

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attend religious title conferring ceremony



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing donate provisions to a Sayadaw.—MNA

Sasana Maha Beikman building in the precinct of the Uppatasanti Pagoda here this afternoon.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attended the ceremony and presented religious titles and offered provisions to members of the Sangha.

Also present on the occasion were State Sangha Maha Nayaka Sayadaws, Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida title recipient Sayadaws and nuns, Vice-Chairman of

SPDC Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and 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, SPDC Secretary-1 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, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral

Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence and their wives, the Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command and wife, ministers and their wives, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Auditor-General, the Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, mayors, deputy ministers, senior military officers, directors-general and heads of department of the SPDC Office and the Government Office, ambassadors and charge d' affaires of foreign (See page 7)

Religious titles conferred on monks, nuns, laypersons for outstanding performance in Pariyatti, Patipatti duties.

NAY PYI TAW, 10 March—Throughout the successive periods of Myanmar: Bagan, Sagaing, Pinya, Innwa and Konbaung periods, devout monarchs and governments conferred such religious titles as Agga Maha Pandita, Agga Pandita, Disapamokkha, Siri Maha Saturingabala, Suddhamma Maha Sami, Rajaguru, Maha Dhamma Rajaguru, Maha Dhamma Rajadhi Rajaguru, and Dhamma Senapati along with lecturer (Grade-I), lecturer (Grade-II) and lecturer (Grade-III) titles on outstanding monks.

Similarly, the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar yearly confers religious titles on those monks, nuns, and laypersons who have showed brilliant

performances in discharging Pariyatti and Patipatti duties.

In the time of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, 20 more religious titles were promulgated under Notification (42/91) dated 24 October 1991. Since then, old religious titles and new ones have been conferred on outstanding monks, nuns and laypersons at home and abroad. The State Peace and Development Council issued the list of religious title recipients under Notification (1/2009) on Independence Day (4 January 2009).

The conferring of religious titles on title recipient monks, nuns and laypersons took place in conjunction with the offering of provisions to members of the Sangha at



PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 11 March, 2009

Tatmadaw in perpetual service of public interest

In the course of the history of the nation, the Tatmadaw has preserved the fine tradition of upholding independence and sovereignty of the motherland at risk to life, and it is in perpetual service of the public interest, while safeguarding the life and property of the people.

Today, the Tatmadaw is implementing the State's seven-step Road Map step by step in harmony with the entire people to transform the nation into a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

Simultaneously, the Tatmadaw is trying to complete the process of building a suitable economic infrastructure and improving the education and health standards. Now, various sectors have proved successful, and the entire people are now in a position to enjoy the taste of development.

Myanmar has been able to stand tall as a sovereign nation in the global community due to the fact that the Tatmadaw and the people remained united in times of internal armed insurrection and foreign invasion throughout the history of the nation. So, each and every citizen is under the bounden duty of putting in the fore Our Three Main National Causes: non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty.

The Tatmadaw has never failed to grapple with the issues posing threat to Our Three Main National Causes. It will keep on sustaining Our Three Main National Causes in future.

It is our belief that the Tatmadaw will go on serving the interest of the nation and the people, upholding Our Three Main National Causes at the risk of life as the national policy in conformity with the fine tradition of guarding the nation against various forms of dangers.

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

U Than Swe appointed as Permanent Representative of Myanmar to UN

NAY PYI TAW, 11 March—The Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Than Swe as the Permanent Representative of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations, New York.

MNA

Ambassador U Khin Maung Soe presents credentials to SRV President

NAY PYI TAW, 11 March—U Khin Maung Soe, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr. Nguyen Minh Triet, President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, on 3 March 2009 in Hanoi.—MNA

Ninth Meeting of Environmental Conservation Committee held

NAY PYI TAW, 10 March—The Ninth Meeting of Environmental Conservation Committee was held at Kyunshwewah Hall of the Ministry of Forestry, here yesterday afternoon.

It was attended by Chairman of Environmental Conservation Committee Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, leaders of seven special task forces deputy ministers and members, departmental heads and officials concerned.

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung made an opening speech on the occasion.



Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung speaks at the ninth environmental conservation committee meeting.—FORESTRY

Next, the committee secretary, the director-general explained the accomplishment of the tasks for environmental

conservation and future plans. Afterwards, the seven special task forces discussed accomplishment of the tasks and

future plans. The meeting ended with the concluding remarks of the minister.

MNA

School building handed over to No-2 BED

NAY PYI TAW, 10 March—The new building of the Basic Education Primary School in Doekwin Village, PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Division, was handed over to the Education Department (Upper Myanmar), No-2 Basic Education Department of the Ministry of Education on 3 March.

Brig-Gen Zeyar Aung of PyinOoLwin Station, Chairman of District Peace and Development Council U Min Lwin, Head of District Education Department U Mya Win Maung cut the ribbon to open the new school building. Head of Mandalay Division Education Department U Aung Swe presented the facts about the building.

Well-wisher U Cho Tin explained the purposes of the donation and handed over the documents related to the new building to the Head of Division Education Department.

The 85 feet long, 30 feet wide and 12 feet high building is worth 46,647,200 kyats.

NLM

MOC Chairman's Cup Hokey tournament to be held

YANGON, 10 March—The 6th Myanmar Olympic Committee Chairman's Cup men' round-robin hokey tournament is going to be held at Theinbyu Hokey Pitch in Mingalar Taung Nyunt, here, from 15 March to 4 April.

The opening ceremony will be held at 3.30 pm on 15 March. Starting from 1 pm and fans may come and enjoy—free of charge—entertainments performed by clowns, vocalists, and dancer troupes.

A total of 13 hokey teams — ten teams from Armed forces (Army, Navy and Air), one from MPF and two from private clubs — will take part in the competition. But for the day to hold prize presentation ceremony the other days will have two matches in the morning and two others in the evening. MOC will present handsome prizes to the prize winning teams and the best athletes.

MNA



A ceremony to hand over new school building of Primary School in Doekwin Village, PyinOoLwin in progress.—NLM

China says US Naval ship was breaking law

BEIJING, 10 March — China accused a US naval ship of carrying out an illegal survey off southern Hainan island, a Hong Kong TV website reported on Tuesday, after the Pentagon said Chinese vessels had harassed the ship in international waters.

Global oil prices rose 3 percent on Monday and held above \$47 a barrel on Tuesday, partly on fears of geopolitical tension between the world's top oil consumers.

But the confrontation was unlikely to do lasting damage to ties between two countries closely involved in trying to

end the global financial crisis, a Chinese analyst in Beijing said.

A US-based expert on Asia-Pacific security said the confrontation did not appear accidental, but rather was China sending a message to Washington that it wanted respect for its growing military presence in the region.

Washington urged China to observe international maritime rules after the Pentagon said five Chinese ships, including a naval vessel, harassed the US Navy ship in international waters on Sunday.

Internet



Iraqi policemen frisk tribal sheikhs before entering a reconciliation meeting in Baghdad on 8 March, 2009.—INTERNET



Ibrahim Shallal, 32, an Iraqiya Satellite Channel correspondent, is treated at a hospital after he was wounded in a bombing attack in Abu Ghraib, in Baghdad, Iraq.

INTERNET

Homicide bomber kills 33 in attack on Iraqi tribal leaders

BAGHDAD, 10 March —A homicide bomber struck tribal leaders touring a market in a Sunni area west of Baghdad on Tuesday, killing as many as 33 people in the second major attack in the capital area in two days.

The bombing was part

of a spike of violence that comes as the US military begins drawing down its forces.

The bomber detonated an explosives belt as the tribal leaders were walking through the market in the town of Abu Ghraib, accompanied by security officials and journalists, according to the Iraqi military.

Two Iraqi television journalists were among those killed in the attack and one was wounded, according to their stations.

On Sunday, a homicide attacker killed about 30 people near a police academy in east Baghdad.—Internet

Time running out for US troops in violent Mosul

MOSUL, 10 March — Grenades lie unattended next to a west Mosul bazaar. Garbage bags throughout the city are searched daily for bombs. At a sprawling sheep market, Iraqi army soldiers are careful not to kick over rocks for fear of setting off hidden explosives.

War has ebbed in most parts of Iraq, but not in Mosul, the third-largest city and al-Qaida's last stronghold in the fragile new democracy. And time is running out on the around-the-clock US military patrols of Mosul. US troops must vacate cities by June 30 under an agreement with the Iraqis, and President Barack Obama is ending all American combat operations after August 2010.

The Iraqi security forces are not sure they'll be ready.

"If you don't have the Americans, this is not going to be good," said an Iraqi army captain who gave his name only as Ahmed to protect his family from insurgents. "I cannot take care of it."

Even so, "some people don't like coalition forces here," Ahmed added as his soldiers joined US troops at the sheep market in west Mosul last week. "Iraqi people will come together, and it will be better."—Internet

Four Darfur peacekeepers wounded in ambush

KHARTOUM, 10 March — Gunmen ambushed troops of the joint United Nations-African Union peacekeeping force in Sudan's Darfur region Monday night, wounding four soldiers, a spokesman for the mission said.

The attack was the first reported violence against peacekeepers since the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant last week for Sudan's president, accusing him of war crimes in the western region.

The peacekeepers were returning to base in el-Geneina, the capital of West Darfur, when they were attacked, said Noureddine Mezni, spokesman for the UN-AU mission. One soldier was in serious condition and all the wounded were being evacuated to the mission's headquarters in northern Darfur, he said. He could not provide further details. "Our mandate is to protect civilians and help Darfurians. ... We call on all parties to cooperate with us in order to allow us to do our job in better conditions," Mezni said.—Internet

N Ireland police say officer shot dead in ambush

BELFAST, 10 March — Gunmen killed an officer in an attack on a Northern Ireland police patrol Monday, authorities said, two days after Irish Republican Army dissidents shot to death two British soldiers. The shootings fanned fears of a return to retaliatory violence after years of fragile peace.

The latest killing came even as British security chiefs appealed for public help to catch the soldiers' killers — a hunt that challenges Catholics to inform on their own as never before.

"We are staring into the abyss," warned a moderate Catholic politician, Dolores Kelly, after police confirmed that the officer was fatally shot in the head while sitting in his patrol car in the religiously divided town of Craigavon.

No group claimed responsibility, but politicians and an analyst blamed the Real IRA, the splinter group that admitted blame for Saturday's fatal shooting of two soldiers who were collecting pizzas from outside an army base.

Internet



Police Service of Northern Ireland officers at the scene of a fatal shooting of a colleague in Lismore Manor, Craigavon, Northern Ireland, on 10 March, 2009. Gunmen hunting British security forces in Northern Ireland struck again Monday, killing a police officer less than 48 hours after Irish Republican Army dissidents killed two British soldiers — and fanning fears of a return to tit-for-tat violence after years of fragile peace.—INTERNET



Violence in Mexican state of Guerrero kills six

ACAPULCO, 10 March—Gunmen killed six people, including a local police chief, in a series of attacks Monday in mountain towns in the Pacific coast state of Guerrero.

The police chief of Pungarabato was repeatedly shot while driving his red Mustang on a highway near the small town early Monday, Guerrero state public safety department said in a news release.

Five other men were found gunned down in different towns in the isolated mountainous zone known as the Tierra Caliente, or the Hot Land, the state police said.

In the border city of Tijuana, soldiers detained 60 people at a party, including a suspected drug hit man accused of cutting up bodies.

Angel Jacome Gamboa is accused of working for Eduardo Teodoro Garcia Simental, a former member of the Arellano Felix who is now fighting for control of Tijuana. Jacome was found with a gold-plated 9mm gun with the image of Mexico's Death Saint, a skeleton worshipped by some traffickers, according to military commander, Alfonso Duarte Mujica.

Garcia Simental, known as "El Teo" —short for Teodoro—has appeared frequently in news reports over the last year amid a bloodbath of mutilated bodies, beheadings and dumped corpses.—*Internet*

Suspects sit handcuffed to each other in the back of a federal police vehicle after being taken into custody in connection with a shooting in Tijuana, Mexico, on 9 March, 2009.

INTERNET



Passengers wait at the Shuangliu International Airport in Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province, on 9 March, 2009.—XINHUA

Bolivia expels US diplomat

LIMA, 10 March—Bolivian President Evo Morales expelled a US diplomat on Monday, according to reports from La Paz.

Morales accused Francisco Martinez, the US Embassy's second secretary, of conspiring with opposition groups.

Bolivian Foreign Minister David Choquehuanca said that Martinez was given 72 hours to leave the country.

The US State Department called the Bolivian move "unwarranted and unjustified."

Six months earlier, Morales expelled the American ambassador Philip Goldberg, alleging he was inciting the political opposition.

Internet

Hurricane may have uncovered Civil War shipwreck

GALVESTON, 10 March—Experts know of about a dozen Civil War-era shipwrecks off the Texas coast. They might have just identified another.

Contractors searching for debris from Hurricane Ike near Galveston Island took a sonar scan of what the Texas Historical Commission believes is a previously undiscovered ship carrying cotton that sank in 1864.

The Carolina, also known as the Caroline, was a privately owned merchant ship that tried to

break through a federal blockade of Galveston. After being pursued for several hours by Union gunships, the crew of the Carolina ran the ship aground in shallow water between Galveston and San Luis Pass, then set it on fire rather than let it be captured.

Historians said records indicate the ship sank in the area where workers took the sonar image. It had probably been buried in sand until Hurricane Ike scoured the Gulf floor. "It's certainly significant if it turns out to be a

historic wreck, as we think it is," Steven Hoyt, state marine archaeologist with the Texas Historical Commission, told the Houston Chronicle.

Hoyt said the shape of the image indicates the wreckage is a ship, and that he will study its size, style and characteristics to determine whether it could be the Carolina. Divers will investigate the site in the spring or summer when the Gulf of Mexico waters are calmer. Even then, visibility could be limited.

Internet

DPRK reopens border for S Korean visitors

SEOUL, 10 March—The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) agreed to allow South Koreans to make cross-border visits to a joint industrial complex, the *Yonhap* reported on Tuesday.

Seoul's Unification Ministry spokesman Kim Ho-nyoun said the South Korean side and the DPRK agreed to resume overland trips across the border as of 10 am (0100 GMT).

Internet



South Korean vehicles heading to North Korean city of Kaesong, wait to pass the gate at the customs, immigration and quarantine office in Paju, near the border village of Panmunjom, South Korea, on 10 March, 2009. North Korea agreed Tuesday to allow South Koreans working in a joint industrial zone in North Korea to cross the border after Pyongyang's move to cut the last military hot line to Seoul left hundreds stranded overnight, officials said.—INTERNET

Newspaper publisher McClatchy cutting 1,600 jobs

SAN FRANCISCO, 10 March—McClatchy Co is shearing another 1,600 jobs in a cost-cutting spree that has clipped nearly one-third of the newspaper publisher's work force in less than a year.

The latest reduction in payroll announced Monday follows through on the Sacramento-based company's previously disclosed plans to lower its expenses by as much as \$110 million over the next year as its revenue evaporates amid a devastating recession.

The layoffs will start before April. Several of McClatchy's 30 daily newspapers, including The Sacramento Bee and The Kansas City (Mo) Star, already have decided how many workers will be shown the door.

Internet

Housing prices in Los Angeles area continue to fall

LOS ANGELES, 10 March—Prices of homes sold in the Los Angeles area, where the median housing price has been one of the highest in the United States, continue to decline as brokers predict new foreclosures could send prices lower. The median price of a home in the Los Angeles County stood at 310,000 dollars in February, down 3 percent from the previous month, but lower by a whopping 33.8 percent from February 2008, according to figures released Monday by market research firm Home Data Corp.

Meanwhile, about 3,000 homes changed hands last month, a slight drop from the previous month but up 47 percent compared with February 2008. Housing prices that keep falling have made more households able to afford a home, but many of them still wait on the sidelines for prices to drop further, local real estate brokers said.—*Internet*



Philippines expects bigger rice harvest amid global crisis

MANILA, 10 March—The Philippine government has raised its allocation for agriculture to support the ambitious plan of rice self-sufficiency, but analysts said it remains debatable whether the increased budget can boost the rice production as expected this year and help realize the target to become self-sufficient by 2010.

The Department of Agriculture forecasts a rice production to increase by 4.4 percent to 17.5 million metric tons this year, and expects to produce nearly 20 million tons in 2010.

Rice is the country's staple and its supply a key determinant of national

inflation. The shortage of rice and soaring fuel prices in early 2008 pushed June inflation rate to a 14-year high of 11.4 percent.

Rolando Dy, executive director of the Center for Food and Agribusiness at the University of Asia and the Pacific, welcomed the government's decision to increase investment in a long-neglected sector. But he didn't think that having money alone will

boost rice yields.

"My concern is on project execution and leakages (due to corruption). You need some skills to monitor and supervise big irrigation projects," Dy said.

A study published by the Berlin-based Transparency International noted what a huge amount of government money for irrigation were lost to corruption in the Philippines.

Xinhua



A girl picks up a Barbie doll in the ToysRus at Times Square in New York, the United States, on 7 March, 2009. Barbie celebrates her 50th birthday on 9 March, 2009.—XINHUA

**All items from
Xinhua News
Agency**



Customers buy vegetable from a street vender on 10 March, 2009 in Shanghai, China. China's consumer price index, its main inflation benchmark, fell to minus 1.6 percent in February, but officials downplayed the risk that the country is succumbing to a potentially debilitating deflationary trend.—XINHUA

French and Mexican Presidents sign deals, vow to boost ties

MEXICO CITY, 10 March —Mexican President Felipe Calderon and his French counterpart Nicolas Sarkozy on Monday signed various agreements and vowed to boost ties. Sarkozy arrived in Mexico on Sunday for a three-day official visit.

The two leaders announced that 800 million US dollars would be invested in Mexico by French companies.

Calderon said some 550 million dollars would be used to fund a military helicopter plant in Mexico. The two leaders also signed agreements on security and on setting up a plant to produce vaccine.—Xinhua

US online job search sites see traffic boom

SAN FRANCISCO, 10 March —With the unemployment rate rising, online job search sites in the United States are booming in popularity as people desperately look for work, a US newspaper reported on Monday.

Laid-off or fearing they will be, job-seekers are scouring the Internet for job openings, driving traffic to job search sites

up 51 percent in January from the same month a year ago, the San Francisco Chronicle reported, citing market research data.

Despite the boom in traffic, many job sites are taking a financial hit as employers make less paid postings in these days of hiring freezes and layoffs.

Indeed.com, a major

job board, found that postings for the accounting industry in January fell 53 percent from a year earlier, with postings for technology industry dropping 43 percent.

The sectors that held up the best were health care and education, which saw postings down 8 percent and 9 percent respectively.

Xinhua

Moderate earthquake hits Pacific coast in Guatemala

MEXICO CITY, 10 March—An earthquake of 5.4 degrees on Richter scale hit on Monday the south-southwest zone of Guatemala, without immediate reports of victims and material damages, official sources said on Monday.

The earthquake occurred at 00:01 am local time on Monday (0601 GMT) in front of the coast of the Pacific Ocean and it was strongly felt in the department of Escuintla, according to information reaching here from Guatemala City.

Guatemalan National Institute of Seismology, Vulcanology, Meteorology and Hydrology (Insivumeh) reported that the epicenter was located at 155.7 km from the Pacific waters, with a depth of 16 km.—Xinhua

Tornado, hail cause destruction in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 10 March — Brazil's southern state of Santa Catarina was hit by heavy rains, hail and a tornado on late Sunday, which left at least 367 people homeless.

The local office of the National Meteorology Institute (Inmet) said on Monday that the tornado and the accompanying hail hit 14 towns in the state's mountainous region.

The largest destruction took place in the small town of Ponte Alta, where corn and soybean plantations, along with over 500 houses, were damaged. Two people were injured and at least 80 were left homeless in the town, where the mayor declared state of emergency.—Xinhua



The Panama-registered cargo vessel Cygnus Ace sails after colliding with a South Korean-registered cargo ship off the Island of Izu Oshima, Japan, on 9 March, 2009.—XINHUA

Two cargo ships collide southwest off Tokyo

TOKYO, 10 March —A South Korean-flagged cargo ship may have sunk after colliding with a Panamanian-registered freighter early on Tuesday in waters some 120 km southwest of Tokyo, the Japan Coast Guard said.

The 4,255-ton South Korean ship Orchid Pia, with seven South Koreans and nine Indonesians

onboard, lost contact with the coast guard while the 10,833-ton Cygnus Ace, crewed by 19 people, suffered damage after the accident occurred at about 2:20 am (1720 GMT Monday), the coast guard said.

The Yokohama-based Coast Guard and the Maritime Self-Defence Force (MSDF) dispatched ships and choppers to

search for the supposedly sunken freighter, and found an unmanned rescue raft and several life jackets floating in the water.

The rain-caused low visibility of the area, some 13 km east of the Izu Oshima Island, was a key factor behind the accident, according to the coast guard.

Xinhua



Paris encourages use of electric bikes

PARIS, 10 March—The Paris City Council on Monday decided to give discounts to citizens and enterprises that buy electric bikes to encourage more use of them and better protect the environment.

The discounts will take effect from 21 March. Residents will be able to take advantage of a 25 percent reduction if they buy an electric bike costing less than 400 euros (505 US dollars).

Enterprises buying less than 10 electric bikes will also enjoy the discount. Vice Mayor of Paris Annick Lepetit said one aim of the decision is to boost continuous de-

velopment of the city.

Paris currently has some 110,000 motorcycles that consume a lot of gas and cause pollution.

Lepetit said if 1 percent of these motorcycles were replaced by electric ones, which give off zero carbon dioxide, the production of carbon dioxide in Paris can be reduced by 2 tons. He said electric bikes are also more economical. One bike can save 500 euros (631 dollars) a year rather than using gas. —Internet

Search resumes for divers off Thai coast

BANGKOK, 10 March—Rescuers resumed their search on Tuesday for six foreign tourists and a Thai missing at sea after their boat sank in a storm off southern Thailand, police said.

A 30-man team of marine police and volunteer rescue workers headed out early to search the area where the boat sank on its return from the Similan islands on Sunday.

The scuba diving vessel carrying 30 people, including 19 foreigners, was reported missing at about 11:00 pm (1600 GMT), about 20 kilometres (12.5 miles) west of the resort island of Phuket.

Marine police and navy rescued 23 passengers and crew on Monday afternoon but two Swiss nationals, two Austrians, one Japanese national, one German and a Thai crew member remain missing.

Internet

China power use decrease slows in 1st two months

BEIJING, 10 March—The volume of power consumption in China continued to dip in the first two months of this year but the downward pace was slower, said the Industry and Information Technology Minister Li Yizhong here on Tuesday.

Combined power use in January and February fell 3.7 percent from the same period of last year, compared with a year-on-year drop of 17.5 percent last November and 8.7 percent in December, Li said at a press conference during the annual parliament session.

When replying to a journalist seeking his comment on a reported 4 percent year-on-year rise in February power use, Li said the figure was yet to be formally released by the National Bureau of Statistics but “the 4 percent figure was generally right”. —Internet

One in 50 American children experiences homelessness

New York, 10 March—One of every 50 American children experiences homelessness, according to a new report that says most states have inadequate plans to address the worsening and often-overlooked problem.

The report being released on Tuesday by the National Center on Family Homelessness gives Connecticut the best ranking. Texas is at the bottom.

“These kids are the innocent victims, yet it seems somehow or other they get left out,” said the center’s president, Dr Ellen Bassuk. “Why are they America’s outcasts?”

The report analyzes data from 2005-2006. It estimates that 1.5 million children experienced homelessness at least once that year, and says the problem is surely worse now because of the foreclosures and job losses of the deepening recession.

Internet

People watch ships on the Red Sea from a pier at Safaga Port, Egypt. Three sailors perished and 10 are still missing after a cargo ship sank off the Red Sea coast of Egypt on Monday shortly after leaving port, a maritime official said.—INTERNET



Octopus gets inside lunchbox at Boston aquarium

What is 7 feet long, weighs 30 pounds, has eight arms and fits in a box slightly larger than a milk crate? Truman the octopus. Truman squeezed into a clear, acrylic box while trying to snag his lunch at the New England Aquarium in Boston.

Aquarium workers often place food inside locked boxes for the intelligent animals to crack open. It’s what the aquarium calls an “enrichment activity,” but it didn’t go as planned Thursday.

In this case, crabs were locked in a smaller box inside the bigger box, which is 14 inches per side. The impatient Truman bypassed the locks and squeezed his body through a 2-inch hole in the exterior box. He spent about 30 minutes inside before slithering out, delighting staff and guests who witnessed the spectacle. He never did get the smaller box open.



In this photo provided by the New England Aquarium, Truman the octopus is seen squeezed inside an acrylic cube at the New England Aquarium in Boston. Truman squeezed his flexible frame into the acrylic box while trying to snag a tasty lunch of crabs. He spent about 30 minutes in the box before slithering out, delighting staff and guests who witnessed the spectacle.

Malaysian fisherman uses WWII bomb as anchor

A Malaysian fisherman has been using a deadly World War II bomb as an anchor for his boat, according to a report Saturday.

Local police made the shocking discovery on Thursday during a routine patrol in a fishing village in the southern Johor state.

The fisherman had been using the bomb for several months and thought it was safe on account of its age, the Star newspaper reported.

Police alerted the bomb squad who

removed the 160mm device to be destroyed. Officers discovered eight similar bombs in the village after following up on information obtained from the fisherman.

Local police chief Abdul Aziz Ahmad urged anyone coming across objects that resemble bombs to inform the police immediately. “The bombs about the size of a small fire extinguisher were found behind a restaurant in the village,” he said.

Abdul Aziz said the bombs would be destroyed by police.

NEWS ALBUM

Scientists to drill Antarctic ice sheet for frozen ‘lost world’

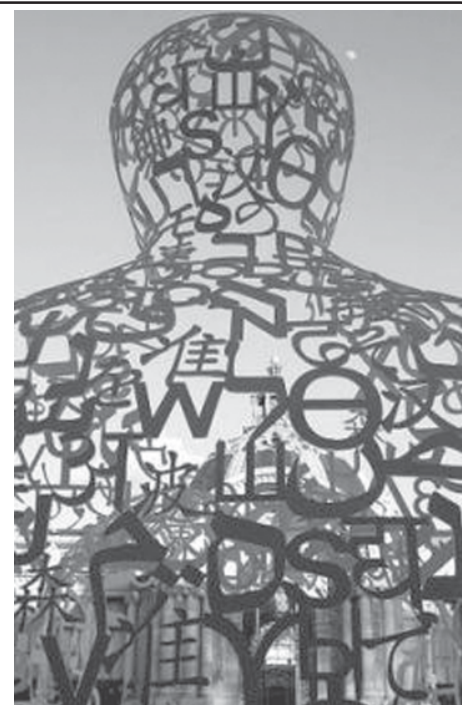
Scientists are to mount one of the boldest-ever missions to search for life-forms that have survived for possibly millions of years in a frozen “lost world” beneath an ancient ice sheet.

A team of Antarctic scientists from Britain has been given the go-ahead to drill through a two-mile-thick sheet of ice that has sealed a sub-glacial lake from the rest of the biosphere for at least as long as Homo sapiens has walked the Earth.

They hope to find species that have survived beneath the ice sheet since it formed between 400,000 and two million years ago.

Finding life in such an extreme environment would be one of the most important discoveries of the century, raising the prospect of searching for extraterrestrial life on Europa, a moon of Jupiter where life is thought to exist beneath a frozen ocean.

Rhinos at Ujung Kulon National Park in West Java province. New infra-red footage captures hitherto unseen images of elusive Javan rhinos, the most endangered mammal in the world with less than 60 individuals believed to remain alive.



A sculpture named “Nosotros” by Spanish artist Jaume Plensa is displayed in front of Paris’ “Petit Palais” as part of an art fair.



Senior General Than Shwe and wife...

(from page 1) associations, service embassies in Yangon, representatives of religious and social

personnel from the Ministry of Religious Affairs, title recipients,



Daw Kyaing Kyaing, wife of Senior General Than Shwe, presents title and certificate to a layperson.—MNA



Daw Mya Mya San, wife of Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, presents religious title to a layperson.—MNA



Daw Khin Lay Thet, wife of General Thura Shwe Mann, presents religious title to a lay person.—MNA



Daw Kyaing Kyaing, wife of Senior General Than Shwe, presents religious title to a nun.—MNA



Daw Mya Mya San, wife of Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, presents religious title to a nun.—MNA



Daw Khin Lay Thet, wife of General Thura Shwe Mann, presents religious title to a nun.—MNA

Maha Rattha Guru title recipient Sayadaws, two Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika title recipient Sayadaws, 23 Agga Maha Pandita title recipient Sayadaws, and 23 Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja title recipient Sayadaws, two Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika title recipient Sayadaws, 23 Agga Maha Pandita title recipient Sayadaws, and 23 Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja title recipient Sayadaws went into the Sasana Maha Beikmandaw.

The State saing troupe played classical music and the guests in the Beikmandaw paid

obeisance to the Sayadaws.

Deputy Director U San Thin Hlaing of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana supplicated on the agendas of the ceremony.

Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko supplicated on the opening ceremony.

Those present took the Five Precepts from Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Magway Sayadaw. Next, Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Kundalajoti of Zawtikayon Pali Tekkatho Monastery in Pyay delivered Ovadacatha.

Vice-Chairman of the

well-wishers and extinguished guests.

Prior to the ceremony, the State orchestra of the Ministry of Culture presented religious songs commencing 11 am.

At 11.30 am, officials ushered member Sayadaws of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Sayadaws, Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru title recipient Sayadaws, Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika title recipient Sayadaws, Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika title recipient Sayadaws, Agga Maha Pandita title recipient Sayadaws and Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja title recipient Sayadaws, other title recipient Sayadaws, nuns and laypersons to the designated places in Sasana Maha Beikmandaw building.

At 11.45 a.m, the Sayadaws of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida Sayadaws, three Abhidhaja

State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief(Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye

(See page 8)



Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of Prime Minister General Thein Sein, presents religious title to a nun.—MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye offers religious title to a layperson.—MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye offers a religious title to a Sayadaw.—MNA

Chanmyathasi township, Mandalay Division, Taungpyin Htilintaik Kyarpyan Pitakataik Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pannavamsa.

After that Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Nyan Tun presented Agga Maha Saddhama Jotikadhaja titles and certificates to three Sayadaws, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Agga Maha Pandita titles and certificates to three Sayadaws.

Next, Senior Military Officers of the Ministry of Defence, commanders, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, Ministers, the Auditor-General, the Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board and Mayors presented religious titles to Sayadaws.

Daw Kyaing Kyaing, wife of Senior General Than Shwe, presented (See page 9)

Senior General Than Shwe and wife...

(from page 7)
presented Abhidhaja titles and certificates to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sucittabhivamsa of Shwehintha Taikthit

Monastery in Yankin Township, Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vilasabhivamsa of Sasana Wipula Shwegu Sarthintaik in Nyaungshwe Township and Presiding Nayaka



Prime Minister General Thein Sein offers a religious title to a layperson.—MNA



Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of Prime Minister General Thein Sein, offers a religious title to a layperson.—MNA

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kundalajoti of Zawtikayon Pali Tekkatho Monastery in Pyay.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence presented Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamajotika titles and certificates to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Janikabhivamsa of Chanmye Yeiktha Monastery in Mayagon Township and Pro-rector of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University Bhamo Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa.

Prime Minister General Thein Sein presented Agga Maha Pandita titles and certificates to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nandasiri of Maha Withokdayon Nandaaye Monastery in Maha Aungmye Township, Sayadaw Theripehe Somananda Thero of Thumngalayama Monastery in Thalawathugada in Sri Lanka and Sayadaw Bhaddanta Wilapatiye Ghanawansa Thero of Nigrodhaketta Maha Monastery in Thelanbugala, Gelioya, Sri Lanka.

Next, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo presented Agga Maha Saddhama Jotikadhaja titles and certificates to Maha Withutayama Pariyatti Sarthintaik Sayadaw Bhaddanta Ukkamsa of No 4 Ward

of NyaungU, Mandalay Division, Sayadaw Bhaddanta Malabhivamsa of Gawthitayama (Pali University) of Kanyon Ward of Dawei, Taninthayi Division and Toungoo Myasigon Sarthintaik Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pannavamsa of Bago Division (East). Afterwards, Lt-Gen

Tin Aye presented Agga Maha Pandita titles and certificates to West Virginia Monastery of Washinton DC of the United States of America Sayadaw to Dr Ven Henepola Gunaratana Thero, Nyaungkantaik Damasariya Aye Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Eindaka of



Prime Minister General Thein Sein offers a religious title to a Sayadaw.—MNA



Lt-Gen Myat Hein offers a religious title to a Sayadaw.—MNA



General Thura Shwe Mann offers a religious title to a layperson. — MNA

presented Agga Maha Ganthavasaka Pandita titles to nun Daw Yupa Theingi of Myawady nunnery of Chanmyathaya ward of Pyigyitagun township of Mandalay Division, nun Daw Thuzanamani of Kyonedaunt Wipathana nunnery of Myodwingyi ward of Bago town of Bago Division (East) and Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja title to nun Daw Waranyarni of Mingala Theikdhi Sarthintaik of Dagon Myothi (South) of Yangon Division and nunnery education centre.

Afterwards, Daw



General Thura Shwe Mann offers a religious title to a Sayadaw. — MNA



Lt-Gen Tin Aye offers a religious title to a Sayadaw. — MNA



Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo offers a religious title to a Sayadaw. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe and wife...

(from page 8)
Agga Maha Ganthavasaka Pandita titles to nun Daw Nimala of Zeya Theingichaung of Sagaing town of Sagaing Division, nun Daw Kemasari of Maha Bodhi Phayagyi Kyaungtaik, Kyaukka

village, Taungtha township of Mandalay Division and nun Daw Htayri of Athuwady nunnery of Monywa of Sagaing Division.

Next, Daw Mya Mya San, wife of Vice-Senior General Maung Aye,

Khin Lay Thet, wife of General Thura Shwe Mann, presented Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja title to nun Daw Pandita Manjari of Theravada Buddhist Missionary Parami nunnery of No 3 Aungchantha ward of

Waingmaw township of Kachin State, Maha Ganthavasaka Pandita title to nun Daw Kumari of Kulawithaythi Pariyatti Sarthintaik of No 3 ward of Pathein of Ayeyawady Division and Saddhamma Jotikadhaja title to nun Daw Obhasi of Parahita school for girls of ChaungU of

Sagaing Division. Next, Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of the Prime Minister, presented Saddhamma Jotikadhaja titles to nun Daw Malar Yi of Mahaponnyakari Sarthintaik in Loikaw, Kayah State, nun Daw Sanda Malar of Khemarama Nunnery in Aung Chan Tha Ward,

Thanlyin, Yangon Division and nun Daw Dhammawati of Khemarama Nunnery in Aung Thu Kha Ward, Mawlamyine, Mon State.

Afterwards, Daw Khin Saw Hnin, wife of the Secretary-1, presented Ganthavacaka Pandita (See page 10)



Daw Khin Aye Myint, wife of Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Nyan Tun offers a religious title to a nun. — MNA



Daw Htwe Htwe Nyunt, wife of Lt-Gen Myat Hein, offers a religious title to a nun. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe and wife ...

(from page 9) titles to nun Daw Vilasi of Myawady Nunnery-2 in Pyigy Tagun Township, Mandalay Division and nun Daw Kittimala of Maggin Chaung Kyaung, Thawtapan Ward, Sagaing, Sagaing Division.

After that, Daw Khin Aye Myint, wife of the

(Air), presented Ganthavacaka Pandita titles and certificates to nun Daw Sandathiri of Mahasi Sasana Yeiktha Nunnery in Ywama Ward, Nattalin, Bago Division (West) and nun Daw Vupathanda of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University.

Next, Prime Minister General Thein Sein presented Thudhamma Minijotadhara titles and certificates to U Aung Naing Swe of Maha Aungmye Township, Mandalay Division and U Bo Gyoke of Singu, Mandalay Division.

Afterwards, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo presented Thudhamma Minijotadhara titles and certificates to U Tin Aung Win of Thanlyin Township, Yangon Division and U Hla Win Aung of Bahan Township, Yangon Division.

Next, Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence presented Maha Saddhammajotika title and certificate to Tongariodjo, JL Kapten Pattimura of Indonesia and Saddhammajotikadhaza title and certificate to U Arh Sok of Kengtung, Shan State (East).

Afterwards, Daw Kyaing Kyaing, wife of Senior General Than Shwe, presented Thudhammatheingi titles and certificates to Daw Nan Ngwe Yi of Loikaw, Kayah State, Daw Tin Nu of Shwebo, Sagaing Division and Daw Hla Khin of Maha Aungmye Township, Mandalay Division.

Next, Daw Mya Mya San, wife of Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, presented Thudhammatheingi titles and certificates to Daw Khin



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo offers a religious title to a layperson. — MNA

Commander-in-Chief (Navy), presented Ganthavacaka Pandita titles and certificates to nun Daw Nandartheri of Sasana Myintzu Yinmarmyaing Nunnery in Chanmya Thazin Ward, Monywa, Sagaing Division and nun Daw Nimala of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University in Mayangon Township, Yangon Division.

Next, Daw Htwe Htwe Nyunt, wife of the Commander-in-Chief

Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye presented Thudhamma Minijotadhara titles and certificates to U Hla Han of Monywa, Sagaing Division and U Soe Naing of Sagaing Township, Sagaing Division.

After that, General Thura Shwe Mann presented Thudhamma Minijotadhara titles and certificates to U Pho Tha of Salin, Magway Division and U Nanda of Mogok, Pyin Oo Lwin District, Mandalay Division.



Daw Khin Saw Hnin, wife of Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, offers a religious title to a nun. — MNA



Devotees visiting Shwedagon Pagoda on Full Moon Day of Taboung. — MNA

Pagodas in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon packed with devotees on Full Moon Day of Taboung

YANGON, 10 March — Pagodas in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon were thronged with Buddhist devotees meditating there today (on Full Moon Day of Taboung).

Buddhist devotees visited Uppatasanti Pagoda, Datusara Pagoda and other historic pagodas in Nay Pyi Taw today and performed meritorious

deeds and meditated there today.

Similarly, Shwedagon Pagoda, Sule Pagoda, Bodahtaung Pagoda, Buddha Tooth Relic Pagoda and Kyaikwai Pogada were packed with pilgrims today. Buddhist devotees also performed meritorious deeds and meditated at other pagods

in Yangon including Kaba Aye, Maha Wizaya, Shwephonepwin, Kyaikkasan, South Okkalapa, Kyaikkalo, Kyaikkale, Kyaikhmawwun, Kyaikkhauk and Padakyi pagodas and Laka Chanta Abaya Labamuni, Kohtetgyi, Chaukhtetgyi and Ngahtetgyi Buddha Images. — MNA

Shein of Meiktila, Mandalay Division, Daw Khin Hla Thin of Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay Division and Daw Htay Htay Khine of Chanaye Thanzan Township, Mandalay

Division.

After that, Daw Khin Lay Thet, wife of General Thura Shwe Mann, presented Thudhammatheingi titles and certificates to Daw Nyein Nyein (a) Daw Nyein

Nyein Naing of Chanmya Thazi Township, Mandalay Division and Daw Than Than of Chanaye Thazan Township, Mandalay Division; Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of the Prime Minister, presented Thudhammatheingi titles and certificates to Daw Tin Mya of Tamway Township, Yangon Division and Daw San San Maw of Kyimyindine Township, Yangon Division; and Daw Khin Saw Hnin, wife of the Secretary-1, presented Thudhammatheingi titles and certificates to Daw Chaw Su Myat of Sangyoung Township, Yangon Division and Daw Ohmma Myint of Kyauktada Township, Yangon Division.

Next, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung supplicated on religious affairs.

(See page 11)



Daw Khin Saw Hnin, wife of Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, offers a religious title to a layperson. — MNA



Rear-Admiral Nyan Tun offers alms to a Sayadaw.—MNA



Rear-Admiral Nyan Tun presents religious title to a Sayadaw.

MNA

Senior General Than Shwe and wife ...

(from page 10)

Afterwards, Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Nyaungdon Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maharatta Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Sadhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Osadha Bhivamsa delivered a sermon and the congregation led by Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing shared merits gained, and the ceremony ended.

After that, the families of the Ministry of Defence, the Prime Minister's Office, the SPDC Office, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy)'s Office, the Commander-in-Chief

(Air)'s Office, the Central Offices, the Adjutant-General's Office, the Quartermaster-General's Office, the Nay Pyi Taw Command, the ministries, the Chief Justice and the Attorney-General's Offices, the Auditor-General's Office, the CSSTB Office, Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, Nay Pyi Taw district and township PDC offices, members of religious and social organizations and wellwishers offered rice and provisions to the title recipient Sayadaws and nuns.

At the ceremony, Senior General Than Shwe

and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and family members, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Prime Minister General Thein Sein and 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) and the Commander-in-Chief (Air), senior military officers of Ministry of Defence, and their wives, commanders, ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-



Lt-Gen Myat Hein offers alms to a Sayadaw.—MNA

General, the Auditor-General, Chair-man of the CSSTB, mayors, vice-ministers, the directors-

general and departmental officials of the SPDC Office and the Prime Minister Office and wellwishers

donated rice and provisions worth K 362.3 million to the members of the Sangha. MNA

Health going high tech with camera pills, health sensors, ultrasound maps

OSLO, 10 March — Camera pills and ultrasound creating maps of the body: health has become high technology. Here are some of the recent advances in medical technology.

For more than ten years, senior medical officer Ronald Mårvik at St. Olav's Hospital in Trondheim has been collaborating with SINTEF scientist Thomas Langø. Together, they have created a new IT-base window on the inside of the body, a window that makes a patient transparent on a screen when a surgeon inserts operating instruments through small



The smart capsule will hunt for diseased cells in the alimentary canal.

openings in the abdominal wall.

What the system actually does is transform X-ray and nuclear magnetic resonance (MR) images into three-dimensional maps by which the surgeon can navigate when he performs keyhole surgery in the abdominal cavity. The technique enable the surgeon to select a more lenient keyhole approach in operations that would otherwise demand large, open interventions. This offers benefits both to the individual patient and to society, because, in comparison with open operations, keyhole surgery puts less stress on the patient's body. As a result, the patient needs to spend less time in hospital and in reconvalence.

Internet

FORT COLLINS, 10 March — More fertilizer doesn't always mean more profit. That's one conclusion from a 10-year study conducted by Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists at the agency's Soil Plant Nutrient Research Unit in Fort Collins, Colo., and colleagues at Colorado State University.

From 1998 to 2008, the researchers evaluated and compared potential management strategies for reducing nitrogen and nitrate nitrogen levels in soil and groundwater.

The research, led by ARS soil scientist Ardell Halvorson, focused on irrigated cropping systems in the Arkansas River Valley, an agricultural region of Colorado that has high

Less nitrogen could increase profit, sustainability

levels of nitrate nitrogen in the fields and in part, to heavy application of nitrogen

fertilizer and the prevalence of shallow-rooted crops such as onions.

Internet



More fertilizer doesn't always equal more profit, according to a 10-year study conducted by the Agricultural Research Service.



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Sickly US economy set for 2nd half rebound

WASHINGTON, 10 March—The recession-hit US economy is proving weaker than economists expected just a month ago, but forecasters still think a recovery is in the cards for later this year, a survey released on Tuesday showed. “Consumer spending and residential investment are expected to turn positive and begin boosting GDP growth in the third quarter of this year,” the newsletter Blue Chip Economic Indicators said, summarizing its survey of private economists.

The consensus of the 51 forecasters surveyed looks for US gross domestic product to tumble at a sharp 5.3 percent annual rate in the first quarter and to decline at a 2 percent pace in the second quarter.

In the third quarter, however, economists expect the economy to expand at a 0.5 percent rate, followed by a 1.8 percent fourth-quarter gain. For the year as a whole, the economy is expected to shrink 2.6 percent, which would be the largest annual contraction since the Great Depression. A month ago the survey pointed to a drop of 1.9 percent. “A huge drop in business inventories, further declines in non-residential fixed investment and another sharp drop in residential investment” are expected to drive economic weakness in the first half of 2009, the survey said.—*Internet*



Rescuers carry the wreckage of a crashed cargo plane at Entebbe, 40km south of Kampala, on 9 March, 2009. An Illyushin 76 cargo aircraft crashed in Lake Victoria, about 10 km south of Uganda’s Entebbe international airport. 11 people aboard were feared dead in the Monday morning tragedy. Salvage efforts are underway.—INTERNET

Explosion kills 10, injures 20 including minister in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, 10 March— Ten people were killed while 20 others including a government minister were injured Tuesday morning in a suicide explosion blamed on Tamil Tiger rebels in southern Sri Lanka, defence officials said.

Officials from the Defence Ministry said an LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eealm) suicide bomber attacked the Jumma mosque at Godapitiya, in Akurassa, in the Matara district around 11 am local time

(0530 GMT).

Military spokesman Udaya Nanayakkara said 10 civilians were killed while 20 others including Post and Teli-communication Minister Mahinda Wijesekara were injured in the explosion in Matara, about 160 km south of the capital Colombo.

Nanayakkara said Wijesekara suffered head injuries and was initially treated in a hospital in Matara. The local newspaper Daily Mirror reported on its website that the injured minister will be air-

lifted to capital Colombo for further treatment shortly. The newspaper reported that former Southern Province Chief Minister H G Sirisena was also among the injured.

Defence sources said another 15 people with injuries have been admitted to the government hospital in Matara.

A special team of doctors have been airlifted to Matara at the request of Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse, the spokesman said.

Internet

Germany’s small, medium-sized businesses hit hard by crisis

BERLIN, 10 March— The global financial crisis has seriously hit Germany’s small and medium-sized businesses, raising fears that Europe’s biggest economy is heading into a deeper recession.

The business confidence of small- and medium-sized companies, which constitute the bulk of the German economy, has reached a record low.

A great majority of small- and medium-sized business leaders are pessimistic and anticipate a worsening of the situation in the next 12 months, according to a recent report by “Mittelstandsmonitor.”

The business sentiment index, based on data from several German economic institutions and think tanks, lost nearly 18 points during 2008 and was only slightly above its base line.

Only in 1992, did the index dropped further due to an anticipated recession after the reunification of Germany.

Internet

Slovenian economy grows 3.5% in 2008

BELGRADE, 10 March—Slovenia’s economic growth for the whole year stood at 3.5 percent in 2008 despite the negative growth in the final quarter, the country’s statistical authorities said on Monday.

Growth in the first half of the year stood at a robust 5.6 percent, before cooling to 3.6 percent in the third quarter and dropping into negative territory in the final quarter. Presenting preliminary GDP data for the fourth quarter of 2008, Karmen Hren of the Statistics Office told the press that the key factor for the contraction was a 9.4 percent drop in exports.

Significant drops were also seen in the output of the manufacturing sector and in gross fixed capital formations, which fell by 5.3 percent.

“There has been only one quarter with a bigger drop in gross fixed capital formations in the past 12 years, that is the second quarter of 2000, when investments fell by 10 percent,” Hren was quoted as saying by the official Slovenian news agency STA.—*Internet*



A polar bear stretches at the St Felicien Wildlife Zoo in St Felicien, on 5 March, 2009. According to Environment Canada, Canada is home of approximately 15,000 of the estimated 20,000-25,000 polar bears worldwide. —INTERNET

Red, white wine cannot stop breast cancer

WASHINGTON, 10 March—Neither red wine nor white wine can offer women protection from breast cancer, a new study revealed. In fact, both appear to have a negative effect. Polly Newcomb, the lead author of the study which was published on the March issue of *Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers and Prevention*, said that their study found red wine does not reduce the risk of breast cancer, although previous studies highlight

its health benefits in reducing heart disease.

“We found no difference between red or white wine in relation to breast-cancer risk. Neither appears to have any benefits,” Newcomb, who is from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, said Monday in a statement.

Actually, women who had 14 or more drinks per week, regardless of the type of alcohol consumed, faced a 24 percent increase in breast cancer compared

with non-drinkers, the researchers said.

“If a woman drinks, she should do so in moderation — no more than one drink a day. And if a woman chooses red wine, she should do so because she likes the taste, not because she thinks it may reduce her risk of breast cancer,” Newcomb said.

The results were based on interviews with 6,327 women with breast cancer and 7,558 age-matched healthy women about their drinking habits.—INTERNET



Sofia Rudyeva(C), 18, from St Petersburg has won the title of Miss Russia-2009. First Vice-Miss became Svetlana Stepankovskaya(L)from the Krasnodar Territory. Second Vice-Miss—Kseniya Shepilova(R) from Kokhmy in the Ivanovo region.—INTERNET

Colliery gas poisons six in China city

HOHHOT, 10 March—A carbon monoxide poisoning accident happened at 10:30 pm Monday at a coalmine in Ordos, a city in northern China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, sickening six people seriously, the local coal bureau confirmed Tuesday.

The six poisoned at Luxinju Coal Mine in Jungar Banner of Ordos have been hospitalized locally. They were all in critical condition, the bureau said.

Internet



Photo taken on 6 March, 2009 shows the Rainbow Bridge connecting the central districts of north China's Tianjin city and the new Tianjin Eco-City. China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) has recently approved the establishment of the startup area of the new Tianjin Eco-City, a project with 12 billion yuan's investment sponsored by both Chinese and Singaporean companies. XINHUA

Peru registers 5,000 cases of dengue fever in past two months

LIMA, 10 March—Peru registered 5,000 cases of dengue fever during January and February, which has become a public health problem, Health Minister Oscar Ugarte said on Monday.

Ugarte told the press that 13,500 people were infected last year.

He announced the launching of a campaign against dengue designed to raise public awareness of the importance of clearing stagnant water or hidden water deposits where

the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, a dengue carrier, breeds.

“We have an enormous responsibility to combat dengue because it is lethal ... a high social cost on human lives,” Ugarte said.

He said combating dengue was easy.

Daily actions were needed to avoid water stagnating in topless containers, and replacing water in flowerpots with humid sand both at home and at public places.

Internet

Zimbabwe cholera deaths over 4,000

GENEVA, 10 March—The cholera epidemic in Zimbabwe has claimed more than 4,000 lives and more than 89,000 people have the disease, the World Health Orga-

nization said in a new toll published Monday.

The water-borne disease has killed 4,011 people, according to the latest WHO figures, although a spokeswoman has said the

real death toll is higher because of under-reporting due to difficulty in reaching some areas of the country.

Zimbabwe's Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai announced last Thursday that the death toll had broken through the 4,000 mark, and said the figure was likely an underestimate. However, the WHO said on Friday the outbreak was showing signs of slowing.

Spokeswoman Fadela Chaib said the number of cases had been averaging 4,000 to 4,500 a week recently, compared to peaks of nearly 8,000 earlier in the outbreak.

Internet



File photo of a Zimbabwean cholera patient at a hospital in Harare in February. The cholera epidemic in Zimbabwe has claimed more than 4,000 lives and more than 89,000 people have the disease, the World Health Organisation said in a new toll published Monday.—INTERNET

Expert warns China may miss last chance to tackle aging population

BEIJING, 10 March—China will pay dearly if it does not act now to build up an old-age social security system, as its population aged 80 or above will hit 83 million by 2050, a population expert has warned.

“The proportion of working people to retirees is still low at the moment, if we missed the chance, we will pay a dear cost,” Ma Li, vice director of China Population and Development Research Center, told *Xinhua* Tuesday.

China formally became an aged society in 2000, when the population aged

60 or above accounted for 10 percent of its 1.3 billion people.

With an annual growth rate of 3.7 percent, China's population aged 80 or above will reach 22 million by 2020, and 83 million by 2050, according to Ma, a deputy to the 11th National People's Congress (NPC), China's legislative body.

In contrast to developed countries, China entered the aged society while it is still a developing country, said Ma, on the sidelines of the NPC annual session in Beijing.

“China is not yet ready for the aged society. It

does not have a complete old-age social security system.

There are not enough resources. Fiscal support is scarce. And the risk is ever rising,” said Ma. The lawmaker said China must act now to set up an old-age social security system that covers both rural and urban population.

Such a system should be based on the care of the old people by their families, backed-up by community-level services networks and with old folks homes as a supplement, he said.

Internet

SPORTS

Scholes lays out the formula to beat Inter

MANCHESTER, 10 March—Paul Scholes believes Manchester United will beat Inter Milan in Wednesday's Champions League last 16 second leg if they follow the formula that saw off Barcelona last season.

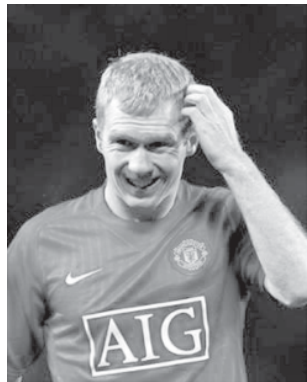
Sir Alex Ferguson's team held Inter to a goalless draw at the San Siro two weeks ago, just as they did when they faced Barcelona at the Nou Camp in the semi-finals last year.

The Premier League champions returned to Old Trafford to finish the job against Barca with a hard-fought 1-0 victory and Scholes is confident they can do the same against Jose Mourinho's Italian outfit.

"It probably was the perfect way to play a home leg after a goalless draw," Scholes said.

"We did well to get the

draw in the first place because Barcelona is such a tough place to go, then we defended really well and got the goal at home, which, in a European tie, was ideal. We will take that again on Wednesday."—Internet



Manchester United's English midfielder Paul Scholes, seen here in 2008, believes Manchester United will beat Inter Milan in Wednesday's Champions League last 16 second leg if they follow the formula that saw off Barcelona last season.—INTERNET

Benitez ready to make or break United clash

LIVERPOOL, 10 March—Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez admits his team have to win at Manchester United to stand any chance of catching the Premier League leaders.

The Reds are seven points adrift of United, who have a game in hand, and Benitez knows Saturday's game at Old Trafford will decide what can be achieved in the remainder of the campaign.

Liverpool were in control of the title race at the turn of the year but a run



Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez (pictured) admits his team have to win at Manchester United to stand any chance of catching the Premier League Leaders.—INTERNET

of three wins in eight Premier League games has seen them fall to third in the table.—Internet



Everton's forward Louis Saha celebrates after scoring the a goal during their FA Cup quarter final match against Middlesbrough at Goodison Park in Liverpool, on 8 March.—INTERNET

Saha can't wait for FA Cup clash with 'amazing' United

LIVERPOOL, 10 March—Everton striker Louis Saha believes his side can shock Manchester United in the FA Cup semi-finals despite the amazing form of his former club.

Saha scored the winner in Sunday's quarter-final against Middlesbrough at Goodison Park and Everton were paired against United in the draw for the last four. The France star admitted the prospect of facing a United team on course for a remarkable clean sweep of five trophies in one season is daunting, but he is convinced Everton can win at Wembley next month.

"The semi-final draw with Manchester United is obviously extra-special for me, of course, because I used to play for them and this will be a very big moment for me," he said.—Internet



Chelsea's English midfielder Joe Cole (left) vies with CFR Cluj's Argentine midfielder Sebastian Dubarbier (centre) during their UEFA Champions League group stage match at Stamford Bridge in London.—INTERNET

Cole ahead of schedule after knee surgery

LONDON, 10 March—Chelsea midfielder Joe Cole believes he is ahead of schedule in his recovery from the knee surgery that prematurely ended his season.

Cole ruptured his anterior cruciate ligament in Chelsea's 4-1 FA Cup win over Southend in January and needed an operation that ruled him out for the rest of the campaign.

But the 27-year-old England star is confident he can return to action in time for the start of next season after making a good start to his rehabilitation.

"I am ahead of schedule," Cole told Chelsea TV. "The physios are really happy with me and how I feel at the moment is how I am supposed to be feeling.

"There is obviously a bit of muscle wastage in the legs so I am working on that but I am pleased.

"There was always in my head a dream of a possible Champions League or FA Cup Final but the physios put the kibosh on that every time I mention it.

"So my comeback target is going to be pre-season for the start of next season."—Internet

Cavenaghi out for six to eight weeks

PARIS, 10 March—Bordeaux's Argentine international striker Fernando Cavenaghi will be out for between six and eight weeks with a knee ligament injury, his club revealed on Monday.

Cavenaghi sustained the injury in a collision with opposition goalkeeper Cedric Carrasso shortly after coming on as a substitute during his side's 3-0 defeat at Toulouse on Saturday. The 25-year-old is Bordeaux's top scorer in Ligue 1 this season with 13 goals.—Internet



Bordeaux's Argentine international striker Fernando Cavenaghi

Cisse tells Sunderland to get a deal done

SUNDERLAND, 10 March—France striker Djibril Cisse admits Sunderland's failure to tie up a permanent deal to sign him from Marseille is starting to affect his form.

Sunderland are unwilling to agree a transfer with Marseille until they are certain of avoiding relegation because the global financial meltdown, which has weakened the value of the pound, has made the fee more expensive.

But Cisse, who has scored 10 goals for Sunderland this season, wants to commit himself to the Black Cats and feels he has been left in limbo.

"It is not nice to worry about where I am going to be in a few months. It is not just affecting me, I

have family and children to think about. It is really annoying me, to be honest," Cisse told the Sunderland Echo on Monday.

"I would like to know as soon as possible where I'm going to be next season but it is not me who decides. The board must make a decision.

Internet



France striker Djibril Cisse

Adebayor to miss Roma clash



Togo striker Emmanuel Adebayor

LONDON, 10 March—Arsene Wenger has admitted Togo striker Emmanuel Adebayor will miss Arsenal's Champions League tie with Roma on Wednesday but the Gunners manager hopes Ivory Coast defender Kolo Toure will be fit.

Adebayor has been sidelined for a month after suffering a hamstring injury in the goalless Premier League draw with Tottenham and will not

travel to Italy for the last 16 second leg clash as Arsenal try to hold onto their one-goal lead.

Although Toure missed Sunday's FA Cup victory over Burnley with a minor injury, Wenger believes he has a good chance of recovering in time.

"Adebayor definitely won't be able to play, but I will wait to see what the report is on Kolo before I decide what my starting XI will be," Wenger said.

Despite Adebayor's absence, Wenger will have more attacking options after Eduardo and Theo Walcott played against Burnley.

Internet



Lindsay Tarpley (L) of the US is challenged by Norway's Anneli Giske during their Algarve Women's Soccer Cup match at Ferreiras village stadium on 9 March, 2009. US women beats Norway 1-0 on Monday.—XINHUA

**Asleep in Jesus
U SumLut Naw
78 years**

Son of (U SumLut Gam and Daw MaHtu Sam) of Banlun village, Momauk Township; beloved husband of (Daw Maran Ja Baw); younger brother of (Daw Ban Mun); elder brother of Daw Ban Htoi and U SumLut Sunday; beloved father of (U SumLut Lat Maw)+Daw HpawLa Baw Tawng, (U SumLut Lat Din), (U SumLut Lat Zau), U SumLut Lat Lum, U SumLut Lat Gun+Daw DumHpau Tum Hpaung; beloved grandfather of Maung Seng Lat Awng, Maung Di Lat Nawng, Maung Doi Lat Tawng, Ma Ban Mun Maw and Maung Gun Tu Maw, fell asleep in Jesus peacefully at Bahosi Specialists Clinic at 9.20 a.m. on 10-3-2009. Funeral service will be held at 8.00 a.m on 12-3-2009 (Thursday) at Yayway cemetery and thence the remains will be cremated. The ashes will be conveyed to Jaw Bum cemetery in Myitkyina for entombment.

Bereaved family

Two tourist drowned when diving in C Philippines

MANILA, 10 March—Two tourists of Chinese-origin from Hong Kong were drowned afternoon when diving in the central Philippines, local authorities said on Monday.

Local police chief Superintendent Mariano Natu-el Jr. named the victims as Pang Chi Lung and Cheung Joanne Wai, who were billeted at a Paradise HK Scuba Diving Resort at Punta Engano village, Lapu-lapu City.

Mr Lung, 45, was of Canadian nationality and Ms Cheung, 29, held a US passport, said Mr Yang Fengwu, consul with the Chinese General Consulate in Cebu. The two and a number of Chinese companions arrived at the resort last on Friday, with some diving equipments brought from Hong Kong.

MNA/Xinhua

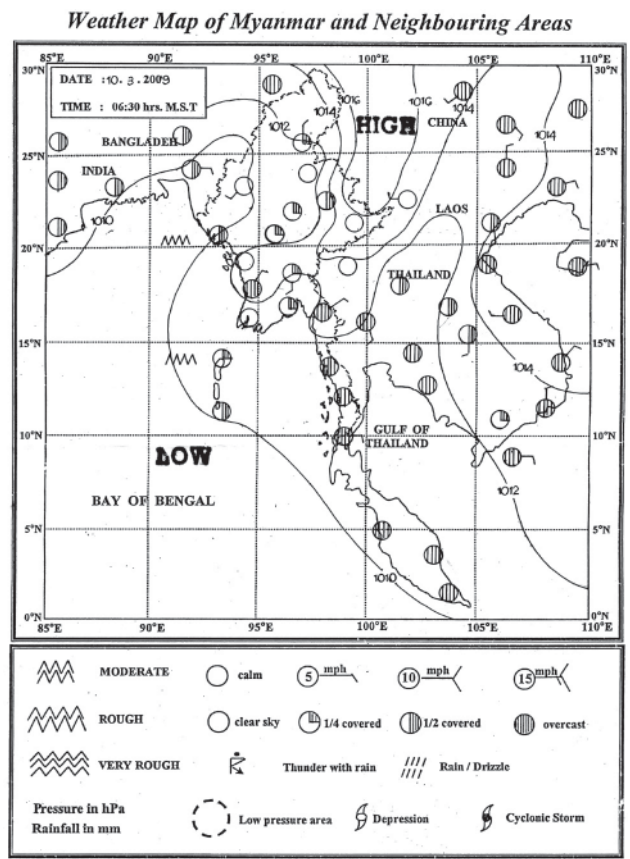
**MRTV-3
Programme Schedule
(11.3.2009) (Wednesday)**

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
 - Mandalay, The Golden City
 - A New Chapter for Industrial Development
 - Baungte: My Village
 - Useful Variety of Bamboo
 - Myanma Traditional Handiwork of Casting
 - Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

- Europe/ North America Transmission**
- Signature Tune
 - Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights
 - Let's visit the Grand Mawtinzun Pagoda Festival
 - Beautiful Myanma Silver Bowl
 - The beautiful lake...where the natural biodiversity gathers
 - Strive for Success of Modern Farming
 - Masterpiece of Myanmar Artists
 - Myanma Women's Costumes in Twelve Seasons (Tabaung)
 - The Elephant Camp...Where I've been to
 - Fabulous Glassware Decorations
 - Myanmar Modern Song
 - Mandalay, The Golden City
 - A New Chapter for Industrial Development
 - Baungte: My Village
 - Useful Variety of Bamboo
 - Kindness to Pet Animals
 - 50-ton Paper Mill (Thabaung)
 - Oboe: Myanmar Musical Instrument
 - Song of Myanma Beauty and Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm



WEATHER

Tuesday, 10 March, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin and Mon States, Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Day temperatures were (5°C) above March average temperatures in Kachin State, (3°C) to (4°C) above March average temperatures in Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayah and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and about March average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Chauk (42°C) and Hpa-an (40°C).

Maximum temperature on 9-3-2009 was 98°F. Minimum temperature on 10-3-2009 was 68°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 10-3-2009 was 83%. Total sunshine hours on 9-3-2009 was (8.2) hrs approx. Rainfall on 10-3-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from South at (17:30) hours MST on 9-3-2009.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (09:30) hrs MST today, a low pressure area over the Southwest Bay still persists. Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 11th March 2009: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing, Bago, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight increase of day temperatures in the whole country.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 11-3-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 11-3-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 11-3-2009: Partly cloudy.



**Wednesday, 11 March
View on today**

- 7:00 am**
1. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
 2. ယောဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ဥပ္ပါတသန္တိပါဠိတော်
- 7:25 am**
3. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am**
4. Morning news
- 7:40 am**
5. Nice and sweet song
- 7:50 am**
6. မြူးမြူးကြွကြွယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက
- 8:00 am**
7. Musical programme

- 8:15 am**
8. လွိုင်ကော်မြို့ကျက်သရေဆောင် နည်းပညာတက္ကသိုလ်ပင်မဆောင်
- 8:20 am**
9. (၆၄)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
- 8:30 am**
10. International news
- 8:45 am**
11. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 4:00 pm**
1. Martial song
- 4:10 pm**
2. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 4:20 pm**
3. Dance of national races
- 4:30 pm**
4. Classical song
- 4:40 pm**
5. “ကြို့ဆိုလျှက်ပါ” (ငှက်ပျောကြော်၊ မင်းထက်ကျော်စင်၊ နေထူးနိုင်၊ နေယံ၊ မိုးယံစွန်၊ ဇင်ဇင်စော်မြင့်)

- နန်းဆရာတော်၊ သင်ဇာဝင်ကျော်) [ဒါရိုက်တာ-အောင်မိုး(ပဲရစ်)]
- 4:50 pm**
6. တပ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြု စားသိချင်းပြိုင်ပွဲ ဆုဂုဏ်တရားများ
- 5:00 pm**
7. အေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ ပထမနှစ် (သင်္ချာအထူးပြု) (သင်္ချာ)
- 5:15 pm**
8. Songs to uphold National Spirit
- 5:20 pm**
9. Musical programme
- 5:30 pm**
10. နိုင်ငံစီးပွားအလေးထားကျေးလက် ထုတ်ကုန်များ
- 5:40 pm**
11. ရွှေယံစုံလင်အာဆီယံအစီအစဉ်
- 5:50 pm**
12. (၆၄)နှစ်မြောက်တပ်မတော်နေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

- 6:00 pm**
13. Evening news
- 6:30 pm**
14. Weather report
- 6:35 pm**
15. မြန်မာ့ဓလေ့ရိုးရာလက်တွေ့
- 6:55 pm**
16. Musical programme
- 7:05 pm**
17. ထက်မြက်ပျော်ရွှင်အိမ်ထောင်ရှင်
- 7:30 pm**
18. ရသပေါ်လွင်သရုပ်ဆောင်လွင်ပြင်
- 8:00 pm**
19. News
 20. International news
 21. Weather report
 22. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “မြူးမြူးကြွကြွဆိုခြင်း” (အပိုင်း-၅)
 23. “နွေးထွေးစွာကြိုဆိုခြင်း” (သျှားညို၊ မင်းသူ၊ ဇာနည်၊ မင်းထက်ကျော်စင်၊ မြသဉ္ဇာလီ၊ နိုင်နင်းစ၊ ဆုပန်ထွာ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-သက်တင်)



Provisions for members of the Sangha

*Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife
Daw Mya Mya San donate provisions
to a Sayadaw.*

MNA



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

MNA

*General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet donate
provisions to a Sayadaw. — MNA*



*Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw
Khin Saw Hnin donate provisions to a Sayadaw.*

MNA



*Lt-Gen Tin Aye and
wife Daw Kyi Kyi Ohn
donate provisions to a
Sayadaw.*

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

