President U Thein Sein vows to cooperate with Finland in environmental conservation, resources mapping

**Nay Pyi Taw, 3 March**—President U Thein Sein visited Vuosaari Port in Helsinki of Finland yesterday.

Director of the port Mr Jukka Kallio briefed the President on the history of the port, environmental conservation and establishment of Business Park near the port.

The construction of the port started in January 2003 was completed in November, 2008. West Harbour and North Harbour of the port were demolished in urbanization project.

The President said Myanmar is planning three deep sea ports and expressed his willingness to cooperate with Finland in freight handling and environmental conservation.

The President also visited Geological Survey of Finland where Director-General Professor Mr Elias Ekdahl elaborated on the background history, green mining and Finland’s compilation of the map of natural resources. Finland is helping 40 countries draw their natural resources map.

The President said that Myanmar has no systematic map of natural resources despite rich mineral resources and vowed to cooperate with Finland in the field.

The director-general conducted the President round the geological booth and hosted a lunch to the President and party.

The President also met families of Myanmar national races including Kayan, Chin, Bamar, Mon and Rakhine at the government guest house in Helsinki in the evening and posed for a documentary photo with them.

In speaking to the Myanmar families, the President called for their homecoming and cooperation in the country’s bid for development, saying the job opportunities would be raised as Myanmar becomes a more vibrant economy.

The President also visited Temppeliaukio Temple in Helsinki.

He also met Suomen Kuvalehti Weekly’s Ms Katri Merikallio at the government guest house in the evening.—**MNA**

Meeting on energy development held

**Nay Pyi Taw, 3 March**—“The Ministry of Energy is aiming at energy and electric sectors development. Today’s meeting is to focus on adopting priority works from short- and long-term plans for energy development,” said Energy Development Committee Chairman Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay at the committee’s 1st coordination meeting at the ministry, here, yesterday.

The meeting was attended by committee members deputy ministers and directors-general from the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, the Ministry of Electric Power, the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Industry, the Ministry of Mines and the Ministry of Science and Technology, officials of respective ministries, Myanmar Engineering Society and Myanma Renewable Energy Association and experts.

Those present discussed forming of renewable energy committee, seeking ways for wider use of lamp and panel by the people, exploring oil and gas to fulfill the electricity demand of the State and implementing heavy hydropower plants and seeking sector-wise cooperation from respective ministries.—**MNA**

**Significant night temperatures (3-3-2013)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chauk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bawlakhe</td>
<td>42°C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taungdwingyi</td>
<td>41°C</td>
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**PSM Governing Body on study tour of media industry in Philippines**

**Yangon, 3 March**—Chairman of Public Service Newspaper Governing Body U Ye Tint, in company with members U Tin Kha and U Kyaw Zaw Naing left here for Philippines to observe the media industry there from 4 to 9 March.—**MNA**
Woman died in hospital after accidentally swallowing herbicide powder

THONGWA, 3 March — A 24-year-old woman died in Yangon General Hospital on 13 February after she accidentally swallowed a few amount of herbicide powder while she tore a packet of herbicide powder with her teeth four days ago.

The victim was identified as Ma Thet Thet Wai of Azatwa village in Thongwa Township.

She accidentally swallowed the herbicide powder while tearing the packet with her teeth on 9 February with the aim of spraying the plants in the field.

She was taken to Yangon General Hospital as a drink of water made her vomit at Thongwa Hospital where she was sent to first after the accident happened to her.

Derailment happens to Dawei-Yangon express down-train in Kyaiktio Township

THAYET, 3 March — A derailment happened to Dawei-Yangon express down-train No. 176 at a place between male post No. (93/11) and (93/16) near Mokkanu village in Kyaiktio Township of Mon State at about 4.30 am yesterday.

The fire started in an oil well No. 5 (5) while drawing crude oil from the well.

The fire crew accompanied by three fire engines and one water bowser put out the fire in cooperation with local people at about 10.40 am.

A man who was carrying lights four days ago.

The victim is being given medical treatment at Paya Hospital after he was transferred from Thayet District People’s Hospital due to his serious injuries.

Cash donation for six-storey Sangha Hospital in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March — The second cash donation ceremony for construction of the six-storey Sangha Hospital which was mainly financed by Shwe Family Foundation was held on the ground floor of the building on Bo Taik Htain street in Mingala ward of Pyinmana in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 26 February.

It was attended by members of Sangha led by President Nayaka Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Kavisara of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Mahawthudaya Zaykon monastery, Union Minister at the President Office Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area U Thein Nyunt, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Dr Maung Maung Htay, Pyinmana Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Hla Myint Oo and officials.

First, the Union minister gave an account of the construction of the hospital which has been completed by 70 per cent so far.

Next, the Union minister accepted K 121.0 million donated by responsible persons of Ayeyar Shaheuang company and K 10 million each by TZTM, A One and Moon Ray companies and presented certificates of honour to them.

Then the deputy minister, the Pyithu Hluttaw representative and members of Nay Pyi Taw Council

Man killed in hit-and-run accident on Kyaiktio Pagoda Street in Yangon

YANGON, 3 March — A man who was carrying out sanitation work on the right side of Kyaiktio Pagoda road in Mayangon Township was knocked down by a vehicle driving from east to west. He was killed on the spot at about 1.30 am on 23 February.

He accepted cash donations of wellwishers.

At the today’s cash donation ceremony, 52 wellwishers donated K 207.19 million for construction of the Sangha hospital.

MANA

The fatal accident occurred in front of Kanbawza Bank near Ye Yan Aung bus-stop on Kyaiktio Pagoda road in ward-3 of the township. The investigation is ongoing to identify the name of hit-and-run driver by Mayangon police station that opened the case.

Before the tragic accident happened to Myo Min, 36, he was giving a helping hand in the sanitation task of his wife Tin Mar Oo, a temporary staff of YCDC, as his wife was ill.— Kyemon

Grocery fire in Tachilek

TACHILEK, 3 March — A fire broke out at a grocery store which was being kept open at a house on Bogyoke street in Hsansiang ward of Tachilek at about 10.30 pm on 26 February. The fire started from the overheated live wire of electric board in the store. A shower of sparks from the board had set fire to other materials and swept through the grocery, destroying groceries worth K 3000.

Fire crew accompanied by three fire engines and one water bowser put out the fire in cooperation with local people at about 10.40 pm.

A woman dead in hospital after accident happened to her.

She was taken to Yangon General Hospital as a drink of water made her vomit at Thongwa Hospital where she was sent to first after the accident happened to her.

The victim was heavily pregnant in the time of accident.

Police Inspector Min Lwin and police members of Thigon Police Station rushed there and gave necessary assistance. Thigon Police Station filed a lawsuit against driver Aung Myo Han.

Kyemon

From 28-2-2013 to 7-3-2013

Union Cup Games
Netanyahu gets 14 more days to form new Israeli government

JERUSALEM, 3 March—Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu an additional 14 days to try to form a new government after he was unable to complete the task during an initial 28-day period.

Talks with potential partners have been deadlocked since elections on 22 January and if he is unable to form a government by 16 March a new poll could be called—a delay that also puts into question a planned visit by US President Barack Obama.

Netanyahu hinted that at least one potential coalition partner refused to sit alongside others.

Netanyahu has faced demands from the parties that placed second and fourth, Yesh Atid (There is a Future) and Bayit Yehudi (Jewish Home), to slash mass exemptions from military conscription and cut welfare stipends to ultra-Orthodox Jews.

In coalition talks on Friday with Bayit Yehudi, Netanyahu’s chief negotiator said the right-wing party was unwilling to sit alongside ultra-Orthodox parties but Bayit Yehudi officials denied this.

Although he did not name Bayit Yehudi or Yesh Atid as the reason for his inability to form a coalition, Netanyahu said some parties were boycotting others.

“In these past four weeks I tried to form the broadest possible government... I think the ultra-Orthodox public is prepared to accept (demands by other partners) but the main reason that I have not managed to complete the task by today is... because there is a boycott of a certain sector,” he said.

Mexico’s ruling party opens door to tax, energy changes

MEXICO CITY, 3 March—Mexico’s ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party on Saturday paved the way for possible tax hikes and an overhaul of state oil giant Pemex as it seeks to spur growth in Latin America’s second-biggest economy.

PRI delegates from across Mexico voted to change the party’s platform during a congress to modernize its tax and energy plans on tax and energy reform. Those measures are expected to be presented in the second half of this year.

No party has had a majority in Congress since 1997, hindering efforts to enact major change on tax and energy law.

But President Enrique Pena Nieto wanted the changes so he has more room to manoeuvre on boosting Mexico’s low tax take and revamping its flagging oil industry.

PRI Congressman Javier Trevino said the changes would allow Mexico to modernize its tax system and energy sector, and give it a chance to devote more resources to helping the poor.

“This is a good signal,” he said.

The centrist PRI lacks a majority in Congress since 1997, and is unlikely to face months of tough negotiation before it can lay out detailed plans on tax and energy reform. Those measures are expected to be presented in the second half of this year.

It was a surprise for many critics when he unveiled a broad pact with the main opposition party to work together on economic reform shortly after he took office in December.

PRI financial experts are looking at ways of raising the Mexican tax take—currently the lowest in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development as a proportion of gross domestic product—by at least 5% of GDP.

Egypt needs to fix economy, strike IMF deal

CAIRO, 3 March—US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Saturday that Egypt revive its economy and that the country’s fractious political parties reach agreement on painful economic reforms to secure an IMF loan.

The country’s foreign currency reserves have dived to little more than a third of levels before the 2011 revolution and the budget deficit is soaring as a sliding Egyptian pound pushes up the cost of state subsidies for imported fuel and food. “It is paramount, essential, urgent that the Egyptian economy get stronger, that it gets back on its feet,” Kerry told Egyptian and US business executives in Cairo.

“It’s clear to us that the IMF arrangement needs to be reached.” The government of President Mohamed Mursi said on Thursday it would invite an IMF team to reopen talks on a $4.8 billion loan that was agreed last November but put on hold at Cairo’s request during street violence the following month.

Two years after the overthrow of Hosni Mubarak, the most populous Arab nation is deeply divided with many opposition parties promising to boycott parliamentary elections due to be held in four stages between April and June, and with an IMF deal likely to involve painful measures, Kerry called for consensus on tackling the problems.

“We do believe that in this moment of critical economic challenge that it’s important for the Egyptian people to come together around the economic choices and to find some common ground,” he said after meeting Foreign Minister Mohamed Kamel Amr.

Italy’s Grillo lists conditions for backing a government

ROME, 3 March—The 5-Star Movement that emerged as Italy’s largest party after a deadlocked election might support a government if it changed electoral law, cut politicians’ expenses and set a two-term limit for parliamentarians, its leader has told a magazine.

“Parties have been wrangling over how to form a government as neither 5-Star, the centre-left group led by the old system down, not because we would enjoy doing so but because the system would break,” he said.

In a blog post on his website, Grillo said his party would not give a mandate to any government but would only consider backing individual laws.

A majority of parliamentarians must back confidence votes—which are called regularly in Italy’s parliament as a way of speeding through laws - in order for a government to keep its mandate.

In a statement on Saturday, Italian President Giorgio Napolitano urged parties to be realistic and not to categorically rule out making agreements with each other. “We all have a duty to safeguard the public interest and the international image of the country,” he said.

Napolitano, whose term ends in May and whose successor must be appointed by parliament, has ruled out a return to the polls. On Friday Bersani said he would present a programme based around a limited number of points, many of them in line with Grillo’s platform, and seek the support of parliament.

Indian Navy exercises in Arabian Sea

NEW DELHI, 3 March—The Indian Navy has carried out a major exercise in the Arabian Sea over the last 30 days, during which it has honed its combat skills as well as its operational strategy, local media reported on Sunday. More than 50 warships, including the stealth frigates and nuclear-powered submarine INS Chakra, from the Indian Navy’s eastern fleet and the western fleet, took part in the exercise, along with 75 fighter jets and choppers, ‘The Times of India’ newspaper reported, quoting officials as saying.

The exercise, codenamed Tropex, also witnessed the Indian Navy practice operational concepts like maritime manoeuvre from the sea in a bid to show its readiness in case of a swift and high-tempo conflict in the future, the report said.

Elements from the Indian Air Force and the para-military Coast Guard also participated in the exercise, it said.
US commercial cargo capsule launched to space station

WASHINGTON, 3 March
—An unmanned rocket carrying the Dragon cargo capsule blasted off on Friday morning to deliver the second commercial shipment to the International Space Station (ISS).

A Falcon 9 rocket with the Dragon capsule, built by the private spaceflight company SpaceX, lifted off from Space Launch Complex 40 on Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida at 10:10 am EDT (1410 GMT), NASA TV shows. This is the second of 12 contracted flights by the rocket to resupply the space station and marks the third trip by a Dragon to the station, following a successful demonstration mission in May and the first resupply mission in October.

The capsule is packed with about 1,200 pounds of supplies for the ISS six-man crew, including frozen mouse stem cells, 640 seeds of Marigold cress, a small flowering weed used in research, and tasty treats for the station crew picked from the orchard of a SpaceX employee’s father.

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Astronomers in Chile detect birth of planet

SANTIAGO, 3 March—The European Southern Observatory (ESO) in Chile said on Friday it has detected what appears to be the birth of a giant planet in a galaxy fairly close to the Earth.

In a Press release, the agency said the fledgling formation consisted of a thick disc of dust and gas around a young star, some 335 light years from our planet.

According to ESO scientists, the discovery marks the first time that researchers have been able to detect the formation of a planet, and the find could greatly improve under-standing of how planets come into being.

An international team of researchers studying the disc of dust and gas around the star was surprised to find a planet in the making, which they believe may grow into a “gas giant similar to Jupiter.”

“So far, planet formation has mostly been a topic tackled by computer simulations,” said Sascha Quanz, a Swiss scientist who headed the research team.

“If our discovery is indeed a forming planet, then for the first time scientists will be able to study the planet formation process and the interaction of a forming planet and its natal environment empirically at a very early stage,” he added.

Microsoft’s Yammer adds translation functions

BARCELONA, 3 March—Microsoft said on Thursday its Yammer social network for internal corporate communications would add message translation capabilities to help firms with multilingual operations.

“Removing language as a barrier to cross-company collaboration can be a competitive game changer for multinational organizations. It opens a world of possibilities,” said Adam Pisoni, Yammer co-founder who is now a Microsoft executive.

“This is another example of Yammer’s accelerated innovation following the Microsoft acquisition we’re able to use Microsoft Translator to quickly deliver additional value to customers.”

Microsoft announced that it planned to promote adoption of Yammer’s service tied to complementary offerings of software or services such as SharePoint, Skype, and Office 365.

Yahoo to shut down seven products, including Blackberry app

SAN FRANCISCO, 3 March—Yahoo Inc is shutting down seven products, including its mobile app for Blackberry smartphones, as new Chief Executive Marissa Mayer takes a page from Google Inc’s play book by eliminating unsuccessful products to raise margins.

The product shutdowns, which Yahoo announced on its official company blog on Friday, are part of what the company said are regular efforts to evaluate and review its product line-up.

“The most critical question we ask is whether the experience is truly a daily habit that still resonates for all of you today,” wrote Jay Rossiter, Yahoo’s executive vice president of Platforms.

The announcement represents Yahoo’s second group shutdown of products since Mayer, a former Google executive and a former CEO of the struggling Web portal in July.

So-called “spring cleaning” announcements, in which multiple products are shut down, have become a regular feature at Google in recent years.

Reuters

The Apple logo hangs in a glass enclosure above the 5th Ave Apple Store in New York, on 20 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS

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 Reuters
WASHINGTON, 3 March—Staff review for the US Food and Drug Administration said that a potential increased risk of cancer with drugs containing calcitonin salmon appears plausible.

In briefing documents released on Friday, the reviewers said the risk raises concerns about the overall risk versus benefit of calcitonin products to treat osteoporosis in postmenopausal women.

Calcitonin products include Novartis AG’s Miacalcin injection and nasal spray and Unigene Laboratories Inc’s nasal spray. Privately held Upsher Smith Laboratories Inc distributes Unigene’s product in the United States. Generic calcitonin products are also available.

Calcitonin salmon is a man-made version of the hormone calcitonin that is found in salmon.

The reviewers said significant questions remain about calcitonin salmon’s effectiveness in reducing fractures in the treatment of postmenopausal osteoporosis. An advisory panel to the FDA is scheduled to discuss the products on 5 March and will make a recommendation to the agency on whether to allow the continued marketing of these products for that use. Last July European regulators recommended that long-term use of calcitonin be curtailed after a review found evidence of a small increased risk of cancer with long-term use of the drugs.

They recommended that they should only be authorized for short-term use in Paget’s disease, a bone disorder; for acute bone loss due to sudden immobilization; and for excess calcium in the blood caused by cancer. They ruled that the benefits of calcitonin-containing medicines did not outweigh their risks in the treatment of osteoporosis that they should no longer be used for this condition. Unigene officials declined comment on the FDA staff review as they do not distribute a calcitonin product in the United States.

Upsher Smith officials were not immediately available for comment. Novartis said in a statement that it “places the highest priority on patient safety and the appropriate use of its medicines and is looking forward to the opportunity to engage in the discussion at the upcoming meeting.”

Residents of the Beijing First Social Welfare Institution—facility in Beijing on 1 March, 2013. The nursing home affiliated nursing home play mahjong, a traditional game.

SYDNEY, 3 March—An outburst in Australia this week by the Pentagon’s chief buyer for the costly F-35 Joint Strike Fighter risks undermining the programme at home and abroad. US defence officials and industry experts say.

At an Australian air show, Lieutenant General Christopher Bogdan accused the plane’s manufacturer, Lockheed Martin Corp (LMT.N) and engine maker Pratt & Whitney, a unit of United Technologies Corp (UTX.N), of trying to “squeeze every nickel” out of the US government for the planes.

Bogdan, who took over the $396 billion programme in December, told reporters it’s not his job to be a “cheerleader for the F-35.” But for some in the industry, the words stung.

“Airing dirty laundry in front of a key customer who’s on the fence about buying more competing aircraft, is a very dangerous game,” said aerospace analyst Richard Aboulafia of the Teal Group.

The US general’s Australian outburst could undermine F-35 programme

NEW YORK, 3 March—Toyota Motor Corp registered a steady gain from a year earlier in February sales of new cars in the United States, while Honda Motor Co and Nissan Motor Corp posted drops, figures from US research firm Autodata Corp showed on Friday.

The US market saw overall sales climb 3.7 percent to 1,192,249 units, the strongest result for the month of February since 2007, owing to the gradual pace of recovery of the economy. The total translates into an annualized 15.38 million cars after seasonal adjustments, up 90,000 from the previous month and staying above the 15 million threshold for the fourth consecutive month, a result that marks a solid recovery by the US market.

The “Big Three” US automakers all reported solid increases. General Motors Co was the top seller with a 7.2 percent rise to 224,314 cars, on the back of strong sales of large models such as pickups. The second biggest seller was Ford Motor Co with 93.3 percent rise to 195,310. Toyota came in third with a 4.3 percent rise to 166,777. Chrysler LLC followed with 135,713 cars, up 4.2 percent. Ranked fifth, Honda marked 107,987 units in sales, down 2 percent. Nissan, in the sixth position, lost 6.6 percent to 99,636 units.

Workers can be seen on the moving line and forward fuselage assembly areas for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter at Lockheed Martin Corp’s factory located in Fort Worth, Texas.— Reuters

He said Australia is already considering plans to buy more Boeing (BA.N) F/A-18 Super Hornets, which would wind up reducing its planned purchase of 100 F-35 fighter jets. “By implying that the contractors are greedy... he could inspire politicians to cut funding as a form of punishment, which would raise unit costs and inspire them to cut funding again. It’s the classic death spiral,” Aboulafia said.

A similar dynamic is undercut an Air Force’s plan in the 1990s to buy 750 F-22 fighter jets from Lockheed, raising the unit cost and leaving the Air Force with just 183 planes in the fleet. The cost of each F-35 jet has already risen in recent years as Washington delayed orders until later in the decade.—Reuters

Women can be seen on the moving line and forward fuselage assembly areas for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter at Lockheed Martin Corp’s factory located in Fort Worth, Texas.— Reuters

Toyota gains in February US auto sales, while Nissan, Honda sag

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**NATO says its troops shot dead two Afghan boys**

**KABUL, 3 March** — NATO said on Saturday its forces had accidentally shot dead two Afghan boys, in the latest of a series of reports of civilian deaths at the hands of international troops. The shooting in the southern Province of Uruzgan could further strain the relationship between the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and Afghan President Hamid Karzai, who has demanded US special forces leave another province over allegations of torture.

The two boys were shot dead when they were mistaken for insurgents during an operation in northwest Uruzgan on 28 February, ISAF commander, US General Joseph Dunford, said in a statement.

“I offer my personal apology and condolences to the family of the boys who were killed,” Dunford said.

“They were killed when Coalition forces fired at what they thought were insurgent forces,” he said, adding that a team of Afghan and ISAF investigators visited the village on Saturday and met local leaders. The area, Lowar-E-Dowahom, was often patrolled by international troops, a spokesman for provincial governor Amir Mohammad Akhundzada said.

“They saw two young children who were apparently listening to a radio and they shot them — it is not yet clear why,” the spokesman said. —Reuters

**Over 22,600 observers to monitor Kenya’s elections**

**NAIROBI, 3 March** — Kenya’s electoral body said on Saturday it has registered 22,600 both local and international observers to monitor on Monday general elections in the East African nation. The Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IBEC) chairman Issack Hassan told journalists in Nairobi that 20,000 domestic and 2, 600 international observers from Kenya, East Africa Community, Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), COMESA, the Africa Union, EU and the Carter Centre have all been accredited.

“As four former Heads of State and about five chairpersons of the electoral commission Africa who will be heading international observe missions are among those accredited,” Hassan told journalists in Nairobi. Kenya’s 4 March vote will be one of the most closely watched in Africa after an anxious campaign that has divided the nation and raised fears of a repeat of the bloodshed that followed disputed 2007 elections.

However, the security agencies, judiciary and the electoral body have all expressed their readiness to handle the polls which will be held for the first time under the new constitution which was approved in August 2010. Hassan said the political stations will open at 6am (0300GMT) and close at 5pm (1400GMT). However, Hassan said if there are voters still on the queue at 5pm, voting time will be extended until such a time that all eligible voters have voted.

“If for whatever reason the opening of a station is delayed or voting interrupted, the Presiding Officer shall ensure the last time is fully recovered by compensatorily extending the voting period,” he told journalists. —Xinhua

**Syrian army, rebel clashes bring conflict to Iraq doorstep**

**RAFA, 3 March** — Clashes between the Syrian army and rebels at a border post brought the civil war close to neighbouring Iraq, where troops fired warning shots into the air, residents, officials and a Reuters reporter said.

Insurgents seized control of half of the northeastern Syrian town of Yaarabiyah, including a border post with Iraq, in a battle with forces loyal to President Bashar al-Assad on Friday and early Saturday, the pro-opposition Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a monitoring group, said on Saturday.

The fighting on Iraq’s doorstep shows how Syria’s near-two-year conflict could spill over its borders, threatening to drag in neighbouring countries and further destabilise the region. —Reuters

**One Chinese tourist killed in traffic accident in Egypt’s Aswan**

**CAIRO, 3 March** — A mini-bus overturned on Saturday morning on the highway near Aswan, killing one Chinese tourist and leaving another 13 people on board injured — among them three Chinese nationals, a Chinese Embassy official confirmed to Xinhua. “The accident happened at around 6:30 local time (Saturday) (0430 GMT), around 50 km away from Abu Simbel,” said Zhang Baqiu, director of consular affairs at the Chinese Embassy in Cairo.

The four Chinese tourists were all initially injured, but one, in critical condition, later died in hospital, Zhang said. Local media reported that all the rest 13 were not seriously injured. Meanwhile, Colonel Salah Eddin Mohamed, head of Abu Simbel Tourism Police Station, told Xinhua that “the tourist who was killed in the car overturn was a 24-year-old Chinese man. The dying was received in complete coma while excessively bleeding, and was admitted to the intensive care unit at Abu Simbel International Hospital but stopped breathing at 9:00 am (0700 GMT),” said Mohamed. The exact reason of the accident is not immediately known, yet initial investigation shows no criminal suspicion behind it.

“The car is a tourist microbus that belongs to Al-Tawfiq Tourist Company,” Mohamed added.

The accident came a few days after nine tourists from China’s Hong Kong were killed in a hot balloon explosion in Egypt’s southern city of Luxor on Tuesday, which in all claimed 19 lives and injured two. Egypt has already been struggling to bring back foreign tourists after two years of repetitive political demonstrations, which usually turned violent and has created continuous social instability.—Xinhua

**Greece faces bailout review, plays down public sector job losses**

**ATHENS, 3 March** — Officials from the European Union and the International Monetary Fund return to Athens on Sunday to assess Greece’s performance under a bailout plan as the government plays down the prospect of public sector job cuts.

The heads of the “troika” mission from the EU, IMF and the European Central Bank will meet Athens to review progress in implementing austerity measures and prepare new loan instalments. The IMF’s mission is expected to finish its first mission by the closing of the voting period, which in all will be 5pm (1400GMT) Sunday, though the mission can request more time.

“Greece’s euro zone partners and the IMF have urged strict adherence to the plan to shore up public finances,” said the head of the Euro Working Group of senior officials who prepare decisions of euro zone finance ministers.

“All that was agreed in the bailout plan must be implemented. These reforms were agreed to make the Greek economy stronger, flexible and more competitive,” Euro Working Group chief Thomas Wieser told Greek newspaper Realnews.

In its sixth year of recession, Greece has agreed to shrink its public sector by 150,000 by 2015 to cut its wage bill, mainly through attrition: hiring one new person for every 10 who retire. Athens wants to avoid public sector layoffs with unemployment already at a record 27 percent and likely to rise as the economy is projected to shrink 4.5 percent this year.

But the government must transfer 25,000 employees to a so-called mobility scheme by the end of this year, where workers will earn reduced pay for a year and may face layoffs if vacant spots are not found in the broader public sector. —Reuter
Mandalay draws renovation of ancient religious buildings

Mandalay, 3 March—A ceremony to seek Ovada from venerable Sayadaws for renovation of damaged Pitakat chamber, Thudhamma rest houses and Pathana ordination halls was held at Aungmyethazi Middle Monastery of Mahawithokdayon Monastery in Mahaungmye Township of Mandalay on 23 February.

Sitatu International Buddhist Academy Chancellor Dr Ashin Nanissara supplicated Chancellor Dr Ashin Buddhakha of Mandalay on 23 February. Mahaaungmye Township of Withokdayon Monastery in Middle Monastery of Mahaungmye Township of Mandalay on 23 February also supplicated on plans for renovation of the buildings.

Wellwisher U Kyaw Win also made supplications on the purpose of renovating the damaged buildings. Later, U Kyaw Win and Daw Myint Myint Thant and family of Mann Myay Razar Co Ltd offered meals to the venerable Sayadaws.

Mandalay University of Dental Medicine confers degrees

Mandalay, 3 March—University of Dental Medicine (Mandalay) held convocation ceremony at its convocation hall on 26 February.

Acting Rector Dr Shwe Toe, faculty members, members of University Education Committee, and management committee members, guests and graduates attended the convocation.

The rector conferred diplomas to 10 students and degrees to 117 dentists at the 10th convocation ceremony. The university has turned out 863 dentists and general dental diploma to 16 students.

Knowledge about crime reduction shared to people

Yangon, 3 March—In Yangon Region, a systematic plan has drawn for reduction of crimes at district and township levels.

The talks on crime reduction was given in front of No. 20 on Sanyoung Street in North Sanyoung Ward of Sanyoung Township of Yangon West District on 21 February.

India-Myanmar Cottage Arts Show in Mandalay

Mandalay, 3 March—With the aim of exchanging culture of Myanmar and India and developing trade between the two countries, the India-Myanmar Cottage Arts Show was held in front of the National Theatre in Aungmyethazan Township of Mandalay from 20 to 24 February, attended by Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint.

On arrival at the show, Chief Minister U Ye Myint, accompanied by Mandalay Region Minister for Development Affairs Mayor U Aung Moung, Region Minister for Finance and Revenue U Phone Zaw Han and officials, was welcomed by the Indian Consul-General and Managing Director Mr W Nnilanmi Singh of Cottage Arts.

Union Cup Games

Dates and Venues for Sports Events

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<td>7-3-2013</td>
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Summer hazards

Temperatures of some of the towns in Myanmar reach 41 degrees Celsius even at the very start of March. So, this summer could be rather hot especially for the people of central Myanmar. Accordingly, there must be a whole new set of precautions to take that we don’t have to think about in the rainy season and cold season. Normally, sunlight can be beneficial to our health (think vitamin D!), but repeated or severe sunburns can cause both immediate and long-term health problems. The sun’s rays are strongest between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., so it’s important to stayindoors at these times. Parents leaving their children in the car while running errands is another problem. It only takes 60 seconds for something to happen in a car’s interior. Parents have been informed of the danger. However, it only happens in rented cars or while parents are busy with their work. But there may be gone for only minutes, but a car with the windows up on a hot day can become an oven. So, we must avoid too much overexposure and stay indoors as possible as we can and wear light clothes especially during the hours. We also need umbrella or at least a cap when going outdoors. When temperatures are high, people can experience serious health problems such as cramps, exhaustion and heat stroke. Parents must avoid keeping their children in a car for too long. Parents have been informed of the danger. However, it only happens in rented cars or while parents are busy with their work.

Insects are another pesky and potentially dangerous problem this time of year. The high temperatures and moisture create an environment perfect for the insects. As the season evolves, we will see more insects, notably mosquitoes. The presence of mosquitoes and biting flies increases the risk of contracting dengue fever, malaria and other vector-borne diseases. The mosquitoes are attracted to human sweat, so it’s important to stay indoors while the sun is out. But there was another female nat-spirit who arrived on these hills long before Saga Meidaw appeared. She was one Ma Hnin Cho, daughter of a very wealthy man in a prosperous town. She and her brother Maung Po Dan inherited all properties and treasures of their father. They lived together happily for some years until a great storm broke out destroying their house and killing both of them. The two became nat-spirits due to their violent death, guarding their properties and treasures which they later divided between them. Ma Hnin Cho got the lion’s share and she moved with them to a hill in Hpo Wun Taung hill range. That hill came to be known after her name. Ma Hnin Cho was the univalued nat-spirit of Hpo Wun Taung Range until another lady appeared there. Thuseikta, the wife of Sakka Deva. King of the Celestial Kingdom of Tavatimsa, died and her spirit descended to Earth and entered a bud of a champac flower tree that was growing on Ma Hnin Cho’s hill. Sakka Deva sent a magic wand to the hermit Thuzaat of that hill to guard the bud. The hermit guarded the wand over to a necromancer alchemist princes of Alakappa and Amyint were summoned to the spot and they surrounded the hill, which thenceforth came to be called “Bo wai yang Taung” (the hill surrounded by armed forces). But later, the name corrupted to “Hpo Wun Taung”. This time again, the Zawgyi and his bull defeated them. The hermit told Zawgyi that King Thuabahala was an evil man. When the female child was born from the champac bud and a growing up a maiden, she should not be married to evil king. It was Pu Min, the noble king of Bagan, who was worthy of her hand. So she should be married to Pu Min. A pretty maiden came out of the champac bud. She was named Saga Meidaw (Lady Champac Flower). When Pu Min of Bagan heard of what the hermit said to Zawgyi he was very much delighted. He married with his armed forces to Hpo Wun Taung range. His brother Crown Prince “Pyone Min” joined him at the place which later came to be called “Minsu” [the place of royal assembly]. When they reached Hpo Wun Taung Range, a fierce battle was ensued between Pu Min and Thurabahala in which the latter was defeated. The former carried Saga Meidaw as his deserving bride to Bagan and made her queen. Thurabahala did not give up hope. He sent Mi Kho, the witch of Hpo Wun Taung Range to Bagan to bring Saga Meidaw back to the hill. Mi Kho transformed him into a beautiful lady with fairy dust and with her magical power charmed her back to the hill. Ma Hnin cho the guardian Spirit pitied Saga Meidaw. So she transformed her into a nat spirit. When the two brothers Pyu Min and Pyone Min arrived on the sence with a large retinue to rescue the queen, they found the body of Saga Meidaw’s apparition uprooted from what had happened. Her body was cremated with pomp and honour. A temple was built as a memorial to her. Ma Hnin cho the guardian Spirit fell in love with the her treasures of 500 bucklok cart load and she told them that she wanted to dedicate them for the construction of a monastery for the next Buddha Metteyya and that after that dedication she would depart from the spirit world. Pu Min thus buried all her treasures in the caves and he went to the future Buddha. He and his brother Pyone Min made five Buddha Images in these caves on the Nat Taung hill. They poured libation water and shared their merits with religious deeds with Saga Meidaw, Ma Hnin cho and all sentient beings. Ma Hnin cho, the guardian spirit after exclaiming her appreciation and after the accomplishment of religious deeds, was released from the guarding duty over her treasures and she departed from the spirit world. Now Saga Meidaw was the only spirit mistress of the hill. The king’s retinue also sculpted many Buddha images in the rock caves. These images numbered 444,444 in total! Some of them still survive today but in poor condition. Pu Min abandoned Bagan and founded a new capital “Hanthawada” which is...
Union Education Minister calls for valuing teaching profession

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March—Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye visited Wunpyae Village Basic Education Middle School (Branch) in Myinny Township, Sagaing Region today.

He inspected progress in the construction of a school building measuring 120x30 feet and met school board of trustees, parent-teacher association, the township education officer, school heads and teachers there.

Myanmar Supreme Audit Implementation Initiative International Standards of Supreme Audit Institution was also under discussion at the workshop.

Union Auditor-General back home

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March — Auditor-General of the Union U Thein Htaik arrived back in Yangon by air yesterday after attending the International Standards of Supreme Audit Institution (ISSAI) Implementation Initiative 3i Management Workshop held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia from 27 February to 1 March. The workshop held at Hotel Cambodiana in Phnom Penh was attended by auditors-general from 20 countries in Asia and 3i management was discussed there.

Union Minister inspects tissue cultivation

Union Minister U Win Tun visits tissue cultivation plantations of Great Wall International Co Ltd in Chanmyathazi Township in Mandalay Region.

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March—Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun yesterday visited tissue cultivation plantations of Great Wall International Co Ltd in Chanmyathazi Township in Mandalay Region.

The Union Minister called for distribution of the genetically modified Eucalyptus at reasonable price.

YANGON Golf Masters to open summer course

YANGON, 3 March—HAN Golf Masters Academy plans to conduct basic golfing and refresher course at Myanmar golf training course in Mayangon Township on 11-17 March. Veteran coaches U Chan Han and U Ko Ko Lay and other assistant coaches of the academy will provide the training.

YANGON Lawmakers provide Chinese course

YANGON, 3 March—Lawmakers of Yangon Region Hluttaw provided a free-of-charge Chinese language training to 30 trainees.

Eco and cultural tourist attraction site...

(from page 8)

Chairman U Ye Tint, members U Tin Kha and U Kyaw Zaw Naing of PSM Governing Body seen at Yangon International Airport before their departure for Philippines. (News on Page 1) — MNA

Union Minister inspects tissue cultivation

The fee is K 50,000 per head and anyone may dial 01-651797, 092037671 and 0949102009 for more details.

Youngalawmakers provide Chinese course

The course concluding ceremony was held today. The course lasts three months.

End of Part I

Chairman U Ye Tint, members U Tin Kha and U Kyaw Zaw Naing of PSM Governing Body seen at Yangon International Airport before their departure for Philippines. (News on Page 1) — MNA

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End of Part I
Recovery effort ends for Florida man

presumed dead in sinkhole

The Associated Press

Monday, 4 March, 2013

Hillborough County Sheriff’s deputies secure the scene surrounding a home where a sinkhole opened up and swallowed a man in Seffner, Florida, on 3 March, 2013.

Reuters

China’s 8 pct growth likely in next 2 decades

Beijing, 3 March—

Former World Bank chief economist Justin Yifu Lin reaffirmed his assertion that China can maintain an 8 percent annual growth for another 20 years.

Lin said he was not talking big, as China’s economy has great potentials in capitalizing on the slow-mover advantages.

“Should such advantages as a late mover be fully capitalized on, China might continue to maintain an 8 percent annual growth for 20 more years,” Lin, a professor with Peking University, said in a speech on China’s economic outlook and challenges on Friday.

Lin said a sound government financial status, a large number of programs with high return on investment, high civil-ian bank deposits and foreign exchange reserves are beneficial to the economic growth in short terms.

He however pointed out that China is still facing multiple challenges such as urban-rural gap, income gap, backwardness in social development, resource-environment conflicts, unbalanced foreign trade, overheated investment, education, technological and creative capability, corruption, as well as legal and political mechanisms.

“Whether China could maintain continuous economic growth relies on if these challenges could be addressed,” Lin said.

UN Security Council sets stage for lifting Somalia arms embargo

UNITED NATIONS, 3 March—The UN Security Council is considering lifting an arms embargo on Somalia’s government for one year so it can beef up its army to combat Islamist fighters, according to a draft resolution that is due to be voted on by the divided council on Wednesday.

The Somalia government has asked for the arms embargo to be lifted and the United States has been pushing the council to agree, but Britain and France have been wary of removing the ban in a country already awash with weapons, diplomats say.

The draft resolution, drawn up by Britain and obtained by Reuters, appears to propose a compromise: lifting the arms embargo for one year but keeping restrictions in place on heavy weapons such as surface to air missiles, howitzers and cannons.

The draft resolution says the arms embargo shall not apply to the deliveries of other “weapons or military equipment or the provision of advice, assistance or training, intended solely for the development of the security forces of the federal government of Somalia and to provide security for the Somali people.” It says that these weapons and equipment “may not be resold to, transferred to, or made available for use by, any individual or entity not in the service of the security forces of the federal government of Somalia.”

The 15-member council imposed the arms embargo in February 1992 to cut the flow of arms to feuding warlords, who a year earlier ousted dictator Mohamed Siad Barre. Britain and the United States plunged Somalia into civil war. Somalia held its first national vote since 1991 last year to elect a president and prime minister.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon earlier this month suggested the Security Council consider lifting the arms embargo to help rebuild Somalia’s forces and consolidate military gains against al-Qaeda-linked al Shabaab militants.

But some council members are concerned about the security risks involved with removing the arms embargo and one council diplomat said one moves “sends shivers down the spine.” The Security Council’s Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea, an independent panel that reports on compliance with UN sanctions, has warned that the Islamist militants in Somalia are receiving proposed weapons from distribution networks linked to Yemen and Iran, diplomats said.

Turkish captives to be released by Kurdish rebels

An Egyptian man captures two locusts in Al-Mountain District of Cairo, on 2 March, 2013.

Reuters

Reports from Egyptian agriculture ministry said that the locusts pass through Egypt during their migration from northeast Sudan to Saudi Arabia, re affirming Egypt is just “a transfer station” for them.

Xinhua

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Seven killed in car crash in Thailand

BANGKOK, 3 March — Seven people in a passenger van were killed when it crashed into a road sign in eastern Chon Buri Province on Saturday, Bangkok Post online reported.

Police said the passenger van was running between Bangkok and eastern Rayong Province. The vehicle was carrying a driver and nine passengers.

The accident occurred at about 8:20 am on Saturday in Chon Buri’s Bang Lamung District.

Witnesses told police that the vehicle was traveling at high speed. It lost control, ran into the road sign and fell into a ditch.

The compressed natural gas (CNG)-fuelled van quickly caught fire.

Among the seven fatalities were five women and two men.

Two woman passengers and the driver were injured and taken to hospital.

The police suspected that the driver had dozed off while driving.

Massive blaze hits New Zealand’s Auckland

WELLINGTON, 3 March — Four buildings were on fire and several people unaccounted for in a massive blaze that was tearing through properties in central Auckland on Saturday night.

More than 60 firefighters were battling the fire that’s threatening neighboring properties on West End Road in Westmere, Radio New Zealand reported.

A fire service spokesperson, Jason Phillips, said there were unconfirmed reports of people inside the burning houses, but they don’t know how many or which buildings they may be inside. Phillips said a van parked near the properties was also on fire and has been rocked by several explosions since firefighters arrived.—Xinhua

Five policemen killed in Malaysia’s Sabah amid standoff

KUALA LUMPUR, 3 March — At least five policemen were killed in an ambush in Malaysia’s Sabah state as gunmen were spotted outside the village where standoff continues between security forces and Sulia gunmen, police said on Sunday.

Police Inspector General Ismail Omar told a Press conference that a police team put the death toll at two. Ismail told media that police were hunting down at least 10 intruders who believed to had infiltrated two villages in Kunak areas, located between Semporna and Lahad Datu where some 180 Royal Army of the Sulu Sultanate, have held up in a village of Tanduo for three weeks.—Xinhua

Bullet train derails in Japan’s Akita, no one injured

 TOKYO, 3 March — A bullet train derailed on the Akita Shinkansen Line on Saturday afternoon in Japan’s northern Prefecture of Akita and no one was injured, local media reported.

The accident took place at around 4:05 pm local time with about 130 passengers on board when the first carriage of the six-car train derailed, Japan’s Kyodo News Agency quoted the train’s operator as saying.

The derail also led to suspension of all services on the Akita Shinkansen Line connecting Akita and Morioka, Iwate Prefecture, according to the East Japan Railway Company.

The Japanese transport authorities said they would send officials to investigate the accident, which may be caused by bad weather as heavy snow warning has been issued in the area.

Death toll rises to 12 in N China mine fire

SHIHEZHOU, 3 March — The death toll from a coal mine fire in north China rose to 12 after one of the two missing miners was confirmed dead, local government said on Sunday.

All the 12 died due to carbon monoxide poisoning after a forcing fan caught fire under the Jiayigou coal mine in Huailai County, Hebei Province. Rescuers are still searching for the last missing miner.

The accident occurred at 8 pm on Thursday when 13 workers were doing maintenance work in the mine.—Xinhua

Five militants killed in eastern Afghan drone strike

KUNAR, 3 March — Up to five militants were killed on Saturday in a drone strike carried out by the NATO-led coalition forces in eastern Afghan Province of Kunar, the provincial governor said. “Unmanned plane with the coalition forces launched an attack against a militants’ hide-out in Jerin area of Ghazi Abad District at around 8 am local time on Saturday, killing five militants,” Governor Seyyad Fazullah Wahidi told Xinhua.

Meantime, local residents said that two local Taleban leaders named Dust Mohammad and Akhtar Mohammad were among the dead in the province 180 km east of Kabul.

On the other hand, the Taleban militant group fighting the Afghan and some 100,000 NATO-led forces confirmed the deaths. A Taleban purported spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, told local media via cell phone from undisclosed location that two Taleban members were killed and four wounded in the attack.

The Taleban has been waging an insurgency since its regime was toppled by a US-led invasion in late 2001.—Xinhua

Armed men kill 10 people in Pakistan’s Karachi

ISLAMABAD, 3 March — At least ten people were killed in separate incidents of violence and target killings in Pakistan’s southern port city of Karachi since early Saturday, local media reported.

Urdu TV channel Dunya reported that the recent spate of armed assault started at about 5:30 am (local time) when some unknown assailants gunned down a seminary teacher in Shah Faisal colony area of the city.

Police, in the wee hours of morning, recovered a body from Gulshan-e-Iqbal area of the city. The identity of the deceased has not been determined yet, but police investigators said that the body carried eminently marks of torture.

Later, in the morning, some unknown gunmen opened fire in Orangi Town area of the city, killing two people right on the spot and injuring two others.

The injured people were shifted to hospital where one of them breathed his last.

The assailants fled the scene following the attack, and police is yet clueless about their whereabouts.

In another incident, two dacoits and a passerby woman were killed during the exchange of firing between the dacoits and the residents in Sukhi Hassan area of the city, senior superintendent Karachi police Asif Ijaz said.

Separately, two people were gunned down in Mocha Goth area of the city by unknown militants. Identities of both the deceased and assailants are not known yet. —Xinhua

Job seekers read employment information at a job fair in Nanjing, capital of east China’s Jiangsu Province, on 2 March, 2013. More than 20,000 job opportunities were offered at the job fair.—Xinhua

An artist draws on the ground in Bangkok, Thailand, on 2 March, 2013. One local artist and 19 others from over the world feast the eyes of Thai people with their 3D and 4D street paintings during the Living Arts Festival held in Bangkok.—Xinhua

The preparatory meeting for the first session of the 12th National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) is held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, on 2 March, 2013. —Xinhua
More Nepalis want to learn Chinese

Ministry makes public handling of exam paper leakage

Beijing, 3 March— The Ministry of Education (MOE) has made public its handling of an exam paper leakage scandal, a ministry official said on Saturday.

The MOE launched investigations soon after the leakage of exam paper during the national postgraduate exam in January, 2012. It disclosed investigation results in May and transferred the results to police, the official said.

Investigations found that Zhou Wensheng, an official with Xiangtan Education Examinations Authority, stole the postgraduate exam papers from a confidential room in Xiangtan City in central China’s Hunan Province and traded them for profit.

The ministry also made public on Saturday the penalties handed out to the involved suspects in the first instance trial.

Zhou Wensheng was sentenced to six years in prison, and his accomplices were handed imprisonment sentences from nine months to five years, according to the ministry. They were sentenced on charge of illegally obtaining state secrets.—Xinhua

Will Dreamliner drama affect industry self-inspection?

San Francisco/Seattle/Paris, 3 March— Eight years ago, US regulators substantially increased their dependence on the aircraft industry to help keep flying safe.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said it would no longer directly manage routine inspection of design and manufacturing. Instead, it would focus on overseeing a self-policing programme executed by the manufacturers themselves through more than 3,000 of their employees assigned to review safety on behalf of the FAA.

These so-called designees had existed for decades, but the FAA had vetted and controlled them. Under the new system, companies chose and managed those to the point where the FAA even had trouble rejecting those felt were unsuit- able for the job, according to one government watch- dog. As the drama of the overheating lithium-ion batteries on the Boeing 787 Dreamliner unfolded, that relationship is coming under intense scrutiny.

No evidence has surfaced that the designees or their employers are responsible for the battery problem that has prompted regulators to temporarily ban the plane from the skies. The story has raised the question, however, whether the regulator hands over too much power to the industry. “This is an occupation with a built-in conflict of interest,” said Gordon Mandell, a retired FAA certification engineer.

With Boeing doing about 95 percent of its own inspections, adds Mary Schiavo, former Depart- ment of Transportation inspection in- spector general, “it’s kind of do-it-yourself.”

The situation was not unique to Boeing, she said. “There are places around the world that saw an FAA inspector once, maybe five years ago, and that’s it.”

Boeing’s new ultra-modern carbon-composite jet has been grounded around the world for six weeks as the National Transportation Safety Board leads an investiga- tion into two battery incidents, joined by the FAA. Both agencies are also looking into the 787 certification process.

Peruvian president says free trade accord with EU to advance ties

Lima, 3 March— The free trade agreement between Peru and the Euro- pean Union (EU) will help promote bilateral ties, Peru- vian President Ollanta Hu- mala 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 mar- ket, 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.—Xinhua

Madhuri Dixit serious about doing comedy films

Mumbai, 3 March— After winning hearts of millions of fans with her emotion-filled acting and dancing skills, Madhuri Dixit now wants to show her funny side on screen.

The popular Bollywood actor, who currently has two films in her kitty, says she is open to doing all kinds of roles and does not want to restrict herself to certain characters.—PTI
Is there a cold war brewing between Katrina Kaif, Priyanka Chopra?

**Mumbai, 3 March**—The non-stop catfights between leading ladies in Bollywood has been as old as 100 years of Indian cinema. Time and again we have heard about top actresses not getting along with each other. So Katrina Kaif and Priyanka Chopra’s cold war on the sets of Sanjay Gupta’s upcoming sequel Shootout At Wadala did not come as a surprise.

A source says, “Priyanka Chopra was shooting for a special item song at stage number three in the Film City studios for Gupta’s film. Around lunchtime, the entire set came to a stand still when they learnt that Katrina Kaif had come to the sets.”

However Katrina apparently refused to come inside and instead went to choreographer Ahmed Khan’s van where director Siddharth Anand joined them. The source adds, “The trio had a two hour meeting for the songs of Siddharth’s Bang Bang. However neither Katrina, nor Priyanka bothered to go and greet each other.”

**Why Salman Khan vs Ranbir Kapoor may be an epic box office battle**

**Mumbai, 3 March**—After missing the Eid deadline, Salman Khan is now looking at releasing his upcoming film Mental (directed by brother Sohail Khan) on 2 October. The Gandhi Jayanti holiday is followed by the weekend which he feels will help the film.

By doing so, Salman will be taking on Abhinav Kashyap’s film with Ranbir Kapoor which also releases on the same date. To stir your memory Salman and his brother Arbaaz Khan had severe differences with Abhinav Kashyap when he dropped out of Dabangg 2. Moreover Ranbir is dating Salman’s ex-girlfriend Katrina Kaif. A source says, “This time around Salman’s film has gone on the floors without any fanfare. Even the cast is being kept under wraps. The shoot has just started in Dubai and although the entire trade expected the film to be wrapped up and released on Eid (8 July), the fact is that Salman is not eying Eid this time.”

The source added, “Salman intends to kill two birds with one stone, as it is well known that Salman and Abhinav can’t see eye to eye after Abhinav decided to leave Dabangg 2 in spite of the success of Dabangg. Salman also wants to take on Ranbir now and is not bothered by the fact that his arch enemy Shah Rukh Khan’s Chennai Express might release on Eid.” The source further said, “In the past Salman’s God Tussi Great Ho clashed with Ranbir’s Bachna Ae Haseeno and Salman brought down that time. He does not forget these things easily and now is his time to strike back.”

**Savita was really good: Sridevi praises her female cab driver**

**New Delhi, 3 March**—Bollywood actress Sridevi was driven to Design One, a fund-raising exhibition she inaugurated, by a female taxi driver in the capital on Wednesday (27 Feb, 2013). The actress was driven to the venue in a cab chauffeured by a female driver from Sakha Cabs, which aims to provide safe transport for women in New Delhi. The actress, whose reel character Shashi empowered herself by making ladders and learning English in comeback film English Vinglish, was all praises for the cause and the experience.

“Like the first time how I worked with a woman director in English Vinglish, I travelled with a woman taxi driver. It was quite exciting and thrilling,” Sridevi said.

Talking about her driver, the actress said, “Her name is Savita and she was really good.”

Sridevi felt that it’s exciting times for women in the country as there is work being done to empower them. “Things are changing now and that’s the reason I’m here,” she said. Shachchhriti Foundation, which organised the exhibition, donated a car to Sakha Cabs for women.

**Judge refuses to dismiss Lindsay Lohan car crash charges**

Lindsay Lohan was found guilty of reckless driving after a judge rejected her request to dismiss the case on Wednesday (27 Feb, 2013). The actress was driven from Sakha Cabs, which aims to provide safe transport for women in New Delhi. The actress, whose reel character Shashi empowered herself by making ladders and learning English in comeback film English Vinglish, was all praises for the cause and the experience.

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**Amitabh Bachchan wants to be journalist in his next life**

Bhopal, 3 March—Bollywood mega star Amitabh Bachchan has said that he wants to be a journalist in his next life for the freedom of expression that he feels is being suppressed.

“Next life? A journalist for sure! Shall have the joy and liberty to express press and speak out, without fear of any repercussions,” Bachchan posted on his Twitter page.

The 70-year-old actor is currently shooting Prakash Jha’s upcoming political thriller ‘Satyagraha Democracy Under Fire’ in Bhopal.

**Miss International visits Saga school with Peter, Paul & Mary member**

SAGA, 3 March—Ikumi Yoshimatsu, the 2012 Miss International winner, has visited the elementary school she used to go to in Saga Prefecture along with Peter Yarrow of musical trio Peter, Paul & Mary, and posed questions to each student about their daily lives. Yoshimatsu, 25, told around 820 students at Tosu-Kita Elementary School on Thursday, “It’s important to respect each other. Let’s make the world a place of peace.”

Yarrow, the 74-year-old American folk singer known for his anti-war songs, said peace does not mean no war but that everyone should have a gentle state of mind.

Students at the Japanese school also reached out to students at Norwood Junior High school in Sacramento, California, via Skype. Japanese and US students sang “Puff,” one of PP&M’s songs, and posed questions to each other about their daily lives.

**Katrina Kaif reportedly left without meeting Priyanka Chopra on sets of Shootout At Wadala.—PII**

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**Actress Lindsay Lohan attends a probation violation hearing at Airport Branch Courthouse in Los Angeles, California in this file photo taken on 30 Jan, 2013.—Reuters**

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**Amitabh Bachchan poses with a female driver from Sakha Cabs.—PTI**

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**Impeccable Djokovic seals another Dubai title**

DUBAI, 3 March—Novak Djokovic extended his winning streak to 18 matches to claim a fourth Dubai Championships in five years on Saturday, underlining his status as the world’s best player after beating Tomas Berdych 7-5, 6-3 in the final.

The Serb is unbeaten since October, did not drop a set in Dubai and has now won all 13 matches against top-10 opponents since Andy Murray defeated him in last year’s US Open final.

That run includes claiming a third straight Australian Open crown and his latest Dubai triumph now takes him to 36 singles titles. “To prevail again, to be the last man standing … it was never going to be an easy final—Tomas is a fantastic player and it could have gone either way,” Djokovic said in a courtside interview. Ultimately, the 25-year-old won because he took his chances, converting three break points out of four, while Berdych only managed to make one of his five count. Yet it was the Czech who started the stronger, belying a 12-1 losing record against Djokovic as the world number six dropped only four points in his opening three services.

Berdych, who saved three match points before beating Roger Federer in Friday’s semis, also made the first break of the final, bypassing an onrushing Djokovic with a running lob winner into the corner for a 3-2 lead. The crowd, stunned their hero had faltered, bellowed Djokovic’s name and the six-times grand slam champion re-sponded with a change of tactics, retreating to the baseline as he dug in against the Berdych onslaught.

Djokovic looked anguished for your chance and then going for it,” Reuters

**Spurs’ Parker to miss a month with sprained ankle**

SALVOS, 3 March—San Antonio Spurs leading scorer Tony Parker will be out for around four weeks with a left ankle sprain, the National Basketball Association team said Saturday.

The loss of the All-Star guard from France could be a big setback for the Spurs, who enjoy the best record in the NBA with a 46-14 mark.

Parker injured the ankle in the third quarter of Friday’s win over the Sacramento Kings. An examination confirmed the sprain.

He has averaged 21.0 points and 7.6 assists per game on this tour, you are Noth-er nine is therefore enjoying a version of home support at the PGA National in Palm Beach Gardens, where he will aim to unseat American joint leaders Luke Guthrie and Michael Thompson. “When I walk on 17 and they say I’m from Palm Beach Gardens, a bigger cheer goes up than when it’s from Worksp, for sure,” joked Westwood.

“…”

**Wang Beixing wins again at speedskating World Cup**

BERLIN, 3 March—Winter Olympic medalist Wang Beixing of China won her second 500 metres race in as many days at the speedskat-ing World Cup on Saturday. Wang, bronze medalist in 500m at Vancouver Olympics, clocked 38.15 seconds to beat Russian Olga Fatkulina by 0.06 seconds. Dutch skater Thuisje Oenema was two thousandths of a second behind Fatkulina in third.

Olympic champion Lee Sang-hwa skipped the Erfurt meet but retains the lead in the standings with 800 points, followed by Germany’s Jenny Wolf on 611 and American Heather Richardson on 530. The women’s 1,500m saw the Netherlands made a clean sweep as Ireen Wust lift the win in one minute 55.61 seconds, followed by Diane Valkenburg (1:58.32) and Mar-ritsja (1:58.38).

**Winter Olympic medalist Wang Beixing of China wins World Cup**

**Englishman Westwood feeling at home in Florida**

PALM BEACH GARDENS, (Florida), 3 March—You won’t catch Englishman Lee Westwood slipping into a Transatlantic drawl just yet but the 39-year-old from Nottinghamshire is already starting to feel at home in his new base in Florida. “The quality of life and the ease of living. Nothing is a problem really and playing on this tour, you are spoilt really,” Westwood told reporters after his even-par 70 left him two shots off the Honda Classic lead heading into Sunday’s final round.

Last week, Westwood officially moved into his home by the Old Palm golf club, just two miles from this week’s tournament and a very different environment to his home town of Worksp, 20 miles from Sheffield. The world num-

**Wang sets indoor pole vault world record**

RALEIGH, 3 March—Olympic champion Jenn Suhr set an indoor pole vault world record of 5.06 metres to claim the US indoor athletics championships on Saturday by leaping 5.02 metres. The 31-year-old American’s stunning vault in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on the first attempt at the height, eclipsed the previous indoor world record of 5.01m set by Russian great Yelena Isinbayeva in 2012.

“I was in a groove tonight,” Suhr told reporters. “I knew some big things could happen, I just need to be healthy and come down the runway. I’m glad that I got 5 metres out of the way, (with the 5.02), because it is a mental barrier.” Suhr made three attempts at 5.07m to surpass Isinbayeva’s outdoor world record of 5.06m but the Russian’s mark remained in-tact at the end of the thrilling event. Until her unsuccessful bid for 5.07m, Suhr had not missed a single attempt in the rarefied air of New Mexico, clearing her first height at 4.65m, and again at 4.70m and 4.75m. She soared over the bar at 4.80m and upped the ante to 4.90m, smash-ing her previous indoor best of 4.88m before her record-breaking vault.—Reuters

**Suhr sets indoor pole vault world record**

**Reuters**
Soccer must do more to fight racism says Task Force boss

UNITED EDINBURGH, 3 March — Soccer has failed to respond to victims of racism on or off the pitch for far too long and needs to change its attitudes now, Jeffrey Webb, the chairman of FIFA’s new Anti-Racism and Discrimination Task Force, said on Saturday, Webb, the president of the CONCACAF confederation of countries in north and central America and the Caribbean, has been appointed by FIFA president Sepp Blatter to review the way the sport handles racist incidents, which have dramatically increased in recent years. He also said he wanted to meet players from England’s Premier League to discuss their experiences of racism in an attempt to forge new strategies to deal with the problem.

“Asked if he would like to meet John Terry, Anton Ferdinand, Luis Suarez and Patrice Evra, who were all involved in racist incidents last season in England, Webb replied he would like to meet players involved in both sides of the problem. “We’ve been talking for a long time in football and I don’t really think that we’ve supported the players. I don’t think we’ve necessarily put the right sanctions in place to support them,” he told reporters. “It’s a travesty that it comes to that. We FIFA and the governing bodies have to make sure that players like Kevin-Prince Boateng and all the players around the world have the same rights and opportunities.” AC Milan’s Boateng led his team mates off the pitch in protest after being racially abused by fans of fourth-division Italian club Pro Patria during a friendly in January. The Task Force will begin its initial work after a FIFA executive committee later this month which will decide its composition and it will make its preliminary report to the FIFA Congress in Mauritius in May.

Real Madrid win second classic in five days

MADRID, 3 March — Real Madrid took their second victory, a 2-1 win, over eternal rivals, FC Barcelona in just five days on Saturday afternoon in the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium. Although the game had appeared as if it was to be slightly decaffeinated following Real Madrid’s 3-1 win over Barca in the Copa del Rey on Tuesday night and ahead of their Champions League clash away to Manchester United next Tuesday, the game picked up after a slow first half and ended up with a late deciding goal and controversy as Barcelona were denied what looked like a clear penalty in injury time.

With his side out of the battle for the league title and with a huge game on Tuesday night, Madrid coach Jose Mourinho rested key players for the match with even Cristiano Ronaldo on the ‘sub’s’ bench. However, he was still able to count on players such as Kaka, Karim Benzema and youngster Alvaro Morata, who had an impressive game. It was his cross to Benzema after just six minutes which led to Benzema opening the scoring from close range. Yet the Galacticos were not able to seal the result until the 37th minute when Gareth Bale scored a goal from open play, following an assist from Cristiano, who had returned to the starting line-up after recovering from an injury.

McDowell urges McIlroy to concentrate on swing not equipment

PALM BEACH GARDENS, (Florida), 3 March—Rory McIlroy should not let the pressure of his switch to Nike clubs distract him and focus instead on resolving his swing troubles, fellow Northern Irishman Graeme McDowell said after the world number one withdrew from the Honda Classic. McIlroy, who quit after eight holes of the second round on Friday, caused some confusion by initially telling reporters he was in a “bad place mentally” before later issuing a statement blaming a sore wisdom tooth for his early departure from the Florida Classic. McDowell, who was in the first group of players to play the course today, said his former colleague was struggling to prove things to himself and needed to leave the sunny Caribbean climate for the snowy Iditarod trail.

“Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland reacts after hitting 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, 2013. — Reuters

Iditarod race starts with songs, blessings and hopes of victory

ANCHORAGE, (Alaska), 3 March—Dogs barked and spectators cheered as 66 mushers and their teams in the 1,000-mile Iditarod race set out from downtown Anchorage on Saturday after religious blessings, singing and glad-handing with fans. The 11-mile (17-kilometre) first leg ends at a checkpoint in the southeast part of the city, in the ceremonial launch of the 41st annual Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.

Timed racing will not start until Sunday when the mushers reach Willow, a small community about 80 miles north of Anchorage. The competition will eventually see them glide into Nome, a city on the coast of the Bering Sea. On Saturday mushers mingled with fans in Alaska’s largest city and reflected on the long road ahead. Fans serenaded Jamaican musher Newton Marshall, who turned 30 on Saturday, with “Happy Birthday.”

A Russian television crew asked him about his decision to leave the sunny Caribbean climate for the snowy Iditarod trail.


Four-time champion Martin Buser, the first competitor out of the chute, reminisced about the days when the race clock started in Anchorage and mushers sprinted out of town. —Reuters

Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland reacts after hitting the ball into the water during second round play in the Honda Classic PGA golf tournament in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida on 1 March, 2013. — Reuters

Allen Moore’s team charges out of the starting gate on 4th Avenue during the ceremonial start to the Iditarod dog sled race in downtown Anchorage, Alaska on 2 March, 2013. — Reuters
Democratic reform could not be delayed nor reversed as it picks up momentum: President U Thein Sein

As regards the question on his expectations from his visit, the Myanmar President answered that the diplomatic ties would turn 60 and would be rekindled. Myanmar is initiating a series of sweeping political and economic reforms in a short period of time to develop democracy. He said he visits Finland because he believes Finland would support Myanmar’s democratic transition.

Regarding the question what are pledges of the Finnish President as the Norwegian Prime Minister pledged to support Myanmar’s development, the Finnish President offered Euro 6.5 million aids to Myanmar. Finland has strong ICT industry, and Myanmar has rekindled relations with EU, the Finnish President answered that Finland would provide aids for sector-wide development of Myanmar as of 2014. He underline that Myanmar needs many assistances for industrial development. The Finnish Foreign Minister led the economic delegate formed with reps from 20 companies who visited Myanmar in the previous year. There is no problem in EU-Myanmar engagement, he added, saying he hoped for better relations.

In response to the question about when the absolute power will be transferred to civilian government in Myanmar and whether there would be changes (in the political landscape) in 2015 general elections, the President expressed his hope for promotion of democracy, human rights and the Rule of Law. It is needed to strive for reaching a truce with national races armed forces.

Regarding the question about his view on Myanmar reform process, the President replied that it is required to resume diplomatic ties between Finland and Myanmar after relations were strained for many years. The President expressed his hope for promotion of democracy, human rights and the rule of Law. It is needed to strive for reaching a truce with national races armed forces.

As the President thanked the Finnish counterpart, the President invited the Finnish President to come and visit Myanmar.

Next, the President and Finnish President answered the queries raised by media men.

Get flight knowledge at People’s Park and Square

An XY-AD 7, F27 (Fokker) passenger airplane will be on show in next month at the People’s Park and People’s Square in Yangon in order that the general public gets knowledge about the flights.

It’s Myanmar Airways’ first flight and arrived in Myanmar on 22 October, 1978. It has operated 52,867 times. It stopped its operation as of 25 August, 2010. It will be put at the place where “War Vessel Mayu” is placed in the People’s Park and People’s Square.

“Engineers from Myanmar Airways are installing it daily. And YCDC provides necessary assistance,” said an official from Parks and playgrounds.