President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Prime Minister of Bangladesh

NAV PYI TAW, 25 March — President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received a 12-member delegation led by Minister-President Mr. Kris Peeters of the Government of Flanders of Belgium at Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, this afternoon.

Also present at the call were Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Soe Maung, U Ohn Myint, U Nyan Tun Aung and Dr Kan Zaw, and officials.

They held talks on cooperation with Belgian companies in river conservation, electricity production and converting wind energy into electricity in Myanmar, Belgian investments in establishment of manufacturing factories for producing value-added products from teak, rubber and oil palm, commitment of Belgian companies in mining and industries, IT services and food processing industries, purchase of machinery for milk and dairy products, cooperation in livestock breeding, energy, electricity, fisheries, agriculture and hotels and tourism sectors, opening of factories and industries for ensuring job creation, invitation of foreign investments in Myanmar where capital, technology and human resources are needed and matters to be able to facilitate investment in Myanmar. — MNA

Prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS discussed

Chairmen of Health Promotion Committee and Social Development Committee of Pyithu Hluttaw Dr Kyaw Myint and U Maung Maung Swe holding talks with UNICEF Representative Mr. Bertrand Bainvel.—MNA

NAV PYI TAW, 25 March — Chairmen of Health Promotion Committee and Social Development Committee of Pyithu Hluttaw Dr Kyaw Myint and U Maung Maung Swe held talks with UNICEF Representative Mr. Bertrand Bainvel at Building (I-1) in Hluttaw Complex, here, this morning.

The meeting focused on assistance to vaccination for children, ensuring availability of safe water, prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS and free education for children. — MNA

Wellwishers donate cash, relief items to victims in Meiktila

NAV PYI TAW, 25 March — Meiktila of Mandalay Region where riots had occurred recently returned to normalcy. Local people are engaged in their regular works daily. Downtown Meiktila is bustling and bustling with buyers and sellers at the market, and banks are crowded with customers.

As of 23 March morning, wellwishers, companies and social organizations donated cash and kind for the victims. Up to this afternoon, they have donated 178,066 packets of instant noodle, 114,496 bottles of purified drinking water, 44,639 packets of snacks, 1796 bottles of soft drinks, 3000 sachets of rehydrated salt, 10,000 sachets of coffee mix, 2271 bags of rice, 1122 viss of edible oil, 3390 eggs, three packages of textile, 19 bales of clothes, one kit of medicine, 10 rain coats, 4000 pairs of slipper, 2000 mats, 3000 viss of gram, 3000 boxes of canned fish and K 5,350,000.

At Communications Staff Quarter in Meiktila from this morning to afternoon, Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation (Central) donated K 3 million, Meiktila District WAO K 50,000, Meiktila District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee K 50,000, Meiktila Township MCWA K 20,000, Meiktila Township WAO K 10,000, Mandalay Jade Trading 2800 packets of instant noodle, 1500 bottles of purified drinking water and 3120 packets of snacks. Kyaukse family 384 bottles of purified drinking water, 528 packets of snacks, one bale of clothes, one medicine kit, Aung Myin Thu Group 1500 bags of rice, 3000 viss of groundnut oil and 3000 canned fish. Those wishing to donate cash and kind to victims in person may contact the donation centre at Communications Staff Quarter in Meiktila and then donate cash and kind to the victims. — MNA

Significant day temperatures (25-3-2013)

Chauk 42°C
Thayawady 41°C
Bawlake 41°C
Dredging of Thayawboke creek to benefit local farmers in Kyauktan Township

KYAUKTAN, 25 March — Dredging of 6.7 miles long Thayawboke creek for proper flow of water is being carried out in Kyauktan Township of Yangon South District.

As farmlands of Sittabinkwin, Tumyaungkwin, Khaunangkwin, Sinmakawkwin and ward-3 of Tada are adjacent to the disappearing creek, rebuilding of the creek will be of great benefit to 434 farmers and 6234 acres of arable farmland. It is planned to rebuild the creek to be 20 feet wide and six feet deep one. Upon completion, the creek will prevent more than 6000 acres of cultivated farmland from flooding.

Street brawl leaves one stabbed fatally in Shwe Paukkan Industrial Zone

YANGON, 25 March — A street fighting broke out at Shwe Paukkan Industrial Zone on North Okkalapa Township of Yangon Region on 14 March, leaving a young man stabbed with a screwdriver.

The fist fight between a group of seven young men including Aung Naing Htay, 16, of U Ponnya 3rd ward administrator’s office at about 8 pm in front of ward administrator’s office.

Kanthayar Lake: An area of scenic beauty in Hpa-an

HA-AN, 25 March — Kanthayar Lake in Hpa-an of Kayin State is a public area of scenic beauty for recreation. The wooden bridge was upgraded to concrete one with steel handrail. With an increase in arrivals of tourists, it has become a scenically attractive area offering a view deck to enjoy the beauty of the scenery around Kanthayar lake and magnificence of the Mt. Zwekabin scenery which is unique to Hpa-an.

Mass participation needed in a drive to improve road safety on expressway

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March — Aimed at contributing great benefits to national economy in future, the government poured a lot of money in construction of Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay expressway, ensuring swift flow of commodities from one region to another, smooth and speedy public transportation and regional development. Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw road section was put into service in March 2009. During the three-year construction period when the use of road was allowed there had been 240 road accidents, killing 108 and wounding 505. After Nay Pyi Taw- Mandalay road section was inaugurated on 23 December 2011, 39 were killed and 113 injured in 50 road accidents.

Two vehicles collide on Paukkan Industrial Zone

KYEMON Two vehicles collide head-on in Shwedagon Township

SHWE DAUNG, 25 March — A Pyay-Gyobinkauk light truck carrying passengers driven by Tun Khin, 53, collided head-on with a delivery van driven by Kyaw Kyaw, 30, at mile post No (168/3) on Yangon-Pyay road near Gyotkon village in Shwedagon Township of Bago Region on 19 March.

The head-on collision between the passenger light truck and the van delivering CP chicken and eggs happened when the van driving from Pyay to Yangon crashed into the stationery light truck which passengers got on and off at the top of the village. The car crash left 14 people wounded. The 10 injured were admitted to Shwedagon hospital and four at Pyay hospital.

Shwedagon police station opened a case about the car crash. — Kyemon

Smuggled herd of cattle seized

PINLEBU, 25 March — Police arrested a smuggler together with a herd of cattle at Kwantaung village in Pinlebu Township of Sagaing Region on 17 March.

Police members led by Police Captain Myint Wai of Pinlebu Township Police Station arrested U Maung Nu, 48, and seized 32 head of cattle together with him while making a patrol near Kwantaung and Doneton villages.

Pinlebu Township Police Station filed a lawsuit against U Maung Nu for cattle smuggling.
Britain’s PM Cameron unveils sweeping immigration crackdown

LONDON, 25 March—Prime Minister David Cameron will unveil a sweeping immigration crackdown on Monday aimed at discouraging migrants from Romania and Bulgaria from moving to Britain when EU restrictions on their right to travel and work there expire next year.

Under his plans, access to Britain’s National Health Service will be curbed, new migrants will have to wait up to five years for social housing, fines for employers who hire illegal workers will be doubled, and landlords who let to illegal immigrants could face fines too.

The lifting of European Union freedom of movement restrictions on Romanians and Bulgarians has triggered worries in the right-leaning press of “hordes” of welfare-hungry migrants descending on Britain at a time when the economy is stagnant and public resources are being squeezed.

Cameron’s initiative reflects a change in the political mainstream after years of politicians shying away from the issue. All three main parties now talk tough on immigration after polls showed it had become one of voters’ main worries ahead of a 2015 election and a once dented anti-immigration party surged in the polls.

In a speech that may stir controversy in Romania and Bulgaria, Cameron will say he wants to stop Britain’s welfare system being “a soft touch” for migrants, saying that access to core public services is something newcomers should earn rather than automatically receive.

“Not migration needs to come down radically from hundreds of thousands a year to just tens of thousands,” he will say, outlining measures that will apply to other EU nationalities.

Israel fires into Syria after Golan attack on troops

An Israeli army armoured vehicle seen on the Israeli Syrian border in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights on 24 March, 2013.—REUTERS

JERUSALEM, 25 March—Israel said it fired into Syria on Sunday after a further spat over allegations that it fired into Syria’s southern province, the Syrian government said.

Israel’s forces “de-stroyed a Syrian machine gun nest that fired twice in the last 24 hours on Israeli patrols operating to safeguard the border,” the spokesman, Ofer Gendelman, said on his Twitter page.

Shells have fallen several times inside Israeli-controlled territory during Syria’s civil war. Some of the incidents have drawn Israeli return fire.

Syria’s southern provinces bordering Jordan and Israel have become an increasingly significant battleground as the capital Damascus—in Syria’s south—comes into play and President Bashar al-Assad’s forces fight hard to prevent rebel advances.

The Israeli military said one of its vehicles was hit late on Saturday by shooting from across the Israeli-Syrian ceasefire line on the Golan Heights, but no one was hurt.

Israeli military spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Lerner, said, “Our understanding is that it wasn’t stray fire.”

Macedonia local polls end trouble-free, in boost for its EU bid

SKOPJE, 25 March—Macedonia held a trouble-free municipal election on Sunday despite recent ethnic and political unrest, in a boost for the Balkan country’s hopes to start European Union entry talks later this year.

In the past decade, various ballots in Macedonia have been marred by accusations of fraud and sporadic violence, mostly clashes between majority Macedonians and ethnic Albanians.

We’ve probably had the best and cleanest elections so far. We should all be proud because Macedonia showed its place is in the European Union,” Interior Minister Gordana Jankulova told reporters in Skopje after the voting ended.

Sunday’s vote was closely watched by 400 international observers, as the West keen to avoid any fresh instability in the impoverished country of 2 million people.

Early results will be announced during the night, while official results will be available sometime next week.

Macedonia’s bid to join the EU and NATO has been held hostage for years by a long-running dispute with neighbouring Greece over the country’s name, which Greece wants changed because it is also the name of a northern Greek province.

Kerry in Baghdad for talks with Iraqi leaders

BAGHDAD, 25 March—US Secretary of State John Kerry on Sunday arrived in Baghdad on an announced visit for talks with Iraqi leaders over regional issues, the Iraqi government and media reports said.

A statement issued by Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki’s office said that Maliki received Kerry and the two sides discussed bilateral relations as well as the regional issues of common interest, particularly the Syrian issue.

“The views of both sides were close and they stressed on the need to find a political solution to the situation in Syria to spare further tragedies to its people,” the statement said without giving further details.

There is significant correlation between the problems in the region, and any state cannot isolate itself from what is happening around it because of the overlapping of problems in the region,” the statement added.

According to media reports, Kerry’s visit was to urge the Iraqi leaders to ban Iraqi flights over the Iraqi territory carrying arms and fighters for the Syrian government.

The United States frequently accused Iraq of turning a blind eye to the Iranian flights over to Syria, which Iran insists only carries humanitarian aid.

Media reports said that the Iranian flights over Iraq to Syria are “close to daily”, and that Iraq, which has vowed to inspect the flights, has only checked two planes.

The reports also alleged that Kerry was to tell Maliki that Iraq cannot be part of the political discussions over Syria’s future until it halts the Iranian shipments.

Kerry is expected to meet with the parliament Speaker Osama al-Nujaifi, a Sunni, whose community has been protesting Maliki’s Shi’ite-led government for about three months for being marginalized and discriminated against.

Kerry also plans to speak by telephone with head of the Kurdish regional government Massoud Barzani in Arbil, some 400 km north of Baghdad, to encourage the Kurds to engage in political talks with the central government to resolve their pending issues.

Kerry flew to Iraq from the Jordanian capital of Amman as he was accompanying US President Barack Obama’s tour in the region.

Afghanistan’s Karzai heads to Qatar to discuss peace with Taleban

KABUL, 25 March—Afghan President Hamid Karzai will travel to Qatar within days to discuss peace negotiations with the Taleban, the Afghan Foreign Ministry said on Sunday, as efforts intensify to find a negotiated solution to the twelve year war.

Karzai’s trip to Qatar would represent the first time the Afghan president has discussed the Taleban peace process in Qatar, and comes after years of stalled discussions with the United States, Pakistan and the Taleban.

The announcement was made only hours after another thorny issue in the US-Afghan relationship — the transfer to Afghan control of the last group of prisoners at the Bagram military complex held by US forces —appeared to be resolved. The Pentagon announced on Saturday that a deal had been clinched.

Karzai’s Qatar trip was announced by Foreign Ministry spokesman Janan Mosazai. “President Karzai will discuss the peace process and the opening of a (Taleban) office for the purposes of conducting negotiations with Afghanistan,” he said.

Karzai was expected to travel to Qatar within a week, a senior Afghan official speaking on condition of anonymity told Reuters.

The United States has said it would support setting up an office in the Gulf state where peace talks between the Taleban and Afghani stan could take place.

“We welcome and fully support President Karzai’s visit to Qatar as a sign of improved relations between the two US allies,” said Caitlin Hayden, a spokeswoman for the White House National Security Council.
**Barnes & Noble giving away poor-selling Simple Touch e-readers**

NEW YORK, 25 March—Barnes & Noble Inc said on Friday it would give away a free Nook Simple Touch e-reader to any customer who buys its high-definition Nook HD+ tablet next week, a sign it may still be grappling with excess inventory of the unpopular e-reader.

The top US bookstore chain last month reported poor holiday quarter results for its Nook business. Overall revenue fell 26 percent as it sold fewer devices, losing ground to products like Apple Inc’s iPad and Amazon.com Inc’s Kindle, and the Nook business’ loss doubled.

**Netizens touched by illustrator’s “love”**

BEIJING, 25 March—Sketches by a 91-year-old illustrating his six-decade-long marriage have circulated on the Internet, leaving Chinese netizens in tears.

Rao Pingru, a native of eastern Jiangxi Province now living in Shanghai, has spent the past four years drawing 200 pictures in 18 albums, about his wife Mao Meitang, who died in 2008 in her early 80s. They were married for 60 years. The albums, titled “Our Stories,” are due to be released next month, but by Sunday morning excerpts had been reposted around 260,000 times on China’s Twitter-like microblogging services.

Rao, who fought in the Anti-Japanese War, recalls via a coloured drawing his first meeting with Meitang in 1946. “I walked into her house, and saw a twenty-something girl, pretty-looking, sitting in front of a mirror putting on lipstick. Such was my first impression of Meitang,” Rao, a former magazine editor, wrote in the caption.

“How beautiful the first encounter was!” wrote netizen “Zhitangsu” in a post on Sina Weibo, the country’s most popular microblog service. With his pencil and crayons, Rao has recorded details of what he remembers about Meitang.

He has sketched their dates, wedding ceremony, first meal made by Meitang, first fight, his wife’s toiling to support their five children and her suffering from nephropathy, disease of the kidney. “I’ve drawn my love, with every stroke telling the best in you,” “Yuchacha” imitating Rao on Sina Weibo.

“I was reduced to tears while skimming through the drawings,” net user “Chenfang” wrote on Tencent Weibo, another popular microblogging service in the country. “Yezi” said on Tencent Weibo, “While reading about their lifetime love, I could not stop crying.”

One illustration shows the pair on a date in a park during which Rao was too shy to say “I love you,” but instead sang a then-popular English song “Oh Rosemary I Love You.” He has also sketched Meitang’s last tear in the hospital.

“Around 10 am, I saw her right eye moisten, with a tear from the corner of her eye. In the afternoon, Meitang left me for good,” Rao wrote in the caption.

She died of kidney disease, Love that never gets bored is the most beautiful in the world, said “Xiaoxiaoezi” on Tencent Weibo. “We shared life and death, weal and woe. I am now drowned in memories of you, which are deeper than the sea.” Raohas written in the title pages of the albums. —Xinhua

**SaferCar app launched to help US consumers make informed buying decisions**

SAN FRANCISCO, 25 March—US road safety authorities have announced the launch of a new mobile application designed to give consumers real-time smartphone access to vehicle safety information.

“The new SaferCar app literally puts the latest in vehicle safety information directly in the hands of consumers so they can make the appropriate purchasing and other decisions for themselves and their families,” David Strickland, administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), said in a statement.

The NHTSA, a division of the US Department of Transportation (DOT), modelled the new app on its popular auto safety website, SaferCar.gov. The app will give users up-to-date road safety announcements and alerts and let them see vehicle crash test ratings, receive safety and recall information, file complaints and find assistance installing car seats for children.

Third-party developers also have access to the application’s data, which will allow them to integrate the information into existing apps and websites.

“Millions of consumers already rely on these data to inform their purchasing decisions on popular automobile review sites; now they’ll be able to access these data in real-time,” the NHTSA said.

At present, the app is only available for Apple customers through the iTunes Store. The NHTSA said it is currently developing a version of the app for Android devices as well. —PTI

**Ancient stone houses in Tibet**

Photo taken on 22 March, 2013 shows a stone house which is aged over 600 years in Yangda Village of Riwar Township in Suoxian County in the Nagqu Prefecture, southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region. Three stone houses, each with the age exceeding more than 600 years, are preserved well in the village. —Xinhua

**Canon launches EOS Rebel T5i DSLR camera with 18-megapixel sensor**

TOKYO, 25 March—Canon has introduced EOS Rebel T5i DSLR camera, the new flagship model in its EOS Rebel line. The EOS Rebel T5i comes with an 18-megapixel CMOS (APS-C) sensor and DIGIC 5 Image Processor. It ships with an ISO range of 100-12800 (expandable to 25600 in H mode) and a continuous shooting speed of up to 5.0 frames per second (fps) united with 9 all cross-type AF focus points.

It features a 3.0-inch Clear View LCD monitor II with touch controls and seven creative filters: ArtBold, Water Painting, Grainy Black and White, Soft Focus, Toy Camera, Fish-Eye and Miniature.

“Built to make advanced photography creative and fun, the EOS Rebel T5i Digital SLR Camera gives users exceptional image quality and fast, intuitive operation along with creative functions to help advance photographic expression,” said Yuichi Ishizuka, executive vice president and general manager, Imaging Technologies & Communications Group, Canon USA. The EOS Rebel T5i offers the ability to shoot in 1080p full-HD video in a number of recording sizes and frame rates. With Canon’s Hybrid CMOS AF System and Movie Servo AF, the camera provides continuous AF for focus tracking of moving subjects by helping to reduce the camera’s need to “hunt”, resulting in a quick and smooth continuous AF.

The camera also features a built-in stereo microphone with manual audio level adjustment andenhanced sound quality. —PTI
Nine ways of regimens in ancient China

HONG KONG, 25 March—China’s biggest sportswear brand, Li Ning Co Ltd (2331.HK), launched its newest brand at a gala event in Texas last month with US basketball star Dwyane Wade, resplendent in gold bow tie and plaid suit, showing off sports shoes he helped design.

But his fans can’t buy them yet. Li Ning, founded by the Chinese Olympic gymnast of the same name, has no stores in the United States. However, the brand’s launch is part of the company’s growing sponsorship efforts in the US market.

The brand is also investing in the United States, where Nike and its Jordan brand control 90 percent of the basketball shoe market.

Anal cancer may be on the rise in the US

NEW YORK, 25 March—The number of people in the US with anal cancer has tripled since the 1970s, according to a new study that suggests rates of detection in high-risk groups may partly explain the rise in cases.

A US cancer database search found that the rate of anal cancers went from approximately one person per 100,000 between 1973 and 1996 to three people per 100,000 between 1997 and 2009.

“The literature has already shown that there has been an increase in anal cancer cases, but we were surprised to see how dramatically it increased,” said Meridians and collaterals

Meridians and their collaterals are pathways in which qi and blood circulate and through which the viscera and limbs are connected, allowing the upper-lower and interior-exterior portions of the body to communicate.

Huangi Neijing is an ancient Chinese medical text that has been treated as the fundamental doctrinal source for Chinese medicine for more than two millennia. It said that Meridians and their collaterals could have the power of life and death.

Dietetic medicine-nourishing

The ancients thought that reasonable diet could maintain your vital essence to keep you healthy.

Following the time

It was said that people should make their schedules according to the change of time of seasons.

Self-cultivation

If you want to keep healthy, you should make self-cultivation first. A good conduct and well behaviour could help you happy.

Taking tonic

In traditional medicine, taking a tonic is a good way to improve your health. However, taking tonic should right amount and take the right time.

Peace of mind

Peace of mind is an important part of traditional health preservation. People believed that mind and spirit is the key of your life. Keeping a peace of mind could keep your vigour.

Essence and blood

Essence and blood are the most important part of the nutrients of human and the physical basis of life. So protecting your essence and blood could slow the effects of aging.

US jobs gains concentrated in low-paying sectors:
Fed official

WASHINGTON, 25 March — Recent US job gains have been largely concentrated in lower-wage occupations, evidence of the challenges facing the labour market, Federal Reserve Governor Sarah Raskin said here on Friday.

Those low-paying jobs included retail sales, food preparation, manual labour, home health care and customer service, Raskin said in addressing the National Community Reinvestment Coalition Annual Conference.

“The Great Recession stands out for the magnitude of job losses we experienced throughout the downturn. These factors have hit low- and moderate-income Americans the hardest,” Raskin said.

About two-thirds of all job losses resulting from the recession were in moderate-low-wage occupations, including manufacturing and skilled construction. However, these occupations have accounted for less than one-quarter of subsequent job gains, she said.

While the current 7.7 percent US unemployment rate was a marked improvement from the 10.3 percent rate in late 2009, it was still higher than the unemployment rate for the 24 years before the recession, a span of time over which the rate averaged about 6 percent, she said.

The US government’s current estimate of 12 million unemployed does not include nearly a million workers who have given up looking for work and 8 million people who say they were working part time but would prefer a full-time job. A broader measure of underemployment that includes these and other potential worker stools stands at 14.3 percent, she said. Furthermore, US wage growth had remained more muted than typical during an economic recovery, partly driven by the low-paying nature of the jobs that had been created, Raskin said.

The privation in the Chinese consumer, “One of the best players in the NBA is wearing our shoes and you should be too,” said Matt Powell, an analyst with Boulder, Colorado-based sporting goods research group Sport-OneSource. The Chinese firm is paying top dollar for an elite athlete just as Nike and other established sportswear brands are scaling back on big-name endorsements because of disappointing returns. A decade ago, Nike reportedly paid Wade’s superstar teammate LeBron James more than $90 million for a 7-year contract, but high-potential rookie player endorsement deals now fetch up to $1 to $2 million a year, Powell said.

James is the world’s fourth highest-paid athlete with endorsements bringing in $40 million a year, according to a Forbes ranking as of 2012. Wade ranks 35th, with $12 million a year in endorsements. “It (the Wade deal) has a positive effect in boosting Li Ning’s image, but it doesn’t necessarily generate more sales,” said Elyse Wang, an analyst at Haitong International Research in Shenzhen.
Rebels capture Central African Republic capital, president flees

BANGUI, 25 March—Rebels in Central African Republic seized the riverside capital Bangui in fierce fighting on Sunday, forcing President Francois Bozize to flee and sowing confusion over who rules the mineral-rich heart of Africa.

At least nine South African soldiers were killed trying to prevent the rebels from taking Bangui, a Reuters witness said, dealing a blow to Pretoria’s attempt to stabilize the chaotic central African nation and assert its influence in the region.

The Seleka rebel coalition resumed hostilities on Thursday in the former French colony and quickly swept south to Bangui with the aim of ousting Bozize, whom it accused of breaking a January peace deal to integrate its fighters into the army.

“We have taken the presidential palace,” Eric Massi, a Seleka spokesman, told Reuters by telephone early on Sunday. Government officials confirmed the rebels had captured the city of more than 600,000 people, which lies on the banks of the Ubangi river bordering Democratic Republic of Congo.

The violence is the latest in a series of rebel incursions, clashes and coups that have plunged the landlocked nation - which has rich yet underexploited deposits of gold, diamonds and uranium—since independence from France in 1960.

Bozize rose to prominence in the military during the 1966-1979 rule of former dictator Jean-Bedel Bokassa, a self-styled emperor. Bozize seized power in a 2003 coup but his failure to make good on promises of power sharing after winning disputed 2011 polls led to the offensive by five rebel groups known as Seleka, which means “alliance” in the Sango language. Seleka leader Michel Djotodia, named as deputy prime minister under his January’s peace deal, proclaimed himself interim president on Sunday, the movement’s Secretary General Justin Kombo told Reuters.

A day after the 67-year-old Bozize’s body was found in the locked bath- room of his imposing mansion, police said it was still unclear how he had died. “It would be wrong to speculate on the cause of death until the post mortem has been carried out,” said Detective Chief Inspector Kevin Brown, deputy senior investigating officer. “We do not have any evidence at this stage to suggest third party involvement.”

Once known as the “godfather of the Kremlin”, the former billionnaire powerbroker helped Vladimir Putin rise to the top as all else collapsed in his own country as he flew in to 2000 to Britain where he became one of the president’s biggest critics.—Reuters

Lebanon harboring over 375,000 Syrian refugees

BEIRUT, 25 March—There are currently over 375,000 Syrian refugees in Lebanon, a weekly rise of about 18,000, the UN Higher Refugees Council said in a report on Sunday.

More than 238,000 refugees have been already registered in various offices of the agency throughout Lebanon, while some 136,000 are in Lebanon and still waiting for finalizing their registration process, said the report. The refugees are receiving aid from the Lebanese government, UN-affiliated agencies and their partners of non-governmental aid agencies, the report said.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres has called on the international community to show commitment and back Lebanon, which is hosting a refugee population that has surpassed 10 million US dollars to help the country deal with the Syrian refugees.

Syria has been witnessing unrest for over two years, forcing thousands of Syrians fleeing to neighboring countries.

Businessman leading Paraguay presidential race

ASPUNCION, 25 March—Millionaire businessman and political newcomer Horacio Cartes is topping polls before Paraguay’s on 21 April presidential election, although the size of his lead varied significantly in two surveys published on Sunday.

Cartes, 56, hopes to get the rightist Colorado Party back in office after four years on the margins of power in Paraguay, one of South America’s poorest countries.

His main rival is Efrain Alegre of the ruling centre-right Liberal Party that took over the presidency in June, when Congress impeached left-leaning President Fernando Lugo, a former Roman Catholic bishop.

Alegre is a 50-year-old lawyer and longtime politician.

Cartes was shown capturing 42.7 percent of voter preferences versus Alegre’s 29.2 percent in a poll by Grau & Asociados consulting group, published in daily newspaper Ultima Hora.

Another survey showed him with a much slimmer lead, however. The poll by Gabinete de Estudios de Opinion, published in the same newspaper, showed Cartes with 36.8 percent of voter support versus Alegre’s 35.6 percent.

Adolfo Grau, who heads the consultancy bearing his name, said Cartes’ victory in next month’s election was practically assured, whereas the head of GEO, Jose Nicolas Morinigo, said either candidate could end up leading the soy-exporting nation.

Polling in third place with less than 10 percent of voter support is local TV host Mario Ferreiro, who is leading the Avanza Pais coalition of leftist parties, both surveys showed.

The poll by Grau & Asociados was conducted from 13 March to 21 March among 1,400 people, with a margin of error of 3 percent. The GEO survey was carried out between 6 March and 15 March among 1,400 respondents and has a margin of error of 2.6 percent.

A forensics truck waits to be let through the police cordon at the house of Russian oligarch Boris Berezovsky where he was found dead yesterday at his home near Ascot in Berkshire on 24 March, 2013.—Reuters

100 days after Newtown massacre, US gun debate still in limbo

WASHINGTON, 25 March—One hundred days after the massacre that ended with the death of 20 children and six teachers in Newtown, Connecticut, it remains unknown whether a gun control bill will be passed in US Congress.

Lawmakers aim to plug the gap that allows gun buyers to circumvent the national background check system. While those purchasing firearms from licensed gun dealers must submit a criminal background check, many buyers can legally purchase guns person-to-person.

But Congress remains bitterly divided and experts said it may be difficult for the two parties to pass a bill.

The Democratic-controlled Senate’s new gun control bill concludes broadened federal background checks for those purchasing firearms. Senate majority leader Harry Reid said on Thursday the gun control legislation would likely be debated in his chamber next month.

Appearing Sunday on NBC’s Meet the Press, outspoken gun control advocate, New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, said he was “cautiously optimistic” that Congress would pass a bill requiring universal background checks for all gun buyers.

But he said a majority of the public and members of gun rights group National Rifle Association (NRA) said they think there should be reasonable checks before people are allowed to buy guns.

“There are an awful lot of people who think this is one of the great issues of our time,” he said.

But host David Gregory noted that Congress is paralyzed, mirroring analysts who say that the GOP-controlled House would unlikely pass a bill that gun proponents deemed unfair.

“We will be able to judge that after the recess,” Bloomberg countered.

“We’re trying to do everything we can to impress upon the Senators that this is what the survivors (of gun violence) want, this is what the public wants, this is what the 900 plus mayors that are in our organization want,” he said.

“I don’t think there’s ever been an issue where people have spoken so clearly where Congress hasn’t eventually understood and done the right thing,” he said, adding he would buy 12 million US dollars of ads in a new campaign designed to boost support for background check legislation.

Speaking on the same show, NRA head Wayne LaPierre said Bloomberg will not be able to buy votes in favour of what gun advocates describe as government overstepping its boundaries.

“He can’t spend enough of his 27 billion dollars to try to impose his will on the American public,” he said. “They sure don’t want him telling them what self defence fire arms to own.”
Calm prevails in Yangon

A night scene in downtown Yangon shows prevailing peace and stability.

MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 25 March — It is learnt that a group of persons who are unwilling to see peace and stability in the country are trying to destabilize peace and tranquility of Yangon based on unrests occurred in Meiktila of Mandalay Region starting from 20 March.

The spread of rumours occurred to close shops in Mingala Market and Yuzana Plaza. It is learnt that there was no violence and unrest and rumours circulated by those with ill-will who want to harm peace and stability led to closure of shops.

Local authorities concerned and townswelders in respective townships of Yangon municipal area are now focusing on peace and stability in their townships and wards.

“People are required to not show belief on rumours. The present situation in Yangon is calm and security measures are being taken systematically”, an official of Yangon Region Government explained the news team.

MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 25 March — The Central Supervisory committee for Registration and Distribution of printers and publishers held its meeting (3/2013) at the Ministry of Information, here, this morning. It was attended by the chairman and members of the committee who scrutinized the applications to publish private dailies.

The Ministry of Information issued an announcement through dailies that applicants are invited to submit their applications starting from 1 February 2013 for publication of daily newspapers as of 1-4-2013. After 14 out of 17 application forms had been scrutinized, eight applicants were granted temporary permission to publish dailies as of 1-4-2013 in accord with the existing 1962 Printers and Publishers Registration Act. The six remaining applicants were informed to submit their applications with requirements.

The today’s meeting of the committee scrutinized and granted nine of 11 applications — three applications of the six applicants, three applications being under scrutiny, and five new applications. The list of applicants granted are (a) The Daily Eleven (applicant Eleven Media Group Co Ltd), (b) San Taw Chein (applicant Three Friends Construction Co Ltd), (c) Khi Thit Daily (applicant Dr Tin Too), (d) Yangon Times (applicant U Ko Ko), (e) Myanmar Dika (applicant U Myint Than) (f) D Wave (applicant Daw Aung San Suu Kyi), (g) Union Athan (applicant Daw Win Khlar Swe) and (h) 7 Day Daily (applicant U Thaung Su Nyein).

So far, 16 private daily newspapers have been granted to publish. The three remaining applications which are under scrutiny and the new applications will be scrutinized at the coordination meeting of Central Supervisory Committee for Registration and Distribution of Printers and Publishers to be held in April.

MNA

Objective 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

Tatmadawmen, staff clear debris in Meiktila

Nay Pyi Taw, 25 March — As authorities concerned could resolve the riots occurred from 20 March in Meiktila, residents are doing their regular transactions.

Tatmadawmen of township local regiments and units, social organization members and locals and municipal staff cleared the debris from the recent riots. As eight bodies were found among the debris while clearing the wreckage, the official death toll increased from 40 till 24 March evening.

MNA

Course on census-taking opens in Mandalay

Mandalay, 25 March — A ceremony to open the training course on census-taking for 2014 was held at the hall of Mandalay University on 18 March, with an address by Director-General U Myint Kyaing of Population Department.

Secretary of Mandalay Region Census Committee Head of Mandalay Region Immigration and National Registration Department U Thaung Zaw, Director of Region Population Department Dr Nyi Nyi and trainers, the adviser to the UNFPA and members of the district and township census committees, representatives of Election Commission, and 10 trainees from audit course and 50 from census-taking course, totaling 60 trainees. The test census-taking will be held in designated townships of Mandalay Region from 30 March to 10 April.

MNA

Summer sports course opened

Yangon, 25 March — With the aim of ensuring the entire people to have health and fitness enabling the youths to join sports events, uplifting Myanmar sports standard and bringing the honour to the nation, the basic summer sports training courses were opened at Aung San Stadium, here, on 18 March morning. Director-General of the Sports and Physical Education Department U Myo Hlaing made a speech.

At first, selected athletes from various sports federations demonstrated their skills in martial arts, Karatedo and Wushu events.

At the summer sports courses 2013, trainees will be placed under training in 29 sports events such as swimming, judo, karatedo, table tennis, volleyball, badminton, cycling, Taekwondo, weightlifting, cricket, sailing, football, hockey, Sepak Takraw, body-building, basketball, Wushu, rowing, canoe-ball, chess, boxing, track & field, martial art, aerobics, gymnastics, golf, tennis, baseball and bowling.

The summer basic sports training course runs from 18 March to 11 April.

Myanna Alinn
Environmental-friendly urbanization

Assuming rapid urbanization is the main culprit of environmental pollution, the need for green cities all around the world. As the urban areas are growing, too much use of natural resources for industries and natural gas and sewages cause severe damages to the environment. Overuse of energy and potable water couple with disposal of garbage and sewages and carbon emission from cars in urban areas can cause damages to environment as well. And according to estimation, over 50 percent of global population are living in the urban areas.

As the world population is growing and many countries gaining progress, there will be more urbanization in the future too. So, the best answer to this environmental problem is green urbanization that can ensure a mutual beneficial correlation between mankind and environment. Here sustainable development of urban areas is of vital importance as they are accommodating a large number of people at their limited spaces. So we must bear in mind the environmental safety, economic growth and social security on an equal manner. In this urban development programme has become a top priority for every government as metropolitan are the economic hubs housing a larger number of people, industries and businesses.

We must give priority to erecting basic infrastructures such as public transportation, energy-saving buildings, water consumption and garbage disposal and sewage systems in setting up or extending green urban areas or in other words, green cities. In addition, governments need to persuade their people to observe the rule of keeping trees and plants, for example, in our daily life we must use public transportation such as walking and cycling. Establishment of green cities includes the construction of new cities and upgrading of current cities into the environmental-friendly ones.

As we are a country implementing democracy for our rapid economic growth and prosperity, we need to build green cities by studying the experience of other countries.

EPS-TOPIK (Computer Based Test-CBT) Centre opened

The Union minister and the HRD vice-president spoke on the occasion and the council of the Embassy of ROK formally opened the centre.

Thanks to opening of the centre, question and answer papers can be printed through computer and exam results announced within a short period of time, thereby saving time and cost. Moreover, Korean language skill test will be held every three months. It is set to organize examinations on 28 and 29 March and 1 April.

The earliest Shwedagon Pagoda was only 44 elbow lengths (66 feet) high and constructed on the Tampadipa Hill, now known as Singuttara Hill, is presumed to be 131 feet by the benevolent Mon Queen Shin Saw Pu (1453-1472). As it was seated on the volcanic chain with the open sea beyond, it suffered from strong winds and earthquakes severe enough to wreck the structure and topple the Hti (umbrella) many a time. Thus in the course of centuries, powerful Muns and Monyam kings converted to Buddhism became royal patrons of Buddhist faith, repaired the damaged Shwedagon which now stood at 326 feet in height enshrined on religious land spanning 121 acres at 190 feet above sea level. The chronicle of the Shwedagon Pagoda was faithfully recorded and documented by many reputed scholars, historians, researchers and eminent in both the native Myanmar and English in varying style of presentation from different perspectives. Thus the author would like to leave the details for the readers to prove onwards. Suffice it to say that it was severely toppled 5 times during the successive dynasties of Myanmar, and was given a new Hti hoisted on the pinnacle those number of times with ornate ceremonies, pomp and pageantry. The second latest Hti was donated by King Mindon in 1871. In 1970 a severe earthquake damaged the main structure and Hti of King Mindon. Extensive repairs were carried out by generous donation of the State, authorities and the general public and King Mindon’s renovated Hti was hoisted in 1973. In 1995, another new Hti was hoisted. The replicas of old Hti were enshrined as stupas in the northeast direction of the Pagoda plinth for study and research by scholars, historians and astrologers to gauge the long term to come on foot. The Shwedagon pagoda is a storehouse of priceless relics of tradition, culture and heritage value. Quotations of poems, various postures indicating the structure and topple the Hti tragically met her end. It could be imagined that there was a touch of environment in those days when Singuttara Hill was fringed with forest and wildlife when one stray tiger might have wandered too far from her habitat and tragically met her end.

Dear readers, this is the Shwedagon, the most revered object of worship and veneration, the most frequented pilgrimage site by many and is an interesting subject of art, architecture and sculpture by visitors within and abroad. From morning till night people visit the sacred site to offer prayers, to contemplate and meditate, to make donations of alms and food. (See page 9)
Mandalay Region Chief Minister donates offerings to monasteries in Meiktila

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March—Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint and Lt-Gen Myint Soe of the Commander-in-Chief (Army)’s Office, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Dr Maung Maung Htay and officials offered offerings to the Sayadaws of the monasteries in Meiktila this morning.

The Chief Minister and party offered rice, edible oil and medicines to abbots of Koenawin Pariyatti Sarthintaik in Aungzeyar of Koenawin Pariyatti oil and medicines to abbots party offered rice, edible oil and medicines to abbots of Thaddama-monastery.

The relic chamber of the sacred relics being kept in Wamtawpyae Monastery in Sarthintaik in Aungzeyar of Koenawin Pariyatti oil and medicines to abbots party offered rice, edible oil and medicines to abbots of Thaddama-monastery.

During their tour of monasteries, Chief Minister U Ye Myint supplicated the Sayadaws to join hands with the authorities concerned in preventing unrest, thanking them for their help while settling the recent riots. It was learnt that there have been 3293 victims at 16 monasteries in Meiktila, and a total of 550 bags of rice and 530 viss of edible oil were provided to the victims and the monks.

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March—United Nations Secretary-General’s Special Advisor on Myanmar Mr. Vijay Nambiar paid a call on Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin at the latter’s office, here, this morning.

They held discussions on ongoing progress in Myanmar and further cooperation between Myanmar and the United Nations. —MNA

THE SHWEDAGON

(from page 8)

Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint and Lt-Gen Myint Soe of the Commander-in-Chief (Army)’s Office donate offerings to a Sayadaw.

The month of Tabaung offers moderate weather leaving precious legacy to succeeding Buddhist generations. There are nuances by other faiths over Buddhists professing idol worship considering millions of pagoda and Buddha’s relic images, material edifices seen around the country. In effect what Buddhists worship are not the material images, material edifices but transcend beyond in the Dhammas as taught by the Omniscient One, the five Khandas, practice of Samatha and vipassana meditation. Through the understanding and contemplation of Ti-lakhana, the four noble truths and eightfold noble paths, his aspiration is for end of suffering and achieving Nibbana, ultimate cessation and bliss.

The Shwedagon is verily the soul of our people. For visitors entering Yangon airspace or sea lane from abroad the first sight visible from afar is the Shwedagon, awe-inspiring, magnificent, a huge virtually symmetrical golden spire tapering majestically skywards. It transuses unmatched radiance in the morning sun, rich gold against the multi-coloured brilliance of hundreds of red, blue, white, green, emerald, and amber priceless jewels, adorning the multi-tiered Hti. The bells casted in gold, silver and brass tinklemerrily to the swinging of the atmospheric wind.

At noontime the sun shines mercilessly making devotees scurry into shades of roofs and trees plentiful on the pagoda hill. The heat softens in the evening as the dying rays simmer down the west of the Yangon River until enveloped by the dark of the night. Stars deck the night skies in the Dhammas as taught by the Omniscient One, the five Khandas, practice of Samatha and vipassana meditation. Through the understanding and contemplation of Ti-lakhana, the four noble truths and eightfold noble paths, his aspiration is for end of suffering and achieving Nibbana, ultimate cessation and bliss.

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Peace process would be fostered as eternal peace to be handed down to new generations

Union Minister U Aung Min and Representative Ms Kelko Kiyama of Japan Platform exchange notes on MoU on projects of Japan Platform in Kayin State and exchanged notes.

Japanese Government highly recognized peace making process of Myanmar, endeavours for restoring stability and peace and uplifting livelihoods of the national races.

Japanese Government contributed to Japan Platform for implementing development of living standard of the local people. Japan Platform will spend US$ 11 million on implementation of the projects in Kayin State within three years joining hands with 11 NGOs.

The ceremony was attended by officials of Myanmar Peace Centre, Japanese Embassy and media persons.

Mandalay Region Chief Minister meets representatives from international organizations

Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint met 13-member delegation from Myanmar Red Cross Society, International Committee of the Red Cross and UN agencies led by Ms. Helevo Nozono of United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs at the meeting hall of district general administration department in Meiktila this morning.

During the meeting, they held discussions on security measures in relief camps, health, food, distribution of relief aids in Meiktila, plans for return of victims to their homes and taking household certificates in relief camps.

Tatmadawmen patrolling at night in Meiktila.—MNA

Tatmadawmen patrol in Meiktila for peace and stability

Calm returned to Meiktila of Mandalay Region where violence and unrest broke out on 20 March as peace and stability has been restored there thanks to security measures undertaken by Tatmadawmen and officials concerned following the declaration of a State of Emergency on 22 March.

The Tatmadawmen are taking security measures round the clock to prevent unwanted riots from breaking out again patrolling at nights in Thedaw, Wundwin, Mahlaing and Meiktila Townships and nearby villages by car and on foot on 23 and 24 March. Moreover, they assisted the villagers who want to return to their homes and cleared the vehicle wrecksages and debris damaged buildings.

MNA
**REGIONAL**

**S Korea to foster convergence technology between industries**

**SEOUL, 25 March—** South Korea planned to push for the fostering of technol-
ogy convergence between industries as part of efforts to advance key industries to a higher level and subsequently create high-quality jobs, the commerce ministry said on Monday.

Four new convergence industries, including ‘smart’ medical devices, or the con-
vergence of technology between medical equipment and information technology (IT) sectors, will be pushed for under the new ad-
ministration of President Park Geun-hye, according to the Ministry of Trade, Indus-
try and Energy (MOTIE).

The commerce ministry will also help the nation’s lead-
ing industries such as tech, auto and shipbuilding sectors blend their technologies and develop newly advanced products such as smart cars, green cars and green ships.

“Convergence between industries has been pushed for by our ministry continu-
cously,” Commerce Minister Yoon Sang-hick told a press briefing on Sunday. “We will seek to find promising convergence industries after consulting with the future creation and science min-
istry.”

The ministry also planned to expand its finan-
cial support to small busi-
nesses for research and de-
velopment (R&D) to make them become global compa-
nies with technology com-
petitiveness. The support will more than triple to 170 billion won (150 million US

**Chinese President Xi Jinping (1st L) and his wife Peng Liyuan (2nd R) are wel-
comed by Tanzanian President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete (2nd L) and his wife Salma
Kikwete (1st R) upon their arrival in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, on 24 March, 2013.** Xinhua

**Leftist rebel killed in S Philippine clash**

**DAVAO CITY, (Philippines), 25 March—** One al-
leged leftist rebel was killed in a clash with government troops in southern Phil-
ippines on Sunday, the military said.

The body of an uniden-
tified male guerrilla was recovered by soldiers after the encounter at Dalwangan village, Malaybalay city in Mindanao’s northern Prov-
ince of Bukidnon, according to Lieutenant Colonel Ege-
nio Julio Osias IV, speaker of the army’s 4th Infantry Division, Osias said soldiers from the 5th Scout Ranger Company, 2nd Scout Ranger Battalion were con-
ducting combat operations when they clashed upon a group of gunmen believed to be New People’s Army rebels, sparking a 15-minute firefight. He said an M-14 rifle was also found near the body of the slain rebel.

Pursuit against the insur-
gents were being launched, the military official said. The 4,000-strong NPA, armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, has been fighting a leftist insur-
gency in 60 Philippines prov-
inces since 1969.—Xinhua

**Chinese President Xi Jinping (1st L) and his wife Peng Liyuan (2nd R) are wel-
comed by Tanzanian President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete (2nd L) and his wife Salma
Kikwete (1st R) upon their arrival in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, on 24 March, 2013.** Xinhua

**China, Russia agree to strengthen defence cooperation**

**MOSCOW, 25 March—** Top Chinese and Russian military officials met here on Sunday, with both sides expressing the hope to fur-
ther strengthen defence co-
operation.

During a meeting with Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu, Chang Wan-
quan, Chinese State Coun-
cilor and Defence Minister, said that bilateral defence cooperation is a key part of China-Russia relations.

Through joint efforts, multi-ranger and mul-
tilayer defence cooperation has become a pivot of the China-Russia comprehen-
sive strategic partnership, Chang noted. Currently, both sides should work hard to implement the consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, and strength-
en military-to-military ex-
changes and cooperation, said the Chinese minister.

China is ready to work with Russia to tap the po-
tentials and expand the scope of bilateral defence cooperation, so as to lift it to a new level, Chang said.

He cited several key areas in the promotion of pragmatic cooperation be-
tween the two armed forces, including high-level con-
tact, strategic negotiation, joint exercise and person-
nel exchange. Chang also pointed out that the just-
concluded state visit to Rus-
sia by Chinese President Xi Jinping has injected new impetus into the two coun-
tries’ strategic partnership.

“Given the complex in-
ternational scenario today, China-Russia strategic co-
operation and coordination will not only benefit the two peoples, but also help pro-
mote world peace and sta-
bility,” he observed.

Shoigu, for his part, hailed the “unprecedented high level” of the Russia-
China strategic partnership. The consensus reached by the top leaders has shown the direction of future de-
velopment of bilateral ties, he noted. Russia attaches great importance to mutu-
ally beneficial cooperation with China, and is satisfied with the fruitful military exchanges between the two sides, the minister said.

Russia is willing to strengthen cooperation with China and further push forward defence coopera-
tion between the two coun-
tries, he added.—Xinhua

**Severe thunderstorms hit Australia’s Queensland, cut power to thousands of homes**

**BRISBANE, (Australia), 25 March—** Thousands of homes remain without power and a man has been critically injured after severe thunder-
storms battered Australia’s southeast Queensland on Sunday night, local media reported on Monday.

The storm, with winds up to 90 kilometres an hour, brought down trees and cut power to more than 50,000 homes and businesses in the region, according to the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC). Emer-
nery crews from Queens-
land-based energy company Energex are working to re-
store power to the remain-
ing 11,000 properties in the affected areas. “The network received significant damage in the areas still affected and will take some time to make repairs,” Energex said in a statement posted on Mon-
day on its website. “More than 300 fallen powerlines were reported to Energex overnight and nearly 60 this morning.” By 8:30 am local time on Monday, Energex crews had restored power to 47,000 homes and businesses across southeast Queensland, the company said. Emergen-
cy Management Queensland (EMQ) said a man in his 40s was running at St Lucia in Brisbane’s inner west when he was hit by a falling tree.

**Japanese PM visits Fukushima to check reconstruction**

**TOKYO, 25 March—** Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited Fukushima Prefe-
ture on Sunday to check the progress of reconstruction in areas damaged by the March 2011 quake and tsu-
nami disasters, local media reported.

Abe stopped by Namie, a small town which was evacuated following the disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, and to which residents’ ac-
cess is now still restricted, said Kyodo News Agency.

Abe visited the town to check its current state before the narrowing of the zone. It is Abe’s fourth such tour in the quake-hit Tohoku re-
gion and the latest since he visited Iwate and Miyagi prefectures in February, ac-
cording to reports.

**New Zealand, Chile seek to strengthen links in education, tourism**

**WELLINGTON, 25 March—** New Zealand and Chile will be seeking to strengthen ties in tourism, education and other sectors when Chilean Econo-
my, Development and Tour-
ism Minister Pablo Longueira visits New Zealand this week, the New Zealand government announced on Monday.

Longueira, who was in-
vited to visit New Zealand by Prime Minister John Key during his Latin America trip earlier this month, would be accompanied by a 21-strong delegation, including business representatives, when he ar-
ived on Monday for a four-
day visit, said New Zealand Economic Development Min-
ister Steven Joyce. “Our rela-
tionship with Chile is thriving following the recent visit by the Prime Minister. There is a high level of co-operation in energy development, the environment, agriculture and education,” Joyce said in a statement.—Xinhua
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SPRING WIND VOY NO (8)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SPRING WIND VOY NO (8) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.3.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T. where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: FORTUNE SHIPPING & AGENT CY PTE LTD

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MO CEAN FELICITY VOY NO (3)

Consignees of cargo carried on MO CEAN FELICITY VOY NO (3) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.3.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L. where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: TOKO KAIUN KAISHA LTD

Phone No: 256924/256914

A vendor clean souvenirs while waiting for customers on a street in the Old City of Sanaa, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, in Yemen on 20 February 2013, a week before the onset of the anti-government protests.
**ENTERTAINMENT**

**LONDON, 25 March—** Lindsay Lohan will reportedly be treated for alcohol and prescription drug addiction in rehab.

The Liz & Dick actress — who agreed to plead no contest to two misdemeanor charges in relation to a car accident last summer and in return for 90 days treatment in a residential clinic — will undergo her sixth attempt at getting sober when she begins her court ordered stint in rehab and her treatment will focus on her “large” alcohol consumption and reliance on legal medications.

A source told RadarOnline: “Lindsay will be treated for prescription drug and alcohol addiction during her stay. “Lindsay’s prescription drugs of choice are Adderall and Xanax, and in addition, she consumes large amounts of alcohol specifically, vodka.”

However, insiders are unsure how well the course of treatment will go as the 26-year-old star still doesn’t think she has a problem and only agreed to go to rehab to avoid jail.

The source added: “The main problem when it comes to Lindsay ever getting sober is her absolute denial that she has any substance abuse issues. Once again, she is only going to rehab purely because it’s a slightly more attractive alternative than going to jail. Of course, there is hope that once Lindsay is undergoing treatment she will recognise that she does in fact have a problem — but given her history, it’s very doubtful.”

A spokesperson for the star — who also agreed to undergo 18 months of psychological counselling and 30 days of community service - said: “We do not comment on our clients’ personal lives.”

**MUMBAI, 25 March—** The industry thought it was a cool gesture on Shah Rukh Khan’s part to have his heroine’s name appear before his on the credit roll of his upcoming films. — PTI

**Los Angeles, 25 March—** Twilight co-stars and real life lovers Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart were spotted dining out with Katy Perry to celebrate the singer’s assistant’s birthday.

In a short video posted on YouTube, Stewart, who is good friends with the birthday girl Tamra Natsis, was seen standing next to Pattinson, while Perry placed the cake and started singing “Happy Birthday”. reports femalefirst.co.uk.

Perry seemed to be in a good mood considering she has just split with boyfriend John Mayer after a seven month romance.

The Twilight actors, who briefly split last summer after Stewart was caught cheating with married film director Rupert Sanders, have been making the most of their time together by hitting the town for outings. News of the pair’s reunion became public on Tuesday at a karaoke bar in Los Angeles, and a lucky fan even managed to get a photo with the duo. — PTI

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**Why Shah Rukh Khan received roses from Gulab Gang girls**

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**Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart celebrate with Katy Perry**

The first year Philosophy student at St Stephen’s, Suraj recalled his memories of being a part of grand Oscars night in Hollywood where Life of Pi won four trophies, including the Best Director statue for Lee.

“I was screaming from the back with every win for our film. It was a great night. But the one, I really wanted to win is the Best director for Ang. When the Best Director category was getting announced, everyone was numb and nervous. It took some seconds to sink in the fact that Ang really got the award. He deserved it and I was really happy,” he said. — PTI

**Suraj Sharma: I have a vague ambition of filmmaking**

**New Delhi, 25 March—** He may have started his cinematic journey as an actor but Suraj Sharma says he is keen to follow his Life of Pi helmer Ang Lee into filmmaking.

Suraj was 17 when he was selected by Lee out of 3000 hopefuls to play Pi, a young Indian boy lost in the ocean for months with a Bengal tiger.

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**Suraj Sharma made his debut in the film industry with Ang Lee’s Life of Pi. — PTI**

He turned 20 yesterday and with the experience of making the mega movie behind him, Suraj says he feels old. “Life has changed completely after Life of Pi. I have changed completely as a person. I have become older and more aware about the world,” Suraj told PTI after attending a special screening of the movie, which was organized by Taipei Economic and Cultural Centre in India (TECC) to celebrate its Oscar success.

“Finally, I have a vague ambition of filmmaking. It’s really interesting to see how things are going. It’s a new kind of beginning in many ways with Bollywood and Hollywood projects in my hands. I am yet to put my signatures on them,” he said. — PTI

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Japan eye Brazil berth, Cahill calls for high tempo

**NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR**

**SPORTS**

AMMAN, 25 March—Asian champions Japan can become the first side to qualify for the 2014 World Cup with victory in Jordan on Tuesday, while South Korea, Australia and Uzbekistan are odds on to score home wins and clarify the crowded pool picture.

The Blue Samurais thrashed Jordan 6-0 at home in June, a result that has helped them establish an eight-point lead over Australia, Iraq and Oman in Group B.

But Tuesday’s clash in Amman will be a tougher prospect without the key duo of playmaker Keisuke Amman will be a tough picture without the key duo of playmaker Keisuke Honda and attack-minded fullback Yuto Nagatomo at a venue where Jordan were able to humble Australia in September.

A 2-1 friendly win over Canada in Qatar on Friday involved some sloppy errors by Asia’s best side and the players know improvements are required to see off Jordan, who have bounced back well from their Saitama rout.

“If we play like we did in the first half against Canada then things could become very difficult for us,” playmaker Shinji Kagawa said after the win over the North Americans.

Shinji Okazaki should start after scoring the opener against Canada with the VfB Stuttgart forward demanding big improvements ahead of the decisive qualifier.

“It is good that we have got this game out of the way because we can’t play like we did (against Canada). We allowed our opponents to create a good shape and we have to take a point back ourselves about that,” he said.

Japan might only need a draw to qualify should Australia and Oman draw in the earlier Group B clash in Sydney.

That result is a strong possibility as the duo, along with Jordan and Iraq, have all taken points off each other in a number of defensive-minded, slow tempo clashes. The quartet have each scored only four goals in the group.

The Socceroos remain favourites, though, to grab the runners-up spot and the other Brazil berth from the pool as they have a game in hand on their rivals and host three of their remaining four matches.

New York Red Bull striker Tim Cahill is expected to lead the line and the former Everton player has called for a high-tempo display, something that was lacking in a 0-0 draw when the teams met in muggy Muscat in June.

“I know the international game can be a bit more relaxed in the first half (compared with club soccer), but this game has to be high-tempo from us and we have to make sure we pressure them and make them feel unwelcome in our stadium,” Cahill told reporters.

“They’ll be under pressure to get a result, so they’ll play very deep.—Reuters.

**Djokovic and Sharapova win at windy Miami**

**KEY BISCAYNE, (Flori- da), 25 March—World number one Novak Djokovic and Russian Maria Sharapova shook off windy conditions to move into the fourth round of the Sony Open at Miami on Sunday.

Serb Djokovic posted a 6-2, 6-4 victory over India’s Somdev Devvarman and Sharapova turned back fellow Russian Elena Vesnina 6-4, 6-2.

Djokovic’s win set up a clash with German Tommy Haas, who beat Ukrainian Alexandr Dolgopolov 6-3, 6-2.

“It was very difficult to kind of get into a rhythm because you couldn’t really serve at 100 percent,” Djokovic, the two-time defending champion, told reporters.

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Honda and attack-minded fullback Yuto Nagatomo at a venue where Jordan were able to humble Australia in September.

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Germany should not become complacent, warns Loew

BERLIN, 25 March— Victory in Kazakhstan and a slip-up by Group C rivals Sweden in Friday’s World Cup qualifiers have sent Germany five points clear but coach Joachim Loew has warned against complacency ahead of Tuesday’s home game against the Koreans.

The Germans, 3-0 winners in Astana, are cruising towards 2014 World Cup qualification and even a suspension to Bastian Schweinsteiger looks unlikely to stop them from notchting their fifth win in six group games.

While a meltdown similar to the one late last year that saw them spectacularly squander a 4-0 lead against Sweden draw 4-4 is not expected in Nuremberg, Loew wants his players to firmly focus on what is at stake.

Germany are top of Group C with 13 points from five games, five ahead of Sweden, who drew 0-0 with Ireland and have a match in hand.

*If you score a victory away then there is the danger that you keep this in your head for some time,* Loew told reporters.

“We have to keep reminding the players that we are playing at home and we will only win if we have the right attitude and seriousness.”

Loew is aware of the gap in quality between the world’s second best team and a side ranked 139 but he also saw the Kazakhs trying to battle back at 2-0 down in the first game and having two clear chances as Germany took their foot off the gas. He will not have suspended Schweinsteiger to orchestrate their play but the Germans should be faster with the return of Marco Reus, who sat out his own one-game ban on Friday.

A Myanmar tapestry introduces her up coming Dishes” Minced Meat with Tabaung)

Multiple mortars slam central Damascus, causing injuries

DAMASCUS, 25 March — Multiple mortar shells fired by Syrian armed rebels landed on Sunday near the state TV’s office building and Sheraton Hotel in the heart of the capital Damascus, causing injuries and material damages, witnesses told Xinhua.

According to Xinhua reporter at the scene, thick clouds of smoke permeated the area and heavy security forces were deployed in the streets, cutting off all routes leading to the Umayyad Square, where the state TV’s office building is located.

Witnesses told Xinhua that two mortars, allegedly launched from al-Qusour area in the south, landed in the main yard of Sheraton Hotel, where UN-Arab League Special Envoy Lakhdar Brahimi is staying.

They added another mortar slammed a street close to a highway, where two cars flipped over after they hit the sidewalk steered by startled drivers.

Meanwhile, another mortar landed in the al-Quoour area in southern Damascus, local media said.

The rebels have recently stepped up mortar attacks in an attempt to destroy major military and governmental sites in Damascus.

Meanwhile, the pro-variation Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the rebels bombarded the main hospital in the Damascus suburb of Harasta, which they claimed had been turned into a regular force centre.

The Observatory also said five family members, including two children, were killed by the government forces’ bombardment on the town of Beit Sahm near the road to the airport of Damascus.—Xinhua

Albanian police seize 195 kilos of marijuana in Gjirokaster

GIROKASTER, 25 March — Police in the Albanian’s southern city of Gjirokaster have discovered and seized around 195 kilogram of marijuana during an anti-drug operation on Saturday.

Official police sources in the southern region said that the haul of marijuana was found hidden in the car of a 32-year old male, who was arrested on drug trafficking charges.

The drug was divided in 130 bags and was hidden under the chassis of the car with fake German number plates. The haul is believed to have originated in the village of Lazarat and it was to be smuggled to neighbouring Greece.

Official police sources said that preliminary investigation shows that the 32-year old suspect Genc Zymbilj has bought the haul of marijuana in the village of Lazarat few days ago.—Xinhua

Chinese sailor set to finish solo world sailing in nine days

QINGDAO, 25 March— Chinese sailor Guo Chuan is expected to return to Qingdao, east China, and finish his solo non-stop sailing around the world on 3 April, according to his supporting team on Monday.

“I am closer and closer to hometown, and it’s the last stage I should be more careful of, especially the fishing nets,” Guo said over a satellite phone.

Guo released off a drift bottle into the sea on 20 March, the day that he sailed into the South China Sea. There was a note in the bottle which stated Guo’s contact way and the introduction of his world sailing. Guo had released off two same drift bottles before. The first one was put into the sea when he crossed the equator and sailed to the Southern Hemisphere on 4 December last year, and the second one was released on 19 January when he got around the Cape Horn.—Xinhua
President U Thein Sein receives UNSG’s Special Adviser on Myanmar Mr Vijay Nambiar and party

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and party pose for documentary photo with UNSG’s Special Adviser on Myanmar Mr Vijay Nambiar.—MINA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Information Team
Press release (7/2013)
14th Waxing of Tabauung 1374 ME
25 March 2013

1. Government will be in earnest effort to control and address all forms of violence including instigations that lead to racial and religious tensions in the interest of the people in accord with the Constitution and existing laws.
2. Homeless victims of violence, fire and riots will be provided with emergency accommodation and full safeguard.
3. With restoration of peace and stability, resettlement of victims will be carried out as soon as possible.
4. Cooperation with civil societies, private sectors and international organizations will be made to be able to supply humanitarian aid to victims.
5. Works to hold talks for rebuilding trust between the new government during its two years term has seen both successes and challenges; that steps are to be taken to make the people know action to be taken according to the law in case of incident while striving for promotion of education and creation of job opportunities; that the government was committed to the flourishing of democracy and to overcome obstacles and difficulties ahead in marching towards democracy; and he thanked the UN and Mr Vijay Nambiar for having the wishes to offer humanitarian aid based on understanding, sympathy and kindness. —MNA

Mann Shwe Settaw Festival comes to full life

By A1 Soe (Kyemon)

Mann Shwe Settaw Buddha (the Buddha’s Golden Footprint) Pujaniya Festival started 12 February has picked up momentum with flocks of pilgrims flooding into one of the most sacred Buddhist places in Minbu Township in central Myanmar.

It is the longest pagoda festival in Myanmar, running through 17 April which coincides with the first day of Myanmar traditional New Year according to the lunar calendar. According to the oral history, the Buddha visited then Sunaparanda Kingdom (now Minbu District) at invitation of Mahapuna Arhat 20 years after attaining enlightenment. On the Buddha’s return trip to Sawattii, the Buddha left one footprint near then Namanda River (now Mann creek) on request of Nampada Serpent King and another on Thissavandha hilltop on request of Thissavandha Arhat who attained arhatship after hearing sermons from the Buddha. These footprints—now known as the Upper Footprint and the Lower Footprint—heavily decorated with gold flakes are put on display in festival period for public obeisance. Local products ranging from clothes to Thanaka woods are available at souvenir shops. Forest Department under the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry has kept open a public awareness raising booth at the festival.

The faithful believe that taking bath in Mann creek could spell an end to all kinds of diseases. Another significant destinations—Myathalun Pagoda, the landmark of Minbu, and Kyaungdawya, literally the site of the monastery where the Buddha spent seven days on His visit to Minbu—are within a few miles from the festival ground.