President U Thein Sein arrives in Vienna of Austria

N a y  P y i  T a w, 4 March—President U Thein Sein arrived at Vienna International Airport of Austria at 10.5 am local time yesterday as he proceeded his Europe trip.

Chief of protocol department of Austrian foreign ministry Ambassador Dr Bettina Kimbauer and officials welcomed the President and party at the airport, and Myanmar families and staff of the Myanmar Embassy in Germany at the Hotel Imperial.

In meeting with families of Myanmar national races, the President said that Myanmar is undertaking political and economic reforms and there are developments in international relations with economic sanctions eased and lifted. He tipped sound foundation of the country for economic development of the country. He also called on them to join united efforts for socio-economic development of the country.

He then posed for a documentary photo with them.

The President in the afternoon visited St. Stephens Cathedral established since 1147 in downtown Vienna and Belvedere Castle where Austrian artworks are put on display.

He also visited Verbund Company’s hydropower plant on Danube River. Head of the lower Danube working group Mr Heinz Peter Allmer conducted the President round the plant. He also briefed on the plant’s environmental-friendly features.

Hydropower satisfies the power demand of Austrian people. The President said Myanmar also relied on hydropower to fulfill the demand, but damming the river degraded the environment and caused socio-economic damages as the villages in basin areas had to be relocated. It was also costly because the projects were far from the national power grid, he added. The Austrian model projects on Sittoung and Thanlwin rivers would generate electricity with least damage to the environment and the socio-economic status of the people, he said, revealing his hope for conducting feasibility tests to apply Austrian technologies in Myanmar.

The President also visited small-scaled hydropower plant on the canal connected with Danube River.

Bangladesh Single Country Trade Fair 2013, 6-8 March

Y a n g o n, 4 March—Embassy of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in Yangon and the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) of Dhaka will organize the Bangladesh Single Country Trade Fair 2013 for the second time at Mingalar Hall, UMFCCI, here, from 6 to 8 March.

The trade Fair will introduce Bangladesh exportable products with the aim of strengthening trade and investment relations between Myanmar and Bangladesh, promoting Bangladesh exportable products in Myanmar market and enhancing existing normal and border trade between the two countries.

Over 31 exhibitors will display their products at the trade fair, comprising food and drinks, handicrafts, household utensils, garments, ceramics, services, plastic ware, steel products, home electrical appliance, IT, security technology, construction and building materials, paper, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and herbal products.

Seminar on Exportable Products of Bangladesh will be held at 9 am on 7 March.

Significant day temperatures (4-3-2013)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chauk</td>
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<td>Bawlakhe</td>
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Tou Ngoo, 4 March—A refresher course of Toungoo District Court on clerical works was opened on 2 March morning.

Judge of Toungoo District Court U Aung Soe elaborated on the purpose of the course in his opening speech. The four-week course is being attended by a total of 20 trainees from the courts of the six townships in Toungoo District.
Food poisoning at plywood factory in Homalin Township brings death toll to six

MONYWA, 4 March — The death toll from food poisoning at Laypaya Naga plywood factory near Yatpha Village in Htamanthi village-tract of Homalin Township stood at six including Soe Naing Tun, 20, one of 33 victims who had suffered food poisoning and are being given medical treatment at Htamanthi station hospital. Victims who died of food poisoning were Sithu, 25, Kyaukdooe (a) Kyaw Thu Nyein, 18, Kyaw Myo Aung, 19, Soe Naing Tun, 20, Po Lapye, 18 and Ko Pyoo, 19. All of victims are from South Obo ward of Monywa. Of remaining 27 patients in Htamanthi station hospital, eight patients — six men and two women — were transferred to 100-bedded Homalin Hospital on 27 February.

Food poisoning was suspected and links suggested with the breakfast served at the factory at about 11 am on 26 February. Further investigation into the case is ongoing.

Kyemon

Union Cup Games Men’s, Women’s volleyball tournament continues

NAY PYI TAW, 4 March — The final matches of the first-stage round robin event of men’s volleyball tournament of Union Cup took place at the volleyball ground of Sports Training Centre (1), here, on 2 March. Shan State upset Kachin State team 3-0 in Group (A), Kayin State won Magway Region team 3-1 in Group (B), Kayah State beat Mandalay Region team 3-2 in Group (C). The winning teams cruised to the next stage. In the round robin event of women’s volleyball tournament, Yangon Region won Rakhine State 3-0.

Kyemon

Seizure of illegal teak in Sagaing Region

SAGAING, 4 March — A combined team comprising forest staff and police members seized 5,9810 tons of illegal teak and hardwood while conducting a search of a ten-wheeled truck driven by Sann Win at the entrance to Sagaing on Sagaing-Monywa road on 22 February. Driver Sann Win and conductor Thein Tun Myint (a) Maung Tun were charged with the seizure of illegal teak. Likewise, the team arrested Hsan She (a) Lin Htet Soe, Maung Zaw and Kyaw Myo Thu (a) Kyaw with 7.0232 tons of illegal hardwood while carrying out a search of 12-wheeled truck at the tollgate near Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon). The suspects were charged with the seizure of illegal teak.

Kyemon

House fire in Dala Township

DALA, 4 March — A fire broke out in a house in ward-11/14 in Dala Township at about 8 pm on 28 February. The fire started from the overheated fuse of a lamp inside the room of the house. Firecrews of Dala Township fire service, auxiliary fire brigade members and local people managed to bring the fire under control at about 8:25 pm. No injury was reported, but three houses were reduced to ashes and one house was damaged in the fire.

Dala Township police station filed a lawsuit against the house owner.

Kyemon

Pseudo-meat seized, incinerated

WAW, 4 March — A mobile team which has been assigned duty for the fight against illegal trade seized 15 bags of Thailand-made pseudo-meat (975 kilos) while conducting a search of a vehicle driven by Kyaw Min Latt at Nyaungkhase-DaikU junction in Waw Township of Bago Region recently. The seized pseudo-meat were incinerated on 1 March as they were a danger to the public health.

Kyemon

Car crash hurts five passengers in Shwepyitha Township

YANGON, 4 March — A car crash involved a Hilux and a Dyna occurred at the top of Bayintnaung Road and Yadana Theingi street in ward-9 of Shwepyitha Township at about 10:30 am on 1 March.

The Dyna of No (82) bus line driving from Aungmingala bus terminal to Shwepyitha hit the Hilux with 15 passengers on board while it turned and headed for the bus terminal. Of passengers on the Hilux, three men and two women got injured to their head, chest and legs. The injured were taken to Shwepyitha Hospital for medical treatment.

Kyemon

Four die, mother, son hurt in expressway crash

TOUNGOO, 4 March — A fatal road accident happened to a vehicle carrying four people and two children at the place between Kywe Pwe and NyaungChahtauk of Toungoo District on Yangon-Mandalay expressway at about 1 am on 28 February. The car crashed claimed four lives and left two others seriously injured. The van driven by Aung Kyaw Moe (a) Ko Kyaw, 35, from Myingyan to Yangon crashed into the blocks in the middle of the road and the bridge. The crash caused severe damage to the front part of the van.

Driver Aung Kyaw Moe (a) Ko Kyaw, Kyaw Swa Myint, 38, a one-year-and-three-month old child and a housemaid were killed in the car crash. Mee Moe (a) Myo Thei Wai, 32, and her elder son Phone Myat Min, 3, of Myingyan were severely wounded and hospitalized at Toungoo people’s hospital. Ambulances of Myanmar Red Cross Society and Ah-yaw-yan ambulance service at 115*-Mile rushed to the scene.

Kyemon

Green light given to construction of more washrooms in Yangon

YANGON, 4 March — According to an official of Environmental Conservation and Sanitation Department under the Yangon City Development Committee, permission has been given to private sector for construction of washrooms in Yangon through BOT system. Thorough examinations were made at the proposed places of businessmen before construction, he added.

“We have decided to give green light to the plan after making careful examination of the proposed places that are away from religious edifices, underground power lines and water supply pipes and are not harmful to the environment,” he explained.

Now, 28 washrooms and 10 mobile toilets are being kept open in Yangon. A washroom is under construction at Hsunkkkyant junction. Apart from scrutinizing the proposal to build washrooms by businessmen, surprise checks are being carried out whether already-opened washrooms have proper sewerage system in accord with rules and regulations of the committee.

Kyemon
Kenya votes to tense head-to-head presidential race

NAIROBI, 4 March—Kenya/vote on Monday in a presidential election that will test whether the east African nation can restore its reputation as one of Africa’s more stable democracies after a lethal ethnic rampage erupted following the 2007 poll.

Outgoing President Mwai Kibaki, the candidates and civil society groups have all appealed for a peaceful poll after the disputed vote five years ago unleashed a wave of killing by rival tribes that lasted weeks and left more than 1,200 dead.

“I also make a passionate plea for all of us to vote peacefully. Indeed, peace is a cornerstone of our development,” Kibaki, barred from seeking a third five-year term, told Kenyans in a televised address before polling day.

Yet, as in 2007, the race has come down to a high-stakes head-to-head between two candidates, Prime Minister Raila Odinga and Deputy Prime Minister Uhuru Kenyatta, and once again both will depend heavily on votes from loyalists of rival tribes.

Though well aware of six other contenders, polls suggest neither may be able to command enough ballots for an outright victory in the first round, which could set the stage for a tense runoff tentatively set for 11 April. A narrow first round victory for either could raise prospects for legal challenges.

Kenya’s neighbours are watching nervously, after their economies felt the shockwaves when violence five years ago shut down trade routes running through east Africa’s biggest border crossing point with Somalia.

Obama renews budget offer to cut social safety nets

WASHINGTON, 4 March—President Barack Obama raised anew the issue of cutting entitlements such as Medicare and Social Security as a way out of damaging budget cuts, a White House official said on Sunday, as both sides in Washington tried to limit a fiscal crisis that may soon hit millions of Americans.

Signaling he might be ready to explore a compromise to end automatic spending cuts that began late Friday, Obama mentioned reforming these entitlement programmes in calls with lawmakers from both parties on Saturday afternoon.

“He’s reaching out to Democrats who understand we have to make serious progress on long-term entitlement reform and Republicans who realize that if we had that type of entitlement reform, they’d be willing to have tax reform that raises revenues to lower the deficit,” White House senior economic official Gene Sperling said on the CNN programme “State of the Union.”

Republicans have long argued that the only way to tame budget deficits over the long haul is by slowing the cost of sprawling social safety net programmes.

These include the Social Security retirement programme and Medicare and Medicaid healthcare programmes for the elderly, disabled and poor that are becoming more expensive as a large segment of the US population hits retirement age.—Reuters

Mortars land in central Syrian capital, rebels storm police academy in north

DAMASCUS, 4 March—Three mortar shells landed near government establishments in central Syrian capital Damascus on Sunday, as the rebels have reportedly stormed a police academy in the northern province of Aleppo.

The three mortars landed in areas close to the custom directorate and the Ministry of High Education in al-Janaken area in Damascus, local reports said, as activists said the mortars landed close to the army’s chief of staff headquarters, which is also adjacent to the custom directorate and the ministry.

The shells have apparently left no casualties. Meanwhile, the al-Khabar TV said that the rebels succeeded on Sunday in storming the police academy in Aleppo.—Xinhua

Britain does not rule out future arms to Syria rebels

LONDON, 4 March—Britain cannot rule out providing arms to Syrian rebels in the future, although a new aid package it will announce this week will consist only of non-lethal assistance, Foreign Secretary William Hague said on Sunday.

Western countries have so far shied away from arming the rebels fighting against President Bashar al-Assad, despite their firm diplomatic backing for efforts to remove him.

Reuters and other news media have reported fighters getting increasingly large shipments of arms through Turkey and Jordan in recent months, with funding for those weapons believed to come from wealthy Arab states, like Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

Washington said on Thursday it would provide non-lethal aid to Syrian rebels to bolster their popular support. The package is expected to include medical supplies, food and $60 million (39 million pounds), New US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel said on Friday he believed giving only “non-lethal support” was correct. Britain has in the past also offered non-lethal aid to the rebels, such as radios, body armour and medical supplies.—Reuters

Iraq shuts border crossing point with Syria

MOSUL, 4 March—The Iraqi security forces blocked on Sunday a border crossing point with Syria, a day after the Syria rebels seized the last area of the crossing from the Syrian governmental troops, an Iraqi security source said.

“The Iraqi security forces were ordered to block Al-Yaroubiyah border crossing point until further notice, because the Syrian government has lost control of the other side,” a security source at the Iraqi town of Rabiea, close to the border crossing told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The Iraqi security forces shut the border crossing with concrete blocks and deployed in the town of Rabiea, the source added. On Saturday, the source told Xinhua that the Syrian opposition forces on the border crossing point with Iraq’s northern Province of Nineveh following fierce clashes with the Syrian army.

“The fighters from the Syrian opposition raised the flag of the Syrian Free Army on the Syrian side of Al-Yaroubiyah border crossing point after fierce clashes with the Syrian army,” the source said. According to the source, the Iraqi security forces at the border point allowed receiving a wounded Syrian army officer and a number of wounded soldiers for treatment inside Iraq for humanitarian reasons.

The source noted that a Syrian soldier died on Sunday after receiving treatment for his wounds at a hospital in Nineveh Province, while five other wounded soldiers are still receiving treatment under tight security measures.—Xinhua

A woman carries a plastic bag on her head as she walks past a wall with various campaign posters on a street in Kenya’s capital Nairobi on 3 March, 2013.—Reuters

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Scott declined to say how many conversations had been exposed or whether it might be possible for the hackers to unscramble encrypted passwords.

Evernote spokeswoman Ronda Scott said via email on Saturday that the attack “follows a similar pattern” to other cyber attacks on Internet-based companies in recent weeks, but she did not elaborate.

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Japanese firm Sony is all set to launch its recently announced Xperia Z smartphone in India on 6 March. If true, this would mean Sony’s 5-inch Xperia Z coming to India on 6 March.

Sony’s 5-inch Xperia Z comes to India on 6 March

An official spokesperson from Sony Mobile has confirmed to IBNLive that the Sony Xperia Z is scheduled to be launched in India on 6 March.—PTI

New Delhi, 4 March—Sony is all set to launch its recently announced Xperia Z smartphone in India on 6 March. If you go the official Facebook page of Sony Mobile India, you will find the cover image stating, “Everything is about to change. 06/03/2013.” The cover image also has a picture of a phone in the backdrop, which looks like the Xperia Z.

However, the image does not hint towards a launch event, but an official spokesperson from Sony Mobile has confirmed to IBNLive that the Sony Xperia Z is scheduled to be launched in India on 6 March.

The phone has a 5-inch full HD 1080p Reality Display, and is powered by a Snapdragon S4 Pro quad-core processor. Sony Xperia Z’s Reality Display is powered by Mobile Bravia Engine 2. The phone sports a 13 megapixel camera and includes 4G LTE. According to the company, the Xperia Z also includes Battery Stamina Mode that is said to improve the standby time by four times or more by automatically shutting down battery-draining apps whenever the screen is off and starting them up again when the screen is back on.

Despite its slim 7.9 mm body, Xperia Z is said to be durable with tempered glass and anti-shatter film on the front and back. It is a dust-resistant and water-resistant smartphone.

Astronomers spy possible baby planet in stellar womb

CAPE CANAVERAL, 4 March—Scientists have found what they believe to be a planet-in-the-making that is still gathering material left over from the formation of its parent star.

The object appears as a faint blob nested inside a disk of gas and dust that swirls around a very young star known as HD 100546, located about 335 light years away in the constellation Musca, or The Fly, astronomers report in a paper published on Thursday in the AstrophysicalJournal.

Light travels about 186,000 miles per second, or about 6 trillion miles (10 trillion km) a year. The embedded object appears to be about the size of Jupiter, although it is about 66 times farther away from its parent than Earth is from the sun. At that distance, the object takes 360 years to complete one orbit around its star.

Jupiter, by comparison, orbits about five times farther from the sun than Earth and completes an orbit in just under 12 years. Jupiter, the largest planet in the solar system, is more than 30 times the size of Earth.

If confirmed, HD 100546’s planet would be the first of more than 800 extraplanets and more than 2,000 candidate planets found while it was still in the formation phase.

China’s first solid-fuel rocket to debut before 2016

BEIJING, 4 March—China’s first solid-fuel rocket Long March-11 is expected to make its first launch before 2016, a senior official of the rocket’s designing institute said on Saturday.

Liang Xiaohong, deputy head of the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology, said the rocket will be easy to operate and cost-efficient to launch. It can remain in storage for a long period and reliably launch on short notice.

“The development of the Long March-11 will greatly improve China’s capabilities to rapidly enter the space and meet the emergency launching demand in case of disasters and emergencies,” he told Xinhua.

The Long March-11 rocket system consists of a solid-fuel rocket and a launching support system. It will apply China’s largest solid-fuel rocket engine, he said.

China has made more than 160 launching of liquid-fuel rockets successfully but is yet to make breakthrough on the development of the solid-fuel rockets.

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“Of course, the question of why there are so many candidates is a topic tackled by computer simulations,” lead researcher Sascha Quanz, with ETH Zurich’s Institute for Astronomy in Switzerland, said in a statement.—Reuters

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BEIJING, 4 March—China issued stricter measures on Friday to cool the heated property sector before the annual parliament session, amid public concern over falling down soaring home prices.

The central government said in a notice that developers who sell their homes will be levied an income tax as high as 20 percent of the profit they make on the transaction. Prior to the new rules, income tax was 1 percent to 2 percent of the sale price.

The notice also said that local branches of the central bank in cities with soaring home prices can increase the down payment and mortgage loan interest rate for home buyers purchasing a second unit.

Rewards get kids active, but don’t improve health

NEW YORK, 4 March—Children will meet activity goals to earn rewards, but the extra effort doesn’t necessarily affect their weight and health, according to a new study.

The findings reinforce earlier research showing that incentives work to get kids more physically active, but the goal might need to be more challenging to show any health benefits.

“[I]f I had to do it again I would do it at a higher level. It was too easy,” said Eric Finkelstein at the Duke-National University of Singapore, who led the new study. Inactivity among kids is a pressing concern in the US and abroad (see Reuters Health story of 29 March, 2010 here: reut.rs/jTEfxv).

“Kids are known to be inactive, getting five hours a day of screen time,” said Gary Goldfield, a scientist with the Healthy Active Living and Obesity research group at the Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario, who was not involved in the study. Finkelstein and his colleagues designed a programme to encourage more physical activity among elementary school-age kids.

All of the children in the study wore a pedometer for an average of nine months to measure how many steps they took each day.—Reuters

How will stricter control affect China’s property market?

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Some home buyers who refused to purchase a first home and make potential buyers beef up tax and loan measures said the policies will "beef up tax and loan measures"

"Along with a tighter grip on second-hand homes, China has already begun working to increase home supplies. In the notice, the central government asked local governments to increase land supplies for housing and other affordable housing construction. Beside tax hike, a stricter control on mortgage loan is also expected to smear property space."—Business

Business insiders guessed that the down payment rate for a second-hand home will increase to 70 percent in some major cities and loan interest rate may reach 1.3 times of the benchmark rate. But the notice did not give specific requirements. Zong Liang, a senior researcher with the Bank of China, said increase of down payment and loan interest rates can curb speculative purchases, but authorities must work to ensure those who own a second unit just to improve living conditions.—Xinhua

Some admissions they embarked on a diet after being asked if they were pregnant, others when they suspected their partner was having an affair or their sex life had dwindled. Others decided to reduce their weight to get back on to the dating scene after a break-up or after realising they were the fattest person in their office.

Some decided to lose weight before a reunion with old friends, while others, after seeing an unflattering picture of themselves on Facebook. Six in ten women (59 per cent) said food cravings make diets difficult to follow and by ‘simply loving food’ (42 per cent) and feeling depressed (30 per cent).

Bharti Wal Mart Pvt Ltd, the agency said the policies were "consistent with those seen in earlier trials of the drug, with the most common being diarrhea and nausea."

How will stricter control affect China’s property market?

HOME

Cedra Support Services Ltd, and Bhatti Retail Ltd, said the agency was investigating the receipt of FDI of Rs 455.80 crore

by Cedar Support Services Ltd and Rs 139.33 crore by Bhatti Wal Mart Pvt Ltd, the affidavit said.

The probe would also go into the receipt of FDI as to whether the same was in conformity with the provisions of Section 6(3) (6) of FEMA read with the Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of Security by a person resident outside India) Regulations, 2000, Singh said. Petitioner T Vellayan, President of Federation of Tamil Nadu Traders Association, has sought a direction to authorities to examine, investigate or consider investment by a subsidiary of multi-brand retail company WalMart in two Indian firms in March-April 2010.—PTI

Probe into Walmart investments to take more time

NEW DELHI, 4 March—The Central government before Madras High Court that it would “take some more time” for the conclusion of the probe by Enforcement Directorate into alleged violations of foreign laws by the American retail giant Walmart in its investment in two Indian firms. ED has issued summons to Bhatti Wal Mart Ltd officials for clarifications in connection with the documents received from the concerned companies and government departments, an affidavit filed by a top ED official said.

“Investigations which are being conducted by ED would take some more time to be concluded as the documents received from the concerned companies and the concerned government departments are being examined,” ED Deputy Director Rajeev Singh said in the affidavit.

ED has also made reference to concerned government departments to obtain material information and record related to receipt of FDI by the said companies, Singh said in response to a PIL, by traders association. The Directorate has taken upon appropriate investigation under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) into the alleged contravention of FEMA by Cedar Support Services Ltd, Bhatti Wal Mart Pvt Ltd and Bhatti Retail Ltd, relating to receipt of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in multi-brand retail trading by Bhatti Retail Ltd, said the agency was investigating the receipt of FDI of Rs 455.80 crore

by Cedar Support Services Ltd and Rs 139.33 crore by Bhatti Wal Mart Pvt Ltd, the affidavit said.

The probe would also go into the receipt of FDI as to whether the same was in conformity with the provisions of Section 6(3) (6) of FEMA read with the Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of Security by a person resident outside India) Regulations, 2000, Singh said. Petitioner T Vellayan, President of Federation of Tamil Nadu Traders Association, has sought a direction to authorities to examine, investigate or consider investment by a subsidiary of multi-brand retail company WalMart in two Indian firms in March-April 2010.—PTI

Celgene drug shown to be effective, safe in psoriasis trial

WASHINGTON, 4 March—Celgene Corp’s experimental drug apremilast proved to be more effective than a dummy pill for psoriasis patients in a late-stage study, clearing the way for the company to file for US regulatory approval in the second half of 2013.

Celgene said 59 percent of patients in the 844-patient trial achieved a 50 percent improvement in symptoms at 16 weeks, based on standardised score of the severity and extent of psoriasis, compared with 17 percent of placebo patients. Patients in it—a 75 percent improvement in symptoms was seen in 33 percent of the treatment group and 5 percent of the placebo group. The Phase 3 trial is the first of two pivotal studies in the drug of patients with psoriasis, a disease in which itchy, painful skin plaques are thought to be caused by an inflammatory response initiated by the body’s immune system.

Apremilast is a pill that inhibits an enzyme known as phosphodiesterase 4, or PDE4, and acts to damp down inflammation.

Celgene said previously it had asked the Food and Drug Administration approval of the drug as a treatment for psoriatic arthritis in the first quarter of this year.

Side effects were consistent with those seen in earlier trials of the drug, with the most common being diarrhea and nausea.Reuters
Libya stops gas exports to Italy after milita fight

Tripoli, 4 March — Libya has stopped gas exports to Italy from its Melita complex after fighting on Saturday between milita, Libya’s National Oil Corporation (NOC) and Italy’s Eni said on Sunday. Libya’s defence mini-
stry sent security person-
nel to secure the complex, about 100 km (60 miles) west of Tripoli, before to ensure exports could re-
sume soon, said Abdutaf-
tah Shagan, chairman of Melita, an NOC-Eni joint venture. Melita supplies Italy with gas through the Green-
stream pipeline, which at full capacity pumps at least 8 billion cubic metres. Italy gets most of its gas from Al-
geria, Russia and Norway, with Libya providing about 10 percent. Saturday’s fire-
fight began after an argu-
ment escalated between former rebel fighters from about 20 km (12 miles) who were from the town of Zintan, a anti-government stronghold. The clashes were now over, the source said. It was the latest violent dis-
ruption to the energy indus-
tory in Libya where pro-
tests have shut down oil-
export terminals in recent months and in the North African region following January’s bloody hostage-
taking at an Algerian gas plant. “Gas exports have been completely halted,” NOC deputy chairman Mustafa Sunalla told Re-
tuers on Sunday. Thousands of former rebels who fought to over-
throw former leader Muam-
mar Gaddafi in 2011 have been impli-
ted in growing security.

Sixteen boys go missing in East Siberia avalanche

Moscow, 4 March — Sixteen boys were missing after a fire broke out on a remote mountain slope in Russia’s Siberian Republic of Tyva, the local Emergency Ministry said on Sunday. One survived the acci-
dent near the village of Mu-
gaksy close to the Mongoli-
bian border, some 7,000 km (3,100 miles) south east of Moscow, and alerted rescue teams.

The tragedy hap-
ed because of the reck-
lessness: “Back then, they were at the top of the mountain mountain, some 800 m above sea level and very few hours, Bonilla added. “The tragedy hap-
ed because of the reck-
lessness: “Back then, they were at the top of the mountain mountain, some 800 m above sea level and very few

French soldier killed in Mali, Belmokhtar fate unsure

Paris, 4 March — France said on Sunday a third French soldier had been killed in fierce fight-

ing with Islamist rebels in northern Mali but could not confirm Chad’s report that its troops had killed the al Qaeda commander in the camp.

French army spokes-
man Colonel Thierry Bur-
khard said some 15 Islam-
ists were killed in some of the fiercest fighting during the campaign so far, but that he could not confirm Chad’s claim that its troops had killed al-Qaeda commander Mokhtar Belmokhtar at a nearby camp in the remote Amur
tei valley.

“We are facing a very fanatical adversary,” Bur-
khard said, noting the is-
lamists were armed with rocket and grenade-launch-
ers as well as machine guns, AK47 assault rifles and heavy weapons. “They are fighting without giving ground.”

The death of Belmokhtar, nicknamed the “uncatchable”, has been reported several times in the past and analysts share caution shown by Paris in confirming his demise.

Southern California wildfire fully contained

Los Angeles, 4 March — Fire officials on Saturday said they had fully contained a wildfire that scorched the hills east of Los Angeles as record-set-
ting dry weather parched Southern California. The fire has burned about 310 acres in River-
side County, said Daniel Berlant, spokesman for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protec-
tion. It was fully contained by 6 pm local time, the Riv-
side County Fire Depart-
ment said on its website. The blaze broke out on Thursday afternoon in Ju-
upa Valley near the city of Riverside, about 55 miles east of Los Angeles.

No injuries or deaths have been reported, state and local fire officials said, and only one structure and an outbuilding were dam-
eg. The Riverside Coun-
ty Fire Department website said 50 firefighters were handling the blaze on Satur-
day evening. The cause is under investigation.

The fire was consid-
ered large for a blaze occur-
ing in the typically cooler winter months, Berlant said. Record-setting dry weather conditions have resulted in several recent wildfires in California.

“We are hoping for some rain, but we are defi-
nitely preparing for what could be a busy fire sea-
son,” Berlant said. Volun-
tary evacuation orders were issued on Thursday but lifted as of Friday, fire offi-
cials said.
**LOCAL NEWS**

**Work proficiency of ward/village administrators uplifted**

WAKEMA, 4 March—Wakema Township General Administration Department opened the ward and village administrators work proficiency course at the town hall of Wakema from 4 February to 1 March. About 140 administrators from 14 wards and 126 village-tracts attended the course.

At the course, Chairman of Myanmar Consumers Protection Association Writer Ba Ok Khaing and Joint Secretary U Win Myint (Dr Bso) gave lectures on protection of consumers. *Myanma Alinn*

**Nissan blazed at traffic junction**

YANGON, 4 March—A fire broke out at a Nissan car at 4:20 pm on 26 February at the traffic light junction of upper Pazundaung Road and Yegyaw Road, here.

Fire engines arrived at the scene to put out the fire in time.

There was no injury in the incident. With regard to the fire, the department concerned makes necessary investigation. *Myanma Alinn*

**Myawady observes Mon National Day**

MYAWADY, 4 March—A ceremony to mark the 66th Mon National Day was held at the office of Mon literature and culture committee in Myawady Township on 26 February.

Meeting chair Naing Kyaw Htin spoke on the occasion in Mon language and Dow Phyu Phyu Win interpreted his speech.

The chairman of the organizing committee of the anniversary celebration Nai Myint Aung made a speech. Dr Aung Soe explained his speech.

On the occasion, officials presented certificates of honour to wellwishers who donated cash to the fund for organizing the anniversary celebration. Later, the attendees were entertained with Mon traditional dances. *Myanma Alinn*  

**Loikaw, 4 March—Kayah State to reclaim 500 acres of modern farming**

Loikaw, 4 March—In accord with the guidance of the President, Kayah State Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Moe Ye Aung supervises the plan to reclaim 500 acres of farmlands for establishment of advanced farming with cultivation of Palethwe hybrid paddy in Kayah State in 2013.

Loikaw Township Irrigation Department cultivated high yield Palethwe hybrid paddy on 10 acres of land in 2012 and produced 215 baskets of paddy. The department secured the third prize as the outstanding award in the Kayah State. Head of Irrigation Department U Win Maung (Civil) and U Than Tun of the township will reclaim the farmland with high technology and modern farming equipment and then grow summer paddy with irrigated water. *Myanma Alinn*

**Meisei gets more electricity from new generator**

LOIKAW, 4 March—As one 50-kilowatt generator supplied electricity to Meisei Township of Bawlake District of Kayah State, but it was not enough for local consumption.

Under the arrangement of the Ministry of Electric Power, one 100-KV generator came into operation for supplying electricity to the local people as of 4 February.

Kayah State Minister for Electric and Industry U Saw Hu Hu and State Electrical Engineer U Myint Aung Kyaw formally launched supply of electricity for the locals.

Local people said that if Meisei Township opens the border trade camp, the local people will increase consumption of electricity. *Myanma Alinn*

**Shwegu illuminated on self-reliant basis**

SHWEGU, 4 March—A ceremony to mark supply of electricity on a self-reliant basis was launched in Shwegu Township of Bhamo District in Kachin State. The 315 KVAT transformer II was built in the township with installation of 400 V power line, spending K 56.6 million. *Myanma Alinn*

**Union Cup Games**

**Dates and Venues for Sports Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nos</th>
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<th>Event Period</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Remark</th>
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<td>1.</td>
<td>Track and field</td>
<td>26-2-2013 - 7-3-2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Badminton</td>
<td>23-2-2013 - 27-2-2013</td>
<td>TC-1 Badminton Training Hall (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Basketball</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Billiards and snooker</td>
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<td>TC-2 Billiards Hall, Lwe Township (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Physical fitness</td>
<td>12-2-2013 - 24-2-2013</td>
<td>MCC (Yangon, Thingyangyun Township)</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Boxing</td>
<td>2-3-2013 - 1-3-2013</td>
<td>TC-1 boxing training gym (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Chess</td>
<td>26-2-2013 - 6-3-2013</td>
<td>Gold Camp (mess hall) (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Cycling (Cross Country)</td>
<td>1-3-2013 - 6-3-2013</td>
<td>Mount Pleasant cycling ground (Ottarathiri Township)</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Cycling (Down Hill)</td>
<td>1-3-2013 - 6-3-2013</td>
<td>Mount Pleasant cycling ground (Ottarathiri Township)</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Cycling (BMX)</td>
<td>1-3-2013 - 6-3-2013</td>
<td>Mount Pleasant cycling ground (Ottarathiri Township)</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Cycling (Road Race)</td>
<td>1-3-2013 - 6-3-2013</td>
<td>TC-1 Cycling training gym (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.</td>
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<td>20-2-2013 - 7-3-2013</td>
<td>Wunna Theikdi Stadium (Zabuthiri Township)/ Paunglaung ground (Pyinmana Township)</td>
<td>Training grounds (1) and (2) (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
</tr>
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<td>13.</td>
<td>Fustal (Men/women)</td>
<td>23-2-2013 - 6-3-2013</td>
<td>TC-1 Fustal training gym (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Judo</td>
<td>25-2-2013 - 6-3-2013</td>
<td>TC-2 Judo training gym (Lwe Township)</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Karatedo</td>
<td>4-3-2013 - 6-3-2013</td>
<td>TC-2 Karatedo training gym (Lwe Township)</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>Sepak Takraw</td>
<td>25-2-2013 - 5-3-2013</td>
<td>TC-1 Sepak Takraw training gym (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>Table Tennis</td>
<td>23-2-2013 - 7-3-2013</td>
<td>TC-1 Table Tennis training gym (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>Taekwondo</td>
<td>1-3-2013 - 3-3-2013</td>
<td>TC-1 Taekwondo training gym (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>19.</td>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>23-2-2013 - 28-2-2013</td>
<td>TC-1 Tennis training gym (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
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<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>Pansek Silat</td>
<td>2-3-2013 - 6-2-2013</td>
<td>TC-2 Martial Arts training gym (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
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<tr>
<td>21.</td>
<td>Traditional Boxing (Muay)</td>
<td>3-3-2013 - 5-3-2013</td>
<td>TC-1 Boxing training gym (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>22.</td>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>27-2-2013 - 7-3-2013</td>
<td>TC-1 Volleyball training gym (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.</td>
<td>Weightlifting</td>
<td>1-3-2013 - 3-3-2013</td>
<td>Paunglaung Gymnasium (Pyinmana)</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>24.</td>
<td>Wrestling</td>
<td>1-3-2013 - 3-3-2013</td>
<td>TC-2 Wrestling training gym (Lwe Township)</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>25.</td>
<td>Closing Ceremony</td>
<td>7-3-2013 - 7-3-2013</td>
<td>Wunna Theikdi Stadium (Zabuthiri Township)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sons of Buddha

Since the life time of Lord Buddha it has been the duty of Buddhist monks to promote, propagate and perpetuate His teachings. After the Buddha ascended to the Nirvana, this duty totally fell on the monks.

As the sons of Buddha, monks have been carrying out the task of promoting, proliferating and perpetuating Buddhism since the Buddha attained Nirvana. They have been applying various means involving religious sermons and preaches, paryayatti schools, and religious and welfare activities in carrying out the task.

But their main duty is to teach religious knowledge or in other words to preserve and disseminate Buddha’s teachings in their original. So, monks are the main pillar of today’s Buddhism.

Without them, Buddhism cannot flourish or even exist long.

In this regard, we can say that the promotion, propagation and perpetuation of Buddhism mostly depend on monks. Accordingly, they must learn Patipatti well and observe their rules strictly to become dutiful monks. The State on its part is also providing assistance to the monks and the religious sector through financial and other means. It is holding religious examinations and honouring and conferring religious titles on monks, facilitating the missionary work of the monks, and constructing and renovating religious buildings.

People are also making donations to monasteries and religious edifices, sponsoring large-scale assemblies where venerable monks make religious discourses, holding collective novitiation ceremonies which were a large number of men and boys enter temporary religious order, and providing health care services and education to the poor, the vulnerable and the disabled under the patronage of revered monks.

Moreover, both the State-run and private TV channels and radio stations are airing religious sermons of venerable monks daily.

We firmly believe that as long as monks or the sons of Buddha are doing their duty well and the State and the people are listening to their sermons and providing all necessary assistance to them, Buddhism will live forever.

India-Myanmar Business Seminar kicks off

Yangon, 4 March—

India-Myanmar Business Seminar was launched at Summit Parkview Hotel here this afternoon.

It was attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, region ministers, UMFCCI Vice-President U Tun Aung and members, Mizoram State Minister for Tourism, Industry, Geology and Mines Mr. S. Huito of India, Charge d’Affaires Mr. Salias Thangal from the Indian Embassy to Myanmar, officials concerned from India Chamber of Commerce (ICCI) Kolkata and Federation of India Chamber of Commerce (FCCI) distinguished guests.

The UMFCCI Vice-President, Chargé d’Affaires Mr. Salias Thangal, President of Young Leaders Forum & Director, NICCO Group, Mr. Siddhant Kaul made speeches. Assistant Secretary General Mr. Manish Singhal of FCCI expressed words of thanks.

The seminar focussed on potentials to cooperate in various sectors—energy, mines, agriculture, foodstuff and services.

MLF holds 13th annual meeting

Yangon, 4 March—

The 13th Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Livestock Federation was held at Myanmar Fisheries Federation, her, yesterday.

In his speech at the meeting, the Union minister stressed the need of technology, investment and market for development of fish and meat sector as it is planned to triple the GDP by 2015 in meat and fish sector. He called for promotion of private sector by establishing more plants and factories for production of valued added products. He called on breeders, in their part, to make more efforts to be able to penetrate the world market. He vowed to help breeders set up public company. He stressed the need of active participation of the federation and all entrepreneurs in the government’s drive to lure foreign investors.

Then Yangon Region chief minister spoke on the occasion. Next, wellwishers presented K 11.5 million to the federation. The exhibition and show will be kept open until tomorrow.

Union ministers visit Palethwe hybrid paddy farms

Yangon, 4 March—

High yield, nice taste and shorter growing period are strengths of 100-day Palethwe hybrid paddy strains, which agriculturalists are trying to produce and distribute jointly with private companies and farmers through private-public partnership.

Chief Executive Chee Hong Tat of Singapore-based Energy Market Authority visited Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise under the umbrella of MOGE U Myo Myint at the summit.

The minister also met the Mayor of Myanmar Banks to discuss investment opportunities in energy sector in Myanmar.

MLF holds 13 th annual meeting

Nay Pyi Taw, 4 March—A total of 95 members of National League for Democracy of the townships in Monywa District, Sagaing Region, 41 faculty members and students of the International Relations Department of MLBF Dr Mya Han formally opened Medicine and Livestock Equipment Exhibition and Pet Show-2013.

Tun Foundation Literary Awarding Ceremony on 9 March

Yangon, 4 March—

The prize presentation for winners in the Tun Foundation Literary Award 2012 will be held at the building of Myanmar Banks Association in Yankin Township, here, at 1 pm on 9 March.

All the winners have been invited to attend the ceremony. For further information, may dial 09-296325 and 09-73104487.
Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing welcomes Russian Defence Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 4 March—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing welcomed the visiting Russian Defence Minister General Sergey K Shoigu at Zeyathiri Hall this morning. The Russian Defence Minister and the Commander-in-Chief received the salute of the Guard of Honour. Also Present on the occasion were Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Thura Thein Win, Commander-in-Chief of Air Maj-Gen Khin Maung Tin, Commandant of Western Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko Naing and Maj-Gen Aung Myint, senior military officers from Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office, the Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, Russian Ambassador Mr Vasiliy B Pospelov and Military Attaché Colonel Vasily I Savenkov.

Deputy Defence Minister of Russia Mr Anatoly I Antonov, Lieutenant General Igor D Sergun of Chief of the General Staff Office accompanied the visiting Russian minister.

Next, Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met Russian Defence Minister General Sergey K Shoigu at Zeyathiri Hall. The Vice-Senior General said that he was very pleased to see the significant visit of the Russian Defence Minister at the time of the 65th Anniversary of Myanmar—Russia diplomatic ties after the first-ever visit of Russian Defence Minister to Myanmar 50 years ago. It was the gesture of fostering bilateral relations between the two countries, he added. He expressed thanks for Russian’s assistance to Myanmar. Not only goodwill visits but also exchange visits of sports teams would be necessary for promotion of bilateral friendship and cooperation. There had been instability caused by political, economic, social and religious dilemmas in some regions while world nations including the Russian Federation were on the right track to the peace. So ensuring world peace called for the help of Russian Federation to contribute to it. The Vice-Senior General expressed his belief that the visit about capacity-building and equipment of Myanmar Police Force and its global network with international agencies, hoping for the transparency of MPF.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Chief of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun replied that MPF joined Interpol in 1954 and Aseanapol in 1998 and has been cooperating with Interpol member countries and National Central Bureaus in international countries. It is also materializing the joint communiqué of the Aseanapol conferences in partnership with regional police forces.

It is also cooperating with UN agencies, INGOs apart from foreign countries and two countries, he added. Plans would be made for admission to Moscow State University. He called for further cooperation in various sectors.

Next, the Vice-Senior General hosted a luncheon to the Russian Defence Minister and party. —MNA

The Russian Defence Minister said that the Russian Federation was ready to cooperate in respective sectors. Bilateral cooperation not only in defence sector but also in economic, social and cultural sector would enhance unity and friendship between the two countries.

The Russian Defence Minister called for the help of Russia in action against human and drug trafficking and human rights campaigns. It has also received funds for procurement of advanced equipment in 2012-2013 FY both for operation and training.

Dr Than Win of North Okkalapa Constituency questioned the effectiveness of the measures of Food and Drug Administration (FDA) against unhealthy foods and illegal drugs, warning it as a “true national concern” for public health at today’s Pyithu Hluttaw session.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint quoting the 2008 WHO statistics denied his claim as a “false national concern” for public health at today’s Pyithu Hluttaw session.

The Union minister called for regular adjustment of overall allowances for public servants and retirees commensurate with the time, saying that empty stomachs can also lead to corruption and bribery. —NLM

Disaster risk management is a national duty: Union SWRR Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 4 March—National level course on inclusion of disaster and climate change-led risk management in development programmes jointly organized by Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and Asian Disaster Preparedness Center was opened at Amara Hotel here today, with an address by Union SWRR Minister Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin. The Union minister said the ministry is cooperating with related ministries, UN agencies, NGOs and INGOs to shape the nation into a resilient society and to reduce the losses and damages caused by catastrophes.

She urged the trainees to take the disaster risk reduction as a national duty so as not to let disaster hamper the democratization process of the nation. The course will last for five days, it is learnt.—MNA

Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win presents gifts to local people.—MNA
Germany’s SPD tries to win voters with pledge to tame markets

BERLIN, 4 March—Germany’s Social Demo- crats are vowing to “tame” the financial market radical- ism, split up banks and raise taxes on high earners in a left-leaning campaign programme the party hopes will help it defeat popular Chancellor Angela Merkel in a September election.

According to a draft of the programme seen by Reuters on Sunday, the SPD said no financial mar- ket participants, financial products or markets should be left unregulated in the future.

“The era of market radicalism is over. The ideology of conservatives and neo-liberals that mar- kets look after the common good, has to give way prop- erty by themselves was... buried under the ruins of the global financial catas- trophe,” it said in a draft in which the SPD executive will discuss on Monday.

“Europe needs to be at the vanguard of new market regulations with which we will turn the financial mar- kets.” The SPD hopes its shift left, prompted by Mer- kel’s move to the centre, and its increasingly sharp attacks against the powers of big banks will help it win back voters who deserted the party in the 2009 elec- tion when its percentage of the vote fell to a post-war low of 23 percent.

An Emnid poll on Sun- day showed support for the SPD was at 27 percent.

SPD leader Peer Stein- bruk has got off to a bad start with his campaign however, alienating many core supporters by reveal- ing his lucrative earnings as a public speaker, saying chancellor should earn more and scoffing at wine that costs less than 5 euros a bottle.

This week he also caused an uproar by call- ing Italian former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi and comic-turned-politician Beppe Grillo “clowns” following their strong performance in weekend elec- tions.

In its draft pro- gramme the SPD reiterated its plans to separate retail and investment banking and said it wanted to regu- late the shadow banking system, ban speculative fi- nancial products and force derivatives trading onto regulated platforms.

The party also said it wanted to limit high-fre- quency trading and impose minimum holding periods on the practice which in- volves numerous lightning- speed automatic trades that make money from tiny price moves in the market and which has been blamed for causing market volatility.

Peer Steinbrueck, Social Democratic Party (SPD) candi- date for this year’s German general election, arrives for a session of the Bundestag, the German lower house of parliament, on the deployment of German armed forces in Mali, in Berlin on 28 Feb, 2013.—Reuters

German Finance Minis- ter Yanis Stournaras said on Monday Greece will discuss on Monday. Peer Steinbrueck, Social Democratic Party (SPD) candi- date for this year’s German general election, arrives for a session of the Bundestag, the German lower house of parliament, on the deployment of German armed forces in Mali, in Berlin on 28 Feb, 2013.—Reuters

House fire in Russia’s Chelyabinsk kills five

MOSCOW, 4 March—Five people, including three children, were killed in a fire in Russia’s Chelyabinsk Region early Sunday, the Interior Ministry said.

The fire, which broke out in a private house at about 4 am local time (0000 GMT) in the town of Kartya, took three hours to extinguish.

“The owner of the house, a woman and her three daughters aged one, six and seven were found dead in the debris cleaned,” the Itar-Tass news agency quoted the ministry as say- ing. It was not immediately known what caused the fire.

Saudi border guards arrest 338,637 infiltrators, 4,986 traffickers in 2012

RIYADH, 4 March—Saudi Arabia’s border guards arrested 338,637 infiltrators and 4,986 traf- fickers last year, Al Hayat newspaper reported on Sun- day.

The authority also con- fiscated 753,693 narcotic pills, 2,475 ammunation, 16 rocket propelled gre-

nades, two mortar shells, 70 tonnes of firecrackers and a number of other illegal drugs, the spokesperson of border guards, Mohammed Al Ghamdi, told the news- paper. Meanwhile, three people were killed and 10 were injured in 143 attacks against the Saudi border guards last year.—Xinhua

Greece opens new round of talks with EU-IMF auditors

ATHENS, 4 March—Greece launched on Sunday a new round of talks with auditors of European Un- ion (EU) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) lend- ers which will determine the release of the next bail- out tranche to Athens this month.

Greek Finance Minis- ter Yannis Stournaras held a first meeting with two of the heads of the “troika” representatives at his office in Athens, opening a series of deliberations un- til 10 March in the context of the regular review of Greece’s progress under the bailout programme agreed with international creditors since 2010. “The climate was very positive. They acknowledged the efforts made over the past few months,” Stournaras commented after the meeting. On top of the agenda this time, according to government sources, are thorny issues such as the reduction of the number of 150,000 public servants by 2015 and unemploy- ment, revenues collection, tax system reform to coun- ter wide-spread tax evasion, privatizations and the ongo- ing bank recapitalization.

Creditors, who keep debt-laden Greece afloat with multi-billion euro res- cue loans to avert a chaotic default in the eurozone in exchange of a tough auster- ity and reform programme, push for swifter steps, as Athens lags on timetables and targets set. Under the heavy burden of deep re- cesion for a sixth year and high unemployment rates of more than 27 per- cent, Greek officials request more breathing space to avoid social upheaval.

The average Greek citizen already suffers from waves of cuts on salaries, pensions and tax hikes having been slashed by up to 40 percent in three years. “There cannot be layoffs,” Stournaras told local media this week- end regarding the pressure on public sector job cuts. He explained that over the past two years the sector has shrunk by some 75,000 through retirement, arguing that the rate of retirements and the ongoing new mo- bility scheme should meet the goals by 2013. Under the scheme, starting with 25,000 employees this year, civil servants will be paid on reduced wages for a year however, could be made redundant if there will be no vacan- cies found in the public sector during its overhaul. —Xinhua

Three killed, 19 wounded in two bomb blasts in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 4 March—At least three people were killed and 19 others wounded in two bomb attacks in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad and the holy Shiite shrine city of Kar- bala on Sunday, an Interior Ministry source told Xinhua.

In Baghdad, two people were killed and ten wounded when two roadside bombs went off in a quick succession in the mainly Shiite neighbourhood of Hussainiyah in the north- eastern part of the capital, the source said on condition of anonymity.

In a separate incident, a roadside bomb detonated in the area between the major shrines of Imam al-Abbas and Imam al-Hussien in the city of Karbala, some 110 km south of Baghdad, killing a civilian and wounding nine others, the source said.

No one has so far claimed responsibility for the attacks, but al-Qaeda front in Iraq frequently claimed the responsibility for most deadly attacks in the country. Violence and sporadic high- profile bomb attacks are still common in the Iraqi cities despite the dramatic decrease in violence since its peak in 2006 and 2007, when the country was engulfed in sec- tarian killlings. —Xinhua

Saudi border guards arrest 338,637 infiltrators, 4,986 traffickers in 2012

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The authority also con- fiscated 753,693 narcotic pills, 2,475 ammunation, 16 rocket propelled gre-
Six die in snow storms in Japan’s Hokkaido

TOYKO, 4 March — Severe snow storms hit Japan’s northeastern Tohoku region and Hokkaido and left six people dead over the weekend due to the extreme weather, local media reported on Sunday.

Hokkaido’s Nakashibetsu, a woman and her three children were confirmed dead at a hospital on Saturday night, believing they have died of carbon monoxide poisoning as exhaust pipe and windows of their car were blocked by snow. Japan’s Kyodo News Agency quoted local police as saying.

Also in Nakashibetsu on Sunday, a part-time worker was found collapsed in farmland and confirmed dead, local police said, adding she left her car behind about 300 metre away.

Meanwhile in Yubetsu, a 53-year-old man died and his daughter survived after their car was buried in snow on their way to a friend of the man, according to Kyodo.

Caused by a strong low pressure system, Japan’s northeastern Tohoku region and Hokkaido saw severe snow storms this weekend.

Japan’s Meteorological Agency also issued snow storm advisories in the area on the extreme weather, which also caused the derailment of a bullet train on Saturday evening in Japan’s Akita Prefecture. No one was injured in the accident.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Sunday ordered Keiji Furutama, state minister for disaster management, to check on the damage and to restore transport systems and provide information to local residents.

Xinhua

New Zealand seeks Arab backing for UN Security Council seat bid


“The Arab League has been at the forefront of some of the most pressing international issues over the past two years, including Libya and Syria,” said McCully.

“ Its leadership will be critical for dealing with the range of challenges that have resulted from the Arab Spring. This visit provides an opportunity for New Zealand to strengthen its relationship with a vitally important regional organization.”

McCully would also visit Middle East countries, including Bahrain, Turkey and Jordan, for official talks that would cover ongoing regional security issues, and New Zealand’s humanitarian assistance for Syrian refugees in Turkey and Jordan.

Xinhua

Four policemen killed in Karachi, Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 4 March — Four policemen were killed when some unknown gunmen attacked a police check post in Pakistan’s southern port city of Karachi on Sunday night, local police said.

Fayyaz Laghari, inspector general of Sindh police said that some unidentified gunmen on motorbikes opened fire at four policemen standing at a check post of the main highway of Karachi, the capital city of the country’s southern Sindh Province.

The attack took place at about 9:20 pm local time and the assailants fled the scene following the attack.

No group claimed responsibility for the attack yet. The attack on police took place shortly after the city was jolted by twin blasts, targeting a residential area in the neighbouring Abbas Town area.

Xinhua

Shots fired during attempted cash van robbery

SYDNEY, 4 March — Shots were fired during an attempted armed robbery of a cash-in-transit van at a busy Sydney shopping centre on Monday morning, the New South Wales Police said.

At about 8:15 am (local time) on Monday, two security guards parked a cash-in-transit van in Bay Street at Broadway, south of the Sydney central business district and left the vehicle.

“They were approached from behind by two men with their faces covered, both armed with firearms while a third male stood near the van,” the NSW police said in a statement. One of the guards was struck in the back of the head, possibly with the butt of a firearm while the other officer fired a shot into the air.

The offenders escaped the scene in a station wagon driven by a fourth man.

No money was stolen and no one was injured, police said.

Police have closed Bay Street outside the shopping centre. A crime scene has been established and police are currently speaking to a number of witnesses.

Xinhua

Beijing launches new media newswire service

BEIJING, 4 March — Xinhua News Agency on Sunday launched a newswire dedicated to the new media service, taking the opportunity of the convening of the country’s major political sessions.

The move is to help the state news agency adapt to the profound changes in the media landscape led by digital evolution, and to achieve its strategic change, Xinhua said in a statement.

Interaction, acuity, and flexibility will be the major features of the new media service, it said. The service will also provide customized reports for clients, with detailed stories and in-depth analyses.

The National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, the country’s top political advisory body, started its annual session in Beijing on Sunday, while the National People’s Congress, China’s top legislature, will open its annual meeting two days later.

Xinhua’s new media service will take advantage of the “two sessions” to give its debut performance, providing a different news reporting with major news focuses, exclusive interviews, feature stories, as well as visual and digitized news, according to the statement.

Xinhua

30 injured in southwest China quake

Photo taken on 3 March, 2013 shows collapsed houses and a broken pipe following the earthquake that hit Eryuan county of Yunnan Province on Sunday.

QINGHAI, 3 March — Thirty people have been confirmed injured, including three seriously, after a 5.5-magnitude earthquake hit southwest China’s Yunnan Province on Sunday afternoon.

Some 2,000 people have also been evacuated, said the provincial Civil Affairs Department.

The quake hit Eryuan County, Dai Bai Autonomous Prefecture in Yunnan Province with a depth of 9 km. The epicenter was in Xiashan Township with a depth of 40 km. The shake lasted for about 30 seconds.

Latest statistics showed 92,000 residents were affected by the quake, while 83,434 houses were damaged and 1,781 others collapsed.

Infrastructure including schools, transportation and communications systems, water and power lines was damaged to various degrees.

The Yunnan provincial government initiated a grade-III emergency response earlier and later upgraded it to grade-II.

The Civil Affairs Department said 3,000 tents, 7,000 cotton quilts and 7,000 coats were being sent to the quake-hit area.

A quake relief team consisting of more than 400 policemen, firefighters and soldiers has been dispatched.

Some 34 aftershocks have been recorded after the quake.

In history, 19 earth-quakes of magnitude 5 or above occurred within a 50-km radius of the epicentre.

Xinhua

Rescuers search for survivors after a bridge collapsed, injuring at least three people in Calcutta, capital of eastern Indian state West Bengal, on 3 March, 2013.—Xinhua

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McCully would also visit Middle East countries, including Bahrain, Turkey and Jordan, for official talks that would cover ongoing regional security issues, and New Zealand’s humanitarian assistance for Syrian refugees in Turkey and Jordan.

Xinhua

Security personnel stand by outside the village where a shootout occurred at Semporua in Sabah, Malaysia, on 2 March, 2013. At least 5 policemen were killed in an ambush in Malaysia’s Sabah state as gunmen were spotted outside the village where standoff continued between security forces and Sulu gunmen, police said on Sunday.—Xinhua
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MV SINO 3 VOY NO (13015)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINO 3 VOY NO (13015) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.3.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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 to 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 KINGSOCEAN SHIPPING CO LTD.
Phone No: 256908/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TAMPAK VOY NO (497)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAK VOY NO (497) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.3.2013 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 to 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MERKUR BRIDGE VOY NO (031)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERKUR BRIDGE VOY NO (031) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.3.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P 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 to 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 MOL (SPORE) PTE LTD
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Jennifer Lawrence finds setting up Bradley Cooper with her friends “exhausting”

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Jimi Hendrix estate rolls out “People, Hell and Angels” studio set

Jimi Hendrix estate rolls out “People, Hell and Angels” studio set

New Delhi, 4 March—Jennifer Lawrence wants to set Bradley Cooper up with her friends. 22-year-old actress Jennifer Lawrence joked she plans to get her Silver Linings Playbook co-star Bradley Cooper a book with pictures of her friends so he can choose how he wants to date. She told MTV: “I feel like all I’ve been doing lately is setting him up. I was like, ‘You know what? I’m gonna save time and just get you a booklet with pictures of my friends. You just go through and pick them out, because this is getting exhausting.” Jennifer—who split from Nicholas Hoult in January after two years of dating—admitted reports of her dating Bradley, 38, are ridiculous and says she often gets linked to her co-stars. She added: “My publicist told me that a magazine was going to say I was having a thing with either [The Hunger Games: Catching Fire’s] Sam Claflin or Bradley, and I got to choose. And I chose Bradley because I love Sam’s fiancée [actress Laura Haddock] so much. Sam is so sweet. So sweet that he’s almost not hot anymore.”—PTI

Los Angeles, 4 March—If there were any doubts about the lingering force of fabled rock guitarist Jimi Hendrix more than four decades after his death, his latest single should put them to rest. The single “Somebody to Love” went to No1 on the Billboard Hot Singles sales in February. That bodes well for the latest posthumous album plucked from the Hendrix musical vaults, which producers say has stood up well to the test of time. “People, Hell and Angels,” to be released on CD this Tuesday, is billed as a collection of twelve previously unreleased studio performances by Hendrix, although some of the songs have emerged in other versions since his death at age 27 in 1970 from an accidental drug overdose. The album arrives with the simultaneous release of newly struck mono vinyl editions of early Hendrix classic albums “Are You Experienced” and “Axis: Bold As Love.” The tracks on “People, Hell and Angels,” were planned as a follow-up to the influential guitarist’s chart-topping 1968 album “Electric Ladyland.” “After the huge success of the Jimi Hendrix Experience and those first albums, he wanted to branch out more, and the blues sound on this is just different from the others,” said Janie Hendrix, Jimi’s step-sister and president and CEO of Experience Hendrix, the company founded by the musician’s father to oversee the star’s estate. “This new album is very important for all his fans as it really showcases his creativity and a different side to him,” she told Reuters. Reuters

New Light of Myanmar
Tuesday, 5 March, 2013

13

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Dated 5 March 2013

CORRIGENDUM

In the Trademark Cautions of Yan International ASA appeared on page 12 of this Paper of 4.2.2013, the correct name of the Mark Reg. No. 412/175/2012 is “Mitsubishi”
Arsenal say Kroenke has no plans to sell club

LONDON, 4 March

Stan Kroenke has no plans to sell his majority stake in Arsenal, a spokesman for the Premier League soccer club said on Sunday, responding to a report that a Middle East consortium planned a 1.5-billion-pound ($2.25-billion) bid.

FC Twente lose ground in Dutch title race

THE HAGUE, 4 March—The departure of coach Steve McClaren earlier this week did not lead to better results for FC Twente, with the team losing ground on PSV, Ajax, Feyenoord and Vitesse in the Dutch Eredivisie this weekend. McClaren quit last Tuesday and his assistant Arif Schreuder was temporarily appointed as his replacement, starting against Ajax in Enschede on Saturday.

Twente suffered an early defeat when Ajax defender Niklas Moisander found the net in the 4th minute with a long-distance strike. Ten minutes from half-time Toby Alderweireld doubled the away side’s deficit at intermission by putting the ball past Twente goalkeeper Jeroen Zoet. The Dutch club was not able to pull back the deficit at the start of the second half thanks to rival clubs.

Many Arsenal fans are unhappy with the way Kroenke—nicknamed “Silent Stan” for his low profile—has run the club, arguing he is putting profit before success on the pitch. Arsenal have not won a trophy since 2005 and are facing another barren season.

JUN 26 2016

Czech Pliskova beats Mattek-Sands for first WTA title

KUALA LUMPUR, 3 March

— Unseeded Czech Karolina Pliskova won her maiden WTA singles title beating American wildcard entrant Bethanie Mattek-Sands in the Malaysian Open final on Sunday. The 20-year-old, playing her first singles final, dropped her first set in the tournament but rallied past Mattek-Sands 1-6, 7-5, 6-3.

“I was a little nervous at the start and couldn’t get my serves in. That contributed to the heavy (first set) loss,” Pliskova told reporters. “I woke up in the second set and began to serve better. This helped turn the tide.” It was a tough match but I’m delighted to win my first singles title. I still can’t believe it.”

Mattek-Sands got off to a flying start and looked set to win her first singles title in her fourth final but the big-serving Czech, ranked 127, found her way back into the match. The match was tied 1-1 in the third and final set when a thunderstorm and rain halted play for more than 30 minutes on another hot and humid day in Kuala Lumpur. “I’m still happy with the way I played all week. I don’t think the rain delayed me at all,” Mattek-Sands said. “Just that she played very well. “The beauty of tennis is that there is another tournament next week so I just have to pick myself up and get on with it.” Pliskova, who served 10 aces in the match, collected $40,000 in prize money.

Unrelenting Heat notch another win in pay-back tour

NEW YORK, 4 March

The unrelenting Miami Heat notchted another win on their pay-back tour in a Sunday matinee, dashing the hopes of the New York Knicks while raising the question of whether any team can deny Miami another NBA title.

The Heat, led as usual by the spectacular LeBron James, erased a 15-point deficit at intermission by imposing their will down the stretch for a 99-93 victory in Madison Square Garden that extended their winning streak to a franchise record-tying 14 in a row.

Reigning champions Miami ended New York’s modest three-game win streak and avenged a pair of 20-point losses to the Atlantic Division leaders early this season.

Dwyane Wade said revenge was not only sweet, but important as the Heat sent a message to the Knicks after getting even with another quality team, the Memphis Grizzlies, on Friday.

“When you’m on a winning streak you’ve got to find many different ways to win ball games,” said Wade, who scored 20 points, handed out eight assists and pulled down eight rebounds.

Thompson gets maiden tour win with Honda victory

PALM BEACH GARDENS, (Florida), 4 March

— American Michael Thompson kept his head in gusty winds to win the Honda Classic on Sunday by two shots from Australian Geoff Ogilvy. In testing conditions, the 27-year-old Thompson, the joint overnight leader, held firm for his first win on the PGA Tour, ending with a birdie on the 18th for a one-under par 69 which left him nine-under for the tournament.

Thompson, who finished tied second in last year’s US Open, will look back gladly on the eagle he made on the par-five third that gave him some breathing space before the inevitable bogeys came. The Arizona-born golfer had four bogeys and three birdies in his round but never let the dips disturb him in what was a cool display for a first time winner.
Seed production, sorting technology conducted

PORTO ALEGRE, 4 March — Uruguay striker Diego Forlan struck twice as International progressed to the final of Brazil’s Piratina Cup with a 2-0 victory over Esportivo on Sunday. The 33-year-old netted either side of half-time at the Centenario Stadium to take his 2013 tally to six goals from six games for the Porto Alegre club. International will now meet Sao Luiz, who defeated Caxias 2-1 on Saturday, in next Sunday’s final. “We are working well together as a team and I was lucky to score two goals but we have to keep things in perspective,” Forlan said after the match. “It is a good feeling to reach the final. Now we have to focus because we have a difficult game ahead of us. We have a whole week to prepare.”

Myana Alinn

Forlan double sends Internacional into final

Barcelona, 4 March — Nico Rosberg put Mercedes on top of the timesheets on Sunday in the final day of pre-season testing in the German Bundesliga on top of the timesheets on Sunday in the final day of pre-season testing in the FIA Formula One World Championship at the Circuit de Catalunya in Montmelo, near Barcelona, on 1 March, 2013.—REUTERS

Rosberg wraps up F1 testing with fastest lap

MEXICO CITY, 4 March — Nico Rosberg set the fastest lap of the day at the final day of pre-season testing in the FIA Formula One World Championship at the Circuit de Catalunya in Montmelo, near Barcelona, on 1 March, 2013.—REUTERS

Bayern Munich remain on track in German Bundesliga

BERLIN, 4 March — Mario Gomez’ winner ensured Bayern Munich’s 20th win of the season in a contested match at Hoffenheim, to close the 24th round of Bundesliga on Sunday. Bayern Munich carved out a hard earned victory at relegation threatened Hoffenheim thanks to the winner by Mario Gomez to restore their 17-point lead atop the Bundesliga standings. Struggling Hoffenheim staged a courageous performance to keep the Bavarians away from their goal. Even better, the hosts were able to produce the first chance of the game as Daniel Williams sent a free kick into the side netting. However, as the match progressed, the German giant started rolling when Mario Gomez made use of his second opportunity of the match to break the deadlock at the 38th minute. Bayern’s Jerome Boateng intercepted a pass by Igor de Camargo to cross to Franck Ribery, who headed into path of Gomez, who had no problems to tap in from close range.—Xinhua

Myanmar TV

7:00 am
1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
13. SEA GAMES (Go For Gold) (Billiard)
7:25 am
2. Health Programme
14. People Talks
7:30 am
3. Morning News
15. Evening News
7:40 am
4. International News
16. Weather Report
7:50 am
5. People Talks
17. Sing A Song
8:10 am
6. Song of National Races
18. TV Drama Series
8:15 am
7. Documentary
19. News
8:30 am
8.Songs of Yester Year
10:00 pm
9. Musical Programme
20. TV Drama Series
4:05 pm
10. 2013 University Entrance Examination (Myanmar)
23. Weather Report
5:05 pm
11. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
24. Documentary
5:25 pm
12. The Mirror Images of The Musical Oldies
27. Documentary
4:35 pm
11. Songs For Upholding National Spirit

News
e-pension Easy and Convenient System for Pensioners
Myanmar Hospitality and Tourism Conference 2013
News
Songs for you
A Study Tour Around Nay Pyi Taw Model Farms (I)
Ayerwadywadi Dreaming Images of Myanmar and Beyond Photo Exhibition
Life-like...Embossed relief painting
Miss Myanmar 2013
Topic on Journal “Let’s make a wonderful trip to Ngwe Saung Beach!
Conversation with Chief Economist for Asia Pacific Mr. Bert Hofman
News
Myanmar Music Concert & Variety Show
Traffic Count Survey is On going
Talk A Lot
Myanmar Movies
“A Monk’s Single Meal”

Mercedes GP’s Formula One driver Nico Rosberg of Germany drives during a training session at Circuit de Catalunya racetrack in Montmelo, near Barcelona, on 1 March, 2013.—REUTERS

Myanmar International

5-3-13 09:30 am – 6-3-13 09:30 am) MST
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9. Musical Programme
21. News

Amyotha Hluttaw discusses formation of Union ministry of national races affairs

Nay Pyi Taw, 4 March—16 Lawmakers debated the formation of Union level national races affairs ministry proposed by U Kyaw Din (a) U Htay Yaw of Kayah State Constituency (2) on today’s Amyotha Hluttaw regular session.

Salai Kwe Yan of Chin State Constituency (12) argued for the proposal, saying the government is responsible to handle national races affairs at all levels not only at state/region levels.

Ministry of Border Affairs is fulfilling the needs of ethnic races with the government’s budget and international aids. The ministry and the region/state social affairs and ethnic races ministers could work together if necessary, he added. He requested the parliament to only put the proposal on record.

The proposal was not approved as the parliament voted on the proposal. U Mana Naing of Chin State Constituency (10) said after the meeting.

MP voices concern over threat of illicit drugs

Nay Pyi Taw, 4 March—U Ye Tun (a) U Min Tun of Hsipaw Constituency asked about measures against illicit drug trading across the nation including in northern Shan State at Pyithu Hluttaw session today and Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Chief of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun replied that Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control is working in cooperation with United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, China National Narcotics Control Commission and Drug Enforcement.

On my recent visit to Thayetpinchaung Village in Dagon Seikkan Township in the outskirts of Yangon Region, I witnessed a booming industry of fish processing. Their major market is urban population in Yangon, the commercial hub of Myanmar a few miles away.

“We mainly use sea fish to make dried fish. Fishes bought from the boats in different kinds and weights are transported to Thayetpinchaung by trucks. Most vessels anchor at Pazuntaung and Kyinmyindine jetties where we can select and buy the fish we like,” a person from Bayinnaung said.

“The formation of Union level national races affairs ministry would help the government handle the ethnic affairs more thoroughly.” U Saw Mya Win of Kayin State Constituency (11) said. “The ethnic affairs are delicate and we should take time in handling them.”

Dried fish industry in outskirts of Yangon booming

On my recent visit to Thayetpinchaung Village in Dagon Seikkan Township in the outskirts of Yangon Region, I witnessed a booming industry of fish processing. Their major market is urban population in Yangon, the commercial hub of Myanmar a few miles away.

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“The formation of Union level national races affairs ministry would help the government handle the ethnic affairs more thoroughly.” U Saw Mya Win of Kayin State Constituency (11) said. “The ethnic affairs are delicate and we should take time in handling them.”

"We mainly use sea fish to make dried fish. Fishes bought from the boats in different kinds and weights are transported to Thayetpinchaung by trucks. Most vessels anchor at Pazuntaung and Kyinmyindine jetties where we can select and buy the fish we like," a person from Bayinnaung said.

They sometimes use the already processed fishes from Bayinnaung cold storage. The first step of making dried fishes is ‘salting’. Salted fishes are piled up in the wooden container and kept there for a day. Then, the fishes are cut and prepared for drying by seasoning salt and gunpowder for better colour. They are then kept in the wooden container for another one day. “We can dry them off by the sun the next morning,” he said.

“It takes one and a half day to dry the fishes.” The dried fishes are then kept in the cold storage to prevent vaporization before they are packaged.

“Mostly, they are sold in Bayinnaung,” he explained.

The business runs round the year with less produce in the rainy season. The demand from every nook and corner of the country soars in the open season, he said.

Representatives attending 21st day sixth regular session of the First Amyotha Hluttaw at Amyotha Hluttaw Building.

By Moe Thuzar Soe

President were General Hla Hay Win of Commander-in-Chief Office, Deputy Minister for Defence Commodore Aung Thaw, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Zin Yaw, the Director-General of the President Office and officials. The Russian delegation led by Defence Minister General Sergey K SHOIGU was accompanied by the Russian Ambassador to Myanmar.

Both sides discussed further strengthening of bilateral relations and promoting trade, economic and defence ties between the two countries.