

Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Bulgarian President

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Georgi Parvanov, President of the Republic of Bulgaria, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Bulgaria, which falls on 3 March 2007. — *MNA*

Rice and offertories worth K 175,160,751 were donated to members of the Sangha.

SPDC confers religious titles on title recipient members of the Sangha, nuns and laity

YANGON, 2 March—The government of the Union of Myanmar annually confers religious titles on members of the Sangha and nuns at home and abroad for their brilliant performance of Pariyatti duties (Gantha Dhura) and Patipatti duties (Vipassana Dhura) and laity for their generous donation for flourishing of the Sasana.

The State Law and Order Restoration Council promulgated 20 more kinds of religious titles under Notification No (42/91) on 24 October 1991. Since then, old and new religious titles have been conferred on outstanding members of the Sangha and nuns and laymen and laywomen yearly. The State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) released a list of title recipients under Notification No 1/2007 on Independence Day, on the 2nd Waning of Pyatho 1368 Myanmar Era (4 January 2007).

The presenting of certificates of religious titles to the recipients was held in conjunction with the offering of alms at Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill, here, this afternoon, attended by Daw Kyaing Kyaing, wife of Chairman of the SPDC Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, and

(See page 16)



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, wife Daw Mya Mya San and party take Five Precepts from the Sayadaw at the religious title conferring ceremony. — MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 3 March, 2007

Make relentless efforts for boosting production of agricultural sector

In honour of peasants who contribute to national development and food security of the people, 2 March has been designated as the Peasants Day.

Regarding the role of peasants, Senior General Than Shwe in his Peasants Day message sent on 2 March 2007 exhorted the peasantry to join hands with the entire national people in the tasks for the development of agricultural sector, the main pillar of the State's economy, guarding against the dangers of neo-colonialists and their hangers-on axe-handles and successful completion of the State's seven-step Road Map.

The government is constantly fulfilling the requirements of the agricultural sector inclusive of water availability. The emergence of 196 irrigation facilities and 305 river water pumping stations the length and breadth of the nation is now benefiting over 2.6 million acres of arable lands.

Peasants have been able to reclaim and use fallow and virgin land as well as wet land with the use of farm machinery in addition to applying modern agricultural techniques and quality strain crops. As a result, they are enjoying the fruits of increasing sown acreage and rising crop yield.

At present, the State's seven-step Road Map has been laid down and is being implemented for the emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

In the meantime, the National Convention is being held for the emergence of an enduring State constitution. With the active participation of delegates including delegates of peasants, significant progress has been made in this regard.

The peasantry are to make relentless efforts in extended growing of double and mixed cropping with a view to ensuring food security of the people. Only then, will the national economy and the socio-economic life of the people improve.

Six tentatively chosen for Dream World VCD Album

YANGON, 1 March— A contest to choose Mamee Ambassador for Dream World VCD Album of Myanmar Mamee Double Decker Co Ltd undertaken by Director Zinyaw Maung Maung of Zinyaw Movie, Video and Advertising Agency took place at Dusit Inya Lake Hotel on 27 February.

It was attended by Managing Director Mr Pang, General Manager Mr David and responsible persons of Myanmar Mamee Double Decker Co Ltd, guests and 21 amateurs.

U Myint Moe Aung, U Saw Khu Se, U Aung Naing San, U Stone, U Zinyaw Maung Maung and Mr David acted as members of the panel of judges at the contest.

Out of the 21 contestants, six were chosen to take part in the final contest. — MNA

Peoples' 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

Prime Minister General Soe Win sends felicitations to Bulgarian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March — General Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Sergei Stanishev, Prime Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Bulgaria, which falls on 3 March 2007. — MNA

Minister inspects hydel power stations in Shan State (North)

YANGON, 1 March — Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspected hydel power stations in Shan State (North) on 26 February and assisted in generating power at the stations.

First, Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint went to Namh Saung Ngaung Hydel Power Station, six miles east of Kyaukme and urged officials concerned of the station to make efforts for supplying power to Kyaukme and Hsipaw sufficiently. He also called for the systematic storage of water to run the power station at full capacity.

In the afternoon, the minister went to Mansanyaykya Hydel Power Station in Lashio along with Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Brig-Gen Aung Than Htut.

The power sta-

tion supplies power to townships in Shan State (North). The minister and the commander inspected the intake channel, the diversion dam and storage



Commander Brig-Gen Aung Than Htut and Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint inspect Mansanyaykya Hydel Power Station in Lashio. — MNA

of water at the power station.

During the tour of Shan State (North), the minister and the commander also inspected Namh Hmyaw Chaung

and Kon Nyaung hydel power stations. Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint also inspected the site chosen to establish a sub-power station in Lashio. On his tour of

Lashio, the minister also met with officials of No 1 Sub-Power Station in Lashio and heard reports on supply of power from the station.

MNA

UMFCCI organizes training courses

YANGON, 2 March — The Educational Work Committee of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with Myanmar Paddy Producers Association organized to open the Myanmar Rice Marketing Course (Programme-2) Production at UMFCCI Training Centre on 26 February.

Chairman of the Myanmar Paddy Producers Association U Sein Win Hlaing gave a speech.

A total of 40 trainees are attending the 12-day course.

Likewise, the Applied Accounting & Management (UMFCCI Level-I) was opened at the same venue on 25 February. Altogether 65 trainees are attending the 13-week course.

MNA



Chairman of Myanmar Paddy Producers Association U Sein Win Hlaing delivers an opening address at Myanmar Rice Marketing Course. — UMFCCI

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

UN Secretary General calls global warming a priority

UNITED NATIONS, 1 March—UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon argued Thursday that global warming poses as great a threat to the world as modern warfare, and he vowed to make reduction of greenhouse gases one of his tenure's top priorities.

Ban's remarks—made in speech in the UN General Assembly Hall addressing a high school conference on global warming—were the most detailed public account of his views on climate change. They also hinted that the new UN chief will try to push the Bush administration to join international initiatives to

combat global warming.

Ban privately urged Bush in a White House meeting in January to support international efforts to curb emissions of greenhouse gases. But Bush expressed doubts about the effectiveness of the preeminent international treaty calling for reductions in such emissions, the so-called Kyoto Protocol, because it exempts some of the world's largest emitters, including China and India, according to sources familiar with the meeting.

In outlining his concerns, Ban described global warming as a "grave and growing problem," echoing

language used by Bush to justify the 2003 US invasion of Iraq. "For my generation, coming of age at the height of the Cold War, fear of nuclear winter seemed the leading existential threat on the horizon," Ban said. "But the danger posed by war to all humanity—and to our planet—is at least matched by climate change."—INTERNET



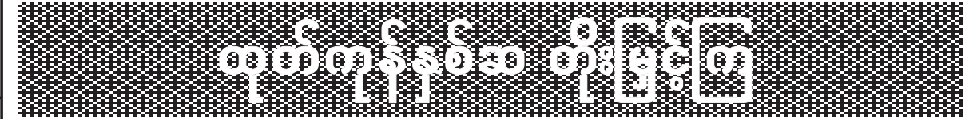
The first woman in space, Russian cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova, speaks to journalists during a news conference in Russia's space centre Star City outside Moscow on 1 March, 2007. Tereshkova will celebrate her 60th birthday on 6 March.—INTERNET

Kadaffi slams US for trying to impose political system on others

SEHNA, (Libya,) 1 March—Leader of the Libyan Revolution Colonel Moammar Kadaffi on Wednesday brought the United States to task for trying to impose its political system on other nations, saying that the world cannot follow one model.

Kadaffi made the remarks in an opening speech to a two-day seminar sponsored by the Libyan Government in the small desert town of Sehba, some 700 kilometres south of Tripoli, to mark the 30th anniversary of Libya's Jamahiriyah, or "state of the masses" system.

He cited the election system, an epitome of the American-style political system, saying people in the rural areas in African nations do not even know what election means and therefore do not want it at all. "Why imposes its system (on us)? I don't think it suits us," Kadaffi



A hostess holds a new Motorola Z8 mobile phone at the 3GSM World Congress in Barcelona in a file photo from 15 Feb, 2007. Motorola Inc aims to cut the cost of making its cheapest mobile phones by about \$2 to \$5 per handset to improve profits, Chief Executive Ed Zander said on Thursday 1 March, 2007.—INTERNET

said, adding "diversity is the foundation of life, and countries should find a system that suits them."

Libya does not have to follow other models because "Libya is free," he said through simultaneous translation, adding that his

country is willing to have cooperation with others based on mutual benefits and equality. In his impromptu speech delivering to some 700 officials and scholars including about ten Americans, he also criticized US President George W

Bush, saying that he was not a man of peace and wisdom.

"The world is going through serious problems in social, economic and moral aspects today... it is the worst period we have gone through," he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Geologists find meteorite on Panama beach

PANAMA CITY, 1 March—Panamanian geologists have found an meteorite at Rio Hato, a coastal town west of the capital Panama City.

The meteorite fell onto Rio Hato's beach last Friday, geologist Juan de Dios Villa told the Press on Wednesday.

The landing was witnessed by a security guard, who described it as a ball of fire crashing down from the sky onto the sand. The 4.2 kilos red object, measuring 20 centimetres in diameter, will be X-rayed for more details, said Villa, chief geologist at the National Mineral Resources Directorate. The meteorite shows burn marks on its exterior, and appears to be mainly carbon-based, in contrast to most meteorites, which mainly contain iron. —MNA/Xinhua

Roadside bomb kills three US soldiers in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 1 March—Three US soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb on the outskirts of Baghdad on Tuesday and one more was wounded, the US military said.

US President George W Bush is sending 21,500 extra troops to Iraq, most to Baghdad to join a major new security crackdown aimed at stemming sectarian bloodshed in the capital.

US troops and Iraqi forces have stepped up their presence in and around Baghdad as part of the plan.

A US statement said the soldiers killed on Tuesday were conducting a "route clearance mission" southwest of the capital. — MNA/Reuters



Tourists on a boat take photographs of the Singapore's waterfront skyline, on 28 Feb, 2007. — INTERNET

A cheaper, easier malaria pill

WASHINGTON, 2 March — A new, cheap pill to treat malaria was introduced Thursday, the first product of an innovative partnership between an international drug company and a medical charity.

The medicine, called ASAQ, is a pill combining artemisinin, invented in China using sweet wormwood and hailed as a miracle malaria drug, with amodiaquine, an older drug that still works in

many malarial areas.

A treatment will cost less than \$1 for adults and less than 50 cents for children. Adults with malaria will take only two pills a day for three days, and the pill will come in three smaller once-a-day sizes for babies, toddlers and children.

In Africa, malaria kills 3,000 infants and children a day, but combination drugs like this are not available for children of less than 5 kilograms, or 11 pounds, and they require

taking a larger number of pills each day, as many as 24 for some adult versions.

“This is a good thing,” said Dr Arata Kochi, chief of the World Health Organization’s global malaria program.

“They’re responding to the kind of drug profile we’ve been promoting.” Kochi has publicly demanded that drug companies stop making pills that contain artemisinin alone because they will lead to resistant strains of malaria.

Doctors like to treat diseases with multidrug cocktails because it cuts down the chance that resistance to any one drug will develop.

Admiral R Timothy Ziemer, coordinator of President George W Bush’s \$1.2 billion Malaria Initiative, said the programme would be willing to buy the new pill, assuming it met international safety standards and was requested by countries the initiative supports. — *Internet*

စတီဗင်အား ဆေးကုသမှု



Dr Margaret Chan, director-general of the World Health Organization (WHO), urged governments and international donors on Wednesday to make more efforts to realize the goal of polio eradication. — *INTERNET*



Fouled fuel: tests reveal rogue ingredient

LONDON, 2 March— Tests of the rogue petrol which has caused thousands of cars to break down have discovered traces of silicone which could have caused the contamination.

Thousands of motorists in the UK have apparently been caught up in an unprecedented scare

about the supply of contaminated fuel, as investigations by trading standards officers tried to establish why vehicles which had been filled with fuel from forecourts at Tesco and Morrisons supermarkets were losing power and coming to a standstill.

The main recovery

organisations have reported a spate of vehicles with blocked oxygen sensors in their exhausts. Silicones are used as additives for lubrication in fuel during the blending process with gasoline, but not on the scale understood to have been discovered.

Internet

Guilty pleas in \$1b fraud case in Florida

MIAMI, 1 March— Two people pleaded guilty to securities fraud in Florida on Tuesday in connection with a life insurance scheme that cost investors about one billion, US dollars, authorities said.

Carol Traina and Bari Wiggins were former managers at Mutual Benefits Corp, a Fort Lauderdale company that fraudulently promoted investment in life insurance policies held by elderly or ill people, the US Attorney’s Office said in a statement.

It said US District Judge Paul Huck accepted a plea agreement and set sentencing for 8 May for Traina and Wiggins, who each face up to five years in prison.

MNA/Reuters

A motorist flags for help after getting stuck in snow on Interstate 680, in Omaha, Neb, on Thursday, 1 March, 2007.

INTERNET

At least 20 killed as tornado hits southern US

LONDON, 2 March— At least 20 people were killed when storms struck the southern United States yesterday.

Eighteen people died when a tornado hit the small town of Enterprise in southern Alabama on Thursday afternoon, destroying the central

section of the local high school where at least 15 died.

A person was reported killed in the nearby town of Millers Ferry.

Lengthy warnings had been given, and tornado sirens had sounded in several areas, according to reports.

Children at the high school assembled in an auditorium for protection.

Rescuers were trying to remove debris from the school auditorium’s collapsed roof last night, but ended their search at 6pm.

Internet



An instructor demonstrates yoga with her dog Moq, a four-year-old Pug, during a “Dog Yoga” lesson organised by Japan Dog Yoga Association in Tokyo, on 28 Feb, 2007. — *INTERNET*



A helicopter waits to transport victims from the high school in Enterprise, Alabama where the tornado struck. — *INTERNET*

E C O N O M I C N E W S

Putin emphasizes economic cooperation in letter to Japanese PM

Moscow, 1 March — Russian President Vladimir Putin sent a letter to Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, encouraging Japan to invest in the whole Russian territory, the President's official web-site said on Wednesday.

"I think that we should concentrate particularly now on seriously developing our trade and economic cooperation and

increasing investment, including in the Urals, Siberian and Far East regions," Putin said in the letter which was passed on by Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov, currently visiting Tokyo.

The objective necessary conditions are already in place for this work.

Our business communities should play a key part in enriching and diversifying our economic

relations and translating the plans we have drawn up into practical action," he said.

"In this context, we place great importance on the major investment forum, which will take place during the Russian Prime Minister's visit to Japan, and will involve the participation of leading entrepreneurs and financiers from both countries," Putin said.—MNA/Xinhua



Japan Airlines President Haruka Nishimatsu, centre left, and Transportation Minister Tetsuzo Fuyushiba, centre right, pose with a model of Japan Airlines Boeing 777 designed for their oneworld flight, during a press conference, along with the other leaders of 10-member oneworld alliance of carriers, in Tokyo, on 1 March, 2007. — INTERNET



Cambodian forex reserves top \$1b

PHNOM PENH, 1 March — Cambodia's foreign exchange reserves have climbed to more than 1 billion US dollars due to constant economic growth over the last decade, Prime Minister Hun Sen said here on Tuesday.

The reserves of 1.097 billion US dollars at the end of 2006 have increased by 9 times from 100 million US dollars in 1994, Hun Sen said while addressing an academic seminar.

Cambodia's annual per capita income also rose to 500 US dollars last year, up from 247 US dollars in 1994, he said.

All of the above factors reflect the success of reforms which the government has been strictly implementing, he added.

The Cambodian economy, fuelled largely by the garment industry, has

grown at an average 9.5 per cent annually since 1999, according to official statistics.

Last year's growth was 10.4 per cent, lower than the 13.5 per cent in 2005 but still one of the highest rates in Asia.

MNA/Xinhua

The trading floor of the Philippine Stock Exchange located in Manila's financial district of Makati, on 1 March, 2007.

INTERNET

Pu'er tea, packaged in the shape of pumpkins, is on display at a tea shop in Suzhou, East China's Jiangsu Province recently.—INTERNET

Chinese official calls for stronger trade ties with Russia

Moscow, 1 March— China and Russia should adjust their trade structure and boost two-way trade, a senior Chinese trade official said on Tuesday.

"Trade between China and Russia hit a new high last year according to Chinese statistics," Yu Guangzhou, Vice-Minister of Commerce, told a news conference in Moscow.

The trade volume totalled 33.4 billion US dollars in 2006, up 15 per cent from the previous year, Yu said.

"Russia has become the eighth largest trading partner for China and China the fourth largest trading partner for Russia," he said,

adding the two countries have seen increasing mutual investment and growing border trade.

The vice-minister urged optimizing the trade structure between China

and Russia and expressed hope that both sides step up cooperation in the high-tech sector and in resources and energy processing.

MNA/Xinhua



Vietnam coffee exports skyrocket in two months

HANOI, 1 March — Vietnam gained 565 million US dollars from exporting coffee in the first two months of this year, posting a year-on-year soar of 222.8 per cent partly due to higher world prices, according to a local industry agency on Wednesday.

Between January and February, the country shipped abroad 394,000

tons of coffee, mainly to the European Union, the United States, Japan and Singapore, up 149.9 per cent, said the Vietnam Coffee and Cocoa Association.

Vietnam, the world's second biggest coffee exporter after Brazil, is diversifying coffee products for export, partaking more actively in international coffee

trading floors, and applying more advanced farming and processing techniques.

Local farmers and enterprises should join hands to grow and process coffee on larger scale by employing more advanced equipment and technologies, the association said, noting that many coffee exporters in Vietnam are weak in terms of finance, trade expertise, and information analysis capability.

MNA/Xinhua

Bollywood actress Neha Dhupia holds a Motorola's Motofone F3c mobile handset during its launch in Bangalore, India, on 1 March, 2007. —INTERNET



Victoria Beckham, the former Spice Girl and the wife of English soccer star David Beckham, will star a reality TV to show her new life in Los Angeles on NBC television, local media on 1 March quoted a statement from NBC as saying.—INTERNET

China Netcom picks Google as search engine

BEIJING, 1 March — China Network Communications Corporation (CNC), the country's second largest fixed-line operator, will use search engine giant Google to provide Internet search services for its 16 million broadband users, Thursday's China Business News (CBN) reports.

According to the agreement, the Google search bar will be put on the website of its broadband service for users to search the Internet for information while remaining on the Netcom page.

"The cooperation with Google is aimed at improving the company's competitiveness in integrating Internet services while offering broadband users the most advanced Internet applications," Zuo Feng, general man-

ager of CNC China Netcom Broadband Corp, told CBN.

China Netcom Broadband Corp is a subsidiary company of CNC which was established in May, 2006 to offer content and value-added applications for the broadband and wireless network.

China Telecom, the country's largest fixed-line operator, signed an agreement with Microsoft to launch the search service for its 25 million broadband users in September, 2006. China Mobile announced its cooperation with Google this January. — Internet

Zimbabwe loses \$50m weekly through mineral smuggling

HARARE, 1 March—The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe Governor Gideon Gono revealed on Tuesday that Zimbabwe is losing between 40 million US dollars and 50 million dollars every week through the smuggling of gold, diamonds and other precious minerals.

Presenting oral

evidence before the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Defence and Home Affairs, Gono said the economy required between 2.5 billion dollars and 3 billion dollars per year to function smoothly, but the country was getting less than half of its foreign currency requirements due to various reasons including the smuggling of mineral.

He emphasized the importance of well-functioning and well resourced security forces for an economic turnaround to succeed. — MNA/Xinhua



Workers set up 'The Crystal Mirror' restaurant which is in the city-state as part of an Asian tour to Hong Kong, Jakarta and China Taipei, on 1 March, 2007, in Singapore.

INTERNET

Hun Sen stresses importance of education for national development

PHNOM PENH, 1 March— Cambodia will try to develop human resources in order to improve economic efficiency, which is an important factor for poverty reduction, said Prime Minister Hun Sen here on Wednesday.

"The Royal Government has adopted the strengthening and improving of human capacity building as the top priority in order to respond to all challenges. Notably the

government has given the highest priority in the education development and reform by promoting the basic education, and the quality of education in the national economic development framework," said Hun Sen.

He made the remarks while addressing the inauguration ceremony of Samdech Hun Sen and Lok Chum Teav's Cultural Centre Building and conferring certificates to

graduated students at the National Institute of Education.

For the last several years, the government has paid particular attention to the education sector, especially to training and educating of teachers, developing human resources, ensuring to improve skills in responding to the labour market in the region and in the world, said Hun Sen.

MNA/Xinhua

AMD releases first chipset with ATI graphics



Advanced Micro Devices (AMD) Wednesday announced the availability of the 690 chipset, the company's first integrated chipset that includes the ATI Radeon X1250 graphics processor. — INTERNET

BEIJING, 1 March — Advanced Micro Devices (AMD) Wednesday announced the availability of the 690 chipset, the company's first integrated chipset that includes the ATI Radeon X1250 graphics processor.

Integrating the Radeon X1250 graphics processor into the 690 chipset means that PCs based on the chip set will not require a separate graphics card. AMD acquired ATI Technologies Inc last year and has worked quickly to incorporate that company's graphics expertise into its own processor lineup.

This includes chipsets, the PC component that connects a processor with other components such as memory and peripherals.

The 690 chipset is compatible with AMD's desktop processor lineup and offers several high-end features, including an integrated digital visual interface and high-definition multimedia interface outputs for video. The new chipset is powerful enough to run Microsoft's new Vista operating system, and will be available on motherboards from more than 10 companies.

"As one of the first chipsets with motherboard graphics to receive the Certified for Windows Vista logo, the AMD 690 family is a testament to the ongoing relationship between Microsoft and AMD," said Dave Wascha, director of partner marketing for Windows Client at Microsoft Corp.

The chipset also includes hardware decoding for MPEG2, the video compression technology used with DVDs — which means less CPU power is required when playing DVDs on a computer. The new chipset is available on motherboards from more than 10 companies, including Asustek Computer Inc. and Elitetgroup Computer Systems Co, AMD said. — Internet

Strong wind derails train, three dead in N-W China

URUMQI, 1 March— A task force from the Ministry of Railways is heading for the scene of a train derailment in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region early Wednesday.

Sent by Minister Liu Zhijun, the team led by deputy minister Hu Yadong is rushing to the scene to guide rescue efforts and deal with the

aftermath of the accident.

The Urumqi-Aksu train (No. 5806/5807) was hit by gusts and 11 of its 19 cars derailed at about 2:00 am when it was running between Zhenzhuquan and Hongshanqu substations, about 20 to 30 kilometres away from the Turpan Station. The Urumqi Railway Bureau said the three passengers died and 34 others were

injured in the accident, including two in serious condition. But sources from the scene put the death toll at four.

All injured passengers have been hospitalized in nearby hospitals, rescuers said. The derailment disrupted the Southern Xinjiang Railway for about nine hours.

MNA/Xinhua



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye presents certificate of religious title to a layman. — MNA

SPDC confers religious titles on...

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General Thura Shwe Mann presented certificates of Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Title to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Osadha Bhivamsa of Ponnama Yama Zay Monastery in Nyaungdon, Ayeyawady Division, Sayadaw Bhaddanta Narinda Bhivamsa of Phayabyu Monastery in Pazundaung Township, Yangon Division, and Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nandavamsa of Ywama Pariyatti Monastery in Insein Township, Yangon Division.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presented certificates of Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Title to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Catila of Aungzedi Sasana Beikman Monastery in Sawbwayigon, Insein

Township, Yangon Division, Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nanavamsa of (Pyay) Saddhamma Jotikaron Monastery in Taikkyi Township, Yangon Division, Sayadaw Bhaddanta Suriya of Sasana Dhaja Aung Mye Theikpan Monastery at Yanmanaing Village in Myaungmya Township, Ayeyawady Division, and Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kunnala of Weluwun Monastery in Minhla, Bago Division (West).

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than presented certificates to four Agga Maha Pandita Title recipient Sayadaws; Lt-Gen Maung Bo, to five Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Title recipient Sayadaws; Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, to six Agga Maha Pandita Title recipient Sayadaws; and

Lt-Gen Tin Aye, to six Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Title recipient Sayadaws.

Vice-Admiral Soe Thein presented certificates to six Agga Maha Pandita Title recipient Sayadaws; and Lt-Gen Myat Hein, to six Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Title recipient Sayadaws.

Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing presented certificates to six Agga Maha Pandita Title recipient Sayadaws; and Maj-Gen Ye Myint, to six Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Title recipient Sayadaws.

Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Attorney-General U Aye Maung, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Minister for Science and Technology

and Minister for Labour U Thaug, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and Minister for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Minister for

mittee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin presented certificates of Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja, Agga Maha Kammathanaçariya, Agga Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita, Maha Dhammakathika Bahujanahitadhara, Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja, Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita, Dhammakathika Bahujanahitadhara, Maha Kammathanaçariya, Kammathanaçariya, Saddhamma Jotikadhaja and Ganthavaçaka Pandita titles to title recipient Sayadaws.

Nunnery of Pakokku and Nun Daw Puññakami of Migadawon Nunnery of Sagaing, and certificate of Maha Kammathanaçariya title to Nun Daw Sumanaçari of Bawdi Yeiktha of Taukhtein Hill in Yantaung Village of Thayetchaung Township.

Daw Khin Lay Thet, wife of General Thura Shwe Mann, presented certificate of Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja title to Nun Daw Esvati of Ayethuwady nunnery of Ledi Ward in Monywa,



General Thura Shwe Mann gives certificate of religious title to a layman. — MNA

Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Electric Power No 1 Col Zaw Min, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein, Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and Chairman of Yangon City Development Com-

Daw Mya Mya San, wife of Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, presented certificates of Agga Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita title on Nun Daw Kançanavati of Maukkhathilawun Nunnery in Sagaing, Nun Daw Nanavati of Nyanawati Nunnery of Tagaung Kyaung of Ahnyeiktaw Ward in Aungmyethazan Township, Nun Daw Puññaçari of Thida Aye

certificates of Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita title to Nun Daw Sitavarañani of Ayemyogyang Mawlamyine nunnery of Sagaing, Nun Daw Khamasi of Seiktapala Cave Nunnery of Kyaukpadaung, Nun Daw Kulaçari of Ambayama nunnery of Shwedaung and Nun Daw Añcana of Saddhammayanthi nunnery of Monywa.

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Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presents certificate of religious title to a layman. — MNA



Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of the Secretary-1, presents certificate of religious title to a layperson. — MNA



Daw Mya Mya San offers alms to a Sayadaw at the rice offering ceremony. — MNA



Daw Khin Lay Thet donates provisions to a Sayadaw at the rice offering ceremony. — MNA

SPDC confers religious titles on...

(from page 7)

Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, gave certificates of Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita title to Nu Daw Dhammaçari of Yadana Manaung nunnery of Dawei and Nun Daw

Dhammanandi of Yaunggyi U Theravada nunnery of Mashikataung Ward in Phakant, certificates of Saddhamma Jotikadhaja title to Nun Daw Medini of Zeyathiri orphanage girls' school of Toungoo, Nun Daw

Dhammasingi of Dhammawadi nunnery of Insein Township and Nun Daw Indaçari of Sasanakari nunnery of Bhamo.

Daw Marlar Tint, wife of Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Daw Khin Lay Myint, wife of Lt-Gen Maung Bo and Daw Khin Saw Hnin, wife of Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, presented certificates of Saddhamma

Jotikadhaja and Ganthavaçaka Pandita titles to the title recipient nuns.

Afterwards, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye conferred certificates of Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadhara title on U Myint Swe of Mogok Vipassana Dhamma Yeiktha of Kyungon Village in Okpo, U Nyan Lwin of Kyaikwaing Pagoda Road in Mayangon Township, U Aung Kyi Myint of Myinsaing Road in Shwepaukkan Myothit of North Okkalapa Township, U Tint Hsan of Khayay Road in Thanlyin Bridge Housing Estate in Thakayta Township and Dr Moe Tin of U Tun Myat Road in Tamway Township.

General Thura Shwe Mann also conferred certificates of Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadhara title on U Kan Tin of Chanayethazan Township, U Tu Maung of Myoma Ward of Mogok, U Tun Shein of Golden Valley

Ward 1 of Bahan Township, U Myint Soe of Shwemarlal Yeikmon of Kamayut Township and U Ko Ko Aye of Golden Valley Ward 1 of Bahan Township.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presented certificates of Thiha Thudhamma Manijotadhara title to U San Thein of Aungmingala Ward of Kyaukpadaung, U Kyaw Aye of Meiktila, U Myint Soe of Shwepyi Yannaing Ward of Pyawbwe and U Chit Hmwe of Thuwunna Ward 29 of Thingangyun Township and certificate of Thudhamma Manijotadhara title to U Hla Tun of Thonze of Thayawady Township.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo gave certificates of Thudhamma Manijotadhara, Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja and Saddhamma Jotikadhaja titles to title

recipient laymen.

Afterwards, Daw Mya Mya San conferred certificates of Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Theingi title on Daw Sein Sein Yi of Chanayethazan Township, Daw Khin Myint Myint of Bo Cho Ward of Bahan Township, Daw Kyi Kyi Swe of Yedashe Ward of Bahan Township, Daw Aye Aye Soe of Pyay Road in Mayangon Township, Daw Aye Myat Nwe of Saya San Road in Bahan Township and Daw Win Win Aye (a) Ma Gyi of Bayintnaung Brokerage of Mayangon Township.

Daw Khin Lay Thet presented certificates of Thiri Thudhamma Theingi title to Daw Kyway Kyway of Monywa, Daw Ei Hla (a) Daw Khin Hla of Homalin Township, Daw San Myint of Penwegon, Daw Hla Myaing of Pyay Township, Daw Lon Tin of Mogok and Daw Hsin Nu of Kyaukpadaung.

(See page 9)



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein offers certificate of religious title to a Sayadaw. — MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win offer alms to a Sayadaw. — MNA



Lt-Gen Tin Aye and wife donate provisions to a Sayadaw at the rice offering ceremony. — MNA



Daw Mya Mya San presents certificate of religious title to a nun.
MNA



Daw Mya Mya San presents certificate of religious title to a laywoman.
MNA



Daw Khin Lay Thet presents certificate of religious title to a nun.
MNA



Daw Khin Lay Thet presents certificate of religious title to a laywoman.
MNA



Daw Khin Khin Win presents certificate of religious title to a nun.
MNA

SPDC confers religious titles on ...

(from page 8)

Daw Khin Khin Win also presented certificates of Thiri Thudamma Theingi title to Daw San San Tint (a) Daw Ye of Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay

Division, Daw San San Wai of Mahaaungmye Township, Mandalay Division, Daw Khin Lay of Kyauk-padaung, Daw Nwe Nwe San of Myothit Maha Myaing-2 of Mandalay Division, Daw Myint

Myint Nwe of Mahaaungmye Township in Mandalay Division and Daw Aye Thein of Dagon Myothit (South) Township in Yangon Division.

Daw Marlar Tint,

Daw Khin Lay Myint and Daw Khin Saw Hnin and Daw Aye Aye, wife of Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, gave certificates of Thiri Thudamma Theingi, Thiha Thudamma Theingi and Maha Saddharma Jotikadhaja titles to title recipient laypersons (women).

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

Secretary of SSMNC Nyaungdon Ponnamayama Zaykyaungtaik Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Osadhabhivamsa delivered a sermon, and the congregation shared merits gained.

After the title conferring ceremony, staff of the Ministry of Defence, the Prime Minister's Office,

the SPDC Office and Central Offices, the Adjutant-General's Office, the Quartermaster-General's Office, the Defence Services (Navy), the Defence Services (Air), Yangon Command Headquarters, ministries, the Supreme Court, the Attorney-General's Office, the Auditor-General's Office, the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, Yangon Division PDC, YCDC, district and township PDCs, religious and social organizations, entrepreneurs, Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, companies and wellwishers offered alms to members of the Sangha.

Daw Kyaing Kyaing, wife of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, Daw Mya Mya San, Daw Khin

Lay Thet, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence and their wives, the Commander of Yangon Command and wife, the ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Auditor-General, the Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Yangon Mayor, the deputy ministers, the Vice-Mayor and their wives, departmental heads and wellwishers donated rice and offertories worth K 175,160,751 to members of the Sangha.

MNA

Buddhists perform meritorious deeds on Fullmoon day of Taboung

YANGON, 2 March — Today is the Fullmoon Day of Taboung, the last month in Myanmar lunar year. People held Buddha Pujaniya festivals of famous pagodas in their locality on a grand scale.

Today, pilgrims offered gold foils, alms, flowers, water and light to Shwedagon Pagoda, Sule Pagoda, Botahtaung Pagoda, Maha Wizaya Pagoda, Shwephonepwin Pagoda, Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon), Kyaikwine Pagoda, Lawka Chantha Abaya Labah Muni Buddha Image, Melamu Pagoda, Moegaung Pagoda, Kyaikkasan Pagoda, Oakalapa Pagoda, Ngarhtatgyi Pagoda, Chaukhtatgyi Pagoda, Thanlyin Kyaikhauk Pagoda, Kyaukdan Kyaikhmawwun Pagoda, Kayan Bronze Buddha Image, and took the Sabbath on a grand scale.

MNA



A ceremony to confer religious title on title recipient members of the Sangha and nuns in progress. (News on page 1) — MNA

L&F Minister meets farm owners and breeders

YANGON, 2 March — Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein met with officials of Livestock Breeding and Venterinary Department, Livestock Feedstuff and Dairy Enterprise, Yangon

City Development Committee and Myanmar Livestock Federation, farm owners and breeders at the hall of Insein Township LBVD yesterday evening.

The minister gave instructions on preventive

measures against bird flu.

He urged breeders to take part in the tasks.

The minister and officials discussed measures to be taken for every H5N1 suspected case.

MNA

Measures taken as to death of fowls and birds in townships of Yangon Division

YANGON, 2 March — The Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department is taking measures as to the incident of the death of fowls and birds in townships of Yangon Division.

The death of six crows was found in Thanlyin Township on 27-2-2007, three crows in Mingaladon Township on 1-3-2007, 17 crows in Mayangon Township on 2-3-2007, three crows in Tamway Township 2-3-2007 and one crow in Botahtaung Township on 2-3-2007. Regarding this, bird flu was not detected.

The death of 71 layers was found in Mayangon Township on 27-2-2007. As Rapid Test Kit Type A was detected in this regard, preventive measures such as culling of poultry and spraying of pesticide were taken.

The death of three domestic chickens and five ducks was found in Thingangyun Township on 28-2-2007. Preventive measures such as culling of poultry and spraying of pesticide were taken since Rapid Test Kit Type A was detected in this context.

The death of two domestic chickens was found in Insein Township on 28-2-2007. Under the disease prevention programme, culling of poultry and spraying of pesticide were carried out, for Rapid Test Kit Type A was detected.

The death of 11 layers was found in Hlinethaya Township on 2-3-2007. As a means of preventive measures, poultry culling and pesticide spraying were carried out since Rapid Test Kit Type A was detected.

With regard to the death of crows in those townships, there was something suspicious that some crows were infected with bird flu. The LBVD came to the conclusion that the death of some crows was due to undisciplined dumping of dead fowls.

The LBVD has requested the public to send dead crows to the disease diagnostic laboratory of LBVD, using hand gloves and masks when handling them, to bury dead crows after spraying them with pesticide and hot water, to avoid eating and selling of dead crows and fowls, to prevent domestic crows, sparrows and pigeons from entering the poultry farms and to avoid using feedstuff and bags of feedstuff from the infected farms.—MNA



Maj-Gen Ye Myint and wife offer provisions to a Sayadaw. (News on page 1) — MNA

Military Band Competition continues for fifth day

NAYPYITAW, 2 March — The 15th Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) Military Band Competition in commemoration of the 62nd Anniversary Armed Forces Day continued for the fifth day at the parade ground, here, this morning.

Military bands representing No 22 LID, No 99 LID, No 1 Company of Northern Command, No 1 Company of Coastal Region Command, North-East Command and No 2 Company of Western Command participated in the competition.

Chairman of the Organizing Committee for the Competition Vice Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Hla Shwe and members, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence and members of the panel of judges supervised the competitions. — MNA

A tubewell donated by Japanese wellwishers opened in rural area

YANGON, 2 March — A ceremony to open the tubewell donated by Mr Tanaka of Japan and wellwishers was held in Hlaywun Village of Hsinbaungwe Township on 21 February.

Patron of Lokatthaçariya Foundation Agga Maha Saddhamma

Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Kosalla gave an Ovadakatha. Chairman of the Township Peace and Develop Council U Thein Hsint gave a speech. Wellwisher Mr Tanaka explained the purpose of sinking the tubewell. A local expressed gratitude. The wellwishers spent

K 6 million on sinking the tubewell and building necessary structures, the Post-Primary School and installing water pipelines to monasteries. The tubewell can pump out 1,500 gallons of water per hour, and it supply sufficient water to 385 houses in the village.

MNA

Road sections in Lewe, Pyinmana townships inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March—State Peace and Development Council Member Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, together with Col Yan Naing Oo of Nay Pyi Taw Command and officials of the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, this morning inspected Sittoung Bridge near Hayman village in Lewe Township, Mandalay Division, and construction of district-to-district earth road at a road section in the township.

They also looked into the widening of district-to-district road No 2 between Thitkyein and Thanmaye villages and bridges along the route. Next, they viewed crops plantations of the local battalion in Seikphutaung village in Pyinmana Township and the widening of district-to-district road No 2 between



Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects upper Paunglaung hydroelectric power project. — MNA

Seikphutaung and Bomathantaung villages.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party met with townsenders of Bomathantaung village at the village primary school and gave instructions on agricultural and livestock breeding work. After inspecting the construc-

tion of district-to-district road No 2 between Bomathantaung and Pyadachaung villages, Lt-Gen Ye Myint met the people of Pyadachaung village and urged them to carry out agricultural and livestock breeding tasks on a manageable scale.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and

party met members of Pyadachaung Village PDC at the village middle school and left necessary instruction.

Afterwards, they visited the Paunglaung hydroelectric power project site and gave necessary instructions to officials. They also looked

into the construction of Paunglaung river-crossing bridge. On completion of Paunglaung hydroelectric power project, 454 million kilowatts can be generated. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party heard reports on construction of district-to-district road No 2 in Gamonetaung

village. He left necessary instructions.

The district-to-district road No 2 is being built to link Mandalay Division and Mon State. Later, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected the chosen site for construction of Paunglaung bridge.

MNA

Training courses of Directorate of Industries conclude

YANGON, 2 March—Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung attended a ceremony to conclude the on-job training course No 1/2007 and basic computer training course No 1/2007 sponsored by Directorate of Industries held at the training hall of the Ministry of Industry-1 on Kaba Aye Pagoda road here this morning and made a speech on the occasion.

After that, the minister presented prizes to outstanding trainees who stood first, second and third and gave away the completion certificates.

The basic computer training course No 1/2007 lasted six weeks and was attended by 89 trainees.

Next, the minister presented prizes to trainees who were outstanding in training courses held by Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) and Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi).

Afterwards, Minister U Aung Thaung proceeded to No 2 Wheat and Wheat Product Factory in Hline Township where he viewed production of various kinds of bread, cakes and others.

Next, the minister arrived at Padetha Biscuit Factory and inspected bakeries and attended to the needs.

On arrival at Myanma Umbrella Factory of Myanma General and Maintenance Industries in Hline Township, the minister looked into umbrella and related items.

After making inspection, Minister U Aung Thaung gave instructions on meeting the set standard in producing umbrella. — MNA

USDA's youths to go on trek to northernmost areas

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March—Youths of Union Solidarity and Development Association will go on a trip to the villages in the northernmost parts of Myanmar for regional development tasks and organisational purposes.

Youths of USDA members, who are also members of Hiking and Trekking Association from states and divisions, have been selected to participate in the long trek to the hilly regions in Putao District in Kachin State.

The trip titled "Star from the Sky" would be led by Secretary of Kachin State USDA U Ra Wun Jone.

Patron of Mandalay Division USDA Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and Secretariat Member of USDA Minister Brig-Gen

Thein Zaw handed over the flag of the association and the State Flag to the trekking team at Mandalay Division USDA Office on 28 February.

Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw accepted the cash amounting to over K 42 million donated by wellwishers to be spent

on implementing the regional development tasks during the trip.

The northernmost parts of Myanmar, home to ethnic tribes, are not easily accessible. As the government set up an administrative machinery in Pannin in the region, we could arrange the 270-mile-long trekking trip, said U Ra Wun Jone.

During the trip, the participants will carry out regional development tasks in the villages.

After the ceremony, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw inspected the construction of auto exchange offices in TadaU and Paleik.

MNA



USDA Secretariat Member Brig-Gen Thein Zaw presents USDA flag to the secretary of Myanmar Hiking and Trekking Association. —CP&T

ADVERTISEMENT

Thai King meets Chinese State Councillor

BANGKOK, 1 March — King of Thailand Bhumibol Adulyadej on Wednesday at his residence Chitralada Villa, Dusit Palace in Bangkok, met with Chinese State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan, who was on a working visit to the kingdom at the invitation of the Thai Government.

Tang, who arrived in Bangkok on Tuesday to make a three-day visit, conveyed to the King the greeting from Chinese President Hu Jintao and congratulated the monarch on his 80th birthday, which falls on 5 December this year.

The Chinese state councillor spoke highly of the contribution by the Thai Royal Family in promoting stable Sino-Thai relationship all through the years.

MNA/Xinhua

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Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Botahtaung, Yangon

US Embassy in Manila bans cell phones for visa applicants

MANILA, 1 March — The US Embassy here said on Wednesday that visa applicants are not allowed to bring cellular phones and other electronic devices inside its compound.

Effective on Thursday, visa applicants carrying cell phones, laptop computer, MP3 music players and other personal digital assistants will be denied entry, the embassy said in a statement on its website.

The US Embassy explained that there will no longer be storage areas for cell phones and other electronic gadgets carried by applicants. In the past, cell phones and similar devices of applicants were deposited with the embassy's guardhouse prior to entry. — MNA/Xinhua

Japan donates \$1.7m food aid to Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 1 March — The Japanese Government has decided to donate 210 million yen (about 1.7 million US dollars) food aid to Cambodia through the World Food Programme (WFP), a Press release said here on Wednesday.

The food aid will be allocated to Cambodia for vulnerable groups, such as HIV/AIDS patients, tuberculosis patients, primary school children and those who are suffering from chronic food shortage caused by poverty, the press release from the Japanese Embassy to Cambodia said. The Japanese Government has decided to extend food aid totalling 2,520 million yen (about 20.4 million US dollars) through the WFP to support chronically food-insecure people in 13 countries, including the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Press release said.

MNA/Xinhua

Iran to limit scholarships abroad over atomic row

TEHERAN, 1 March — Iran is ending all scholarships to study in the United States, Canada and Britain because Iranians sent there are barred from signing up for nuclear sciences and similar subjects, state radio said on Wednesday.

Iran is at odds with the United States and European states over its nuclear programme, which the West fears is designed to build atomic bombs. Teheran says it only wants to master the technology needed to generate electricity.

"Because these countries do not accept Iranian students in modern technology majors such as nuclear sciences, the Science Ministry will not send students (there)," Deputy Science Minister Mahmoud Mollabashi, was quoted as saying.

The United Nations imposed limited sanctions on Iran's nuclear programme in December and Teheran faces possible further steps for ignoring a 12 February deadline to suspend uranium enrichment, a

process that can make power plant fuel or, if uranium is greatly enriched, material for warheads.

"When these countries do not accept students in majors in which Iran needs experts, there is no need to send students there," Mollabashi said, adding any students who wanted to study in those three countries could still go there at their own cost.

The United States has been pushing for toughening penalties against Iran, with the backing of Britain, France and Germany. But Mollabashi did not mention if any scholarships to France and Germany were also being stopped.

Relations with Canada, a popular destination for Iranian immigrants, have been soured particularly

over the death in custody in 2003 of Zahra Kazemi, a photojournalist who had both Iranian and Canadian nationality.

The detention for four

months of an Iranian-Canadian writer, Ramin Jahanbegloo, last year put a further strain on ties.

MNA/Reuters



Dema, a Sumatran tiger cub sleeps with two baby orangutans in a nursery room at the Taman Safari zoo on 28 Feb, 2007, in Bogor, Indonesia. The tiger and orangutan babies, which would never be together in the wild, have become inseparable playmates after they were abandoned by their mothers.

INTERNET

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲများတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖို့



A visitor looks at collapsed snow sculptures after an unusually warm winter in Shenyang, northeastern China's Liaoning Province on 1 March, 2007. China had its warmest year in over half a century in 2006, with an average temperature of 9.9 degrees Celsius (50 degrees Fahrenheit), the Xinhua News Agency reported on Tuesday. — INTERNET

Iran launches production of first domestically built car engine

TEHRAN, 1 March — Iran on Tuesday launched the production line of its first domestically built car engine, the state television reported on its website.

The engine, developed by the Middle East's largest car maker Iran Khodro, is said to be the world's first gas-based dual-fuel automobile engine, the report said.

The engine, which runs on both gas and gasoline, is being dubbed the "national engine" in Iran because it is the first car

engine to be designed, developed and manufactured entirely in the country.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad attended the opening ceremony of the production line and inspected the plant where the engines are manufactured.

The plant is capable of producing some 100,000 engines a year but officials expect to increase that

capacity by more than four times to 450,000 units in the coming years, according to the report.

The project marks a significant step forward in the Iranian car industry's vigorous efforts to reach self-sufficiency, the television said, adding that the "national engine" would eventually be exported to international markets.

MNA/Xinhua

"New Horizons" spacecraft successfully gets boost from Jupiter

WASHINGTON, 1 March — NASA's *New Horizons* spacecraft successfully completed a flyby of Jupiter early Wednesday morning, using the massive planet's gravity to pick up speed for its 3-billion-mile (4.8-billion-kilometre) voyage to Pluto, according to a statement released by NASA Wednesday.

"We're on our way to Pluto," said *New Horizons* Mission Operations Manager Alice Bowman. "The swingby was a success; the spacecraft is on course and performed just as we expected."

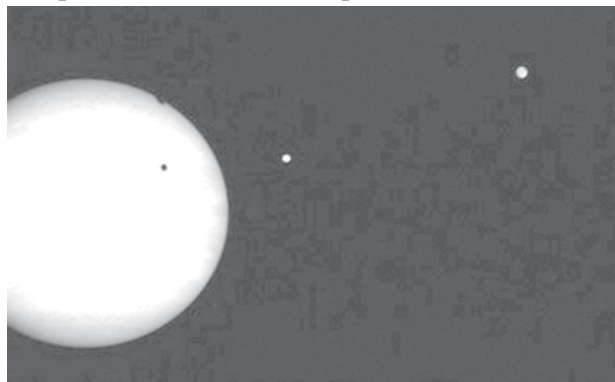
New Horizons came

within 1.4 million miles (2.5 million kilometres) of Jupiter at 12:43 am EST (0543 GMT), placing the spacecraft on target to reach the Pluto system in July 2015. During closest approach, the spacecraft could not

communicate with Earth, but gathered science data on the giant planet, its moons and atmosphere. At 11:55 am EST (1655 GMT) mission operators established contact through NASA's Deep Space Network and

confirmed *New Horizons'* health and status.

The fastest space-craft ever launched, *New Horizons* is gaining nearly 9,000 miles per hour (14,500 kilometres per hour) from Jupiter's gravity - accelerating to more than 52,000 mph (84,000 km per hour). The spacecraft has covered approximately 500 million miles (800 million kilometres) since its launch in January 2006 and reached Jupiter faster than seven previous spacecraft to visit the solar system's largest planet. — MNA/Xinhua



This image provided by NASA and taken by the *New Horizons* Long Range Reconnaissance Imager shows a 4-millisecond exposure of Jupiter and two of its moons on 17 Jan, 2007. — INTERNET

Nearly 100 Bangladeshi teachers to receive "IT" training in India

DHAKA, 1 March — Around 98 school and college teachers of Bangladesh will leave for New Delhi on Wednesday to attend a six-week long training programme on information technology, Bangladeshi news agency UNB reported Tuesday.

The entire expenditure of the training, including airfare, tuition fees, accommodation, emergency medical treatment, stipend, book allowance and study tour is borne by the Indian Government.

With this, the number of teachers from Bangladesh who received training under this scheme since 2004 would go up to 740, said a Press release of Indian High Commission here on Tuesday.

The training module has been designed keeping in view the diverse background of participants, with the ultimate objective of catering to individual needs.

MNA/Xinhua

China's online addict dies after "marathon" session

BEIJING, 1 March — An obese 26-year-old man in northeastern China died after a "marathon" online gaming session over the Lunar New Year holiday, state media said on Wednesday.

The 150-kilo (330-pound) man from Jinzhou, in Liaoning Province, collapsed on Saturday, the last day of the holiday, after spending "almost all" of the seven-day break playing online games, the *China Daily* said, citing his parents.

Xu Yan, a local teacher, said the "dull life" during the holiday prompted many people to turn to computer games for entertainment.

"There are only two options. TV or computer. What else can I do in the holiday as all markets, KTV and

cafeterias are shut down?" the paper quoted Xu as saying.

China has seen an alarming rise in the number of teenage and young adult Internet addicts in recent years, despite attempts to restrict minors from cybercafes and limit online game playing times.

About 2.6 million — or 13 per cent — of China's 20 million Internet users under 18 are classed as addicts, state media have reported.

MNA/Reuters



A mother harbour seal gave birth successfully to a new cub on on 28 Feb, 2007, in Penglai Polar Region Ocean World in Shandong Province. The cub seal is about 40 centimetres long. The captive harbour seal "Pipi" is enjoying good health and has enough milk for her little cub seal. — XINHUA

SPORTS

Giggs 'can continue until 2010'



Giggs made his Premiership debut 16 years ago this weekend. —INTERNET

LONDON, 2 March — Ryan Giggs can continue playing for Manchester United for at least another two or three seasons, according to assistant manager Carlos Queiroz.

Saturday's trip to Liverpool will mark his 700th appearance in a United shirt and his 16th year in the top flight.

But Giggs, 33, says he does not know if he can play on beyond the end of his contract in 2008.

But Queiroz told BBC Sport: "We expect his contribution to be another two or three years without any problems."

Former United player Steve Bruce said Giggs could play until he was 37.

"He's still got lots in the locker now," said the Birmingham City manager, also talking exclusively to the BBC.

"It wouldn't surprise me if he goes on and does 20 years at the top because he's got all the attributes to carry on — and make no mistake, he'll still have that same hunger in his stomach that epitomises a top player."

Ryan is really a role model for the game

Queiroz said Giggs's longevity was "a fantastic, outstanding, achievement". "It is very rare to find a player who is able to complete 16 years in one club playing at the level of Giggsy," the Portuguese added.

Queiroz added: "After 16 years, Giggs is Manchester United. The way he plays, with so much fantasy, creativity and entertainment — but also outside the pitch as a professional — he is really a role model for the game."

Internet

Betis, Sevilla blamed for fuelling Cup tension

MADRID, 2 March — Spain's Sports Minister has accused the directors of Real Betis and Sevilla of inflammatory behaviour ahead of a King's Cup tie that was abandoned after Sevilla coach Juande Ramos was knocked unconscious by a bottle.

"It was a shameful incident," Jaime Lissavetzky told radio station Cadena Ser on Thursday. "In the days before the game certain individuals from the clubs generated a climate that meant the game could not take place in a normal atmosphere."

Ramos agreed with Lissavetzky saying that the two clubs had contributed to the tension that had led to Wednesday's incident.

"We added fuel to the fire," he told a news conference after being dis-

charged from hospital. "We are guilty of causing this situation and can't expect the people to attend the stadium like lambs when we have provoked them.

"We have to realize that that our words have a big impact and we must take more care."

The build-up to the latest Seville derby was dominated by public arguments between directors of the two clubs over whether or not Sevilla president Jose Maria del Nido would be allowed in the VIP box at the Betis stadium.

After mediation by the Andalusian regional government, Betis finally allowed Del Nido to attend the match although a number of fans threw objects at him, one of which hit him on the nose, as he took his seat.

MNA/Reuters

Becks vows to fight for recall



David Beckham.

INTERNET

SPAIN, 2 March — David Beckham has insisted he will do everything in his power to reclaim a place in the England team.

The Real Madrid midfielder has not played for England under Steve McClaren after resigning the captaincy at the end of the World Cup.

However, Beckham is desperate to be recalled for England's upcoming Euro 2008 qualifiers against Israel and Andorra.

And he credits Sir Alex Ferguson, who sold him from Manchester United to Real Madrid, for his never-say-die attitude.

"I am like Sir Alex. When people doubt him he always wants to prove them wrong," Beckham told The Sun. "I was brought up at a club where they don't give in and they always fight back when they are being criticised."

Beckham admits he was hurt badly by McClaren's decision to axe him from the England squad at the end of last summer.

But he believes he can still do a job for England and has set his sights on turning out at the new Wembley stadium.

He said: "That is still in my dreams. In reality we'll have to see. It's not down to me, it's one for the manager. But I'd love to play at Wembley for England."

Internet

Didier named top Drog

LONDON, 1 March — Chelsea striker Didier Drogba has been named 2006 African Footballer of the Year.

Ivory Coast star Drogba took the honour for the first time and denied second-placed Barcelona frontman Samuel Eto'o a fourth successive award.

Drogba captained his country to the final of the African Cup of Nations in Egypt and also spearheaded the team's first ever World Cup finals appearance in Germany last summer.

His club achievements were just as impressive - in May he cel-



Didier Drogba.

INTERNET

brated helping Chelsea to a second successive Premiership title.

This season he has been in even deadlier form, claiming 28 goals in total.

Drogba's Chelsea team-mate Michael Essien finished third in the voting for the second year running. — Internet

FA tackle Wenger over lying accusations

LONDON, 2 March — Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger will be asked to explain his accusations

that a linesman lied in his account of a mass brawl at the League Cup final, the Football Association said on Thursday.

The move was expected after Wenger told the British media following Arsenal's FA Cup exit at Blackburn Rovers on Wednesday that a linesman had lied by saying Arsenal striker Emmanuel Adebayor had punched Chelsea midfielder Frank Lampard.

Adebayor was red-carded along with teammate Kolo Toure and Chelsea's John Obi Mikel in the brawl which marred the closing stages of Chelsea's 2-1 victory in Cardiff on Sunday.

According to the FA, the linesman's report did not say Adebayor had punched Lampard, but said his attitude had been aggressive, that he had shoved into Chelsea defender Ricardo Carvalho and that he had aimed a punch at Lampard.

MNA/Reuters

Eboue gets 3-match ban after League Cup bust-up

LONDON, 2 March — Arsenal defender Emmanuel Eboué has been found guilty of violent conduct and given an automatic three-match ban following last Sunday's League Cup final brawl, the FA said on Thursday.

The Ivory Coast defender struck Chelsea's Wayne Bridge during the injury-time melee in the game, won 2-1 by Chelsea. Eboué escaped punishment at the time — three other players were sent off and two booked in the incident — and denied the charge.

Eboué's teammates Kolo Toure and Emmanuel Adebayor will also serve three-match bans for their red cards while Chelsea's John Obi Mikel will miss four games as it was his second red card of the season. — MNA/Reuters



Barcelona's Brazilian top striker Ronaldinho, twice World Player of the Year, has been confirmed in a Europe squad to play Manchester United in a jubilee charity match at Old Trafford on 13 March. — XINHUA

Colombia president slams Blatter over World Cup remarks

BOGOTA, 2 March — Colombia President Alvaro Uribe criticized FIFA chief Sepp Blatter on Thursday for suggesting the South American country's bid to host the 2014 World Cup was a publicity stunt.

Blatter, the president of world soccer's governing body, said this week that the bid was aimed at promoting Colombia rather than a realistic attempt to stage the finals.

MNA/Reuters

Shakhtar deny swapping Tymoshchuk for gas

KIEV, 2 March — Ukraine club Shakhtar Donetsk denied on Thursday that it had agreed to accept gas shipments as part of a record 20-million-US-dollar deal with Russia's Zenit St Petersburg for midfielder Anatoly Tymoshchuk.

"I hereby state that there is no gas element in the agreement for the transfer of Anatoly Tymosh-

chuk to Zenit, nor was this even possible," Serhiy Palkin, Shakhtar's general director said on the club's website ((www.shakhtar.com)). "Shakhtar is a soccer club, not a gas broker." Shakhtar on Wednesday said the fee paid for the 27-year-old Ukraine international was the highest paid by a club in a former Soviet state. — MNA/Reuters



Roger Federer of Switzerland celebrates his win against Italy's Daniele Bracciali after their match at the Dubai Open tennis tournament on 28 Feb, 2007. Federer won the match 7-5, 6-3. Federer and Nadal came closer to their first meeting in more than three months Wednesday when each reached the quarterfinals of the Dubai Open. — XINHUA

China reports new human bird flu case

BEIJING, 2 March — A farmer in China's southeastern province of Fujian has been infected with the H5N1 form of bird flu, state media said on Thursday, the first human case in the country in about seven weeks.

The 44-year-old woman from Jianou City was being treated in hospital, according to the official Xinhua news agency.

"Tests by the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention on the patient have confirmed that the patient has been infected with the bird flu virus strain H5N1," it said.

The Ministry of Health confirmed the news on its website (www.moh.gov.cn) but gave no other details.

The Ministry of Agriculture said an investigation team it sent down to the woman's village found

no trace of the virus in poultry samples.

"The initial analysis is that we cannot rule out the possibility of infection through contact with a virus-carrying wild bird," it said in a statement on its website (www.agri.gov.cn).

The ministry added it was stepping up poultry vaccinations, and had sealed off the woman's house and surrounding area while it was disinfected.

Hong Kong's government also said it had been notified by Mainland authorities of the new case.

MNA/Reuters

Britain to withdraw troops from Bosnia

LONDON, 2 March — Britain is expected to announce on Thursday that it will withdraw its remaining 600 troops from Bosnia by the end of the year as concerns about security in the Balkan State ease.

Britain is scaling back its military commitments elsewhere in the world to concentrate on Iraq and Afghanistan, where it now has a combined 12,600 troops.

Prime Minister Tony Blair's spokesman said a statement on the future of the British mission in Bosnia would be made to Parliament on Thursday.

He declined further comment but a government source confirmed the announcement will involve the withdrawal of the British contingent by the end of the year.

The British troops in Bosnia are part of a

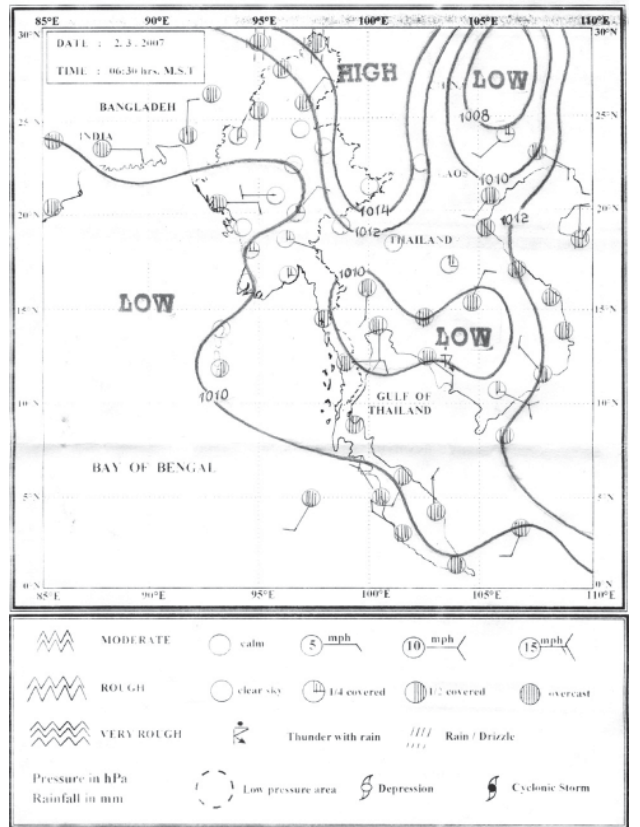
European Union peace-keeping force. The EU adopted plans on Tuesday to cut the 6,000-strong peace force in Bosnia to 2,500 in June.

EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana said this week EU officials were much more relaxed about security. They have said they ultimately want to convert the military presence into a civilian force for lighter police-style tasks.

London announced last week that it was scaling back its mission in Iraq from 7,100 to 5,500. But it is sending an additional 1,400 troops to Afghanistan which will eventually take the force there to 7,700.

MNA/Reuters

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Friday, 2 March, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain has been isolated in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division and weather has been partly cloudy in Chin State and Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining areas. Day temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above normal in Kachin, Kayin and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and about normal in the remaining areas. The significant day temperatures were Hpa-an (39°C), Nay Pyi Taw, Minbu, Pyay and Patheingyi (38°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 1-3-2007 was 98°F. Minimum temperature on 2-3-2007 was 67°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 2-3-2007 was 76%. Total sunshine hours on 1-3-2007 was (8.4) hours approx. Rainfall on 2-3-2007 was (nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (12) mph from South at (12:30) hours MST on 1-3-2007.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 3-3-2007: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Kachin State, Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions, weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States, Mandalay 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 continuation of isolated rain or thundershowers in the Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 3-3-2007: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 3-3-2007: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 3-3-2007: Generally fair weather.

Weather outlook for Second weekend of March 2007: During the coming weekend, weather will be partly cloudy in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay Divisions.



Saturday, 3 March
View on today

- 7:00 am
 1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ့မဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မဟာရဋ္ဌဂူ၊ အဘိဓမ္မအဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:15 am
 2. တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ အဂ္ဂမဟာပဏ္ဍိတ၊ ဘဒ္ဒန္တသိရိန္ဒာဘိဝံသ (ယောဆရာတော်)ဟောကြားတော်မူအပ်သောဥပသင်္ဂဟပိဋိတော်
- 7:25 am
 3. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am
 4. Morning news
- 7:40 am
 5. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am
 6. တေးသရုပ်ဖော်အစီအစဉ်
- 8:00 am
 7. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:10 am
 8. မဲဆောင်းတံတား
- 8:25 am
 9. Musical programme
- 8:30 am
 10. International news

- 8:45 am
 11. Grammar made easy
- 11:00 am
 1. Martial song
- 11:15 am
 2. Musical programme
- 11:30 am
 3. News
- 11:40 am
 4. Games for children
- 12:05 pm
 5. Round up of the week's TV local news
- 12:50 pm
 6. ကြားမြင်သုတပြည့်စုံစေရာ စာပဒေသာ
- 1:00 pm
 7. "ကျေးဇူးတင်ပါတယ် ဒီအိုတီအက်စ်" (လွင်မိုး၊ ထွန်းထွန်းဝင်း၊ အိန္ဒြာကျော်ဇင်၊ ခင်သန်းနွယ်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-စိုးကျော်ဆန်း)
- 1:25 pm
 8. နိုင်ငံစီးပွားအလေးထား ကျေးလက်ထုတ်ကုန်များ
- 1:35 pm
 9. Dance of national races
- 1:50 pm
 10. ဆွာချောင်းရေလှောင်တံမဲ
- 2:05 pm
 11. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 2:15 pm
 12. "မနိုင်သောအရုံး" (ဟက်ကက်၊ ဇင်ရဲထက်၊ နိုင်သင်းကြည်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-အေဝမ်းမောင်လှမျိုး)
- 2:30 pm
 13. International news
- 2:45 pm
 14. ASEAN beauties gathering in Nanning, Guangxi, China

- 4:00 pm
 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm
 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm
 3. English for Everyday Use
- 4:40 pm
 4. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ -ပထမနှစ် (သရုပ်ဆောင်) (သရုပ်)
- 4:55 pm
 5. တပ်မတော်နေ့ဂုဏ်ပြု တေးသီချင်း ပြိုင်ပွဲဆုတောင်းများ (၂၀၀၄ ခုနှစ်)
- 5:05 pm
 6. Games for children
- 5:25 pm
 7. ရသပေါ်လွင် သရုပ်ဆောင်လွင်ပြင်
- 5:50 pm
 8. စံပြုပုံဆောင် နောင်ကားကျေးဇူး
- 6:00 pm
 9. Evening news
- 6:30 pm
 10. Weather report
- 6:35 pm
 11. အလှူရှာမယ်လှကမ္ဘာဝယ်
- 7:00 pm
 12. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "သမားတော်" (အပိုင်း-၆)
- 8:00 pm
 13. News
- 8:10 pm
 14. International news
- 8:15 pm
 15. Weather report
- 8:20 pm
 16. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "လှပသောနေ့ရက်များ" (အပိုင်း-၂၉)
- 8:30 pm
 17. The next day's programme



Saturday, 3 March
Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music: -Angel
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music: -Gone be fine
- 8:50 am National news/Slogan
- 9:00 am Music: -Mr Big
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music: -Everyother time
- 1:30 pm News /Slogan
- 1:40 pm Music at your request -The power of love
- 9:00 pm ASEAN review -Exchange news
- 9:10 pm Article
- 9:20 pm Myanma culture...Dr Khin Maung Nyunt -Magway Myathalun Pagoda
- 9:30 pm Souvenirs -Joy to the world -Roses are red
- 9:45 pm News /Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL

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Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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



Daw Kyaing Kyaing offers robes to a Sayadaw at rice offering ceremony. — MNA

Pwint Pagoda, Thiri Mangala Kaba Aye Pagoda and Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon), members of religious associations, wellwishers, title recipients and their disciples, and invited guests.

At 11.30 am, officials ushered State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee member Sayadaws, Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida Sayadaws, Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Title recipient Sayadaws, Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Title recipient Sayadaws, Agga Maha Pandita Title recipient

Jotika, Agga Maha Pandita and Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Title recipient Sayadaws led by State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee member Sayadaws through the southern archway of the cave.

Next, Deputy Director U Tin Aung Tun ushered Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida Sayadaws; Deputy Director U Myint Naing, three Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Title recipient Sayadaws; Director U Aung Thein, three Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Title

Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abbot of Maha Visutarama Monastery in Magway, Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Kumara invested the congregation with the Five Precepts.

State Ovadacariya Abbot of Mya Thein Tan Pariyatti Monastery in Pazundaung Township, Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Sobhana read out the Sammodaniya Ovada Katha.

SPDC confers religious titles on ...

(from page 1)

Vice-Chairman of the SPDC Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San.

The ceremony was graced by the presence of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee member Sayadaws, Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida Sayadaws, and title recipient Sayadaws and nuns.

Also present on the occasion were SPDC Member General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, SPDC Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, SPDC members Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein,

Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and Maj-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence and wives, ministers and wives, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Auditor-General, the chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the chairman of Yangon City Development Council Yangon Mayor, deputy ministers, heads of department, invited ambassadors and heads of embassies in Yangon, local authorities, members of the boards of trustees of Shwedagon Pagoda, Botahtaung Pagoda, Sule Pagoda, Shwe Phone



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye confers certificate of religious title on a Sayadaw. — MNA

Sayadaws and Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Title recipient Sayadaws to the recreation centre of the cave and the remaining title recipients to designated places in the cave.

Adviser U Htin Myo, Deputy Director-General U Khaing Aung, Director U Zarni Win and Assistant Director U Tun Naing of the Ministry of Religious Affairs ushered Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida Sayadaws, Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Title recipient Sayadaws, Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma

recipient Sayadaws; Assistant Director U Aye Lwin, 22 Agga Maha Pandita Title recipient Sayadaws; and Director U Than Win, 40 Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Title recipient Sayadaws to the designated places.

The ceremony commenced at noon. Deputy Director U San Thin Hlaing of the Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana acted as MC.

Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko supplicated on religious affairs to open the ceremony.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye presented certificates of Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Title to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Narindacara of Taikyaung Pali Tekkatho Monastery in Gyobingauk, Bago Division (West), Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sobhana of Mya Thein Tan Kyaung Pariyatti Monastery in Pazundaung Township, Yangon Division, and Sayadaw Bhaddanta Narada of Maha Thubawdayon Monastery in Sagaing, Sagaing Division.

(See page 7)



General Thura Shwe Mann confers certificate of religious title on a Sayadaw. — MNA