



The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Established 1914

Volume XVI, Number 318

7th Waxing of Taboung 1370 ME

Monday, 2 March, 2009

Government works with might and main to restore three major businesses of storm-hit areas

Senior General Than Shwe sends Peasants Day message

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March—*The following is a translation of the message sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe on the occasion of the Peasants Day (2009).*

It is a great honour for me to extend my warmest greetings to you the entire peasantry, wishing you a success in your agricultural farming and physical and spiritual well-being on the auspicious occasion of the Peasants Day (2009).

The State Peace and Development Council is dedicated itself to improving the living conditions of the people in pursuance of the national goal of building a peaceful, modern and developed nation. Our country has been an agro-based one since the time of our ancestors, and the majority of the working population are farmers, so an economic objective 'Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well' has been laid down.

In order to achieve the economic objective,

the government is working hard to beef up exploitation of natural resources, reclamation of fallow and virgin lands for agricultural purpose, and cultivation capacity.

The State Peace and Development Council has so far constructed 190 dams, 29 sluice gates, 322 river water pumping stations, 7974 underground water tapping stations, and 658 small rural dams. As a result of the emergence of such a large number of new irrigation facilities, the nation's total sown acreage has increased from 19.5 million to 29.32 million, and the cultivation capacity has jumped to 174.1 per cent.

Now, the agricultural sector is booming, and the transforming of the country from conventional farming into mechanized farming is on target in terms

of manufacturing farm implements and machinery. Therefore, our country's food supply has met the demand for the future population of 100 million, far more than the supply for the present population of over 50 million, and our country is contributing towards the food supply for the world people.

The five rural development programmes designed to raise the living standards of the people: to ensure smooth transport, to supply sufficient irrigation water and safe water, to promote education standard, to provide better health care, and to expand agriculture and livestock breeding are being implemented for development of rural areas where the majority of farmers live.

(See page 2)

Senior General Than Shwe welcomes back Prime Minister General Thein Sein on the latter's return from 14th ASEAN Summit

NAY PYI TAW, 1 March— Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe welcomed back Prime Minister General Thein Sein, who returned by special aircraft after attending the 14th ASEAN Summit held in Hua Hin of Thailand at the invitation of Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva of Thailand, at Nay Pyi Taw Airport at 4 p.m. today.

Also present at the airport were 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, SPDC member General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, Maj-Gen Ko Ko, Lt-Gen Tha Aye, Lt-Gen Khin Zaw, Lt-Gen Thura Myint Aung and Maj-Gen Maung Shein of the Ministry of Defence, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung, Director-General Col Kyaw Kyaw Win of the SPDC Office, departmental heads, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Bansarn Bunnag and officials.

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for National Planning and Economic

Development U Soe Tha, Director-General Col Thant Shin of the Government Office, Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department under the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, departmental heads and officials who accompanied the Prime Minister also arrived back on the same flight.—MNA



Senior General Than Shwe welcomes back Prime Minister General Thein Sein arriving back from the 14th ASEAN Summit at Nay Pyi Taw Airport.—MNA

HONOURING THE PEASANTS DAY



PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 2 March, 2009

Raise the momentum of development of agricultural sector

Today, 2 March 2009 is designated as Peasants Day in honour of the peasantry. Myanmar has a temperate climate and the majority of the population have been engaged in agriculture, which represents the largest portion of national economy. This is why the government is striving for development of agriculture as the base and all round development of other sectors as well.

The government is implementing plans to supply water nationwide with the aim of boosting production of agricultural crops, providing quality strains of paddy, modern scientific techniques for high yield of crops and farm implements and fertilizers.

Agriculture contributes towards not only food sufficiency but also raising socio-economic life of local peasants in the respective regions. It is necessary for the peasants to reclaim fallow and vacant land, to grow quality strains of paddy and high yield paddy and to apply modern cultivation methods. By doing so, crop production will increase all the more and this will be of benefit to the peasants.

Despite the fact that there is sufficiency of rice according to the ratio of the country's population to consumption, efforts are to be made for boosting production of rice like other rice-exporting countries. Moreover, endeavours are to be made for exporting marketable beans and pulses and maize.

The peasantry need to exert greater efforts to raise the momentum of development of the agricultural sector, while trying to boost production of crops with the cooperation of the government.

*Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation
Maj-Gen Htay Oo meets Country Programme
Manager Mr Youqiong Wang of IFAD.*

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

Government works with...

(from page 1)

A violent storm lashed Ayeyawady and Yangon divisions on 2 May 2008, claiming lives, property and businesses of many farmers. The government, the people and the Tatmadaw promptly responded to the natural disaster to enable farmer victims to bounce back in their socio-economic life.

Temporary shelter camps were opened and rehabilitation tasks were launched for farmers and storm victims such as fulfilling their basic needs, reconstruction of damaged houses, providing health care, arrangements for students to continue their studies, providing household and personal goods, and distribution of capitals and equipment to restore their businesses.

The government worked with might and main to restore the three major businesses of the storm-hit areas: agricultural farming, fishing and salt industry. The relief supplies including cash, aid, machinery, vehicles, watercrafts, aeroplanes and helicopters the government, local and international donors and servicemen have contributed so far are worth over 300 billion kyats. Thanks to the rescue and relief supplies donated by the United Nations, ASEAN, neighbouring countries and international community, rescue and rehabilitation work soon gathered momentum.

The government managed to maintain agricultural production of the storm-hit areas by regenerating the farmlands that had been flooded with seawater, providing draught cattle, farm implements and machinery, paddy seeds and fertilizers ahead of the cultivation season, and mobilizing the participation of national races. It was clear evidence that farmers, the people and the government can overcome any forms of difficulty and achieve fruitful results if they work hard in harmony.

It is an active role delegates of peasants played in holding discussions with other representatives of delegate groups to adopt the principles at the National Convention held for emergence of a new State constitution as well as in approving the State Constitution through the referendum. So, the brilliant performances of farmers well deserve to be put on record.

Peace and stability are indispensable for building a modern and developed nation. So, farmers have to join hands together to ward off the dangers internal and external destructive elements are posing to disrupt peace and stability and development of the nation. One and all will have to maintain peace and stability and build a modern and developed nation.

On the occasion of Peasants Day, I wish you the whole peasantry a success in your agricultural farming and physical and spiritual well-being.—MNA

SCWCS meeting continues

YANGON, 1 March—The second day session of the Third Meeting of the 6th State Central Working Committee of the Sangha was held at Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill in Mayangon Township this morning.

Vice-Chairman of the Committee Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Kundalajoti presided over the meeting and Joint Secretary Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Tilokabhivamsa acted as MC.

Joint Secretaries Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Kammathanaçariya Dvipitaka Kovida Bhaddanta Jagarabhivamsa and Agga Maha Pandita

Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Jotikabhivamsa clarified suggestions submitted by member Sayadaws of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha.

In the afternoon, representative Sayadaws of States and Divisions and other ganas discussed matters related to Vinicçahaya affairs, religious affairs and academic matters undertaken by the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee within one year.

Today, wellwisher Daw Khin Mya of Pazundaung Township offered meals to members of the Sangha at the three-storey refectory.—MNA

A & I Minister receives IFAD Country Programme Manager

NAY PYI TAW, 1 March — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo received Country programme Manager Mr Youqiong Wang of The United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development-IFAD at the ministry here on 27 February. At the meeting, they discussed matters on cooperation in boosting the agricultural sector.

MNA

Military Band Competition continues

NAY PYI TAW, 1 March—The 17th Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) Military Band Competition in commemoration of the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day 2009 continued for the fifth day, here, this morning.

Chairman of the Leading Committee for Organizing the competition Vice Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe and members senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, members of the panel of judges and servicemen enjoyed the competition.

The military band representing Coastal Region Command, the band company-1 representing Triangle Region Command, the band company-1 representing Western Command, the band representing Eastern Command, the band representing North-West Command and the band company-1 representing North-East Command took part in the competition.—MNA



Somali Govt, armed group reach cease-fire agreement

MOGADISHU, 1 March — The Somali government on Saturday announced a cease-fire agreement with an insurgent group which has carried out deadly attacks on government forces and African Union peacekeepers in the Somali capital Mogadishu this week.

The cease-fire agreement between the new Somali government and the Hezbul Islam has been

mediated by the influential elders of Hawiye clan, the largest in Somalia.

Speaking at a press conference in Mogadishu, Somali President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed said that his government has accepted a cease-fire agreement with the Islamist militant group.

Fighters of the group carried out attacks on African Union peacekeepers backing Somali govern-

ment forces this week, killing about 50 people and injuring more than a hundred of others.

"We have just met Hawiye Elders and they told us that they have reached a cease-fire agreement with the other side and on our part we welcome it," President Ahmed told reporters at his residence in the Presidential palace in Mogadishu.

Internet



Street cleaners remove debris on the road after a bomb attack in Baghdad on 1 March, 2009. A civilian and a senior police officer were killed and nine people wounded when the car bomb exploded near restaurants in the west Baghdad district of Mansour on Saturday, police said.—INTERNET

Harper says Afghan mission major NATO test

TORONTO, 1 March — Prime Minister Stephen Harper said the NATO mission in Afghanistan is a serious test and its failure could have major ramifications for the military alliance, the *Wall Street Journal* reported.

Harper also said the Iranian government's ideology was "evil," the newspaper reported in its online edition late on Friday.

"NATO has taken on a United Nations mission and NATO must succeed or I do think the future of NATO as we've known it is in considerable doubt," Harper said in an interview with the newspaper's editorial board.

Internet



An Afghan boy, pushes his cart to sell sugar cane as he moves past a building destroyed in the civil war in Kabul, Afghanistan, on 27 Feb, 2009.

INTERNET

Two months into 2009, US deaths spike in Afghanistan

KABUL, 1 March — US deaths in Afghanistan increased threefold during the first two months of 2009 compared with the same period last year, after thousands more troops deployed and commanders ramped up winter operations against an increasingly violent insurgency.

As troops pour into the country and violence rises, another sobering measure has also increased: More Afghan civilians are dying in US and allied operations than at the hands of the Taleban. In the first two months of the year, US, NATO or Afghan forces have killed 100 civilians, while militants have killed 60.

Internet

US army contractor killed in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 1 March — A contractor of the US-led Coalition Forces died of wounds received in southern Afghan province Uruzgan, said a press release of US army received here Sunday.

"The contractor died of wounds sustaining from an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) during a reconnaissance patrol in southern Uruzgan province on Saturday," the press release added.

However, it did not identify the name and nationality of the victim, adding, "The name and nationality of the individual are being withheld pending notification of next-of-kin."

Troops from the United States, Britain, Australia, the Netherlands and Canada have been serving in southern Afghanistan to bring stability for this part of post-Taliban country. —Internet

Suicide bomber kills two, wounds six west of Baghdad

RAMADI, 1 March — A suicide bomber blew himself up at the house of an anti-Qaida tribal leader near the city of Fallujah on Sunday, killing two people and wounding six others, a local police source said.

"A suicide bomber blew up his explosive vest at the house of Sheikh Khalid al-Eifan, in the town of Ameriyat al-Fallujah, killing two people, including Eifan's brother," the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Eifan, who heads a US-backed Awakening Council group, escaped the attack unhurt, the source said.

Falluja is part of Anbar province, located some 50 km west of Baghdad, has been relatively calm since more than a year and a half ago after Sunni tribes and anti-US insurgent groups turn up against al-Qaida in Iraq network, cooperating with the US troops and Iraqi security forces.

Internet

US military deaths in Iraq war at 4,253

WASHINGTON, 1 March — As of Saturday, 28 Feb, 2009, at least 4,253 members of the US military had died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003.

The figure includes eight military civilians killed in action. At least 3,416 military personnel died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The British military has reported 179 deaths; Italy, 33; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 21; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Denmark, seven; El Salvador, five; Slovakia, four; Latvia and Georgia, three each; Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand and Romania, two each; and Australia, Hungary, Kazakhstan and South Korea, one death each.—Internet



File photo shows an Afghan policeman attempts to extinguish a fire on a vehicle after a suicide attack in Kabul.

INTERNET



A man holds the new Amazon Kindle 2 at an unveiling event at the Morgan Library & Museum in New York City. Amazon is yielding to concerns of authors by letting them selectively silence a read-aloud feature in Kindle 2 electronic book readers that hit the market in February.—INTERNET

Low-cost meals popular in France due to financial crisis

PARIS, 1 March—The deepening global financial crisis has forced more and more French people to choose low-priced fast food shops instead of traditional restaurants, local media reported recently.

A survey conducted among 10,000 French showed the customers received by traditional restaurants in 2008 dropped 2.2 percent compared with 2007, whereas those by fast food shops rose 1.4 percent. Price is the determinant factor for people to choose restaurants

against the backdrop of the financial crisis, researchers said.

To counter the impact of crisis, some traditional restaurants tried to find ways to attract customers.

A restaurant in the western city of Saint Malo recently provided so-called “crisis meal packages”, sold at only 3.9 euros each. The meal, each including a main dish and a dessert, only will be sold at every Wednesday noon.

Comparing with an ordinarily average price of

15 euros for each meal, the low-cost “crisis meal package” win great favour among the local residents, many of whom are satisfied with its quality and wanted to come again.

MNA/Xinhua

A plainclothes policeman guards the scene after unknown gunmen opened fire on a police vehicle in the violence plagued border city of Ciudad Juarez, Mexico on 28 Feb , 2009. Two police officers were shot dead, according to local reporters.—INTERNET



Radical left-wing rebels blow up railway tracks in E India

NEW DELHI, 1 March—Train services were disrupted in large parts of eastern India Sunday after suspected radical left-wing rebels blew up railway tracks and a railway station in the state of Bihar, a senior police officer said.

No one was reported killed or wounded in the attacks, said police.

Additional Director General of Police in Bihar Neel Mani told the media that around 20

armed Naxalite left-wing rebels exploded the tracks just minutes after an express train coming from eastern India’s large-

est city Kolkata crossed the tracks in Bihar’s Jamui district early this morning.

Internet



Children enjoy the return to their classroom in the small Dixon Creek Primary School, north-east of Melbourne, on 26 February.—INTERNET

Hyundai Motor Group to invest \$6 billion in 2009

SEOUL, 1 March—South Korea’s Hyundai Motor Group (HYGR.JK) plans to invest nearly \$6 billion this year, similar to 2008, and will focus on developing environment-friendly cars, as the world’s No 5 carmaker eyes longer-term growth beyond the current crisis.

The global auto industry is reeling under an unprecedented demand slump that has sparked production cuts, layoffs and government bailouts.

General Motors Corp (GM.N) on Thursday posted a loss of nearly \$31 billion for 2008.

Hyundai Motor Group, which has Hyundai Motor Co (005380.KS) and Kia Motors Corp (000270.KS) under its wing, said it would invest about 9 trillion won (\$5.9 billion) this year, similar to its spending last year.

Of the planned investment in 2009, 6 trillion won would be spend on facilities with the remain-

ing 3 trillion won earmarked for research and development, Hyundai said in a statement.

Hyundai is considered better positioned than its Japanese and US rivals to weather the global recession thanks to the weaker won currency and a line-up of cheaper cars.

Hyundai’s total global vehicle sales fell 27 percent in January year-on-year, but its US sales rose nearly 10 percent.

Intrnet

Germany prepared to bail out Opel

BERLIN, 1 March—The German government is ready to bail out Opel, the European arm of US carmaker General Motors, with up to 5 billion euros (6.3 billion US dollars), local media reported

Saturday. The government is prepared to take a temporary stake of no more than 20 percent, the *Leipziger Volkszeitung* newspaper reported, quoting sources close to the government.

GM Europe President Carl-Peter Forster said Friday that Opel needed 3.3 billion euros (4.2 billion dollars) in aid to survive the crisis.

On Friday, Forster presented his supervisory board with an Opel rescue plan which will be forwarded to German authorities on Monday.

The plan includes 3 billion euros from GM itself along with some 1 billion euros in cost savings.

Opel will repay all its state aid by 2015, according to the plan. Some 8,000 jobs are at risk at Opel as its parent GM reported last week a fourth-quarter loss of 9.6 billion US dollars due to sharp decline in global demand.—Internet

Shark injures teen off popular Australian beach

SYDNEY, 1 March—A shark badly injured a teenage boy while he was surfing with his father at a popular Sydney beach Sunday, police said, the third shark attack in Australia’s largest city in a month. The 15-year-old boy and his father were in the water off Avalon on Sydney’s popular northern beaches around dawn when he was attacked.

“Half an hour later the father heard a scream and turned to see his son thrashing about in the water. Fortunately the shark swam away and the boy was helped to shore by his father,” police said in a statement. The teen-ager was airlifted to hospital for treatment for leg injuries. Police said the bites “cut through to the bone” but

the boy did not appear to have sustained any fractures. Several beaches were closed after the attack. Water police and lifeguards were searching for the shark, while police hoped to identify its species by the shape of the bite marks. Many shark species live in the waters off Sydney’s popular beaches, but attacks on humans are still relatively rare. However, there were two attacks on successive days last month, one on a navy diver in Sydney harbor and another on a surfer at the city’s world-famous Bondi beach.

Fishermen say shark numbers are on the rise.

MNA/Reuters



Professionals visit the 50th Batibouw in Brussels, capital of Belgium, on 27 Feb, 2009. Batibouw, the exhibition of construction, decoration and innovation with a history of half a century, was open to public on Saturday.—XINHUA

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Arab League official urges immediate moves to rebuild Gaza

CAIRO, 1 March — Immediate action should be launched for the reconstruction of the Palestinian territory of Gaza Strip that was hit in a 22-day Israel military operation, a senior official of the Cairo-based Arab League (AL) said on Saturday.

Mohamed Mahmoud Hannan, head of an AL commission that carried out a week-long inspection in Gaza to evaluate the damage of the Palestinian enclave during the Israeli attacks, made the remarks at a press conference Saturday.

The damage is “serious” and urgent aid is needed for the coastal strip to recover from the blow, said Hannan.

Both funds and experts are swiftly needed to work on removing rubbles, offering water, power and food supplies in the war-torn strip, said Hannan.

The AL commission began its inspection in Gaza Sunday and returned to Cairo Friday, said Hannan, adding the Palestinians need tangible action to rebuild the strip as soon as possible.

Xinhua

Portuguese PM expects further development of China-Portugal ties

ESPINHO, 1 March — Portugal is satisfied about its relations with China and expects further development of bilateral ties, Portuguese Prime Minister Jose Socrates said on Saturday.

At a meeting with visiting Communist Party of China (CPC) representative Leng Rong, Socrates, concurrently general secretary of the ruling Socialist Party (PS), also said he was satisfied with relations between his party and the CPC.

Portugal appreciates the positive role China has played in tackling the global economic crisis as well as in other international affairs, he added.

On the Chinese side, Leng conveyed the regards of President Hu Jintao to the general secretary of PS.

Leng, chief of the Party Literature Research Center of the CPC Central Committee, was invited by the PS to observe its 16th National Congress from Feb. 27 to March 1. He also met with Foreign Minister Luis Amado and other Portuguese officials during his visit.—Xinhua

Egypt's prosecutor orders to detain attacker of US tourist in Cairo

CAIRO, 1 March — The Egyptian prosecutor ordered on Saturday to detain an Egyptian who attacked a US tourist on Friday near the site of a bombing attack a few days ago that killed a French tourist.

Abdel Rahman Salah Taher Mohammed, 46, is facing charges of carrying a weapon without a permit and harming civilians, said the Egyptian MENA news agency.

On Friday, Mohammed knifed an American teacher, who was slightly hurt in the face, in Cairo's downtown district of El-Azhar, just meters away from the spot of the explosion on Sunday that killed a French teenager and wounded more

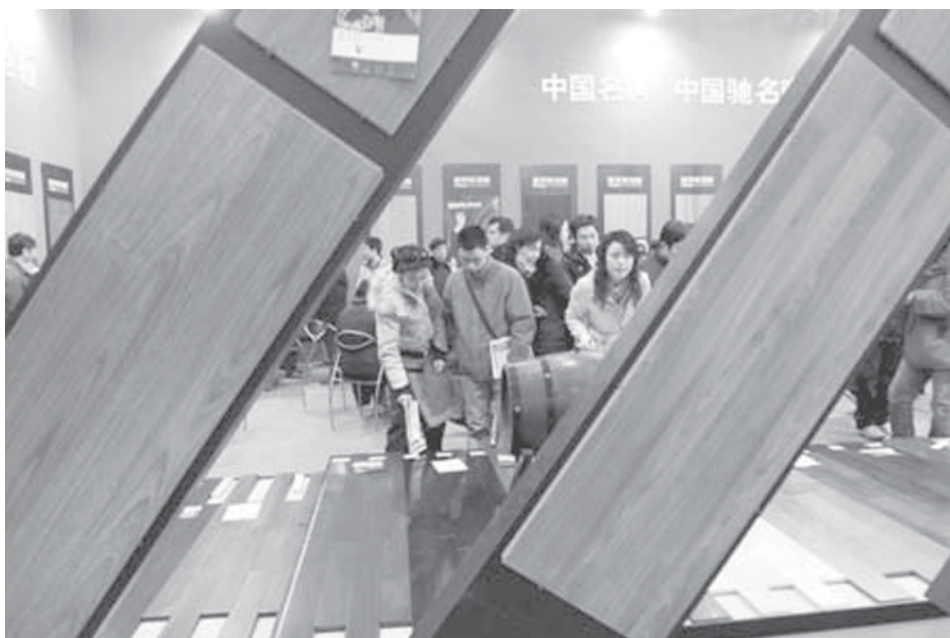
than 20 others in the famed Khan al-Khalili bazaar.

The US citizen, a teacher at the American school in the northern Egyptian city of Alexandria, was visiting Cairo with his wife when he was attacked on Friday.

Initial investigations showed that Mohammed, who was mentally ill, once was held in a mental hospital in 2000 for attacking tourists and policemen.

Mohammed just left the hospital several months ago after his condition had improved, said MENA, adding he will be sent to mental hospital again for more examinations and investigation

Xinhua



Some Chinese visit pieces of floor plank at a home decoration fair in Beijing, on 28 Feb, 2009. Although the world financial crisis has cast a big shadow on China's prosperous eastern coastal regions, companies in these areas are very likely to see the first gleam of economic recovery in 2009, according to experts. Entrepreneurs said their confidence stems mainly from the enlarging domestic markets and increasing demand, which are backed by the government's powerful stimulus package and a series of favorable policies. — XINHUA

Poultry death sparks bird flu fear in eastern Nepal

KATHMANDU, 1 March — The death of more than 1,000 chickens in two poultry farms at Halesimarga of Biratnagar in Morang district has triggered a fear of bird flu among the local people.

According to Sunday's *The Himalayan Times* daily, till now, 400 chickens from Dinesh Sitaula's farm and 600 chickens from Kiran Kafle's poultry farm have perished.

The chickens showed symptoms like bleeding, swelling of ear and head and excreting green and white watery discharge two days before they died.

Xinhua

Major oil field found in north China

HOHHOT, 1 March — An oil field with reserves of about 100 million tonnes has been found in Siziwang Banner in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, where the Shenzhou-7 space module landed last year.

Experts said the oil field has workable reserves of 35 million to 40 million tonnes.

The Siziwang Banner government will invest 20 million yuan (2.9million U.S. dollars) in the first half of this year to set up five exploratory shafts for further exploration. The government is expected to invest 200 million yuan to set up 100 oil-wells by the end of 2010. The oil field is expected to produce 500 tonnes of oil daily and 150,000 tonnes a year then.—Xinhua

Chinese business delegation creates win-win situation in Europe

BRUSSELS, 1 March — A Chinese trade and investment delegation brought more than just money with it when it went on a recent shopping spree in Europe, local media says. The delegation's trip, according to local reports, was a bit of an antidote to Europe's declining economy amid the ongoing global financial crisis.

The Chinese procurement delegation to Europe brought a ray of dawn light to Germany's auto industry," said German newspaper *Sud-deutsche Zeitung*.—Xinhua



Models of the Long March rocket at the Sichuan Science and Technology Museum in Chengdu, in China's southwestern province of Sichuan. The country will launch a space module next year and carry out the nation's first space docking in 2011 as a step towards its goal of building a space station, state media has said.—XINHUA

Iraqi leaders welcome US troop withdrawal plan

BAGHDAD, 1 March — Iraqi leaders are applauding President Obama's plan to withdraw most US troops from the country by August 2010. Iraq's Sunni Vice President Tariq al-Hashimi's office released a statement Saturday saying he received a call from US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton informing him of Obama's announcement of the withdrawal.

"Mr al-Hashimi welcomed the American administration's commitment to withdrawing its troops from Iraq according to the agreed-on schedule and stressed that every possible effort should be exerted to increase the readiness of Iraqi security forces and improve their performance," the statement said. Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki said Obama called him to tell him about the plan on Friday.

The prime minister said *Iraqi security forces* have proven their ability to provide security across Iraq "which qualifies them to take over full security responsibilities from American forces."

Obama said on Friday he plans to withdraw most US troops from Iraq by the end of August 2010.

Internet

Colombian soldiers stand guard near FARC rebel caverns discovered deep in the jungle in La Macarena Meta Province on 28 Feb, 2009. —INTERNET

Colombian army unearths rebel hide-outs in caves

LA MACARENA, 1 March — Colombian soldiers have unearthed guerrilla hide-outs in caves deep in the jungles where rebels evaded attacks, stashed landmines and stored medical supplies, authorities said on Saturday.

Colombia's largest rebel group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC by its Spanish initials, has been battered by President Alvaro Uribe's US-backed offensive, which has driven

guerrillas deep into jungles and mountains.

The army said troops had been searching for the cave hide-outs for five years in their hunt for a top FARC commander, Jorge Briceño, better known as Mono Jojoy, one of the guerrilla group's leadership secretariat.

"They used to feel safe ... now they are living in caves they use to hide away," said Defence Minister Juan Manuel Santos, showing a group of reporters the caves in La Macarena region in Meta Province, to the southeast of Bogotá.

Troops were led to the caves after a tip-off from a FARC deserter. Reporters at the site were shown weapons, landmines, surgical equipment and explosives discovered in camps surrounding the caves.

Internet

'Five rockets' fired into Israel

JERUSALAM, 1 March — Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip have reportedly fired five rockets over the border into Israeli territory but there is no indication of casualties. One rocket damaged a school in the southern city of Ashkelon but the building was closed at the time, the Israeli military say.

A second hit open ground outside the city and three fell just beyond Gaza without causing damage, they add. There were no immediate claims of responsibility for the attacks.

Both Israel and the main Palestinian militant group in Gaza, Hamas, declared unilateral truces after Israel ended its three-week Gaza offensive on 17 January.

Several rocket strikes and other attacks from Gaza have been reported since then, apparently involving smaller militant groups. Israel has responded with air strikes. —Internet

Suicide car bomb wounds 6 in E Afghanistan

KABUL, 1 March — Six persons, all of them civilians, were wounded as a suicide car bomb hit troops in Nangarhar province east of Afghanistan Sunday, spokesman of provincial administration Ahmad Zia Abdulzai said.

"The terrorist driving an explosive-laden car blew it up at the gate of military garrison in Jalalabad city at noon today wounding six persons all of them innocent civilians," Abdulzai told Xinhua. —Internet



An RIM employee displays the BlackBerry Bold smart phone. Canada's Research In Motion (RIM) has ruled out faulty batteries as the likely cause of keyboards heating up during recharging of its BlackBerry Bold smart phones sold in Japan. —INTERNET

Missouri farmer's male calf born with two heads

A southwest Missouri cattleman has been delivering calves at his farm for a long time, but a calf born this week sure was different. This one had two heads. Scott Clift said he delivered the chocolate-coloured male calf at his farm near Aldrich, in Polk County. Clift said the calf had two fully-formed heads that appeared to be connected to its body just behind the skull.

Clift said that the calf lived about a day and a half. It was unable to walk, so Clift and his family bottle-fed the animal until it died at 6 p.m. Clift said "We've never seen anything like it."

Few people have, said University of Missouri Extension livestock specialist



A two-headed calf was born Wednesday and died a day later on the farm of Scott Clift, who raises cattle west of Aldrich.

Eldon Cole. Such births do happen — the condition is known as polycephaly — but Cole says "They're pretty darn rare."

Ryanair says to charge toilet fee - or maybe not

Ryanair's chief executive said Europe's largest budget carrier might start charging passengers for using the toilet while flying, but his spokesman cautioned Michael O'Leary often just made things up at will.

"One thing we have looked at in the past and are looking at again is the possibility of maybe putting a coin slot on the toilet door so that people might actually have to spend a pound to spend a penny in future," O'Leary told BBC television.



A paleontologist cleans a fossilized bird cranium at Peru's National History Museum in Lima. The fossil is the best-preserved cranium ever found from a pelagornithid, a species believed to have gone extinct some 3 million years ago, according to Rodolfo Salas, head of vertebrate paleontology at Peru's National History Museum.

Flying thief caught again at age 83

A notorious 83-year-old Hungarian thief with a criminal record dating back six decades, was caught by police at the scene of a break-in.

Kosztor Sandorne, dubbed "Flying Gizi" by Hungarian media, was arrested after she entered a house in Komárom, a town in the northwest.

Sandorne, who earned her nickname because she liked to flee her crime scenes by taking commercial flights, said she was in the house because she was trying to save money.

"At her hearing she said she wanted to find a cheaper lodging than in Budapest, where it is too expensive," a police spokeswoman told Reuters.

"Flying Gizi" has been convicted more than 20 times and first came to the attention of the police in the 1950s.

Her preferred method of travel is now rail rather than air, since train travel is free for pensioners in Hungary.

She was already under investigation for an alleged theft in Szentendre, a town near Budapest, before her latest detention.

The owner of the house in Komárom has not yet decided whether to press charges.

NEWS ALBUM

Cheeky octopus tinkers with tank

A playful octopus managed to disassemble a valve in her enclosure and flood a California aquarium with 760 litres of seawater. The two-spotted, tiny octopus at the Santa Monica Pier Aquarium apparently swam to the top of her enclosure and took apart the valve of the recycling system.

"It grabbed the tube that pulls out the water and caused it to spray outside the tank," the aquarium's education specialist Nick Fash told the *Los Angeles Times*. The water that swirled around for 10 hours caused no major damage, except to the new ecologically sensitive, linseed-and-cork flooring in many offices.



The meddling octopus caused flooding in the aquarium, which has been temporarily mended by tape and clamps.



Pa-nga salt farm in Mon State produces crude salt on commercial scale

Article: Maung Maung Htwe (MNA); Photos: Hla Moe (MNA)

Pa-nga salt farm between Pa-nga and Kayokpi villages in Thanbyuzayat Township, Mon State, was launched in 1968-69. With an area of 816.60 acres, Pa-nga salt farm is the largest of its kind in Myanmar.

Manager of Mon State Myanmar Salt and Marine Chemicals Enterprise U Win Thein told the Myanmar Alin, "In our state, there are four State-run salt farms. They have an area of 2532.60 acres in total. In 2007-2008, they produced 19,000 metric tons of sun-baked crude salt, and 76 private-owned salt farms produced 17,498 metric tons, totaling 36,498



**U Win Thein,
Manager of Mon
State Myanmar Salt
and Marine
Chemicals Enterprise.**

crude salt and 116 private-owned farms of 3095.19 acres have set a target of 31,776 metric tons, totaling 53,976 metric tons. If so, we will be able to produce 17,478

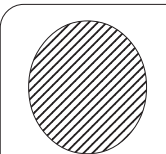
through the sluice gate on spring tide day of every month in the salt season. Then, the seawater is pumped and drained into the salt farms through canals.

The seawater is

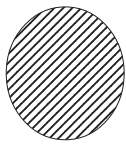
45 to 50 days. After that, the salt crystals are collected. Then, they are cleansed to get white crude salt. Mostly, the crude salt of Pa-nga salt farm is distributed to paper and chemical

Myanmar Salt and Marine Chemicals Enterprise in Yangon; crude potassium chloride, to the Oral Rehydration Salt Factory in Yangon; and several forms of supplementary rehydration salt such as

"To produce sun-baked salt, we drain seawater in November, and start to produce salt in January or February. In the period of January, February and March, we produce 50 per cent of



**A work site
of Pa-nga
salt farm in
Thanbyuzayat
Township.**



Workers at a salt farm between Pa-nga and Kayokpi villages in Thanbyuzayat Township, Mon State.

metric tons of crude salt. "For 2008-2009, State-owned farms have set a target of 22,200 metric tons of

more metric tons."

To produce salt, firstly, they have to let seawater from Mottama Gulf flow into the lakes

baked in the sun for about 30 days in the farms, and then for 15 days in the shallow ponds with even and hard beds, totaling

enterprises, soap enterprises and foodstuff enterprises.

The magnesium sulphate liquid is distributed to the Epsom Salt Factory under the

magnesium chloride, to rice mills.

The manager of Mon State Myanmar Salt and Marine Chemicals Enterprise said, "In the times of Myanmar

the salt in a salt season, and in April and May, we produce the other 50 per cent of salt.

"In 2008-2009, the Myanmar Industrial Development Bank Ltd



Workers collecting crude salt in Pa-nga salt farm.



Pa-nga salt farm between Pa-nga and Kayokpi villages in Thanbyuzayat Township.

monarchs, some regions in upper Myanmar such as Sagaing and Mandalay baked underground water using pans to get salt. Ayeyawady Division, Rakhine State and Mon State baked seawater using large pans to get salt till 1964-65. Then, they produced sun-baked salt and baked salt, half and half. Since 1980, they have produced sun-baked salt only.

provided loans of 65,536,000 kyats to 48 private sun-baked salt farmers in order that our state would achieve the salt target."

When we left Pa-nga salt farm, it was nearly noon, but the workers were still collecting crude salt in the farms.

**Translation: MS
Myanmar Alin:
2-2-2009**



Prime Minister General Thein Sein attends 14th ASEAN Summit and related meetings

NAY PYI TAW, 1 March—Prime Minister General Thein Sein attended the opening ceremony of the 14th ASEAN Summit and its related meetings at Royal Dusit Grand Hall in Hua Hin of Thailand yesterday.

At 11.30 a.m. yesterday, Prime Minister General Thein Sein attended the First Informal Meeting of Heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries and delegates of the General Assembly of ASEAN Parliament at Napalai Ballroom (A) Main Building of Dusit Thani Hotel.

Also present at the meeting were Heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries, ASEAN Secretary-General Dr Surin Pitsuwan and delegates to the General Assembly of ASEAN Parliament.

On behalf of the delegates, Speaker of National Assembly of Thai-

land Mr Chai Chidchob reported on the tasks of ASEAN Parliament.

The Heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries cordially exchanged their views.

At 12 noon, Prime Minister General Thein Sein attended the informal meeting of Heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries and ASEAN youth delegates at Napalai Ballroom (A) Main Building of Dusit Thani Hotel.

On behalf of the youth delegates, Phra Chainarong Sangsranoi of Social Science Faculty of Mahidol University submitted the report of the ASEAN youth delegates. The Heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries cordially exchanged views.

At 12.30 p.m., the Prime Minister attended the informal meeting of the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries and delegates of the



Prime Minister General Thein Sein poses together with Heads of State and Government of ASEAN countries at Royal Dusit Grand Hall in Hua Hin, Thailand.—MNA

ASEAN Social Society at the same venue. On behalf of the delegates of the ASEAN Social Society, Director of the Institute of Security and International Studies (ISIS) Professor Thitinan Pongsudhirak of International Political Economy at the Faculty of Political Science submitted the re-

ports on undertakings of the ASEAN Social Society.

The Heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries cordially exchanged their views related to the report.

At 1 p.m., the Prime Minister of Myanmar attended the

working luncheon together with the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries and members of the ASEAN Business Advisory Council at Dusit Thani Hotel Baan Benjarong.

First, the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries and ministers posed for docu-

mentary photo together with members of the council.

Chairman of the council Mr Arin Jira of Thailand submitted the report of the council. The Heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries exchanged their views on the report.

(See page 9)



Prime Minister General Thein Sein attends the first informal meeting of Heads of State and Government of ASEAN countries and delegates of General Assembly of ASEAN Parliament at Dusit Thani Hotel.—MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein attends the informal meeting of Heads of State and Government of ASEAN countries and ASEAN youth delegates at Dusit Thani Hotel.—MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein meets Thai counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 1 March – Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein met Thai Prime Minister Mr Abhisit Vejjajiva at BOR FAI-1 of Dusit Thani Hotel in Hua Hin of Thailand at 3.25 pm on 27 February.

Also present together with Prime Minister General Thein Sein were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Aung Thein,

Myanmar Ambassador to Indonesia Myanmar Permanent Representative to ASEAN U Nyan Lin, Director-General of the Government Office Col Thant Shin, Director-General of the Protocol Department U Kyaw Kyaw, Director-General of the Political Department U Kyaw Tin and high-ranking officials. Also present together with the Thai Prime Minister were Thai Deputy Prime Minister Mr Kovbsak Sabhavasut and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand Mr Kasit Piromya and high-ranking

officials.

During the meeting, the two Prime Ministers discussed matters related to mutual friendships and economic cooperation, which are to be implemented within the Frameworks of ASEAN, GMS and ACMECS and on the basis of cooperation between the two countries.

After the meeting, Prime Minister General Thein Sein and party left Dusit Thani Hotel in a motorcade and arrived back at Holiday Inn Resort Hotel. – MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein greets Thai Prime Minister Mr Abhisit Vejjajiva at Dusit Thani Hotel in Hua Hin.

MNA

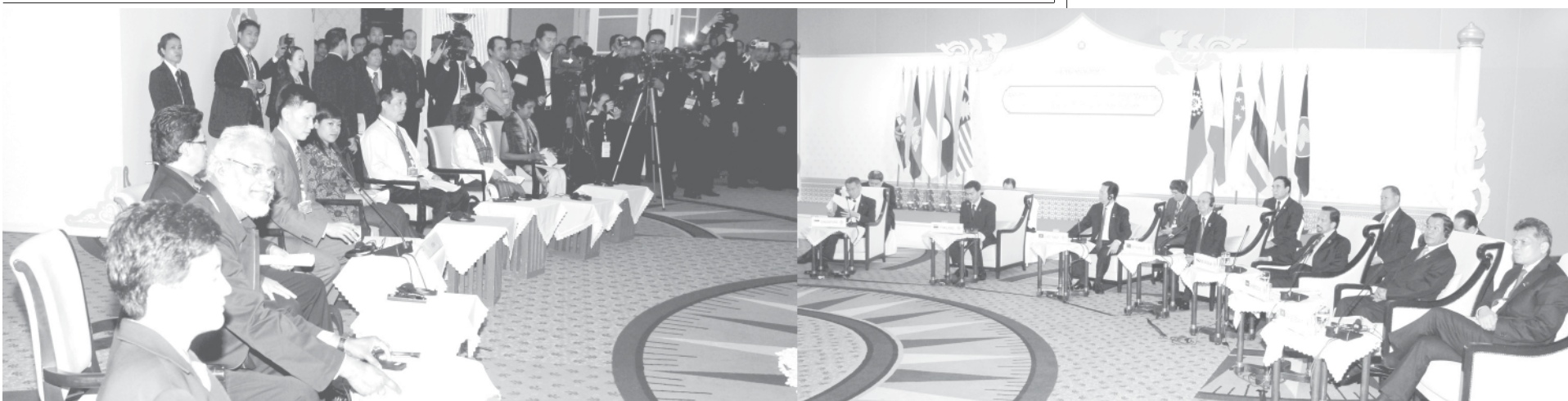


Prime Minister General Thein Sein meeting with Thai Prime Minister Mr Abhisit Vejjajiva at Dusit Thani Hotel in Hua Hin.

MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein attends the informal meeting of Heads of State and Government of ASEAN countries and delegates of ASEAN Social Society.

MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein attends ...

(from page 8)

At 2.30 p.m., the Prime Minister attended the opening ceremony of the 14th ASEAN Summit at the Royal Dusit Grand Ballroom (A-B) of Royal Dusit Grand Hall in Hua Hin of Thailand. It was also attended by King of Brunei Darussalam Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muissaddin Waddaulah, Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen, Indonesian President Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Lao PDR Prime Minister Mr Bouasone Bouphavanh, Malaysian Prime Minister

Dato' Seri Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi, Philippines President Madame Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Singaporean Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong, Thai Prime Minister Mr Abhisit Vejjajiva, Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Nguyen Tang Dung, Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Economic Ministers of ASEAN countries, ASEAN Secretary-General Dr Surin Pitsuwan, senior officials, delegates of General Assembly of ASEAN Parliament, ASEAN Youth delegates, ASEAN Social Community delegates, members of the ASEAN Business Advisory Council and guests.

First, the ASEAN Anthem was played by the orchestra band. Next, the documentary film "From Laem Tan to Hua Hin" was presented to those present.

Alternate Chairman of the ASEAN Thai Prime Minister Mr Abhisit Vejjajiva delivered an opening address. In his speech, the Thai Prime Minister explained matters related to the progress of the ASEAN in its chronicle and the implementation of the collaborative tasks for establishment of ASEAN societies in the future.

Next, the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries and the ASEAN Secretary-General had the documentary photo taken.

Later, the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries, the ASEAN Secretary-General and those present were entertained with the Thai traditional Keinnayi dances by the artistes of the Fine Arts Department of Thailand.—MNA

Four images of Maha Manimaya Buddha Patima conveyed into cave of Uppatasanti Pagoda

Secretary-1 attends merit sharing ceremony after performing meritorious deeds

NAY PYI TAW, 1 March—The conveying ceremony of four images of Maha Manimaya Buddha Patima to be kept in the cave of Uppatasanti Pagoda was held in conjunction with the merit sharing ceremony after

Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Kavisara, Presiding Nayaka of Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon Maha Thihanada Monastery Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Aćinna and Presiding Nayaka of Nay Pyi Taw Lewe

Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, ministers, deputy ministers, members of the leading committee, chairmen and members of the work committee and subcommittees, departmental heads, local authorities, wellwishers, members of religious and social associations and guests.

The ceremony to convey four images of

Maha Manimaya Buddha Patima was held at Yaza Thingaha Roundabout on Yazahtani Road.

Four images of Maha Manimaya Buddha Patima were conveyed by decorated float to Uppatasanti Pagoda along Yazahtani Road. Local people along the road paid homage to four images of Patima.

At the northern archway of the pagoda, laypersons paid homage to four images of Patima.

Buddhasana throne at the south of the pagoda, the jade image of Konagamana Buddha Patima onto the throne at the west, the jade image of Kassapa Buddha Patima onto the throne at the north and the jade image of Gotama Buddha Patima onto the throne at the east and offered two white umbrellas each over them.

A total of 27 Ovadaćariya Sayadaws recited religious verses.

Janidda. Members of the Sangha recited Parittas.

The Secretary-1 donated offertories to Maha Withutayama Zaygon Monastery Sayadaw. The commander, the ministers, the deputy ministers and senior military officers offered alms to members of the Sangha.

Zaygon Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Kavisara delivered a sermon, and the Secretary-



Jade Image Kakusandha Buddha Patima at Buddhasana throne, south of Uppatasanti Pagoda.— MNA

performing meritorious deeds at the pagoda, here, this morning.

It was attended by Ovadaćariya Sayadaws for Construction of the pagoda Presiding Nayaka of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Maha Withutayama Zaygon Monastery

Paukmyaing Monastery Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Janidda and members of the Sangha, Chairman of the Leading Committee for Construction of Uppatasanti Pagoda Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development



Uppatasanti Pagoda being illuminated at night in Nay Pyi Taw.— MNA



Four jade images of Maha Manimaya Buddha Patima being conveyed into the cave of Uppatasanti Pagoda.

MNA

Four decorated floats conveyed the images into the cave of the pagoda.

The Secretary-1 and party carried the jade image Kakusandha Buddha Patima onto the

At the Dhammayon on the platform of the pagoda, the Secretary-1 and party received the Nine Precepts from Paukmyaing Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta

1 and party shared merits gained for religious meritorious deeds.

After the ceremony, the Secretary-1 and party offered meals to members of the Sangha.

MNA

Strong wind bulletin

NAY PYI TAW, 1 March—As it is now in summer, day temperatures in different regions of the country will increase significantly up to the month of May. The occurrence of clouds in the afternoon and evening could occasionally lead to strong wind. During the strong wind the likelihood of surface win speed is from 35 to 40 mph, and it could be followed by scattered heavyfall and hailstones in some regions, according to the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.—MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo presents provisions to the Sayadaw at the ceremony to convey Buddha Images to Uppatasanti Pagoda. (News on page 10)—MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo views festivities in the ground near Yazahtani Road.

MNA

Secretary-1 visits festivities to mark Shwehtidaw and Seinbudaw hoisting ceremony, consecration ceremony of Uppatasanti Pagoda

NAY PYI TAW, 1 March—To mark the ceremonies for hoisting Shwehtidaw (umbrella) and Seinbudaw (diamond orb) atop Uppatasanti Pagoda on Uppatasanti Hill in Nay Pyi Taw in conjunction with the consecration ceremony, the various entertainments are being staged in the ground near Yazahtani Road, south of the pagoda, beginning 28 February.

Yesterday evening, Chairman of the Leading Committee for Construction of Uppatasanti Pagoda Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, accompanied by Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint and officials, visited the festivities in the



People enjoying entertainment programme at the ground near Yazahtani Road in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

ground.

The Secretary-1 and party enjoyed the circus performances of Azarni San San Circus Troupe.

Next, they viewed selling of goods at the shops and happy visits of the local people.

During the festivity period, the Documentary Film

Division of Myanma Motion Picture Enterprise will show the Myanmar movies daily. Yesterday evening, the films entitled “Amae-noh-boe” and “Nay-ka-mway-de-la” were presented to the audiences.

Arrangements were made for runs of bus lines, festivities, car parks and shops for

convenience of the public transportation. Yesterday evening, over 5,000 local people joyfully visited the festivities.

This evening, Azarni San San Circus Troupe will perform entertainments and the Documentary Film

Division will show movies “Koe-hse-hsa-tha-leint-me” and “Pan-dan-dar-yi” to the audiences.

MNA

MWEA organizes health educative talks

YANGON, 1 March—The membership day of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs’ Association was held at MWEA Tower on Shwedagon Pagoda Road in Dagon Township this morning.

Founder of the association adviser retired professor Daw Yee Yee Myint extended greetings and introduced new members to those present.

In the health educative talks, Product Manager U Nay Myo Tun of Fair Deal Co Ltd explained facts about Anlene milk powder produced by New Zealand Fonterra Co.

Sales and Marketing Manager U Htay Myint donated K 60,000 to the association

through retired professor Daw Yee Yee Myint and Secretary Daw Hla Wady.

MNA



Sales and Marketing Manager U Htay Myint presents K 60,000 to the funds of MWEA through Adviser Daw Yee Yee Myint and Secretary Daw Hla Wady of MWEA.

NLM



Festivities at the ground being illuminated.—MNA

Experts trying to decipher ancient language

ALMODOVAR, 1 March—When archaeologists on a dig in southern Portugal last year flipped over a heavy chunk of slate and saw writing not used for more than 2,500 years, they were elated.

The enigmatic pattern of inscribed symbols curled symmetrically around the upper part of

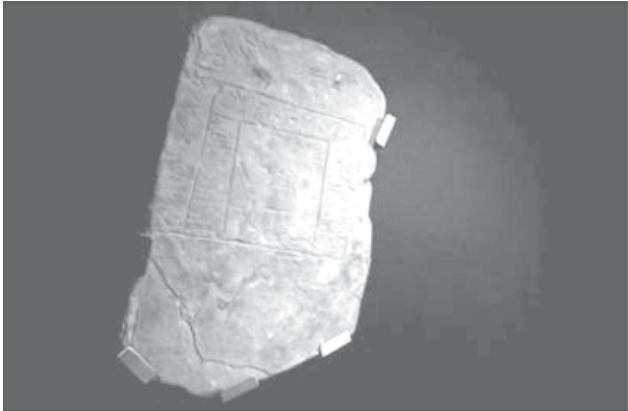
the rough-edged, yellowish stone tablet and coiled into the middle in a decorative style typical of an extinct Iberian language called Southwest Script.

“We didn’t break into applause, but almost,” says Amílcar Guerra, a University of Lisbon lecturer overseeing the ex-

cavation. “It’s an extraordinary thing.”

For more than two centuries, scientists have tried to decipher Southwest Script, believed to be the peninsula’s oldest written tongue and, along with Etruscan from modern-day Italy, one of Europe’s first. The stone tablet features 86 characters and provides the longest-running text of the Iron Age language ever found.

Internet



A stone tablet engraved with symbols at least 2,500 years old is seen at the Southwest Script Museum on 5 Feb, 2009 in Almodovar, southern Portugal. The museum has on display 20 tablets engraved with symbols of the Iron Age extinct Iberian language called Southwest Script.—INTERNET

US suspect applied to join police

CHULA VISTA, 1 March—A man suspected of robbing a California store has landed in custody after turning up to take a police entrance examination in the same town. Chula Vista police realised Romeo Montillano was a suspect in the December robbery when he signed up for a police test two months later. Detectives doubted he would show up after he phoned in from Las Vegas to say he was having car problems. But he arrived on time, by bus, only to be arrested by astonished officers.

Detectives were waiting at the registration table when he walked up and signed himself in as Romeo Ogilve Montillano, Chula Vista police spokesman Bernard Gonzales was quoted as saying by the *San Diego Union-Tribune*. Momentarily stunned, they called Mr Montillano out of the exam room and into a nearby office, where they arrested him for the robbery of the town’s KMart discount store on 8 December last year. In the robbery, a man stole a TV set, a DVD player and a telephone from the store, according to reports in the *Union-Tribune*. —Internet



People watch as a woman dancer in Ukrainian folk dress performs during a traditional farewell to winter in a pedestrian subway in downtown Kiev, Ukraine, on 28 Feb, 2009.—INTERNET

EU accepts French assurances on car aid

BRUSSELS, 1 March—The European Commission is satisfied with guarantees set out by France that a state loan plan to its carmakers did not amount to protectionism, the EU executive said on Saturday.

“I am satisfied with the guarantees set out by the French authorities on the absence of protectionist elements in the plan for aid to the automotive sector,”

EU Competition Commissioner Neelie Kroes said in a statement.

France proposed a six billion euros (7.61 billion US dollars) state loan for Renault and PSA Peugeot-Citroen in return for what has been characterised as an unwritten pledge not to close facilities in France during the loan period, which according to the original plan could go up to five years. —MNA/Reuters

Singapore’s iconic Merlion damaged by lightning

SINGAPORE, 1 March—Singapore’s iconic Merlion statue, a popular tourist attraction, was damaged by lightning on Saturday afternoon during a thunderstorm, government radio reported. No one was hurt. News radio station 938Live said the Merlion was struck by lightning between 4 and 5 pm local (0800-0900 GMT), causing parts of the statue to fall near a group of startled visitors. The 8.6 metre-tall Merlion has the head of a lion and the body and tail of a fish, and sits at the mouth of the Singapore River near the central business district.

The lion head symbolizes Singapore’s founding by an Indonesian prince who named his new settlement after a lion he saw when he landed on the island. The body of the fish represents Singapore’s origins as a fishing village. —MNA/Reuters



In this photo released by China’s Xinhua News Agency, Chinese children browse the Internet at a primary school in Zaozhuang, China, on 28 Feb, 2009. The school’s computer lab is provided for teachers to guide the minors to surf the Internet for free during the weekend in a bid to prevent them from addiction to the Internet.—XINHUA

Three killed in small plane crash in Louisiana

LIVINGSTON, 1 March—A small plane crashed in southeastern Louisiana, killing a Mississippi couple and their son, investigators said on Saturday.

The Cessna 182 went

down in dense woods shortly before midnight Friday, Perry Rushing of the Livingston Parish Sheriff’s Office said. Several residents of the area called police, The (New Orleans) *Times-Picayune*

reported.

The dead were identified as Glyn Ray Johnson, 39, Tabitha Dolbare, 39, and Nelson Dolbare, 12, all of Gautier, Miss. The crash occurred not long after the Cessna took off from the Slidell airport en route to Marksville, La, Ard said. The pilot did not have to file a flight plan or even notify the airport of departure.

Internet



Smaigel the cat nurses her kittens and four puppies at her owner Mohammad Al-Hamoury’s house in Amman on 26 Feb, 2009. Smaigel is parenting the puppies whose mother died in a car accident.—INTERNET



Damaged shops are pictured after a military operation in Inayat Kalay, in the Bajaur tribal region on the Afghan border on 28 Feb, 2009.—INTERNET

Woman with two uteri as twins

MARQUETTE (Mich), 1 March—Michigan woman with two uteri became the mother of twins—the third known instance of such a birth.

Valerie and Kaylin Reinfelder were seven weeks premature when they were delivered by Caesarean section Thursday at Marquette General Hospital, WLUC-TV in Marquette reported.

The girls weighed in at 4 pounds each and will remain in the hospital while their lungs develop.

Sarah Reinfelder of Sault St. Marie and her husband, Shane, were able to hold the girls on Friday.

The Reinfelders also have a 10-month-old son, William. Sarah Reinfelder learned a few years ago after a miscarriage that she had two uteri.

Internet

Conjoined twins separated after long surgery

RIYADH, 1 March—A team of medical experts successfully separated Egyptian twin boys Hassan and Mahmoud on Saturday—the 21st procedure of this type to be performed in the kingdom, the nation's leading surgeon said.

"The twins, almost an hour ago, have been separated for the first time in their lives," said Dr Abdullah Al-Rabeeah, who also is the Saudi minister of health. The boys are less than a year old and were brought to the kingdom on 10 February.

While the 15-hour delicate surgery has been declared successful, surgeons at the King Abdul Aziz Medical City in Riyadh are still in the finishing stages of the procedure, an operation deemed successful, Dr. Al-Rabeeah told CNN.

"As we talk now, their vital organs are stable, their blood pressure is stable, and we are now starting the reconstruction



Conjoined twins Hassan, left, and Mahmud rest the day before separation surgery in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.—INTERNET

of their organs," he said.

Dr Al-Rabeeah said separating their urinary system was a major challenge. And so was separating the siblings' local veins and arteries. "We had to identify the arteries and the blood veins

between each baby," he said. "We expect both will be functioning well in the future," he said.

From about 54 cases of



Conjoined twins Hassan, left, and Mahmud rest the day before separation surgery in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.—INTERNET

conjoined twins assessed by this surgical team, 21 have been deemed fit for surgery, all successfully. The surgeries are performed free as part of King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz's philanthropic initiative.—Internet

Australia's weather bureau warns of flooding

SYDNEY, 1 March—Australia's Bureau of Meteorology said on Saturday it anticipated "significant flooding" in the country's mineral-rich northwest as a developing tropical cyclone made landfall.

The system had already prompted two oil field operators, Apache Energy and Santos Ltd,

to shut production from some fields, while other operators in Australia's "cyclone alley" were on alert. "Widespread heavy rain is likely in the Pilbara during today as the system approaches the Pilbara coast, and significant flooding may result," the Bureau said in a statement posted

on its website (www.bom.gov.au) at 0045 GMT on Saturday.

"The low remains weak but there is a chance it could develop into a tropical cyclone prior to making landfall. If the system does intensify into a tropical cyclone gales may develop in coastal areas late today."

MNA/Reuters

Scientist publishes paper on navel lint

VIENNA, 1 March—An Austrian scientist says he has discovered a type of body hair that traps stray pieces of lint and draws them into the navel.

Chemist Georg Steinhäuser made his discovery by studying 503 pieces of lint from his own belly button, the *Daily Telegraph* reported on Saturday. The newspaper reported that chemical analysis revealed the pieces of lint contained not only cotton from clothing, but

also flecks of dead skin, fat, sweat and dust. The Vienna University of Technology chemist wrote in the journal *Medical Hypothesis* that the scaly structure of specialized hairs enhances the "abrasion of minuscule fibers from the shirt"

and directs the lint toward the belly button. "The hair's scales act like a kind of barbed hooks," he said. "Abdominal hair often seems to grow in concentric circles around the navel."

Internet

Scientists to trace golden eagle migration

WABASHA, (Minn), 1 March—Biologists in Wisconsin and Minnesota say they will fit several golden eagles with global positioning devices to trace their migration.

Unlike the bald eagle, golden eagles are not native to western Wisconsin and eastern Minnesota, but have been spotted in the hundreds in recent years, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported Saturday.

Golden eagles primarily are a western bird that occupy the Dakotas and northern Ontario west to the Pacific Ocean, said Scott Mehus, a spokesman for the National Eagle Center in Wabasha,

Minn.

"We assume these birds are probably coming from northern Ontario, and this (global positioning) device will tell us if that's true," said Mehus. "Plus, we can learn more about where they're going while they're here and their daily territory."

Golden eagles look much like young bald eagles, whose heads are brown until they gain their white feathers at age 4 or 5."

In the past, when someone said they saw a golden eagle we wondered if it was an immature bald eagle," said Pat Manthey, a Wisconsin ecologist.—Internet

Russian satellite in orbit after launch

MOSCOW, 1 March—A Russian military satellite is now in orbit above the Earth after being launched with a *Proton-K* heavy carrier rocket on Saturday, an official says.

A Space Forces spokesman, Lt Col Alexei Zolotukhin, said the sat-

ellite successfully separated from the Russian rocket after being launched from the Baikonur space center, *RIA Novosti* reported."

The separation of the satellite from the upper stage took place in a normal mode," Zolotukhin said.

The Baikonur centre, located in the central Asian Republic of Kazakhstan, is one of two sites Russia uses to launch rockets and test-fire ballistic missiles. *RIA Novosti* said the other site is northwest Russia's Plesetsk space centre.

Saturday's launch marked the most recent use of the *Proton-K* heavy carrier rocket, which was first used in 1968.—Internet



TomTom "ONE XL" navigation system. Microsoft on Wednesday said it is steering Netherlands-based vehicle navigation systems firm TomTom to court for infringing on the software giant's patented technology.—INTERNET

SPORTS

Juventus squeeze past Napoli to keep title hopes alive



Juventus forward Alex Del Piero (L) fights for the ball with Naples' forward Ezequiel Lavezzi during their Serie A football match at Turin's Olympic Stadium. Juventus edged Napoli 1-0 on Saturday to keep their Serie A title hopes alive by cutting Inter Milan's lead at the top to six points.—INTERNET

the three points although Inter can restore their advantage on Sunday when they tackle AS Roma.

"It was important to win after the Champions League game (Juventus lost 1-0 at Chelsea in mid-week). It isn't easy to get back that determination and concentration," said Ranieri.—*Internet*

Venus rolls to Acapulco tennis title while Almagro defends crown

ACAPULCO, 1 March—US top seed Venus Williams won her second title in as many weeks, dethroning defending champion Flavia Pennetta 6-1, 6-2, in the women's final of the WTA and ATP Acapulco Open.

Seven-time Grand Slam winner Williams won her 10th match in a row and her 20th in 21 starts, overpowering the Italian second seed for her 41st career title, which came a week after she won at Dubai.—*Internet*



Venus Williams celebrates winning the Acapulco WTA Open final in Mexico, on 28 February. Williams defeated Italian Flavia Pennetta 6-1, 6-2.—INTERNET

Answers to yesterday's Crosswords Puzzle



Late-show Toulouse stay on Euro track



Auxerre's defender Adama Coulibaly (L) jumps for the ball against Toulouse's defender Jeremy Mathieu (R) during their French L1 football match at the Abbe-Deschamps stadium in Auxerre.—INTERNET

Bryan Bergounoux found the target in the 80th minute to equalise Polish striker Ireneusz Jelen's 26th-minute opener for Auxerre. The point preserved Toulouse's unbeaten record which stretches back to November, but they are six points behind seven-time champions Lyon who face Rennes on Sunday.—*Internet*

PARIS, 1 March—Toulouse moved into second place in the French first division on Saturday with a 1-1 draw at Auxerre, but they needed a goal 10 minutes from time to stay on course for a European place next season.

Benitez admits Liverpool's title hopes are fading

MIDDLESBROUGH, 1 March—Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez admits his side's Premier League title hopes are fading after a shock 2-0 defeat at Middlesbrough. Benitez concedes the title is now Manchester United's to lose thanks to Saturday's meltdown at the Riverside Stadium. Xabi Alonso's own goal plus a Tuncay Sanli second-half strike ended Liverpool's 15-game unbeaten league run to leave them a daunting seven points behind runaway leaders United. Liverpool have also played a game more to make their key trip to Old Trafford later this month assume must-win proportions as they bid to keep their slim hopes alive.—*Internet*

Man Utd win 4-1 on penalties

LONDON, 1 March—Manchester United won the Carling Cup thanks to a 4-1 penalty shoot-out triumph over Tottenham at Wembley.

Jamie O'Hara's spot-kick was saved by Ben Foster and David Bentley shot wide, with Anderson slotting home the winner. The game was fairly

even, with Spurs' Aaron Lennon and Darren Bent both forcing brilliant saves from Foster.

United should have had a penalty when Cristiano Ronaldo was brought down and he rifled a left-foot shot against the post with the last kick of normal time.

But neither side could find a way through in the 30 minutes of extra-time too and it was left to penalties to settle it for only the second time in League Cup final history.

Internet



Manchester United's Rio Ferdinand (R) lifts the trophy after their English League Cup final soccer match against Tottenham Hotspur at Wembley Stadium in London on 1 March, 2009.—INTERNET

Chelsea ready to crank up pressure on United

LONDON, 1 March—Guus Hiddink insists Chelsea are ready to step up the pressure on Manchester United in the Premier League title race after claiming a third successive victory under the Dutch manager.

Frank Lampard's injury-time winner secured a 2-1 success over Wigan on Saturday that moved Hiddink's side above Liverpool and into second place, seven points adrift of leaders United. Hiddink concedes the possibility of overhauling Sir Alex Ferguson's side is remote, particularly with Edwin van der Sar on an astonishing run that has seen the United keeper keep a clean sheet in his last 14 league games.

But Chelsea's fortunes have undoubtedly been revived since Hiddink succeeded sacked Brazilian Luiz Felipe Scolari and the manager is refusing to rule out a late season title charge. Hiddink admits he has been impressed by the response of his squad during his 10-day reign at Stamford Bridge and singled out skipper John Terry -- the scorer of the first goal against Wigan -- and Lampard for their efforts.

Didier Drogba has also been transformed after being frozen out under Scolari, but the manager insists the Ivorian's improvement is entirely down to the player himself. Hiddink added: "I hope I said something special to all the players so we can improve.

Internet

Djokovic wins his first title of the year

DUBAI, 1 March—Novak Djokovic closed up a little on Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer at the top of the world rankings by winning the 12th title



Serbia's Novak Djokovic

of his career in the Dubai Open on Saturday.

The top-seeded, world number three from Serbia overcame Spaniard David Ferrer by 7-5, 6-3, and in some ways it was a slight surprise that Djokovic won the final with a little to spare. He had not been in the greatest of form coming into the tournament, nor had he found it easy to deal with the tight schedule between the Marseille and Dubai tournaments, or the hot weather.

Internet



Iran says US-led forces plan to stay in Iraq

TEHERAN, 1 March—Iran's supreme leader said on Saturday US-led forces in Iraq were planning to establish a permanent presence there and urged Iraqis not to let them stay.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was quoted as telling visiting Iraqi President Jalal Talabani "the occupiers were preparing the ground for a long and permanent presence in Iraq" and the country's leaders should be aware of the danger.

"Iraq's ... interest is to oppose the demands of the foreigners because they are not happy with the close relationship of Iran and Iraq," the official news agency IRNA quoted him as saying.

"The occupying forces should leave Iraq as soon as possible because with each passing day their withdrawal is delayed, it will harm the Iraqi nation."

Iran, which has had no diplomatic ties with the United States since 1980, has called for US forces to leave Iraq and the region.—MNA/Reuters



Women dance in the Charro Days parade in Matamoros, Mexico on 28 Feb, 2009. Charro Days is a bi-national festival, which celebrates the shared traditions and friendship between the United States border town of Brownsville and the Mexican border town of Matamoros.—INTERNET

MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (2.3.2009) (Monday)

Transmissions	Times
Local	- (09:00am ~ 10:00am) MST
Europe	- (15:30pm ~ 23:30pm) MST
North America	- (23:30pm ~ 07:30am) MST

Local Transmission

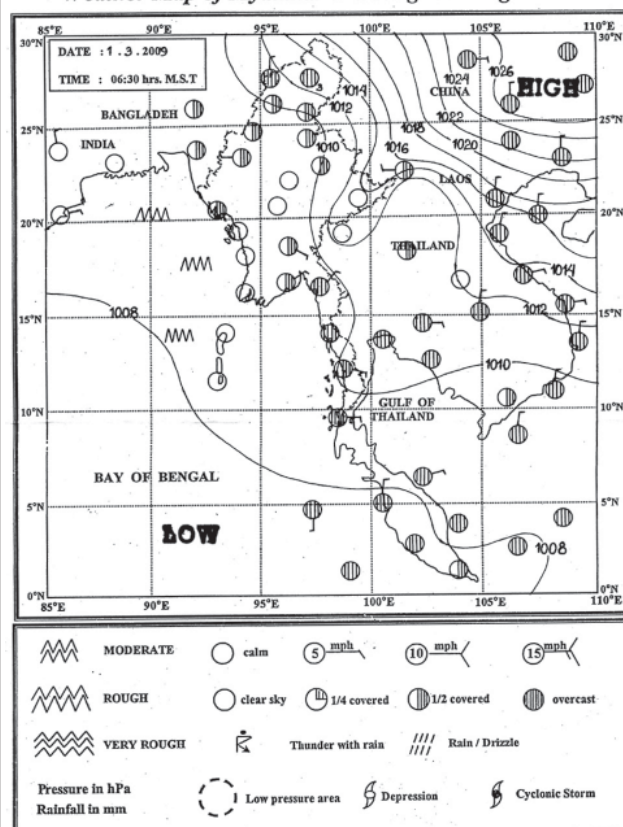
- ☐ Signature Tune
- ☐ Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- ☐ Upcountry Farmland abundant in Paddy
- ☐ Myanmar Musical Orchestra (Brass Gong)
- ☐ Lacquerware in Bagan
- ☐ Fossilized Wood Garden
- ☐ Traditional Custom and Natural Beauty of Putao
- ☐ Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Europe/ North America Transmission

- ☐ Signature Tune
- ☐ Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- ☐ Walk in Aviary ... a Recreation Centre
- ☐ Colourful Flowers you can find in Myanmar
- ☐ Poem Garden "The Moon"
- ☐ Maungmagan, The Seaside Village
- ☐ A Day in Yangon (People's Square)
- ☐ With love all are possible
- ☐ Spirulina (or) Blue Green Algae
- ☐ Rakhine traditional First Crop Alms Offering Ceremony
- ☐ Myanmar Modern song
- ☐ Upcountry Farmland abundant in Paddy
- ☐ Myanmar Musical Orchestra (Brass Gong)
- ☐ Lacquerware in Bagan
- ☐ Poem Garden "The Moon"
- ☐ Fossilized Wood Garden
- ☐ Traditional Custom and Natural Beauty of Putao
- ☐ Ayeyawady First Defile
- ☐ Survey of Hu Koung Valley Tiger (Part-1)
- ☐ Traditional Weaving Art
- ☐ Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Sunday, 1 March, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain or thunder-showers have been isolated in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division, weather has been partly cloudy in Rakhine and Mon States, Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above March average temperatures in Shan, Chin and Kayah States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions (5°C) above March average temperatures in lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions and about March average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant Day temperatures were Chauk and Minbu (41°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Machanbaw (0.39) inch and Putao (0.12) inch.

Maximum temperature on 28-2-2009 was 99°F. Minimum temperature on 1-3-2009 was 66°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 1-3-2009 was 76%. Total sunshine hours on 27-2-2009 was (7.9) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 1-3-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Northeast at (9:30) hours MST on 1-3-2009.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 2nd March 2009: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, weather will be partly cloudy in Northern Shan, Kayin and Mon States, Yangon Division and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated light rain in the extreme Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 2-3-2009: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 2-3-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 2-3-2009: Generally fair weather.



**Monday, 2 March
View on today**

7:00 am

- မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

- To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

- Morning news

7:40 am

- Cute Little Dancers

7:55 am

- အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:10 am

- Song of national races

8:20 am

- (၆၄)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

8:30 am

- International news

8:45 am

- Musical Programme

4:00 pm

- Martial song

4:10 pm

- အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

4:20 pm

- Dance variety

4:30 pm

- Musical Programme

(The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)

4:40 pm

- ၂၀၀၉ခုနှစ်ကမ္ဘာ့သိုလ်ဝင်စာမေးပွဲ ဘာသာရပ်ဆိုင်ရာသင်ခန်းစာ (သမိုင်းဘာသာရပ်)

5:05 pm

- Songs to uphold National Spirit

5:15 pm

- တပ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုတေး သီချင်းပြိုင်ပွဲ ဆုရတေးများ

5:25 pm

- မြန်မာစာမြန်စကား

5:40 pm

- Musical Programme

5:50 pm

- (၆၄)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

6:00 pm

- Evening news

6:30 pm

- Weather report

6:35 pm

- Sing & Enjoy

7:15 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "နွဲ့ဆိုးဆိုးသူကိုယ့်ချစ်သူ" (အပိုင်း-၁၆)

8:00 pm

- News

- International news

- Weather report

- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

- "မြင့်မြတ်နုလုံးသားပိုင်ရှင်" (အပိုင်း-၃၁)

**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

Prime Minister General Thein Sein, Heads of State/Government of ASEAN nations pay courtesy call on Thai King

NAY PYI TAW, 1 March—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein together with Heads of State and Government of ASEAN nations paid courtesy call on His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand at Klai Kangwol Palace in Hua Hin, Thailand on 28 February.

On the occasion, the Thai King and Queen Sirikit and Her Royal Highness Princess Sirindhorn cordially greeted Heads of State and Government of ASEAN nations.

Next, Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej and Queen Sirikit and Her Royal Highness Princess Sirindhorn posed for documentary photos together with Heads of State and Government of ASEAN nations at the lawn of Klai Kangwol Palace.—MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein poses together with Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej, Queen Sirikit, Her Royal Highness Princess Sirindhorn and Heads of State and Government of ASEAN nations at the lawn of Klai Kangwol Palace.—MNA



Prime Minister General Thein Sein calls on King of Thailand Bhumibol Adulyadej at Klai Kangwol Palace in Hua Hin.—MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein arrives in Hua Hin to attend 14th ASEAN Summit

NAY PYI TAW, 1 March—Prime Minister General Thein Sein, accompanied by Myanmar Ambassador to the Republic of Indonesia and Myanmar Permanent Representative to ASEAN U Nyan Lin, Director-General of the Government Office Col Thant Shin,

Director-General of the Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Kyaw, and officials left here by special aircraft at 10 a.m on 27 February and arrived at Hua Hin Airport in Thailand at 12.15 p.m to attend the 14th ASEAN Summit and related meetings to be held in Hua Hin, Thailand at the invitation of Prime Minister of Thailand Mr Abhisit Vejjajiva.

First, Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Aung Thein and Director-General of the Protocol Department of Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr Somsakdi Suriyawongse boarded the aircraft to welcome Prime

Minister General Thein Sein.

Disembarking from the aircraft, Prime Minister General Thein Sein was greeted by Minister of Interior of Thailand Mr Chavaral Charnvirakul who presented a garland to him.

Next, Prime Minister General Thein Sein was greeted by the governor of Prachuaphirikhan Province and members of the welcoming party and staff of Myanmar Embassy.

Afterwards, Prime Minister General Thein Sein and party left there in a motorcade and arrived at Holiday Inn Resort Hotel where they are going to put up. —MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein being welcomed by Mr Chavaral Charnvirakul, Interior Minister of Thailand, at Hua Hin Airport.

MNA

