President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Bulgarian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Rosen Plevneliev, President of the Republic of Bulgaria, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Bulgaria, which falls on 3 March 2013.—MNA

Our Three Main National Causes

- Non-disintegration of the Union
- Non-disintegration of National Solidarity
- Perpetuation of Sovereignty

Political reform process is being implemented by means of all inclusiveness of all political parties and peace-making with national races armed groups

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March—President U Thein Sein arrived at Helsinki International Airport of Finland yesterday morning via Oslo of Norway.

The President and party were welcomed at the Airport by Myanmar Ambassador to Finland U Soe Nwe, Finnish Ambassador to Myanmar Ms Sirpa Maenpaa, Head of Protocol department of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finnish Ms Tiina Myllyntausta and officials.

In the afternoon, the President held discussions with Finnish President Mr Sauli Niinisto, at Presidential Palace in Helsinki.

It was also attended by the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, the Union ministers, the deputy ministers, departmental heads, Finnish Foreign Minister Mr Erkki Tuomioja and high-ranking officials.

The Finnish President said that he welcomed Myanmar’s President on his first-ever visit to Finland and Myanmar’s democratic reform processes under the leadership of his counterpart. Finland wanted to extend a helping hand to Myanmar’s political and economic reforms, peace-making processes and human resources development tasks.

President U Thein Sein for his part replied that both countries have established diplomatic ties since 1954 although both countries are far from each other in terms of the geographical location. The establishment of diplomatic relations was going to turn 60 years. Due to the different political systems practiced over past 20 years, relations between the two countries were cool. Thanks to Myanmar’s democracy system, more cooperation between the two countries would be seen.

Political reform process is being implemented by means of all inclusiveness of all political parties and peace-making with national races armed groups. Peace-making process is the most challenging one. He highlighted government’s efforts from ceasefire to eternal peace by holding political talks. Political talks with national races could be held. Rehabilitation tasks called for donor countries’ assistance. For economic development, Myanmar needed international’s aids for capital, technology, human resource development.

The Finnish President also said that Finland was a Paris Club member country and had already written off 50 percent of debt Myanmar owed to. In 2014, Euro 6.5 million would be granted for Myanmar’s development tasks. He pleaded that Finland would assist in establishment of good governance, rule of law and peace-making processes in Myanmar.

After the meeting, both leaders met the press. Finnish President hosted a lunch to the Myanmar President and party.

In the evening, the President met Noble Laureate former Finnish President Mr Martti Ahtisaari at Finland Foreign Ministry.

The President explained Myanmar’s current reform processes and peace-making processes with national races armed groups. The former President discussed Crisis Management Initiative Group’s urging EU to engage with Myanmar in 2006, his role played in international peace-making processes and assistance in Myanmar’s peace-making processes.

In the evening, International Development Minister Ms Heidi Hautala hosted a dinner to the Myanmar delegation at Presidential Palace.

MNA
Hotel services, telecommunication facilities discussed

NA PyiTaw, 2 March—Shan State government and Inlay Regional hoteliers held a meeting at the hall of Shan State Government Office in Taunggyi on 21 February morning.

Chief Minister U Pyidaungsu Hluttaw
Speaker’s Cup Football Tournament commences

Pyaywe, 2 March—The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker’s Cup Men’s Open Football Tournament was kicked off at the people’s sports ground in Pyaywe on 26 February afternoon.

Among the spectators were Mandalay Region Hluttaw representative U Tin Oo, Deputy Township Administrator U Kyaw Soe Lin and staff, departmental officials, members of the football tournament organizing committee and referees and contending football teams. Mandalay Region Hluttaw representative U Tin Oo and Deputy Township Administrator U Kyaw Soe Lin made speeches.

Eight ward and village football teams are taking part in the tournament from 26 February to 19 March. Cash awards are K400,000 for the first prize, K300,000 for the second and K100,000 for the third.

Myogyi Sayadaw gave words of advice for the opening of clinic.

Stimulant tablets seized in Mawlamyine

Mawlamyine, 2 March—A team led by IP Maung Maung Kyaw of Criminal Supporting Section of Mon State Police Force searched Myo Thura Naing (a) Naung Naung sitting near the strand road of Ngwe Moe Hotel in Mayangon Ward of Mawlamyine at 11.30 am on 15 February.

The authorities seized 170 WY brand stimulant tablets in Dunhill brand cigarette box, weighing 17 grams, one mobile phone from his short sleeve shirt and K22,300. According to his confession, the authorities together with witnesses searched a building in Pabedan Ward and seized 123 WY brand pink stimulant tablets, 66 R brand stimulant tablets and one WY brand green stimulant tablet weighing 190 grams. The drug trafficker managed to escape from the scene.

Myoma Police Station opened files of lawsuit against Myo Thura Naung (a) Naung Naung, 31 of Mayangon Ward and the person who escaped from the scene under Narcotic Substances Law.

Motorcyclist killed by truck after knocking down dog on Yangon-Mandalay Highway

Nay PyiTaw, 2 March—A motorcyclist was killed by a truck after falling off his bike that hit a dog crossing on Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway near Winpyan village at about 6 pm on 25 February.

The motorbike driven by Aung Ko Min from Pyinmana to Tatkon knocked down a dog crossing on the road and he fell off his bike on the opposite lane where he was hit by the 10-wheeled truck driving from Tatkon to Pyinmana. He was died of the head injury on the spot. “No damage to the motorbike. The crash helmet was found tied on the bike. If the victim had worn his crash helmet, he would not have been killed in the road accident. Now the truck that hit the motorcyclist without a crash helmet was being kept at Bawgathiri bus terminal. The name of the driver is under investigation,” says a local.—Kyemon

Summer golf course 4 March

Yangon, 2 March—With the aim of turning out new generation golfers for the State, the summer golf course will be conducted at 1 Win Golf Academy of Yangon City Development Committee in Yangon as of 4 March. Experienced coach U Hsan Tun (PGA Golf Professional) and other coaches will give training to the trainees.

The fee for training was K50,000.—Myanma Alinn

Summer golf course 4 March

Yangon, 2 March—The wellwisher Sayadaw, member of Leading Body of Danu Self-Administered Zone U Ko Ko, Township Administrator U Phone Htet Naing Myint and Township Medical Officer Dr Aye Lwin formally opened the clinic.

After that, the medical officer and nurses provided health care services to 40 older persons. The clinic was opened with the aim of providing necessary pharmaceuticals to the aged of above 65 years old and cash assistance to needy people.

Mudita Clinic provides health care to people

Myanma Alinn

Motorcyclist killed by truck after knocking down dog on Yangon-Mandalay Highway

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The motorbike driven by Aung Ko Min from Pyinmana to Tatkon knocked down a dog crossing on the road and he fell off his bike on the opposite lane where he was hit by the 10-wheeled truck driving from Tatkon to Pyinmana. He was died of the head injury on the spot. “No damage to the motorbike. The crash helmet was found tied on the bike. If the victim had worn his crash helmet, he would not have been killed in the road accident. Now the truck that hit the motorcyclist without a crash helmet was being kept at Bawgathiri bus terminal. The name of the driver is under investigation,” says a local.—Kyemon

Mechanical Training Schools turn out technicians

Nay PyiTaw, 2 March—Union Minister for Industry U Aye Myint arrived at Mechanical Training School (Hsinde) near Hsinde Village of Padaung Township in Bago Region on 17 February.

The Union Minister viewed learning of trainees at drawing room, electrical fitter shop, electrical machine maker shop, motor vehicle shop, pattern maker shop, machinery fitter shop and machine tool operator shop. After inspecting offices, hostels, mess hall and compound of the school, the Union Minister gave necessary instructions to officials.

The training school has turned out 3292 trainees with the assistance of GIZ agency of Germany since 1877 and created job opportunities for the youths. The school admits 200 trainees a year to provide eight subjects to them.

The Ministry of Industry has established Mechanical Training School (Mandalay) with the technology of China, Mechanical Training School (Pakokku) with India technology, Mechanical Training School (Thagarga) with Korean technology, Automobile Training School (Magway) and Mechanical Training School (Hsinde) with Germany technology.

MNA
Main Macedonian parties reach deal to end political crisis

Skopje, 2 March — With the help of a European Union delegation, Macedonian parties on Friday reached a deal to end the political crisis plaguing the country in the last two months and threatening its EU ambition.

The deal was reached after hours of meeting among European Enlargement Commissioner Stefan Fule, European Parliament’s Rapporteur on Macedonia Richard Howitt, former president of the European Parliament Jerzy Buzek, Macedonian President Gorge Ivanov, Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski and leader of the oppositional SDSM Branko Crvenkovski.

As part of the deal, the opposition parties led by the social-democrats SDSM will not boycott the local elections set for 24 March and their MP’s will return to the parliament. An agreement for early parliamentary elections should be reached by September.

“The agreement also includes setting joint ad hoc commission that will investigate the incidents in the parliament. The issue for early general election has to be discussed after the local elections,” Howitt said after the meeting.

The opposition was demanding early general elections, arguing that the government had lost its legitimacy to rule after SDSM lawmakers were thrown out of the assembly last December when they tried to block the vote for the 2013 budget law.

The incident caused the opposition MP’s to leave the parliament and led to two-month-long protests on the streets, Ivanov and the EU officials expressed satisfaction for the agreement.

“I’m pleased with the positive attitude of the leaders of all political parties that have decided to bring back on track the European agenda of the country,” Ivanov said.

“We are pleased to see that the political leaders have finally been able to show their political responsibility and courage to agree on a solution,” the EU troika said in a joint statement.

**Putin, Obama agree to work closely on Syria, Mideast peace**

**MOSCOW, 2 March —** Russian President Vladimir Putin and his US counterpart Barack Obama on Friday agreed to work closely on Syria and the Middle East peace process, the Kremlin said.

The two leaders made the pledge when they had a telephone conversation on Friday, the Kremlin’s Press service said.

“The leaders agreed to work closely together on high-profile issues related to Syria, the Middle East peace process,” the Kremlin’s Press service said.

The press service said Putin reaffirmed his invitation to Obama for an official visit to Russia.

“The presidents agreed to have a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the G8 summit in Northern Ireland,” it added.—Xinhua

Assad forces take Aleppo village, reopening supply line

**BEIRUT, 2 March**— Syrian President Bashar al-Assad’s forces seized a village southeast of the city of Hama on Friday, reopening a supply line to the country’s biggest city where they have been battling rebels for eight months, a monitoring group said.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the capture of Tel Shughab marked the last step to creating a land supply route north into Aleppo from Hama Province, crucial for Assad’s forces who have lost control of part of the main north-south highway.

Activists reported another day of fierce fighting around Aleppo, including the military airport at Maarab, three miles north of Tel Shughab which Assad’s forces retook. “It’s a significant gain for the regime,” the British-based Observatory’s director Rami Abdelrahman said.

Boys are pictured through a broken windshield as they stand on a street in Aleppo on 28 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

The UN, US Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Friday that Syria, a major Arab state on the fault lines of broader Middle East conflict, would fall apart if the government and rebels keep fighting instead of seeking a negotiated peace.

“US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Thursday Washington would provide non-lethal aid including medical supplies and food to rebel fighters, as well as $60 million to help the civilian opposition provide services including security, education and sanitation.” —Reuters

Kenyan leader appeals for peace ahead of Monday polls

**Nairobi, 2 March**— Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki on Friday appealed to citizens to vote peacefully and help determine the future of the nation, saying peace is the cornerstone of the country’s development.

In a televised address to the nation, Kibaki who is not eligible for re-election after serving for 10 years into office, emphasized that Kenyans must consolidate the development strides the country has made by ensuring a free, fair, just and peaceful election. “This Monday, you, as a voter have a date with destiny. By voting, you decide the leadership that will manage your hopes and aspirations. In casting your vote, you will be exercising your democratic right and taking your place in history,” he said.

Some 14.3 million Kenyans are due to vote on Monday elections which are regarded as one of the most significant events in the history of the country because they will be the very first to be held since the 2007/2008 post election violence, when, within a seven-week period following the polls, and as a direct consequence of the contested results.

The elections are also significant because they will be the very first to be organized under Kenya’s 2010 Constitution, which provides for safeguards against unfair, insecure, corrupted, non transparent or inefficiently administered elections.

Already, the country’s security agencies and the electoral body charged with overseeing the 4 March polls have confirmed their readiness for the exercise.

However, despite the eagerness to vote, fear of election violence erupting in the East African nation is growing as the clock ticks towards 4 March.

Kibaki noted that every election produces winners and losers and appealed to those who shall be declared winners to embrace victory with humility and begin the journey of serving the people in earnest.

“Let us send a clear message to the world that our democracy has come of age. A peaceful vote is a vote for a secure, prosperous, and stable Kenya. Remember Monday 4 March is your date with destiny. Cast your vote and keep the peace,” he added.

President Kibaki called on all Kenyans to play their individual roles through tolerance and by embracing diversity. “To those who will not win, your country still needs you. There are many other roles you can play in our development endeavors.” —Reuters
WASHINGTON, 2 March—The Van Allen Probes have revealed new radiation belt around Earth.

The Van Allen belts are affected by solar storms and space weather and can swell dramatically. When this occurs, they can pose dangers to communications and GPS satellites, as well as humans in space.

“The fantastic new capabilities and advances in technology in the Van Allen Probes have allowed scientists to see in unprecedented detail how the radiation belts are populated with charged particles and will provide insight on what causes them to change, and how these processes affect the upper reaches of Earth’s atmosphere,” NASA’s Associate Administrator for Science John Grunsfeld said in a statement.

The findings were also published online on Thursday in the journal Science.

LONDON, 2 March—Scientists from a British cancer charity are teaming up with technology gurus from the likes of Amazon, Facebook and Google to design and develop a mobile game aimed at speeding the search for new cancer treatments.

The project, led by the charity Cancer Research UK, should mean that anyone with a smartphone and five minutes to spare will be able to investigate vital scientific data at the same time as playing a mobile game.

The first step is for 40 computer programmers, gamers, graphic designers and other specialists to take part in a weekend “GameJam” to turn the charity’s raw genetic data into a game format for future so-called “citizen scientists.”

“We’re making great progress understanding the genetic reasons cancer develops. But the clues to why some drugs will work and some won’t are held in data which need to be analyzed by the human eye—and this could take years,” said Carlos Caldas at Cancer Research UK’s Cambridge Institute.

“By harnessing the collective power of citizen scientists we’ll accelerate the discovery of new ways to diagnose and treat cancer much more precisely.”

After the GameJam, which runs in London from 1-3 March, an agency will build the game concept into reality and the team plans to launch it in mid-2013.

Cancer already kills more than 7.5 million people a year and the number of people with the disease worldwide is expected to surge by more than 75 per cent by 2030, according to the World Health Organization’s cancer agency IARC.

CRUK’s scientists are working hard to identify the genetic faults that drive cancer to try to find new ways of diagnosing and treating patients in a more targeted way based on their genetic profile and that of their tumors. In a major international study on breast cancer genetics published last year, CRUK researchers said they are now able to classify the disease into 10 subtypes—a finding that could lead to more accurate and tailored treatment in China to use new rocket for moon landing mission

BEIJING, 2 March—China’s indigenous carrier rocket Long March-7 is scheduled to be launched in the latter half of the year.

China has developed a modified model of Long March-3B carrier rocket for an upcoming moon landing mission to be completed by the Chang'e-3 moon orbiter.

The orbiter’s structure and size are considerably different than those of its predecessors, requiring some modifications for the carrier rocket, according to Liang Xiaohong, Communist Party chief of China (CPC) chief of the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology.

With its improved design, the modified model of March-3B carrier rocket has greater reliability and carrying capacity, Liang said. The Chang’e-3 is scheduled to be launched in the latter half of the year.

Facebook buys Microsoft ad technology platform

SAN FRANCISCO, 2 March—Facebook Inc said on Thursday it had agreed to buy advertising technology from Microsoft Corp that measures the effectiveness of ads on its website, which should help in its fight with Google Inc for online advertising revenue.

Under the long-rumored transaction, Facebook will purchase the Atlas Advertiser Suite, an ad management and measurement platform that Microsoft took on with its $6.3 billion acquisition of digital ad agency aQuantive in 2007. Facebook did not say how much it paid for the technology. Unable to make it work for its own purposes, Microsoft wrote off $6.2 billion of the aQuantive deal’s value last year.

Facebook has long been dogged by doubts about the effectiveness of its ads and was embarrassed just days before its initial public offering in May when General Motors Co declared it was pulling the plug on all paid advertising on Facebook’s network.

Since then, Facebook has introduced a number of tools and partnerships to prove to marketers that advertising on its social network delivers enough bang for the buck.

Brian Boland, Facebook’s director of monetization product marketing, said the purchase of Atlas was not a step toward creating a much wider ad network beyond the Facebook site, but analysts believe that is Facebook’s ultimate goal.

“Although the statement announced on Facebook’s blog on Atlas’ measurement tools rather than its ad targeting technology, we expect that Atlas’ new ad technology will be using Facebook’s data to target sponsorships, in-stream ads, and other rich ad formats across the entire web, and that’s big news,” said Forrester analyst Nate Elliott.
**Screening might avert many lung cancer deaths**

New York, 2 March—A calculation based on results from a large lung cancer screening trial projects that 12,000 deaths a year among the highest-risk smokers in the US could be avoided with a national screening programme.

The National Lung Screening Trial, published in 2010, found 20 percent fewer deaths from lung cancer in a group of people at highest risk for the disease when they were screened annually with CT scans, a form of high-resolution X-ray that can spot suspicious lung nodules.

Based on the 8.6 million Americans who would fall into that high-risk category because of a decades-long history of smoking, researchers at the American Cancer Society say in a new study that 12,000 fewer people a year would die of lung cancer if national screening were put in place.

“This is the first paper that attempts to assess the impact of screening on lung cancer rates nationally,” one of the authors, Ahmedin Jemal, told Reuters Health. “Twelve thousand is a lot of cases,” he said.

In the National Lung Screening Trial, current or former smokers between the ages of 55 and 74 who had accumulated 30 “pack-years” of smoking—for example by smoking 20 cigarettes a day for 30 years, or 40 cigarettes a day for 15 years—were considered to be at the highest risk for lung cancer.

Jemal said the 20 percent reduction in deaths among people in that category in the trial was “a singular, enormous accomplishment” said Larry Kessler of the University of Washington in Seattle, who studies the diagnostic value of screening technologies.

**China says it could tighten property controls**

Beijing, 2 March—China could increase required downpayments and loan rates for buyers of second homes in cities where prices are rising too quickly, the State Council said on Friday in the central government’s latest move to contain housing price increases.

Local governments must set home price control targets in the first quarter, the central government said in a statement on its website, www.gov.cn.

The State Council, China’s cabinet, on 20 February restated its intention to extend a pilot property tax program to more cities and urged local authorities to put price-control targets on new homes, in an effort to calm real estate markets.

“Currently the property tightening campaign is at a critical stage, sentiment on rising home prices has strengthened,” on Friday’s statement said.

In February, average home prices in China’s 100 biggest cities rose for the ninth straight month although the pace of increase slowed, a private survey showed on Friday.

Rising home prices have reignited concerns about property inflation and analysts say local governments may announce plans to tighten property purchases after Beijing reiterated its pledge to calm the housing market. Currently, downpayments for second homes are 60 percent of a home’s value while mortgage rates for such purchases are 1.1 times the central bank’s benchmark interest rates.—Reuters

**Chinese power firm’s emissions trading reaps millions**

Taiyuan, 2 March—A Chinese power generating firm that uses coal-bed methane as materials announced on Thursday it had received 278 million yuan (44 million US dollars) in 2012 through participating in an emissions trading scheme that forms part of the Kyoto Protocol. The Shanxi Jincheng Anthracite Mining Group (JAMG), based in China’s largest coal-producing Province of Shanxi, generated 1.4 billion kilowatt hours of electricity last year with natural methane gas extracted from coal beds, according to the company.

Coal-bed methane is a byproduct of coal, and a major danger in coal mines. If it is explored, coal mines will have methane content slashed by 70 percent to 85 percent and become much safer. As a clean energy source close to natural gas, coalbed methane can be used as industrial chemical, a domestic fuel and for electricity generation.

Through the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) defined in the Kyoto Protocol, the JAMG sold its certified emission reduction credits, each equivalent to one tonne of carbon dioxide, to industrialized nations needing to meet emission reduction targets under the protocol. The JAMG has 91 gas turbine generators with an installed capacity of 189 megawatts, 138 megawatts of which belong to the CDM project.—Xinhua

**Volvo Cars appoints senior vice president for China operations**

Stockholm, 2 March—Volvo Cars announced on Thursday that it had appointed Lars Danielson as Senior Vice President for Volvo Cars China Operations, succeeding Freeman Shen, who had held the position since 2010.

The new Senior Vice President was expected to ensure the necessary support from the Volvo Group to the local Chinese sales and marketing team so as to realize progress of sales and brand building in China, according to a Press release from the company.

Meanwhile Danielson was also supposed to take a renewed strategic responsibility to secure that the sales and marketing deliverables were well coordinated and executed in the local market, it added.

“China plays a critical role in the transformation of Volvo Cars and the realization of our long-term strategy and business plan depends on us succeeding in China,” said Hakan Samuelsson, President and CEO of Volvo Cars.

“Lars Danielson has many years of valuable experience within Volvo Cars and he has successfully led the establishment of our manufacturing plant in Chengdu. I am confident that Lars, together with a dedicated team, will deliver on the next phase of our China growth plan,” said Samuelsson.—Xinhua

**EU approves Novartis drug for gout**

Zurich, 2 March—The European Commission has approved Novartis’ drug Ilaris for patients with an often painful form of inflammatory arthritis, the drugmaker said on Friday.

Novartis said the EU had approved the drug also known as ACZ885 for patients with acute gouty arthritis who could not tolerate other treatment options.

Ilaris, which blocks a protein called interleukin-1 beta that is thought to increase inflammation, is already sold for treating cryopyrin-associated periodic syndromes, a rare inflammatory disorder.

In 2011, US health regulators rejected Ilaris for use in gout over concerns about side effects.—Reuters

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Croatia to hold elections for European Parliament members in April

ZHAGREB, 2 March — Croatian President Ivo Josipovic announced on Friday Croatia will hold the country's first elections for its representatives to the European Parliament (EP) on 14 April. Josipovic told the reporters that the date was set after he had discussions with the government, parliamentary parties, bodies in charge of polls and other relevant officials.

"I would like to point out the importance of the elections for deputies to the European Parliament. This will be the first time for the Croatians to elect their representatives to the European Parliament," he said.

Croatia is scheduled to join the EU on 1 July. According to Croatia's Treaty of Accession to the EU, the country should have 12 members in the EP when it becomes the 28th member of the EU. Now it has 12 observers in the EP.

After Josipovic's announcement, Croatian Foreign and European Affairs Minister Vesna Pusic called for a joint verification exercise after the EU. Now it has 12 members in the EP when it becomes the 28th member of the EU. Now it has 12 observers in the EP.

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Pusic said.

Kenya nabs 181 kg bhang in anti-drug bust

NAIROBI, 2 March — Kenya's revenue authorities said on Friday they have seized 181 kg of bhang (cannabis sativa) at the border with Tanzania in the latest incident of drug trafficking. The Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) spokesman Kennedy Onyonyi said the consignment had been declared as sunflower cakes and was being transported into Kenya from Tanzania when it was seized on Wednesday.

Onyonyi said the consignment had been placed in a truck at the Namanga border station during a normal verification exercise.

"A joint verification team consisting of a KRA verification officer and representatives of other government agencies, detected several bags of bhang which had been covered with rusted iron sheets inside a truck," he said in the statement.

"On suspicion that the consignment might have been contraband items, the officers detoured the truck for a further and detailed verification upon which they discovered the sacks of bhang," Onyonyi said.

He said the driver of the truck escaped immediately the concealment was detected and the case is currently being investigated by the anti-narcotics police unit of the police.

"The arrest comes as the East African nation stepped up against drug trafficking in the country. In January, the revenue collector arrested a 25-year-old lady of Tanzanian extraction with about 5 kg of heroin at the country's main airport."

The 25-year-old journalist was arrested during an ongoing surveillance and targeting operation aimed at curbing drug trafficking in the country. In January, the revenue collector arrested a 25-year-old lady of Tanzanian extraction with about 5 kg of heroin at the country's main airport.

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Pentagon allows F-35 jets back in air after test aircraft fleet suspended due to turbine blade cracks

WASHINGTON, 2 March — The US Defence Department on Friday announced that it has lifted the grounding of F-35 Lightning II joint strike fighter jets after analysis concluded that a cracked turbine blade found in an engine on a single plane of the model had resulted from overuse in test operations.

In an email statement, Kyra Hawn, spokeswoman with the F-35 Joint Program Office, said that engineers have so far discovered no other cracks in inspections of other engines, and that no engine redesign is needed.

"This decision concludes a cautionary flight suspension that began on 21 February after a 0.6-inch crack was found on a third stage turbine blade of a test aircraft at the Edwards Air Force Base, F-35 Integrated Test Facility during a routine inspection," Hawn said.

"The engine in question, explained, was part of the F-35 test aircraft fleet and had been operated for extended time in a high-temperature environment."

"Prolonged exposure to high levels of heat and other operational stressors on this specific engine were determined to be the cause of the crack," Hawn said.

The Pentagon grounded the F-35 fleet after a routine engine inspection last month revealed a crack on a low pressure turbine blade of an F-35A engine.

"I'm pleased to establish a defence partnership with Peru that strengthens our ties and contribute to hemispheric stability and security," he said following a signing ceremony held in the Parliament building.

Peru became in 2005 a member of Canada's Military Training and Co-operation Programme, which to date has provided courses in peace support operations, language, civil-military relations, and professional and staff development for more than 70 Peruvian officials, according to the Canadian defence department.

Canada also interacts with Peru in a number of multilateral hemispheric defence fora, including the Conference of Defence Ministers of the Americas, Peru will be hosting the Conference in 2014.

World Bank chief pledges more efforts to combat climate change

WASHINGTON, 2 March — World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim on Friday pledged that the World Bank was committed to tackling climate change “more than anything else.”

“With a special event titled “Connect:Climate: Right Here, Right Now” to celebrate creative youth engagement in the effort to combat climate change. I want you understand that in a world today, especially the poorer coun- tries, this is a problem with us right now,” he noted.

“I’m here today just to deliver a very simple message. The World Bank is committed to tackling climate change more than anything else,” Kim said.

Kim promised starting a social movement to engage broader and more diverse audiences to deliver bold solutions on climate change.
Jamaica closes debt reducing offer

The authorities have still been working to court the support of the remaining 1 percent for the National Debt Exchange (NDEX) programme. The NDX offer, launched on Feb. 12, was key to reaching a staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a 750-million-US dollar economic support programme.

The executive board of the IMF is expected to decide on final approval at a meeting this month.

The NDX is part of the austerity measures implemented by the Jamaican government to reduce the country’s spiralling debt.

Russia assumes rotating UN SC presidency for March

United Nations, 2 March—Russia on Friday assumed the rotating presidency of the UN Security Council for March. Vitaly Churkin, the permanent representative of Russia to the United Nations, took over the rotating council presidency from Kim Sook, the South Korean UN ambassador who held the council presidency for the month of February.

Churkin is expected to brief the press here Monday on the work program of the most powerful UN body in this month. The Russian Federation is one of the five permanent members on the 15-nation UN body. The other four are China, France, Britain and the United States. The council also has 10 non-permanent members elected to two-year terms.

Lebanon arrests 54 kidnapping suspects

Beirut, 2 March—Lebanon’s Interior Minister Marwan Charbel revealed on Friday that security forces have arrested 54 people involved in dozens of kidnapping cases, but scores remained on the run.

Following a meeting with Central Security Council, Charbel said that “those responsible for the kidnappings... will not receive any politician cover.”

So far, 54 suspects have been arrested while 87 others are still on the run in the same jurisdiction. The regulation was intended to address public complaints about justice being undermined by judge-lawyer collusion, string-pulling and bribery.

US President Barack Obama delivers a statement on the sequester at the White House in Washington DC, capital of the United States, on 1 March, 2013. US President Barack Obama said Friday that the across-the-board government spending cuts were “dumb” but the nation will survive the so-called “sequester.” —Xinhua

Tunisia extends state of emergency for another three months

Tunis, 2 March—Tunisia’s President Moncef Marzouki has extended the country’s state of emergency for another three months, the official TAP Press agency reported on Friday evening, quoting a communiqué from the presidency of the republic.

The decision was taken following consultation with outgoing Prime Minister Hamadi Jebali and the speaker of the Constituent Assembly Mustapha Ben Jaafar, the communiqué said. The state of emergency was imposed on Jan. 14, 2011 following the uprising that overthrew Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

The last time the state of emergency was extended was on 1 Feb, 2013.

The news comes as the country is facing a major political crisis triggered by the assassination last month of a leading opposition figure and fears of arms smuggling.

Macao int’l airport records 25 % passenger growth in February

Macao, 2 March—Macao International Airport (MIA) handled 300,000 passengers in February, up 25 percent year-on-year, according to figures released on Friday by the airport.

MIA achieved the first peak season in 2013 due to the Chinese Spring Festival vacation. The average daily passenger volume in February was over 13,000. A new daily record of over 19,000 passengers was made on 15 February. For the whole February, MIA also recorded 21 percent increase in aircraft movement over the same period last year.

Moreover, passengers of the Chinese mainland, Taiwan and East Asia routes increased 38 percent, 9 percent and 28 percent respectively year-on-year.

Peruvian president says free trade accord with EU to advance ties

Lima, 2 March—The free trade agreement between Peru and the European Union (EU) will help promote bilateral ties, Peruvian President Ollanta Humala said on Friday.

The accord, which took effect on Friday, “consolidates the historic relationship that we have maintained with Europe,” Humala said.

Under the deal, the EU will eliminate tariffs on 93 percent of Peruvian imports, including farm products on which a tariff of up to 45 percent was previously levied.

“We have the capacity, through this multilateral accord, to improve our national industry and have access to this significant market, which last year became Peru’s main source of direct foreign investments,” said Humala.

In 2012, the EU overtook China to become Peru’s largest trade partner. Two-way trade amounted to 12.9 billion US dollars with Lima in trade surplus.

Tourists watch the rape flowers by boats during the 6th rape flower festival in Tongnan County, southwest China’s Chongqing Municipality, on 1 March, 2013. The festival will last until late March.

Xinhua

Jamaica closed a debt reducing programme offer on Thursday with almost unanimous acceptance of the bondholders, according to an official statement released on Friday.

“The participation rate achieved for the exchange is approximately 99 percent,” said the statement issued by the finance ministry and the public service ministry.

The statement also said that the government is happy to see “the strong participation from across the country and from all segments of the investor community.”
**Make overall investment in agricultural development**

The numbers of farmlands of a certain country indicate its food security while the world is calling for farmers to produce more food to be able to meet the need of its rapidly growing population. With the degradation of land and water resources, climate change, population explosion and continued disputes over farmland confiscation in developing countries make the world vulnerable to food insecurity and uncertain to feed its expected nine-billion-strong population by 2050.

Being a country mainly relying on agr. business, arable farming is of vital importance to food sufficiency and economic growth of arable and vacant land-rich Myanmar where farmers make up 70 per cent of total population. So development of agricultural sector is the top on the list of priorities for rural region development and poverty alleviation scheme. This mean that, to meet the government’s drive to alleviate poverty, sustainable intensification of agricultural productivity on existing farmlands and more reclamation of vacant and virgin lands will be necessary, calling for overall investment in agricultural development.

If our country wants to see agricultural output growth, new technologies, pesticides and high-yield crops are needed following the transformation from conventional to mechanized farming although she is believed to be one blessed with fine topography and favorable climate patterns. Poor farming practices, coupled with highly-degraded farmlands, could lead to a decrease in productivity of the nation’s agro-industry, thereby contributing towards profound effects on socioeconomic status and living standards of those whose livelihood depend on agricultural sector. Moreover, it would do serious harm to domestic food sufficiency and export of surplus, jeopardizing the national goal of ensuring rural region development and poverty alleviation.

Overall investment in agricultural sector—new farming methods such as use of high-yield strains and modern farm equipment, effective measures for changing the trend in the nation’s export of agricultural produce to be an exporter of valued-added processed agricultural products and conservation of farmlands which are at risk of soil erosion, land degradation and being confiscates by unscrupulous profit-seekers—are to be made. Only then, will the country achieve success in its top priority of agricultural development for 70 per cent of its total population.

**Loans disbursed to farmers in Kalay District**

Kalay, 2 March—The government rose loans to farmers as of 2013-2014 fiscal year for development of agricultural sector. The government disbursed K 100,000 per acre for farmlands and K 20,000 per acre for croplands to farmers.

In Kalay District, farmers got K 213.65 million in Kalay, those in Kalewa K 11.04 million, and those in Mingin K 230.95 million, accounting for K 455.64 million.—Myanma Alinn
**Ordination ceremony of Koreans held**

**Yangon, 2 March—** Organized by Korea-Myanmar Friendship Association, Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana under the Ministry of Religious Affairs held an ordination ceremony of 27 Koreans, at State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) on Kaba Aye Hill, here, this afternoon.

Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Hsan Hsimt and wife and Deputy Minister U Soe Win and wife attended the ceremony and donated offerings to the Sayadaws. The ceremony is meant to promote and propagate Theravada Buddhism among Korean monks.

**MNA**

**Talks on hepatitis B given in Pakokku**

**Pakokku, 2 March—** The talks on hepatitis B disease was given at the National Hall of Ward 8 in Pakokku on 25 February morning. Liver specialist Professor Dr Khin Maung Win gave lectures on hepatitis diseases.

It was attended by Township Administrator U Aung Naing Oo, Chairman of Myanmar Medical Association (Pakokku Branch) Dr Sein Win and member doctors, health staff, members of Red Cross Brigade, nurses, Fire Brigade, Women’s Affairs Organization and Maternal and Child Welfare Association, workers of Development Affairs Committee and other totalling over 250. The talks was jointly organized by Myanmar Medical Association (Pakokku Branch) and Zifam Co.

**Myanmar Alinn**

**Union Science and Technology Minister meets US guests**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 2 March—** Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo held talks with a 13-member delegation led by Director of Global Partnerships Mr. Chris Jurgens of United States Agency for International Development Office of Innovation and Development who attended the ceremony and donated offertories to the Sayadaws. The ceremony is meant to promote and propagate Theravada Buddhism among Korean monks.

Both sides discussed development of ICT sector in Myanmar, materialization of e-Government, implementation of public-private-partnerships (PPP) projects, teaching of necessary marketing strategies to students, to distribute hardware and software in the market manufactured by IT experts, provision of online teaching from the US, undertaking of research works in cooperation with companies, universities from the US, sending of scholars and cooperation in network infrastructure development.—MNA

**Union Cup Games**

**Dates and Venues for Sports Events**

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<td>TC-2 Wushu training gym (Lewe Township)</td>
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<td>25</td>
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<td>4-3-2013</td>
<td>7-3-2013</td>
<td>Paunglaung gym (Pyinmana Township)</td>
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</table>

Closing Ceremony 7-3-2013 - Wunna Theikdi Stadium (Zabuthiri Township)

Vice-Presidents of Myanmar Hockey Federation U Kyaw Kyaw Hlaing and U Zaw Win and General Secretary U Khin Maung Latt seen at the airport on 1 March before their departure for Kuala Lumpur of Malaysia to attend Asian Hockey Federation Conference.—NLM
BEIJING, 2 March—Chinese President Hu Jintao on Saturday exchanged congratulatory messages with Cote d’Ivoire President Alassane Ouattara to mark the 30th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

Hu said that with mutual respect and equal treatment, development of the China-Cote d’Ivoire friendly cooperation remains healthy and stable since establishment of the two sides’ diplomatic relations.

Both sides support each other over issues related to significant concerns between the two countries, and also is confident in a bright and fruitful future of China-Cote d’Ivoire relations.

The Chinese side has firmly supporting for Cote d’Ivoire’s peace and development, he said, adding that his country is ready to work with China in advancing the two countries’ bilateral ties.

Also on Saturday, Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi exchanged congratulatory messages with his Cote d’Ivoire counterpart Charles Kofi Diby.

Chinese artists perform traditional dance during the “Chinese Spring Festival 2013” at Rabindra Bharati University, capital of eastern Indian state West Bengal, on 1 March, 2013. The Chinese Embassy to India and the India China Economic and Cultural Council organized the “Chinese Spring Festival 2013” to showcase Chinese music, dance, and martial art. Xinhua

Eight S Africa police officers arrested for brutality

JOHANNESBURG, 2 March — Eight police officers, implicated in brutality that led to the death of a taxi driver, have been arrested on murder charges, authorities said on Friday.

The eight officers, two warrant officers and six constables, were arrested after being suspended and dismissed by National Police Commissioner Riah Phiyega earlier in the day.

The suspects were held accountable for the death of Mido Macia, who was dragged behind a police vehicle and was later found dead in the holding cell at Daveyton police station in Benoni near Johannesburg on Tuesday, the Independent Police Director (IPID) said.

President Jacob Zuma has ordered an investigation into the incident.

The incident, videoed by an amateur and went viral on the YouTube, has sparked outrage in the country.

From the video, which has gone viral, it is obvious that the rights of Mido Macia were violated in the most extreme form,” Phiyega said.

The suspects will remain in custody until they appear in the Daveyton Magistrate’s Court on Monday, IPID said.

Phiyega has also ordered the removal of the commander of Daveyton police station for the duration of an internal police probe.

Police claimed that the 27-year-old driver, who came from Mozambique, had tried to disarm an officer who had confronted him because his minibus was obstructing traffic.

But a witness reportedly denied the claim, saying Macia had been trying to get his driving license back from the police instead of trying to disarm the officer.

A post-mortem revealed Macia died of head and internal injuries.

GUADELOUPE, 2 March —The southern Chinese megacity of Guangzhou is set to put restrictions on vehicles registered outside of the city in a bid to ease congestion. An official with the city’s traffic committee said at a Press conference on Friday that a preliminary programme has been drafted to keep a certain number of out-of-town vehicles off the city’s roads.

The programme will be released to the public for comments before being implemented, said the official.

Details of the programme were not disclosed at the Press conference.

Traffic jams in Guangzhou have worsened recently. Average rush hour speeds have slowed to 20 km per hour, and are expected to become even slower. Increasing motor vehicle emissions have also worsened the city’s air quality.

Last year, the city announced that it would allocate the city’s annual 120,000 new car registration quota through a dual auction-lottery model, forcing many residents to register their vehicles elsewhere.

US energy intensity projected to continue steady decline through 2040

HOUSTON, 2 March — Energy intensity in the United States has been declining steadily since the early 1970s and is expected to decline through 2040, the US Energy Information Administration said on Friday.

A country’s energy intensity is usually defined as energy consumption per unit of gross domestic product (GDP).

“Greater efficiency and structural changes in the economy have reduced energy intensity,” the agency said in a report on Friday.

From 1950 to 2011, energy intensity in the United States decreased by 58 percent per real dollar of GDP, according to the EIA.

The EIA expects residential energy intensity, measured as delivered energy used per household, to decline about 27 percent from 2005 to 2040.

Commercial energy intensity, measured as delivered energy used per square foot of commercial floorspace, is projected to decline about 17 percent from 2005 to 2040.

Industrial sector energy intensity, measured as delivered energy per dollar of industrial sector shipments, rises above its 2005 level initially owing to the 2007-09 recession but ultimately decreases 25 percent below its 2005 level in 2040, according to the EIA projections.

Transportation sector energy intensity is more difficult to measure because of the multiple modes of transportation, the agency said.

Light-duty vehicle energy intensity, which is measured as their consumption divided by the number of vehicle-miles traveled, is projected to decline by more than 47 percent from the 2005 value, the EIA said.

Spanish unemployment rate reaches 26.2 percent

MADRID, 2 March — Spain’s unemployment rate reached 26.2 percent in January, according to data published on Friday by the European Union’s statistical office (Eurostat).

Spain’s unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percent in the first month of 2013, after decreasing by 0.1 percent in December.

This week also saw the Bank of Spain warn about the situation of the Spanish economy, which will continue falling in the first quarter of 2013 because of a contraction in domestic demand and fall in investment.

The contraction of the domestic demand is due to increased prices and high unemployment rate, both affecting Spaniards’ purchasing power.

On Thursday, the National Institute of Statistics (INE) confirmed this trend, pointing out GDP contracted by 0.8 percent in the fourth quarter of 2012.

The Spanish government also reported the public deficit for 2012 was 6.7 percent of GDP, missing the EU target of 6.3 percent.

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Cambodia launches green growth plan

2013-2030

PINOM PENI, 1 March — Cambodia on Friday adopted the national policy and strategic plan for green growth 2013-2030, aiming at developing the economy with consideration for environmental and natural resources sustainability.

The plan was approved during the weekly cabinet meeting presided over by Prime Minister Hun Sen.

“The national policy, compiled by the ministry of environment, aims to balance between economic development and environmental sustainability, green jobs and green technologies, green finance, green credit, and green investment,” the statement said.

It said the country has already adopted several legal instruments for the green growth implementation. Those included the roadmap for green growth, the memorandum of understanding on green growth cooperation between Cambodia and South Korea’s Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), the National Council of Green Growth, and Cambodia’s membership into an agreement on the establishment of the GGGI.

The GGGI was officially launched in March 2010 by former President of South Korea Lee Myung-bak. Its core activity is advising member countries on forming a Green Growth Plan (GGP).

Xinhua

Animal abusers in Singapore may see tougher punishment

SINGAPORE, 2 March — The Animal Welfare Legislative Review Committee said on Friday that they are calling for tougher punishment for animal abuse and abandonment in Singapore, after a first ever one-year long review set up by the government according to the city-state’s existing animal welfare laws.

Among the 24 recommendations in total, the committee has proposed that repeat or malicious offenders could be slapped with fines reaching 50,000 Singapore dollars (40,323 US dollars) and / or three-year jail terms, comparing with the current maximum penalty of fine up to 10,000 Singapore dollars or one year in jail, or both.

They would also be barred from keeping pets for up to one year, the committee added.

Some first-time animal abusers may see the original penalty, as well as perform community service.

Meanwhile, the committee also calls for higher penalties for businesses, with penalties up to 100,000 Singapore dollars, and a ban from operating for up to a year.

Besides some regulations on commercial pet breeding activities and pet boarding facilities, the proposals also advice that the government should set a minimum age of 16 years old for buying a pet, even including pet fish.

It is said that the committee has submitted its recommendations to the city-state’s National Development Ministry for consideration.

It’s very common to see some offenders sentenced to jail or fined because of their animal abuse here. At the end of last year, two cats had been cruelly dismembered in a community.

The case had arisen intense condemn both on the internet and the local media. K Shammugam, the city-state’s Law and Foreign Affairs Minister, called the act “gruesome” and “sick.”

Xinhua

Cambodian PM orders “strict measures” to curb bird flu outbreaks

PINOM PENI, 2 March — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen on Friday ordered all relevant ministries and institutions to take “strict measures” to prevent and eliminate the spread of Avian Influenza H5N1 virus, which has killed 8 people so far this year.

In a circular signed on Friday, Hun Sen said during the first two months of 2013, the H5N1 virus has broken out and infected to nine people—eight of them died. “Even though there are preventive measures by relevant institutions, the spread and death toll from the virus are still alarmingly concerned,” he said.

To ensure the safety for people more effectively, the premier ordered the ministry of agriculture to continue to strengthen necessary and urgent measures to prevent and eliminate the spread of H5N1 virus.

“These measures must thoroughly and constantly inspect poultry industry throughout the country, and carry out bio-safety and sanitary measures at all poultry farms, slaughter-houses and markets,” he said in the circular. “The ministry must promote broader awareness of bird flu virus to the public.”

He also instructed the ministry of agriculture and the ministry of health to continue strengthening cooperation in information exchange to take measures timely to prevent and eliminate the virus.

In addition, he ordered the ministry of interior to take a firm and urgent measure to prevent the illegal trafficking of poultry and poultry-made products in all images and at any where.

Cambodia sees the worst outbreak of the virus this year since the disease was first identified in 2004. To date, the country has recorded 30 human cases of the virus, killing 27 people.

The latest death was a 35-year-old man from eastern Kampong Cham Province, who died on Monday.

On Tuesday, Health Minister Mam Bunheng appealed to people to be more careful about the outbreaks of bird flu virus, urging people not to eat ill or dead poultry. “Poultry must be cooked well. Properly cooked poultry meat is therefore safe to consume,” he told reporters.

Hu Xijin, spokesman of the World Health Organization (WHO) in Cambodia, said that home slaughtering and selling dead poultry for food is hazardous.

He said parents and guardians should keep their children away from poultry—do not allow them to touch feathers and do not keep poultry in their house.

“Parents and guardians must also make sure children wash their hands with soap and water after any contact with poultry,” he said. “If they have fast or difficult breathing, they should seek medical attention at the nearest health facility.”

Xinhua

Singapore to host 16th round of TPP negotiations

SINGAPORE, 2 March — Singapore is scheduled to host the 16th round of Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations from 4-13 March, the city-state’s Ministry of Trade and Industry said on Friday.

Over 600 delegates from the 11 TPP countries, Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, the United States, Vietnam and Singapore, will attend the meeting. Besides, 300 stakeholders, including business representatives, academics and non-governmental organizations from around the world, are going to attend the Stakeholders’ Forum on 6 March, and various seminars and panel discussion sessions.

According to the statement by the ministry, the 11 TPP countries have a combined Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of about 21 trillion US dollars, which is over 50 percent of the total GDP of the 21 members of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).

Singapore had previously hosted the 6th round of the TPP negotiations in March 2012, where solid progress was made with substantive discussion in all areas, including goods, services, investment and government procurement, the ministry added.

The controversial TPP negotiations initially included four countries like Chile, New Zealand, Singapore and Brunei. After the US decided to join the negotiations, Australia, Vietnam and Peru announced their decision to join the TPP, followed by Malaysia, Mexico and Canada.

Tourists queue to enter the Tian’ammen Square during a sunny day in Beijing, capital of China, on 1 March, 2013. The first session of the 12th National People’s Congress (NPC) and the first session of the 12th National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) will open on 5 March and 3 March respectively. — Xinhua

Manila, 2 March — An earthquake measuring 5.2 on the Richter scale jolted Mindanao, Philip- pine on 00:11:08 GMT on Saturday, the US Geologi cal Survey said.

The epicentre, with a depth of 89.40 km, was initially determined to be at 5.4972 degrees north lati tude and 126.9683 degrees east longitude.

Xinhua

43 workers at the geother mal plant, 32 workers were injured and are already being treated in a nearby hospital. A search and rescue operation for the missing workers has already been launched by the company.

Xinhua

Four dead, seven missing in C Philippine landslide

MANILA, 2 March — Four people were killed and seven others are missing following a landslide in a geothermal power plant in central Philippines on Friday, media reported.

Local media reported said two weeks of intermittent rains triggered a landslide in the Upper Mahilao Geothermal Project of the Lopez Group in Leyte.

The company was quoted as saying that 43 workers at the geother
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV SINGAPORE BRIDGE VOY NO (034)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINGAPORE BRIDGE VOY NO (034) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.3.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm. Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV HANNA MARIE VOY NO (1308)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV HANNA MARIE VOY NO (1308) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.3.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm. Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
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SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING (MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Portugal hosts tourism exhibition targeting foreign destinations

At the AHP pavilion, Siza Vieira told Xinhua that, “Portugal remained competitive within the European market offering good value for money, although demand from Spanish holidaymakers has dropped by 10 percent.”

The AHP president said, “A heavy fiscal load, bureaucratic and often excessive municipal legislation means that Portugal’s hotel industry has become unprofitable.”

“Demand from Brazil and Angola has kept the luxury market aloft while many three star hotels are operating at a loss,” she said.

AHP, which represents 70 percent of Portugal’s hotel market, estimates that in 2012 some 13 million visitors who came to Portugal remained able to choose from 1,019 hotels or 91,670 rooms leaving around 20 percent more hotels than currently required.

This year BLT is focusing on the domestic market with large stands representing northern and central Portugal as well as the up and coming Alentejo region. According to Goncalo Rebelo de Almeida, CEO of Vila Gale Hotels, Portugal’s second largest hotel chain, “As Portuguese and international customers spend less time and money in Portugal there is a need to grow more abroad to sustain Portuguese market.”

Rebelo de Almeida said that Vila Gale has opened six hotels in Brazil which has become a very important market for the Portuguese hotel sector.

The Vila Gale CEO said that after a boom in construction and real estate companies building hotels it was now time for industry specialists to innovate the Portuguese market.

Rebelo de Almeida said, “The number of hotels and tourists has grown in Portugal but clients are now spending less money and less time in Portugal averaging four to five nights instead of a week or 10 days.”

“The key to growth will be marketing Portugal and reaching untapped markets such as Germany, Russia and Brazil,” Rebelo de Almeida said.—Xinhua

UN chief believes attempts to arm protagonists in Syria unhelpful

UNITED NATIONS, 2 March—UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Thursday said arming the parties involved does not help to address prolonged crisis in Syria, which has claimed more than 70,000 lives so far.

“The Secretary-General believes that any attempts to arm the protagonists in the fighting in Syria are unhelpful,” Eduardo Buay, the deputy UN spokesman, said at a daily news briefing when asked about outside involvement in the Syrian conflict.

The UN chief has continuously reiterated his firm conviction that resorting to violence and military means will only lead to more suffering and destruction, saying that “a political solution is the only way out.”

Representatives from dozens of nations held an international conference called “Friends of Syria” earlier on Thursday in Rome to discuss rendering more support to the opposition, whose members in exile have been calling on the international community to provide the rebels on ground with qualitative weapons to tilt the balance in the fight against the Syrian army. John Kerry, the US Secretary of State, reportedly said that the Obama’s administration will provide the rebels Free Syria Army “non lethal” help, with Washington offering 60 million US dollars as for the opposition. The US government has declared its latest intention to push for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad’s resignation and a political transition to end the almost two-year-long conflict in Syria.—Xinhua

Accident in Russia’s chemical plant injures 30

Moscow, 2 March—A total of 30 people were injured and 27 others hospitalized after an accident at a chemical plant in Russia’s Perm Territory, the Interfax news agency quoted the Emergency Situations Ministry as saying on Friday.

The 2005 explosion at the plant, which was owned by BP at that time, killed 15 people and injured scores of others. The incident led to safety operation changes at BP and other refineries around the country.—Xinhua

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AQIM commander Abou Zeid killed in northern Mali

BAMAKO, 2 March—A senior commander of AQIM, al-Qaeda’s branch in northern Africa, was killed during a French military operation in northern Mali, a TV station reported on Thursday.

Algerian television Ennahar monitored here said that Abou Zeid, a senior commander of AQIM, al-Qaeda’s branch in north Africa, was killed with some 40 militants in northern Mali after French troops’ operation.

Last week, Malian Prime Minister Diango Cissoko announced that large-scale military operations in his country “are coming to an end.”
**Mumbai, 2 March**—Mallika Sherawat, who has done a cover up act in KC Bokadia’s upcoming film ‘Dirty Politics,’ now loves to go desi as well. In a stark change of image, the sex symbol essays an orphan.

While she still harbours Hollywood dreams and has travelled between Mumbai and US, the actress was recently very busy shooting in Indore with co-stars Om Puri and Rajpal Yadav.

Says a unit source, “She is keen to be seen in a new image and shed her sexy image for this film. Mallika is banking on this project as her last film ‘Kiss Me Pasa Dilli’ was a dud. She hopes the makeover will prove to be lucky for her.”

Though initially it was claimed that the film is based on the controversial Bhanwar Devi case in Rajasthan, the makers have now relabelled her character as Anokhi Devi to avoid any problems. The last shoot schedule however will be in Jodhpur and Jaipur in Rajasthan.—PTI

**Bollywood film recreates Mumbai attacks of 2008**

**Mumbai, 2 March**—A dramatized Bollywood account of the Mumbai attacks of 2008, where 166 people died in a three-day rampage, opened in Indian cinemas on Friday to present an unusually emotive tale told from the perspective of a police officer. “The Attacks of 26/11” chronicles the events that began on 26 Nov, 2008, when 10 gunmen went on a killing spree throughout the coastal city, attacking two luxury hotels, a train station and a Jewish centre, among other places.

It is the latest in a recent spate of Bollywood movies taking inspiration from real-life incidents, a practice that was unusual. Just over the last few years, there have been films on the gruesome murder of a model and a daring bank heist. The film’s director, Ram Gopal Varma, said he decided to make the film to try and answer questions about how a small handful of attackers was able to lay siege to a vast metropolitan area.

“How can 10 men hold a city of 1.5 crore (15 million) people to siege? That is something everyone should know,” Varma told Reuters. The film focuses on the city police and their response to the attacks. Veteran actor Nana Patekar playing a high ranking Mumbai police officer referred to only as “joint police commissioner.” Patekar’s character, based on a real police lieutenant, narrates the film, which portrays in graphic detail how the hapless police force, caught completely unawares, struggles to cope with an attack of such enormity.

At one point he frantically tells a government official, “I don’t know what to do.” “You need to understand that the police were confused and didn’t know what to do,” Varma said. “If you were in their shoes, you would react the same way to an incident of this magnitude. It is important to understand their point of view.” Advertising posters show a group of 10 men, the attackers, in a dingy heading towards the iconic sea-facing Taj Mahal hotel, one of the most recognized buildings in Mumbai—a nod to the powerful shock and emotions the attack still evokes, symbolized by the hotel.—Reuters

**Mallika Sherawat**

Revealed: the all new desi Mallika Sherawat

**Mumbai, 2 March**—Mallika Sherawat has finally received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame next to that of her two-time wife, Elizabeth Taylor, on Friday, nearly 30 years after his death. Welsh-born Burton, who died in 1984, received the career honour as part of the 50th anniversary of ancient Egypt movie drama “Cleopatra,” in which he and co-star Taylor began their storied and tumultuous love affair during 1964’s “The Shrew” in 1967.

The couple’s scandalous love affair during 1964’s “Cleopatra” was made into a US television movie “Liz & Dick,” starring Lindsay Lohan, last year. Burton and Taylor wed for the first time in 1964 and divorced in 1974.

The same beach that I used my boyhood sand castles (on) and learned to fail this — was that same beach, that one legendary day, Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor descended from the heavens, like gods from Olympus, in a helicopter ... and landed on those sands,” Sheen said. “They stepped out swathed in luxurious fur coats — it was the ’70s — and walked among us for too short a time,” he added. Burton, whose star is the 2,941th installed, started in 11 films with Taylor, including “Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?” in 1966 and “The Taming of the Shrew” in 1967.

On Friday, nearly 30 years after his death, Welsh-born Burton, who died in 1984, received the career honour as part of the 50th anniversary of ancient Egypt movie drama “Cleopatra,” in which he and co-star Taylor began their storied and tumultuous love affair during 1964’s “The Shrew” in 1967.

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Olympic champion Chen withdraws halfway at IAAF Race Walking Challenge

TACIANG, (China), 2 March—London Olympic champion Chen Ding withdrew halfway from the men’s 20 kilometres event of 2013 Taicang IAAF Race Walking Challenge here on Friday, which saw his national teammate Li Jianbo claim the title in chilly and wet conditions.

It was the season opener for the 28-year-old Chen who clocked one hour 18 minutes and 48 seconds to claim the 20km walk title at 2012 London Olympic Games. However, the 20-year-old seemed reluctant to show his full strength. After leading for the 20km run Chen slowed down as he was left behind Li, while three-time Olympic medalist Jared Tallent of Australia finished third in 1:20:41.It’s the third successive year for this competition to be held in Taicang and the 28-year-old Tallent become the first foreigner that managed to break the domination of local walkers and clinched a podium finish.—Xinhua

US among nations aiming to supplant Japan at WBC

NEW YORK, 2 March—Championship baseball comes early this year as Japan aims to extend its dominance over hungry rivals, including the United States, in the 16-team World Baseball Classic starting on Saturday. Top players have come together ahead of their own regular seasons for the sport’s top international competition, with baseball powers such as the Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Cuba and South Korea eager for a chance to supplant Japan, winners of the first two editions of the event.

“Our one mission is to win,” New York Yankees second baseman Robinson Cano told New York’s WFAN Radio about playing alongside fellow Dominican Jose Reyes, Edwin Encarnacion, and Nelson Cruz. “For us, it’s serious. Players may be in the early stages of building up to form, but a sense of urgency can be felt among many challengers. The US team was knocked out in the second round in 2009 and in the semi-finals in 2009, and they seem determined to play to their potential as a point of pride.”

“I’m very excited to represent the country and wear the red, white and blue,” said US second baseman Brandon Phillips of the Cincinnati Reds, whose WBC team mates include Ryan Braun, Joe Mauer, Mark Teixeira and last year’s National League Cy Young winner RA Dickey. “It’s something I’ve always wanted to do since 1996, and I was a batboy in the Olympics,” he said, recalling his time as a 15-year-old in his hometown of Atlanta.

“Hopefully, we can go out there and make the USA proud. Get that first place—bring it home.”—Reuters

Tiger says McIlroy should choose words more carefully

PALM BEACH GARDENS, (Florida), 2 March—Tiger Woods, who has endured his share of controversy and media scrutiny, said world number one Rory McIlroy should choose his words more carefully after withdrawing from the Honda Classic with what was initially a mysterious explanation.

Before driving away from the PGA National course on Friday after a nightmare start to his round, McIlroy told reporters: “I’m not in a great place mentally. I can’t really say much, guys. I’m just in a bad place mentally.”

Later, in a statement, the 23-year-old Northern Irishman said he was having pain with a wisdom tooth and that he was unable to concentrate. Former world number one and 14-times major winner Woods was asked after his second consecutive even-par 70, whether he had talked to McIlroy about handling the media focus. “He’s just got to be more just got to think about it a little bit more before you say something or do something,” said Woods. “It can get out of hand, especially when you get into social media and start tweeting and all those different things that can go wrong.”

Woods has seen both sides of the media, having been elevated to superstar status during his glory years and then watching his marriage fall apart in the public eye after a series of affairs came to light. He has also had to deal with constant questioning of his ability to get back to his best, changes of coach, re-worked swing and injuries that led him to withdraw from tournaments.

Woods is 14 years McIlroy’s senior and says the media is a very different beast to when he first became world number one and was the center of attention.

“I’ve been through it for a long time. But also this is a slightly different era. It’s even faster rate of change.”

Tiger Woods of the US hits the ball at the 9th tee during second round play in the Honda Classic PGA golf tournament in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida on 1 March, 2013.—Reuters

Serena gets in trouble for trying to photograph Woods

PALM BEACH GARDENS, (Florida), 2 March—Tennis world number one Serena Williams found herself in trouble with security officials at the PGA Tour’s Honda Classic on Friday after she tried to photograph Tiger Woods.

Under PGA Tour rules, spectators are not allowed to take pictures or video of players on competition days. A short video posted on CBSSports.com shows a tournament official pulling Williams’ phone down as she was about to snap a photograph with her phone during the second round of the Honda Classic and she then tweeted about the episode.

“Apparently you can’t take pictures of golfers. In my defence peeps always take pics of tennis players,” Williams tweeted.

Williams, who did manage to post a picture of Woods driving from the tee on her Twitter account, although it was not clear if she herself had taken the picture, also said the security was “mad” and “yelled” at her during the episode.—Reuters

Berdych downs Federer to reach Dubai final

DUBAI, 2 March—Third seed Tomas Berdych saved three match points before beating defending champion Roger Federer in the semi-finals of the Dubai championships on Friday to set up a final against Novak Djokovic.

Czech Berdych recorded his fifth win in eight matches over Federer, triumphing 3-6, 7-6, 6-4 while top seed Djokovic extended his winning streak to 17 matches by beating Juan Martin del Potro 6-3, 7-6.

Djokovic and Federer have claimed eight of the past 10 Dubai titles between them and the 5,000 capacity crowd were urging the world’s top two to win through under the floodlights. Serb Djokovic obliged in the first semi but a tired Federer fell short, losing at the semi-finals stage of the tournament for the first time in eight appearances. “I couldn’t have a better feeling than this one, coming from court playing Roger almost in front of his home crowd,” Berdych told reporters.

Tomas Berdych of Czech Republic hits a return to Roger Federer of Switzerland during their men’s singles semi-final match at the ATP Dubai Tennis Championships, on 1 March, 2013.—Reuters

Serena Williams of the US serves the ball to Victoria Azarenka of Belarus during the final match at the Qatar Open tennis tournament in Doha on 17 Feb, 2013.—Reuters

Novak Djokovic of Serbia reacts after winning his men’s singles semi-final match against Juan Martin Del Potro of Argentina during the ATP Dubai Tennis Championships, on 1 March, 2013.—Reuters
French tribunal blocks Roland Garros extension
Paris, 2 March — The extension of the French Open’s Roland Garros site, which has been championed by Paris mayor Bertrand Delanoe, was stopped by an administrative tribunal on Friday.

The project was approved by the city’s government two years ago but the tribunal ruled that the local residents’ complaints

Schwarzenegger flexes muscles again in bodybuilding world
Los Angeles, 2 March — Arnold Schwarzenegger is going back to his bodybuilding roots. The action movie star turned politician will become group executive editor for the magazines Flex, and Muscle & Fitness, writing monthly columns in the publications and their online websites, American Media said on Friday.

The “Terminator” star, who began his Hollywood career as a bodybuilder and went on to win five Mr Universe titles, held the same position at the magazines before he was elected California governor in 2003.

“Bodybuilding has always been part of my life, and I know Muscle & Fitness and Flex will continue to motivate others on their journeys,” Schwarzenegger, 65, has said.

A ball boy holds tennis balls during an exhibition match ahead of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris in this file photo taken on 24 May, 2008. — Reuters

Guthrie in Honda driver’s seat, McIlroy withdraws
Palm Beach Gardens, (Florida), 2 March — American PGA Tour rookie Luke Guthrie shot a sparkling 7-under 67 to move into the driver’s seat with a one-stroke lead over compatriot Michael Graham DeLaet (68) and European Birdie (67) in the opening round of the Honda Classic PGA golf tournament in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida on 1 March. — Reuters

Robert McIlroy of Northern Ireland hits the ball into the water near the 18th hole during second round play in the Honda Classic PGA golf tournament in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida on 1 March. — Reuters

seven-under 63 for a one-stroke lead after the second round of the Honda Classic on Friday while world number one Rory McIlroy abruptly withdrew citing a thumb injury. — Reuters
Vice-President U Nyan Tun calls for employment of modern machinery and technologies to manufacture value-added products

Myanmar selects final squad for AFC Challenge Cup qualifiers

Union Defence Minister receives Russian Defence Minister and party

Significant night temperature (2-3-2013)