President U Thein Sein arrives back after paying goodwill visits to New Zealand, Australia

NAY PYI TAW, 21 March—President U Thein Sein left Sydney International Airport at 12.15 pm local time yesterday by air, after paying goodwill visits to New Zealand and Australia from 13 to 20 March.

The President and his entourage arrived back here via Singapore at 10.15 am today.

President U Thein Sein and party were welcomed back by Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win, Union Ministers, the Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command and departmental heads at Nay Pyi Taw Airport.

Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win, Union Ministers and deputy ministers, who accompanied the President, arrived back on the same flight.

Plan underway to upgrade Mandalay International Airport

NAY PYI TAW, 21 March—As Myanmar promotes international relations and gains development momentum in tourism industry, a plan is underway to upgrade Mandalay International Airport for smooth transport of people through aviation services of airlines, said an official of Department of Civil Aviation of the Ministry of Transport.

"Preparations are being made for upgrading Mandalay International Airport to be able to give better and smooth services for flight schedules and travelling of passengers," he continued.

Proposals are invited from local companies for upgrading tasks, and the eligible company will be assigned duty.

Myanmar has three international airports in Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay. Hanthawaddy International Airport is under construction.

About 46 civil airports are in use across the nation. Plans are being implemented for construction of new airports.

Mandalay International Airport is the largest one in Myanmar. Its 14000 feet long runway is the longest facility in South-East Asian region. The airport can handle about three million passengers on departure and arrival yearly.

Mandalay International Airport at which Boeing planes can land and take off was opened on 17 September 2000.

The facility is located 21 miles south of Mandalay.

Myanma Alinn

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Central Bank of Myanmar
Announcement No. 1/2013
10th Waxing of Tabaung 1374 ME
(21 March 2013)

Announcing the program that enables FEC holders to exchange Foreign Exchange Certificates-FEC without having a loss on it


2. For the convenience of tourists and foreign investors and facilitating foreign currency-driven businesses, the Central Bank of Myanmar allowed the use of these certificates within the country as an initial stage of monetary change before foreign exchange rate reform was fully introduced.

3. The Central Bank of Myanmar started practicing Managed Floating Exchange Rate Regime on 1-4-2012 with the adoption of exchange rate integration program. Foreign Exchange Management Law was enacted in accord with Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No (12) on 10-8-2012.

4. The Central Bank of Myanmar is implementing the task of ensuring the emergence of official foreign exchange market within the country and development of foreign exchange market systematically as follow:-
   (a) issuing license after scrutinizing the application for running a foreign exchange business.

(See page 8)
National Library (Nay Pyi Taw) ready to offer its service to readers

KBZ Bank opens Mae Kong Branch in Tachilek

Director of Kanbawza Bank Ltd Daw Nan Lai Kham and four female national races formally opened the bank branch. Chairman of the bank U Aung Ko Win, members of the BOD and guests visited the branch.

KBZ banks associated with Western Union of the US give remittance services in addition to ATM card, MPU debit card, hire purchase, gift cheque, money changer and foreign bank services to the customers. The bank has installed 32 remittance counters and over 200 POS Terminals across the nation.—NLM

Free milk to all primary school children in Mandalay Region

In meeting with officials concerned and responsible persons of Myanmar entrepreneurs to cooperate with the department in livestock breeding sector as population of milch cows stands only at about 500,000 while there are 17 million head of cattle in Myanmar. Under the School Milk Program jointly-organized by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education, children of primary schools in Mandalay Region will be provided with free milk next three years in succession starting from June of 2013-2014 academic year, it is learnt.—Kyemon

Drowsy driving car accident in Paung Township

On his arrival at the ceremony to give free eye surgery to 31 patients with eye complaint, jointly-organized by Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation and Sagaing Region WAO, at Monywa Hospital, the chief minister spoke words of encouragement.—MNA

The bus carrying passengers driven by Khin Maung Tun turned over, leaving three passengers out of 14 injured. It is learnt that the car accident was due to drowsiness of the driver at the wheel. The injured were admitted to the hospital in the township. Paung Police Station filed a lawsuit against the driver. —Kyemon

Myanmar swimming team bags 11 gold, 14 silver and four bronze in international swimming event in Singapore

Yangon, 21 March — The victorious Myanmar swimming team led by U Maung Maung Sein arrived back here on 19 March after taking part in 44th Singapore National Age Group Swimming Championship 2013 held from 15 to 18 March in Singapore. They were welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by officials concerned. Maung Arnt Khuang Htu won one gold and four silver, Ma Eingyin Kay Khine, one silver and three bronze, Ma Khant Khant Su San three gold, six silver and one bronze, and Ma Su Moe Theint San, seven gold and three silver. Myanmar swimming team bagged 11 gold, 14 silver and four bronze and scored 254 points, taking its tally to seventh in the table of 22 countries. —Kyemon

Nay Pyi Taw, 21 March — Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu made an inspection tour of National Library (Nay Pyi Taw) which is under construction on Yazattaani Road in Pobbathari Township, here, on 18 March. More than 250,000 books have been moved to the already-built first building of the library and arrangements are being made to provide e-Library service to readers with over 15000 books in early May. National Library (Nay Pyi Taw) is complete with four buildings. Construction work of one building has been completed by cent per cent and construction of the remaining three buildings will be carried out, depending on the funds allotted. — MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 21 March — Minister of Transport and Communications U Aye Myint Kyaw visited the branch of KBZ Banks associated with Western Union of the US in Tachilek yesterday. KBZ banks associated with Western Union of the US give remittance services in addition to ATM card, MPU debit card, hire purchase, gift cheque, money changer and foreign bank services to the customers. The bank has installed 32 remittance counters and over 200 POS Terminals across the nation.—NLM

Nay Pyi Taw, 21 March — The opening of Mae Kong Branch of Tachilek (2), which is the 100th branch of Kanbawza Bank Ltd, was held at the bank branch near No 2 Myanmar-Thai Friend-ship Bridge in Mae Kong Ward of Tachilek yesterday. NAY PYI TAW, 21 March — The opening of Mae Kong Branch of Tachilek (2), which is the 100th branch of Kanbawza Bank Ltd, was held at the bank branch near No 2 Myanmar-Thai Friend-ship Bridge in Mae Kong Ward of Tachilek yesterday.

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Russia’s Putin invites Netanyahu to visit Moscow

Putin sent Netanyahu the invitation in a letter but no date for the visit was specified, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity. “Prime Minister Netanyahu received a letter from Russian President Vladimir Putin congratulating him on the formation of the new government in Israel and inviting Netanyahu to visit Moscow,” the official said.

The invitation came hours before US President Barack Obama was due to land in Israel to begin his first official visit as president to the country, hoping to reset his often fraught relations with both the Israelis and Palestinians.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas visited Moscow last week where he said he hoped peace talks with Israel would resume this year, although he added that the chances for this appeared slim.

Reuters

Iran would need around a year to build atomic bomb

US President Barack Obama (L) and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu view an Iron Dome missile defence battery at Ben Gurion International Airport in Tel Aviv on 20 March, 2013.—Reuters

Afghanistan, NATO strike compromise on pullout plan

Russian President Vladimir Putin (L) listens to Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as they speak after delivering their joint statements following their meeting in Jerusalem on 25 June, 2012.—Reuters

Russia’s military-industrial complex needs fresh blood

Moscow, 21 March — Russia’s military-industrial complex has exhausted its scientific and technical stocks and badly needs influx of skilled workforce, high-ranking officials said on Wednesday.

I have to state that scientific and technical stocks have effectively exhausted today,” Deputy Defence Minister Yuri Borisov told a conference of military-industrial complex.

Russia risked losing an opportunity of scientific-technical breakthrough in areas such as the creation of superonic devices, weapons based on new physical principles and weapons of cyber warfare, Borisov warned.

Speaking at the same conference, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin said the country’s military-industrial complex suffered from high interests rates on loans.

“How can we develop the industry with 10-12 percent loans? It could only be done with (the rates of) 4-5 percent,” Rogozin said.

He noted that Russia’s military-industrial complex badly needs skilled workforce, and called for a “brain import” of foreign talents.

“When it comes to brain import, we are ready to give them residency permits, work permits and even Russian citizenship,” Rogozin said.

He reiterated Russia would not purchase ready-made military equipment abroad but would buy technologies, attract hardware developers and skilled workers.

According to Rogozin, the Russian army needs cutting-edge automated and robotic arms because the armed forces face severe shortage of personnel.

“This is about unmanned air, ground, sea, submarine systems,” he said, adding that a Russian soldier armed with such equipment would be capable to fight against five enemies. The Russian government has allocated 20 trillion rubles (about 666 billion US dollars) for the rearmament and modernization of its armed forces until 2020.

Xinhua

Nuclear states divided on India joining export control group

Vienna, 21 March.— The United States and three other big powers this week argued for allowing nuclear-armed India into an atomic export control group, but China and several European states appeared doubtful about the move, diplomats said on Wednesday.

They said the divisions were in evidence during closed-door talks of the 46-nation Nuclear Suppliers Group on the sensitive issue of whether India could join and become the NSG’s only member that is outside the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The United States, France, Britain and Russia were among those which backed membership for India — Asia’s third-largest economy — while smaller European states such as Ireland, the Netherlands and Switzerland had reservations, the envoys said.

China stressed the need for equal treatment in South Asia, an apparent reference to its ally Pakistan which is also outside the NPT and has also tested atomic bombs, they said. One diplomat said Japan also appeared lukewarm on the idea.

The tone of Monday’s informal debate in Vienna suggested that the controversial issue will not be ready for a decision at the NSG’s next annual plenary session, to be held in the Czech capital of Prague in June. NSG decisions are made by consensus.

“There are several countries in each camp. I’m not sure how it can be moved forward,” another envoy said.

But another envoy said that while “a number of countries have continued doubts” they did not categorically rule out that India, which has yet to apply, could eventually become a member.

US Army LT Chelsey Darrow of the 3rd Platoon B Company 9th STB 31AD COP Dash Tawp takes his position during a patrol as part of an overall security and disruption insurgency mission in Wardak Province, eastern Afghanistan on 17 Nov, 2011.—Reuters

A policeman walks on a beach near Kudankulam nuclear power project in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu on 13 Sept, 2012.—Reuters

Friday, 22 March, 2013
Climate changes keep Hudson Bay polar bears on land longer

B E I J I N G , 2 1 M a r c h — T h e p o l a r b e a r s o f H u d s o n B a y , C a n a d a , a r e a r r i v i n g o n l a n d e a r l i e r i n t h e s u m m e r a n d l e a v i n g l a t e r i n t h e a u t u m n i n r e c e n t y e a r s d u e t o c h a n g e s i n s e a i c e o r t h e i r a c c e s s t o f o o d . T h i s w a s s h o w n i n a n e w s t u d y p r e s e n t e d i n t h e J o u r n a l o f A n i m a l E c o l o g y a s q u o t e d b y m e d i a r e p o r t s o n W e d n e s d a y .

T h e s t u d y w a s c o n d u c t e d b y t h e r e s e a r c h e r s w h o m o n i t o r e d t h e m i g r a t i o n p a t t e r n s o f p o l a r b e a r s b y u s i n g s a t e l l i t e - t r a c k i n g d a t a . 

They fitted 109 female polar bear with tracking collars which were equipped with GPS transmitters that located the bears, so that the team could observe the bears’ migration patterns.

“When we look at the migration patterns of the collared bears, it appears as though bears in recent years are arriving on shore earlier in the summer and leaving later in the autumn,” Cherry said.

“These are precisely the kind of changes one would expect to see as a result of a warming climate.”

“Keeping track of when polar bears move on and off the ice is an important aspect of monitoring the risks to the population associated with climate change,” Cherry said.

“Climate-induced changes that cause sea ice to melt earlier, form later, or both, likely affect the overall health of polar bears in the area. Ultimately, for polar bears, it’s survival of the fattest,” added.—Xinhua

India successfully testfires submarine-launched version of BrahMos missile

N E W D E L H I , 2 1 M a r c h — I n d i a s u c c e s s f u l l y t e s t f i r e d i t s s u b m a r i n e - l a u n c h e d v e r s i o n o f B r a h M o s s u p e r s o n i c c r u i s e m i s s i l e f o r t h e f i r s t t i m e o n W e d n e s d a y i n t h e B a y o f B e n g a l o f f t h e c o a s t o f t h e s o u t h e r n p o r t c i t y o f V i s a k h a p a t n a m , a t o p o f f i c i a l s a i d .

“T h e s u b m a r i n e - l a u n c h e d v e r s i o n o f B r a h M o s w a s s u c c e s s f u l l y t e s t f i r e d f r o m a n u n u d e r w a t e r p o n t o n n e a r V i s a k h a p a t n a m i n t h e s o u t h e r n s t a t e o f A n d h r a P r a d e s h . T h i s i s t h e f i r s t t e s t f i r i n g o f a n u n u d e r w a t e r s u p e r s o n i c c r u i s e m i s s i l e a n y w h e r e i n t h e w o r l d a n d t h e m i s s i l e t r a v e l l e d i t s c o m p l e t e r a n g e o f 2 9 0 k m .” H e a d o f B r a h M o s A . S i v a s a h a n N a i l l t o t a l l e d t h e m e d i a . 

W i t h t h e t e s t f i r i n g , I n d i a b e c a m e t h e w o r l d ’ s f i r s t c o u n t r y t o h a v e t h i s c a p a b i l i t y . T h e c o u n t r y h a s a l r e a d y s u c c e s s f u l l y t e s t f i r e d t h e s h i p - g r a n d l a u n c h e d v e r s i o n s o f t h e m i s s i l e f o r t h e I n d i a n N a v y a n d t h e I n d i a n A r m y r e s p e c t i v e l y .

“B r a h M o s m i s s i l e i s f u l l y r e a d y f o r f i t m e n t i n s u b m a r i n e s i n v i r t u a l l y c o n f i g u r a t i o n w h i c h w i l l m a k e t h e p l a t f o r m o n e o f t h e m o s t p o w e r f u l w e a p o n p l a t f o r m s i n t h e w o r l d , ” N a i l l i n e d .

A h y p e r s o n i c v e r s i o n o f t h e m i s s i l e i s c u r r e n t l y u n d e r d e v e l o p m e n t w i t h v e e d w i t h 1 7 3 M a c h h o o s t a f f a s s i s t r a k e f a s t s t r i k e c a p a b i l i t y . I t i s e x p e c t e d t o b e r e a d y f o r t e s t i n g i n 2 0 1 7 , a c c o r d i n g t o s o u r c e s .

T h e B r a h M o s m i s s i l e p r o g r a m m e i s j o i n t v e n t u r e b e t w e e n I n d i a ’ s s t a t e - o w n e d D e f e n c e R e s e a r c h a n d D e v e l o p m e n t O r g a n i s a t i o n a n d R u s s i a ’ s N P O M a s h i c h n o s t r o e n y a n a p o p i l a t e d f o r k t o g e t h e r f o r m e d B r a h M o s A e r o s p a c e P r i v a t e L i m i t e d . T h e n a m e B r a h M o s i s p o r t m a n t e d f o r m a n y o f t h e r i v e r s , t h e B r a h m a p u t r a o f I n d i a a n d t h e M o s k v a o f R u s s i a . — X i n h u a

Lenovo introduces ThinkPad Twist in India for Rs 71,000

W A S H I N G T O N , 2 1 M a r c h — L e n o v o h a s l a u n c h e d t h e T h i n k P a d T w i s t i n I n d i a f o r R s 7 1 , 0 0 0 . A s p e r t h e c o m p a n y , t h i s c o n v e r t i b l e c o m p u t e r c a n b e u s e d a s a t a b l e t a n d a l a p t o p . T h e T h i n k P a d T w i s t c a n a l s o b e q u i c k l y c o n v e r t e d i n t o a t e n t m o d e , w h e r e t h e l a p t o p b e c o m e s a m e d i a p l a t f o r m i n a s t a n d o r a t e n t m o d e , w h e r e t h e l a p t o p b e c o m e s a m e d i a p l a t f o r m .

The ThinkPad Twist comes with Windows 8 pre-loaded. The convertible device comes with up to 8GB DDR3 memory and can support up to 500GB of SSD with HDD performance booster. This device sports a 12.5-inch IPS multi-touch display, runs on Windows 8.1 and costs Rs 84,290. While Lenovo is already planning to launch two models—ThinkPad Twist and IdeaPad Yoga 11—in 2012.

Lenovo ThinkPad Twist will be available in mocha black colour at Think Exclusive Stores and multi-brand outlets across the country.

Applications such as Fruit Ninja, Evernote, AccuWeather, Skype, Amazon Kindle, BlueStacks come pre-installed on Lenovo ThinkPad Twist.

Lenovo is already offering hybrid devices that double up as laptops as well as tablets in India under its Idea Yoga series. The company had launched two models—IdeaPad Yoga 13 and IdeaPad Yoga 11—in December 2012.

Lenovo IdeaPad Yoga 13 features a 13.3-inch 1600x900 multi-touch display, runs on Windows 8 and costs Rs 84,290. While the Lenovo IdeaPad Yoga 11 is a Windows RT device that sports a 11.6-inch 1366x768 multi-touch display. This device is available for Rs. 61,790. Sony too is offering Sony VAIO Duo 11 device in India that costs Rs. 89,990. It comes with what Sony terms as the ‘Surf Slider’ design, which helps the device to switch smoothly between Tablet and PC modes. It comes with 11.6-inch (29.4cm) screen with a resolution of 1920x1080.

Lenovo’s brand comes with 17.85mm thin and weighs 1.3 kilograms. The device is powered by 3rd generation Intel Core i5-3317U 1.7GHz processor and runs on Windows 8. Other features include 4GB DDR3 SDRAM and 128GB flash drive. VAIO Duo 11 comes with built-in 4,960mAh cell battery that lasts for about 4.5 hours. In comparison, the Sony device, it seems Lenovo through its ThinkPad Twist is offering a more value for money proposition.—PITI
FRIDAY, 22 MARCH, 2013 5

BUSINESS & HEALTH

**New Light of Myanmar**

**B urj on, 21 March**—Britain is downgrading economic growth expectation for 2013

According to the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR), the economy is growing slowly, said finance minister George Osborne in his budget statement on Wednesday. According to Osborne Budget statement delivered to the parliament, the independent Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) now expects the economy to expand by 0.6 percent in 2013, downgraded from 1.2 percent made in December and 1.8 percent in 2014. The OBR then expects the recovery to pick up to 2.3 percent in 2015, 2.7 percent in 2016 and up to 2.8 percent, and forecast that the country would escape recession this year. Delivering his Budget in the Commons, he said “we are, slowly but surely, fixing our country’s economic problems.” He said that he wanted to help “people who aspire to work hard and get on.”

He vowed to work with the British people, who understood there were “no easy answers”, to fix the economy. He is expected to delay or cancel a planned fuel duty rise and could scrap above inflation alcohol tax rises. Britain has been struggling to recover from a steep slump in output caused by the 2008 financial crisis, slipping into a second recession since then and now teetering on the verge of a third.

**Food**

**10 foods to keep you healthy**

1. Apple
2. Fish
3. Garlic
4. Strawberry
5. Carrot
6. Banana
7. Green Tea
8. Soybean
9. Milk
10. Red Pepper

**Economy of Germany, China increasingly interdependent**

**Berlin, 21 March**—The rapid growth of bilateral trade and the increasingly closer economic ties between Germany and China during the past 20 years has led the two countries’ economic interdependence to an unprecedented level, a study showed on Tuesday.

The study, conducted by the research institute Prognos with the entrenchment by the Bertelsmann Foundation, centered on a comprehensive analysis of German-China trade relations.

“The German-made machinery products play a key role for China’s industry, while China is the most important supplier of consumer goods to Germany,” said Helmut Hauschild, director of the Germany and Asia Programme under the Bertelsmann Foundation.

“This high level of interdependence gives a strong impetus to the governments of both countries to make even greater efforts to forge closer cooperation to create the market’s openness and equal conditions of competition for both German and Chinese firms,” said Hauschild.

According to the study, the Chinese industry has relied heavily on the import of German machinery.

The study noted that the Germany-China interdependence has reached such a high degree that the Chinese economy would face difficulties if some of its strategically-needed machinery products from Germany fall in short supply, since many of the German machines are used in industries which account for a large proportion of China’s production of exports. In the meanwhile, Germany counts more and more on the import of China-made textiles and clothing, as the market share of China’s textile has climbed to over 31 percent by now, in comparison to mere 7 percent in 1992. Germany’s dependence on China-made computers, laptops and other business items has also kept increasing drastically, with its share in Germany’s market rocketing to current 44 percent, from less than 1 percent in 1992.

Looking ahead into the future, the study anticipated some changes to Germany-China trade relations and patterns, as Chinese firms continue with their drive to reach the world’s top level in high-tech sectors. The intra-industry trade will play an important role in German-Chinese trade, according to the study. The trend means that more and more German firms will directly face competition from their Chinese counterparts. To maintain their success in the Chinese market, German companies should keep their technological advantage and diversify their business sphere, said Hauschild.

“The study shows that the German economy needs to invest more in research and development so as to survive in the long run in the face of the competition from China,” said Hauschild.

China’s solar panel maker giant declares bankruptcy

**Wuxi, 21 March**—Leading solar panel maker Wuxi Suntech, a major subsidiary of the New York-listed Suntech Power based in China’s city of Wuxi, declared bankruptcy on Wednesday.

In accordance with China’s Bankruptcy Law, The Wuxi City Intermediate People’s Court on Wednesday approved Wuxi Suntech’s bankruptcy and restructuring following a joint application issued by the company’s nine creditor banks on Monday.

The company made no objection to the ruling.

Founded in 2001, Wuxi Suntech supplies for more than 95 percent of Suntech Power’s products. As of February, Wuxi Suntech’s credit balance for the local and foreign currencies of the creditor banks totaled 7.1 billion yuan (1.14 billion US dollars), a senior company manager said.

The banks said since the outstanding loans have been overdue and the company did not render a feasible repayment programme, bankruptcy will protect their legal interests and maintain social stability to the maximum extent based on market rules and law.

The banks also expect the company to seek a third party for strategic reorganization in order to revive the company, according to the manager.

As one of China’s four largest solar module makers, Wuxi Suntech was founded in 2001 by Shi Zhengrong, a prominent solar power scientist. In 2005, Suntech Power Holdings Co, Ltd, or Suntech Power, was founded and listed in New York.

FedEx cuts forecast as air freight weakness hits profit

**Los Angeles, 21 March**—FedEx Corp cut its full-year forecast after a worse-than-expected quarterly profit as customers shifted from air to slower but cheaper modes of international shipping.

Shares of the No. 2 US package delivery company fell 5 percent in early trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

FedEx’s express unit, its biggest source of revenue, has also been hit by overcapacity in the industry that has squeezed margins. Operating income in the express unit fell 66 percent.

FedEx said the express unit underperformed due to weakness in Asia and other international markets, where margin pressures arising from excess capacity more than offset increased volumes.

“We have a yield issue that exaggerated itself this quarter over last quarter,” Dave Bronczek, CEO of FedEx Express, said on a conference call with analysts.

FedEx plans to cut express capacity to and from Asia from 1 April and is looking at reducing its fleet by retiring more of its older, less-efficient aircraft.

The actions, along with cost cuts, will help express unit perform better in the fourth quarter, Bronczek said.

“They have got to lower their costs because they are getting paid a lot less for the packages they are shipping,” said BB&T Capital Markets analyst Kevin Sterling.

“It is hard for them to adjust quickly because we are talking about planes which cannot just be parked in the garage overnight,” said Sterling, who doesn’t expect margins to improve for a few quarters.

Health service hotline operational in 26 provinces

**Beijing, 21 March**—A national health service hotline is providing services to over two thirds of China’s provincial regions, according to the National Health and Family Planning Commission on Tuesday.

A commission statement said the hotline had received 3,449,000 calls as of the end of 2012. The public health service number, 12320, opened in 2006. There are 31 provincial regions and municipalities that have access to the service hotline.

It handles various cases such as consulting and medical appointments, and reduces the difficulty in receiving medical treatment, according to the statement.

The hotline provides people information on health regulations and public health knowledge. It also takes public complaints and tips-off.

The statement said the hotline has been building a comprehensive service platform consisting of phone, website, text message, and microblog service.

The hotline opened two official microblog accounts at Weibo.com and Tencent.com last year. They have sent about 4,000 posts and attracted more than two million followers by the end of February, according to the statement.

Improvements to the service will be made with the building of a national data collection and releasing system for health information.
Syrian enemies demand inquiry into “chemical” attack

BERLIN, 21 March—Both sides in Syria’s conflict on Wednesday demanded an international inquiry into a deadly attack they each cite as evidence that the other has used chemical weapons.

The deaths of 26 people in a rocket attack on a northern town on Tuesday have become the focus of a propaganda war between President Bashar al-Assad’s supporters and opponents, who accuse each other of firing a missile laden with chemicals.

The United States and Russia, which back opposing sides in Syria, took contrasting views of the strike on Khan al-Assal, near Aleppo, which confirmed what would be the first use of chemical weapons in the two-year-old conflict and could step up pressure for foreign military intervention.

Robert Ford, the US Ambassador to Damascus, who left Syria more than a year ago, said his government had no evidence so far to substantiate reports that chemical weapons munitions had been used in Syria on Tuesday.

“But I want to under- line that we are looking very carefully at these reports,” he told a House of Representatives hearing.

Ford warned of unspecified consequences for Assad’s government if it were found to be using chemical weapons.

Washington, which says Assad must be removed from power, has so far shunned direct military intervention in Syria.

Russia initially backed the Syrian government’s version, issuing a statement on Tuesday, expressing extreme concern about “the use by the armed opposition of chemical weapons”.

But on Wednesday, Moscow’s line had softened. “There is no unequivocal evidence on this account yet,” Deputy Foreign Minis- ter Gennady Gatilov said on Twitter.

reg. Syria’s restrictions on independent media and for- eign aid groups make it hard to verify what happened, but survivors interviewed in hospitals complained of breathing difficulties.

The opposition Syrian National Coalition said it wanted an international investiga- tion into the alleged chemical attack in Khan al-Assal and on another in

Asylum seekers file most claims in decade

GENEVA, 21 March—Nearly half a million peo- ple sought asylum in the developed world last year, a 10-year high, with the sharpest rise in requests from Syrians fleeing war and persecution, the United Nations said on Thursday.

In all, 479,300 asylum applications were lodged in 44 industrialized countries, a rise of 8 percent on the previous year, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said in its annual report, entitled Asylum Trends 2012.

“This is the highest annual total since 2003, con- tinuing a trend of increases in every year but one since 2006,” it said.

Some 24,800 Syrian asylum seekers filed claims last year, triple the number in 2011, making them the second biggest group after 36,600 Afghan applicants, the report said.

But most Syrians flee- ing the two-year conflict have stayed in neighbour- ing countries, where 1.1 million Syrian refugees are registered, many hoping to return to their homeland, it said.

Fighting in Iraq, Pa- kistan and Somalia also sparked claims.

“We are driving more and more people to seek asylum,” Antonio Guterres, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said in a state- ment. “At a time of conflict, I urge countries to keep their borders open for peo- ple fleeing for their lives.”

Despite heated debates and anti-foreigner sentiment in some European countries, asylum levels are far low- er than in the early 1990s, when conflicts raged in the former Yugoslavia, Af- ganistan and Great Lakes region of Africa. The peak remains 1992 when more than 800,000 claims were filed, the UNHCR says.

“Even if we have seen this increase of 8 percent compared to 2011, it’s nothing compared to the 1990s,” said Volker Turk, director of UNHCR’s divi- sion of international protec- tion.

Europe has seen a bit of a tempest in a teapot type thing. Of course a rise in the indus- trialized world is nothing compared to what you see in the developing world and in areas affected directly by crisis,” Turk told a news briefing.

Europe again received the most asylum applica- tions of all regions last year — 353,500 in 38 countries, up by nine percent over 2011, the UNHCR said.

They included 297,600 claims made in the 27 member states of the Euro- pean Union (EU).

For the first time since 2001, Germany had the most claims in Europe, receiving 41,000, a percent jump from the previous year, partly due to a rise in asy- lum seekers from the Bal- kans. —Reuters
Pilgrims may pay homage to religious edifices at Nay Pyi Taw Bodh Gaya

**Naypyidaw, 21 March—** Under the supervision of Nay Pyi Taw Council, ACE Company and Shwetaung Development Co started construction of Nay Pyi Taw Bodh Gaya on Udaryamuni Hill, five miles and six furlongs north to Kwaynko Flower Roundabout of Nay Pyi Taw Ottarathiri Township on 24 July 2011. So far, the construction of the Bodh Gaya is nearing cent per cent completion. Pilgrims may pay visits to religious edifices similar to that of Bodh Gaya in India. Sattassattha venues and Maha Bodhi Pagoda are of same sizes to that of Bodh Gaya in Gaya city of India where the Lord Buddha attained Enlightenment.

At present, men’s hostels and women’s hostels are under construction for convenient accommodation of pilgrims. The wellwishers far and near to donate cash and kind may contact U Kan Chun, (member of Nay Pyi Taw Council), Secretary of Special Development Project Supervisory Committee, Tel: 067-414202 and 067-414204.

**Cash donated to free clinic**

Zaw Zaw Oo and Khachaung Village Lower Division Clerk U Soe Aung on behalf of staff donated K 52600 to the free clinic of Aung San Ward in Yekei Township on 13 March. Officials accepted cash donations.—**Mya A'inn**

**Rural area of DaikU Township gets 4-inch tube-well**

Junior Engineer-II U Thant Zin Oo reported on sinking the tube-well. The Hluttaw representative, the township administrator and Daw Huy Hao Yi of GH (Golden Hour) Company formally opened the tube-well. Also present on the occasion were township level officials, responsible persons of NGOs and rural people totalling over 200.—**NLM**

**Cash donated for offering gold foils at Shwetaungsar Pagoda in Dawei**

At present, men’s hostels and women’s hostels are under construction for convenient accommodation of pilgrims. The wellwishers far and near to donate cash and kind may contact U Kan Chun, (member of Nay Pyi Taw Council), Secretary of Special Development Project Supervisory Committee, Tel: 067-414202 and 067-414204.

**Objectives of the 68th Anniversary Armed Forces Day 2013**

1. To uphold the national policy namely non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty
2. To play the leading role in the national politics by the Tatmadaw joining hands with all national races with Union Spirit and the true patriotism in line with the Constitution
3. To crush all destructive elements at home and abroad through the strength of State, People and Tatmadaw
4. To build up a strong, competent, modern, patriotic Tatmadaw to safeguard the security and sovereignty of the nation

**Pre-primary students under care at Khatcho Village of Waingmaw Tsp**

Wainmaw, 21 March—Khatcho Village of Waingmaw Township of Kachin State is constituted with 1759 houses and it is home to 10217 population. The village has one pre-primary school established by Maternal and Child Welfare Association, admitting 20 students under one teacher. “At our school, the teacher washes legs and hands before entering the classrooms daily. Only when their health is in good condition, will their education standard rise step by step. So, I always focus on their health daily,” said teacher Daw Khin Thida Pyone of the school.

**Cash donated for offering gold foils at Shwetaungsar Pagoda in Dawei**


**Border trade promoted**

Naypyidaw, 21 March—Myanmar is striving for development of its economy with added momentum. In its economic reforms, the country cooperates with international community and promote border trade with neighbouring countries, said an official of the Ministry of Trade.

“Relentless efforts are being made for promotion of border trade year after year. More and more border trade camps have been opened. Rules and regulations of border trade have been relaxed for raising bilateral trade between neighbouring countries,” he said.

At present, a total of 12 border trade camps have been opened. Of them, four border trade camps are located at the border sharing with China, four at Thailand, two each at India and Bangladesh.

According to an official of the Ministry of Trade, Myanmar is raising two folds of border trade with neighbouring countries this year, compared with that of 2011-2012 fiscal year, and it will have great prospects in the future. In 2011-2012 fiscal year, Myanmar earned US$ 3.046 billion from border trade. In 2010-2011 fiscal year, the country fetched US$ 1.9 billion through border trade.

The commodities exported by Myanmar were rice, forest products, fishery products, minerals, maize, groundnut and rubber. China is border trade partner of Myanmar with the largest trade volume.


Moreover, Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe and family K 5 million, U Hla Than (Pyae Phyoo Tun Co) K 5 million, U Maung Maung Ohn-Daw Nilar Myint (Myint Myat Kyaw Co) K 9 million.

The donations amounted to K 635.88 million. Those wishing to make donations may dial 059-21160 and 0949850187 of the Pagoda Board of Trustees, 059-23556 and 09-8760155 of the secretary of Taninthayi Region Government.

**Mya A'inn**
**Perspectives**

**Make our food safe**

Some cases of food poisoning broke out in Mandalay and other areas recently causing a number of people fall ill from the poisoning.

Food poisoning is caused by eating organisms or toxins present in food or drinks. Some common foods which can cause food poisoning if proper care is not taken are raw poultry, unpasteurized milk, red meat, poisonous mushrooms, pesticides on fruits and vegetables, egg and raw egg products, raw meat and water.

The symptoms develop within one hour or they may show up within 12-48 hours. It lasts for more than two days but, depending on its seriousness it may take around a week to recover.

You may have bouts of vomiting, abdominal cramps and pain, diarrhea and similar other pains. If it is very serious you may have chills and fever, bloody stools, dehydration, muscle aches and weakness.

Pesticide, chemicals, heavy metals, parasites, fungi, viruses and bacteria are some of the common causes for food poisoning. Bacteria are a major culprit, due to their capacity to multiply. To prevent the contamination we should have a clean kitchen including the storage and vessels, handle raw and cooked food with proper precautions, cook food to the maximum temperature to avoid presence of bacteria and heat canned foods before tasting. You can stop this outbreak either by minimizing the headcount of bacteria, preventing their growth, killing bacteria with proper measures of cooking.

**Home Remedies for Food Poisoning:** Avoid eating when suffering with food poisoning. Drink good amount of fluids except milk products, caffeine and carbonated products. Avoid sugary fluids and drink more of electrolyte. Eat plain bread, as it soaks the poison to provide relief. Have 1/4 cup of activated charcoal powder with a glass of water to subside the symptoms. If it doesn’t work within the first half-hour continue till you get complete relief. Consume garlic as it detoxifies the intestine and destroys the bacteria in lower digestive tract. After your meals you can drink jaljeera (a mixture of asafetida, cumin, salt and water) 2-3 times a day. Make a mixture by mixing one tablespoon lemon juice or cider vinegar in a cup of hot water. Drink it before your meals to prevent any acidic problems.

To avoid the food-borne illness and to save lives, we all are obliged to disseminate knowledge on preventive measures to each other and to follow the remedies.

**Announcing the program...**

**Vice-President U Nyan Tun and party seen at the dinner hosted by the Vice-President of Vietnam.—MNA**

**Smart Myanmar for SME development**

Yangon, 21 March—Smart Myanmar Project was launched at UMFFCCI Office here yesterday, a step forward for Myanmar SMEs to boost their international competitiveness.

The three-year project is said to be designed to improve performance, and production technologies of SMEs, helping them to penetrate into the foreign markets.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe said the project would do a lot for CMP and SMEs in Myanmar, adding that it would contribute to environmental conservation and sustainable production technologies.

The chief minister also spoke of the need to have a good percentage of SME in reform process of Myanmar, Germany, Britain, the Netherlands and the Philippines are reported to assist the project as partner organizations.

**Launching Conference of Smart Myanmar Project in progress.—MNA**

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**NATIONAL**

**Myanmar, Vietnam agreed...**

**Myanmar, Vietnam agreed...**

**YANGON, 21 March—**Smart Myanmar Project taking ASEAN Chair in 2014 and hosting XXVII SEA Games in 2013.

The Myanmar Vice-President invited investments from Vietnamese companies.

The two agreed closer cooperation between the two parliaments and promotion of Myanmar-Vietnam-Laos-Cambodia tourism.

The Myanmar Vice-President visited Monument of National Heroes and martyrs and Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum on 19 March.

He then met Vietnamese businessmen making investments in Myanmar at BIDV Tower in Hanoi at which he elaborated on measures for SME development and potentials of special economic zones under construction in Myanmar.

He then visited Temple of Literature, the first national prestigious seat of education in Vietnam, and Viettel Co. (from page 16)

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**(b)** announcing daily foreign exchange rate which is based on demand and supply of the market.

(c) To as licence-holders who are allowed to run foreign exchange business where the FEC exchanger opened his account.

(1) allowing them to partake in money market among banks

(2) allowing them to buy and sell foreign currency with the public in accord with prescribed rules and regulations

(3) allowing them to play role of medium in making payment in foreign currency and money transfer, except for handing over.

(4) allowing them to buy and sell foreign currency through transfer of accounts.

(d) Respective exchange counters under licence are allowed to sell and buy up to 10,000 USD and euros and Singapore dollars equivalent to US$ 10,000.

5. In accord with changes and progress in foreign exchange management matters thanks to implementations shown in paragraph 4, the Central Bank of Myanmar will conduct the exchange of FEC during the period of 90 days from 1-4-2013 to 30-6-2013 in accord with the following program as no more FEC is needed.

(a) FEC holders can exchange FEC in cash from foreign currency exchanges under licence.

(b) Licensed foreign currency exchanges can carry out the following points in accord with the wish of FEC holders.

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**Announcing the program...**

(1) putting the money into the US dollar account of the bank concerned where the FEC exchanger opened his account.

(2) Opening a new foreign currency account under the name of FEC exchangers at the bank concerned.

(3) Putting the money into the Kyat accounts of the FEC exchanger after the exchanged money is calculated at buying price rate of foreign exchange counter based on the daily foreign exchange rate issued by the Central Bank of Myanmar.

(4) Opening a new account for the FEC holder in Kyats at the bank concerned or give cash in Kyats.

(c) The foreign currency exchangers can hand over the FEC during and after the FEC exchange period.

(d) FEC is no more allowed to use as of 1-7-2013 when the initial FEC exchange period terminates.

(e) The period shall be extended to 31-3-2014 as a special matter for those who fail to exchange during the initial exchange period. To do so, those wishing to exchange are to submit the following requirements at the Central Bank of Myanmar, State-owned and private banks holding money exchanger license.

(1) personal information about FEC holder

(2) letter giving valid reason why he/she failed to exchange during the initial exchange period from 1-4-2013 to 30-6-2013.

6. Exchange of FEC is allowed only during the above-mentioned two periods and latecomers shall be denied, announced the Central Bank of Myanmar.
Sixth regular Pyidaungsu Hluttaw…

(From page 16) and facilities of region/state level personalities. Eight bills were sent to the President to seek his approval. Among them are 2013 Myanmar citizens’ investment bill, minimum wage bill, 2013-2014 FY national planning bill and 2013 FY Union budget bill. The session also approved Myanmar to sign Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards, 1959 and to take out ODA loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency. Another significant approval is termination of the use of FEC as financial medium.

Agreement on action plans on community on air initiative signed

Nay Pyi Taw, 21 March—An agreement on action plans on community on air initiative among Myanmar Radio and Television under the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Health, FM Radio Stations and UNICEF was signed at Kumudra Hotel, here, this morning. Deputy Minister for Health Dr Dow Hein Thein Hlay and Deputy Minister for Information U Paik Htwe made opening speeches. Afterwards, Mr. Bertrand Bainvel, Representative of United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), extended greetings. Director-General Dr Min Than Nyunt of the Health Department, Director-General U Tin Swe of MRTV and the UNICEF residence representative and responsible persons from Mandalay FM, Pyinsawady FM, Padunya FM, Cherry FM and Bagan FM signed the agreement. MNA

Agreement on action plans on community on air initiative signed among Myanmar Radio and Television under Ministry of Information, Ministry of Health, FM Radio Stations and UNICEF.—MNA

56th Session of the UN Commission on narcotic drugs held in Vienna

Nay Pyi Taw, 21 March—A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister of Home Affairs Chief of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun attended the 56th session of the UN Commission on narcotic drugs taken place at Vienna International Centre in Austria from 11 to 15 March.

On the occasion, the deputy minister briefed those present about international assistance for reducing poppy plantations and eradication of narcotic drugs, and efforts being made to eliminate narcotic drugs in the country. The session was attended by a total of 1225 representatives from 123 countries and 79 international organizations. Next, the deputy minister and party discussed close cooperation in eliminating narcotic drugs with Mr. William R. Brownfield, Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of International Narcotics.

They then met with Additional Secretary of the Department of Revenue of India Mrs. Rushmi Verma. The meeting focused on prohibition against illegal trade of chemicals used in making drugs and household drugs made of pseudoephedrine.

The delegation held a discussion with Mr. David Stuard, Australian Permanent Representative to the UN, about cooperation eradicating narcotic drugs. They also met with the representatives from China National Drugs Control Commission.—MNA

Meiktila placed under curfew…

(From page 16) including U Tun Tun Oo, owner of the gold shop and has taken action against them under criminal law 294/325/427/114.

Around 1 pm, a group that was dissatisfied with dispute gathered near the shop and some destroyed six shops, one religious building near the market and four motorcycles. The two different groups destroyed and set fire buildings, shops and motorcycles in return until night.

During the riot between the two groups, the gold shop, a religious building and one jeep car, two tricycle vehicles and one motorcycle, some shops and one building near Taw Win Nam junction, one building of township education office, some shops and buildings in Yan Myo Aung Ward, some buildings in South Pyitharayar Ward and some buildings and one bicycle in Yadana Mann Aung Ward were destroyed.

According to the news report up to 1 pm today, the riot left five dead— one monk, three men and one woman—and 39 wounded. The injured were hospitalized in Meiktila hospital.

Meiktila Township administrator has declared the curfew on 14 wards in Meiktila as from 8 pm yesterday. The order declared that all effective action would be taken against those who led the riots and disrupted the community peace.—MNA

Union Ministers discuss cooperation in respective sectors in Australia

Nay Pyi Taw, 21 March—On arrival at the Commonwealth of Australia, the Union Ministers who accompanied the President discussed the matters related to cooperation in respective sectors.

Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi held talks with Minister for Immigration and Citizenship Mr Brenden O’Conner of Australia at Australian Parliament House in Canberra at 4.10 pm on 18 March. They had a cordial discussion on cooperation in immigration between the two countries. A Myanmar delegation comprising Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye, Union Minister for Mines Dr Myint Aung, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Ko Ko Oo and an Australian delegation comprising Exekiel Selamom of Allens Link Laters Legal firm, Assistant Professor Michael Ford, Assistant Professor Nigel Finch and experts held a meeting drawing of mine law and cooperation in education sector at the office of the firm on 19 March.

Union Minister for Mines Dr Myint Aung explained Royalty, Modern Production Sharing Model of mine law and held discussion on assistance to human resources development and Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw Foreign Investment Law and bylaws.

Australia will provide technical assistance to drawing of mine law and arrange to send technical aids and technicians with the use of $20 million funded by Aus Aid. The Union Mines Minister will pay a visit to Australia in May 2013 and carry out agriculture, environmental conservation, medicine, social science and public management in cooperation with University of Sydney and private partnership. Aus Aid will cooperate with Ministries of Mines, Education, and Science and Technology under the arrangement of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development which will compile the list of scholars under Colombo Plan.

On their arrival at Sydney International Airport yesterday, Union Minister at the President Office U Tin Naing Thein, Union Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint and Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi heard reports on the functions of the airport by officials and they held talks on further bilateral cooperation with officials.—MNA

Tiger Myanmar Open Golf C’ship on third round

Nay Pyi Taw, 21 March—Tiger Myanmar Amateur Open Golf Championship 2013 continued for the third round at Danyinong Golf Club in Insein Township today. Myo Win Aung, selected golfer of Myanmar team, led the championship by firing two-under-par-214 on three-day aggregate, followed by Thailand’s Tawan Phonghun and Danthai Boonma 216 each in the second position and Singapore’s Nickilaus Chiam in the third.

Defending champion Then Naing Soe stood at the 7th position with 220 strokes. The final and fourth round of the championship continues at the same venue tomorrow.

NLM
UN Security Council to discuss CAR at France’s request

PARIS, 21 March— The United Nations Security Council will meet on Wednesday to discuss France’s concerns about a fragile ceasefire in the Central African Republic, the French foreign ministry said.

Rebels in the former French colony detained five ministers in the government earlier this week and threatened to break the January ceasefire unless prisoners were freed and other demands met.

The insurgents came close to capturing the capital, Bangui, and overthrowing President Francois Bozize late last year before accepting the peace deal under which some of their leaders joined the central government.

But increasingly bitter rhetoric from both sides is threatening to pitch the mineral-rich but impoverished, landlocked country back into conflict.

“France remains concerned by the evolution of the situation in the Central African Republic,” the foreign ministry spokesman Philippe Lalliot said in a daily briefing. “At our request, the UN Security Council will hold consultations today on the situation in CAR.”

Paris increased its troops in CAR to 600 in December to protect its citizens.

The United States said Sunday it was concerned about CAR’s worsening security and urged all sides to implement the ceasefire. Lalliot echoed those calls.

“We are pushing all parties to refrain from all military actions which would only worsen the security and humanitarian situation in CAR,” he said.

Reuters

Sunk Nigerian boat was carrying trafficked migrants

CALABAR, 21 March— A boat that sank off the Nigerian coast with up to 166 people on board, killing at least 45, was carrying illegal immigrants being trafficked to Gabon, survivors interviewed by Reuters said on Wednesday.

Nigerian authorities were still searching for survivors from a wooden boat that sank on Friday some 40 nautical miles offshore on its way from Oron, in Cross Rivers state, to Gabon.

Vincent Auyah, Director of the Cross Rivers State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), told a news conference that a rescue operation had recovered 27 people so far.

He said only nine bodies had been fished out, although a doctor at a local mortuary told Reuters on Tuesday there had been 45 bodies brought in from the accident.

Survivour Kive Sani, 27, from Togo, said he had paid money to a Nigerian “merchant” to get him a good job in Gabon. Part of his agreement was that he give the master a portion of his wages for an indefinite period.

“Toward the morning, he said he would go ahead to announce his abduction to his family members,” he said.

A fireman tries to extinguish a fire at Petacon Hill’s dump in Panama City, capital of Panama, on 19 March, 2013.—Xinhua

Four wounded in blast at gunpowder factory in Ankara

ANKARA, 21 March—Four people were wounded in an explosion that took place at a gunpowder factory in the Turkish capital of Ankara on Wednesday, Turkish media reported.

The injured, two of them in critical condition, were moved to hospitals for receiving medical treatment, the report said. According to the report, there was a fire following the explosion and then it was extinguished by firefighters.

The cause of the blast is still unknown, the report added.—Xinhua

Gunmen kidnap leader of Nigeria’s opposition party, demand 189,000 USD as ransom

LAGOS, 21 March—Gunmen in southeastern state of Anambra on late Tuesday kidnapped a leader of the opposition Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) party and immediately demanded a ransom of approximately 189,000 US dollars (30 million naira), a terse statement by the political party said on Wednesday.

The statement, signed by Lai Mohammed, the party’s spokesperson, said Chudi Nwike, a vice-chairman of the ACN in Nigeria’s southeast region was kidnapped by unspecified number of gunmen who contacted the victim’s family to announce his abduction.

“We appeal to the security agencies to do everything within their power to ensure the safe release of Nwike, while assuring our family of their prayers and support at this very difficult time,” the statement said. It added that members of the political party would do their best possible to make sure the abducted regain his freedom unharmed.

Nigeria is one of the countries in the world where kidnapping, which is a lucrative criminal enterprise worth millions of dollars a year, frequently occurs, becoming every one’s nightmare as people are being abducted even as they go about their business.

Afusat, a Benin citizen and a survivour on the boat that capsized off the coast, rests at the Bakor Medical Center after spending 42 hours in the water, in Calabar on 20 March, 2013.—REUTERS

Egyptian security forces free 34 kidnapped foreigners

In July 2008, the bodies of 37 suspected illegal migrants were found dead in the port of Gabon’s capital Libreville, after a boat capsized taking the same Nigeria to Gabon route.

With investment from former colonial ruler France, Gabon was one of the first sub-Saharan African countries in the world to give ships to start making the perilous journey from west Africa to Spain’s Canary Islands, though 250,000 migrants were reported to have made the crossing in the first five years of the 2000s, taking advantage of its crude oil reserves, which have made its 1.5 million people among the continent’s richest on a per capita basis.

Gunmen kidnap leader of Nigeria’s opposition party, demand 189,000 USD as ransom

LAGOS, 21 March—Gunmen in southeastern state of Anambra on late Tuesday kidnapped a leader of the opposition Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) party and immediately demanded a ransom of approximately 189,000 US dollars (30 million naira), a terse statement by the political party said on Wednesday.

The statement, signed by Lai Mohammed, the party’s spokesperson, said Chudi Nwike, a vice-chairman of the ACN in Nigeria’s southeast region was kidnapped by unspecified number of gunmen who contacted the victim’s family to announce his abduction.

“We appeal to the security agencies to do everything within their power to ensure the safe release of Nwike, while assuring our family of their prayers and support at this very difficult time,” the statement said. It added that members of the political party would do their best possible to make sure the abducted regain his freedom unharmed.

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Gunmen kidnap leader of Nigeria’s opposition party, demand 189,000 USD as ransom

LAGOS, 21 March—Gunmen in southeastern state of Anambra on late Tuesday kidnapped a leader of the opposition Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) party and immediately demanded a ransom of approximately 189,000 US dollars (30 million naira), a terse statement by the political party said on Wednesday.

The statement, signed by Lai Mohammed, the party’s spokesperson, said Chudi Nwike, a vice-chairman of the ACN in Nigeria’s southeast region was kidnapped by unspecified number of gunmen who contacted the victim’s family to announce his abduction.

“We appeal to the security agencies to do everything within their power to ensure the safe release of Nwike, while assuring our family of their prayers and support at this very difficult time,” the statement said. It added that members of the political party would do their best possible to make sure the abducted regain his freedom unharmed.

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A fireman tries to extinguish a fire at Petacon Hill’s dump in Panama City, capital of Panama, on 19 March, 2013.—Xinhua

Four wounded in blast at gunpowder factory in Ankara

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The cause of the blast is still unknown, the report added.—Xinhua

Gunmen kidnap leader of Nigeria’s opposition party, demand 189,000 USD as ransom

LAGOS, 21 March—Gunmen in southeastern state of Anambra on late Tuesday kidnapped a leader of the opposition Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) party and immediately demanded a ransom of approximately 189,000 US dollars (30 million naira), a terse statement by the political party said on Wednesday.

The statement, signed by Lai Mohammed, the party’s spokesperson, said Chudi Nwike, a vice-chairman of the ACN in Nigeria’s southeast region was kidnapped by unspecified number of gunmen who contacted the victim’s family to announce his abduction.

“We appeal to the security agencies to do everything within their power to ensure the safe release of Nwike, while assuring our family of their prayers and support at this very difficult time,” the statement said. It added that members of the political party would do their best possible to make sure the abducted regain his freedom unharmed.

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Gunmen kidnap leader of Nigeria’s opposition party, demand 189,000 USD as ransom

LAGOS, 21 March—Gunmen in southeastern state of Anambra on late Tuesday kidnapped a leader of the opposition Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) party and immediately demanded a ransom of approximately 189,000 US dollars (30 million naira), a terse statement by the political party said on Wednesday.

The statement, signed by Lai Mohammed, the party’s spokesperson, said Chudi Nwike, a vice-chairman of the ACN in Nigeria’s southeast region was kidnapped by unspecified number of gunmen who contacted the victim’s family to announce his abduction.

“We appeal to the security agencies to do everything within their power to ensure the safe release of Nwike, while assuring our family of their prayers and support at this very difficult time,” the statement said. It added that members of the political party would do their best possible to make sure the abducted regain his freedom unharmed.

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Four wounded in blast at gunpowder factory in Ankara

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The cause of the blast is still unknown, the report added.—Xinhua

Gunmen kidnap leader of Nigeria’s opposition party, demand 189,000 USD as ransom

LAGOS, 21 March—Gunmen in southeastern state of Anambra on late Tuesday kidnapped a leader of the opposition Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) party and immediately demanded a ransom of approximately 189,000 US dollars (30 million naira), a terse statement by the political party said on Wednesday.

The statement, signed by Lai Mohammed, the party’s spokesperson, said Chudi Nwike, a vice-chairman of the ACN in Nigeria’s southeast region was kidnapped by unspecified number of gunmen who contacted the victim’s family to announce his abduction.

“We appeal to the security agencies to do everything within their power to ensure the safe release of Nwike, while assuring our family of their prayers and support at this very difficult time,” the statement said. It added that members of the political party would do their best possible to make sure the abducted regain his freedom unharmed.

Nigeria is one of the countries in the world where kidnapping, which is a lucrative criminal enterprise worth millions of dollars a year, frequently occurs, becoming every one’s nightmare as people are being abducted even as they go about their business.
Mongolia holds water-saving exhibition to raise awareness

ULANBAATAR, 21 March—An exhibition showcasing Mongolia’s advanced water-saving technologies and products opened here on Wednesday to observe World Water Day, which falls on Friday.

Addressing the opening ceremony, Minister for Nature, Environment and Green Development Sanjaasuren Oyun said Mongolia was facing serious land desertification and water shortage, a phenomenon now threatening national security.

Indonesian, Singapore FMs to meet to push for Timor Leste’s membership in ASEAN

JAKARTA, 21 March—Indonesian Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa said on Wednesday that he will meet with Singaporean counterpart K Shanmugam next week to discuss the way to push for the membership of Timor Leste in ASEAN, media reported.

Natalegawa made the statement after meeting with Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Timor Leste Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao at the State Palace. “On next Thursday I will visit Singapore, one of the points to be discussed with Singaporean foreign minister on this issue (the membership),” Natalegawa said. The minister reaffirmed that Indonesia fully supports Timor Leste’s membership in ASEAN, as it is expected to boost stability in the region.

“It is clear that the future of Southeast Asia is not going to be positive, prosperous and stable should Timor Leste not be part of big family of ASEAN. Therefore Indonesia keeps pushing membership of Timor Leste in ASEAN,” said Natalegawa.

To meet the goal, Indonesia has given assistance in the form of capacity building to Timor Leste to prepare the country to the membership, he said, adding a consensus is required among all ASEAN member countries to support the new membership in ASEAN.

President Yudhoyono and Prime Minister Xanana discussed in their talks the ways to settle border areas and intention to step up bilateral ties to a higher level, according to the minister.

Indonesia and Timor Leste share the Sumbawa island. The new nation had been for 24 years under Indonesia’s rule before its independence in May 2002.

Xanana’s visit to Jakarta also included attending the Jakarta International Defence Dialogue 2013, said Natalegawa. —Xinhua

Philippines urges UN to ensure safety of peacekeepers in Syria

MANILA, 21 March—The Philippine government has asked the United Nations (UN) Security Council to “exert all efforts” to ensure the safety and security of all peacekeepers in Syria following the recent abduction and detention of 21 Filipinos in the Golan Heights.

In a statement released on Wednesday, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said that Ambassador Libran Cabactulan, the Philippine Permanent Representative to the United Nations, sent a letter to the Security Council expressing the Philippine government’s “grave concern” over the incident.

According to DFA, Cabactulan called on the council to exert all efforts and use its influence on all parties of the conflict in Syria “to ensure the freedom of movement and the safety and security of all UN Disengagement Observation Force (UNDOF) personnel consistent with obligations and commitments under the international law.”

The ambassador also asked the UN body to undertake efforts to ensure that similar incidents are avoided in the future, and to cooperate with UNDOF in its operations to ensure that the Mission is able to fulfill its mandate. “We are hopeful that this call of the Philippines—redundant as it does to the benefit of all troop contributing countries and to the effectiveness of peacekeeping missions—will be received positively and acted on by the Security Council,” Cabactulan said.

21 Filipino peacekeepers were seized by Syrian rebels on 6 March. After four days of negotiations, they were released by the rebels. —Xinhua

Cambodia, Japan see new step in defence cooperation

KOMPONG SPEU, (Cambodia), 21 March—Cambodia and Japan have seen a new phase in defence cooperation, Cambodian Defence Minister Tea Banh said on Wednesday.

His remarks were made after Japan sent its military experts to train 15 Cambodian peacekeeping forces for the first time.

The two-month course was concluded on Wednesday.

“Bilateral tie between the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces and Self-Defence Force of Japan has moved a new step forward thanks to this Japan-backed training course,” he said during the closing ceremony at the Institute for Peacekeeping Forces, Mine and Explosive Remnants of War Clearance, which was also attended by Japanese Ambassador to Cambodia Kumamaru Yuji.

“This project is a new beginning of cooperation within the area of peace. Even it is small, it is of great significance with the hope for enlarging and with the most appropriate manner responding to the United Nations standards for peacekeeper,” he said.

Tea Banh said the presence of Japanese military lecturers in Cambodia showed the mutual cooperation and friendship with other lecturers that Cambodia used to have like China, France, India and the United States.

“This will really help enhance the capacity of the Cambodian armed forces for contributing to the regional and international work on the area of peacekeeping operations,” he added.

Lt Gen Sem Sovanny, general director of the National Centre for Peacekeeping Force, Mine and Explosive Remnants of War Clearance, said that since 2006 to date, the country has trained 8,030 soldiers for UN peacekeeping missions, and has sent 1,450 troops to Sudan, South Sudan, Chad, Central Africa, Lebanon and Syria for humanitarian and demining operations. —Xinhua

Indonesia urges Asia Pacific countries to boost strategic trust

JAKARTA, 21 March—Asia Pacific countries should make efforts to boost strategic trust in a bid to maintain the regional stability and peace which are being challenged by territorial disputes, Indonesian President said here on Wednesday.

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono made the remarks while addressing the opening ceremony of the third Jakarta International Defense Dialogue, an international forum on how to promote intergovernmental cooperation to meet common threats and challenges.

Yudhoyono said the most pressing challenges in Asia Pacific region are to deal with territorial and jurisdicitional disputes which are at the core of flash points. “Our main challenge in promoting the regional security is how to build strategic trust among countries in our region,” he said.—Xinhua

ANA plane makes emergency landing in Naha, Japan

TOKYO, 21 March—A plane operated by Japan’s airline All Nippon Airways (ANA) on Wednesday made an emergency landing in Naha airport in Japan’s Okinawa Prefecture due to pressure adjusting device failure, local media reported.

The ANA Boeing 737 plane was from Fukuoka to Naha and the incident took place one hour later in Naha airport. —Kyodo

A collapsed shed is seen in Daxian County, central China’s Hunan Province, on 20 March, 2013. Three people were killed and 52 others were injured by a tornado that struck the county before dawn on Wednesday. The local meteorological observatory said the wind speed of the tornado reached 30.7 meters per second, a record for the observatory. —Xinhua

A collapsed shed is seen in Daxian County, central China’s Hunan Province, on 20 March, 2013. Three people were killed and 52 others were injured by a tornado that struck the county before dawn on Wednesday. The local meteorological observatory said the wind speed of the tornado reached 30.7 meters per second, a record for the observatory. —Xinhua

File photo taken on 28 Feb, 2012 shows Russians visiting a shop of a Chinese clothing brand at the Greenwood International Trade Centre in Moscow, Russia. The Greenwood International Trade Centre, a 350-million-US-dollar program financed by China Chengtong Development Group, started operation in Moscow in Sept 2011. The Greenwood covers an area of 200,000 square metres, with a total construction area of 132,600 square meters. The trade center, the largest Chinese investment project in the field of commerce in Russia, serves as a platform for Chinese products to enter the Russian market.—Xinhua
**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV MORNING SKY VOY NO ( )**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MORNING SKY VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.3.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (4) 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.

**SHIPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS SEA NET**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**Dubai art festival begins with focus on West Africa**

Dubai, 21 March—The seventh Art Dubai, one of the Middle East’s biggest contemporary art events, started Wednesday, with a special focus on the colorful artworks from West African countries.

The four-day Art Dubai, with the participation of 75 galleries from 30 countries, is a series of exhibitions of art, related discussions and art tours.

This year’s event provides West African countries with the opportunity to present their works, compared to previous ones over the past two years which mainly focused on oriental creativity emerging in the Arab turmoil.

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (331)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (331) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.3.2013 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.

**SHIPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797
REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar National Community Driven Development Project IDA Grant H814-MM Assignment Title: Technical Assistance for Mainstreaming Gender Aspects Reference No.: C-5

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the National Community Driven Development Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for the hiring of consulting services. The Project is being implemented by the Department of Rural Development (DRD). DRD is hiring a consultant who will support it in mainstreaming gender aspects into the project. Specifically, the consultant is expected to assist DRD in the following services (“Services”):

a. Design gender awareness training and manual with modules appropriate to the different project stakeholders, namely DRD, the Department of Social Welfare, the township aid management sub-committees, the village tract forums, community facilitators and village volunteers, and the CDD Gender Network. The Department of Social Welfare has already developed a gender awareness training module. The consultant will adapt the existing module to the project;

b. Develop a training plan for undertaking the training sessions;

c. Provide gender training for the project at all levels. The consultant will cooperate with the union level technical assistance for organizing the training sessions;

d. Provide inputs on gender reporting, monitoring and tracking regarding the project’s gender related indicators;

e. Assist DRD in preparing half-yearly progress report on the status of gender mainstreaming in the project, and prepare an annual report on lessons learned from project implementation;

f. Assist DRD in organizing an annual workshop for the CDD Gender Network to share experience and lessons learned;

g. Provide support to DRD for the organization of a “development marketplace” on gender; and

h. Undertake other activities to enhance gender equality under the project as may be required by DRD.

The Department of Rural Development invites eligible consulting firms and NGOs (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information as detailed and complete as possible demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The following qualifications are required:

1. Experience in developing appropriate gender training, conducting gender analysis, undertaking gender awareness training, and mainstreaming gender aspects in development projects for at least 5 years;

2. Previous work experience in Myanmar, knowledge of the local socio-economic context and involvement in community development projects in Myanmar;

3. Availability of staff with relevant work experience who are all fluent in Myanmar language so as to be able to undertake high-quality training and work with all relevant project stakeholders.

The assignment period will be for five years. An annual renewal of the contract will be subject to the satisfactory performance of the consultant as assessed by DRD.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank’s Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers [January 2011] (“Consultant Guidelines”), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.

Consultants may associate with other NGOs/firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Selection based on Consultants’ Qualification (CQS) method set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours from 09:00 to 16:00. Expressions of Interest must be delivered in written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, fax, or email) by April 8, 2013.

Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Border Affairs Attn: U Myint Oo, Deputy Director General Chairperson of the Procurement Committee National Community Driven Development Project Department of Rural Development Ministry of Border Affairs Office Number 14 Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar Fax: +95-67-409413 Email to all these email addresses: myint.oo.dda@gmail.com; kzaw.dda@gmail.com; naing.7.koko@gmail.com.

ACTRESS TODAY ARE INSECURE, SAYS FORMER BOND GIRL BRITT EKLAND

Britt Ekland starred in the 1974 Bond film The Man with the Golden Gun opposite Roger Moore.—PTI

London, 21 March— Former Bond Girl Britt Ekland feels the current generation of female stars are very insecure.

The 70-year-old, who starred in the 1974 Bond film The Man with the Golden Gun, said that it’s sad that these girls are so conscious about their looks, reported Daily Express.

“When I was in The Man With The Golden Gun I probably had a little bit of foundation and some lippie but you look at famous girls now... this whole idea of plumping and Botox and eyebrow-tattooing has gone overboard.

“They must look at themselves in the morning without the two-inch-long eyelashes and fake tan and think, ‘This is not good’,” she said.

PTI

Bon Jovi edges out David Bowie to top Billboard album chart

Jon Bon Jovi (R) performs with Richie Sambora during the “12-12-12” benefit concert for victims of Superstorm Sandy at Madison Square Garden in New York on 12 Dec 2012.—REUTERS

Los Angeles, 21 March— US rock band Bon Jovi beat British singer David Bowie to the top of the Billboard 200 album chart on Wednesday.

Bon Jovi, fronted by Jon Bon Jovi, notchet their fifth No.1 album with “What About Now,” which sold 101,000 copies in its debut week, according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan.

Bowie, 66, a pioneer of Britain’s glam rock movement in the 1970s and 1980s, came in at No. 2 with his latest album “The Next Day,” selling 85,000 copies.

Bowie’s album sold more digital copies than Bon Jovi, with 41,000 copies of “The Next Day” downloaded in comparison to 34,000 copies of “What About Now,” which was a bigger seller in retail shops, Billboard magazine said.

Bowie has yet to score a No. 1 album in the United States despite having released 27 studio albums in his career.

“The Next Day” marks the singer’s unexpected return to music after a decade-long hiatus, and it topped the British album chart last week while Bon Jovi came in at No. 2.

Bon Jovi and Bowie led among six new debuts in the top 10 of the Billboard 200 this week.


“Sound City - Real To Reel,” the star-studded compilation soundtrack to FOO Fighter front man Dave Grohl’s documentary “Sound City,” which features Paul McCartney and Stevie Nicks, landed at No. 8 this week.

Legendary guitarist Jimi Hendrix’s “People, Hell and Angels,” the 12th posthumous album from the late rock star’s label and which contained 12 previously unreleased studio recordings, rounded out the top 10 this week.

Total US album sales in the past week totalled 5.6 million units, while the year-to-date album sales tally of 61.4 million is down 7 percent from the same period in 2012.

Music industry analysts expect Justin Timberlake’s new album “The 20/20 Experience” to top the Billboard 200 chart next week and sell as many as 750,000 copies in its first week.
Klinsmann hands Dempsey US captain’s armband

DEVER, (Colorado), 21 March—United States coach Juergen Klinsmann has named Tottenham Hotspur forward Clint Dempsey as his captain for the upcoming World Cup games against Costa Rica and Mexico. Established US skipper Carlos Bocanegra was not selected in the squad that will face Costa Rica in Denver on Friday and Mexico at the Azteca Stadium on Tuesday, and goalkeeper Tim Howard, who was captain in the February defeat to Honduras, is also missing due to a back injury, forcing Klinsmann to make a change.

“Clint is one of our most experienced players and ready to assume a more vocal leadership role,” said Klinsmann in comments released by the US Soccer Federation. “He has been huge for us in World Cup qualifying so far and is already one of our key leaders. We know he will do a great job for these two important games,” added the former German striker and coach. Texan Dempsey has made 92 appearances for his country, but has worn the armband only once, taking over the role in the second half of the United States’ 0-0 draw against Colombia on 12 October, 2012.

The only other serious contender for the captain’s role would have been AS Roma midfielder Michael Bradley, son of previous US head coach Bob Bradley, but at just 25-years-old, he is five years Dempsey’s junior. The United States are one of six teams battling for three automatic qualification slots from the CONCACAF region along with Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, Costa Rica and Mexico.—Reuters

Wales’ Alex (L) is tackled by Italy’s Gonzalo Canale (bottom) during their Six Nations rugby match at the Olympic stadium in Rome on 23 Feb, 2013. Reuters

Injured Wales winger Cuthbert out for up to six weeks

LONDON, 21 March—Wales and Cardiff Blues winger Alex Cuthbert, a leading contender for a place in the British and Irish Lions side to tour Australia this year, will be out of action for up to six weeks with a hamstring injury. Cuthbert scored two tries in Wales’ 30-3 win over England at the Millennium stadium last Saturday which clinched the Six Nations championship. A statement on the club’s website (www.cardiffblues.com) on Wednesday said Cuthbert had strained his hamstring in the opening 30 minutes of the match.

“He is expected to be out for between four to six weeks,” the statement said.—Reuters

United States’ Clint Dempsey takes a shot on goal near Panama’s Roman Torres (L) during the first half of their CONCACAF Gold Cup soccer match in Tampa, Florida on 11 June, 2011.—Reuters

Bulgarian wrestler Zlateva seeks move from mat to parliament

BRUSSELS, 21 March—Five-times world female wrestling champion Stanka Zlateva is planning a move into politics by contesting Bulgaria’s parliamentary elections in May. Zlateva, who also won five European titles and two Olympic silver medals in the 72-kg category, will run as a candidate for the centre-right GERB party, whose government resigned in February following nationwide protests against low living standards.

“Yes, I accepted the GERB invitation,” said the 30-year-Zlateva, who was named Bulgaria’s best athlete of the year in 2011, adding that she could make “some good things for Bulgarian sport”.

Zlateva did not say whether she would continue to compete if she became a member of parliament in the elections on 12 May.

Reuters

France have Georgia, and not Spain, on their mind

PARIS, 21 March—France coach Didier Deschamps will ram home the message that his side must focus on beating Georgia on Friday and not think about the looming clash with Spain as their 2014 World Cup qualifying campaign takes a decisive turn.

Les Bleus, who have dramatically improved since exiting Euro 2012 in the quarter-finals, are second in Group I with seven points from three games and trail Spain on goal difference.

Tuesday’s clash against the world champions in Paris will not count for much, Deschamps said, if France cannot first beat Georgia at the Stade de France. “In our qualifying campaign, if the match against Spain is to mean anything, we first need to win against Georgia,” Deschamps told reporters.

“For the fans, it’s as if the Georgia game had already been won. We are not going to say that Georgia are one of the best teams in Europe but they have good players and they are aggressive,” Georgia, third in the group with four points from as many games, will likely set out to frustrate the hosts by defending in depth.

“Georgia defended very well against Spain. We could face the same situation,” said Deschamps, referring to Spain’s 1-0 win in Tbilisi in September, earned by a late Roberto Soldado goal.

“They will come to defend well. We will have to find opportunities to score. We will try to have a team who take control of the ball and creates problems.”

Reuters
Mozambique increases number of visas issued to Portuguese

Aged 65 years, Beloved son of (U San Chaung), Daw Mya Hsint of Mawlamyine, son-in-law of (U Aung Pwa) Daw Than Chi of Pakokku, beloved husband of Daw Tin Win Yi (Librarian, Universities’ Central Library) on 14 Tm Mint, Street in 29-1 of Dagon Myothit (North), youngest brother of Daw Khin Than Win (Retired Principal of Commercial School) of Mawlamyine, elder brother of (Dr Than Htay), Dr Zaw Lin, Rector of University of Foreign Languages (Mandalay), Daw Khin San Win (Dean of Studies, Mawlamyine Education College) and Dr Thet Aung of Social Security Board’s Clinic of Mawlamyine, U Kyaw Zaw Naing passed away at 9.40 am on 21-3-2013. The cremation will be carried out at Yayway Cemetery at 9 am on 23-3-2013 (Saturday). (Vehicles will leave the residence and the bus-stop of Universities’ Central Library at 8 am.)

Bereaved Family

**U Kyaw Zaw Naing**

Legal Expert

Associate Professor (Rtd), Law Department

Member of Governing Body of Public Service Media

**MOZAMBIQUE**

**21 March—**

The Mozambican Deputy Prime Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Henrique Banza said on Wednesday that the number of entry visas issued to Portuguese citizens is likely to go to Mozambique so far this year has increased four times, compared to that in the same period of last year. “There are a lot of Portuguese citizens requesting visas to Mozambique but there is no problem in issuing visas as long as people who request fulfill the necessary requirements,” said Banza.

**Brazil’s Kaka gets his turn to impress Scolari**

NYON, (Switzerland), 21 March—Brazil’s matches against Italy and Russia are billed as friendly but could be a acid test for midfielder Kaka’s hopes of playing in his fourth World Cup next year.

Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari, taking charge of his second match since being re-appointed in November, said on Wednesday that Kaka will be under the microscope as he continues to look for his ideal team for the Confederations Cup in June and next year’s World Cup.

Scolari tested 32-year-old Ronaldinho in last month’s friendly against England but former Barcelona and AC Milan player failed to impress, as he missed a penalty and was substituted at halftime after a ponderous display.

The coach, known as ‘Big Phil’, had already made it clear he would test former World Players of the Year Kaka and Ronaldinho separately before deciding whether they were suitable for 2014.

The Real Madrid player gets his turn against Italy on Thursday and Russia on Monday.

“The idea is to bring him (Kaka) on during the (Italy) game and maybe let him start in the match against Russia,” Scolari told reporters.

“We want him to show his potential and whether he is in the right condition or not. We want to observe how he blends in with the other players, compare his characteristics with the other players.”

Kaka, hampered by injuries over the last few seasons, played for Brazil at the 2002, 2006 and 2010 World Cups. After the latter tournament, he did not play again until last October when he performed impressively against Iraq and Japa. Scolari said Ronaldinho, whose gradual decline has been widely blamed on his partying lifestyle, would have another chance for forthcoming matches in April and May.

“They will analyse if they can play together, if they cannot play together, or if one will be chosen, or neither,” he said.

Scolari led Brazil to their fifth world title in 2002 and was re-appointed after Mano Menezes was surprisingly sacked. Menezes had painstakingly rebuilt the team, bringing in younger players and introducing a new style of play largely inspired by Barcelona, but with a Brazilian touch.

Real Madrid’s Kaka celebrates his goal against Deportivo La Coruna during their Spanish First Division soccer match at the Riazor stadium in Coruna on 23 Feb, 2013.—Reuters

**FOREIGN soldier killed in eastern Afghan blast**

KABUL, 21 March—One foreign soldier was killed on Wednesday in explosion in eastern Afghan region, the NATO-led ISAF forces confirmed in a statement.

“An International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) service member died following an improvised explosive device attack in eastern Afghanistan today,” the ISAF said in the statement.

The brief statement gave neither the nationality of the victim nor the details about the incident under the ISAF policy, only saying “it is ISAF policy to defer casualty identification procedures to the relevant national authorities.”

So far this year, a total of 22 foreign soldiers have been killed in the insurgency-hit country.

**Indonesia**

**Volcano erupts in eastern Indonesia**

JAKARTA, 21 March—Mount Lokon in Tomohon of North Sulawesi in eastern parts of Indonesia erupted on Wednesday, spewing ash by up to 2,000 metres high and other volcanic materials, a volcanologist said.

The eruption took place at 07.57 am local time on Wednesday (2257 GMT Tuesday), unleashed volcanic materials on the slope of the volcano, said Kristianto, head of monitoring and search for volcano in eastern Indonesia.

Tourists and residence are not allowed to enter the territory of 2.5 km from the crater, he told Xinhua by phone.

Nevertheless, there was no evacuation after the eruption, said Kristianto. Mount Lokon has started increasing seismic activity since end of June 2011, according to Volcanology Agency.

Its eruption last year forced a massive evacuation after it killed a tourist in 1999 after an explosion.

Indonesia, an archipelago country, is home to 129 active volcanoes. —Xinhua
**Myanmar, Vietnam agreed to set up economic cooperation**

NA Y PY TAW, 21 March—Vice-President U Nyan Tun met President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Truong Tan Sang at Presidential Palace in Hanoi yesterday.

The two held talks on promoting economic cooperation in Greater Mekong Sub-region, accelerated implementation in 12 prioritized sectors of the two countries, closer agricultural cooperation, establishment of small- and medium-scale factories in Myanmar for production of value-added agricultural and rubber products, balanced investment in service and production industries, and potentials of hotel and tourism market in Myanmar.

The Myanmar Vice-President promised to continue comprehensive cooperation with Vietnam as he met Vietnamese Vice President Madam Nguyen Thi Doan at the same venue.

The Myanmar Vice-President invited his Vietnamese counterpart to visit Myanmar. The Vietnamese Vice-President congratulated Myanmar on success of reform process, (See page 8)

**Sixth regular Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session concludes**

NA Y PY TAW, 21 March—The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved the 2013 Union Budget bill along with the bill revoking the custodian of moveable property act 1945 and the transfer of property act, and central bank of Myanmar bill today.

MP U Aung Thein of Ywangan Constituency approved the instruction of the reminder.

Six laws were approved and signed by the President during the parliamentary session, namely, the bill abrogating the law against opposition and disruption to systematic, peaceful transfer of power and national assembly’s functions; the legislation amending Union Auditor-General Law; the bill amending the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union Law; civil servants law; and the bill amending the law on emoluments, allowances (See page 9)

**Meiktila placed under curfew as from 8 pm, 20 March**

Effective action to be taken against those who led riot

NA Y PY TAW, 21 March—Meiktila has been placed under curfew as from 8 pm yesterday after riots sparked by a brawl between buyers and sellers at a gold shop yesterday.

U Khin Maung Win of Pyunkauk Village, Meiktila Township, and his wife Ma Aye Naing, and Ma Nyo Than arrived the gold shop around 9.30 am to sell their gold clip. After reaching agreement with the shop at the price of K 10,5000 and went to the market and the buyers brought it into the market for testing it.

When they arrived back, sellers found out that a bit of the gold clip was off and U Tun Tun Oo (a) Arshit, owner of the gold shop, wife Ma Myint Myint Aye and Nyi Nyi (a) Min Aung, staff of the gold shop, offered the price at K50,000 for the gold clip.

During the brawl between the sellers and buyers, Ko Khin Maung Win was sustained a cut and his face was swollen from being beaten.

After the dispute, Meiktila No 2 Police Station has detained three, (See page 9)

**Wreckages found in front of the gold shop in Meiktila.**

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**Significant Day temperatures (21-3-2013)**

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<tr>
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