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Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and family hoist Yadana Seinbudaw, Yadana Hngetmyatnadaw atop Uppatasanti Pagoda

NAY PYI TAW, 8 March—The grand ceremony of hoisting Yadana Seinbudaw (diamond orb) and Yadana Hngetmyatnadaw (pennant-shaped vane) continued at Uppatasanti Pagoda here this morning, attended by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing.

Also present on the occasion were State Ovadaçariya Sayadaws, Chairman of the State



Sacred Uppatasanti Pagoda and religious edifices on its premises in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA



Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara, Secretary Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Nyaungdon Sayadaw Bhaddanta Osadh-

abhivamsa and member Sayadaws, member Sayadaws of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha, Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida Sayadaws, members of Nay Pyi Taw Myoma, Nay Pyi Taw Pynmana, Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon and Nay Pyi Taw Lewe 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
(See page 8)

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and family members conveying the Yadana Seinbudaw round Uppatasanti Pagoda.—MNA

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 9 March, 2009

Ward off destructive elements through the strength of national people

The government is building economic and social infrastructures for national development in every part of the country with the step-by-step implementation of the seven-step Road Map that leads to the path of building a modern developed nation.

Myanmar has been standing tall in the world as an independent and sovereign nation in the course of its long history.

For perpetuation of sovereignty of the nation, the Tatmadaw safeguards her whenever she faces the danger of disintegration of the Union and national solidarity and the loss of her sovereignty.

The most basic requirement for perpetuation of sovereignty of the nation is Union Spirit. It is very important for everyone of the nation regardless of the place he or she lives to have strong Union Spirit.

Upholding Our Three Main National Causes, the Tatmadaw members live in oneness with the people in areas where they discharge their duties and they ward off every danger of the destructive elements hand in hand with the people.

Historically, the Tatmadaw accepting Our Three Main National Causes as national policy has laid down the twelve objectives and is implementing them. It is obviously seen that the Tatmadaw unprecedentedly built national solidarity based on genuine goodwill.

The Tatmadaw members are building consolidated national solidarity while participating in regional development tasks in every part of the nation.

In building a peaceful modern developed nation, the Tatmadaw members in cooperation with the national people are to ward off internal and external destructive elements undermining peace and tranquility and development of the country.

Banking Services Diploma Course No. 1 concludes

YANGON, 8 March—A ceremony to present diplomas for banking services diploma course No 1 to trainees was held at the Convocation Hall of Yangon University this morning.

Rector of Institute of Economics Dr Kan Zaw presented completion certificates to 45 trainees.

Under the guidance of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue and with the supervision of Banks Supervisory Committee, Myanmar Institute of Banking Services course was open by Myanmar Banks Associations. In addition, Post Banking Services Diploma Course was open in 2008 and results were out in 2008.

Banking services diploma course No 1 is being conducted in Yangon and banking services diploma course No 2 in Mandalay. Examinations will be held in October 2009. Plans have been made to continue opening banking services diploma courses in every November.—MNA

People's Desire

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

Communications stations, Yadanabon new housing project inspected



Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw inspects progress in building factories and workshops in Yadanabon Myothit.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 8 March — Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Thein Tun visited Thazi GSM mobile station in Mandalay Division on 2 March. Next, the minister left necessary instructions and the post office.

After inspecting the microwave station and auto exchange, the minister and the deputy minister visited Yadanabon new town project site and looked into the building of lakes.

Afterwards, the minister inspected construction of roads, factories and workshops by companies in the site of Soft Base factories, and stressed the need for timely completion of the construction tasks. He then visited incubation centres.

Later, the minister met with officials, departmental staff and entrepreneurs at Yadanabon Teleport Building and fulfilled the requirements.

MNA

Evidences show Thazi Tsp passed through Bronze Age, Iron Age

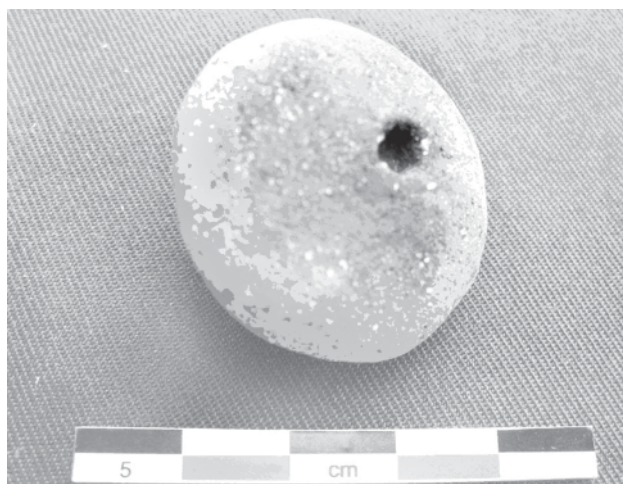
NAY PYI TAW, 8 March—The Archaeology, National Museum and Libraries Department (North) of Myanmar and CNRC of France excavated the areas around Ywagongyi Village in Thazi Township, Meiktila District, Mandalay Division, from 10 to 30 January to find out evidences on Bronze Age and Iron Age.

The Myanmar-France team found out the site where 44 bodies were buried, along with two small bundles of bronze sheets, two iron objects, 14 stone beads of different colours, a fine stone weapon, two small earth-baked objects deemed to be round shuttles, and different earthen objects. Of the fossilized bodies, only two are complete sets. They lay on the ground with their heads to the north. Twenty fossils are assumed to be at middle age, 10, at early age, and one, at infant

age. Thirteen were found as some pieces of skeletons, so their ages cannot be estimated. Only one shows the age of over 40 years, the pelvis of which was badly damaged.

The iron objects are excavated the same as that of Bronze Age and Iron Age found in Ywahtin (Pyawbwe) and Kanthitkon (Thazi). The two earth-baked objects are also called earth-baked beads which were excavated in large number especially in city states. Five of the bodies are thought to be buried inside coffins of Bronze Age and Iron Age, which were found in Ywahtin (Pyawbwe), Myohla (Yamethin), Htonebo (Pyawbwe).

According to the archaeologists, the findings indicate the existence of the late Stone Age and Iron Age in the area, and they do not reveal literature, writing and religious evidences.—MNA



An earth-baked object found at the excavation site.—MNA



Ancient beads are also found at the site. MNA



Afghan demonstrators block the path of a US military convoy during a protest against the US forces, following an early morning raid in Khost Province east of Kabul, Afghanistan on 7 March, 2009.—INTERNET

Study says Iraqis mentally resilient amid war

BAGHDAD, 8 March — About 30 percent have been exposed to shootings or bombings. Others have witnessed killings or mutilated bodies. Nearly 10 percent had a family member kidnapped or had been abducted, captured or imprisoned themselves.

The trauma experienced by respondents of Iraq's first nationwide mental health survey, which was released Saturday, was a grim litany of the violence that pushed the country to

the brink of civil war.

The study, conducted by the World Health Organization and the Iraqi government, found that Iraqis have suffered from a surprisingly low rate of severe mental disorders such as PTSD, which officials said indicated resilience in the face of decades of war and hardship.

The findings showed that nearly 17 percent of a random sample of 4,332 Iraqis over the age of 18 surveyed had suffered from

a mental disorder in their lifetime, ranging from post-traumatic stress disorder to depression. Women showed a higher rate of severe depression and phobias, such as a fear of leaving the house, than men.

Of the total, however, less than 10 percent had sought treatment, highlighting the need for improved psychiatric care in a country where the overall health care system has been devastated by fighting and sanctions.—*Internet*

US military deaths in Iraq war at 4,256

WASHINGTON, 8 March—As of Saturday, 7 March 2009, at least 4,256 members of the US military had died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003.

The figure includes eight military civilians killed in action. At least 3,421 military personnel died as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

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

US soldier dies in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 8 March — An American soldier died of wounds sustained from attack in Salah Ad Din Province in northern Iraq, the US military said Saturday. A brief military statement said that the US coalition forces soldier died from injuries sustained following an attack on a patrol in the Salah Ad Din Province of northern Iraq on Saturday.

The name of the deceased is being withheld pending notification of next of kin, the statement added without giving details on the attack.—*Internet*

Afghan, US forces kill seven militants

KABUL, 8 March — Afghan and the US-led Coalition forces during operations against Taliban militants in the eastern and southern regions killed seven militants and detained five others, a joint press release of the troops said here Saturday. "In two separate operations in Afghanistan seven Taliban militants were killed and five others were detained," the press release said.

The first operation, the press release added occurred in the eastern Khost Province during which four militants were killed and another injured.

Five more militants including the injured one were detained, it said.

Three more Taliban militants were killed in Maiwand district of former Taliban stronghold Kandahar Province in south of the country, said the press release. However, the press release did not mention the exact date of the skirmishes.—*Internet*

Iraq police academy bomb kills 28

BAGHDAD, 8 March—A suicide bomber killed 28 people and wounded 57 on Sunday at the main police academy in Baghdad, the first major attack in almost a month in the Iraqi capital.

Many police and police recruits were among those killed when the bomber, wearing an explosive vest and riding a motorbike also packed with explosives, blew himself up at the back entrance of the police academy in central Baghdad, police said.

Body parts were scattered at the scene and

police struggled to determine the identities of the victims.

The country remains a dangerous place, and areas such as the northern city of Mosul are still in the grip of a stubborn insurgency. A car bomb in a livestock

market in southern Iraq killed 12 people on Thursday.

On February 11, 16 people were killed 25 wounded when twin car bombs exploded at a bus terminal and market area in Baghdad.—*Internet*



Clothing and body parts were strewn across a wide area after the attack.—INTERNET

Two Taliban fighters killed, one wounded in Afghanistan

KABUL, 8 March — Two Taliban insurgents were killed and another wounded in a clash between Afghan National Police and Taliban militias in Afghanistan's southern Gazni Province on Saturday, a local official said.

"Two Taliban rebels

were killed and another sustained injuries, in Qara Bagh district this morning after they attacked police checkpoint and police returned fire," district chief Mohammad Hasan told *Xinhua*. One police vehicle was damaged during the firefight, he added.

No police or civilians were injured in the incident, he said. Meanwhile, Taliban purported spokesman Qari Yousuf Ahmady rejected the claim, telling the press from undisclosed place that Taliban militants had killed six policemen in a clash.—*Internet*

One killed, 8 wounded in northern Iraq

MOSUL, 8 March — A former senior officer was killed and eight wounded in Mosul, capital of northern Iraq's Nineveh province, provincial police said Saturday.

Leith Abid, a former brigadier general of Iraqi army, was shot dead by gunmen Saturday near his house in 17 July neighborhood of western Mosul, some 400 km north of Baghdad, the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

Internet

Roadside bomb kills three in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 8 March — A roadside bomb planted by militants in Zabul Province south Afghanistan killed three employees of a local road construction company on Saturday, a local official said.

"This was 7:00 am when a mine planted by Taliban fighters struck a car of a company in Siori district killing three staff of the company and wounding another," Deputy to the provincial administration Gulab Shah Alikhil told *Xinhua*.

However, he failed to identify the name of the company, adding it was a local firm and involved in road construction activities in the province.

Internet



The wreckage of a car used by suicide bomber, outside the main US military base in Bagram north of Kabul, Afghanistan, on 4 March, 2009. A car bomb exploded outside the main US military base in Afghanistan and wounded three US contractors Wednesday. The Taliban claimed responsibility.—INTERNET

Palestinian PM resigns, paves way for unity talks

RAMALLAH, 8 March—The Western-backed Palestinian prime minister submitted his resignation Saturday, improving the odds of a possible unity government of Fatah moderates and Hamas militants, followed by new Palestinian elections.

Salam Fayyad announced that he will step down once a new government is formed, but no later than the end of March. Unity talks between the Islamic militant Hamas and the Fatah movement of moderate Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas are to resume this week in Cairo. Abbas aides noted that if the negotiations fail, Abbas might reappoint Fayyad.

Fayyad, a respected economist,

was appointed prime minister by Abbas in June 2007, following Hamas' violent takeover of Gaza. The takeover led to a deep split between Fayyad's internationally backed administration in the West Bank and the widely shunned Hamas government in Gaza whose borders were sealed by Israel and Egypt.

Still, both sides appeared optimistic Saturday about a power-sharing deal. "Everyone needs a lifeline," Ahmed Yousef, a Hamas official, said of the rivals. Previous unity accords collapsed in acrimony, but both sides seem to have stronger reasons now to compromise.

Internet



Counter-narcotics police officers spray herbicide over coca plants during a campaign to eradicate coca crops in La Espriella, southern Colombia, on 7 March, 2009.—INTERNET

Islamic Jihad fires six rockets into southern Israel

GAZA, 8 March—The Palestinian Islamic Jihad movement on Saturday claimed responsibility for firing six home-made rockets into Israel after the death of one of its fighters.

In a statement sent to media, the armed wing of the less-influential Islamic group said the rockets

mainly targeted Israel's coastal city of Ashkelon, Sderot and Eshkol community around the Gaza Strip.

Israeli sources said that a number of missiles landed on Western Negev on Saturday, causing no damage or casualties.

In the meantime, Palestinian paramedics said Mahmoud Fattouh, 25, was killed in an explosion in northern Gaza Strip. The Islamic Jihad said Fattouh was one of its rocket squad members and accused Israel of killing him.

The movement said it fired the rockets also in response to the killing of three fighters by Israel in the past couple of days.

MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia raises alert on volcano in East Java

JAKARTA, 8 March — Indonesia has raised to maximum its alert on the Mount Semeru volcano in East Java, warning of potentially dangerous lava flows, an official at the country's vulcanology centre said on Saturday.

The 3,376-metre (11,080-feet) Semeru is one of the most active volcanoes on Java island. Seven people were killed by the mountain's heat clouds in 1994.

The alert status was raised on Friday afternoon after the number of volcanic quakes indicated there may be a bigger eruption, said Surono, head of the country's vulcanology centre.

"We don't want to evacuate residents around the mountain, but we warn those carrying out activities such as sand mining to avoid rivers because of lava flows," said Surono, who goes by one name like many Indonesians.—MNA/Reuters

India mobile market defies gloom

NEW DELHI, 8 March — Amidst all the economic gloom, one business is still booming — India's mobile phones — thanks to the world's lowest call rates driven by fierce competition among cellular operators, experts say.

And while economists forecast a sharp slowdown in India's economic growth, no downturn is seen in the mobile market, which added a record 15.4 million wireless users in January — the biggest monthly growth ever, according to the latest official data.

"India represents a unique mobile market where competition is the highest and the tariffs are the lowest," TV Ramachandran, head of the Cellular Operators Association of India, told AFP. And it's not just affluent Indians who are buying phones in the world's fastest growing cellular market — India outstripped China last April.

Most of the growth has been driven by labourers, maids, drivers and other lowly paid people in cities and increasingly in rural areas as innovative marketing has made phoning cheap enough for some of the poorest pockets.

"One of the biggest factors in this growth has been affordability both in terms of handset and tariff plans," said Girish Trivedi, a senior analyst at consultancy Frost & Sullivan.—Internet

Guantanamo worse since Obama election

LONDON, 8 March — A freed Guantanamo prisoner has said conditions at the US detention camp in Cuba have worsened since President Barack Obama was elected, claiming guards wanted to "take their last revenge". Binyam Mohamed, the first detainee to be transferred out of Guantanamo Bay since Obama took office, also said British agents "sold me out" by cooperating with his alleged torturers, in his first interview since release which was published Sunday.

Mohamed, a 30-year-old Ethiopian-born former British resident, gave further details of what he has called the "medieval" torture he faced in Pakistan and Morocco, as well as in a secret CIA prison in Kabul and at Guantanamo.

"The result of my experience is that I feel emotionally dead," he told the Mail on Sunday newspaper. "It seems like a miracle my brain is still intact."

Far from improving, Mohamed said conditions at Guantanamo have worsened since Obama was elected in November. The US president had promised during his campaign to shut down the Guantanamo prison and two days after taking office announced it would close this year. "Since the election it's got harsher," Mohamed told the newspaper. "The guards would say, 'yes, this place is going to close down,' but it was like they wanted to take their last revenge."—Internet



The vehicle Zimbabwean Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai riding during his 6 March, 2009 accident in Featherstone, 80 kms from Harare. Tsvangirai was flown to neighbouring Botswana for medical tests on Saturday after being seriously injured in a car crash that killed his wife, his party said.

INTERNET

Thousands flee as cyclone menaces Australian coast

SYDNEY, 8 March—Thousands of holidaymakers fled one of Australia's top tourist destinations Sunday as a tropical cyclone lashed the country's northeast coast.

Authorities in Queensland state ordered the evacuation of Fraser Island as Tropical Cyclone Hamish approached the World Heritage-listed site shortly after it was upgraded to a category five storm, the most severe on the weather scale.

The cyclone has been tracking south about 120 kilometres (75 miles) off the Queensland coast, but meteorologists warn its path is unpredictable and it could veer onto the mainland, potentially sparking a major disaster.

Queensland Emergency Services Minister Neil Roberts said three islands were evacuated Sunday—Fraser, Heron and Lady Elliot — bringing the total number of tourist islands cleared to five.

Internet

China's Shenzhou-8 spacecraft to carry bio sample for European Space Agency

BEIJING, 8 March — China has agreed to carry a bio sample for the European Space Agency on the country's Shenzhou-8 spacecraft, Zhang Jianqi, deputy chief commander of the manned space project, said here Sunday.

"China is actively gearing up international cooperation in the field of manned space," Zhang told reporters on the sidelines of China's parliament annual session, citing the agreement with Europe as an example.

The country plans to launch the Shenzhou-8

and Shenzhou-9 spacecraft in 2011, a former chief designer of the manned-space project said a day earlier.

Zhang stressed China welcomes and will continue cooperation with other countries in exploring the space, adding the country's space endeavors are always open to the outside.

"China will definitely work with the International Space Station, once the country sets up its own space station," said Zhang, a deputy to the National People's

Congress (NPC), the country's top legislature.

He said it's necessary for astronauts to be able to offer mutual aid in case of emergency during their relatively long stay in the space.

"The United States and other countries have agreed to this and said they are willing to start such cooperation," he added.

Zhang said Thursday the country is selecting taikonauts for the country's planned first space station.

Xinhua



Two foreign women show their paper-cuttings for window decoration in the Huxi community in Suzhou City, east China's Jiangsu Province, on 6 March, 2009. The community on Friday organized an activity for foreign women to learn Chinese paper-cutting for window decoration to greet the International Women's Day. — XINHUA

Two soldiers killed in N Ireland army base shooting

LONDON, 8 March — Two were killed and four others injured on Saturday in a shooting at a British army base in Northern Ireland, according to reports from Belfast.

Some reports said the two soldiers were killed in a drive-by shooting, while others said the gunmen entered the barracks.

The shooting occurred at the Massereene Army base in Antrim, 16 miles (about 28 km) north of Belfast, at 2140 GMT.

The four injured men, including two soldiers, have been taken to Antrim Area Hospital.

Local police have sealed off the area surrounding the army base, and a major security operation is underway.

Nobody has so far claimed responsibility for the shooting.

Xinhua

Two officers killed in helicopter crash in Turkey

ANKARA, 8 March—Two lieutenant officers were killed in a military helicopter crash in central Turkey on Saturday, the semi-official *Anatolia* news agency reported. The military helicopter took off from Malatya province in eastern Turkey at 11:15 local time (0915 GMT) and later was missing in Kayseri Province of central Turkey, the report quoted Kayseri Governor Mevlut Bilici as saying.

Bilici said, "the helicopter crashed in Buyukcaylak region of Pinarbasi town in Kayseri Province and the bodies of the two lieutenant officers were found. Their bodies will be sent to the air base in Kayseri".—Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency



A policeman stands along a road near the Massereene army base where two military personnel were killed in County Antrim, near Belfast. Two military personnel were killed and four people injured in a gun attack at a British army base in Northern Ireland, a police spokesman said.—INTERNET

Lavrov calls for prevention of arms race in outerspace

GENEVA, 8 March — Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov called here on Saturday for more international efforts to prevent an arms race in outer space.

Lavrov made the remarks at a plenary meeting on disarmament in Geneva, noting that preventing weaponization of outer space is "of particular importance among disarmament issues."

"When Russia and China introduced a draft international Treaty on the Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space (POWT) at this conference last February, they felt that it was easier to prevent weaponization of outer space than to get rid of new stockpiles of weap-

ons afterward," Lavrov said.

"Prevention of an arms race in outer space will also contribute to making the strategic situation predictable and preserving integrity of orbital assets. This should serve the interests of all states using outer space for peaceful purposes" he said.

On 10 Feb, a US Iridium satellite and a Russian defunct satellite collided, the first orbital satellite collision in the history of mankind, raising widespread suspicion of manipulation.—Xinhua

Expo to help China, world overcome crisis

BEIJING, 8 March — The World Expo 2010 to be held in Shanghai can help China and the world ride through the global financial crisis, said a Chinese political advisor here Sunday.

"It's hopeful the Shanghai World Expo will be a precious opportunity to help China overcome economic difficulties and lift the world out of the crisis shadow," said Zhao Qizheng, head of the Committee for Foreign Affairs, a working organ of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), the country's top political advisory body.

Zhao cited the example of the World Expo 1933 in the US city of Chicago, which attracted nearly 23 million people and created about 100,000 jobs directly and indirectly.

The Chicago World Expo greatly boosted people's courage and confidence in fighting the Great Depression, said Zhao at a speech to the annual session of the CPPCC National Committee.—Xinhua

World's leading LCD TV producers see poor sales last year

BEIJING, 8 March — Major liquid crystal displays (LCD) TV producers, except Samsung Electronics, failed to reach their sales goals in 2008, according to the latest statistics released by DisplaySearch, a research and consulting firm which specializes in display industry.

Samsung Electronics, South Korea's leading electrical appliance manufacturer, sold 20.98 million LCD TVs last year, taking up 19.9 percent of the global market share in terms of sales volume, said a report on the 2008 LCD TV market from DisplaySearch Saturday.

Sony Corp, Japan's manufacturer of consumer electronics, gained the second place by taking up 14 percent of market share.

The company adjusted its annual sales goal of LCD TV from 17 million to 16 million last October, due to the global economic slowdown. However, Sony still failed to reach the goal by selling only 14.75 million LCD TVs in 2008, said the report.

Xinhua



Iranian women shop at a commercial centre in Kish island in 2006. Iranian police have issued a directive that only saleswomen be employed in women's clothes shops across the Islamic republic, a newspaper reported on Saturday.—INTERNET

Study says Iraqi widows struggle in new roles as breadwinners

BAGHDAD, 8 March — While violence decreases across Iraq, women in the war-ravaged country face worsening hardships as warfare has thrust them into the role of family breadwinners, an aid group's survey said.

In a release dated on Sunday coinciding with International Women's Day, Oxfam International

issued, "In Her Own Words: Iraqi Women Talk About Their Greatest Concerns and Challenges." Many women have been widowed and have had to run their families because their husbands "had been killed, disappeared, abducted or suffered from mental or physical abuse," the survey says.

As a result, many have been unable to earn a decent living. While there are no precise numbers, there are now an estimated 740,000 widows in Iraq, Oxfam says. "Women are the forgotten victims of Iraq," said Oxfam International Executive Director Jeremy Hobbs, in quotes included in the survey. —Internet

Obama to visit Turkey in April

ANKARA, 8 March — President Obama will visit Turkey in April, two senior administration officials told *CNN* on Saturday. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, in Ankara on a diplomatic tour, had said earlier in the day that Obama would visit Turkey soon.

Clinton was meeting with Turkish officials "to emphasize the work the United States and Turkey must do together on behalf of peace, prosperity and progress," she said. Obama had said he was going to deliver a speech in a Muslim capital within the first hundred days of his presidency. The visit to Turkey will be his first to a

Muslim country since he was inaugurated.

A senior Obama administration official said the visit would be "an important opportunity to visit a NATO ally and discuss shared challenges." The official added that "it will also provide an opportunity to continue the president's dialogue with the Muslim world, a dialogue he started immediately and intends to maintain throughout his presidency."

The State Department on Saturday issued a joint statement from Clinton and Turkish Foreign Minister Ali Babacan reaffirming the close US-Turkish relationship.—Internet

Iran to mull US Afghan invitation

TEHERAN, 8 March — Iran would consider a US invitation to a conference on Afghanistan later this month, a government spokesman has said. Tehran declared that it was ready to review any approach from Western powers, as it would offer any help to its eastern neighbour.

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said in Brussels this week Iran should be included in the Afghanistan summit. President Obama has said the United States is ready to talk to Iran if it "unclenched its fist".

Iranian government spokesman Gholamhossein Elham said: "If America and European countries and others need to use Iran, they should give us [the invitation]." "We will review it with the approach that we are ready to offer any help to Afghanistan," he told a news conference on Saturday, reported *Reuters* news agency.

Mrs Clinton, who visited Turkey on Saturday, has proposed the conference for 31 March, at a location to be decided. It aims to bring in Afghani-



stan's other neighbours, such as Pakistan. She said on Thursday: "There are a lot of reasons why Iran would be interested. So they will be invited. Obviously it is up to them to decide whether to come." She called Afghanistan "NATO's biggest military challenge"

Internet



A model dressed as the bumble bee in the transformers poses by a car in the 6th Hainan International Automotive Industry Exhibition in Haikou, capital of south China's Hainan Province. 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.



Rabbits play with tiger cubs at a theme park in Sanya, in south China's Hainan Province. The artificially bred tiger cubs get along well with rabbits, which generates tremendous interest among visitors, *China Daily* reported.

Wash cat saves elderly owner from smoky fire

A Bremerton Fire Department official said an elderly woman has her cat to thank for saving her life in a smoky house fire. The woman's smoke alarm was going off as smoke billowed through the vents from her home heater but she slept through it. Her cat jumped up on the bed and pawed at her face until she woke up.

Says Fire Lt Charlie Rinard, "If the cat hadn't woken her up, I'm pretty sure she wouldn't have made it."

Rinard said the woman showed signs of smoke inhalation after the fire early Saturday but both she and her cat are OK.

The fire was contained inside the heater and firefighters cleared the smoke from the home.

Alarm company: Um, Sir? your house is on fire

A Connecticut man was so engrossed with the tunes on his iPod that he didn't realize his house was on fire — until his alarm company called.

Pomfret Assistant Fire Chief Edward Bates says Andrew Riley told him he was listening to music Thursday afternoon when the blaze broke out on the upper floor of his 2 1/2-story house.

Bates says Riley didn't smell smoke or hear the smoke alarm going off. After receiving the call, Riley dashed upstairs and shut a door to the burning room.

Firefighters arrived on the scene and quickly put out the blaze.

The damage was limited to the exercise room and an adjoining office.

Want designer babies?

A clinic with offices in New York and Los Angeles advertised that it has been able to help couples to choose the sex, eye or hair color of their child.

Genetic counseling usually helps couples avoid passing a genetic disorder or disease onto a child, but now designer babies are not science fiction any more, according to Dr Jeffrey Steinberg of the Fertility Institute as quoted by reports Wednesday.

"Can they say to me, 'We would prefer to have blue eyes,' and can we offer them an increased chance of blue eyes? Absolutely," said Dr Jeffrey Steinberg of the Fertility Institute.

Such idea has given rise to disagreement.

Mich woman marks her 108th or 111th birthday

Don't ask Mattie Caldwell how many candles go on her birthday cake. "I don't remember," she said. Medicare records indicate Caldwell's birth date is 5 March, 1901. An old family Bible gives the same date but three years earlier, in 1898. And there's no legal record of her birth because she was born at home.

In any case, Caldwell is celebrating this week with friends and family at her home in Genesee County's Flint Township, about 55 miles northwest of Detroit.

"It's special," she said.

The great-great-great-grandmother to at least seven — she stopped counting a while ago — grew up on a farm in rural Mississippi and relatives say she never learned to read or write. She was the oldest of seven children, and the only one still alive.

NEWS ALBUM



Crocuses blossom at the foot of the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

One killed, 13 wounded by roadside, car bombs in Baghdad since late Saturday night

BAGHDAD, 8 March—An Iraqi was killed and at least 13 others were wounded in roadside bomb attacks in Baghdad since late Saturday night, a police source said on Sunday.

A civilian was killed and eight wounded in two roadside bombs went off successively late on Saturday night near a police patrol in the

Palestine Street in eastern Baghdad, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Five policemen were among the wounded people, he added.

On Sunday morning, three Awakening Council group members were also wounded by a roadside bomb explosion near their vehicle in Baghdad's western neighbourhood of

Ghazaliyah, according to the source.

Separately, an explosive charge planted in the car of an employee working in the Iraqi parliament detonated in the morning near the major hub of buses in the Allawi area in central Baghdad, wounding him and a passerby, said the source.

Despite the security gains in recent months in Iraq, there are still sporadic bombings, which shape setback to the Iraqi government.—Internet



A general view shows the Opel plant in the eastern German town of Eisenach, on 8 March, 2009.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Saturday that General Motors must improve the rescue plan for its German unit Opel if it wants government support for the struggling carmaker. German weekly magazine Der Spiegel said on Saturday that Opel was threatening to close its German plants in Eisenach and Bochum as well as its Belgian site in Antwerp.—INTERNET

Two skiers killed in avalanche in W Canada

OTTAWA, 8 March—Two men were killed after being caught in an avalanche at a skiing resort in western Canada's British Columbia province, police said on Sunday.

The accident occurred Saturday afternoon at the Kicking Horse ski resort in Golden, BC. Four skiers triggered the avalanche, two of them escaped while the other two were buried under the snow and died.

It is the second tragedy to hit the resort in the past few weeks. A 44-year-old woman died after getting lost for more than a week while skiing there but her husband was rescued.

More than a dozen people have now died this year in avalanches in the province.

Internet

Wounded fisherman saved by rescue helicopter

JINAN, 8 March—A seriously wounded Chinese fisherman was saved by a rescue helicopter sent by China's Ministry of Transport on Sunday.

The fisherman got one of his arms broken when fishing on international waters in a vessel registered in Weihai, Shandong Province.

The ministry's Beihai No 1 Rescue Aerocade received a call for help at 9:30 am and immediately sent a helicopter and an airplane to border areas on North China Sea.

At 3:15 pm, rescuers found the vessel and brought off the wounded fisherman in less than 10 minutes. The fisherman was sent to hospital after the helicopter landed at Weihai Airport.—Internet



Photo taken on 6 March, 2009 shows a view in the Kanasi scenic area, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.—INTERNET

Women taxi drivers get free physical check

BEIJING, 8 March—About 100 women taxi drivers in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region had free medical check-ups Saturday to mark International Women's Day.

The People's Liberation Army Number 303 Hospital in Nanning, the regional capital city, offered the check-ups to the women who work long hours and often neglect their health.

A woman taxi driver Shi Yuejin said, "There is no definite time for passengers, so we can't have meals at regular hours." Another woman taxi driver Huang Yunmei: "Sometimes my eyes are tired, and my pelvis is stiff after a long shift."

Many of the women drivers have little time for exercise as they are under pressure to handle both work and family.

Reporter said, "they had a physical examination before, a woman taxi driver Huang Yunmei: "Not so far, no. But I want to have a thorough check up when circumstances permit."

Internet

Iran test fires new long-range missile, report

TEHERAN, 8 March—Iran test fired a new long-range missile, Iran's English-language television station Press TV reported on Sunday.

The report, however, did not elaborate further on the details.

Iran's new test of a long-range missile comes

amid the global efforts to soothe the tension between Iran and the West over its nuclear program.

On Wednesday, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) commander Major General Mohammad Ali Jafari said that Israel nuclear sites are within the reach of its

missiles.

"All the nuclear sites in the every part of the occupied lands by the Zionist regime (Israel) are within the reach of Iran's missiles," Jafari was quoted as saying.—Internet

One NATO soldier killed, two wounded in E Afghanistan

KABUL, 8 March—One soldier of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) was killed Sunday and two others got wounded in eastern region of Afghanistan, a press release of the alliance said.

One International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) service member was killed and two others sustained injuries as a result of Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attack in eastern Afghanistan, a press release of ISAF issued here said.

However, it did not disclose the place of the incident. In the meantime, an Afghan official on the condition of anonymity said that the incident took place in eastern Paktia province Sunday morning.

The press release also said that ISAF will continue its work to defeat the IED tactics that threaten Afghans and international force soldiers, as the troops assist Afghans in their fight against the insurgency.

However, it did not identify the victim's nationality and position. US forces mostly are in service in the eastern provinces of Afghanistan.—Internet

Rare new coal reserve found in east China

JINAN, 8 March—Chinese geologists revealed Sunday they have found a new coalfield with estimated reserves exceeding 3 billion tons in the eastern Shandong Province.

Zhang Zengqi, deputy president of the Shandong Provincial Academy of Geology and Scientific Experiments, said the rare new reserve mainly comprised coke and was in Caoxian, a county in southwestern

Shandong.

Zhang said the coal-bearing strata covered 300 sq km, with an average thickness of seven meters. The shallowest stratum lay 950 meters below ground.

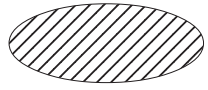
The potential economic value of the find is estimated at 1.5 trillion yuan (220 billion US dollars) according to current coke prices.

Internet



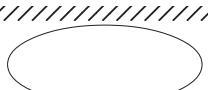
British yachtswoman Dee Caffari waves flares as she passes under Tower Bridge in her boat Aviva on the river Thames in London on 2 March, 2009. Caffari is the first woman to sail solo non-stop around the world in both directions.

INTERNET



**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 conveying
Yadana
Hngatmyatnadaw
atop Uppatasanti
Pagoda by
decorated float.**

MNA



Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing...

(from page 1)

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

mayors, deputy ministers, departmental heads, members of the Leading Committee, Work Committee and Subcommittees, social and religious association members, wellwishers and service personnel.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and family and the congregation received the Nine Precepts from Chairman Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara.

Members of the Sangha recited religious verses.

Next, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and family conveyed Yadana Seinbudaw (diamond orb) by Mingala palanquin, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, Yadana Hngatmyatnadaw (pennant-shaped vane), General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Prime Minister General Thein Sein and

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and General Thura Shwe Mann fix Yadana Seinbudaw and Sasana Flag atop Uppatasanti Pagoda.

MNA

wife Daw Khin Khin Win, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, Lt-Gen Tin Aye and wife Daw Kyi Kyi Ohn, 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 and their wives and families and the congregation went round the pagoda.

(See page 9)

Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing...

(from page 8)

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, General Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and Minister Col Thein Nyunt fixed the Yadana Hngatmyatnadaw atop the pagoda.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and family members conveyed Yadana Hngatmyatnadaw atop the pagoda by decorated float.

Meanwhile, Mingala Harp Troupe of Fine Arts Department played the song.

At the auspicious

time, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, General Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and Minister Col Thein Nyunt fixed the Yadana Hngatmyatnadaw atop the pagoda.

Afterwards, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and family members conveyed Yadana Seinbudaw (diamond orb) atop the pagoda by decorated float.

(See page 10)



The aerial view of the ceremony to hoist Yadana Seinbudaw and Yadana Hngatmyatnadaw atop Uppatasanti Pagoda.—MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye sprinkles scented water on Yadana Seinbudaw after being hoisted atop Uppatasanti Pagoda.

MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye fixes Yadana Hngatmyatnadaw atop Uppatasanti Pagoda.—MNA



Member of SPDC Lt-Gen Tin Aye and Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Nyan Tun sprinkle scented water on Yadana Seinbudaw after being hoisted atop Uppatasanti Pagoda.—MNA



Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein sprinkles scented water on Yadana Seinbudaw after being hoisted atop Uppatasanti Pagoda.

MNA



ended at 9.40 a.m.

To mark the successful completion of the ceremony, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and family members, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San performed the rituals of

golden and silver showers.

On 9 March, (14th Waxing of Tabaung, 1370 ME), the offering of Myathabeik (emerald religious bowl) and Shwekyar Thingan (robes) and the consecration ceremony will be held at the pagoda on a grand scale.—MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San convey Yadana Hnetmyatnadaw circling the pagoda.

MNA

Member of SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann and Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo sprinkle scented water on Yadana Seinbudaw.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe, wife ...

(from page 9)

At 9 a.m., Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, General Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief

(Navy) Rear-Admiral Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and Minister Col Thein Nyunt fixed the Yadana Seinbudaw and Sasana flag

atop the pagoda and sprinkled scented water on them. On behalf of the wellwishers, they offered Shwekyar Thingan (robes) to Hngetpyawbu (Plantain Bud) of the pagoda. The grand religious ceremony



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



Varieties of shops are open in the festival ground to mark Shwehtidaw and Seinbudaw hoisting ceremony of Uppatasanti Pagoda.—MNA

Festivities to mark Shwehtidaw and Seinbudaw hoisting ceremony of Uppatasanti Pagoda continue

NAY PYI TAW, 8 March— The entertainments to mark the Shwehtidaw and Seinbudaw hoisting ceremony of Uppatasanti Pagoda continued for eighth day in the ground south of the pagoda yesterday evening.

Thitlwin Anyeint troupe of Mandalay performed entertainments and Documentary Film

Division of Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise showed the activities on Shwehtidaw hoisting ceremony, movies titled “Chit-chin-phwet-mitta” and “Myet-hna-mya-det-kaung-kin” to over 22,000 local people.

On the ninth day evening, the audience will be entertained by Pho Chit Drama troupe and movies titled “Ngar-thu-tabar-

yauk-kyar-mein-ma” and “Moe-baw-khon-tet-ka-leik-chin-dei” of Documentary Film Division.

On 9 March evening, there will be entertainments of Pho Chit Drama troupe and movies titled “Koe-hse-hsa-tha-leik-mei” and “Ah-may-hnit-tha-mee-myar” of Documentary Film Division.—MNA



People enjoy performance of Pho Chit drama group in the festival ground to mark Shwehtidaw and Seinbudaw hoisting ceremony of Uppatasanti Pagoda. (News on page 10)—MNA

Objectives of the 64th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

1. To work hard together with the people to accomplish the State's seven-step Road Map in building a peaceful, modern and developed nation
2. To uphold Our Three Main National Causes as the national policy at risk to life
3. To crush, in cooperation with the people, internal and external subversive elements that are disrupting stability, peace and development of the nation
4. To build a strong and patriotic modern Tatmadaw capable of safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the nation

Commander meets servicemen, family members in Kyaukpyu Station

NAY PYI TAW, 8 March—Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Thaug Aye presented cash assistance to servicemen and family members at the hall of Kyaukpyu Station on 25 February morning.

The commander inspected the repaving of the apron at Sittway Airport. He viewed the sites for construction of the railway stations in Mingan Ward

and Pyidawtha Ward of Sittway, the site for axis of Sittway-Ponnagyun railroad and thriving vegetable plantations near Wethali Stadium.

On 26 February, the commander looked into the sites for building the railway stations near Technological University and preparation works for construction of the railroad.

At the hall of Rakhine State PDC, the commander attended meeting on regional development.

MNA

Regional development work inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 8 March—Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe inspected the providing irrigation water and cultivation of summer paddy near the main canal of Aukseik river-water pumping project in Seikphyu Township on 26 February morning.

Next, Chairman Col Phone Maw Shwe inspected maintenance of the pumps at Tanyaung river-water pumping project in Salin Township, Tanyaung Station Hospital, storage of water in Mone Creek Dam in Sedoktara Township, maintenance of the dam and construction of Sedoktara-Ngaphe inter-district road. — MNA

Agricultural and regional development inspected in Kayah State

NAY PYI TAW, 8 March – Chairman of Kayah State Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Win Myint inspected sanitation and measures undertaken for proper drainage near Biluchaung on 24 February.

The chairman inspected seasonal plantations of local people, Phayaphyu water pumping station in Dimawhso Township, water supply, ploughing on the farm of farmer U Thein Tan and summer paddy cultivation.—MNA

Myanmar Masters 2009 Golf Tournament to be held on grand scale

YANGON, 8 March—Myanmar Masters 2009 Golf Tournament, mainly sponsored by Air Bagan Ltd, organized by Myanmar PGA, will be held on a grand scale in Pun Hlaing Golf Club in Hlinethaya Township from 12 to 15 March.

A total of over 80 golfers from international and Myanmar are going to participate in the tournament and cash prize US\$ 60,000 will be presented to winners.

The main sponsor is Air Bagn Ltd and co-sponsors, International Beverages Trading Co Ltd, KBZ Bank, Pun Hlaing Golf Club, Aureum Palace Hotel, Myanmar Treasure Resort Hotel, CEPESA, KM Golf Center, Srixon, Alpine Purified Drinking Water. Fans can watch the tournament. Admission is free.

MNA

Tel Aviv centennial celebrations kick off



TEL AVIV, 8 March - First Hebrew city, Tel Aviv, celebrates its 100th birthday in whirlwind of gala events, including more than 400 activities to be spread over nine months, including flower carpet in Rabin Square, top Israeli performers in kickoff performance, and Milan opera house performance of 'Aida'

After many long months of brainstorming and complex production work, the centennial celebrations in the first Hebrew city, Tel Aviv, will kick off on April 1 with an invested NIS 44 million (about \$10 million) in the revelries.

Just one month following this, the city of Tel Aviv will be the center

of celebrations of Israel's 61st year of independence.

Already on the first day of festivities, the city will be decorated with posters, flags, wall paintings, and ornaments. For the nine months following, more than 400 events will be held throughout the city, outdoor festivals, art shows, sporting events, historic exhibitions and numerous community projects, among others.

The kickoff event will be the Centennial Conference that will present the architectural vision of Tel Aviv for the next 100 years according to architects from Israel and the world.—Internet

What determines the size of giant dunes?

PARIS, 8 March — Physicists at the Laboratory of Physics and Mechanics of Heterogeneous Media (CNRS / Université Paris Diderot / ESPCI ParisTech / Université Pierre et Marie Curie) have shown, in collaboration with scientists from the US and Algeria, that the size of giant dunes is controlled by the depth of the atmospheric convective boundary layer.

More specifically, the physicists have shown that such dunes grow through the accumulation of small superimposed dunes, and that their growth is limited by interaction with a part

of the atmosphere called the inversion layer, which confines wind flow around the dunes.

The dynamics of dunes are the result of the interaction between the wind, which by transporting sand grains remodels their shape, and the shape of the dune which, in return, controls

atmospheric flow. Dunes can take the form of crescents, stars or parallel waves. The smallest dunes appear spontaneously in the form of waves on the sand's surface, with a distance between their crests of a few tens of meters.

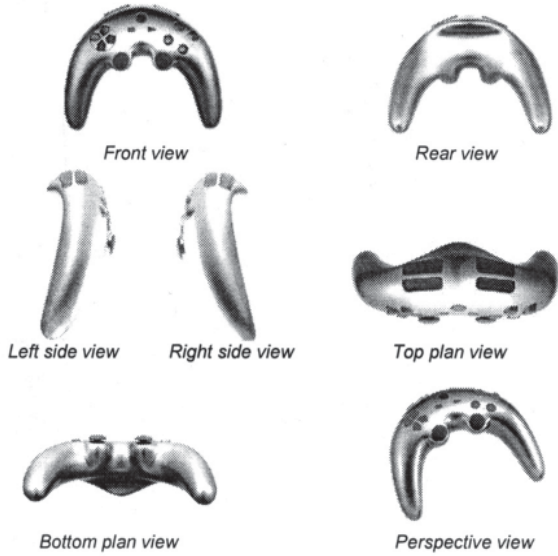
Internet



Sand dunes on the border of Dubai and Oman.

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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 9 March 2009

Iranian police kill six drug smugglers

TEHERAN, 8 March—Iranian police killed six drug smugglers and seized five tons of narcotics in clashes in a volatile south-eastern region on Saturday, the official IRNA news agency reported.

Three policemen were wounded during the operation in Sistan-Baluchestan province, which borders both Pakistan and Afghanistan, IRNA said.

The area is known for frequent clashes between security forces and well-armed drug traffickers. Iran is a key transit route for narcotics smuggled from Afghanistan to the West and elsewhere.

MNA/Reuters

Woman, 84, gets the ride of her life for birthday

BUCKHEAD RIDGE, 8 March—What do you get an 84-year-old lady for her birthday? That's what Carol Brown was thinking a few weeks ago. Her mother, June Pearce, was turning 84. The idea of buying and giving more stuff just didn't appeal to Brown.

"When you're 84, what is there?" she thought.

Pearce lives in a slow-paced retirement area near Lake Okeechobee in rural Florida. She's been married to the same man, Fred, for 64 years. Pearce is a wife and a mother. She's had a few strokes, which have robbed her mind of short-term

memories. Lung cancer has claimed much of her strength.

But one memory has stuck with her: riding on



June Pearce, 84, smiles after a ride motorcycle in Okeechobee, Fla, on 6 March, 2009. June was surprised with a ride on a bike as a birthday present.

INTERNET



Members of the Nepali women mountaineers poses for photos after a Press conference in Kathmandu, capital of Nepal, on 7 March, 2009. A group of 10 Nepali women mountaineers is all set to embark on a mission to seven summits, the highest mountains of the seven continents, local media reported on Saturday. —XINHUA

Morocco cuts ties with Iran over Bahrain

RABAT, 8 March—Morocco has cut diplomatic links with Iran, the Moroccan Foreign Ministry said on Friday, after an outcry in the Sunni Muslim world over a statement by an Iranian official questioning Sunni-ruled Bahrain's sovereignty.

Rabat also criticized Iran for its efforts to spread its Shi'ite brand of Islam in Morocco, a move the ministry said it saw as threat to the North African country's moderate Sunni religious identity.

"The Kingdom of Morocco has decided to break its diplomatic relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran beginning this Friday," the ministry said.

Sunni scholars in Morocco and elsewhere have denounced what they see as Iran's efforts to convert Sunni Muslims to Shi'ism, arguing the drive would create strife similar to the often bloody Shi'ite-Sunni divides in Iraq and Pakistan.

According to media reports, Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri, an adviser to Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said last month Shi'ite Iran had sovereignty over Bahrain.

In response Morocco's King Mohammed sent the Bahraini monarch, King

Hamad Bin Isa al-Khalifa, a message of support, calling the Iranian remarks "absurd" and a contradiction of international law.

Iran says its relations with Bahrain are based on mutual respect and denies having claims over the island, which has a sizeable Shi'ite population.

MNA/Reuters

Gandhi's items bring auction house huge commission

NEW DELHI, 8 March—The personal items of India's modern founding father, Mahatma Gandhi, sold for 1.8 million US dollars at an auction in New York Friday, brought 296,000 US dollars in commission for the auction house, the Antiquorum Auctioneers, said the semi-official Press Trust of India news agency Saturday. A day after the articles were sold, the auction house said that Gandhi's pocket watch, sandals, glasses, bowl and plate fetched a total of 2.096 million US dollars, commission included, according to the report.

The items were bought by Indian liquor baron Vijay Mallya from American collector James Otis, who got 1.8 million US dollars. Mallya, known for having already bought back from international auctioneers a number of India's national treasures including a royal sword, said he would bring the items back to India for public display.

MNA/Xinhua

Winners of the Miss Philippines 2009 beauty pageant wave to the crowds during a coronation night at the Araneta Coliseum in Quezon city, metro Manila on 8 March, 2009. (L-R) Melody Gersbach, 23, a businesswoman, is the newly crowned Miss Philippines-International will represent the country in Miss International 2009, Pamela Bianca Manalo, 22, a flight attendant is the newly crowned Miss Philippines-Universe will represent the country in Miss Universe 2009 in the Bahamas and Marie-Ann Umali, 22, a tourism graduate, is the newly crowned Miss Philippines-World and will represent the country in Miss World 2009.—INTERNET



Researchers link virus, diabetes

LONDON, 8 March—Type 1 diabetes appears to be triggered by an infection with a common virus that can attack insulin-producing cells in the pancreas, British researchers say.

The theory is that the enterovirus, in some cases, attacks the pancreatic beta cells, setting off a reaction from the body's immune system that destroys the cells, leaving the body unable to produce insulin, *The Independent* reports.

One team studied pancreases in a Scottish collection, examining those of young people who

died a year or less after diagnosis with Type 1 diabetes. They found that 60 percent of the pancreases showed signs that the beta cells had been infected by enteroviruses, while no pancreases of those without diabetes showed those signs.

The viruses can cause the symptoms of upset stomach but can also infect without symptoms. The study was published this week in the journal *Diabetologia*. Type 1 diabetes often shows up in childhood and can only be contained with insulin injections.—*Internet*



Colombian bullfighter Jose Gomez 'Dinastia' makes a pass to a bull during a bullfight in Medellin, Colombia, on 7 March, 2009.—INTERNET

Suburban train hits people standing on tracks, kills two

PARIS, 8 March—Two people were killed and 11 injured on Saturday when a commuter train hit them while they were on the

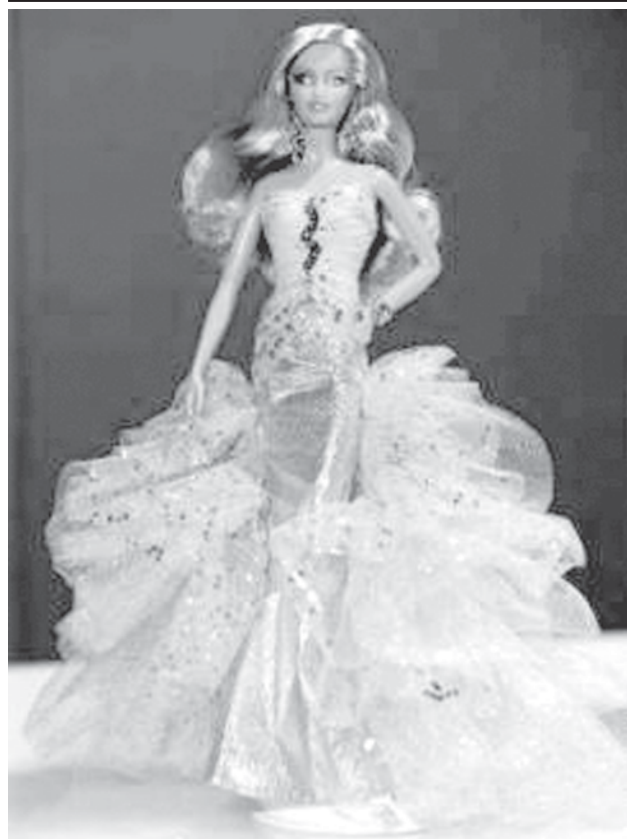
rails between the northern Paris suburbs of Aubervilliers and Saint-Denis, firefighters said.

The accident took place at 2230 GMT near the Stade de France sports stadium when a RER B line commuter train hit the people who were on the railway overpass crossing the A86 highway, said firefighters.

Children were among the victims, and three of the injured were in serious condition, they added.

—*Internet*

The 50th anniversary Barbie doll, dressed in gold, is on display at the American International Toy Fair in New York in this on 14 Feb, 2009 file photo. The Barbie doll, which debuted on 9 March, 1959, will celebrate its 50th anniversary on Monday.—INTERNET



Loaded guns in home where boy shot

BEAUMONT, 8 March—A 12-year-old California boy has been charged with murder for shooting a friend and his parents face charges for leaving him home alone with loaded guns.

Darci Carranza, a spokesman for the Beaumont Police Department, said the two boys were alone in the house on Thursday, a school day, while the parents were at work. The suspected shooter dialed 911 shortly before 11 am and said he had heard a gunshot and that his friend had been hit. "We're still trying to

figure out if this was accidental or on purpose," Carranza said. Christopher Willis, 48, and his wife, Patricia, 33, were charged with negligent storage of firearms and endangering the welfare of a child. Both were at work at the time of the shooting. Police said investigators found a number of weapons in the house, some of them loaded.

—*Internet*

Survivors of the Turkish Airlines jet, rear, that slammed into a muddy field near Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport, Netherlands, comfort each other on 7 March, 2009. Dozens of survivors have joined rescue workers and politicians for a nationally televised service.—INTERNET

Tiger kills man who jumps into enclosure in China

BEIJING, 8 March—A Siberian tiger at a wildlife park near Beijing attacked and killed a man who climbed into its enclosure thinking he found a shortcut down from the Great Wall, a park official said Sunday.

The 20-year-old man, surnamed Guo, had been hiking with two other people on the wall when the group decided to jump down to save time on the

descent — unknowingly landing themselves in Badaling Wildlife World's tiger enclosure.

—*Internet*

Britain plans survey of CCTV cameras

LONDON, 8 March—The British government plans a survey to find out how many anti-crime cameras have been installed, how many work and how many provide usable pictures.

The closed-circuit television cameras are not regulated, *The Times of London* reports. There are an estimated 4.2 million devices monitoring the streets of the country, based on a survey of two streets in London about seven years ago.

"We are currently considering how this will be done to ensure CCTV systems are effectively overseen and bring together evidence of good practice," said Vernon

Coaker of the Home Office. Since the 1990s, thousands of cameras have been installed in town shopping districts, malls, housing developments, supermarkets and factories.

Transport of London has 10,000 cameras, while there were 260 at the Houses of Parliament several years ago. In 2005, the cameras helped police track suspects in the bombing of London's underground rail system. Graeme Gerrard, a high-ranking police officer in Cheshire and spokesman on CCTV for the Association of Chief Police Officers, said the cameras do not stop anti-social behaviour.—*Internet*

Dutch recover missing paintings

LONDON, 8 March—Dutch officials say they have recovered eight paintings by artists, including Pissarro and Renoir, that have been missing since 1987. The works, dating from the 17th and 19th Centuries, were found in the south of the country after they had been offered for sale, police say.

Some of the works — which disappeared from Maastricht's art gallery — were found folded and seriously damaged. Two men and a woman were arrested and will appear in court on Monday.

"The suspects were apparently trying to sell the art works to the insurance company that had paid out

2.27 million euros (£2m) after they went missing," a statement from Dutch prosecutors said. "The investigation has yet to determine where the paintings have been for more than 20 years," it said. The paintings were found in the towns of Valkenburg and Walem.

The works were by 17th Century artists David Teniers, Willem van de Velde and Jan Brueghel the Younger, as well as 19th Century painters Eva Gonzales, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Camille Pissarro and Paul Desire Trouillebert. Dutch officials have not given any further details.

—*Internet*



SPORTS

United sweat over Ferdinand's Champions League fitness



Manchester United's Carlos Tevez (centre) celebrates with Rio Ferdinand (left) and Anderson after scoring the first goal of the match against Fulham during their FA cup match at Craven Cottage football stadium, London, on 7 March. Manchester United won 4-0.—INTERNET

LONDON, 8 March—Sir Alex Ferguson faces an anxious wait on the fitness of Rio Ferdinand ahead of Manchester United's Champions League clash with Inter Milan on Wednesday. The centre-back left Craven Cottage here Saturday wearing a protective support after injuring his ankle during United's commanding 4-0 FA Cup quarter-final win over Fulham.

Ferdinand had been forced to withdraw at half-time with United already in a comfortable two-goal lead and manager Ferguson admits he is uncertain whether the player will recover in time for the second leg clash with Italian giants Inter at Old Trafford.

That last 16 tie is finely poised after a scoreless draw in the teams' first meeting in the San Siro. Ferguson said England defender Ferdinand's importance to his side's hopes of reaching the quarter-finals of the competition, and so keeping alive their hopes of winning five trophies in a season, could not be under-estimated.—Internet

Bryans lift USA to 2-1 Davis Cup lead over Swiss

BIRMINGHAM, 8 March—Doubles kings Bob and Mike Bryan won a record-setting 15th Davis Cup match Saturday to give the United States a commanding 2-1 lead over Switzerland in their World Group first round tie.

The Californian siblings, aged 30 and currently the top-ranked team in the game, became the most successful US team in Davis Cup history. The 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (7/2) defeat of Stanislas Wawrinka and Yves Allegro required just under two and a half hours.—Internet

Answers to yesterday's Crossword Puzzle

1	R	U	F	F	I	A	N	5	R	E	A	D	Y			
	E	E	R		U			6	E	N		U				
8	B	A	S	T	E		9	D	O	N	E	G	A	L		
	E		T	N						I	E	L	E			
10	L	I	O	N	E	S	S	11	W	H	E	E	L			
			O				M			E			O			
12	H	A	N	G		13	A	R		14	A	D	D	I	N	G
	U						M			16	C			N		
17	S	W	A	M	P			19	R	E	C	O	V	E	R	
	B		S	L						I	A	A		E		
22	A	U	C	T	I	O	N		23	P	O	L	K	A		
	N		O	F						G	E		I	L		
24	D	I	T	T	Y			25	E	A	R	L	D	O	M	

Extremists could target English sides, Wenger tells paper



Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger

LONDON, 8 March—Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger raised the prospect of English football becoming a target of violent extremism, adding his team had already faced security alerts in comments published on Sunday.

Wenger spoke in the wake of the attack on the Sri Lankan cricket team which left eight people dead as they travelled to a Test match in Lahore, Pakistan last week. "It has happened to us, where we have had alerts before games that we played at home," Wenger told the Sunday Telegraph newspaper. "We kept quiet about it. I wonder about this because in England, you don't get any police escort before games — they refuse, especially in London." "We (the world of football) don't regard ourselves as terror targets but you wonder why not."

Arsenal does not employ private security, unlike teams like Manchester United, the paper said, adding that Wenger thought this was the responsibility of the state. "You rely on the internal security of the country where you are," he said.

He added that he had previously experienced security worries when he was manager of Japanese side Nagoya Grampus in the mid-1990s. "I remember when I was in Japan, I had this problem as well because we had at that stage somebody who had all the machinery and they put sarin gas into the subway."—Internet

Chelsea's Anelka doubtful for Juventus clash



Nicolas Anelka

COVENTRY, 8 March—Nicolas Anelka's chances of making Chelsea's Champions League match against Juventus in Turin on Tuesday remain "touch and go" according to manager Guus Hiddink.

Anelka failed to make even the substitutes' bench for the 2-0 FA Cup quarter-final victory over Coventry at the Ricoh Arena here Saturday and, although Hiddink is refusing to completely rule out the Frenchman for midweek, his optimism remains guarded.

"It is doubtful Anelka will be fit for Tuesday," the Dutchman admitted. "But it is still a very close thing. He is working, but he has been out now for many days. We will see what his reaction is to treatment and training."

The possible loss of Anelka with a foot injury is not the headache it might have been though, given the continuing form of the revitalised Didier Drogba.

Ivory Coast striker Drogba, whose goal in the first leg against Juventus at Stamford Bridge two weeks ago gave Chelsea a slender lead to defend in their quest for a Champions League quarter-final place, was on the mark again as Hiddink's full-strength side coasted through to the last four of the FA Cup.

Internet

Real winning streak ends as Barcelona go six clear in Spanish League

MADRID, 8 March—Real Madrid's run of wins came to an end on Saturday when they were held to a 1-1 draw at the Santiago Bernabeu by city rivals Atletico, allowing Barcelona to extend their lead at the top to six points.

After two successive defeats Barcelona got back on track with a 2-0 home win over Athletic Bilbao to stretch their advantage over Real by two points.

Real had won ten straight league games to cut Barcelona's advantage from 12 points to four in just three games and were hoping to put wind in their sails for Tuesday's Champions League showdown with Liverpool at Anfield, a match in which they trail 1-0 from the first leg.—Internet



Real Madrid's defender Fabio Cannavaro (R) fights for the ball with Atletico Madrid's forward Kun Aguero (L) during their Spanish league football match at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid.—INTERNET

Neville urges Everton cup caution

LIVERPOOL, 8 March—Phil Neville insists Everton have plenty of work to do before they can realise a Wembley dream as they prepare to host Middlesbrough in the FA Cup quarter-finals on Sunday.

Manager David Moyes has won plenty of plaudits for the job he has done at Goodison Park since he arrived in 2002, but his greatest achievement so far has been to guide the Blues to fourth place in 2005. Everton supporters grew used to regular silverware during the 1980s but their last trophy was the FA Cup in 1995.

They have endured several relegation battles since then but while Moyes may have brought stability to the blue half of Merseyside, the fans crave trophies. Expectation has been growing since they knocked bitter rivals Liverpool out in the fifth round and they are now just one game away from a semi-final at Wembley.

Internet

Walcott's return can fire Arsenal

LONDON, 8 March—Arsene Wenger hopes Theo Walcott's return to action in Sunday's FA Cup fifth round clash against Burnley will give Arsenal the momentum to keep their season alive. Walcott is back after surgery on a shoulder injury sustained during training with England before their November friendly against Germany.

The 19-year-old, who last played for Arsenal on

November 15, was in fine form before the injury and Wenger believes he can have a significant impact on a big week for the Gunners. Victory over Burnley at the Emirates Stadium would set up a winnable home clash with Hull in the quarter-finals. Then Wenger's side travel to Italy for Wednesday's second leg of their Champions League last 16 tie against Roma hoping to

hold onto their one-goal lead.

Wenger knows Walcott's shoulder will be tested by the physical demands of top-level competition but he expect the teenager to cope. "It is very important to see how he will respond with his shoulder and I think he looks to be nearly there. To have him back is great and he can be very good for us," Wenger said.

Internet

US bomber waiting for clearance after emergency landing

CANBERRA. 8 March—A US Air Force bomber which made an emergency landing Saturday night at Melbourne Airport was still waiting for a take-off clearance, a spokeswoman at the Melbourne Airport said on Sunday.

The *BIB Lancer* bomber, which was on its way to the Australian International Airshow held in Melbourne, landed about 9.25 pm local time on Saturday after reporting problems with its landing gear.

Australian Associated Press quoted Melbourne Airport spokeswoman Emma Stenhouse as saying the bomber was scheduled to land there and alerted authorities of a problem on its approach. A full emergency services response was activated but the plane landed without incident.

Police say there was no disruption to airport services and no flights were delayed.—*Internet*



Ji Yai Shin of South Korea poses with the challenge trophy as she celebrates her winning at the HSBC Women's Champions Golf tournament at the Tanah Merah Country Club on Sunday 8 March, 2009 in Singapore.—INTERNET

MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (9.3.2009) (Monday)

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

Local Transmission

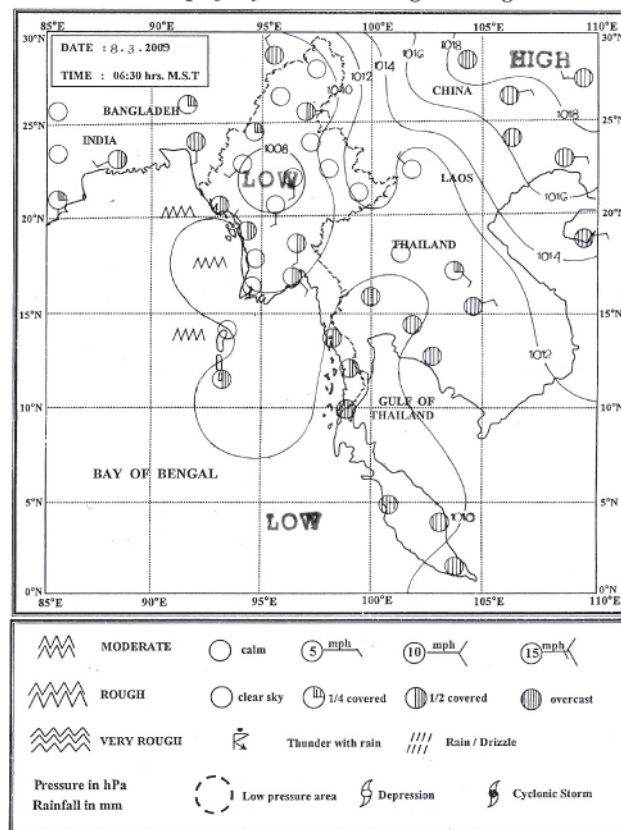
- Signature Tune
- Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- The Venerable Baw Kyo Pagoda
- A Memorable Market Day (Inle Khaung Taing)
- Science Fair (Part II)
- Let's strive for Environmental Conservation: Clearance of Discarded Plastic
- Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Europe/ North America Transmission

- Signature Tune
- Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
- Lovely Customs and Dances of Gon Shan
- Zee Chaung Dam Making Rakhine State Lush and Green
- Healthy Baby, Sweet Smiles
- Travelogue "Sagaing"
- Science Fair (Part - I)
- Decoration of Myanmar Lacquerware
- Myanma Crocodiles
- Floating Village Mingalar Garden Resort
- Creative Decoration for Creative living
- Sightseeing around Mandalay and Sagaing (Amarapura, Inn Wa, Sagaing, Mingun)
- The Venerable Baw Kyo Pagoda
- A Memorable Market Day (Inle Khaung Taing)
- Science Fair (Part II)
- Let's strive for Environmental Conservation: Clearance of Discarded Plastic
- The Art of Stone Sculpture
- Green Turtle
- The Enchanting Akha Village
- Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Sunday, 8 March, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin, Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Yangon and Taininthyai Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above March average temperatures in Kachin, Shan, Chin and Kayah States, Sagaing, Magway, Bago and Taininthyai Divisions, (5°C) above March average temperatures in Mandalay Division and about March average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant day temperatures were Chauk and Aunglan (40°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 7-3-2009 was 99°F. Minimum temperature on 8-3-2009 was 67°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 8-3-2009 was 80%. Total sunshine hours on 7-3-2009 was (8.7) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 8-3-2009 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 (6) mph from Northwest at (15:30) hours MST on 7-3-2009.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Southwest Bay and partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 9th March 2009: Isolated rain or thundershowers are possible in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Chin, Rakhine and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 9-3-2009: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 9-3-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 9-3-2009: Generally fair weather.



Monday, 9 March
View on today

7:00 am

1. တောင်တန်းသာသနာပြုရေးတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏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

8:05 am

6. Cute little dancers

8:15 am

7. (၆၄)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့ရက်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

8:30 am

8. International news

8:45 am

9. “ချစ်လွန်းလို့” (ဖိုးဖြူ၊ ခင်စိုးဝိုင်၊ မျိုးမျိုးခိုင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကြည်စိုး)

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:10 pm

2. Dance variety

4:20 pm

3. Musical programme (The radio Myanmar modern music troupe)

4:35 pm

4. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား

4:50 pm

5. တပ်မတော်နေ့ရက်ပြုအစီအစဉ် (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဆွေစင်ထိုက်)

5:00 pm

6. အေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာပထမနှစ် (ဓာတုဗေဒ၊ ရူပဗေဒ၊ သတ္တဗေဒ၊ ရုက္ခဗေဒအထူးပြုများ) (ဓာတုဗေဒ)

5:15 pm

7. Songs to uphold National Spirit

5:20 pm

8. နိုင်ငံစီးပွားအလေးထားကျေးလက်ထုတ်ကုန်များ

5:30 pm

9. Musical programme

5:40 pm

10. “ကျန်ရစ်ခဲ့သောမြင်ထောင်လေးတစ်လုံး” (ဖိုးသောကြာ၊ အိုင်းရစ်လေပြေဦး)

ဒေါ်ခင်လေးဆွေ

(ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဆွေစင်ထိုက်)

5:50 pm

11. (၆၄)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့ရက်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

6:00 pm

12. Evening news

6:30 pm

13. Weather report

6:35 pm

14. Sing and enjoy

7:15 pm

15. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “နွဲ့ဆိုးဆိုးသူကိုယ့်ချစ်သူ” (အပိုင်း-၁၈)

8:00 pm

16. News
17. International news
18. Weather report
19. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “မြင့်မြတ်နှလုံးသားပိုင်ရှင်” (အပိုင်း-၃၃)



Grand Religious Ceremony continues in Nay Pyi Taw



Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and family members convey Yadana Seinbudaw atop Uppatasanti Pagoda.— MNA



Yadana Seinbudaw seen after being hoisted atop Uppatasanti Pagoda. — MNA

