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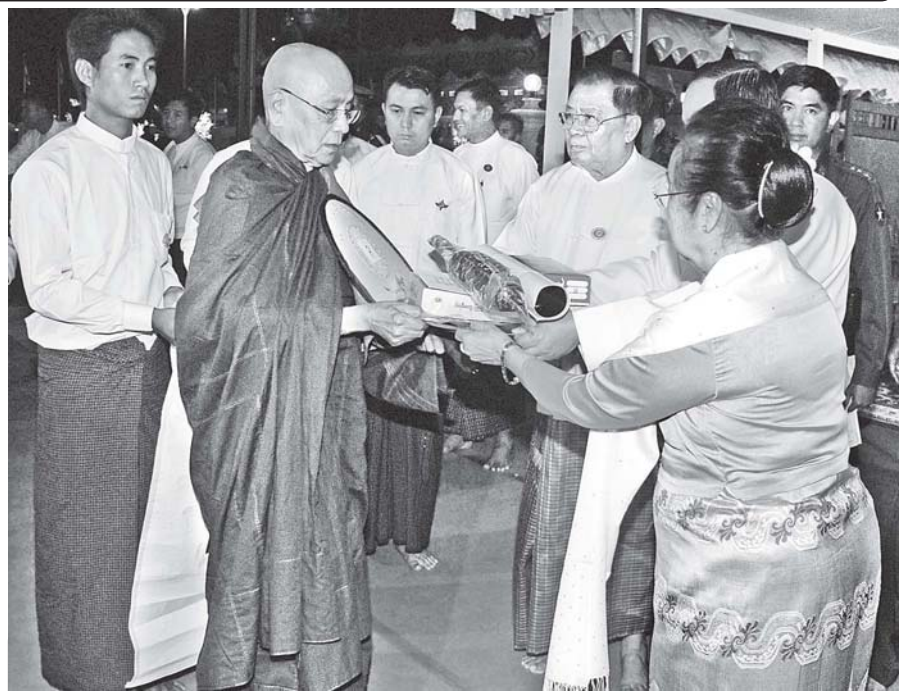
Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attend ceremony to confer religious titles on venerable Sayadaws

NAY PYI TAW, 19 March—The State Peace and Development Council has been offering religious titles to venerable members of the Sangha at home and abroad, nuns and laypersons yearly.

The State Peace and Development Council issued Notification No. 1/2011 of SPDC on 4 January to announce the winners of religious titles.

At 4 pm today, a ceremony to offer religious titles to Sayadaws, nuns and laypersons and donate rice to members of the Sangha was held on a grand scale at Sasana Maha Beikmandaw in the precinct of Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw, 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, members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Sayadaws, title recipient Sayadaws and nuns, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, Member of the State Peace and Development Council Thura U Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Prime Minister U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, Member of the State Peace and Development Council U Tin Aye, General Min Aung Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-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 Attorney-General, the Auditor-General, the Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, deputy ministers,



Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing present offertories to a Sayadaw.—MNA

senior military officers, departmental heads and ambassadors and heads of embassies to the Union of Myanmar, responsible persons of religious and social organizations, staff of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, title recipient laypersons, disciples, wellwishers and guests.

Before the ceremony, the State orchestra played the Dhamma songs beginning 3 pm.

Officials ushered members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Sayadaws, Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru title recipient Sayadaws, Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika title recipient Sayadaws,

Agga Maha Pandita title recipient Sayadaws and Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja title recipient Sayadaws, other title recipient Sayadaws, nuns and laypersons in the designated places of Sasana Maha Beikmandaw.

Officials of the Ministry of Religious Affairs ushered Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Sayadaws, Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru, Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika, Agga Maha Pandita and Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Sayadaws led by members of the SSMNC into the Beikmandaw.

(See page 16)

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 20 March, 2011

Harmoniously combat danger of drugs

The danger of narcotic drugs is a grave threat to the entire mankind. So, Myanmar has been carrying out drug elimination tasks for decades.

In the 2010-2011 poppy cultivation season, 15708.8 acres of poppy plantations nationwide were destroyed from 1 September 2010 to 6 March 2011. In states and regions also, 442.3 acres could be destroyed in a period from 7 to 13 March this year, bringing the total number to 16151.1 acres.

Poppy growing business started when colonialists initiated economic expansionism in Asia. When it comes to the combat of narcotics, Myanmar has banned abuse of narcotic drugs and alcohol since ancient Myanmar kings by enacting laws and rules.

In order to reduce poppy cultivation, drug production, drug smuggling and drug abuse, Myanmar is implementing opium-substitute cultivation and livestock breeding tasks.

Western nations with technological advantages have spread drug production techniques and equipment to developing countries.

This is why measures are being taken today to convince the youth of the danger of narcotics by holding educative talks, shows and contests.

The youth of today are new generation leaders of the future so they need to be both mentally and physically fit. Above all, harmonious cooperation is needed to wipe out the danger of drugs not only from Myanmar's soil but also from our planet.

SPDC Member U Tin Aye and party conveying pennant-shaped vane and diamond orb round Maha Sikhongyi Pagoda.—MNA



Peace and Development

- * 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

SPDC Member U Tin Aye attends hoisting pennant-shaped vane, diamond orb atop Maha Sikhongyi Pagoda in Sagaing



The ceremony to hoist pennant-shaped vane and diamond orb atop Maha Sikhongyi Pagoda in progress in Parami Ward of Sagaing.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 19 March— A ceremony to hoist Hngetmyatnadaw (pennant-shaped vane) and Seimbudaw (diamond orb) atop Maha Sikhongyi Pagoda in Parami Ward of Sagaing in Sagaing Region was held in conjunction with the consecration ceremony at the pandal of the pagoda yesterday morning, attended by Member of the State Peace and Development Council U Tin Aye.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Sagaing Region Sangha Nayaka Committee (Shwegyin) Presiding Nayaka of Hanthagiri Monastery of Sagaing Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Nandavamsa, Chancellor of Sitagu Buddhist Academy of Sagaing Agga Maha Pandita Maha Dhammakathika Bahujanahitadhara Dr Bhaddanta Nanissara and members of the Sangha, Maj-Gen

Myint Soe of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Sagaing Region Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Brig-Gen Soe Lwin, Chairman of Mandalay Region Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Ye Aung, ministers, deputy ministers and their wives, disciples, wellwishers, departmental heads and local people.

Chairman of Sagaing Region SNC Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nandavamsa administered the Nine Precepts, and members of the Sangha recited Parittas.

SPDC Member U Tin Aye, Maj-Gen Myint Soe, the commanders, the ministers, the deputy ministers, disciples and wellwishers offered pennant-shaped vane, diamond orb and alms to the Chairman Sayadaw, the Chancellor Sayadaw and members of the Sangha.

The Chancellor Sayadaw delivered a sermon, and the congregation shared merits gained.

SPDC Member U Tin Aye, Maj-Gen Myint Soe, the commanders, the ministers, the deputy ministers, disciples and wellwishers conveyed pennant-shaped vane and diamond orb round the pagoda.

At the auspicious time, they hoisted pennant-shaped vane and diamond orb atop the pagoda.

Officials also hoisted umbrellas atop four encircled Zedis.

Members of the Sangha consecrated the pagoda.

To mark successful completion of the ceremony, they performed rituals of golden and silver showers.

After the ceremony, SPDC Member U Tin Aye, Maj-Gen Myint Soe, the commanders, the ministers and the deputy ministers drove stakes for posting the stone inscription and banner and construction of the Monsaleinda Lake.

Members of the Sangha consecrated at Buddha Image near Monsaleinda Lake at the north-east corner of the pagoda.

MNA

Gunmen on motorbikes kidnap workers in Afghanistan

KABUL, 19 March—Gunmen on motorcycles kidnapped six road engineers and their driver as they were travelling to a work site in northern Afghanistan, a public works official said Friday.

Three Afghan and three Pakistani construction workers and their Afghan driver were carjacked around 5:30 pm Thursday and led away at gunpoint, Abdul Qadir Mahmoud Zada said. They were targeted by at

least 15 men on motorcycles in the Province of Sar-e-Pul.

Mohan Marouf, an engineer for the construction firm Aman Afghan, said the abducted men were employees on a United Nations-funded road building contract. United Nations officials said they had no knowledge of the attack.

No one has claimed responsibility for the abductions, Afghan police officials said. Kidnappings

— mostly of Afghans — for ransom or for political reasons are common in Afghanistan, where violence has made efforts to rebuild the country costly and dangerous.

In January, two Chinese engineers and four Afghans were kidnapped while travelling back to their base after working on a road construction project in Faryab Province in the north.

Internet



File photo of the Karangetang volcano. Indonesia said it had evacuated hundreds of people living near Mount Karangetang off northern Sulawesi island as authorities issued a red alert on Saturday following its eruption.—INTERNET

Indonesian volcano spews new burst of hot ash

MANADO, 19 March—Residents in central Indonesia have been evacuated from the slopes of a volcano that has been spewing hot lava and clouds of searing gas high into the air for days.

State volcanologist

Surono says Mount Karangetang has been spilling lava and shooting clouds of gas and debris up to 1,900 feet (600 metres) in the air as ash poured down its slopes.

He said Saturday that some 582 people living

along its slopes have been evacuated away from the mountain on Siau, part of the Sulawesi island chain. There were no reports of injuries, but several houses and a church were damaged.

Internet

14 suspected criminals killed in clashes in Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 19 March—Mexican authorities say six gunmen were shot dead during a gunfight with security forces in the northern city of Monterrey while eight alleged kidnappers were killed in the Gulf coast state of Veracruz.

State prosecutors in Nuevo Leon, where Monterrey is located, say gunmen travelling in a sport utility vehicle opened fire when police tried to pull them over early Friday morning.

Prosecutors say police called for backup from soldiers and gave chase. The gunmen got reinforcements as well and a shootout ensued, leaving six dead.

Authorities in the state of Veracruz say at least eight kidnappers died in a clash with soldiers, marines and state police Friday in the town of El Higo. Army Gen Rene Aguilar says a kidnap victim was rescued.—Internet



In this 15 March, 2011 photo, a woman holds up a baby that was rescued from a house where three people were killed by unknown gunmen in the northern border city of Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. According to police, a 2-year-old and a 7-month-old baby were found inside the home's master bedroom, asleep. Children, from toddlers to the early teens, are increasingly falling victim to the brutal violence of a drug war that has cost over 34,000 lives in the last four years.

INTERNET



South Korean children of Songpa Kindergarten crouch under desks in their classroom during an earthquake drill in Seoul, South Korea, on 18 March, 2011.

XINHUA

British Airways worker jailed for bomb plot

LONDON, 19 March—A British judge has sentenced a former British Airways computer specialist to 30 years in prison for plotting with US-born extremist cleric Anwar al-Awlaki to blow up an airplane in an attack intended to kill hundreds of people.

Rajib Karim, a 31-year-old Bangladeshi man, was convicted last month of four counts of engaging in preparation for terrorist attacks. He already had pleaded guilty to five other terrorism offences, but denied plotting an attack in Britain.

Justice Calvert-Smith called Karim's offences "of the utmost gravity" in Friday's sentencing at Woolwich Crown Court.

Prosecutors said Karim used his position at the airline to conspire with al-Awlaki, a notorious US-born radical preacher associated with al-Qaeda and thought to be hiding in Yemen.—Internet



An Afghan youth checks destroyed books and text books damaged during a bomb blast at a school in Behsud, Nangarhar Province, east of Kabul, Afghanistan on 15 March, 2011.

INTERNET

Policeman killed, three suspected al-Qaeda leaders captured in Iraq's Diyala

BAQUBA, 19 March—A policeman was killed and another was wounded in two attacks in Iraq's eastern Province of Diyala, while an US-Iraqi joint force captured three suspected al-Qaeda leaders in the province on Saturday, a provincial police source said.

Gunmen wearing military uniforms shot dead a policeman outside his house near the town of al-Maqdadiyah, some 100 km northeast of Baghdad, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Iraqi security forces sealed off the scene and detained two suspects for interrogation, the source said.

In a separate incident, a policeman was wounded when a roadside bomb exploded during an attempt by a police force to defuse it in the town of Khanaqin, some 150 km northeast of

Baghdad, the source added.

Early in the day, an US-Iraqi joint force dropped by helicopters on houses at the edge of the village of Jumailat, some 110 km northeast of Baghdad, and captured three suspected al-Qaeda leaders, the source said without giving further details.

Xinhua



An injured victim of an explosion lies on bed of a hospital in Jalalabad, Nangarhar Province, east of Kabul, Afghanistan on 14 March, 2011. One civilian was killed and three others were wounded by an explosion in Sorkh Rod District of Nangarhar Province, police officials said.

INTERNET



Yukiya Amano, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), center, goes up the stairs to the venue of a Press conference at the Japan National Press Club, 18 March, 2011 in Tokyo, Japan.

INTERNET

Testing finds no health threat along West Coast

SAN FRANCISCO, 19 March—Minuscule amounts of radiation from Japan's stricken nuclear plant have reached the west coast but federal and state officials say it poses no health risk. They said Friday that the doses of radiation that a person normally receives from rocks, bricks, and the sun are 100,000 times the dose rates detected at a monitoring station in California and another in Washington state.

Concerns that Japan's nuclear disaster was assuming international proportions grew as a radioactive plume released from the Fukushima Dai-ichi reached Southern California on Friday. But the results of testing reflected expectations by the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency that radiation had greatly dissipated by the time it reached the US coastline.—*Internet*



A customer (C) shops at the Tsukiji fish market in Tokyo on 19 March, 2011. Fishmongers at the popular market reported that the number of customers and amount of sales were sharply down due to fears about blackouts and the nuclear disaster in northern Japan following last weeks earthquake and tsunami.—INTERNET

Man pulled from house in Japan's disaster zone

TOKYO, 19 March—Military search teams pulled a young man from a crushed house Saturday in Japan's disaster zone but a news report later said he returned there a week after the quake and tsunami struck and that he was trapped only for one day.

The young man, found in the rubble in Kesenuma city, was too weak to talk and was immediately transferred to a nearby hospital, said a military official. The official, who declined to give his name because he was not authorized to speak to the media, had no other details.



Firefighters search for earthquake and tsunami victims in Rikuzentakata city, Iwate Prefecture on 18 March, 2011.—INTERNET

Kyodo, the Japanese news agency, said the man was in his 20s. In a later report, *Kyodo* quoted his family as saying that he had been separated from them after the 11 March quake and had stayed in a

shelter before returning home Friday.

A separate military official, who would also would not provide her name, said she could not confirm the *Kyodo* report and had no other details.—*Internet*

Teams race to reconnect power to Japan nuke plant

FUKUSHIMA, 19 March—Emergency workers racing to cool dangerously overheated uranium fuel scrambled Saturday to connect Japan's crippled reactors to a new power line, with electricians fighting tsunami-shattered equipment to restart the complex's cooling systems. Though the power line reached the complex Friday, making the final link without setting off a spark and potentially an explosion means methodically working through badly damaged and deeply complex electrical systems at the Fukushima Daiichi plant on Japan's northeast

coast.

"Most of the motors and switchboards were submerged by the tsunami and they cannot be used," said Hidehiko Nishiyama of Japan's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency.

Operators of the plant, which have prompted global worries of radiation leaks, hope to have power reconnected to four of the complex's six units on Saturday, and another on

Sunday. However, even once the power is reconnected, it is not clear if the cooling systems will still work.

The storage pools need a constant source of cooling water. Even when removed from reactors, uranium rods are still extremely hot and must be cooled for months, possibly longer, to prevent them from heating up again and emitting radioactivity.—*Internet*

Toll from Japan disasters nears 7,200

TOKYO, 19 March— Japan's police agency says nearly 7,200 are dead and more than 10,900 are missing after last week's earthquake and tsunami.

A week after the disasters devastated the northeast coast, the National Police Agency said Saturday that 7,197 people died and 10,905 were missing.

Some of the missing may have been out of the region at the time of the disaster. In addition, the massive power of the tsunami likely sucked many people out to sea, and, if the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami is any guide, most of those bodies will not be found.

Internet

Magnitude 5.9 quake hits off east coast of Honshu, Japan

TOKYO, 19 March — An earthquake measuring 5.9 on the Richter scale jolted off the east coast of Honshu, Japan at 10:22 Tokyo Time (0122 GMT) on Saturday, the US Geological Survey said.

The epicentre, with a depth of 9.70 km, was determined to be at 39.6 degrees north latitude and 143.1 degrees east longitude, about 535 km northeast of Tokyo.

There are no immediate reports of casualties or tsunami alert.

A record 262 aftershocks of magnitude 5 or greater were registered in the seven days following the magnitude 9.0 earthquake off northeastern Japan on 11 March, *Kyodo News* quoted the Japan Meteorological Agency as saying Friday.

Meanwhile, there were three aftershocks of magnitude 7 or greater, including a magnitude 7.5 quake that occurred shortly afterwards, and 49 aftershocks of magnitude 6 or more, according to *Kyodo*.

Xinhua



Airport security guards look at passengers crowding in lines to check in for their flights at Narita International Airport, east of Tokyo, on 19 March, 2011, eight days after an earthquake and tsunami hit Japan. Most of foreign visitors and many Japanese residents are leaving Tokyo after radiation leakage accidents at a quake-stricken nuclear power plant.—INTERNET

Japan plans up to \$127 billion in lending after quake

TOKYO, 19 March—The Japanese government plans to dedicate up to 10 trillion yen (\$127 billion) in crisis lending to businesses to help them finance day-to-day operations and repair damage from last week's deadly earthquake and tsunami, *the Nikkei* newspaper reported on Saturday.

The government can provide special financing in the form of low-interest loans or interest payment subsidies backed by public funds when a natural disaster or other event triggers major economic instability, *the Nikkei* said.

The newspaper, without citing any sources, said that the government was considering allocating several trillion yen and up to 10 trillion yen to the scheme. Funds needed to support the scheme would be set aside in an emergency budget.

Reuters



Health



Health Tip: Help contain conjunctivitis

Conjunctivitis, commonly called pinkeye, is a contagious infection affecting the membrane that covers the white part of the eye and the inner eyelid. The eyes of someone with conjunctivitis can appear very red and irritated.

The Nemours Foundation offers these suggestions to help prevent the spread of pinkeye:

- * Do not touch a person who has pinkeye.
- * Do not touch objects (such as towels or tissues) touched by a person with pinkeye.
- * Stay away from a person with pinkeye who is coughing or sneezing.
- * Don't swim with a person who has pinkeye.
- * Keep kids home from school or daycare when they have pinkeye.
- * Wash hands carefully and often throughout the day.—Internet



Humana's Chairman and CEO Mike McCallister will be at Humana Cares' national care centre in St Petersburg on 18 March, to showcase and demonstrate its new, innovative and interactive telehealth pilot, which uses the Intel Health Guide, as shown in this photo. The Intel Health Guide enables Humana Cares nurses to remotely monitor congestive heart failure patients across the country by using two-way video, like the video call taking place in the photo.—INTERNET

Antioxidants during pregnancy affect child

PHILADELPHIA, 19 March—Feeding antioxidants to rats on a high-fat diet before and during pregnancy prevented obesity in offspring, US researchers say.

Researchers at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia suggest a high-fat, high-carbohydrate diet causes oxidative stress — an excess of free radicals — during pregnancy, predisposing the offspring to obesity and diabetes. However, feeding the rats antioxidants before and during pregnancy prevented obesity and glucose intolerance in their children, the researchers say.

Senior author Dr Rebecca A Simmons, a neonatologist at the hospital, says if the results are repeated in humans, the research may have implications for reducing obesity rates in children.

"We already know that there are critical periods during human development that influence the later development of obesity," Simmons says in a statement. "This research suggests that if we can prevent inflammation and oxidative stress during pregnancy, we may lower the risk that a child will develop obesity."—Internet

Ont surgeons bring video game technology to the OR

TORONTO, 19 March—Doctors at a Toronto hospital are banking on video game technology to save time and prevent contamination in the operating room.

A team at Sunnybrook Hospital has started using the Xbox Kinect, a hands-free gaming console equipped with a motion sensor, to virtually manipulate key medical images during surgery.

The doctors use hand gestures to zoom in and out of the images or freeze a particular shot without leaving the operating table.

Surgeons typically have to leave the sterile field around the patient to pull up images such as MRI or CT scans on a nearby computer.

They then have to go through a meticulous cleanup before returning to the area to make sure they don't bring in any bacteria that could harm the patient.

It can take up to 20 minutes to clean up each time a doctor consults an image, said Dr Calvin Law, who helped integrate the technology into the operating room.

Internet

Medics of U-health (Ubiquitous Health) centre take the blood pressure of a diabetic patient (R) during a video conference call with a specialist at Seoul's Severance Hospital (on the monitor) in Russia's far eastern city of Vladivostok on 15 February, 2011.

INTERNET



Business



Roanwell buys product lines

NEW YORK, 19 March—Communications equipment manufacturer Roanwell Corp of New York has purchased handset product lines of Star Dynamic Corp.

Star Dynamic's H-207, H-250 and H-350 handsets, used with military man-pack radio equipment such as the AN/PRC-70 and AN/PRC-77, will be offered under the Roanwell brand.

Roanwell said it intends to manufacture the handsets at its facility in the Bronx.

Roanwell specializes in manu-

facturing headsets, handsets, microphones, earphones, cords, harnesses, and accessories for military and commercial communications.

It said the acquisition of the handset product lines continue Roanwell's expansion and growth.

We are very excited about broadening our handset product offerings, especially with one of the most active handset product lines used in today's military," Roanwell Chief Executive Officer Barbara LaBarre said.—Internet



Two real estate agents chat beside their advertisements along a street in Beijing on 11 March. China's efforts to cool its red-hot real estate market showed signs of working in February, as government data Friday showed more cities seeing a fall in house prices from the previous month.—INTERNET

GM to suspend work in Shreveport, La

SHREVEPORT, 19 March—General Motors Co said it would close down an assembly plant in Shreveport, La. Due to a parts supply disruption caused by the Japanese earthquake.

The plant produces the Chevrolet Colorado and the GMC Canyon, both compact pickup trucks, USA Today reported on Friday.

The earthquake, which struck last Friday, was followed by a tsunami that leveled towns along the northeast coast of Japan.

GM spokesman Chris Lee said the plant would close Monday and would "resume operations as soon as we can."

Japanese suppliers produce several electronics parts for GM's vehicles, but Lee did not specify which parts from Japan were in short supply.

Due to slow sales of GM's smaller pickup trucks, the assembly plant in Shreveport is already scheduled to shut permanently "no later than 2012," Lee said.

Internet



A Boeing 747-8 freighter taxis to the runway at Paine Field in Everett, Washington in 2010. Boeing has won an order for two of its new 747-8 cargo planes from Korean Air in a deal valued at \$639 million at list prices, the companies said in a joint statement Friday.

INTERNET

Honda to recall 33,000 Odyssey minivans over weak windshield wipers

CHICAGO, 19 March—Honda Motor Co is recalling more than 33,000 Odyssey minivans to fix faulty windshield wipers, according to a Friday report on the website of National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

According to the recall notice, Honda is recalling 33,341 units of Odyssey minivans, all from the 2011 model year, in order to fix faulty windshield wiper rods, which may fail in cold weather.

The car company warned that if the wiper motor is switched on and the blades become frozen to the windshield, one of the front windshield wiper linkage rods may bend or separate from the motor due to lack of sufficient stiffness. This may lead to reduction in driver's forward visibility in adverse weather conditions, increasing the risk of a crash.

Honda said that dealers will have the weak rod replaced free of charge, and the safety recall is expected to begin on or before 14 April, 2011.

Xinhua

First batch of sandstorms to last till Monday

BEIJING, 19 March—Most parts of North and Northwest China have witnessed sandstorms since 12 March, with Beijing wrapped in sand and dust on Friday.

The air quality in the capital is classified as slightly polluted in most areas, but severely polluted in Badaling in Yanqing county, according to the latest statistics from the Beijing environmental protection bureau. The bureau said several of its downtown surveillance stations had detected higher than normal levels of particulate matter - a major indicator of air pollution, at an average 500 milligrams per cubic meter.

In the outer Changping and Daxing Districts, the level topped 800

mg per cu m, the bureau said.

The sandstorm is likely to last until Monday, and will cover Xinjiang, Qinghai, Gansu, Inner Mongolia and Ningxia, the China Meteorological Administration (CMA) said on its website on Friday.

“Generally speaking, about 80 percent of the country’s sandstorms happen in spring, especially from March to May. We are entering the sandstorm season,” said Li Xiaoquan, a meteorologist with the CMA.

The monitoring results of the National Climate Centre show there will be slightly more sandstorms this spring than in 2010, but below the average level in North China.

Xinhua



An artist’s rendering of a planned export terminal in Kitimat, British Columbia is seen in this handout. Canadian natural gas giant Encana Corp is looking to tap into lucrative overseas markets by taking a 30 percent stake in an export terminal planned for the northern British Columbia coast. At the facility in Kitimat, BC, the gas will be converted into a liquid in ultra-cold temperatures. The liquefied natural gas, or LNG, can then be loaded onto specialized tankers and sold around the world.—INTERNET

Small bomb explodes outside Indonesia’s capital

JAKARTA, 19 March—Police say a small bomb has exploded east of the Indonesian capital, but no one has been hurt.

Lieutenant Colonel Dadang Raharja says police found the makeshift bomb in a cardboard box along with a note that said: “This contains a bomb. Allah Akbar.” Allah Akbar is Arabic for “God is great.”

The cardboard box was sitting next to a power box inside a housing complex on Jakarta’s outskirts.

Raharja said Friday the bomb squad was removing the bomb so that it could be safely detonated when it went off outdoors, far away from the public.

The capital is already on edge, after four parcel bombs were delivered earlier this week to four high-profile Indonesians.

Internet

A worker ties up a bag of cabbages before loading them onto a truck at Kamojang village near Garut, in Indonesia’s West Java Province 19 March, 2011. INTERNET



Kids increasingly among Mexico drug war victims

MEXICO CITY, 19 March—The crime report describes the body of the shooting victim in the plain, unadorned language of the police: Thin. Black hair, light brown skin, purple blouse. Bullet wound in chest. Then comes the age: About 4 years old. Children, from toddlers to early teens, are increasingly falling victim to the brutal violence of

Mexico’s drug war, a conflict that has killed more than 34,000 lives in the last four years.

“It is infuriating that they gunned down a little girl,” said Rosa Cruz Muller, the coordinator of the Guerrero state child welfare agency. “What could she have done to them? How could she defend herself?”

Once, Mexican cartel

gunmen took out their targets with accurate fire, often leaving their children sitting unharmed in the same car. Now the killers increasingly seem to be willing to kill even the youngest of children.

The problem has become particularly acute in Acapulco, the Pacific coast resort that has become the scene of bloody cartel turf battles.—Internet

Hyundai recalls 190,000 cars in US

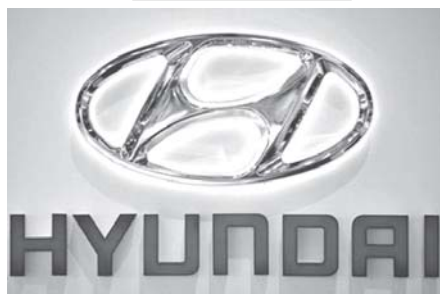
SEOUL, 19 March—South Korea’s largest automaker, Hyundai Motor Co, has recalled 190,000 cars with faulty airbags in the United States, a news agency report said Saturday.

Hyundai recalled 190,000 Elantra passenger cars sold between 2006 and 2008 in the US as they have defective airbag sensors, Yonhap news agency said.

The recall is expected to begin next month, it said.

Recall repairs will be provided at dealer service centres, it added.

Internet



South Korea’s largest automaker, Hyundai Motor Co, has recalled 190,000 cars with faulty airbags in the United States, a news agency report said Saturday.—INTERNET

US hopes geopolitics can help land India jet deal

WASHINGTON, 19 March—Two US aerospace firms are jostling with global rivals to win a \$11-12 billion Indian fighter jet contract, hoping a nascent US-India strategic partnership can help seal the deal.

As defence contracts go, Delhi’s bid to replace 126 aging MiG fighters is large, but hardly a show stopper.

Still, in an industry where billion dollar contracts are commonplace, the project is turning heads.

“It is not the price,” explained Ron Somers, president of the US-India Business Council, “the \$11 billion is great, but this is geopolitical.”

India, after 50 years of depending on Russian fighter technology, is casting around for a new partner.

To play that role US firms Lockheed Martin and Boeing are pitched against Europe’s Eurofighter, France’s Dassault, Sweden’s Saab and Russia’s RSK MiG.

Whichever company and country wins, the deal could help cement military and strategic ties with one of the world’s fastest emerging powers.

“You are talking about aligning how you work together for the next two generations,” Somers said.

Experts say that the Indian Air Force, by looking beyond Russia’s MiG-21s, could remove one of the last vestiges of Cold War power politics and set the stage for a revamp of India’s military outlook.



Indian Air Force Jaguar aircraft fly in formation during the Aero India 2011 inauguration ceremony at the Yelhanka Air Force station in Bangalore on 19 Feb. INTERNET

“The supply of the MiG-21 established the Soviet Union as a close ally of the Indian government in the ‘60s and it led to the 1971 Indo-Soviet friendship treaty,” said Sunil Dasgupta, an India military expert and lecturer at the University System of Maryland.

“Whichever aircraft is chosen is going to be the mainstay of the Indian Air Force for maybe 30 years.”

The training and maintenance contacts that come with that could prove invaluable in boosting ties with India’s powerful military.

Internet

Shwekya Thingan offered to Buddha Patima Jade Buddha images in Uppatasanti Pagoda cave, Maha Sutaungpyae Pagoda

Consecration of four Buddha Patima Jade Buddha Images and Maha Sutaungpyae Pagoda in progress.

MNA



NAY PYI TAW, 19 March—The third Shwekya Thingan offering ceremony for four Buddha Patima Jade Buddha images kept in the cave of Uppatasanti Pagoda and Maha Sutaungpyae Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw was held in the cave of Uppatasanti Pagoda here this morning in conjunction with a consecration ceremony.

Present on the occasion were State Ovadacariya Sayadaws, State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaws, members of State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders, Tipitakadhara Tipitakovidaya Sayadaws, title recipient Sayadaws, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Brig-Gen Maung Maung

Aye, ministers, deputy ministers, senior military officers, departmental heads, local authorities, Wut associations of ministries, members of the pagoda board of trustees, members of religious associations and guests.

The commander, ministers and party offered Shwekya Thingan and 'soon', fruits, flowers and water



Shwekya Thingan offered to four Buddha Patima Jade Buddha Images.

MNA

Mandalay Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Dr Bhattanta Kumarabhivamsa administered the Nine Precepts to the congregation. The Sangha members recited parittas.

Next, the commander and party offered provisions to the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha.

MNA



Shwekya Thingan offered to four Buddha Patima Jade Buddha Images.

MNA

to the Buddha Patima Jade Buddha images and Maha Sutaungpyae Pagoda at Ganthakuditaik at the northeast corner of Uppatasanti Pagoda.

The Wut associations recited parittas. Next, Sayadaws and members of the Sangha

consecrated the four Buddha images and Maha Sutaungpyae Pagoda.

Then followed a merit-sharing ceremony and Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Presiding Nayaka of Bhamo Monastery of

Newly-upgraded tarred road opened in Kyaikto Tsp

YANGON, 19 March—As a gesture of hailing the 66th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, newly-upgraded Merchant Street was commissioned in North Ward of

Kyaikto Township, Mon State on 17 March.

The tarred facility was constructed by Kyaikto Township Development Affairs Committee and was formally opened by

member of the Township Peace and Development Council township Police Force Chief Police Captain Tin Kyi and the executive of the township DAC.—MNA

Yangon Mayor inspects progress of concrete roads

YANGON, 19 March—Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor U Aung Thein Lin inspected new arrival concrete mixers at YCDC Plant and Fleet

Department on Bo Min Yaung Street in Mingala Taungnyunt Township here this morning.

The mayor then viewed progress of paving concrete road with

the use of new concrete mixers between Banya Dalla Junction and Thamein Bayan Junction on Kyeikkasan Street in Tamway Township.

MNA



SPDC Member Thura U Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay The present offertories to a Sayadaw.—MNA



SPDC Secretary-1 Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin offer alms to a Sayadaw.—MNA

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe ...

(from page 16)
Secretary-1 Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo presented Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika title and insignia to Aungzedi Sasana Beikman Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Çatila of Sawbogyigon Ward in Insein Township of Yangon Region.
SPDC member U Tin Aye offered Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika title and insignia to Molan Khamti Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Gunavamsa of Ledo in Tinsukia District in Assam State of the Republic of India.
General Min Aung

Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence donated Agga Maha Pandita title and insignia to Abbot of Swarnamali Monastery Ven. Ambalangoda Sri Sumangala of Thelawala in Mount Lavinia Ratmalama of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Shwehintha Tawya Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Paññajota of Ward 7 in Nyaungdon of Ayeyawady Region and Hsutaungpyay Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sumanananda of Taunglonbyan Ward in Mingala Taungnyunt Township of Yangon Region.
Commander-in-

Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Nyan Tun offered Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja titles and insignia to three Sayadaws and Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Agga Maha Pandita titles and insignia to three Sayadaws.
Senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, the Attorney-General, the Auditor-General, the Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command and the ministers donated Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja, Agga Maha Pandita, Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja, Agga Maha Kamathanaçariya, Agga Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita, Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita, Saddhamma Jotikadhaja, Kamma-

Prime Minister U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Win offer provisions to a Sayadaw.—MNA



thanaçariya, Ganthavaçaka Pandita and Dhammakathika Bahujanahitadhara titles and insignia to the Sayadaws.

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

sented Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja title to Nun Daw Kissaratheri of Withakha Nunnery in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township of Yangon Region.

Daw Khin Lay The, wife of SPDC member

Thura U Shwe Mann, presented Ganthavaçaka Pandita title to Nun Daw Tikkhavati of Myawady Nunnery of Chanmyathaya Ward in Pyigyidagun Township of Mandalay Region.

(See page 9)



SPDC Member U Tin Aye presents offertories to a Sayadaw.

MNA



General Min Aung Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla present offertories to a Sayadaw.

MNA



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye confers religious title on a sayadaw.—MNA



SPDC Member Thura U Shwe Mann confers religious title on a sayadaw.—MNA



Prime Minister U Thein Sein confers religious title on a sayadaw.—MNA



SPDC Secretary-1 Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo confers religious title on a sayadaw.—MNA



SPDC Member U Tin Aye confers religious title on a sayadaw.—MNA

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe ...

(from page 8)	Thein Sein, donated	of Yang-gyiU Theravada
Daw Khin Khin Win,	Ganthavaçaka Pandita title	Buddhist Missionary
wife of Prime Minister U	to Nun Daw Dhammatheri	(See page 10)

General
Min
Aung
Hlaing
confers
religious
title on a
sayadaw.

MNA



Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Nyan Tun confers a religious title on a Sayadaw.—MNA



Com-
mander-
in-Chief
(Air) Lt-
Gen Myat
Hein
confers
religious
title on a
Sayadaw.

MNA



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



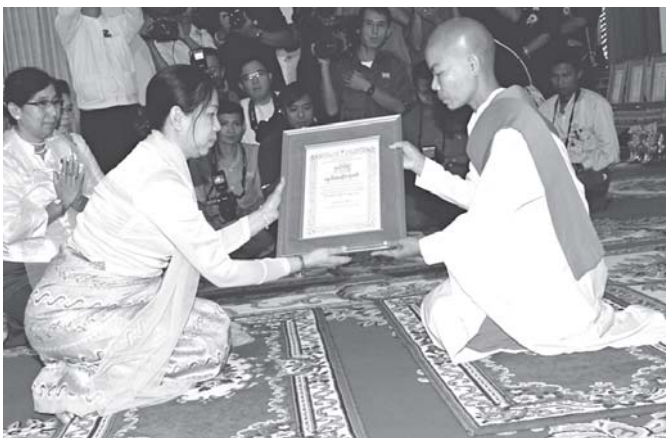
Daw Khin Lay Thet, wife of SPDC member Thura U Shwe Mann, confers a religious title on a nun.—MNA



Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of Prime Minister U Thein Sein, confers a religious title on a nun.—MNA



Daw Khin Saw Hnin, wife of SPDC Secretary-1 Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo, confers religious title on a nun.—MNA



Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of General Min Aung Hlaing of Ministry of Defence, confers a religious title on a nun.—MNA

IMAGES OF CEREMONY TO CONFER RELIGIOUS TITLES ON PROMINENT MONKS AND LAY PERSONS, AND TO OFFER PROVISIONS TO VENERABLE MONKS HELD ON A GRAND SCALE IN THE PRECINCT OF UPPATASANTI PAGODA IN NAY PYI TAW.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe...

(from page 9)

Nunnery in Mashikataung Ward in Phakant Township of Kachin State.

Daw Khin Saw Hnin, wife of Secretary-1 Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo, offered Ganthava-çaka Pandita title to Nun Daw Sumala of Maha Ledi Dhammethaka Nunnery of Ledi Ward in Monywa of

Sagaing Region.

Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of General Min Aung Hlaing, presented Ganthavaçaka Pandita title to Nun Daw Çandamala of Theravada Buddhist Missionary Nunnery of Ciinhmwa Ward in Falam Township of Chin State.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye presented Agga Maha Thirithu-dhamma Manijotadhara titles and insignia to U Shwe Hmi of No. 105 on Thameinbayan Road in Tamwaygyi Ward (A+D) in Tamway Township of Yangon Region, Dr Than Tun of 3/A on Pyidawaye

Avenue on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Ward 7 of Yankin Township in Yangon Region and Dr Kyaw Saw of No. 146 on Mandalay-Lashio Road in Ward 4 of PyinOoLwin Township in Mandalay Region.

SPDC Member Thura U Shwe Mann presented Agga Maha Thirithudhamma Manijotadhara title and insignia to Dr U Soe Thein of No. 206 at the corner of Thanthuma and Sayibin Streets in Ward 23 of Thingangyun Township in Yangon Region and Thudhamma Manijotadhara title and insignia U Yar Chi

(See page 11)



SPDC Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye confers religious title on a layperson.

MNA

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe...

(from page 10)

of Tayoktan Street in Phayagyi Ward of Monywa in Sagaing Region.

Prime Minister U Thein Sein presented Thudhamma Manijotadhara titles and insignia to U Sein Hlaing of Pwesardan Street in Phayagyi Ward of Monywa



SPDC Secretary-1 Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo confers religious title on a layperson.—MNA

in Sagaing Region and U Yon Sein of No. 385 on 82nd Street between 30th and 31st Streets in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay Region.

Secretary-1 Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo presented Thudhamma Manijotadhara titles and insignia to U Maung Thein of 46/E on Po Sein Street in Natmauk Ward of Tamway Township in Yangon Region and U Kyaw Htay of Ywameiktha Village of

SPDC Member Thura U Shwe Mann confers religious title on a layperson.

MNA



YeU Township in Sagaing Region.

SPDC member U Tin Aye presented Thudhamma Manijotadhara titles and insignia to U Than Htay of No. 76 on Nilar Street in Region-2 in Thuhka Chantha Ward of Nyaungshwe Township in Shan State and U Win Pe of No. 86 on Upper Thittaw Street in East Sawyanpaing Ward in Ahlon Township of Yangon Region.

Daw Mya Mya San presented Agga Maha Thirithudhamma Theingi titles and insignia to Daw Kyin Thein of No. 49 on 27th Street in Ward 3 of Pabedan Township in Yangon Region, Daw Nwe Nwe Kyi of Yadanakyun Avenue of Extended Ward in North Okkalapa Township of Yangon Region and Daw Kyway Kyway of Building 3 on Tayoktan Street in Phayagyi Ward in Monywa of Sagaing Region.

Daw Khin Lay Thet presented Agga Maha Thirithudhamma Theingi titles and insignia to Sitagu Daw Aye Thein of No. 1 on Hlawga Street in Ward



SPDC Member U Tin Aye confers religious title on a layperson.

MNA

IMAGES OF CEREMONY TO CONFER RELIGIOUS TITLES ON OUTSTANDING LAYPERSONS HELD ON A GRAND SCALE IN THE PRECINCT OF UPPATASANTI PAGODA IN NAY PYI TAW.



Prime Minister U Thein Sein confers religious title on a layperson.

MNA

20/A in Dagon Myothit (South) Township in Yangon Region, Daw Nilar Shwe of No. 83 on Upper Kyimyindine Street in East Zaygyi Ward in Kyimyindine Township of Yangon Region and Daw Aye Kyi of No. 46 at Daingwunkwin in Shangon Ward of Mawlamyine in Mon State.

Daw Khin Khin Win presented Thudhamma Theingi titles and insignia to Daw Pyone Yi of No. 5 on 11th Yekheset Street in Ward 5 of Myaungmya Township in Ayeyawady Region, Daw Than Than Swe of No. 194/12 between 34th and 35th Streets and 78th and 79th Streets in Kinsanamahi Ward of West Shwechihtoe Ward in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay Region and Daw San Shin of No. 10 on Mahn Ba Khaing Street in Uyin North Ward in Hinthada of Ayeyawady Region.

Daw Khin Saw Hnin presented Thudhamma Theingi titles and insignia to Daw Nan Chit Swe of No. 17 on 1st Shwewuthmon Street in Pathein Township of Ayeyawady Region, Daw San San Oo of No. P/14 on Myananda Street in Myakantha Uyin Ward 5 of Pathein Township in Ayeyawady Region and Daw Yi Yi Htay of No. 13 on 7th Street in Ward 4 of Myaungmya Township of Ayeyawady Region.

Daw Kyu Kyu Hla presented Thudhamma Theingi titles and insignia to Daw Khin Pyone Yin of No. 144 on 34th street between 80th and 81st streets in Block 556 of East Aungnan Avenue in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay Region,

(See page 12)



Daw Mya Mya San, wife of SPDC Vice-Chairman Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, presents religious title to a layperson.—MNA



Daw Khin Saw Hnin, wife of Secretary-1 Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo, confers religious title on a layperson.—MNA

Daw Khin Lay Thet, wife of SPDC Member Thura U Shwe Mann, presents religious title to a layperson.
MNA



Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of General Min Aung Hlaing of Ministry of Defence, confers religious title on a layperson.—MNA



Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of Prime Minister U Thein Sein, presents religious title to a layperson.
MNA



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, SPDC member Thura U Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Prime Minister U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, Secretary-1 Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, SPDC member U Tin Aye, General Min Aung Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, senior military officers and their wives of the office of the Commander-in-Chief, the office of the Commander-in-Chief (Air) and the Ministry of Defence, ministers, the Attorney-General, the Auditor-General, the Chairman of CSSTB and deputy ministers, departmental heads, staff families and people offered rice and provisions to members of the Sangha along the road to the southern archway of the pagoda and the ring-road of the pagoda.

MNA

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, wife...

(from page 11)

Daw Lei Lei Aung of No. 44 on Panwa Street in Ward 30 of Thuwunna Bogyoke Ywathit in Thingangyun Township of Yangon Region and Daw Sabei Ko Lay of No. 331 on 83rd Street between 31st and 32nd Streets in Block 572 at East Aungmyan Avenue in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay Region.

Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung supplicated on the religious affairs.

Vice-Chairman of SSMNC Presiding Nayaka of Dhammikayon (Kyaikpi) Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Gunesana of Yankin Town-

ship delivered a sermon, and the congregation shared merits gained.

After the ceremony, families of the Ministry of Defence, the Prime Minister's Office, the State Peace and Development Council Office and Central Offices, the office of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the office of the Commander-in-Chief (Air), families of the offices of Adjutant-General and Quartermaster-General, Nay Pyi Taw Command Headquarters, ministries, the Supreme Court, the Attorney-General's Office, the Auditor-General's Office, the office of CSSTB, Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, Nay Pyi Taw District and Township PDCs, religious and social organizations, companies and wellwishers from the designated places offered rice and alms to members of the Sangha.

Myanma Gems Emporium continues for tenth day

NAY PYI TAW, 19 March—The 48th Myanma Gems Emporium organized by Central Committee for Organizing Myanma Gems Emporium continued for the tenth day at Mani Yadana Jade Hall near Myanma Gems Museum here today.

Minister for Mines U Ohn Myint visited the emporium which was held for the second time in the capital city. Secretary of the Central Committee for Organizing Myanma Gems Emporium managing-Director of Myanma Gems Enterprise U Thien Swe and committee members supervised gems merchants at home and abroad bidding for jade lots.

The minister viewed sales of jade lots through competitive bidding system and greeted local and foreign gems merchants. The emporium will be held till 22 March.—MNA

Meritorious deeds performed at religious edifices throughout nation on Fullmoon Day of Tabaung



Shwedagon Pagoda teeming with devotees on Fullmoon Day of Tabaung.—MNA



On Fullmoon Day of Tabaung, devotees seen on platform of Uppatasanti Pagoda.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 19 March—Today being the Fullmoon Day of Tabaung the people built pagodas made of sand on beaches, dedicating to the Lord Buddha, as a tradition of successive Myanmar eras. Till today, Buddha Pujaniya festivals have been held at pagodas, stupas and temples in Myanmar including Nay Pyi Taw on Fullmoon Day of Tabaung.

This morning, a ceremony to offer emerald bowl and Shwekyia robes for the third time was held at Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw in conjunction with the consecration ceremony. While 9000 oil lamps were

offered to the pagoda in the evening, religious associations recited Buddha Desana and religious verses by offering fruits and water to the Buddha image. In addition, the pagoda was packed with devotees who performed meritorious deeds and practised meditation.

The 138th Buddha Pujaniya of Lawkamarazein Pagoda took place at the pagoda in Pyinmana. The local people offered rice to 150 members of the Sangha and 125 nuns.

Pilgrims and devotees donated fruits, meals, flowers, water and lights to Datusaya Datpaungsu Pagoda and

Maha Muni Buddha Image in Bawgathiri Ward of Zabuthiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw District and Phayakoehsu Pagoda, Koekhangyi Pagoda and Hlaykhwintaung Pagoda in Pyinmana.

The 2599th Buddha Pujaniya of Shwedagon Pagoda was held at the prayer hall on the platform of pagoda this morning. Members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees offered lights, joss sticks, meals, water to the pagoda and took the Nine Precepts. A ceremony to share merits gained for Buddha Pujaniya of the pagoda was held at Chanthagyi Prayer Hall

of the pagoda.

Similar ceremonies took place at Botahtaung Kyaikdaep Pagoda, Shwephonepwin Pagoda, Sule, Tooth Relic, Kyaikwaing, Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye, Maha Wizaya, Koehatgyi, Chaukhtatgyi, Ngahtatgyi, Kyaikkasan pagodas, Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image, South Okkalapa, Melamu, Kyaikkaloh, Kyaikkale, Kyaikh-mawwun, Kyaikkhauk, Padagyi and Thunphayagyi pagodas where the devotees performed meritorious deeds and practised meditation.

MNA

Cultural troupes perform entertainment to mark 50th anniversary of Nepal-Myanmar diplomatic ties



Minister U Nyan Win speaking at ceremony to mark 50th Anniversary Myanmar-Nepal diplomatic ties.—MNA

YANGON, 19 March – To mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal and the Union of Myanmar, cultural troupes of the two countries presented dances at the National Theatre on Myomakyaung Street in Dagon Township here this evening.

Among the audience were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and wife, Ambassador of Nepal

Ms Guna Laxmi Sharma, officials and guests.

First, the Nepalese Ambassador and officials formally opened the entertainment programme.

Next, she extended greetings and Minister U Nyan Win made a speech. Then, the cultural troupes entertained the audience with dances.

Later, the minister and ambassador presented gifts to the cultural troupes.

MNA

Indonesian athletes demonstrate skills in Shorinji Kenpo event

YANGON, 19 March— A 19-member delegation led by Vice-Chairman of Indonesian Olympic Committee Mr Indra Karta Sasmka arrived in Myanmar today by air and held a sports demonstration at the National Indoor Stadium-1, here, in the afternoon.

It was attended by General Secretary of MOC Director-General U Thaug Htaik of Sports and Physical Education Department, officials, Indonesian OC Mr Indra Karta Sasmka and party and athletes of Myanmar Martial Arts Federation, Myanmar Karatedo Federation and Myanmar Taekwondo Federation, trainees of Sports and Physical Education Institute (Yangon).

The MOC General Secretary and the Indonesian OC held discussions on improvement of sports events between the two countries. Next, the Indonesian athletes demonstrated their skills in Shorinji Kenpo event. Next, training equipment were presented for development of Shorinji Kenpo sport event in Myanmar.

The Indonesian team will hold joint exercise with athletes of Myanmar Martial Arts Federation, Myanmar Karatedo Federation and Myanmar Taekwondo Federation.—MNA

BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE Saturday, 19th March

Berbatov rescues 10-man United

Dimitar Berbatov got 10-man Manchester United out of jail, as his 88th minute goal was enough to down Bolton Wanderers 1-0 at Old Trafford



free-kick at Edwin van der Sar.

Home defender Jonny Evans saw was shown a straight red card in the second half for a lunge on Stuart Holden.

But Berbatov gave United the points by bundling home after Jussi Jaaskelainen failed to hold Nani's shot.

Internet

MANCHESTER, 19 March — The Bulgarian, who only came on as a half-time substitute, was in the right spot to bundle the ball into the net after Jussi Jaaskelainen made a mess of a straight-forward Nani drive.

In a first half of few chances, Javier Hernandez shot wide and Martin Petrov hit a



Stoke City 4-0 Newcastle Utd

LONDON, 19 March— Stoke City moved five points clear of the Premier League relegation zone with a 4-0 win at home to a poor Newcastle side.

Jonathan Walters opened the scoring with a lovely flicked header on 29 minutes but Toon were very much still in it going

into half time.

Their hopes were dashed by a shocking display in the first three minutes after the break, a brief spell that saw them self destruct as an error from keeper Steve Harper allowed Jermaine Pennant to extend the lead while a terrible attempt at a wall let Danny Higginbotham's free-kick straight through soon afterwards. The rest of the half was relatively even, with Asmir Begovic pulling off a superb save in the Stoke goal, but substitute Ricardo Fuller completed the thrashing with a cool finish deep into injury time after a superb flick on by man-of-the-match Walters.

Internet

BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE			
Tottenham	0-0	West Ham Utd	
Aston Villa	0-1	Wolves	
Blackburn	2-2	Blackpool	
Man Utd	1-0	Bolton	
Stoke City	4-0	Newcastle	
WBA	2-2	Arsenal	
Wigan	2-1	Birmingham	
Everton	2-1	Fulham	

Match previews - Sun 20th March

A look ahead to Sunday's fixtures in the Barclays Premier League.

There are two key Barclays Premier League fixtures on Sunday. First Liverpool visit Sunderland aiming to banish the memories of last season's freak beach ball goal. Then title chasers Chelsea and Manchester City meet at Stamford Bridge in a match which neither can afford to lose.

Chelsea Man City

Italian coaches Carlo Ancelotti and Roberto Mancini go head to head at Stamford Bridge.

City have won the last three meetings between the sides including a 1-0 success at Eastlands in September and a 4-2 triumph in west London last season.

Chelsea have taken seven points from a possible nine but are still awaiting a first goal from £50m striker Fernando Torres.

City have managed just one point from a possible nine on the road but will aim to open up a five-point gap over their opponents.

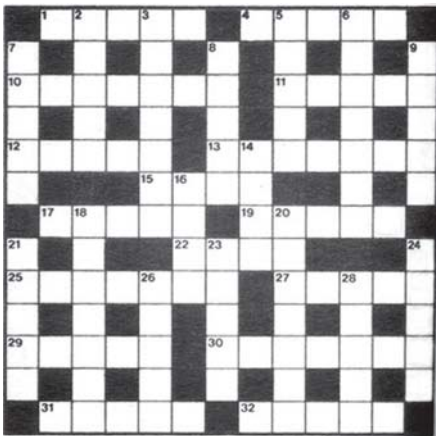
Sunderland Liverpool

Liverpool are aiming to avenge last season's 1-0 defeat at the Stadium of Light when a shot by Darren Bent deflected into the net off a stray beach ball thrown from the crowd.

Sunderland have managed just one point from their last three home matches while Liverpool have won five of their last seven Barclays Premier League fixtures. The Black Cats have picked up just one point from a possible 15 to slip to second from bottom in the current form table. The sides drew 2-2 when they met at Anfield in September.—*Internet*



CROSSWORDS PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Retail outlets
- 4 Lubricated
- 10 Wed
- 11 Horrify
- 12 Scene of combat
- 13 Completely
- 15 Wary
- 17 Avarice
- 19 Regretful
- 22 Tardy
- 25 Amused
- 27 Discourage
- 29 Heath
- 30 Peewit
- 31 Wrath
- 32 Stage-whisper

DOWN

- 2 Steed
- 3 Archbishop
- 5 Unsuitable
- 6 Large British moth
- 7 Daub
- 8 Smell
- 9 Excoriates
- 14 Examination
- 16 Lazy
- 18 Rumpus
- 20 Solver of Sphinx's riddle
- 21 Precipitous
- 23 Grown-up
- 24 Boasts
- 26 Depart
- 28 Attempted

Peloton on collision course over UCI radio ban

MILAN, 19 March—The International Cycling Union (UCI) dug its heels in Friday as the elite peloton continued its defiance in the wake of a radio-earpiece ban which threatens to scupper the start to the season. The UCI is gradually phasing the two-way radios out because it believes teams have become too dependent on them, use them to strategic advantage and that their use has led to boring races.

Some teams have argued the radios are essential for security reasons, with sports directors and riders able to warn of dangers on the road such as oil spills, pot holes or dangerous bends in the mountains. Despite a threat Thursday by professional



The president of Union of International Cyclists (UCI) Pat McQuaid

cycling teams to boycott the inaugural Tour of Beijing in October to protest the ban, the UCI has not budged. On Friday, it was revealed

the peloton aims to defy UCI orders by wearing the radio-earpieces during the Harelbeke GP E3 on 26 March, the Coppi-Bartali international cycling week on 22-26 March and the Criterium International on 26-27 March.—*Internet*

Angela Stanford leads LPGA Founders Cup

PHOENIX, 19 March— Angela Stanford got over a terrible hole in a hurry Friday in the first round of the LPGA Founders Cup. After making a mess of the par-4 eighth for a double bogey, she holed out from a fairway bunker for eagle on the par-4 ninth hole. Her 8-iron shot bounced twice on the green, rolled a few feet, struck the flagstick and dropped into the cup. "After our first two events, I found that I was struggling mentally, and I just get down on myself really fast," Stanford said.

Internet

Sharapova's crib devoid of tennis treasures

INDIAN WELLS, 19 March — Maria Sharapova says that most of her tennis treasures from her decade-long career are either tucked away in the back of a closet or out of sight in the basement of her house. The 23-year-old Russian said that visitors to her luxury California home would be hard pressed to find any signs that she is one of the most successful female tennis players of all-time. "I was never like a souvenir type of person," Sharapova said. "You come to my house and I don't think you'd even know that I play tennis, honestly."

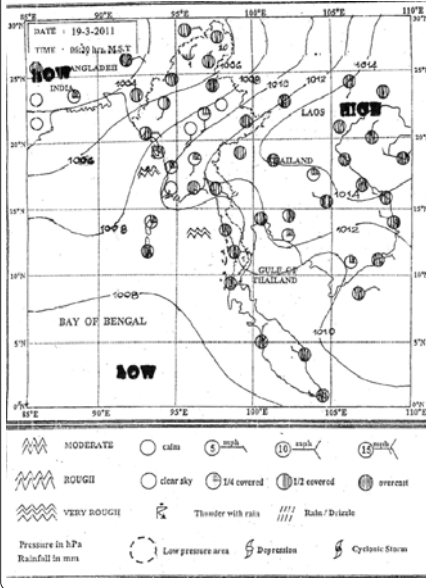


Maria Sharapova

Fashion conscious Sharapova likes to dress up as she disclosed this week at the BNP Paribas Open tournament saying she would rather sleep with her high heels on than a pair of tennis shoes. "You

don't see any tennis things around," Sharapova said. "Even my trophies are pretty stored in a (dining room) cabinet "Only if you sit in the dining-room table, where nobody ever sits at, unless you point them out, I don't think anyone really sees them." —*Internet*

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Saturday, 19th March, 2011

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Kachin State, isolated in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below March average temperatures in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Regions, Mon State, (5°C) to (6°C) below March average temperature in Upper Sagaing Region and Southern Shan State, (7°C) to (8°C) below March average temperatures in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Kachin, Eastern Shan, Northern Shan, Kayahk and Kayin States and about March average temperature in the remaining Regions and States. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Putao (0.94) inch.

Nay Pyi Taw

Maximum temperature on 18-3-2011 was 95°F. Minimum temperature on 19-3-2011 was 65°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 19-3-2011 was (56%). Rainfall on 19-3-2011 was (Nil).

Yangon (Kaba-Aye)

Maximum temperature on 18-3-2011 was 85°F. Minimum temperature on 19-3-2011 was 68°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 19-3-2011 was (83%).

Total sunshine hours on 18-3-2011 was (8.1) hour (Approx).

Rainfall on 19-3-2011 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, (5.79) inches at Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon each. Total rainfall since 1-1-2011 was (5.79) inches at Mingaladon, (6.89) inches at Kaba-Aye and (7.09) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (10) mph from Southeast at (15:30) hours MST on 18-3-2011.

Bay Inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of the 20th March 2011: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagaing, Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States and weather will be partly cloudy over the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of continuation of isolated rain or thundershowers in the Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 20-3-2011: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 20-3-2011: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 20-3-2011: Partly cloudy.

Djokovic reaches semis, extends win streak to 18

INDIAN WELLS, 19 March — World No 3 Novak Djokovic extended his career-best win streak to 18 matches, easily defeating France's Richard Gasquet 6-2, 6-4 to reach the Indian Wells semi-finals on Friday. The 23-year-old Djokovic is the hottest player on the ATP Tour this year, going 18-0 dating back to last

year's Davis Cup final. Besides winning the Australian Open, Djokovic captured his 20th singles title in Dubai.

"This has been the best period of tennis in my career over the past three months," Djokovic said. "I have reached another semi-final. I want to maintain this level of per-



Novak Djokovic of Serbia

formance." Djokovic, who won the title here three years ago, clinched the victory on Friday when Gasquet

pounded a pair of forehands into the net on the final two points of the match.

Internet

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL Programme Schedule (20-3-2011) (Sunday)

Transmissions	Times
Local	(09:00am-11:00am)MST
Oversea Transmission	(20-3-11 09:30 am ~ 21-3-11 09:30 am) MST

Local Transmission

- * Opening
- * News
- * Place of interest A beautiful city in Myanmar
- * News
- * Current Affair "The Second Tour of FIFA President to Myanmar"
- * Spring Poem "Second Art Exhibition"
- * News
- * A Visit to Naga New Year Festival
- * News
- * Youth and Their Role in Our Future

Oversea Transmission

- * Opening
- * News
- * Place of interest A beautiful city in Myanmar
- * News
- * A Visit to Naga New Year Festival
- * News
- * Current Affair "The Second Tour of FIFA President to Myanmar"
- * Secret Place for Yummy Food (Episode-9) (Coconut Rice)
- * News
- * Youth and Their Role in Our Future
- * News
- * Welcome to Ngwe Hsaung Beach Resort
- * Working & Living in Myanmar (Transportation)
- * News
- * Music Gallery
- * News
- * Mularsheedi we Love!
- * Spring Poem "Second Art Exhibition"
- * News
- * Myin Ma Hti Natural Cave
- * Myanmar Movie "Myself, Other Men & Women"



Sunday, 20 March View on today

- 7:00 am**
1. Paritta By Venerable Mingan Sayadaw Uppatasanti Paritta
- 7:25 am**
2. To Be Healthy Exercise
 3. Morning News
- 7:40 am**
4. Documentary (Uppatasanti Pagoda)

- 8:00 am**
5. Dhamma Puja Song
- 8:05 am**
6. Nice & Sweet Song
- 8:15 am**
7. Health Programme
- 8:20 am**
8. Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions
- 8:25 am**
9. Songs in honour of 66th Anniversary Armed Forces Day
- 8:40 am**
10. International News
- 8:45 am**
10. Musical Programme
- 11:00 am**
1. Martial Song
- 11:10 am**
2. Round Up Of The Week's International News
- 11:20 am**
3. TV Drama Series

- 12:15 pm**
4. Golf Magazine (TV)
- 12:50 pm**
5. Myanmar Movies
- 4:00 pm**
1. Martial Song
- 4:05 pm**
2. Songs Of National Races
- 4:10 am**
3. Musical Programme
- 4:25 pm**
4. Songs in honour of 66th Anniversary Armed Forces Day
- 4:40 pm**
5. University Of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Second Year (Mathematics)
- 5:00 pm**
6. Songs For Upholding National Spirit

- 5:05 pm**
7. Songs in honour of 66th Anniversary Armed Forces Day
- 5:15 pm**
8. Sing & Enjoy
- 6:00 pm**
9. Evening News
- 6:15 pm**
10. Weather Report
- 6:20 pm**
11. Royal White Elephant
- 6:35 pm**
12. Cartoon Series
- 7:00 pm**
13. TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm**
14. News
 15. International News
 16. Weather Report
 17. Cartoon Series
 18. TV Drama Series
 19. Yinhlainghatthan Taythihan (Song Competition)

- ★ Only with stability and peace will the nation develop
- ★ Only with stability and peace will democratization process be successful

- ★ Anarchy begets anarchy, not democracy
- ★ Riots beget riots, not democracy
- ★ Democracy can be introduced only through constitution

People's Desire

- We favour peace and stability
- We favour development
- We oppose unrest and violence
- Wipe out those inciting unrest and violence

- ★ VOA, BBC-sowing hatred among the people
- ★ RFA, DVB-generating public outrage
- ★ Do not allow ourselves to be swayed by killer broadcasts designed to cause troubles

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attend ceremony to confer religious titles on venerable Sayadaws

(from page 1)

Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Aung Ko supplied on the paper of opening the ceremony.

Chairman of SSMNC Bhamo Monastery Sayadaw of Mandalay Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Dr. Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa administered the Five Precepts.

Ovadaçariya of Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Committee Presiding Nayaka of Paukmyaing Monastery of Mandalay Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru title recipient Sayadaw Bhaddanta Aggavamsabhivamsa read the Sammodaniya Ovadakatha.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye offered Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru title and insignia to Bhamo Monastery Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa of Maha Nwesi Ward in Mahaangmye Township and Aletaiyki Monastery Sayadaw of Paukmyaing Monastery of Mahaangmye Township of Mandalay Bhaddanta Aggavamsabhivamsa.

SPDC member Thura U Shwe Mann presented Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru title and insignia to Maha Wizitayon Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Viçarindabhivamsa of Chanayethazan Township



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San present offertories to a Sayadaw.

MNA

of Mandalay Region.

Prime Minister U Thein Sein offered Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika title and insignia to Kyaikpi Monastery Sayadaw of Maha

Dharmikayon Pariyatti Monastery Bhaddanta Gunesana of Maha Bawdi Street in Ward 14 of Yankin Township of Yangon Region.

(See page 8)