly 570,000 US dollars in child and spousal support.

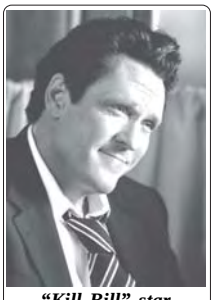
He failed to show up for a hearing in his ongoing child or spousal support case last week, which prompted the judge to issue the warrant. The bail has reportedly already been set for 26,000 US dollars.

Madsen married three times, to Georganne LaPiere, Jeannine Bisignano and current wife Deanna Morgan. He is responsible for the support of five children in total.

The 53-year-old star filed bankruptcy back in 2009, when he was unable to pay personal loans from Pierce Brosnan and Quentin Tarantino. He appeared earlier this month in New York City for the screening of the "The Bleeding" to celebrate the DVD release.

Madsen, brother of Oscar nominee Virginia Madsen, is world-famous for his excellent performance in movie "Kill Bill" and vedio game "Reservior Dogs."

Xinhua



"Kill Bill" star Michael Madsen.

Cast members Robert Pattinson (L), Kristen Stewart (C) and Taylor Lautner pose at the premiere of "The Twilight Saga: Eclipse" during the Los Angeles Film Festival at Nokia theatre at LA Live in Los Angeles on 24 June, 2010.—INTERNET

Twilight Saga: "Breaking Dawn" stars evacuated due to tsunami warning

BEIJING, 17 March—"Breaking Dawn", the production on "The Twilight" has been postponed due to the tsunami warnings in Canada. The cast and crew including stars Kristen Stewart and Taylor Lautner were forced to evacuate from the set of the movie.

This film, which is shooting in a Vancouver Island beach area in British Columbia, has been delayed owing to tsunami advisories following the strong earthquake that struck Japan early on 12 March, according to a statement Summit Entertainment said to *MTV News.*

Although the cast was not in any danger, the "Twilight" co-stars along with the rest of the Wolf Pack were transported out of the region for safety measures, reported US magazine. "All cast and crew were evacuated to base camp. Everyone is safe and sound," writes a Twilight Sage page on Facebook.—*Xinhua*

Daniel Radcliffe to play "How to Succeed" after "Harry Potter"

BEIJING, 17 March— The "Harry Potter" actor Daniel Radcliffe is leaving Hogwarts and starring in his first Broadway musical, a revival of the 50-year-old Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize winner "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying".

For Daniel Radcliffe,this play will be his second Broadway appearance. As early as 2007, he has made his stage debut in a revival of the 1975 Tony-winning best play "Equus" after finishing the sixth film in the franchise—"Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince".

Daniel Radcliffe. **XINHUA**

This time in "How to Succeed'', Radcliffe is going to play J Pierpont Finch, a young window cleaner who, with the help of a Machiavellian guidebook, climbs to the top of a huge company while, of course, winning a girl's love along the way. Audiences have been pleased with the news.

Xinhua

SPORTS

Germany's Schalke fire coach Magath

BERLIN, 17 March — Champions League quarter-finalists Schalke sacked coach Felix Magath on Wednesday in an acrimonious split following a crisis meeting of the German club's board.

"We made revisions and found things are not as we need them to be," said the Schalke chairman, Clemens Toennies.

Champions League quarter-finalists Schalke sacked coach Felix Magath, INTERNET

Having won the Bundesliga title with both Wolfsburg and Bayern Munich, Magath has been dismissed from his role as both coach and manager of the club with ex-Hoffenheim coach Ralf Rangnick reported to be favourite to take over.

Magath's assistant Seppo Eichkorn took training on Wednesday.

A legal battle now looms, with Magath set to take his former employers to court to try to claim back 12 million euros ($16.5 million) of lost earnings following the termination of a contract that had been due to run until 2013.

Internet

Abidal prepares for season-ending operation

MADRID, 17 March — France defender Eric Abidal had been enjoying his best season ever with Spanish champions Barcelona, but is now preparing to go into hospital for surgery to remove a liver tumour.

France defender Eric Abidal

The club said the operation would begin at 4:00pm (1500GMT) on Thursday.

That was a day earlier than originally planned, for organisational reasons and not due to any deterioration in his condition, the club said.

Barcelona called for "the utmost respect for his right to privacy".

Sports daily Mundo Deportivo, quoting sources at the club, said Barca hope the tumour has been detected early enough.

Internet

Yandle, Rozsival lift Coyotes over Flames 4-3

CALGARY, 17 March — Keith Yandle and Michal Rozsival scored 19 seconds apart early in the third period to lift the Phoenix Coyotes to a 4-3 win over the Calgary Flames on Tuesday night in a key Western Conference matchup.

***Phoenix Coyotes' Michal Rozsival, right, from the Czech Republic, celebrates his goal against the Calgary Flames with Vernon Fiddler, center, and David Schlemko, left, during the third period of an NHL hockey game in Calgary, Alberta, on 15 March, 2011.*— INTERNE**

Yandle put Phoenix up 3-1 with his 11th goal at 1:53 of the third when his centering pass deflected in off the knee of Flames defenceman Jay Bouwmeester.

The Coyotes increased their lead to three when Roszival's point shot went through a crowd and beat Flames goalie Miikka Kiprusoff.

Internet

Ferguson gets five-match ban over ref rant

Sir Alex Ferguson

LONDON, 17 March — Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson has been banned for five matches following his tirade against referee Martin Atkinson, the Football Association announced on Wednesday.

Ferguson landed in hot water with the FA after blasting Atkinson's performance in the Red Devils' 2-1 defeat against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge earlier this month.

The United manager ignored advice from his club's legal department and vowed to contest charges of improper conduct, but has now been hit by a hefty ban as his team enter a critical phase of the season.

Ferguson had appeared to question Atkinson's integrity when he stated that he had wanted a "fair referee" to control the match with Chelsea.

"You want a fair referee, or a strong referee anyway — and we didn't get that," said Ferguson in the aftermath of the defeat.—*Internet*

Korean sides on top in Asian Champions League

NEW DELHI, 17 March — Suwon Samsung Bluewings and Jeonbuk Motors romped to comprehensive 4-0 wins in the Asian Champions League on Wednesday as South Korean sides continued their powerful start to the competition.

***Ha Tae-Gyun (centre) of South Korea's Suwon Bluewings celebrates scoring against China's Shanghai.*—INTERNET**

Elsewhere, China's Shandong Luneng beat Japan's Cerezo Osaka 2-0 at home. The match between Kashima Antlers and Sydney FC was postponed due to the earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

Suwon top Group H with two wins out of two after Ha Tae-Gyun hit a hat-trick against China's Shanghai Shenhua.

The result was never in doubt after Ha put Suwon ahead early as the hosts dominated. Oh Jang-Eun added a second before the break while two second-half goals from Ha sealed the win.—*Internet*

Benzema strikes again as Real end Champions League last 16 jinx

MADRID, 17 March — Real Madrid put their recent European woes behind them to reach the quarter-finals of the Champions League for the first time since 2004 with a comfortable 3-0 win over Lyon on Wednesday.

***Real Madrid's French forward Karim Benzema celebrates after scoring a goal during the Champions League.*—INTERNET**

Real had crashed out at the last 16 stage of the Champions League for six successive seasons, but new coach Jose Mourinho brought an end to that jinx.

Goals from Marcelo, Lyon old boy Karim Benzema and Angel di Maria secured victory as Madrid progressed 4-1 on aggregate.

Internet

West Ham boss Grant charged over ref criticism

LONDON, 17 March — West Ham manager Avram Grant has been charged with improper conduct following his criticism of referee Mike Jones in the Hammers' FA Cup defeat by Stoke last weekend, the FA confirmed on Wednesday.

West Ham United's Manager Avram Grant.

Grant accused Jones of favouring Stoke after the official failed to spot a handball when Frederic Piquionne equalised for West Ham in the first half.

"Maybe this (Piquionne's goal) is the reason the referee started the second half very, very strange. Until they scored the goal, he gave fouls and penalties, everything for them," Grant was quoted as saying.

Internet

Chelsea in the mood for Euro run, says Ancelotti

LONDON, 17 March — Carlo Ancelotti insists Chelsea are in the perfect condition to win the Champions League even though his side made hard work of killing off Copenhagen in the last 16.

Ancelotti's side advanced to the quarter-finals of Europe's elite club competition with a 2-0 aggregate victory over the Danish champions, but they made life difficult for themselves in the goal-less second leg at Stamford Bridge on Wednesday.

The Blues squandered a host of chances to dismiss Copenhagen, while riding their luck at the other end when Dame N'Doye's free-kick hit a post in the first half.

Internet

***Chelsea's Fernando Torres (L) sees a chance at goal saved by FC Copenhagen's goalkeeper Johan Wiland (R) during their UEFA Champions League first knockout round 2nd leg match at Stamford Bridge in London.*—INTERNET**

Aldridge has 30 in Portland's victory over Dallas

PORTLAND, 17 March — LaMarcus Aldridge scored 30 points and Brandon Roy added 21 off the bench, including a key jumper with less than a minute to go, as the Portland Trail Blazers beat the Dallas Mavericks 104-101 on Tuesday night.

***Dallas Mavericks' Jason Kidd (2) goes to the basket as Portland Trail Blazers' Wesley Matthews (2) defends in the second quarter of an NBA basketball game on 15 March, 2011, in Portland, Ore.*—INTERNET**

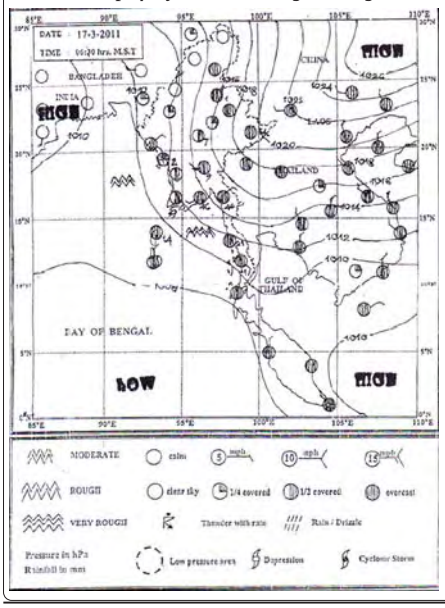
The Blazers led 100-94 with 3:50 left, but Jason Terry's basket narrowed it to 100-99. Roy hit a pair of free throws before a pull-up jumper that made it 104-99 with 47 seconds left.

Dirk Nowitzki hit a pair of free throws, but after a timeout with 8.8 seconds on the clock, he missed a 3-point attempt from the corner and time ran out for the Mavericks.

Nowitzki finished with 28 points and 11 rebounds for Dallas, which shot 59.7 percent for the game.

Internet

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Thursday, 17th March, 2011

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Lower Sagaing Region, rain or thoundershowers have been isolated in Upper Sagaing and Magway Regions, Kachin State, scattered in Mandalay Region and Rakhine State, fairly widespread in Taninthayi Region and Shan State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States . Day temperatures were (5°C) below March average temperatures in Taninthayi Region, (8°C) below March average temperature in Chin and Rakhine States,and Ayeyawady Regions, Shan, Kayah and Kayin States, (9°C) to (18°C) below March average temperature in the remaining Regions and States. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (Pyinmana) and Nay Pyi Taw (Lewe) (0.16) inch each, Hpa-an (2.68) inches, Mawlamyine (2.36) inches, Kyeikkhame (2.28) inches, Pyarpon and Khayan (2.09)inches each, Billin (1.77) inches, Launglon (1.93) inches, Yangon (Mingaladon) and Yangon (Kaba-Aye) (1.81) inches each, Yay (1.77) inches, Thaton (1.73) inches and Theinzayat (1.65) inches.

Nay Pyi Taw

Maximum temperature on 16-3-2011 was 73°F. Minimum temperature on 17-3-2011 was 64°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 17-3-2011 was (91%). Rainfall on 17-3-2011 was (Tr).

Yangon (Kaba-Aye)

Maximum temperature on 16-3-2011 was 72°F. Minimum temperature on 17-3-2011 was 61°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 17-3-2011 was (100%). Total sunshine hours on 16-3-2011 was (Nil).

Rainfall on 17-3-2011 was (1.81) inches at Mingaladon, and Kaba-Aye each and (1.38) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2011 was (5.79) inches at Mingaladon, (6.81) inches at Kaba-Aye and (7.01) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (1/2) mph from Southwest at (06:30) hours MST on 17-3-2011.

Bay Inference: Weather is partly cloudy over the North and West central Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of the 18th March 2011: Weather will be partly cloudy in Lower Sagaing and Magway Regions, rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Upper Sagaing and Mandalay Regions, Kachin and Chin States, scattered in Shan, Rakhine and Kayah States and fairly widespread to widespread in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Strong Easterly winds with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coast. Surface wind speed in strong wind may reach (35) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of continuation of rain or thundershowers in the Lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 18-3-2011: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 18-3-2011: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 18-3-2011: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Indonesia puts nuclear power plant as last choice

JAKARTA, 17 March—Indonesia puts nuclear power plant as the last choice for alternative energy source, Kompas daily quoted a minister as saying on Thursday.

Coordinating Minister for Economy Hatta Rajasa said that, however, Indonesia does not close itself on nuclear energy choice.

"Whether there are earthquakes in Japan or not, Indonesia puts nuclear as the last choice," he said.

Rajasa said that other energy resources would be more prioritized than nuclear.

A member of the National Energy Council Rinaldy Dalimi told the daily that Indonesia has many coal resources that have not been used optimally as power energy.

He said that out of 300 million tons of coal production per year, about 75-80 million tons are exported. "We should consider coal as cheap energy resources. I agree that nuclear becoming the last alternative," said Dalimi.—*Xinhua*

A craftsman operates an embroidery machine at the Sichuan needlework museum in Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province, 16 March, 2011. Establishing in February of 2011, the museum, affiliated to Sichuan Pivot Point College, features in folk needlework crafts and skills, including Sichuan embroidery, tie-dye, and sewing. Besides that, it is also a venue of teaching classes and practical operations on needlework skills for the students of the college.

XINHUA

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL
Programme Schedule
(18-3-2011) Friday)

Transmissions	Times
Local	- (09:00am~11:00am)MST
Oversea Transmission	- (18-3-11 09:30 am ~ 19-3-11 09:30 am) MST

Local Transmission

* Opening
* News
* Myanma Motion Picture and Academy Award
* News
* Shwe Than Lwin Home For Aged
* News
* A Visit to A Laungdaw Kassapa in Modern Days
* Putao Rememberance & IC Live Show
* News
* Mandalay's Grand Walls and Moat..

Oversea Transmission

* Opening
* News
* Myanma Motion Picture and Academy Award
* News
* Shwe Than Lwin Home For Aged
* News
* A Visit to A Laungdaw Kassapa in Modern Days
* Putao Rememberance & IC Live Show
* News
* VCD Centre
* Mandalay's Grand Walls and Moat..
* News
* "Youth & Language" What is she talking about?
* News
* The beautiful lake... where the natural biodiversity gathers
* A Traditional Dish of Myanmar Lads
* Music Gallery
* News
* Travel & Description (Yangon to Thanlyin-Kyauk Tan)
* Culture Stage
* News
* Mrauk U, Treasure Trove of Rakhine Culture
* Myanmar Movie "Life As Parents"

Myanmar TV

Friday,
18 March
View on today

7:00 am
1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

7:25 am
2. To Be Healthy Exercise

7:30 am
3. Morning News

7:40 am
4. Dhamma Puja Song

7:50 am
5. Nice & Sweet Song

8:00 am
6. Health Programme

8:10 am
7. The Mirror Lmages Of The Musical Oldies

8:25 am
8. Songs in honour of (66)th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

8:40 am
9. International News

8:45 am
10. Musical Programme

4:00 pm
1. Martial Song

4:05 pm
2. Song Of National Races

4:10 pm
3. Musical Programme

4:20 pm
4. Songs in honour of (66)th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

4:30 pm
5. University Of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Third Year (History)

4:55 pm
6. Songs For Upholding National Spirit

5:00 pm
7. Songs Of Yester Years

5:10 pm
8. Myanmar Language

5:25 pm
9. Songs in honour of (66)th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

5:35 pm
10. Images of Innocent Child

6:00 pm
11. Evening News

6:15 pm
12. Weather Report

6:20 pm
13. Internet Garden

7:00 pm
14. TV Drama Series

8:00 pm
15. News
16. International News
17. Weather Report
18. Documentary (Tabaung Month)
19. Documentary (Fullmoon Day of Tabaung by Sitagu Sayadaw Dr. Ashin Ñanissara)

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★ Only with stability and peace will the nation develop
★ Only with stability and peace will democratization process be successful

★ Anarchy begets anarchy, not democracy
★ Riots beget riots, not democracy
★ Democracy can be introduced only through constitution

People's Desire

- We favour peace and stability
- We favour development
- We oppose unrest and violence
- Wipe out those inciting unrest and violence

★ VOA, BBC-sowing hatred among the people
★ RFA, DVB-generating public outrage
★ Do not allow ourselves to be swayed by killer broadcasts designed to cause troubles

Farmers fetching much incomes through cultivation of water melon

Article: *Zin Bo Min;* Photos: *Khin Maung Win*

At the invitation of my friend, we the news crew of Kyemon Daily made a trip to Shadaw Village in Tatkon Township of Nay Pyi Taw District in early March. On our arrival, we witnessed thriving water melon plantations near the field of village.

In an interview near a water melon plantation, farmer U Zaw Wan of Shadaw Village said that he cultivates 168 strain water melon on one acre of land. He used Kogyi, 164, 168, 314, 232, 855, USA, 001 and N/2 strains of water melon seeds. Most of the local growers of Shadaw Village sow the 168 strain of water melon seeds. All the strains of fruits are delicious and sweet, he said.

(See page 10)

Local growers of Shadaw Village loading water melons onto a truck for sending them to countryside.

MWAF donates furniture to village library in Ottarathiri Township

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March—Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation on 8 March donated furniture worth K 500,000 to Bawa Tetlan Library opened on 12 April in Ngansat Village of Zalaung Village-tract of Ottarathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw District.

President of MWAF Dr Daw Thet Thet Zin and CEC members presented furniture to the chairman of Village-tract Peace and Development Council and the chairman of the library committee.

The donations of MWAF was aimed at developing human resources, raising reading habit of rural people, broadening horizon of the local people and ensuring maintenance of the books and publications at the library.—*MNA*

New bridge put into service in Sinbaungwe Township

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March — Hailing the 66th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, the opening of Yaykyaw bridge across Shwegyin creek was held at Chisuk village in Sinbaungwe Township yesterday.

Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council U Tin Win, Executive Officer U Myo Naing of Township Development Affairs Committee and officials formally opened the bridge.

The bridge was built with the contribution of over K 2.2 million by local people.

MNA