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***Prime Minister General Thein Sein, Heads of State and Government of ASEAN countries sign Declaration on Roadmap for an ASEAN Community.*—MNA**

Third Meeting of 6th SCWCS ends

YANGON, 2 March — The last 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 here today.

Vice-Chairman of the Committee Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Gunesana presided over the meeting and Joint Secretary Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Manita Siribhivamsa acted as MC. First, Joint Secretary Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Kammathanacariya Dvipitaka Kovida Bhaddanta Jagarabhivamsa clarified the report on measures taken by the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee within one year and sought the approval of the meeting.

In the afternoon, Chairman of the Committee Presiding Sayadaw of Mahawithuta Rama Monastery in Magway Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Kumara presided over the meeting. Sayadaws who presided over the meeting, the Chairman Sayadaw, secretaries of the working committee, representative Sayadaws from states and divisions and other ganas signed in the record book to approve the resolutions passed at the meeting.

The meeting ended with concluding remarks by Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara.

Today, U Kyaw Hsan and Thiha Thudhamma Theingi Daw Nyunt Nyunt Win (Pyawutyi Enterprise Ltd and Edible Oil Mill) offered meals to members of the Sangha. —*MNA*

Prime Minister General Thein Sein signs Declaration on Roadmap for ASEAN Community

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March – Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein attended the 14th ASEAN Summit Retreat held at Dusit Thani Hotel in Hua Hin, Thailand yesterday morning.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein, Heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries arrived at the hotel at 8.25 a.m. They were welcomed by Thai Prime Minister.

Before the meeting, the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries posed for documentary photos.

The 14th ASEAN Summit Retreat was held at the Royal Dusit Grand Ballroom (B) of the hotel.

The meeting was 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, Philippine President Madame Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Singaporean Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong, Thai Prime Minister Mr Abhisit Vejjajiva, Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tang Dung and ASEAN Secretary-General Dr Surin Pitsuwan.

The Prime Minister, the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries held discussions on implementation of ASEAN Charter, exchange of views on regional and international issues, global financial crisis, disaster management, food and energy security and regional and international situations.

After the meeting, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of ASEAN countries signed the ASEAN Petroleum Security Agreement in the presence of the Prime Minister, the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries.

A ceremony to sign declarations on ASEAN Summit was held at the Royal Dusit Grand Ballroom (A). It was attended by the Prime Minister, the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries. They signed the Declaration on the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community.

The Thai Prime Minister hosted a luncheon in honour of the Prime Minister, the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries, Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the ASEAN, Economic Ministers, ASEAN Secretary-General and senior officials at Dusit Thani Hotel.—*MNA*

Prime Minister General Thein Sein, Heads of State and Government of ASEAN countries attend 14th ASEAN Summit Retreat held at Dusit Thani Hotel in Hua Hin of Thailand.

MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 3 March, 2009

Strive in concert for increasing cultivation capacity

The government 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. With favourable weather pattern and geographical features, Myanmar has been an agro-based nation since time immemorial.

The majority of the nation's working population are farmers. Therefore, development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well is a practical task. At present, the government is working hard to beef up exploitation of natural resources, reclamation of fallow and virgin lands for agricultural purpose and cultivation capacity.

In 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 was stated that the agriculture is booming, and the transforming of the country from conventional farming to mechanized farming is on target in terms of manufacturing farm equipment and machinery; that therefore, the nation'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.

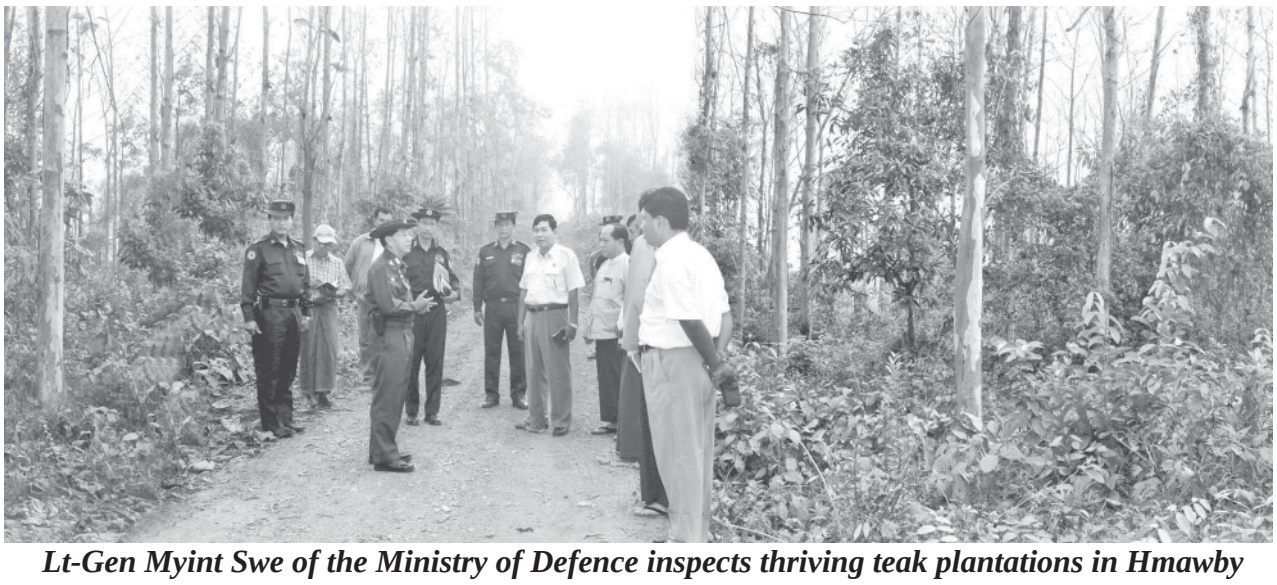
At present, there are 190 dams, 29 sluice gates, 322 river water pumping stations, 7974 underground water tapping stations and 658 small rural dams in the nation. As a result of the emergence of a large number of new irrigation facilities, the nation's total sown acreage has increased, and the cultivation capacity has jumped.

At such a time, the farmers in cooperation with the entrepreneurs are to set up agricultural zones and reclaim fallow and virgin lands for the success of mechanized farming. And they are to extensively engage in cultivation of high yield crops applying modern agricultural methods. Only then, will the cultivation capacity increase and the agricultural sector improve.

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**

Bago Yoma greening tasks inspected in Yangon North District



Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence inspects thriving teak plantations in Hmawby forest reserve.—MNA

YANGON, 2 March — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence inspected Bago Yoma greening projects being undertaken and maintenance of district-to-district Road No. 1 in Yangon North District on 28 February.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe arrived at the central forest development and training centre in Hmawby where the director of Forest Department reported on the projects being implemented in Bago, Magway, Mandalay and Yangon Divisions for greening of Bago Yoma in accord with the guidance of the Head of State and the principal on conducting training courses.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe gave instructions on realization of the projects with four objectives in accord with the guidance of the Head of State.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspected thriving teak plantations in Hmawby forest reserve and Taunghlaing Yoma reserve in Taikkyi Township.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe went to the briefing hall near Lainmawchan Village where officials reported on repair of roads in the township.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe gave instructions on durability of roads through constant maintenance. He also inspected repair of road and maintenance of Taikkyi Creek Bridge.

MNA

Ornamental Fish Garden inspected

Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein looks into fish shops of Ornamental Fish Entrepreneurs Association in fresh water fish garden in Kandawgyi.—MNA

YANGON, 2 March – Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein visited the fresh water fish garden of the Fishery Department in Kandawgyi here on 28 February and viewed the booths and the fish shops of the Ornamental Fish Entrepreneurs Association.

In the afternoon, Chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein met with officials of the Garment Entrepreneurs Association and JETRO of Japan at the office of Myanmar Fishery Federation on Bayintnaung Road and explained invitation of foreign investment and technical assistance and extension of foreign investments. —*MNA*

Bangladeshi trade mission visits Muse 105th mile trade zone

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March — Trade consultants Mr Shafiqui Islam of the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Mr Md Atiqur Rahman of Sonall Bank, accompanied by Commercial Counsellor Mr Aftabuzaman of the embassy of the People's Republic of Bangladesh arrived at Muse 105th mile trade zone on 26 February and they observed Myanmar-China border trade functions.

Muse 105th mile trade zone in-charge Director of Border Trade Department U Yan Naing Tun explained functions of combined teams, development of Myanmar-China trade after the establishment of the trade zone and arrangements for smooth flow of goods.

The trade mission observed goods depots, sale of agricultural produce, fruit and marine products through auction system by Chinese merchants. They visited warehouses and storage of agricultural produce to be exported and items imported.

They held discussions with merchants from Muse and Nanhkam.

MNA

Cuba waiting and watching Obama

HAVANA, 2 March— Amid two wars and an economic crisis, Cuba policy hardly ranks at the top of President Barack Obama's long agenda.

But circumstances are pressuring Obama to make a move on Cuba soon—or miss an opportunity to advance his pledge to restore America's leadership in the world and in its own hemisphere.

Conversations with Cuban officials here suggest that unless the Obama administration signals its intentions quickly and clearly, it will disappoint not only Cuba, but also many Latin American leaders watch-ing for signs that the US is ready to chart a dramatic new course in the region.

The unofficial target for action seems to be late April, when Obama travels to the Summit of the Americas, being held on the Caribbean island of Trinidad. Cuba is not invited, but will nonetheless be on many participants' minds.

More frequently than in the past, Latin American leaders have been flocking to Cuba in recent months, and late last year 33 Latin American and Caribbean nations called for an end to the US embargo. Guatemalan President Alvaro Colon, leading a country long viewed as a loyal US ally, even apologized during a recent visit for his country's supporting role in the 1961 failed Bay of Pigs invasion.

Fundamental change in the long-calcified Cuban-American relationship appears possible now because of the dual change in leadership in Havana and Washington.

Internet

The wreckage of a vehicle used by a suicide bomber in a suicide attack in Jalalabad, Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan on 1 March , 2009.
INTERNET

US Marine dies in Iraq's Anbar Province

BAGHDAD, 2 March— The US military says a Marine has died in a non-combat related incident in Iraq's western Anbar Province.

A statement says the Marine with the Multi-National Division-West died Saturday.

The Marine's name is being withheld pending notification of next of kin. The military says the incident is under investigation. The death raises the number of US military personnel killed in Iraq to at least 4,253 since the war began in March 2003.

Internet

Orphan boys do their homework as they sit on the floor of their room at the Safe House orphanage in Baghdad's Sadr City.
INTERNET

Medvedev wants specific US missile proposals

MOSCOW, 2 March— Russian President Dmitry Medvedev is expecting specific US proposals on missile defence, one of the main bones of contention between Moscow and Washington, to discuss at his first meeting with President Barack Obama.

The new US administration has said it wants to "press the reset button" on relations with Russia after ties between the two countries sank to a post-Cold War low during the presidency of George W Bush.

Russia, still smarting from what it sees as years of gains by Washington and NATO at its expense in the former communist world, has reacted cautiously.

In particular, Moscow wants to see what the United States will do with the Bush administration's plans to station systems in NATO allies Poland and the Czech Republic to detect and shoot down hostile missiles. Russia says this threatens its security.

Medvedev said in an interview given to Spanish media he had received signals from the Obama administration that it wanted to approach the issue of anti-missile weapons in a "more creative and cooperative" way than its predecessor.

Internet

Iraqi Shiites protest local vote in tense province

BAGHDAD, 2 March—About 2,000 Shiites staged their first significant street protests against provincial election results Sunday, marching in tense Diyala Province.

The demonstrators in the Shiite enclaves of Muqdadiyah and Khalis claimed Shiites were the victims of fraud and were denied seats on the influential provincial council. Under heavy guard, the protesters — waving Iraqi flags and chanting "No to sectarianism" — also demanded the election commission be replaced, alleging a Sunni bias.

The rural province holds a mix of Iraq's main sectarian and ethnic groups — Sunni Arabs, Shiites and Kurds — and has been a flashpoint for bloodshed among them and attacks on US forces and Iraqi police.—*Internet*

Iraqi soldiers wheel their colleague, who was wounded in a bomb attack, in a hospital in Baghdad on 26 Feb, 2009.
INTERNET

Gunman kills two in shooting spree in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES, 2 March —A gunman went on a shooting spree in Los Angeles on Sunday, killing two people and wounding a third, police said.

The shooting spree, which took place along three streets, was probably gang-related, said Officer Karen Smith of the Los Angeles Police Department.

"The narrative is the same for all three shootings," Smith said. "A Hispanic male in a black truck drove by and shot the victims."

One victim died at the scene and the second was pronounced dead at a hospital, Smith said.

The wounded was taken to a hospital in stable condition.

Police have launched a manhunt for the suspected killer who drove away in the truck after the shootings. —*Internet*

Iraq's monthly death toll rises to 258 in February

BAGHDAD, 2 March—Iraq's monthly civilian death toll in February rose to a total of 258 from the previous month that showed the lowest level since the US-led invasion in 2003, authorities said on Sunday.

According to figures compiled by Iraqi Health, Defence and Interior ministries, the total figure included 211 civilians, 30 policemen and 17 Iraqi Army soldiers were killed across the country during the month. In January, the death toll was lowest since the breakout of Iraq war with a total of 189 people killed.

The monthly death toll figures in recent months showed that casualties have been steadily dropping since mid-2007.

Internet

Israel threatens painful response to Gaza rockets

JERUSALEM, 2 March— Prime Minister Ehud Olmert threatened a painful response to Palestinian rocket fire menacing southern Israel, suggesting Sunday that the blistering offensive against Gaza Strip militants fell short of its goals.

The prospect of heightened hostilities in Hamas-ruled Gaza cast a pall over a week of crucial diplomatic activity, including an international conference designed to drum up billions of dollars to rebuild the heavily damaged territory. With a new Israeli government to take office within weeks, however, it wasn't clear how sweeping the country's response to the rockets would be.

More than 110 rockets and mortar shells have exploded in Israel in the six weeks since it ended its air and ground onslaught against Gaza, which was meant to end the rocket threat and stanch the flow of arms into Gaza. So far, Israel has responded to the rocket fire mainly with airstrikes targeting underground tunnels used to smuggle weapons and other goods into Gaza from Egypt.

On Sunday, Olmert told Gaza's Islamic militant rulers to expect a severe response if the attacks don't stop.

The rockets "will be answered with a painful, harsh, strong and uncompromising response from the security forces," Olmert said at the start of the weekly Cabinet meeting.—*Internet*

***An Israeli security officer inspects the damage inside a school hit by a rocket launched from Gaza Strip 28 Feb.—*INTERNET**

AU chief expresses concern over Chad-Sudan

ADDIS ABABA, 2 March — African Union Commission chief Jean Ping expressed concern on Sunday that strained relations between Chad and Sudan could stir up trouble in their restive border region.

Ping announced that the AU would meet shortly to look for ways out of the diplomatic impasse and called on both parties to "refrain from any action likely to hinder efforts aimed at promoting peace and stability" in the region.

Ping "continues to follow the evolution of the situation in Chad and on the border between that country and Sudan," said a statement.

"He is worried by the risk of a deterioration of the situation in the region and the consequences that could have," it said.

Internet

Forensic workers inspect a package containing marijuana at a police station in Cucuta, Colombia, on 1March, 2009.
INTERNET

Mexico catches suspects in kidnapping of Italian

MEXICO CITY, 2 March —Mexican police say they have captured four men suspected of kidnapping an Italian businessman, and say one of the men told police the victim had been ordered killed, though it was not clear if the slaying was carried out.

Restaurant owner Claudio Conti, a well-known figure in the Pacific coast resort of Puerto Escondido, has not been seen since his reported kidnapping, an employee and an Italian consular official said on Sunday.

A federal police press statement issued late Saturday said that suspect Primitivo Ramirez Chavez testified that "a pit was dug in order to bury Claudio Conti Bonetti, because during his captivity he was ordered killed."

But the Public Safety Department did not say who had ordered the killing, if it had been carried out or if officials had located the pit.

Internet

***File photo shows a container ship asit makes its way through Hong Kong waters. China's deputy commerce minister has warned the country's exporters face a severe situation in the year ahead as the global financial crisis deepens, state media reported on Monday.—*INTERNET**

Suspected US missile attack kills eight in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 2 March— A missile strike believed to have been launched by an American drone aircraft killed at least eight militants on Sunday in a Pakistani tribal region, intelligence officials and witnesses said.

Two missiles struck a house in an area near Sarorogha Village in the South Waziristan tribal region, a stronghold of Pakistani Taleban leader Baitullah Mehsud, the officials said.

South Waziristan borders Afghanistan, though Mehsud's territory does not touch the frontier.

"At least eight militants have been killed in the attack," said one intelligence official in the area.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the subject.

MNA/Reuters

25 homes destroyed in central Texas wildfire

BASTROP, 2 March—A wildfire fueled by grass, brush and trees has destroyed at least 25 homes and three businesses in central Texas.

Officials say two National Guard helicopters joined other aircraft Sunday in dropping water on the blaze near the towns of Bastrop and Smithville.

Gov Rick Perry has activated state resources, including four Blackhawk helicopters equipped to drop water and fire retardant, firefighters and equipment. The wildfire has charred just over a square mile since it was started Saturday by a fallen power line.

Texas Forest Service spokesman Lewis Kearney says the fire is about 70 percent contained and that no additional structures are threatened.

Residents who were evacuated during the night were being escorted back into the area on Sunday to identify their property. Bastrop is about 30 miles southeast of Austin.—*Internet*

Snowstorm to hit northeastern US

WASHINGTON, 2 March —US weather authorities reported on Sunday that a snowstorm was moving toward northeastern US and likely to leave snow as deep as 30 cm in some areas.

According to the US National Weather Service, the snowstorm that was expected to hit southern New England could last up to 18 hours and cause traffic nightmare in the region on Monday.

The storm, combined with drifting snow and strong wind, would also lead to flight delays and cancellations and draw down temperatures below zero.

The service said a winter storm warning has been sent in northern Connecticut, southern New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Massachusetts, and would take effect from on Sunday night to on Monday morning.

Internet

*Job hunters look through job information on a job fair in Hangzhou International Exhibition Centre, in Hangzhou city of east China's Zhejiang Province, on 28 Feb, 2009.—*XINHUA

Russian President starts visit to Spain

MADRID, 2 March—Russian President Dmitry Medvedev arrived here Sunday night on a two-day state visit, his first bilateral European visit since Russia's war with Georgia last August.

During his stay in Spain, Medvedev is scheduled to attend a state dinner hosted by Spanish King Juan Carlos, meet with Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero and hold talks with local business leaders.

The Russian president is expected to employ the visit to strengthen economic and trade ties between Russia and Spain.

Before his arrival in Madrid, Medvedev made a stopover in the southern Italian city of Bari, where Italy returned ownership to Russia of an Orthodox church named after St Nicholas.

At the hand-over ceremony, Italian Pre-sident Giorgio Napo-litano handed Medvedev a key to the church, media reports said.

Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Israel allows industrial fuel, cooking gas into Gaza

GAZA, 2 March—The Israeli authorities allowed on Sunday through Nahal Oz depot between eastern Gaza and Israel more amounts of industrial fuels to operate Gaza power station and cooking gas, Gaza officials said.

Mahmoud al-Khozondar, deputy chief of petrol associations in Gaza told reporters that Israel allowed 110 tons of cooking gas, and about half a million litters of industrial diesel used to keep main Gaza power plant operating.

It is the first time that Israel allows such bigger amounts of industrial diesel and cooking gas into the Gaza Strip since the end of a 22-day military offensive on the enclave on 18 January though a tight blockade still imposed on the enclave.

However, al-Khozondar said that "although Israel has increased the amounts of fuels, mainly the cooking gas, but these amounts are still not enough at all for the populations' daily consumption."

Since the end of the Israeli offensive on 18 January, Israel has been partially re-opening the commercial crossings on the borders with the Gaza Strip, and only allowing humanitarian aids of food, fuels and medicine.

Xinhua

Quake jolts Palu, Indonesia

JAKARTA, 2 March—Indonesia's Central Sulawesi city of Palu was hit by an earthquake on Monday morning, according to Indonesia's meteorology agency.

The earthquake with magnitude of 5.7 struck Palu of Central Sulawesi province in eastern part of Indonesia on Monday morning, but no report of damage or casualties, the meteorology agency said. The quake jolted at 07:03 am Jakarta time (0003 GMT) with epicenter at 224 km and at 30 km under land, official of the agency Novita Hendrastuti told *Xinhua*.

Thousands of residents reportedly ran to the streets with panic, the *Antara news agency* reported.

Xinhua

*Palestanian people walk through the flooded street after a rainstorm in Gaza City, on 1 March, 2009. —*XINHUA

Australia, New Zealand vow for closer ties in economic crisis

CANBERRA, 2 March — Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and his New Zealand counterpart John Key agreed on Monday to establish closer economic ties in response to the global economic crisis.

"Worldwide this is the model for a trade agreement, it's been around for a quarter of a century ... and we're determined to make it better," Rudd told reporters after holding formal talks with Key in Sydney. Rudd also said they had discussed the ways to make travel between the two countries easier. "So that the traveling public don't have as many hassles as they currently have in moving from one side of the Tasman to the other," Australian *Associated Press* quoted Rudd as saying.

Australia and New Zealand will also exchange information of each other's emissions reduction schemes.

Xinhua

China's lunar probe Chang'e-1 impacts moon

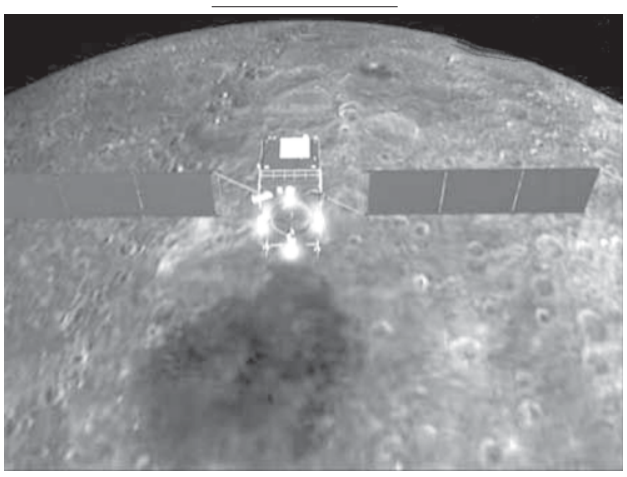
BEIJING, 2 March—Chang'e-1, China's first lunar probe, impacted the moon at 4:13 pm Beijing Time (0813 GMT) Sunday, said sources with the State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defence. The satellite ended its 16-month mission Sunday when it hit the lunar surface at 1.50 degrees south latitude and 52.36 degrees east longitude.

Chang'e-1 began to reduce its speed at 3:36 pm Beijing Time (0736 GMT) under remote control by two observation and control stations in east China's Qingdao and northwest China's Kashi.

This was the first phase of China's three-stage moon mission, which will lead to a landing and launch of a rover vehicle around 2012. Chang'e-1 was launch-ed into space on 24 Oct, 2007, and sent the first full map of the moon's surface back to China one month later.

A dozen performance tests were carried out while Chang'e-1 was in orbit to find out its orbit adjustment capability.

Xinhua



*An artist image shows China's lunar orbiter Chang'e I impacted the moon.—*XINHUA

Blue-ear pig epidemic hits three Vietnamese provinces

HANOI, 2 March—A blue-ear epidemic in pigs is developing in three Vietnamese provinces, resulting in nearly a thousand of pigs being infected with the blue-ear virus, said the Department of Animal Health under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on Monday.

In northern province Quang Ninh, the disease infected about 50 pigs raised on two local farms, said the department. In central province Quang Nam, the virus is plaguing pig farms in 20 communes of four districts, causing the culling of nearly 700 pigs, said the department.

Meanwhile the disease broke out recently in the Mekong Delta province of Bac Lieu, infecting 13 pigs with the blue-ear virus, said the department. The ministry vows to speed up measures to prevent diseases in livestock this year.

Xinhua

Cambodia's ex-king cites progress against his cancer

PHNOM PENH, 2 March —Cambodia's former king Norodom Sihanouk says he is showing progress in his most recent fight against cancer, according to a royal letter posted on his website.

The 86-year-old, who left for Beijing in July last year to receive medical treatment for other illnesses, said in late December that his Chinese doctors had found a new cancer in his body.

File image of former Cambodian King, Norodom Sihanouk. INTERNET

Sihanouk said in a letter dated 27 February that after treatment, "today I went to hospital to have it checked with modern equipment (PET Scan) and saw that this cancer has shrunk."

However he added that he needed to prolong his stay in Beijing for further treatment.

Sihanouk was first diagnosed with B-cell lymphoma, a cancer affecting blood cells crucial to the immune system, in 1993.

The cancer began in his prostate and recurred in 2005 in his stomach.

Internet

*File photo shows two workers walk past rolls of steel at a Baosteel production line in Shanghai, China. Baosteel Group Corp, one of China's biggest steelmakers, has agreed to take a controlling stake in smaller rival Ningbo Iron & Steel Co, a report said on 2 March, 2009, the latest step in a government-backed consolidation of the industry.—*INTERNET

S Korean financial firms' insurance sales up in 2008

SEOUL, 2 March — South Korean financial firms marked a 7.2 percent increase in income from insurance sales in 2008 from a year before, the country's financial watchdog said Monday.

Local financial firms including lenders and saving banks logged a combined profit of 10.6 trillion won (6.79 billion US dollars) from insurance sales in 2008, while the income stood at 9.87 trillion won (6.32 billion US dollars) in 2007, the watchdog said.

Bancassurance, which allowed banks and other financial firms to engage in sales of insurance policies, was adopted in South Korea in August 2003. As of the end of 2008, a total of 109 financial firms practice bancassurance, with 16 banks and 73 saving banks selling insurance policies.—*Internet*

Memory chip maker Spansion files for bankruptcy

NEW YORK, 2 March—Spansion Inc (SPSN.O), the world's third-biggest maker of flash memory chips, sought bankruptcy protection in a US court on Sunday, becoming the latest chip maker to succumb to falling chip prices and a deepening recession.

Spansion, which recently said it was exploring a sale of the company, said it plans to use the bankruptcy process to restructure debt obligations and refocus on its more profitable divisions.

The company and four US affiliates filed for bankruptcy protection in US bankruptcy court in Delaware on Sunday, listing assets of $3.84 billion, and debts of almost $2.4 billion.

Internet

Mexican army seizes over 700,000 dollars in drug cash

MEXICO CITY, 2 March—The Mexican army detained a woman for carrying over 700,000 US dollars of drug cash in southeastern Mexico, the Mexican National Defence Ministry said on Sunday.

Rosalba Rojas Rea, 54, was arrested Saturday night while traveling aboard a passenger bus on a highway in the state of Oaxaca, said the ministry in a statement. The woman carried two suitcases filled with drug money, found by the military.

A total of 716,830 dollars of drug money was seized. Rojas was taken to Oaxaca city for further investigations.

Internet

1.5 million-year fossilized human footprints found in Kenya

Fossilized human footprints of 1.5 million years old were found by Rutgers University's Koobi Fora Field School of Kenya, according to media reports on Monday quotting a discovery in the journal Science.

According to the researchers, the ancient footprints show that some of the earliest humans walked just like we do today and also had anatomically modern feet.

The area around the human footprints is also littered with a range of animal prints, all discovered within two 1.5 million-year-old sedimentary layers near Ileret in northern Kenya.

Woman facing charges for multitasking

Police in Kettering, Ohio, say a woman is facing charges for allegedly driving her car, talking on a cell phone and breast-feeding her child at the same time.

Kettering Police Officer Michael Burke said Genine Compton, 39, was tracked down by police after a concerned motorist contacted authorities about her alleged vehicular multitasking, the Dayton (Ohio) *Daily News* reported Friday.

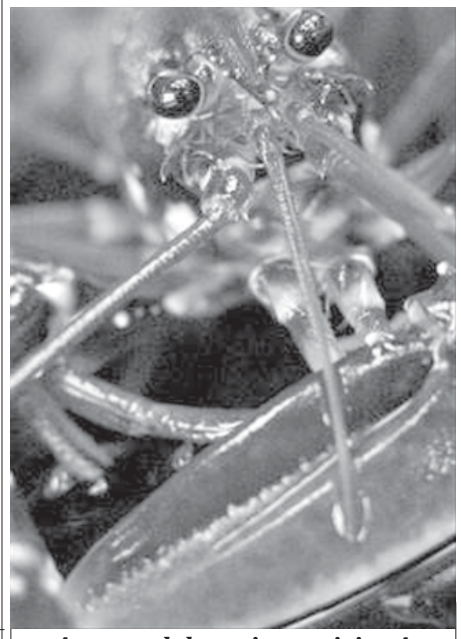
The unidentified male motorist told police he even attempted to confront the woman, only to be taunted by her.

Ancient tomb rediscovered under sands of Egypt

Belgian archaeologists have unearthed a 3,500-year-old pharaonic official's tomb that had disappeared under sand in southern Egypt after it was first discovered about 130 years ago.

Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities said in a statement on Sunday that the Belgian team in Luxor uncovered the tomb of Amenhotep, the deputy seal-bearer for King Thutmose III who ruled Egypt in the 18th Dynasty.

NEWS ALBUM



A young lobster in captivity. A Japanese restaurant in New York took pity on a 140-year-old lobster and announced that it would not end its days boiled in a pot but instead swim free in the Atlantic Ocean.

Hero of flight 1549 must complete testing

Capt Chesley Sullenberger, who safely landed US Airways Flight 1549 in New York's Hudson River, must retrain before getting going back to work, rules say.

The New York Post reported Sunday that, according to Federal Aviation Administration regulations, Sullenberger will only be allowed to pilot airline flights once he has completed three takeoffs and landings.

The takeoffs and landings must all be completed with a 90-day period, but can be conducted in a flight simulator or a real airplane. "He's going to probably lose his 90-day currency, so he'll have to come back and train in the simulator," said Capt James Ray, a US Airline Pilots Association spokesman. Sullenberger, 58, said following his successful Hudson River landing on 15 Jan that he plans on returning to US Airways at some point. His union informed the Post the pilot's next scheduled flight is sometime in March.

Kasey Hayes of Liberal, KS cant seem to hold onto Sneaky Snake the bull during his ride on day three of the Professional Bull Riders event at the Scottrade Center in St Louis.

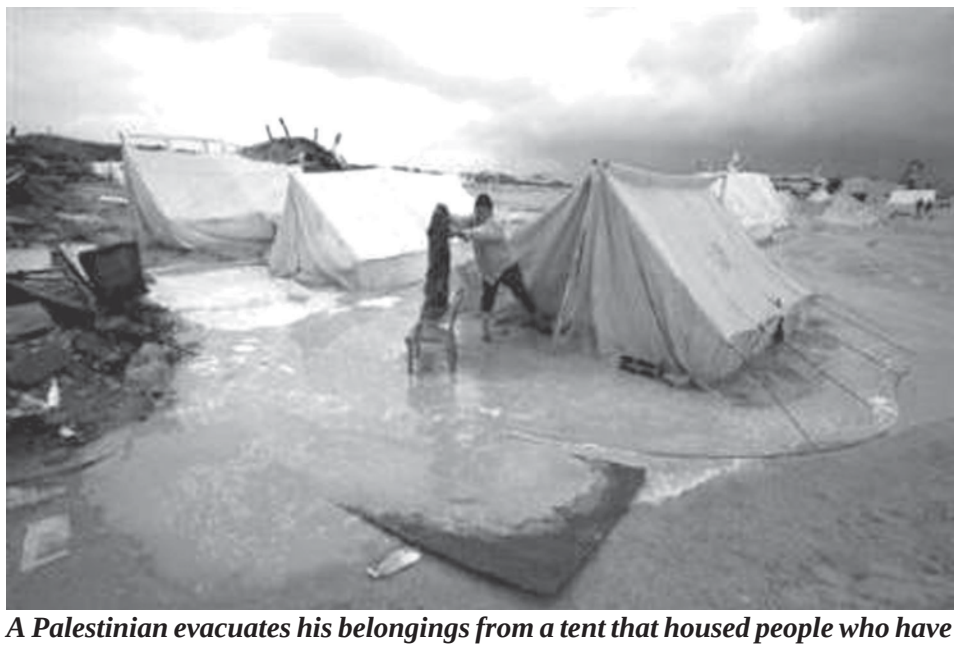
Man sets cell phone shop ablaze, killing two in N-W China

URUMQI, 2 March— Two people were killed and seven others injured in the northern Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region late Saturday when a love-forsaken man torched a cell phone shop run by his ex-girl friend.

Local Police confirmed Sunday that the dead were Wang Xiaoming, the perpetrator, and his ex-girl friend who was only identified by her surname Lei. Both Wang and Lei were in their 20s.

Witnesses said Wang came into the shop, which is in Beitun Town in Altay, a city in northern Xinjiang, with two buckets of gasoline. He poured out one and set it on fire in the presence of Lei, her present boyfriend and her nephew.

The shop was soon engulfed by thick smoke and fire. Only Lei's lover and nephew survived as he dragged the child outdoors after the explosion. They did suffer burns and were hospitalized along with three policemen and two bystanders.—*MNA/Xinhua*



***A Palestinian evacuates his belongings from a tent that housed people who have lost their homes, after heavy rain in east of Gaza on 1 March , 2009.—*INTERNET**

Freeway accident leaves four dead in south China

GUANGZHOU, 2 March— Four passengers were killed and 39 others injured early Sunday after a bus traveling south on Beijing-Zhuhai Freeway broke through a guardrail and fell off a cliff.

Traffic police in Shaoguan City, south China's Guangdong Province, said the bus carried 43 passengers. It set off from Nanyang, a city in central China's Henan Province, at 10 a.m. Saturday headed for Dongguan in Guangdong.

All the passengers were residents from Zhenping County in Nanyang City.

The accident happened around 3:46 a.m. Sunday when the driver attempted to avoid hitting an unidentified object in front of the bus.

The bus plunged halfway down a 50 metre high cliff. It was stopped by part of a bridge support pole.

Two women and two men were killed instantly. The remaining passengers were injured, five seriously. They were taken to the hospital and were expected to survive.

One injured passenger, Hou Jiangbo, 24, was taking the bus from his hometown in Henan together with his wife and two other friends.

MNA/Xinhua

Nicaraguan Navy captures 50 undocumented immigrants

MANAGUA, 2 March—The Nicaraguan Navy has detained 50 undocumented immigrants from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana and Nepal, Frigate Captain Angel Fonseca announced Sunday.

The immigrants were abandoned Friday by human traffickers, said Fonseca, noting that the traffickers use the Caribbean region as a hallway for their illegal activities.

Among all the detainees, 27 were from Eritrea, 12 from Ethiopia, eight from Nepal, two from Ghana and one from Somalia, including 11 women and a three-year-old child. One of the immigrants, David Guisa, told the Nicaraguan authorities that they sailed from Kenya 40 days ago by a fishing ship.

"The traffickers took us to a sailboat...(and) sailed to these coasts where they abandoned us and told us it was Honduras," Guisa told the authorities. Guisa said that all of them paid around 2,500 US dollars each to the traffickers.

MNA/Xinhua

Over 20,000 displaced by floods in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 2 March— More than 20,000 people have fled homes after floods hit Eastern Java of Indonesia since February 23, *National Disaster Management Agency* reported here on Monday. Consecutive days of downpours have triggered Bengawan Solo River passing through Central and East Java overflowed and submerged more than five thousands houses and forced the residents to took shelters in higher grounds, spokesman of the agency Priyadi Kardono said.

"Today there are 10,300 people take shelter in Lamongan of East Java Province, and in Bojonegoro of the province at least there are still a half of 20,170 displaced persons still stay at refugee camps," he told *Xinhua*.

In Bojonegoro, the floods had already started to recede, some of the evacuees had begun to return home, said Kardono.—*MNA/Xinhua*

***Passers-by are reflected on a graph showing current movements of a share average in Tokyo on 2 March, 2009. Japan's Nikkei stock average slid 3.2 percent on Monday, with Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group and other banks sinking on fears about their US peers, while exporters slipped on worry about the US economy.—*INTERNET**

***A man walks in front of judicial police offices in Bissau. A powerful bomb exploded on Sunday at the headquarters of Guinea-Bissau's armed forces, wounding six people, three seriously, a military source said.—*INTERNET**

Mexican drug cartel threatened to kill Guatemalan President

MEXICO CITY, 2 March—A Mexican drug cartel threatened to kill Guatemalan President Alvaro Colom, Guatemalan strategic Intelligence Secretariat (SAE) said Sunday.

The emergency phone number 110 from the National Civil Police on Saturday received three phone calls expressing death threats against Colom, according to information reaching here from Guatemala City. The phone calls were believed to be made by the hit squad of drug cartel "Los Zetas".

At least 10 members of Los Zetas have been captured recently after Colom's government vowed to take firm actions against the drug cartel. Manuel de Jesus Galeano, SAE chief from the Guatemalan Presidency, said that measures have been taken to reinforce Colom's security in response to these threats.

Blanco said threats streamed in weeks ago. Guatemalan Interior Minister Salvador Gandara has also received death threats. The hit squad of the cartel "Los Zetas" is the most violent and dangerous group of organized crime in Mexico.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Two NFL players on boat missing off Florida

MIAMI, 2 March— The US Coast Guard searched the Gulf of Mexico off Florida on Sunday for a missing boat with four people on board and local media reported that two of the missing men were National Football League players.

The boaters were identified as Corey Smith, Victor "Marquis" Cooper, Nick Skyler and William Bleakley, the Coast Guard said in a statement.

Tampa-area television stations identified Smith and Cooper as football players who began their careers with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, the NFL team that plays not far from where the missing boat left shore in Clearwater, Florida.

According to the NFL's website, Corey Smith, 29, is a defensive end with the Detroit Lions, and Marquis Cooper, 26, is a linebacker with the Oakland Raiders. The 21-foot (six-metre) vessel left early on Saturday morning from a boat ramp at Clearwater Pass and was reported missing when it failed to return as scheduled, Coast Guard officials said.

Smith, who played college football at North Carolina State, has been with Tampa Bay, San Francisco and Detroit in a six-year NFL career.

MNA/Reuters

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and ASEAN Foreign Ministers sign ASEAN Petroleum Security Agreement in the presence of Prime Minister General Thein Sein and Heads of State and Government of ASEA countries.
(News on page 1)
MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein and Heads of State and Government of ASEAN countries pose for a documentary photo before the 14th ASEAN Summit held at Dusit Thani Hotel in Hua Hin of Thailand.
(News on page 1)
MNA

Prime Minister General Thein Sein receives Thai Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Thein Sein received Minister of Interior of Thailand Mr. Chavarat Charnvirakul at Room No.(5601) of Holiday Inn Resort Hotel at 10 am on 28 February.

Also present at the meeting, 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, Director-General of the Government Office Col Thant Shin and Myanmar military attaché Col Win Maung. The Thai Minister was accompanied by the director and the adviser of Foreign Relations Department of the Ministry of Interior of Thailand .—*MNA*

***Prime Minister General Thein Sein receives Minister of Interior of Thailand Mr Chavarat Charnvirakul at Holiday Inn Resort Hotel in Hua Hin of Thailand.*—MNA**

Minister U Nyan Win attends ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March – Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, who accompanied Prime Minister General Thein Sein to attend the 14th ASEAN Summit, attended the working dinner for ASEAN Foreign Ministers held at Dusit Thani Hotel in Thailand at 7 p.m on 26 February.

At the dinner, the foreign ministers discussed regional and international situations and exchanged views on extension of the duration of post-Nargis rehabilitation tasks, Gaza issues, overcoming of the global financial crisis on a cooperative basis and the issue of illegal migrant workers.

Minister U Nyan Win attended the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' informal meeting held at Dusit Thani Hotel Napalai Ballroom (B) in Hua Hin of Thailand. The meeting discussed matters related to the admission of Turkey to the friendship and cooperation agreement, the admission of European Union and European Council to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation, decision to set the dates of holding ASEAN related summits and schedules of ASEAN meetings.

Minister U Nyan Win attended the meeting of ASEAN Coordination Council. The participants of the meeting discussed the confirmation of the budget of the ASEAN Secretariat for 2009 by the ASEAN ministers, confirmation of the appointment of Under-Secretary-General of ASEAN, interim guideline for appointment of the ASEAN permanent representative, establishment of the ASEAN Permanent Representative Office, implementation of ASEAN Charter and establishment of three ASEAN communities.

At 10.45 a.m, Minister U Nyan Win met with the ASEAN Foreign Affairs Ministers, the delegation of senior officials for establishment of ASEAN human rights organization and the delegation of legal experts for implementation of ASEAN Charter and discussed legal affairs.—*MNA*

Prime Minister General Thein Sein attends gala dinner hosted by Thai Prime Minister and wife

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March—Prime Minister General Thein Sein attended the gala dinner hosted by Prime Minister of Thailand Mr Abhisit Vejjajiva and wife at Maruekhathaiyavan Palace in Hua Hin, Thailand at 7.30 pm on 28 February.

Also present on the occasion were King of Brunei Darussalam Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muissaddin Waddaulah, Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen, Indonesian President Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and wife, Lao PDR Prime Minister Mr Bouasone Bouphavanh, Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi and wife, Philippine Prime Minister Madame Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Singaporean Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong, Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Nguyen Tang Dung, Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Economic Ministers of ASEAN nations, ASEAN Secretary-General Dr Surin Pitsuwan, high-ranking officials, Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Aung Thein, 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 Thai Prime Minister and wife cordially greeted the Heads of State/Government from ASEAN nations who were present on the occasion. Next, the gala dinner started with the greetings extended by the Thai Prime Minister. After that, the Heads of State/Government enjoyed the dinner together while members of Thai traditional culture troupe were presenting entertainment.—*MNA*

***Prime Minister General Thein Sein being welcomed by Prime Minister of Thailand Mr Abhisit Vejjajiva and wife at the dinner.*—MNA**

Prime Minister General Thein Sein arrives back from Thailand

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March — Prime Minister General Thein Sein together with Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Director-General of Government Office Col Thant Shin and high-ranking officials left Holiday Inn Resort Hotel in a motorcade at 2 pm yesterday after attending the 14th ASEAN Summit related meetings.

They arrived at the Hua Hin Airport. Prime Minister General Thein Sein and party were seen off at the airport by Minister of Natural Resource and Environment of Thailand Mr Suwit Khunkitti and officials concerned, Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Aung Thein, Myanmar Military attaché Col Win Maung, Myanmar Embassy staff and their families.

Next, Minister Mr Suwit Khunkitti presented a garland to Prime Minister General Thein Sein.

Then, the Prime Minister and party left Thailand by special aircraft at 2:30 p.m. and arrived at Nay Pyi Taw at 4 p.m.—*MNA*

Prime Minister General Thein Sein being seen off by Minister of Natural Resource and Environment of Thailand Mr Suwit Khunkitti at the airport. —MNA

NPED Minister attends signing ceremony of ASEAN Economic Ministers

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March—Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, who accompanied Prime Minister General Thein Sein in his presence of 14th ASEAN Summit, on 26 Feb, attended the working dinner of ASEAN Economic Ministers held at Dusit Thani Hotel in Hua Hin of Thailand.

Before the working dinner, the Minister signed ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA), ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement (ACIA), protocol to implement the 7th Package of Commitments under ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (AFAS), 3 programmes for mutual recognition of ASEAN Quality, together with other ASEAN Economic Ministers.

Economic Ministers from ASEAN countries hold discussions on ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement, matters related to sign protocol for inclusion of Thailand in ASEAN-Korea Trade in Goods and Services Agreement to be signed in the 14th ASEAN Summit, matters relating to sign ASEAN-China Investment Agreement, ASEAN-Korea Investment Agreement, ASEAN-India Trade in Groods Agreement, and matters relating to establishment of Free Trade Zone between ASEAN and EU.

***Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha signing agreements together with economic ministers of ASEAN countries.*—MNA**

Minister U Soe Tha greeted the Thai Commerce Minister at Dusit Thani Hotel at 5 pm.

On 27 February, the Minister attended the 1st meeting of ASEAN Economic Community Council which was also participated by Chairman of the council Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, member ministers of the council, the deputy General-Secretary of ASEAN Secretariat and delegates from 10 ASEAN countries.

In the meeting, implementation of works adopted by ASEAN Charter, progress on implementation of Score card to access ASEAN Economic Community, work programmes for publication of ASEAN Economic Community, and matters relating to holding of informal and formal meeting of ASEAN Economic Ministers this year.

Minister U Soe Tha signed Agreement on establishment of ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Zone, and protocol for inclusion of Thailand in ASEAN-Korea Trade in Goods and Services Agreement together with ASEAN Economic Ministers and Economic Ministers from Australia, New Zealand and the Republic of Korea.

Minister U Soe Tha attended the dinner hosted by the Thai Commerce Minister and General-Secretary of ASEAN together with other ASEAN Economic Ministers.—*MNA*

Consecration of Buddha image donated by citizens of Myanmar at Withonegama ShweTheindaw in progress.

MNA

Withonegama ShweTheindaw of Uppatasanti Pagoda.

MNA

Secretary-1 attends ceremony to mark…

(from page 16)

Enshrining religious objects into the upper reliquary, hoisting the Shwehtidaw, the Yadana Seinbudaw and the Ngetmyatnadaw, offering the Myathabeik and the Shwekya Thingan and consecrating started at the pagoda on 26 February morning. The non-stop Pathan recitation was held for five days from 26 February. On 1 March morning, the ceremonies to consecrate the Buddha images from Withonegama Shwe Theindaw, Setiya Pala San Kyaungdaw and Sasana Maha Beikmandaw were held simultaneously.

The Buddha image in Withonegama Shwe Theindaw donated by the public was consecrated by Sayadaw Bhaddanta Visara and members of the Sangha. The Buddha image in Setiya Pala San Kyaungdaw donated by U Soe Myint and Daw Nan Myint of Ngwe Sin Co Ltd. was consecrated by Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon Maha Thiha Nada Monastery Presiding Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Ahcinna and members of the Sangha. The Buddha image in Sasana Maha Beikmandaw donated by U Teza and family of Htoo Group of Companies in memory of late Lt-Col Myint Swe (Retd) was consecrated by Nay Pyi Taw Lewe Paukmyaing Monastery Presiding Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Janidda and members of the Sangha. —*MNA*

Sasana Maha Beikmandaw of Uppatasanti Pagoda.

MNA

No. 2 Great Wall Sugar Mill (Maunggon), Great Wall biofuel plant inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March — Maj-Gen Ohn Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North West Command Maj-Gen Myint Soe, Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Brig-Gen Soe Win and officials met Tatmadaw members and their families of Katha Station at the station hall and departmental officials, members of social organizations and local people on 23 February.

Maj-Gen Ohn Myint and two commanders presented cash assistance to basic education high schools and social organizations in Katha Township.

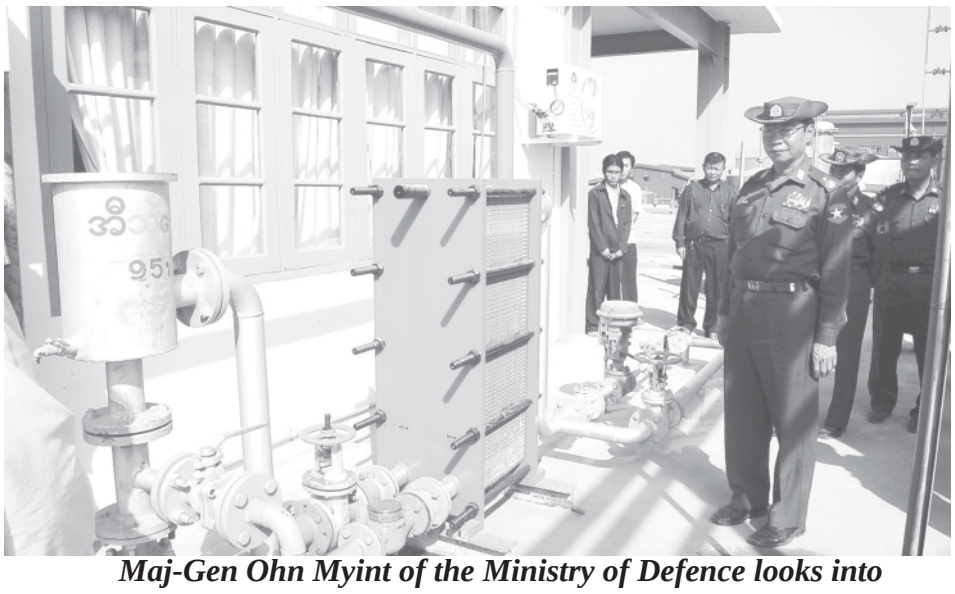
Maj-Gen Ohn Myint and party met members of social organizations and village people from Thanpaya and Asugyi Villages in the township and inspected thriving sunflower, sugarcane and maize plantations on both sides of Katha-Htigyaing Road and maintenance of roads and bridges.

Maj-Gen Ohn Myint inspected temporary nursery of the teak plantation of Forest Department in Htigyaing Township and met officials and members of social organizations at the guest house.

Maj-Gen Ohn Myint and party inspected No 2 Great Wall Sugar Mill (Maunggon), Great Wall biofuel plant, waterway on the Ayeyawady River and greening of the environs.

They went to Singu Township port where they met Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe, departmental officials and members of social organizations. The managing director of No 2 Great Wall Sugar Mill presented cash for Singu Township People's Hospital and the commander cash assistance for staff. Maj-Gen Ohn Myint and the commander arrived in Mandalay in the evening.

MNA



***Maj-Gen Ohn Myint of the Ministry of Defence looks into Great Wall biofuel plant.*—MNA**

***Local people enjoy the performance of "Arzarni San San" Circus.*—MNA**

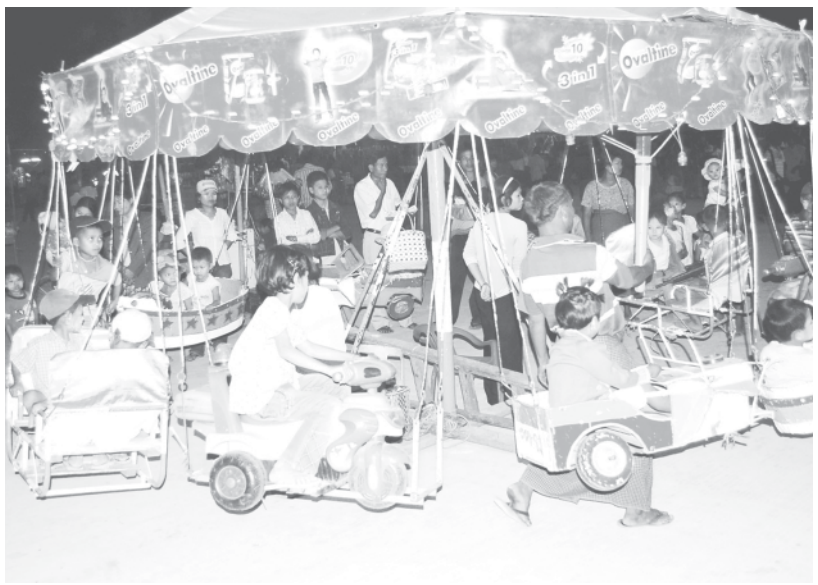
Festivities continue to mark ceremony to fix Shwehtidaw (Umbrella) and Seinbudaw (Diamond bad) atop Uppatasanti Pagoda

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March — To mark the ceremony to fix Shwehtidaw (Umbrella) and Seinbudaw (Diamond bad) atop Uppatasanti Pagoda and to consecrate the pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw, entertainments were performed in the field near the pagoda yesterday for the second day.

Among over 9000 spectators enjoying "Arzarni San San" Circus were Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint and Director-General of the Fine Arts Department U Yan Naing Oo.

Local people were also entertained with Academy Award Winning films shown by Myanma Motion Picture Enterprise and Anyeint (traditional concert). — *MNA*

***Locals from Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon, Nay Pyi Taw Lewe come to the festivities to enjoy entertainments.*—MNA**



Children and adults enjoying the entertainments at the festivities.

MNA

Eye specialists bring eye…

(from page 16)

The team led by Eye Specialist Prof Dr U Tin Win comprised eye specialists Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe, Dr Nilar Thein, Dr Swe Oo Lwin, Dr Nu Nu Yin, Dr Thein Htut, Dr Nann Ei Shwe Sin, Dr Yi Lin, Dr Aung Moe Tun, Dr Kyaw Swa Win, Dr Naing Linn Aye, Dr Aung Nay Oo, Dr Hnin Yu Chit Sai, Dr Zay Zi Kyaw, Dr Hlaing Hlaing, Dr Yu Yu Thein, Dr Ko Ko Lin, Dr May Ko Ko Thet and 12 nurses and two experts from Alcon company.

Managing Director of General Maintenance and Industries of Ministry of Industry-1 U Aye Mauk and wife Daw Khin Win Kyi and Managing Director of Mother Trading Co Ltd U Aung Myat contributed cash to the programme to cover the cost of the medical treatment, medicines and spectacles.—*MNA*

***Eye specialists providing treatment to patients with eye complaints.*—MNA**

Earthquake Report

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March — A slight earthquake of intensity (4.6) Richter Scale with its epicenter about (65) miles South of Kaba-Aye Seismological observatory in Myanmar territorial waters was recorded at (19) hrs (08) min (11) sec M.S.T on 2nd March 2009.—*MNA*

INDUSTRIAL DESIGN CAUTIONARY NOTICE

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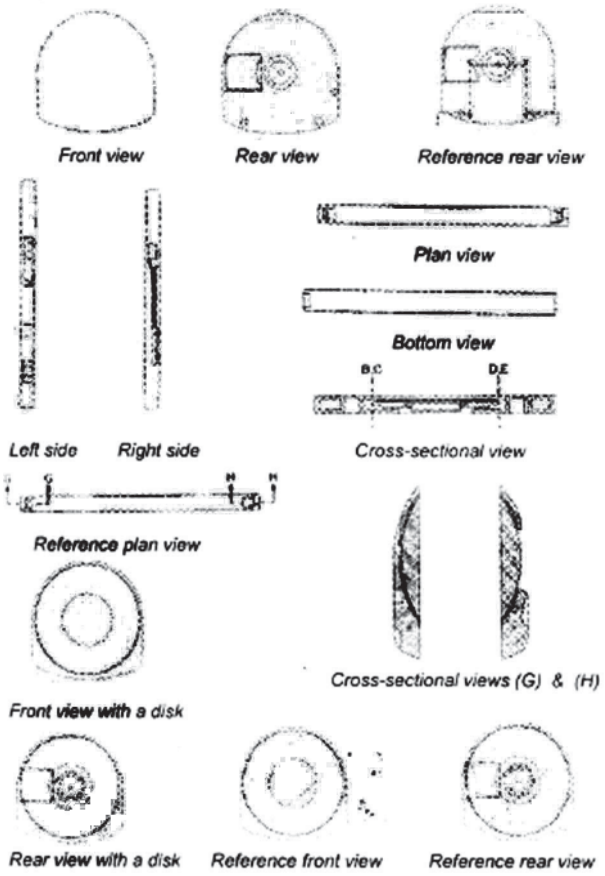

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U Than Maung, Advocate
For **Sony Computer Entertainment Inc.**,
C/o **Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.**
Unit 701/702 Traders Hotel
Yangon, Union of Myanmar

Dated **3 March 2009**

ENGAGEMENT

Engagement is announced between
Dr. Chaw Khyne Khyne May Thwin
Resident Medical Officer, Royal Perth Hospital, Perth, Western Australia
daughter of
Dr. Maung Maung Thwin, Research Scientist, National University of Singapore- Daw Khin Saw Win May
and
Dr. Khine Than Kyaw
Resident Medical Offices Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Perth, Western Australia
son of
Dr. Aung Kyaw Prof. (Retd.) Consultant Neurosurgeon-
Dr. Khin Than Tin Asso. Prof. (Retd) O.G on 2.3. 2009 in the presence of parents and relatives
Parents of both sides and
Dr. Chaw Khyne Khyne May Thwin, Dr. Khine Than Kyaw

SKorea's Hyundai wins 1.3-bln-dlr order from Saudi

SEOUL, 2 March—South Korea's Hyundai Engineering and Construction said Monday it has won a 1.3-billion-dollar order to build a gas processing plant in Saudi Arabia.

Under the 2-05 trillion-won deal with Saudi Aramco, Hyundai Engineering said it would build the plant at Khursaniyah to process natural gas extracted from an offshore oilfield in the Gulf.

"Construction will begin this month," a company spokesman told *AFP*, adding the plant would start processing about 1.8 billion cubic feet of gas a day in 2012.

"The high value-added project will help Hyundai bolster its competitive edge against Japanese and European firms," the spokesman said.

The company aims to win overseas orders totalling about 6.5 billion dollars from the Middle East and Southeast Asia this year.—*Internet*

***A tourist looks at the covered Merlion statue as it undergoes repair in Singapore on 2 March, 2009. Singapore's iconic Merlion statue, a popular tourist attraction, was damaged by lightning on Saturday afternoon during a thunderstorm, government radio reported.*—INTERNET**

At least seven dead in S Philippine killings

COTABATO, 2 March—The death toll in the vendetta killings over a land dispute last week in the southern Philippines has reached seven, officials said on Monday.

Thirty-eight families have also fled their houses in the remote village of Sibuano, South Cotabato province, following the on-and-off fighting between a Christian clan and natives, Remegio Roxas, a local director of the Philippine National Red Cross, told a local radio station.

Six Filipino residents, including two children, were initially killed on 26 Feb in a massacre staged by armed men in the southern village.

The victims were inside their house when the attackers, all armed with highly-powered firearms, arrived and peppered them with bullets.

The police have identified three of the perpetrators as Dado Lagcao and his two sons Jomari and Luckybot, the owner of land where the victims are staying for several years.—*Internet*

Egypt reports one more human bird flu case

CAIRO, 2 March—Egyptian Health Ministry confirmed on Sunday that a two-year-old baby was infected with bird flu virus, bringing the number of human cases of the avian influenza in the country to 56, the official *MENA* news agency reported.

Youssef Abdel-Azim comes from Fayoum governorate, some 85 km south of Cairo, said assistant health minister for preventive affairs Nasr el-Sayyed. The child contracted the virus by contacting infected birds and suffered high temperature on Saturday, el-Sayyed was quoted as saying.—*Internet*

Bird flu virus detected on another farm in Japan

TOKYO, 2 March—Another Aichi Prefecture farm has been tested positive for a form of bird flu virus, the prefectural government said Monday.

The local government conducted the test on farms around a quail farm in Toyohashi, Aichi Prefecture, where a weak-virulent H7N6 subtype of bird flu virus was detected last week, according to the *Kyodo News*. —*Internet*

Economic crisis could be "turning point" for Sino-US ties

HOUSTON, 2 March— Bad global economy and climate change could create a turning point for US-China relations as the two countries have to unite against the two "enemies" for the welfare of themselves and the world as well, a US expert has said.

"It could be a turning point. Bad global economies and climate change are the enemies which China and the US need to confront together," Orville Schell, director of Asia Society Center on US-China relations, told *Xinhua* on the sideline of the annual conference of Asia Society here Thursday.

Internet

A Shih Tzu waits for the show during the annual International Dog Show Eurasia-2009 in Moscow, on 28 Feb, 2009. —XINHUA

A Dominican Republic midget reveller takes part during the end of the national carnival in Santo Domingo on 1 March, 2009.—INTERNET

An electrician talks on a phone while testing the lights on Olympic rings that were installed on the road leading from Vancouver International Airport in Richmond, British Columbia to Vancouver on 1 March , 2009. Vancouver, Richmond and Whistler will host the 2010 Winter Olympic Games.

INTERNET

Indonesia's psychedelic fish named a new species

JAKARTA, 2 March —A funky, psychedelic fish that bounces on the ocean floor like a rubber ball has been classified as a new species, a scientific journal reported.

The frogfish — which has a swirl of tan and peach zebra stripes that extend from its aqua eyes to its tail — was initially discovered by scuba diving instructors working for a tour operator a year ago in shallow waters off Ambon island in eastern Indonesia.

The operator contacted Ted Pietsch, lead author of a paper published in this month's edition of Copeia, the journal of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, who submitted DNA work identifying it as a new species.The fish — which the University of Washington professor has named "psychedelica" — is a member of the antennariid genus, Histiophryne, and like other frogfish, has fins on both sides of its body that have evolved to be leg-like.

But it has several behavioral traits not previously known to the others, Pietsch wrote.

Each time the fish strike the seabed, for instance, they push off with their fins and expel water from tiny gill openings to jet themselves forward. That, and an off-centered tail, causes them to bounce around in a bizarre, chaotic manner.

Mark Erdman, a senior adviser to the Conservation International's marine programme, said on Thursday it was an exciting discovery.

Internet

Almost 200 whales beached in Australia

SYDNEY, 2 March— Nearly 200 whales and several dolphins are stranded on a beach in the southern Australian island state of Tasmania, the latest in a string of beachings in recent months.Rescuers were headed Monday to Naracoopa Beach on Tasmania's King Island to try to save some of the 194 pilot whales and half a dozen bottlenose dolphins that began beaching themselves on Sunday evening.Some had died by Monday morning, said Chris Arthur from Tasmania's Parks and Wildlife Service.

"While there are animals alive, there is always hope," Arthur said.

It was not clear why the animals had beached on the island, halfway between Tasmania and mainland Australia. *The Examiner*, a Tasmanian newspaper, reported that the animals were caught by a very low tide.

Strandings happen periodically in Tasmania as whales go by during their migration to and from Antarctic waters. However, Arthur said it was unusual for whales and dolphins to get stranded together.—*Internet*

Researchers find safer way to make stem cells

LONDON, 2 March— Researchers said on Sunday they had found a safer way to transform ordinary skin cells into powerful stem cells in a move that could eventually remove the need to use human embryos.

It is the first time that scientists have turned skin cells into induced pluripotent stem cells or iPS cells — which look and act like embryonic stem cells — without having to use viruses in the process.

The new method also allows for genes that are inserted to trigger cell reprogramming to be removed afterwards.

Stem cells are the body's master cells, producing all the body's tissues and organs.—*Internet*

Workers pile palm oil fruit on to a truck in Serdang Bedagai, North Sumatra Province.Biofuels made from food crops such as corn, sugar, soybeans and oil palm burn cleaner than fossil fuels, but experts say high demand is sending ripples through the world economy, and could be doing the environment more harm than good.—INTERNET

Vegetable-based drug could inhibit melanoma

WASHINGTON, 2 March — Compounds extracted from green vegetables such as broccoli and cabbage could be a potent drug against melanoma, according to cancer researchers.

Tests on mice suggest that these compounds, when combined with selenium, target tumors more safely and effectively than conventional therapy.

"There are currently no drugs to target the proteins that trigger melanoma," said Gavin Robertson, associate professor of pharmacology, pathology and dermatology, Penn State College of Medicine.

"We have developed drugs from naturally occurring compounds that can inhibit the growth of tumors in mice by 50 to 60 percent with a very low dose."

Robertson and his colleagues previously showed the therapeutic potential of targeting the Akt3 protein in inhibiting the development of melanoma.

The search for a drug to block the protein led them to a class of compounds called isothiocyanates.

These naturally occurring chemicals found in cruciferous vegetables are known to have certain cancer-fighting properties.

Internet

Scientists modifies smallpox vaccine to fight H5N1 bird flu

HONG KONG, 2 March — A team of scientists from the University of Hong Kong and the United States on Sunday said they have developed a new vaccine strategy against the H5N1 bird flu virus by genetically modifying a smallpox vaccine. The new vaccine is potentially a sound solution in case of an H5N1 bird flu pandemic, which many scientists have been worried about, said Malik Peiris, a microbiologist and bird flu research authority at the University of Hong Kong.

Peiris said that the new vaccine has proven safer in experiments on mice and that "a single vaccine dose will provide rapid protective immune responses."

It is also expected to enable fast mass production thanks to the possibility of using cell-culture methods, which could help avoid potential production bottlenecks as eggs will have to be used in the production of vaccines currently on offer.

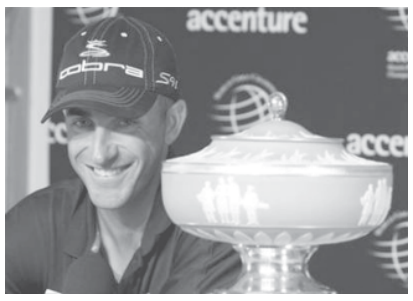
And the existing facilities used for the production of smallpox vaccines can be used to produce the bird flu vaccines without much trouble, which can help reduce the costs, said another member of the research team, adding that alternative strategies available involving genetic engineering methods have been typically expensive.

Internet

A balloon in the shape of Smurf is displayed during the Balloon Day Parade in Brussels, capital of Belgium, on 28 Feb, 2009. Gigantic helium balloons mainly featuring comic strip characters paraded in central Brussels Saturday, marking the beginning of the Brussels 2009 BD Comics Strip year.—XINHUA

SPORTS

Ogilvy wins his 2nd in 4 years



Geoff Ogilvy, of Australia, smiles as he talks about his victory over Paul Casey at the World Golf Championships Accenture Match Play Championship on 1 March, 2009, in Marana, Ariz.—INTERNET

MARANA, 2 March—Geoff Ogilvy was in a sticky spot, rare for him in the Accenture Match Play Championship.

His second shot on the par-5 11th hole Sunday morning bounced into the desert and landed in a bed of jumping chollas, the ball suspended by 2-inch cactus needles. He wasn't about to take a swing. He didn't even want to touch it."I chose not to put my hand anywhere near it," Ogilvy said.

What became significant about that hole is the way it ended. Ogilvy took a penalty drop 40 yards behind him in the desert, failed to reach the green and was on the verge of losing the hole until he chipped in for par from 60 feet away to win the hole. It was early in the match, but it was a pivotal moment in his 4-and-3 victory over Paul Casey.—*Internet*

Inter show title spirit in six-goal thriller

ROME, 2 March—Inter Milan twice came back from two-goal deficits against AS Roma to snatch a thrilling 3-3 draw at the San Siro on Sunday and extend their lead at the top of Serie A to seven points.

Jose Mourinho's team looked to be heading for more heartache following their footballing lesson by Manchester United in the Champions League in midweek as they trailed 2-0 and 3-1.

But a brace from teenager Mario Balotelli and a late equaliser from Hernan Crespo stole a share of the spoils and helped to maintain a sizeable gap to second-placed Juventus, who beat Napoli 1-0 on Saturday.

"That's a golden point for us," said Mourinho. "We lacked intensity and concentration following our Champions League efforts.At 3-1 down the match seemed over, even I thought it was. But the team's character made the difference."—*Internet*

Inter Milan's forward Marco Balotelli (2nd L) celebrates after scoring a penalty with Inter Milan's Brazilian forward Adriano during their Series A football match against Roma at San Siro Stadium in Milan. The match ended in a 3-3 draw.—INTERNET

Fergie still cautious as Harry bets on United fab five

LONDON, 2 March—Sir Alex Ferguson insists it will take a freakish run of good luck for it to happen. But Tottenham boss Harry Redknapp is prepared to put his money on Manchester United ending the season with an unprecedented haul of five major trophies.

Sunday's penalty shoot-out win over Redknapp's Spurs in the League Cup final means it is two down, three to go for United following their World Club Championship triumph in Japan in December.

And the next ten days will go a long way towards deciding the fate of their bid for a clean sweep of every competition they have entered this season.Liverpool's defeat at Middlesbrough on Saturday means Ferguson's men, who travel to Newcastle on Wednesday, are seven points clear in the Premier League with a game in hand.—*Internet*

Manchester United's manager Alex Ferguson celebrates with the trophy after his team beat Tottenham to win the 2009 Carling Cup final at Wembley stadium, north London, on 1 March . United won by beating holders Tottenham 4-1 on penalties after the match ended 0-0 after extra-time.
INTERNET

Don't panic, Barcelona coach tells his beaten footballers

FC Barcelona's Leonel Messi is seen during a Spanish league football match against Atletico de Madrid at Vicente Calderon stadium in Madrid, on 1 March. Atletico won 4-3.—INTERNET

MADRID, 2 March—Barcelona coach Josep Guardiola insists that he will not press the panic button despite the Spanish giants suffering back-to-back league defeats.

Less than a month ago, Barcelona were coasting to the La Liga title with a healthy 12-point lead over bitter rivals Real Madrid, thanks to a run of 22 championship games without defeat.

But on Sunday, they twice surrendered the lead to lose 4-3 to Atletico Madrid, a heartbreaking setback coming on the back of a shock defeat against relegation-haunted Espanyol and a 1-1 Champions League draw at Lyon.

"We have had a big advantage and Real Madrid have cut it back by eight points in three weeks. But we will continue forward," said Guardiola whose team's lead at the top is now just four points.—*Internet*

Top seed Fish rallies to win Delray Beach event

DELRAY BEACH, 2 March—American Mardy Fish rallied to beat Evgeny Korolev 7-5, 6-3 Sunday, becoming the first top seed to win the ATP Delray Beach International Championship in the 17-year history of the event.

Fish also became the first American to win it since 2003, when journeyman Jan-Michael Gambill beat Fish in the final.Fish had not won a title since claiming the Houston tournament in April of 2006 on clay.

Internet

American Mardy Fish

Gardner buries Newcastle

Bolton Wanderers' Jamacan defender Ricardo Gardner scored with his first touch of the game to help Bolton boss Gary Megson celebrate his new contract with a 1-0 win.—INTERNET

BOLTON, 2 March—Ricardo Gardner scored with his first touch of the game to help Bolton boss Gary Megson celebrate his new contract with a 1-0 win over visitors Newcastle United at the Reebok Stadium. Megson brought on Gardner at half-time and the Jamaica midfielder had an instant impact, scoring in the 47th minute from close range.Gardner's third goal of the season moved Bolton up to 10th in the English Premier League table while Newcastle remain 15th, two points above the relegation zone.

The Magpies mustered 19 shots to the hosts' 10 but could not find a way past Bolton goalkeeper Jussi Jaaskelainen.The Trotters had previously gone 14 league games without keeping a clean sheet, by far the worst record in the top flight.—*Internet*

Blackburn Rovers' Keith Andrews (2Left) scores against Hull City during their English Premier League football match at The Kingston Communications Stadium in Hull, north east England. Hull's desperate plunge down the English Premier League table continued as the visitors hauled themselves out of the relegation zone with a 2-1 win .—INTERNET

Collison strike hammers Man City

LONDON, 2 March—Jack Collison scored the only goal of the game as West Ham United beat visitors Manchester City at Upton Park on Sunday to edge closer to a possible UEFA Cup spot.

The Wales midfielder struck his third goal of the season in the 71st minute to continue the Hammers' resurgence under boss Gianfranco Zola. However, another defeat for the inconsistent City could turn up the pressure on their manager Mark Hughes as they still have not won away from home in the league since August.

Former Hammers striker Craig Bellamy, roundly booed by the home fans, failed to score against his old club and was hauled off in the 66th minute.The result moved West Ham up to seventh in the English Premier League table on 36 points, while Manchester City drop to 11th spot, four points behind the east London outfit.—*Internet*

West Ham United's Jack Collison celebrates scoring his goal against Manchester City during their Premier League football match at Upton Park in London.—INTERNET

A tourist has his photo taken with the miniature statue of the Merlion as the Merlion statue (background in blue) is covered while undergoing repairs in Singapore on 2 March , 2009. Singapore's iconic Merlion statue, a popular tourist attraction, was damaged by lightning on Saturday afternoon during a thunderstorm, government radio reported.— INTERNET

10 killed as marriage party bus, train collide in India

NEW DELHI, 2 March—At least 10 people were killed and 20 injured when a train hit a bus carrying people from a marriage party, at a railway crossing in Uttar Pradesh, northern in India, on Saturday evening, the *Indo-Asian News Service* said on Sunday.

The accident took place in Badaun District 250 kilometres from Lucknow, state capital of Uttar Pradesh, said the report, quoting police sources.

The death toll is likely to go up as six seriously injured are fighting for life in hospital, said the report.

The current late winter season is the most favoured time for Indians to get married. Wedding ceremonies come to a climax with marriage parties attended by all house members, relatives, neighbours and friends.

MNA/Xinhua

MRTV-3
Programme Schedule (3.3.2009) (Tuesday)

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
- ❒ Myanmar Lacquerware
- ❒ Hidden Beauty of Asia
- ❒ From Yangon to the Peak of Mt. Victoria
- ❒ Exquisite Silver Jewellery
- ❒ Plaster Toyss
- ❒ Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Europe/ North America 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
- ❒ Nandawun (Book Shop)
- ❒ Ayeyawady First Defile
- ❒ Survey of Hu Koung Valley Tiger (Part-I)
- ❒ Traditional Weaving Art
- ❒ Myanmar Modern Song
- ❒ Myanmar Lacquerware
- ❒ From Yangon to the Peak of Mt. Victoria
- ❒ Exquisite Silver Jewelly
- ❒ A Safe Haven - for Older Persons (Kayah State)
- ❒ Ayeyawady Second Defile
- ❒ Myanmar Traditional Musical Instruments Brass Cymbal (Lin-guin)
- ❒ Exploit Marine Resources most efficiently
- ❒ Planetary Posts! What do they serve?
- ❒ Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

TV Myanmar

Tuesday, 3 March
View on today

7:00 am
1. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am
3. Morning news

7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song

7:50 am
5. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:10 am
6. Song of national races

8:15 am
7. "ချစ်သောမြေ ချစ်သောရေ" (ရာဇာနေဝင်း၊ ခိုင်နှင်းဝေ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ–ခင်နွဲ့.နွဲ့.မူ)

8:20 am
8. (၆၄)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

8:30 am
9. International news

8:45 am
10. Song of yesteryear

4:00 pm
1. Martial song

4:10 pm
2. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

4:20 pm
3. စက္ကူနှင့် ပျော့ဖတ်စက်ရုံ (သာပေါင်း)

4:30 pm
4. တပ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုတေးသီချင်းပြိုင်ပွဲ ဆုရတေးများ

4:45 pm
5. ၂၀၀၉ခုနှစ်၊တက္ကသိုလ်ဝင်စာမေးပွဲ ဘာသာရပ်ဆိုင်ရာသင်ခန်းစာ (ပထဝီဝင်ဘာသာရပ်)

5:25 pm
6. Songs to uphold National Spirit

5:30 pm
7. Musical programme

5:40 pm
8. (၆၄)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

5:45 pm
9. The mirror images of the musical oldies

6:00 pm
10. Evening news

6:30 pm
11. Weather report

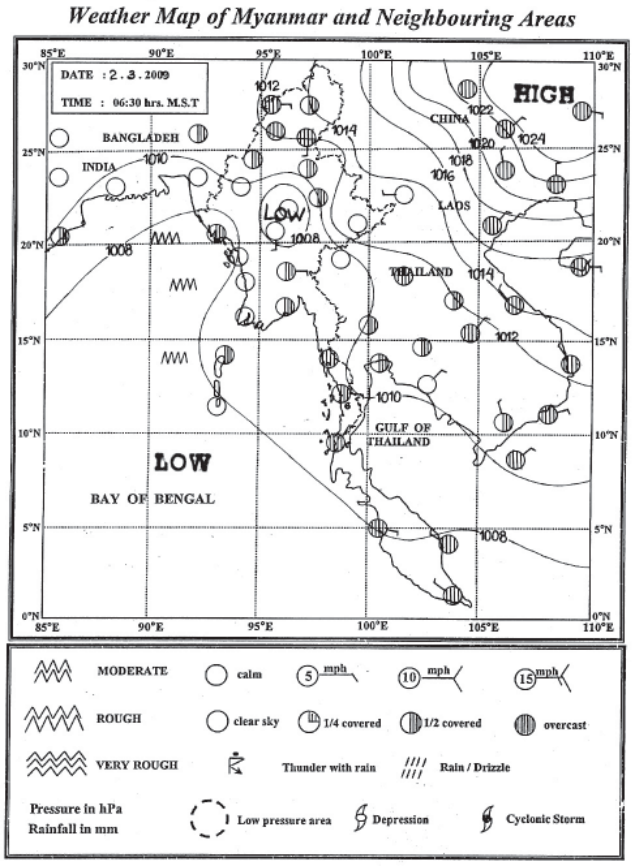
6:35 pm
12. ကြယ်ပွင့်များရဲ့ရင်ခုန်သံ

6:55 pm
13. ဆိုလိုက်ကြစို့.

7:20 pm
14. နိုင်ငံခြားဧာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "နွဲ့.ဆိုးဆိုးသူကိုယ့်ချစ်သူ" (အပိုင်း–၁၇)

8:00 pm
15. News
16. International news
17. Weather report
18. နိုင်ငံခြားဧာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "မြင့်မြတ်နှလုံးသားပိုင်ရှင်" (အပိုင်း–၃၂)
19. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ အရပ်ဆယ်မျက်နှာမေတ္တာဘာဝနာပွားများခြင်းတရားတော်

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Monday, 2 March, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain have been isolated in Taninthayi Division, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin and Mon States, Yangon Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (3˚C) to (4˚C) above March average temperatures in Kachin, Shan, Chin and Kayin States, Mandalay, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions,(5°C) above March average temperatures in upper Sagaing, Magway and Taninthayi Divisions and about March average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant Day temperatures were Chauk (41˚C), Minbu, Magway, Aunglan and Pyay (40˚C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Myeik (0.23) inch.

Maximum temperature on 1-3-2009 was 100˚F. Minimum temperature on 2-3-2009 was 67˚F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 2-3-2009 was 74%. Total sunshine hours on 1-3-2009 was (8.7) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 2-3-2009 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 (5) mph from Northwest at (15:30) 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 3rd March 2009: Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers in Kachin and Shan States, Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States, Bago and Yangon Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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

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

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

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

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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

Secretary-1 attends ceremony to mark successful completion of enshrining religious objects into upper reliquary, hoisting Shwehtidaw, Yadana Seinbudaw and Hngetmyatnardaw atop Uppatasanti Pagoda

***Chairman of the Leading Committee for Construction of Uppatasanti Pagoda Secretary-1 of the SPDC Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and the congregation share merits gained at ceremony to mark the successful completion of enshrining religious objects into Uppatasanti Pagoda.—*MNA**

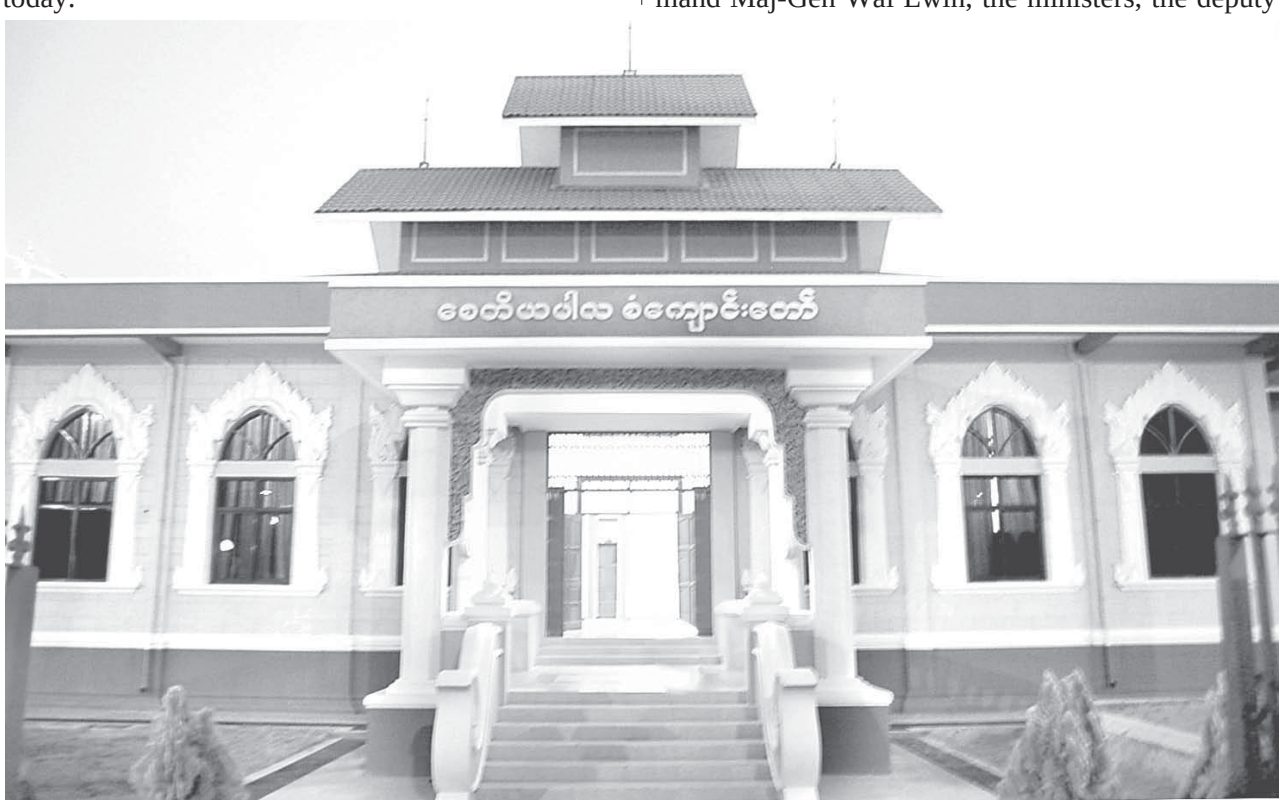
NAY PYI TAW, 2 March—A ceremony to mark the successful completion of enshrining religious objects into the upper reliquary, hoisting the Shwehtidaw, the Yadana Seinbudaw and the Hngetmyatnardaw, offering the Myathabeik and the Shwekya Thingan, consecrating and non-stop Pahtan recitation at the Uppatasanti Pagoda on Uppatasanti Hill here took place at the Dhammayon on the platform of the pagoda at 7.30 am today.

It was attended by 18 members of the Sangha led by State Ovadacariya Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Maha Withutayama Zaygon Monastery Presiding Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Kavisara, 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, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, the ministers, the deputy ministers, members of the leading committee, work committee and subcommittees, departmental heads and donors.

After the ceremony had been opened, the Secretary-1 and the congregation received the Nine Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kavisara. Next, the members of the Sangha recited partitas. The Secretary-1 offered alms to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Visara and the commander and officials offered alms to the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kavisara delivered a sermon, followed by the sharing of merits gained. Then, the Secretary-1 performed the rituals of silver and golden showers to conclude the non-stop Pahtan recitation.

(See page 10)



***Setiya Pala San Kyaungdaw of Uppatasanti Pagoda.—*MNA**

Eye specialists bring eye sights to Meikhtila District

YANGON, 2 March — Over 470 cataract patients received eye surgeries free and 1136 eye patients got spectacles during the four-day free medical service programme in Mahlaing, Meikhtila District.

Under the arrangement of Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung and jointly conducted by Ministry of Health and other social organizations, the programme had been carried out from 26 February to 1 March in Mahlaing and a total of 3151 eye patients from Mahlaing, Meikhtila, Pyawbwe and villages near Mahlaing received free medical treatment and medicines provided by a medical team comprising eye specialists, nurses and opticians.

(See page 11)