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Uppatasanti Pagoda hosts ceremony of enshrining upper reliquary and hoisting Shwehtidaw

Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and family hoist Shwehtidaw atop Uppatasanti Pagoda



**Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior
General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and
family hoisting Shwehtidaw atop Uppatasanti Pagoda.**

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 7 March—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and family attended the ceremony of enshrining the upper reliquary and hoisting Shwehtidaw (umbrella) atop

Uppatasanti Pagoda of Nay Pyi Taw, at the cave of the pagoda this morning, and hoisted the umbrella atop the pagoda.

Also present on the occasion were State Ovadaçariya Sayadaws, Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhdhaja Maha Rattha Guru

Abhdhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara, Secretary Abhdhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhdhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Nyaungdon Sayadaw Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa and member Sayadaws, members of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha, Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida Sayadaws, member Sayadaws of Nay Pyi

Member General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Prime Minister General Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, Chairman of the Leading Committee for Construction of Uppatasanti Pagoda Secretary-1 of the SPDC Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, SPDC member Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence and wife

leading committee, work committee and subcommittees, departmental heads, district and township authorities, service personnel, local people and religious and social association members.

The first session of the upper reliquary enshrining ceremony and the Shwehtidaw hoisting ceremony were held at the cave of the pagoda.

Senior General Than



Taw Myoma, Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon and Nay Pyi Taw Lew Township Sangha Nayaka Committees and members of the Sangha totalling 583, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, SPDC

Daw Kyi Kyi Ohn, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, the ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Auditor-General, the Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, mayors, deputy ministers and their wives, members of the

Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and congregation took the Nine Precepts from Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhdhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhdhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Magway Sayadaw.

The disciples presented Parittas flower, water, thread and sand to the members of the Sangha who recited parittas.

(See page 8)

Four political objectives

- * Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- * National reconsolidation
- * Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- * Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives

- * Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- * Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- * Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- * The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives

- * Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- * Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- * Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- * Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 8 March, 2009

Conserve, exploit forest resources without harming environment

In its effort to improve the forestry sector of the nation, the government is putting into effect the policies it has laid down for the nation's economic growth, environmental conservation and ecological balance.

The people are, therefore, to contribute towards the conservation of the nation's territorial and aquatic resources, biodiversity and environment.

The government is pursuing the plans in a systematic way in conserving the woodlands across the nation, including special projects such as the arid zones greening project, special teak plantations projects, the project for regeneration of mangrove forests, and watershed areas development project.

The arid zones greening project covers establishment of tree plantations, conservation of natural forests, extensive use of firewood-substitute fuel and supply of water.

Forests ensure sustainable progress of the environment, prevent bank erosion, conserve water sources, soil and watershed areas, provide scenic natural beauty, and reduce air pollution.

Now, the nine special districts greening project is ongoing with the aim of easing the environmental degradation, fulfilling the firewood requirement of rural folks in the arid zones, and improving the environment.

High forest coverage plays a dominant role in improving the social and economic conditions of the people. So, the entire people are urged to make enthusiastic contribution towards the national duty of conserving the woodlands and exploiting forest resources in a way that will not harm the environment.

MGF and PMGA Patron Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd), Vice-President U Min Thein and executives seen together with prize winners.

MGF



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

Seventh computer technology exhibition opens in Mandalay

NAY PYI TAW, 7 March—The seventh computer technology exhibition jointly sponsored by Myanmar Computer Professionals Association (Mandalay Division) and Myanmar Computer Entrepreneurs Association (Mandalay Division) was held at the city hall-1 of Mandalay City Development Committee on 1 March.

Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe, the mayor, the chairman of MCPA and



MCEP formally opened the exhibition.

The commander visited the booths at the exhibition.—MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe and officials formally open seventh computer technology exhibition in Mandalay.

MNA

Dr Reddy's Pharmaceutical Co donates medicines to Surgical Society



Staff of Mr Reddy's Pharmaceutical Co pose for group photo together with officials of Surgical Society of MMA.—MNA

YANGON, 7 March—Dr Reddy's Pharmaceutical Company

based in the Republic of India celebrated the Shwe Omez Kutho Program at

Parkroyal Hotel, here, on 11 February.

Company

Manager Mr S Kumar of the Dr Reddy's Pharmaceutical Company explained the purpose of the donation, saying that the company has been donating funds to different wings of Myanmar Medical Association since the 10th anniversary of its exporting Omez (Omeprazole 20 mg capsule & 40mg injection) to Myanmar.

To mark the 11th Anniversary, the Dr Reddy's country manager presented K 2.7 million to Surgical Society. Professor U Han Win accepted the donation and expressed thanks.—MNA

Winners awarded in Kaung Myat Myanmar Amateur Open Golf Championships

YANGON, 7 March—Patron of MGF and PMGA Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd) presented championship trophy to Nay Bala Win Myint in the Kaung Myat Myanmar Amateur Open Golf Championship 2009, organized by Myanmar Golf Federation, held at Yangon Golf Club in Danyingon of Insein Township today.

Managing Director U Maung Maung Myint of Kaung Myat Companies (KM Golf Centre) gave the

first prize to Nay Bala Win Myint with 283 strokes, the second prize to Aung Win (Forest) with 290 and the third prize to Bo Bo with 291. Vice-President of MGF and PMGA U Min Thein handed prizes to the daily best golfers.

Kaung Myat Companies (KM Golf Centre) mainly sponsored the championship together with co-sponsors International Beverages Trading Co Ltd and Air Bagan Ltd for turning out the superb golfers.—MNA



Iraqi policemen stand guard near blindfolded suspects in Baquba, 65 km (40 miles) northeast of Baghdad, on 6 March, 2009. Seven suspected gunmen were arrested by the Iraqi security forces during a raid near Baquba on Friday, police said.—INTERNET

UN reports painful hike in Afghan civilian casualties

UNITED NATIONS, 7 March — The increasing violence in Afghanistan has caused a “disturbing rise in civilian casualties” while shrinking the very areas humanitarian workers can operate into assist the victims, said a report from UN officials released on Thursday.

A reversal was feared of recent advancement against traditional discrimination of woman and

minority groups because of the lack of access to assistance, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said.

They cautioned impunity was prevalent, a political will to solve human rights problems including poverty absent and a purely military solution to the conflict impossible.

The report was released

at UN Headquarters in New York and in Geneva, home of the Office of the High Commissioner and focused on human rights and related assistance.

“The escalation of the armed conflict in Afghanistan has had a significant impact on civilians in conflict-affected areas, in particular on those who are already vulnerable,” the 19-page document said.

Internet

An Iraqi man stands at the site of a car bomb attack on a crowded cattle market in Hillah, 60 miles (95 kilometers) south of Baghdad, Iraq, on 5 March, 2009.

INTERNET



Mexico pours troops into border city stricken by drug war

CIUDAD JUAREZ (Mexico), 7 March—Nearly 7,000 Mexican soldiers and federal police arrived in the US-Mexico border city of Ciudad Juarez this week to restore security to a city plagued by a long-standing, bloody drug war.

Random vehicle checkpoints, patrols of masked soldiers and police in SWAT gear are some of the signs of the massive military buildup ordered by Mexico’s president, Ciudad Juarez police spokesman Jaime Torres Valadez said Thursday.

Another 1,500 soldiers are expected to join the 3,500 that rolled into Juarez earlier this week to support municipal police in street patrols and ultimately take control of their operations, Torres said. increases when there’s no clear line.”—*Internet*

US military deaths in Afghanistan region at 589

WASHINGTON, 7 March—As of Friday, 6 March, 2009, at least 589 members of the US military had died in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan as a result of the US invasion of Afghanistan in late 2001, according to the Defence Department. The department last updated its figures Friday at 10 am EST.

Of those, the military reports 434 were killed by hostile action.

Outside the Afghan region, the Defence Department reports 67 more members of the US military died in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Of those, three were the result of hostile action. The military lists these other locations as Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba; Djibouti; Eritrea; Ethiopia; Jordan; Kenya; Kyrgyzstan; Philippines; Seychelles; Sudan; Tajikistan; Turkey; and Yemen.

There were also four CIA officer deaths and one military civilian death.—*Internet*

Kyrgyzstan votes to evict US allies from Manas

BISHKEK, 7 March — Kyrgyzstan’s parliament on Friday voted to cancel agreements on Manas air base with members of the US-led coalition fighting Taleban militants in Afghanistan.

The parliament voted in favour of the bill, with 80 votes for and one against.

Several European nations as well as Australia, South Korea and New Zealand will not be allowed any more to use the Manas air base.

Kyrgyz President Kurmanbek Bakiyev signed on 20 Feb a decree to officially shut the Manas air base after the Kyrgyz parliament voted overwhelmingly to close it. —*Internet*

375 Kurds killed, hurt in Iraq raids since October

ANKARA, 7 March — About 375 Kurdish militants were either killed or wounded in Turkish cross-border military action in neighbouring Iraq since October, *Anatolia* news agency quoted an army spokesman as saying Friday.

“We have confirmed through various sources that since October 2008, the separatist terrorist organisation suffered nearly 375 casualties in northern Iraq — either dead or wounded — as a result of air raids and artillery fire,” Gen Metin Gurak told reporters, according to *Anatolia*. He did not give a breakdown of the dead and wounded.

The PKK, listed as a terrorist group by Ankara and much of the international community, has long taken refuge in mountainous camps in neighbouring northern Iraq.—*Internet*

Protester throws liquid at UK minister

LONDON, 7 March—An environmental activist threw a green liquid at Britain’s Business Secretary Peter Mandelson as he arrived for a conference aimed at reducing carbon emissions. The group Plane Stupid, which campaigns against government plans to build a third runway at London’s Heathrow Airport, says one of its activists, Leila Deen, was behind the stunt. Deen walked away after the incident.

Mandelson appeared for a television interview after the attack, seemingly fine, and said the substance “seemed like green soup or something.”—*Internet*

People gather at the site of a suicide bomb in front of the gate of a government security post in Tadmaït, 70 km (49 miles) east of Algiers, on 7 March, 2009. A suicide bomber killed himself and two other people at the gate of a government security post in eastern Algeria on Saturday, a local security official said.—INTERNET



Demonstrators condemn killing civilians by troops in E Afghanistan

KABUL, 7 March—Hundreds of Afghans came to the street in Khost, the capital of Khost Province in east Afghanistan on Saturday to protest against what they called arbitrary killing of civilians by international troops.

The protesters who brought four bodies to the street said that the troops at mid night entered two houses outside the Khost city and killed four persons and took away five others.”

The US soldiers entered two houses in Shiga village outside the Khost city at 3 am today and after killing four innocent people arrested five others,” Talawat Khan, owner of the raided house told *Xinhua*.—*Internet*

A resident sweeps shattered glass in his shop after an attack in Baghdad on 4 March, 2009. Three people were killed and 10 others were wounded in a suicide attack targeting a police patrol in the Karrada area of central Baghdad, police said.
INTERNET



Suicide attack kills two, wounds three in W Afghanistan

KABUL, 7 March—A suicide bomber blew himself up next to police department in Nimroz Province west of Afghanistan on Saturday, killing two persons including one police and wounding three others, provincial governor Ghulam Dastgr Azad said.

“A man tied explosive device in his body blew himself up next to a police department in provincial capital Zaranj at 10 a.m. this morning killing one police and one civilian and injuring three policemen,” Azad told *Xinhua*.

Meantime, locals say that the casualties could be higher as two rooms were destroyed in the blast.—*Internet*

FM says early FTA negotiations conducive to China, ROK

BEIJING, 7 March—Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi said on Saturday that negotiations on establishing FTA (Free Trade Area) with the Republic of Korea (ROK) should start as early as possible.

China and the ROK gov-

ernments, as well as academic and business circles, have conducted discussions over the establishment of the FTA, said Yang at a press conference on the sidelines of the annual parliamentary session. “Promoting research and discussions so as to launch FTA negotiations on an early date is conducive to both sides,” he

said. Last year, the trade volume between China and ROK was nearly 200 billion yuan (29.4 billion US dollars) and the volume between China and Japan surpassed 200 billion yuan, he said. China, Japan and ROK should set an example of opposing protectionism on trade and investment.

Internet

A security guard stands by as Boeing Co airplanes sit lined up on the tarmac of the company's Commercial Airplanes Division facility in Seattle, on 6 March, 2009.
INTERNET



Medic says member of Gaza rocket squad killed

GAZA CITY, 7 March—A member of a Gaza rocket squad was killed and two others were wounded Saturday in what a Palestinian medic said was

an Israeli airstrike.

However, the Israeli military said it did not carry out any operations in Gaza on Saturday.

The dead man was identified as 25-year-old Mahmoud Fattouh, a member of the militant group Islamic Jihad, said Dr Moawiya Hassanain, a Gaza health official. Two Islamic Jihad members were wounded in the incident near the northern Gaza town of Beit Lahiya.

The squad was targeted as it fired rockets toward Israel, according to Hassanain and Islamic Jihad spokesman Abu Ahmed.

The Israeli military said at least five rockets were fired from Gaza toward Israel on Saturday, causing no injuries or damage.

Israel and Gaza's Hamas rulers separately declared a cease-fire 18 Jan after a three-week Israeli military offensive in Gaza. However, talks on a durable truce have hit a snag, and rocket fire and airstrikes continue. Islamic Jihad, far smaller than Hamas, is most involved in rocket fire.—*Internet*

Earthquake jolts central Indonesia

JAKARTA, 7 March—An earthquake measuring 5.1 on the Richter scale jolted northeast of Kupang, East Nusa Tenggara Province in central Indonesia, on Saturday, the Indonesian meteorological and geophysics office said.

The quake occurred at 8.36 am local time (0036 GMT), the national meteorological and geophysics office (BMG) was quoted by the national *Antara* news agency as saying. The earthquake's epicenter was located at 9.46 degrees southern latitude and 124.71 degrees eastern longitude, around 148 km northeast of Kupang, at a depth of 30 km below sea level.

Internet

British, Chinese experts working on 4G mobile phone solutions to get extra funding

LONDON, 7 March—Experts in Britain and China working together on technology for the next generation of mobile phones have received nearly 1 million pounds (about 1.42 billion US dollars) to boost the project.

The UK-China Science Bridge, a colla-

boration between six British universities and a consortium of Chinese universities and businesses, has been awarded 939,623 pounds of government money for research into 4G wireless mobile communications over the next three years, according to a news release from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland.

The money, provided by Research Councils UK, will fund scientists' visits to universities and businesses in

Britain and China. It will also pay for technical workshops in which researchers and engineers will learn about each others' work and have the opportunity to forge new partnerships.

Researchers say the project will lead to quicker production of the next generation of mobile phones and other wireless communications devices, with new technology becoming available in products and services at an increasing pace.

Internet

A container ship arrives at the Australian port of Newcastle, near Sydney. A free trade agreement between Chile and Australia that covers 97 percent of exchanges between the Pacific neighbours has come into effect, after a year of negotiations.—INTERNET





China's diplomacy sees "enormous challenges", "good harvest" in 2008

BEIJING, 7 March—Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi said on Saturday that 2008 was a year of "good harvest" despite "enormous challenges" for China's diplomacy.

Large events such as the devastating earthquake in southwestern Sichuan Province, "disruptive factors" during the run-up to the Beijing Olympics and the global financial crisis brought "great ever challenges" to China's diplomatic work last year, Yang told a press conference on the sidelines of the annual parliamentary session.

The country, however, met the challenges head on and saw good harvest in its diplomacy, Yang said, citing the Beijing Olympics, a big cultural event,

as an example of cultural diplomacy.

As many as more than 180 state leaders, government heads and foreign officials came to China on official visits, attending opening and closing ceremonies of the Olympic Games and the 7th Asian-European Meeting in Beijing, among others.

The new year has also seen a good start of China's international exchanges, Yang noted.

The "journey of friendship and co-operation" by President Hu Jintao to African and Middle East countries and the "journey of confidence" by Premier Wen Jiabao to Europe at the beginning of this year greatly pushed relations with those countries, Yang said.—Xinhua



Visitors view a minitype robot plane developed and manufactured in China at a public security products and technology exhibition held in Beijing, capital of China, on 5 March, 2009.—XINHUA

India successfully test fires indigenous interceptor missile

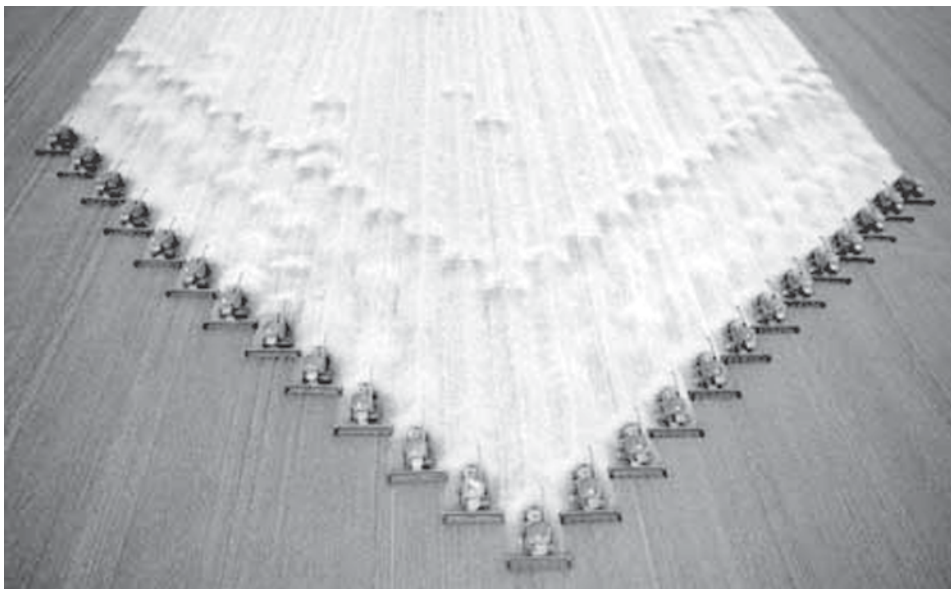
NEW DELHI, 7 March—India Friday again showed its military muscle by successfully testing fired an indigenous ballistic missile shield in the eastern state of Orissa, said a senior defense ministry official. The interceptor missile was fired from the Wheeler Island off the Orissa coast and destroyed the "enemy" missile at an altitude of 80 km, said the official.

This is the second time for India to conduct mis-

sile tests within days, after the country test fired successfully an Indo-Russian jointly made Brahmos supersonic missile in the western Rajasthan desert Wednesday.

The "enemy" missile was a modified version of the Dhanush surface-to-surface missile. It was

fired from a naval ship in the Bay of Bengal to simulate the terminal phase of the flight of a ballistic missile with a range of 1,500 km, according to the official. As the missile was nearing the Wheeler Island, a Prithvi air defense missile was launched and intercepted it.—Xinhua



Workers harvest soybeans at a farm in Tangara da Serra, Mato Grosso state in western Brazil, on 5 March, 2009. Brazil's 2008/9 soybean production is estimated to be 57.2 million tonnes.—XINHUA

**All items from
Xinhua News Agency**

US unemployment rate jumps to 8.1% in February

WASHINGTON, 7 March—The unemployment rate in the United States jumped to 8.1 percent, the highest level since late 1983, as employers slashed 651,000 jobs in February, the Labor Department reported on Friday.

The February reading was above the 7.9 percent rate that economists had expected, and the 7.6 percent rate in January.

The net loss of 651,000 jobs was near economists' expectations for a 648,000 drop in non-farm payrolls.

According to revised

figures, the economy lost 681,000 jobs, the most since October 1949, in December and another 655,000 in January, both larger than initially estimated.

Since the start of the recession in December 2007, payroll employment has declined by 4.4 million jobs, with more than half occurring in the last four months.

"In February, job losses were large and widespread across nearly all major industry sectors," the Labour Department said.

Xinhua

Venezuela begins construction of new iron plant

CARACAS, 7 March—President Hugo Chavez on Friday attended a ceremony for the construction of an iron-steel plant that will be able to produce 1.55 billion tons of liquid iron annually by 2018.

The plant boasts an investment of 2.1 billion US dollars and will be located the city of Piar in southwestern Venezuela. Chavez said the new plant will be named after Jose Ignacio Abreu, a Brazilian soldier, politician, journalist and writer who fought side by side with Simon Bolivar for Venezuela and Colombia's independence.

With advanced Italian and German technologies, the plant will be able to produce special irons, said Mining Minister Rodolfo Sanz.—Xinhua



Employees draw patterns on a car in the 6th Hainan International Automotive Industry Exhibition in Haikou, capital of south China's Hainan Province, on 6 March, 2009. The exhibition opened on Friday attracted over 180 brands from home and abroad. More than 20 new types were displayed in the exhibition, including some hybrid vehicles and electric cars.—XINHUA

Airplane crashes off California coast

OCEANSIDE, 7 March — An airplane crashed Friday off the Southern California coast, and rescue boats have yet to find survivors or bodies, the Coast Guard said.

A civilian vessel reported seeing the plane hit the water on Friday afternoon about 25 miles off the coast, halfway between Oceanside and San Clemente Island. Searchers found aluminum debris and an oil slick, Coast Guard Lt Josh Nelson said.

Three rescue boats will search for survivors through early Saturday morning

and a helicopter will be sent out after sunrise.

Federal Aviation Administration officials believe the plane took off from San Diego's Montgomery Field — a popular site for small aircraft — but were still trying to confirm, Nelson said. He said there were no reports of overdue or missing aircraft.

It was not immediately clear how many people were aboard the downed plane.

Oceanside is about 35 miles north of San Diego.

Internet

Man guilty of murdering five in Calif arson wildfire

RIVERSIDE, 7 March — A jury convicted an auto mechanic Friday of murdering five federal firefighters by setting a wildfire that overran them as they defended a home in a rural Southern California mountain community.

Raymond Lee Oyler, 38, was found guilty of five counts of first-degree murder.

Because he committed multiple murders and did so while committing another felony — arson — he could face the death penalty in a trial phase beginning Tuesday.

Relatives of the victims and the defendant sobbed as the verdicts were read in Riverside County Superior Court.

Oyler was also found guilty of 20 counts of arson and 17 counts of using an incendiary device. The jury deadlocked on three arson

counts, and a mistrial was declared on those charges.

The verdicts followed a monthlong trial with testimony by arson investigators, fire experts and several of Oyler's relatives.

John R Hawkins, Riverside County fire chief, told reporters that he hoped the families of the firefighters could "rest now knowing that the man responsible will pay for his actions, and no one else will suffer as they have."

Internet



Spectators watch the launch of NASA's planet-hunting spacecraft, Kepler Friday, 6 March, 2009, from Cocoa Beach, Fla. Kepler, named after the German 17th century astrophysicist, set off on its unprecedented mission at 10:49 pm, thundering into a clear sky embellished by a waxing moon.—INTERNET

World's first Earth-like planet-hunting spacecraft lifts off

WASHINGTON, 7 March — NASA's Kepler space telescope, the world's first mission to hunt for extrasolar Earth-like planets, lifted off Friday night from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida.

The spacecraft is designed to find Earth-size planets orbiting stars in habitable zones — regions where water could pool on the surface of the planets. Liquid water is believed to be essential for the formation of life.

It will watch a patch of space for 3.5 years or more for signs of Earth-sized planets moving around stars similar to the Sun. The patch that Kepler will watch contains about 100,000 stars like the Sun.

Using special detectors similar to those used in digital cameras, Kepler will look for slight dimming in the stars as planets pass between the star and Kepler.

The Kepler's place in space will allow it to watch the same stars constantly throughout its mission, something observatories like Hubble Space Telescope cannot do.—Internet

China opposes auction of looted cultural relics

BEIJING, 7 March—The Chinese Government opposes auction of looted Chinese cultural relics, Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi said here Saturday.

Such an auction is "adding salt to injury" and it is "immoral", he said, when asked to comment on Christie's sale of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) bronze rabbit and rat heads sculptures.

"The sculptures are cultural relics looted from China and China has the right to recover them," Yang said.

The two bronze sculptures were looted from Yuanmingyuan, or the Old Summer Palace, by Anglo-French allied forces during the Second Opium War in 1860.—MNA/Xinhua

Indonesian district orders newly weds to buy trees

A cash-strapped Indonesian district in West Java has ordered couples planning to get married to provide 10 trees to local authorities for a reforestation programme, an official said on Wednesday.

Anyone filing for divorce in Garut in West Java would also have to fork out for at least one tree, said Wibowo, the district secretary, who like many Indonesians goes by one name.

"The Garut government wants to encourage couples getting married, as well as those seeking divorce, to support a national reforestation programme, given budget limitations," said Wibowo.

Under the new regulation issued last month, couples would have to contribute trees to the forestry unit



Trees are shown in South Sumatra

before their marriage could be legally sanctioned, Wibowo said.

Indonesia has some of the world's biggest remaining reserves of tropical forests, but pressure from agriculture as well as illegal logging has damaged huge tracts of forest.

The central government launched a programme in December last year to plant one million trees.

Woman steals papers for crossword

Police in Sweden said a 64-year-old woman was arrested for allegedly stealing dozens of newspapers to win money by completing the crossword puzzle.

Investigators said police spotted the woman stealing papers after the Uppsala paper boy reported that several newspapers were going missing before he picked them up from the side of the road in the early morning hours, The Local reported.

"This morning the newspapers were left at the location at 3:10 am. At 3:37 the woman turned up," Uppsala police officer Magnus Rova said.

The woman is believed to have taken up to 10 newspapers twice a week, Tuesdays and Sundays, to complete crossword puzzles. Police recovered about 90 papers from the woman's home.

The suspect told police she has won more than \$1,000 by completing the crosswords.



NEWS ALBUM



Keow Wan, a four-month-old Sun Conure parrot, perches on Yim, a dog whose name means smile in Thai, as their owners take part in a pray for peace ceremony at Royal Plaza in Bangkok. The owners dressed up the dog and the parrot and put the two together to bring joy and happiness to all who see the pair.

Honda's humanoid robot "Asimo" unveils the new Honda Insight hybrid car during the first media day of the 79th Geneva Car Show at the Palexpo in Geneva.

TV for babies: Does it help or hurt?

Early parenting choices are never clear-cut, and deciding whether to allow your infant to watch television or DVDs ranks as one of the more perplexing.

Thanks to marketing claims for TV shows and DVDs created for babies, many parents believe that watching educational programming will stimulate infants' brains and actually promote learning. It's a seductive line of reasoning. Certainly, exposing a

baby to brain-engaging DVDs will put him on an early path to becoming, well, a baby Einstein, right? Maybe not.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends no television time for toddlers younger than 2, in large part because no studies have yet established that TV exposure improves babies' learning.

Now a new study published in the current issue of Pediatrics confirms that position.



Construction of new school buildings inspected

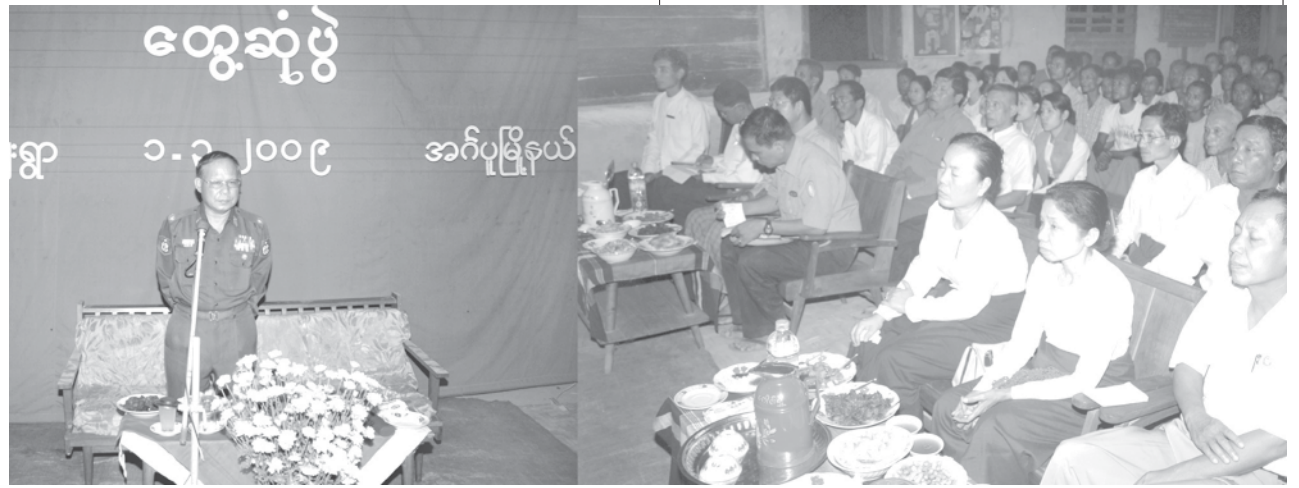
NAY PYI TAW, 7 March—Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung looked into progress in building Shankwin Village Basic Education Primary School (Affiliated) in Ingapu Township on 1 March and fulfilled the requirements on construction of new school building for Zeegon Village BEPS.

On 2 March, the minister opened the new school building for Chaungwa Village BEPS and delivered an address.

Next, the committee for building new school building handed over related documents to the township education officer. The minister and wellwishers presented 70 bags of cement, two tons of teak and K 200,000.

Then the minister inspected construction of new school buildings at Titetutwin, Tagesu, Palikwin,

Gwaygon and Thayatabin villages, and other new school buildings. — MNA



Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung meets local people at Zeegon BEPS in Ingapu Township.
FORESTRY

18th Convocation of UDNR held

NAY PYI TAW, 7 March — The 18th Convocation and the teachership diploma presentation of the University for Development of National Races was held at the university yesterday.

Present were Vice-Chairman of University Council of UDNR Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Kyaw

Thu, Deputy Commander of North-West Command Brig-Gen Tin Maung Ohn, members of CSSTB U Aung Myint and U Soe Oo, Director-General of Civil Service Selection and Training Department U Wai Myint, Director-General of Civil Service Affairs Department U Kyaw Zan Hla, Rector of UDNR U Zaw Min Thein, delegates of State and Division PDCs, heads of

department, lecturers, teachers, guests and students.

Chairman of CSSTB U Kyaw Thu conferred degrees on the graduates. Rector U Zaw Min Thein presented teachership diplomas to the students.

Chairman U Kyaw Thu delivered a speech and greeted the outstanding graduates.

MNA

Dinner hosted to trainees of UDNR

NAY PYI TAW, 7 March—Vice-Chairman of the Council of the University for Development of National Races Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Kyaw Thu hosted dinner to trainees of the MEd Course No. 10, the BEd one-year course No. 18, the BEd(Bridge) two-year

course No. 4, the BEd four-course No. 40, the Diploma in Teachership Course No. 7 and the JAT Course No. 18 at the university on 5 March evening.

CSSTB Chairman U Kyaw Thu and Deputy Commander of North-West Command Brig-Gen Tin Maung Ohn cordially greeted the

trainees.

During and after the dinner, those present were entertained with traditional dances and songs.

Later, the CSSTB Chairman and the Deputy Commander presented flower basket and cash award to the trainees who presented dances and songs.—MNA

Chairman, secretary of MCPA leave for Japan

YANGON, 7 March—Chairman U Khun Oo (CTT Co Ltd) and Secretary U Nyein Oo of Myanmar Computer Professionals Associa-

tion left here by air on 3 March to attend the ITPEC Executive Directors Meeting 2009 and to hold discussions on the ITPEC

Examination, ICT Skill Standard and Applied Technology Engineering Examination in Japan from 4 to 6 March.

MNA

Tourist Maps of Myanmar (TMM-22) in circulation

YANGON, 7 March—Under the supervision of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, the complementary copies of Tourist Maps of Myanmar (TMM-22) has been published recently.

The TMM-22 covers maps of Myanmar, Yangon, Mandalay, Pyin Oo Lwin, Bagan, Mrauk U, Taunggyi, Inlay,

Kyaikhtiyoe, Ngapali, Ngwehsaung, Chaungtha and Myeik in addition to locations of domestic airlines, hotels, restaurants and tourism agencies.

The map will be distributed to tourism and travel organizations from abroad. Moreover, the copies will be complemented at ITB Berlin-2009 to be held in

Berlin of Germany from 11 to 15 March.

Hotels and tourism agencies and tour guides may take out the maps from Myanmar Tourism Service (Sule) or DPS at 165-167, first floor, 35th street, Kyauktada Township, Tel: 95-1 204020, 204200, Tel/Fax: 95-1 245230, during office hours.—MNA

Deputy Minister for Health visits hospitals, University of Traditional Medicine in Mandalay

NAY PYI TAW, 7 March — Deputy Minister for Health Dr Paing Soe on 4 March visited construction of Orthopaedic Hospital and new five-storey

medical ward in the compound of Mandalay General Hospital in Mandalay.

The deputy minister met with officials at University of

Traditional Medicine in Mandalay and urged them to conduct research for winning trusts of the people in the use of traditional medicines.

MNA

BEWARE OF FIRE



The aerial view of Uppatasanti Pagoda and religious buildings in its compound.—MNA

Uppatasanti Pagoda hosts ceremony of enshrining...

(from page 1)

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and families presented Yadana Seinbudaw of the Pagoda, Buddha images, a sacred tooth relic from the People's Republic of China and other offertories to Magway Sayadaw.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San presented Yadana

Hngetmyatnardaw, Buddha images, a sacred tooth relic from Sri Lanka and other offertories to the Sayadaw.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet presented Buddha images and other offertories to the Sayadaw.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win

presented Buddha images and other religious objects, Tripitaka palm leaves to the Sayadaw.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin presented Buddha images and other offertories to the Sayadaw.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Kyi Kyi Ohn presented Buddha images, a silver casket and offertories to the

Sayadaw.

U Soe Myint-Daw Nan Myint of Ngwe Hsin Co, Chairman of ACE Co Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadhara U Tint Hsan and wife Dr Htay Htay Nyein, U Aung Ko Win and wife Agga Maha Thiri Thudhammatheingi Daw Nan Than Htwe of Kanbawza Co, U Tun Myint Naing of Asia World Co, U Chit Khaing of Eden Co, U Teza of Htoo Trading Co, U Zaw Zaw and wife Daw Htay Htay Khaing of Max Myanmar Co and other

wellwishers who donated religious buildings presented fans and offertories to the Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Nyaungdon Sayadaw.

Those present at the ceremony presented offertories to the members of the Sangha. Nyaungdon Sayadaw delivered a sermon and shared merits gained.

On behalf of the Head of State Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and wellwishers, Chairman of the Work committee Maj-Gen Than Htay of the Ministry of Defence presented certificates of honour and gifts for the architects. On behalf of the architects Brig-Gen Nyan Tun of the Ministry of Defence accepted them.

The programme to enshrine the religious objects into the upper reliquary of the pagoda followed.

The diamond orb was conveyed clockwise under the leadership of Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and family.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and

wife Daw Mya Mya San conveyed the jeweled vane by palanquin; General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, a small tired umbrella; Prime Minister General Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, a silver Bodhi tree and a jade Kassapa Buddha image to be enshrined in the upper reliquary; Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, two golden pagodas; Lt-Gen Tin Aye and wife Daw Kyi Kyi Ohn, two golden edgings; and the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), senior military officers, the commander, ministers and their wives, the remaining Buddha images and religious objects.

The diamond orb and the jeweled vane were conveyed onto the temporary shelf for public reverence, and relics to the upper reliquary.

General Thura Shwe Mann, the Secretary-1, Lt-Gen Tin Aye, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the Adjutant-General and the Minister for Religious Affairs took positions at the designated sites of the upper reliquary.

(See page 9)



Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and family and party receive Nine Precepts from Chairman Sayadaw of SSMNC Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara.—MNA





Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San offer religious objects to a Sayadaw.

MNA

Uppatasanti Pagoda hosts ceremony of enshrining...

(from page 8)

Brig-Gen Nyan Tun opened the southern reliquary, Col Thet Soe,

the western reliquary, Lt-Col Tin Oo, the northern reliquary, and Maj Zaw Naing Oo, the eastern

reliquary.

General Thura Shwe Mann enshrined the silver Bodhi tree, Kakusandha Buddha image, two golden pagodas, a silver



Prime Minister General Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win donate religious objects to a Sayadaw.—MNA



Lt-Gen Tin Aye and wife Daw Kyi Kyi Ohn donate religious objects to a Sayadaw.—MNA

pagoda, relics of the Buddha and arahats, the caskets, a tree of eight requisites.

Lt-Gen Tin Aye enshrined a silver Bodhi

the Secretary-1, a silver Bodhi tree, a Gotama Buddha image, two pagodas, a silver pagoda, relics of the Buddha and arahats,

hoisted tiers of the umbrella, Hsatthaphu, and zun tiers atop the pagoda; General Thura Shwe Mann, the Secretary-1, Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Rear-



General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet offer religious objects to a Sayadaw.

MNA

tree, Konagamana Buddha image, five jade Buddha images, two gold pagodas, one silver pagoda, a golden Bodhi tree, relics of the Buddha and arahats, caskets, arahat images, a tree of eight requisites into the

caskets and a tree of eight requisites into the eastern reliquary.

Architects in charge closed the upper reliquary. Lay persons sprinkled scented water on them. At the time, the congregation led by the

Admiral Nyan Tun, Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Lt-Gen Thura Myint Aung and Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, tiers of the umbrella, Hsatthaphu, and zun tiers.

They sprinkled scented water on the



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin offer religious objects to a Sayadaw.

MNA

western reliquary; Commander-in-Chief (Navy), Rear-Admiral Nyan Tun, a silver Bodhi tree, Kassapa Buddha image, two golden pagodas, one silver pagoda, relics of the Buddha and arahats, caskets and a tree of eight requisites into the northern reliquary; and

members of the Sangha recited Jaya Mangala gatha.

In the third session, General Thura Shwe Mann and the Secretary-1 and party took positions at the designated places on the scaffolding.

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and family

religious objects.

The congregation led by the members of the Sangha recited Jaya Mangala gatha.

The first-day ceremony ended at 10.10 am.

The ceremony continues for the second day tomorrow.

MNA



General Thura Shwe Mann keeps religious objects at southern reliquary of Uppatasanti Pagoda.

MNA

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and family offer Yadana Seinbudaw to a Sayadaw.—MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo fixes tiers of umbrella atop Uppatasanti Pagoda. —MNA

Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Nyan Tun keeps religious objects at northern reliquary of Uppatasanti Pagoda.—MNA



Local people enjoy entertainments of Anyeint troupes, movies of Documentary Film Division

NAY PYI TAW, 7 March—In commemoration of hoisting Shwehtidaw (umbrella) and Seinbudaw (diamond orb) atop Uppatasanti Pagoda and the consecration ceremony, the entertainments continued for the seventh day at the field near Yazahtani Road, south of the pagoda, yesterday evening.

Thitlwin Anyeint troupe of Mandalay performed entertainments, and Documentary Film

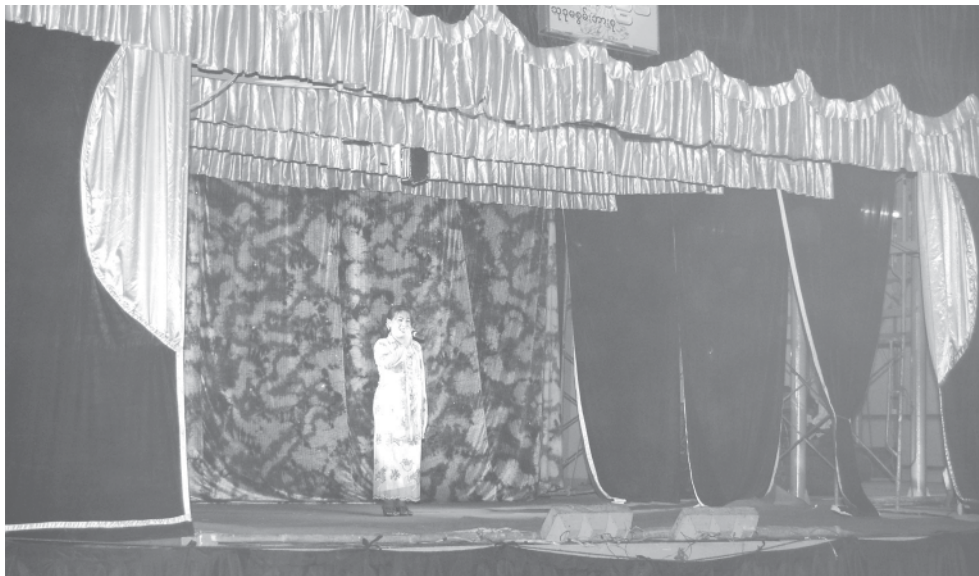
Division of Myanma Motion Picture Enterprise presented movies entitled “Pan-pyo-thu-doh-alinkar” and “Moe-gok-set-waing-ko-kyaw-lun-ywae” to over 25,000 local people.

This evening as the eighth day, the local people will be performed with entertainments by Thitlwin Anyeint troupe of Mandalay and movies “Chit-chin-phwe-myitta” and “Myet-hna-myar-de-

kaung-kin” by Documentary Film Division.

On 8 March evening as the ninth day, Po Chit theatrical troupe will present the entertainment to the local people and Documentary Film Division will show movies “Nga-thu-tapar-yauk-kyar-meinma” and “Moe-paw-khon-tet-ka-laik-chinde”.

MNA



Local people enjoy entertainment presented by Thitlwin Anyeint Troupe of Mandalay in commemoration of Shwehtidaw and Seinbudaw hoisting and consecration ceremony of Uppatasanti Pagoda.—MNA



Local people visit shops at festivities to mark Shwehtidaw and Seinbudaw hoisting and consecration ceremony of Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw.

MNA



Transport Minister meets Chairman of Guangdong Foreign Construction Co

NAY PYI TAW, 7 March—Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe met Chairman Zhou You of Guangdong Foreign Construction Co., Ltd of the People's

Republic of China and party at the meeting hall of the Ministry here yesterday.—MNA

Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe receives Chairman Zhou You and party of Guangdong Foreign Construction Co Ltd of China.—MNA



Nancho hydropower project completed by over 30 per cent



Minister for Electric Power No. 1 Col Zaw Min inspects progress of Nancho Hydropower Project.—EP NO. 1

NAY PYI TAW, 7 March—Minister for Electric Power No. 1 Col Zaw Min arrived at Nancho hydropower project, about 7 miles upstream Nancho creek, that flows into Paunglaung river, 16 miles east of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township on 4 March.

At the briefing hall, the minister heard the report presented by construction director U Thaung Han on the project. The minister fulfilled the requirements and urged the officials to complete the project in a short period.

Afterwards, the minister inspected earthwork, concrete work, site of the plant and site for construction of warehouses to store finished natural Pozzolan.

Nancho hydropower project can generate 152 KWH million a year with the installation of two 20 Megawatt machines. So far, the project has been completed by 30.52 per cent.

MNA

1/2009 Meeting of University Council of UDNR

NAY PYI TAW, 7 March – The University Council of the University for Development of National Races held its meeting 1/2009 at the university on 5 March with an address by Vice-Chairman of University Council of UDNR

Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Kyaw Thu.

Academic matters of the university were discussed. A coordination meeting on works of UDNR between the chairman of CSSTB and state representative of

and division PDCs was also held. Those presented at the meeting took part in the discussions. The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the Vice-Chairman of University Council of UDNR.—MNA

JAT course of UDNR concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 7 March—The concluding ceremony of the JAT course No. 18 of the University for Development of National Races was held in conjunction with the ceremony to present appointments to the graduates of the B.Ed four-year course No. 40 at the

convocation hall of the university yesterday afternoon.

Pro-Rector U Htay Lwin (Academic) reported on matters related to the JAT course. Rector U Zaw Min Thein of UDNR presented certificates to 12 trainees of the course. Representatives of State

and Division Peace and Development Councils gave work appointments to the graduates of BEd four-year course No. 40.

After awarding the outstanding trainees of the JAT course, the rector delivered an address at the concluding ceremony of the courses.

MNA

Desks donated to Dalla Township schools

YANGON, 7 March —Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa attended a ceremony to donate school desks for the basic education schools in Dalla Township at No 1 BEHS

in Myoma (4) Ward of the township. Next, the vice-mayor and Deputy Director-General of No 3 Basic Education Department U Myo Myint handed over 335 sets of desks to Nos 3 & 4 BEMSs and Nos 1 & 2 BEHSs.

Afterwards, officials reported on regional development tasks in the township. Later, the vice-mayor visited Dalla Township People's Hospital and provided cash assistance for the patients. —MNA

2nd Anniversary of Mon State All Private Bus Line Control Committee marked

NAY PYI TAW, 7 March — A ceremony to mark the second anniversary of Mon State All Private Bus Line Control Committee was held at the office of Mon State Peace and Development Council on 28 February morning. Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of

South-East Command Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win delivered a speech on the

occasion and awarded prize winners.

MNA

Earthquake Report

NAY PYI TAW, 7 March—A moderate earthquake of intensity (5.1) Richter Scale with its epicenter about 83 miles south of Kaba-Aye seismology observatory in Myanmar waters was recorded at (22) hrs (19) min (51) sec M.S.T on 5 March, announced the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.—MNA

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV HELMUTH RAMBOW VOY NO (035)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HELMUTH RAMBOW VOY NO (035) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.3.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (437)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (437) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.3.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV SIRI BHUM VOY NO ()**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SIRI BHUM VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.3.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797



Emergency personnel work a vehicle crash west of Roswell, NM on 6 March, 2009. New Mexico state police say six people, including two children, were killed in the head-on crash.—INTERNET

Few physicians support private banking of umbilical cord blood

WASHINGTON, 7 March—A survey of physicians has found broad support for the position that parents should not bank their newborns' umbilical cord blood in a private blood bank unless another member of the family is at risk for a blood disease that will require a stem cell transplant.

The results of the survey are reported by researchers at Dana-Farber

Cancer Institute of Boston and their colleagues in the March issue of the journal *Pediatrics*. Their findings are in general accord with the recommendations of medical organizations that have previously weighed in on the issue.

"Physicians who perform hematopoietic cell transplants in children are well positioned to judge the advisability of private cord blood banking, but their views had never been systematically sought and collected," says the study's senior author, Steven Joffe of Dana-Farber. "We found that these physicians have performed relatively few transplants involving privately banked cord blood, and that their position on such banking is generally in line with that of larger medical organizations."

Internet

Man behind SoCal terrorism plot gets 16 years

SANTA ANA, 7 March—One of four men accused of founding a terrorist group that plotted attacks on Jewish and military targets in California was sentenced Friday to 16 years in federal prison. Kevin James, 32, pleaded guilty in 2007 to conspiracy to wage war against the United States. Prosecutors had sought an 18-year prison term, but US District Judge Cormac Carney said he decided on a lighter sentence after being convinced that James was remorseful.

Carney said James, a former gang member who had spent most of his life in prison, had completed college-level classes while in the Orange County jail awaiting trial and had sent the judge "the most powerful letter I've ever received."—*Internet*

Zimbabwean PM says cholera cases higher than reported

HARARE, 7 March—Zimbabwe's Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai said on Thursday that cases of infections and deaths from the country's worst cholera epidemic were far higher than those reported. More than 80,000 people have been infected since the outbreak six months ago with nearly 4,000 killed, according to the World Health Organization.

"This is most likely a dramatic underestimate of the real figures given the unreported cases and deaths in communities," Tsvangirai told an emergency meeting of health officials and donors.

The deadliest cholera outbreak in Africa in 15 years has spread to neighbouring countries, including South Africa.

Zimbabwe's health system has all but collapsed with hospitals battling shortages of drugs, high cases of HIV/AIDS and nurses and doctors frequently on strike for higher pay.

MNA/Reuters

Japan considers putting robot, astronaut on moon

TOKYO, 7 March—Japan is considering putting a robot on the moon by 2020 and an astronaut by 2030, a report from a government office showed on Friday, amid fears that the country will be left behind in Asia's space race.

The plans follow China's first space walk and India's launch of their first unmanned moon mission last year. Beijing officials have said that China is looking to eventually put astronauts on the moon, though the govern-

ment has not revealed any schedule.

The robot and the astronaut would probe the moon to see how its resources could be used, the report showed.

A space development panel also discussed on Friday the possibility of Japan eventually starting its own manned space programme, a government official said.

"Some experts are concerned that unless there is an independent programme, then Japan may

be left behind in terms of space development," said an official from the Strategic Headquarters for Space Policy (SHSP), under the Cabinet Office.

"If large scale space development projects, such as moon probes or space solar power system, are conducted, not only robots but also people will have to be there. The technology of manned space programmes will certainly become the foundation in such cases," he said.

MNA/Reuters

Government to announce fresh bank deal for Lloyds

LONDON, 7 March—The government has struck a deal to increase its stake in Lloyds Banking Group (LBG) to around 60 percent, details of which will be confirmed later on Saturday, according to the BBC.

It is also poised to insure some 260 billion pounds (290 billion euros, 366 billion dollars) worth of toxic assets in the deal, which has been hammered out between bank and Treasury officials in recent days. LBG was created earlier this year when Lloyds TSB bought rival lender HBOS, which faced collapse because it was struggling to raise funds due to the credit crunch.

Last month, LBG announced that HBOS made a record pre-tax loss of 10.8 billion pounds for 2008 and wrote off 9.9 billion pounds worth of bad consumer loans.—*Internet*

Feds OK gray wolves' removal from endangered list

BILLINGS, 7 March—Interior Secretary Ken Salazar said Friday he was upholding the US Fish and Wildlife Service's decision to remove gray wolves from the federal endangered list in the Northern Rockies and the western Great Lakes.

Wolves would remain a federally protected species in Wyoming because the state's law and management plans were not strong enough, he said. But management of the predator will be turned over to state agencies in Montana and Idaho and parts of Washington, Oregon and Utah, in addition to the Great Lakes states of Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

The Obama administration had ordered a review of the decision made by the Bush administration shortly before departing. Salazar said he had concluded that dropping the wolf from the list was justified by its strong comeback in the two regions, which together have a population of nearly 5,600 wolves.—*Internet*



Job seekers visit a job fair offering approximately 400 neighbourhood jobs in a residential suburb in Singapore on 7 March, 2009. The job fair was part of a programme to match unemployed residents with jobs within the northeast residential district. Approximately 1,250 people attended the job fair within the first two hours of opening, organizers said.—INTERNET

Beijing man voluntarily measures electromagnetic radiation for neighbours

BEIJING, 7 March — Holding a black electronic gadget in hand, Cheng Jing, a 38-year old man living in the Baiziwan Community, Chaoyang District, Beijing, carefully reads the figure on its screen and jots it down on a notebook. Cheng is a voluntary “radiation examiner” in the community.

The man began his voluntary, free-of-charge business to measure the radiation of home

appliances and power transmission facilities for the neighbors two months ago. For the past two years, many residents in Baiziwan have worried about the electromagnetic radiation released by the high-voltage wires on the north of the residential area. The Baiziwan Community was built in 2006. A mobile-phone transmission tower, which was erected close to the residential block, has

further intensified their concerns about radiation. In Beijing, as in many other Chinese cities, residents from the same community have set up their own online forums. Soon, the Baiziwan Forum was flooded with worries about the threat from radiation. Some said they may hire professional agencies to help test the electromagnetic radiation in their apartments.

Internet

Microsoft's new system easier for browser switch

NEW YORK, 7 March—Microsoft Corp is developing a feature in its new operating system that allows users to turn off Internet Explorer and other key Microsoft programmes.

The new feature is a major step for the world's largest software company, which has been accused by competitors and regulators of forcing consumers to run its own software, squeezing rivals' offerings out of the marketplace.

“In addition to the features that were already available to turn on or off in Windows Vista, we've added the following features to the list in Windows 7,” said a Microsoft blog published on Friday, listing Internet Explorer 8, Windows Media Player and a host of other Microsoft programmes.

The publicly available blog (<http://blogs.msdn.com/e7/archive/2009/03/06/beta-to-rc-changes-turning-windows-features-on-or-off.aspx>) was written by Jack Mayo, a manager in the team developing Microsoft's new Windows 7 operating system, which will replace the unpopular Vista early next year.—Internet



A man walks by the logo of Microsoft in a shop of Brussels .—INTERNET

India, EU sign declaration to promote coop, dialogue

NEW DELHI, 7 March—India and the European Union (EU) have signed a joint declaration to strengthen cooperation and dialogue on linguistic diversity and inter-cultural dialogue, reported the local private news agency *Indo-Asian News Service* on Saturday.

D Purandeswari, India's minister of state for human resource development, and EU Commissioner in charge of multilingualism Leonard Orban signed the agreement Friday in Brussels, said the report. Purandeswari said that India and EU “need to send a clear message

that all our languages are equally important,” according to the report.

India has over 20 official languages, while EU's 19 members also have over official 20 language altogether, with some countries like Belgium having two official languages. Purandeswari said India “is essentially a multilingual country, where linguistic diversity is a part of our historical and cultural heritage, and an integral feature of its nation-building philosophy,” according to the report.

MNA/Xinhua

Indian navy officer to sail solo around world in yacht

NEW DELHI, 7 March—An Indian navy officer is planning to become the first Indian to sail solo around the world in an Indian-made sailing yacht, reported local daily *The Hindu* on Saturday.

Commander Dilip Donde of the Indian Navy will set sail from Mumbai on India's Independence Day, on 15 Aug, and

spend nine months on the high seas, said the report. Donde, who has been serving in the Indian Navy for 20 years and training for the mission for three years, will travel some 35,000 kilometers while having on board only food supplies and medicines, said the report.

Donde will make four stops in his eastward

journey: Fremantle, western Australia, Christchurch, New Zealand, Stanley, the British occupied Malvinas Islands off Argentina, and Cape Town, South Africa, said the report. His yacht, the *Mhadei*, is a 23-ton, 17-meter-long vessel which cost 40 million rupees (800,000 US dollars). —Internet

Nepal-India trade treaty talks conclude

KATHMANDU, 7 March —The two-day Nepal-India trade treaty review meeting ended Friday with the Indian side agreeing on a slew of major proposals put forth by Nepal, *The Himalayan Times* reported on Saturday. “The secretary-level meeting will finalize these agreements soon,” said head of the Nepali delegation Surya Silwal, joint secretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Supplies.

During the meeting, India has agreed to accord the same facilities while trading in Indian currency as in US dollar. “Once this mechanism comes into effect, two major hurdles for domestic traders like the cumbersome duty refund procedure and excise will be solved,” said Silwal.—Internet



Police work at the crime scene, where an attack on a public bus killed the driver, in Guatemala City on 6 March, 2008. Attacks on bus drivers are common in Guatemala where organized gangs extort money from the private companies that run the buses. According to police nearly 200 bus drivers, driver's assistants and owners have been killed in the last year.

INTERNET

SPORTS

Hiddink warns against perils of booze culture



Guus Hiddink has warned Chelsea's stars to ensure they don't become victims of England's booze culture.

INTERNET

COBHAM, 7 March—Guus Hiddink has warned Chelsea's stars to ensure they don't become victims of England's booze culture.

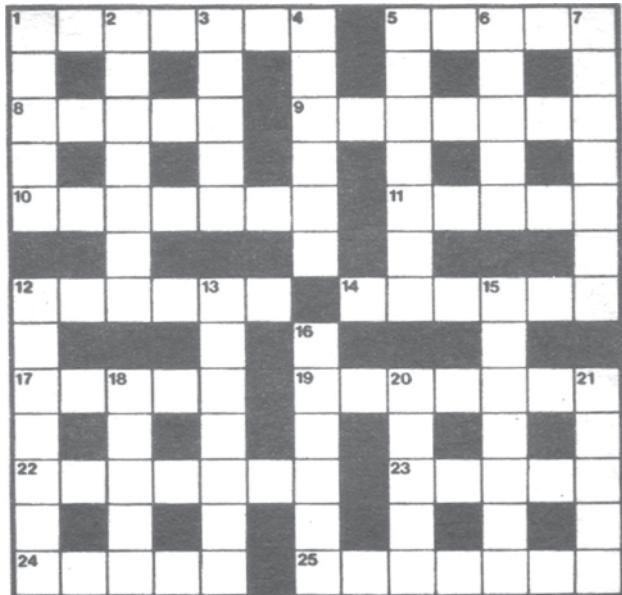
Blues boss Hiddink got his first taste of the controversy that can blow up when a high-profile player is out drinking late at night after Ashley Cole was arrested for drunk and disorderly conduct at a west London restaurant this week.

Cole, who was with Chelsea team-mates John Terry and Michael Mancienne at the time, was fined 80 pounds for abusing police officers who he claimed wouldn't help get rid of photographers harrasing him at South Kensington's Collection restaurant.

Although Hiddink did not leave Cole out of Chelsea's squad for their FA Cup quarter-final at Coventry on Saturday, he did give the England left-back a stern talking to. Hiddink knows the tendency to drink to excess in England will inevitably lead players into compromising situations and he has been quick to remind his squad of their responsibilities to the club.

He highlighted the way Real Madrid players would always have wine with their pre-match meal during his time with the Spanish club, but were self-policed by senior players to ensure drinking never got out of hand.—Internet

CROSSWORDS PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Brutal person
- 5 Prepared
- 8 Tack in sewing
- 9 Irish county
- 10 Feline female
- 11 Turn on axis
- 12 Aircraft shed
- 14 Totting up
- 17 Inundate
- 19 Retrieve
- 22 Sell to highest bidder
- 23 Bohemian dance
- 24 Song
- 25 A nobleman's dominion

DOWN

- 1 Revolt
- 2 Suspended garland
- 3 Girl's name
- 4 Naturism
- 5 Renovated
- 6 Point of view
- 7 Xmas fuel (4,3)
- 12 Manage thriftily
- 13 Increase sound
- 15 Null
- 16 Cower
- 18 Recourse
- 20 A frisk
- 21 Domain

Milan deny Beckham deal done

ROME, 7 March—AC Milan vice president Adriano Galliani denied on Friday that a deal had been agreed with Los Angeles Galaxy to sign David Beckham but said he was feeling 'optimistic'.

Earlier in the day a Milan Press spokesman told AFP that no comment would be made from the club until an announcement is posted on Milan's official website. But speaking outside a Football League meeting the Milan number two said a deal was close to being agreed.

"There's no news but I'm a little more optimistic because we're making progress and with a little correction here and there to the documents

things are going forwards between us and Galaxy," he said. "It has to. It's not official yet but we're on the right path. There are no storms brewing."

Internet



AC Milan have refused to confirm or deny reports that they have come to an agreement with Los Angeles Galaxy for the permanent transfer of David Beckham.—INTERNET

US beats Iceland to reach Algarve Cup final

FERREIRAS, 7 March—A spectacular late goal from substitute Natasha Kai gave the United States a 1-0 win over Iceland on Friday and sent the defending champion into the final of the Algarve Cup. Kai received a cross from Christie Rampone in the final minute of the game, deftly flicked the ball over a defender and fired a left-foot volley from the edge of the penalty area into the corner of the goal.

It gave the Americans six points after their second win in Group B. The US still has to play Norway in the invitational women's tournament in southern Portugal. Norway lost 2-0 to Denmark in the group's other game.—Internet

Natasha Kai of the United States celebrates after scoring during an Algarve Cup women's soccer match against Iceland in Albufeira, southern Portugal, on 6 March, 2009. United States won 1-0.—INTERNET



American Davis sets world record in 1,500m speedskating

WASHINGTON, 7 March—American Olympic medalist Shani Davis set a world record in the men's 1,500 metres in a speedskating World Cup at the Utah Olympic Oval on Friday.

Turin winter Olympic runner-up Davis claimed the title in one minute, 41.80 seconds to beat the previous record of 1:42.01 set by Canada's Denny Morrison in Calgary last March. Morrison bettered the time of 1:42.32 that Davis had shared with Erben Wennemars of the Netherlands.

Davis also won the World Cup season title in the 1,500 with 470

points. American Trevor Marsicano was second with 374. Morrison took third (1:42.56).

Internet



Shani Davis of the US skates to a new world record in the men's 1500m Essent ISU World Cup season finale in Kearns, Utah on 6 March, 2009.—XINHUA

Mourinho dismisses exit talk

MILAN, 7 March—Inter Milan boss Jose Mourinho on Friday dismissed speculation that he is set to walk out of the club. Rumours have spread this week that

Mourinho will leave Inter if they fail to win the Champions League this season, despite the club being odds-on favourites to win a fourth straight Serie A crown.

But Mourinho dismissed any such concerns and said he could not determine how long he would stay in Italy. "Me, leave Italy? In football you never know, you can stay two, three, four or ten years, it all depends," he told a press conference in Milan ahead of Saturday's trip to Genoa. "But one thing's for sure, I'm not trying to provoke a change of coach."

Internet



Inter Milan coach Jose Mourinho, dismissed speculation that he is set to walk out of the club.—INTERNET

Spain and Sweden hit by Davis Cup storm fronts

PARIS, 7 March—Rafael Nadal and his Spanish teammates endured a Davis Cup Costa Blanca blowout on Friday as the defending champions' first round tie against Serbia fell victim to gale-force winds.

Meanwhile, 2,000 kilometres to the north, the Swedish city of Malmo was in the eye of a political storm when Israel's Davis Cup team, who were facing Sweden behind closed doors, were greeted by hundreds of protestors, demanding the match be called off due to Israel's December offensive in Gaza.

Internet

Roddick restores Davis Cup order, US level with Swiss

BIRMINGHAM, 7 March—Andy Roddick has pulled the United States level with Switzerland in their Davis Cup World Group tie after Stanislaus Wawrinka shrugged off the absence of Roger Federer to put the visitors ahead.

Roddick defeated Marco Chiudinelli 6-1, 6-3, 7-6 (7/5) to knot the score in the best-of-five match tie at 1-1 at the end of the first day. It was Roddick's 40th win the international team competition, putting alongside Andre Agassi on the all-time US list. He'll get a day off on Saturday as the Bryan twins combine in doubles against Switzerland's Wawrinka and Yves Allegro.—Internet



Andy Roddick has pulled the United States level with Switzerland in their Davis Cup World Group tie after Stanislaus Wawrinka shrugged off the absence of Roger Federer to put the visitors ahead.—INTERNET



Study says US-led troops not protecting civilians enough

WASHINGTON, 7 March—US-led forces in Iraq and Afghanistan still do not adequately protect civilians and their operations are plagued by a reluctance to share intelligence information, a study prepared for the US military says.

Activists from the anti-secrecy website Wikileaks downloaded the unclassified report from a military website, which they said was public. The US military shut down the site, which US forces used to share information with allies in Afghanistan, after Wikileaks published several NATO documents last week.

The report said that while US-led forces now widely accepted that local populations were key to defeating an insurgency, “too little attention is given to protecting members of the noncombatant community”. “Too often, the friendly force is also perceived as a threat, negatively influencing civilian willingness to cooperate with coalition intel (intelligence) collection and other initiatives,” said a summary of the report’s findings.—MNA/Reuters



The TATA Nano Europa model is displayed for the first time during the media day of the 79th Geneva Car Show in Geneva. India's Tata Motors said at the Geneva Motor Show Tuesday that it aims to put its low cost Nano on sale in Europe in 2010- 2011 and build a reputation as a builder of “affordable and robust” vehicles.—INTERNET

MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (8.3.2009) (Sunday)

Transmissions

Times

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

Local Transmission

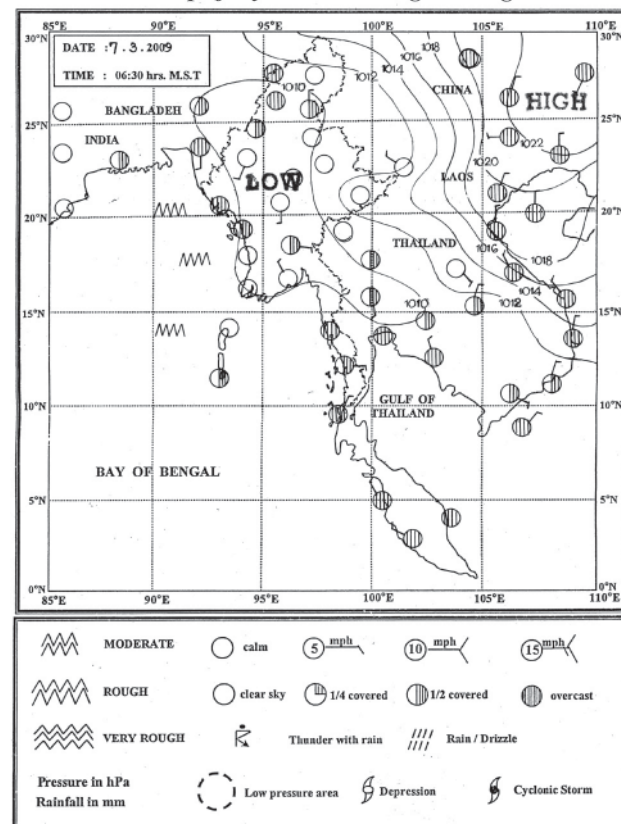
- Signature Tune
- Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- Lovely Customs and Dances of Gon Shan
- Zee Chaung Dam Making Rakhine State
- Healthy Baby, Sweet Smiles
- Science Fair (Part 1)
- Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Europe/ North America Transmission

- Signature Tune
- Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- Medicinal Orchid
- ASEAN Countries to boost economic cooperation
- Unforgettable Customs of the Chins
- Learning Opportunities for Disable Persons
- Blacksmith Village Min Kan
- Rakhine State Cultural Museum
- Myanmar Modern Song
- Lovely Customs and Dances of Gon Shan
- Zee Chaung Dam Making Rakhine State
- Healthy Baby, Sweet Smiles
- Travelogue “Sagaing”
- Science Fair (Part 1)
- Floating Village Mingalar Garden Resort
- Creative Decoration for Creative living
- Sightseeing around Mandalay and Sagaing
- (Amarapura, Inn Wa, Sagaing, Mingun)
- Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Saturday, 7 March, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain has been isolated in Kachin State, weather has been partly cloudy in Chin, Rakhine and Mon States, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (6°C) below March average temperatures in Kachin State, (3°C) to (4°C) above March average temperatures in Shan, Chin and Kayah States, Taninthayi Division, (5°C) above March average temperatures in Mandalay and Magway Divisions and about March average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperatures were Chauk, Magway and Aungmye (40°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded was Machanbaw (0.04) inch.

Maximum temperature on 6-3-2009 was 98°F. Minimum temperature on 7-3-2009 was 66°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 7-3-2009 was 80%. Total sunshine hours on 6-3-2009 was (8.6) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 7-3-2009 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 (8) mph from West at (16:30) hours MST on 6-3-2009.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 8th March 2009: Light rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Kachin State, Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine, Mon and Kayah States and Yangon Division 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: Likelihood of isolated light rain in the extreme Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 8-3-2009: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 8-3-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 8-3-2009: Generally fair weather.



Sunday, 8 March
View on today

- 7:00 am
1. တောင်တန်းသာသနာ့ပြုဆရာတော်
ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am
3. Morning news
- 7:40 am
4. သံသာချိုအေးမင်လာတေး
- 7:50 am
5. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:00 am
6. Musical programme
- 8:10 am
7. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မော်(၃၈)မြောက်လာ

- 8:20 am
8. (၆၄)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့
ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 8:30 am
9. International news
- 8:45 am
10. “အမျိုးနှင့် မျိုး”
[နေမျိုးအောင်၊ မိုးပြည့်ပြည့်မောင်၊
ဇရာ၊ ဝင်းနိုင် (အနုပညာ)]
(ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဗန်းမြင့်အောင်)
- 11:00 am
1. Martial Song
- 11:10 am
2. Round up of the week's
international news
- 11:20 am
3. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ
“အားကိုးချစ်သူကျေးတောသူ”
(အပိုင်း-၂၉)
- 12:20 pm
4. Golf magazine (TV)
- 12:50 pm
5. မြန်မာ့ရုပ်ရှင်
“ရွှေခြည်ငွေခြည်တန်းပါလို့”
(ညွန့်ဝင်း၊ ခင်ယုမေ၊ ချိုပြုံး)
(ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဦးသုခ)

- 4:00 pm
1. Martial song
- 4:10 pm
2. Dance of national races
- 4:20 pm
3. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 4:30 pm
4. တပ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုတေး
သီချင်းပြိုင်ပွဲ ဆုရတေးများ
- 4:40 pm
5. အေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး
ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ
တတိယနှစ် (သမိုင်းအထူးပြု)
(သမိုင်း)
- 4:50 pm
6. Songs to uphold
National Spirit
- 5:00 pm
7. “ကျေးဇူးတင်ပါတယ် DOTS”
(လွင်မိုး၊ ထွန်းထွန်းဝင်း၊
အိန္ဒြာကျော်ဇင်၊ ခင်သန်းနွယ်)
(ဒါရိုက်တာ-စိုးကျော်ဆန်း)
- 5:20 pm
8. (၆၄)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့
ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

- 5:30 pm
9. Sing and enjoy
- 6:00 pm
10. Evening news
- 6:30 pm
11. Weather report
- 6:35 pm
12. ကာတွန်းအစီအစဉ်
“Pocket Dragon
Adventure”
- 6:55 pm
13. တစ်မျက်နှာတစ်ကွက်စာ
“သိလိုက်တဲ့အခါဝယ်”
(ဒိန်းဒေါင်း၊ ရာဇာပေါက်စီ၊
ချာလီ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ထင်ထင်)
- 7:15 pm
14. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ
“သစ္စာနှင့်ယှဉ်သောမေတ္တာ”
(အပိုင်း-၂၅)
- 8:00 pm
15. News
16. International news
17. Weather report
18. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ
“ကြမ္မာမုန်တိုင်း”
(အပိုင်း-၁၇)



13th Waxing of Taboung 1370 ME

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Sunday, 8 March, 2009



The aerial view of enshrining and Shwehtidaw hoisting ceremony of Uppatasanti Pagoda in progress.

MNA

Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw hosts a grand religious ceremony



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and family offer religious objects to be enshrined at Uppatasanti Pagoda to Chairman Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara.

MNA



Congregation led by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and family convey Yadana Seinbudaw round Uppatasanti Pagoda.

MNA

