President U Thein Sein offers religious titles to recipient Sayadaws, offers rice and alms to members of the Sangha

Nay Pyi Taw, 26 March—President U Thein Sein presented religious titles to recipient Sayadaws and offered rice to members of the Sangha at Sasana Maha Beikman in the precinct of Nay Pyi Taw Uppatasanti Pagoda this noon.

Also present on the occasions were Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, Vice-President U Nyan Tun and wife Daw Khin Aye Myint, Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Mya Thein, Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Tin Aye, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa, and wife, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win and wife, Union ministers, the Auditor-General of the Union, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command and deputy ministers presented Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika titles to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kesara of Maha Aungmye Yeiktha Monastery in Hlinethaya Township.

Vice-President U Nyan Tun also offered Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika titles to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nana of Sitha Monastery in Aungmyethazan Township and Sayadaw Bhaddanta Ward of Mahaungmye Township and Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kesara of Maha Aungmye Yeiktha Monastery in Hlinethaya Township.

Vice-President U Nyan Tun also offered Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika titles to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kesara of Maha Aungmye Yeiktha Monastery in Hlinethaya Township.

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Likewise, Daw Nan Shwe Hmon and Daw Khin Aye Myint presented religious titles to title recipient nuns within and abroad. Daw Kyu Kyu Hla also offered religious titles.

President U Thein Sein, Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun and party attend religious titles presentation ceremony.—MNA

President U Thein Sein presents Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru title to a Sayadaw.—MNA

President U Thein Sein presents Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru title to a Sayadaw.—MNA

Honouring 68th Anniversary Armed Forces Day
Mobile team makes field trip in Myeik

MYEIK, 26 March — With the aim of strengthening rights of consumer and strict enforcement of regulations on import and export of goods at Border Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce in Myeik, boosting trade and fighting against illegal trade, a mobile team made an inspection tour of MT-PNG Express oil tanker anchored seven miles off Seiknge jetty of Myeik on 22 March.

Smuggled herd of cattle confiscated

MAWLU, 26 March — A combined force led by Police Inspector Myo Khang of Katha District Police Force arrested a group of smugglers and seized a herd of cattle near Nantyon village in Inndaw Township of Sagaing Region on 17 March.

Police members caught nine smugglers including Zaw Oo of Pyin Htaungkon village of Indaw Township together with 42 head of cattle that are going to be smuggled to a neighbouring country via Mohmyn Township of Kachin State while they were on patrol near Nantyon village according to a tip-off. Actions are being taken against the smugglers. — Kyemon

Child run over by trailer in Dagon Myothit (North) Township

YANGON, 26 March — A child was run over by a trailer and killed while a woman who held him had been knocked to the ground near a bus-stop on Pyidaungsu road in Dagon Myothit (North) Township at about 3.45 pm on 21 March.

The trailer driven by Zaw Lin Tun, 22, of Dagon Myothit (North) Township hit Ma Yin Moe Aye, 36, who was holding Maung Thukha Pyae Sone, 3, in her arms and ran over the child who had fallen off the woman with its front wheel when the woman collapsed in the road.

Ma Yin Moe Aye suffered injuries to her right arm and she was admitted at North Okkalapa Hospital. The child died of severe head injury.

A child was run over by a motorbike took place at the entrance to Inn-gyi village of Kyonwe in Kawkareik Township on 18 March.

The vehicle driven by U Thein Win, 47, of Ward-4 in Myawady collided head-on with the motorcycle driven by U Saw Thein Yi, 45, school head of Inn-gyi BEPPS, together with Daw Mu Naw Naw, 45, at mile post No (42/43) on Kyonwe-Kawkareik road near the village at about 8 pm.

The motorcyclist had got injury to his head and collapsed unconscious in the street. The neck of the women victim had also got swollen from the crash.

Progress of construction of recreation centre, training facility inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March — A head-on collision between a saloon and a motorbike took place at the entrance to Inn-gyi village of Kyonwe in Kawkareik Township on 18 March.

Seizure of illegal teak, hardwood in Sagaing Township

SAGAING, 26 March — A combined force comprising forest staff and police members discovered illegal sawn wood while conducting a search of a stationary vehicle with no driver near Hsinnyarshin Pagoda on Sagain-Monywa motorway on 22 March.

They seized 7,4702 tons of illegal teak and hardwood. Sagaing police station opened a case over seizure of illegal teak and hardwood and the seized teak and vehicle are being held in the compound of Podan forest office.

Head-on collision between car, motorbike on Kyondoe-Kawkareik road

KYONDOE, 26 March — A head-on collision between a saloon and a motorbike took place at the entrance to Inn-gyi village of Kyonwe in Kawkareik Township on 18 March.

The vehicle driven by U Thein Win, 47, of Ward-4 in Myawady collided head-on with the motorcycle driven by U Saw Thein Yi, 45, school head of Inn-gyi BEPPS, together with Daw Mu Naw Naw, 45, at mile post No (42/43) on Kyonwe-Kawkareik road near the village at about 8 pm.

The motorcyclist had got injury to his head and collapsed unconscious in the street. The neck of the women victim had also got swollen from the crash.

Investigation is ongoing. — Kyemon

Pilot census taking in 20 townships in Yangon Region

YANGON, 26 March — An educative talks on a pilot taking of population census was given to dwellers of five wards in Lannmadaw Township, which is included in the list of townships where a pilot census taking will be carried out, on the first floor of Lannmadaw BEHS No (2) on 17 March.

Officials concerned clarified the procedure that, a population census would be taken in 2014 around 30 years after taking of nationwide population census in 1973 and 1983, calling on those present to provide accurate data in answering population and housing questions of census taking procedure.

It is learnt that such kinds of educative talks will be organized in all 20 townships where a pilot census taking 2013 will be taking place. — Kyemon

Man dies in Hlegu Township from mistakenly drinking pesticide for alcohol

YANGON, 26 March — A man died after mistakenly drinking pesticide for alcohol drink at Ngahsutaung village-tract in Hlegu Township of Yangon Region.

A fatal accident happened to Maung Li Shin Phu, 29, when he mistakenly drank TD Win pesticide for drink of alcohol in his bedroom at about 5.35 am on 19 March.

He was taken to Insein Hospital to receive medical treatment, but he died at about 1.15 pm in the hospital.

Ngahsutaung police station filed a case and investigating is ongoing. — Kyemon

Fire negligence reduces houses to ashes in Gangaw Township

GANGAW, 26 March — A fire destroyed 33 houses and left 157 people homeless at Pyitma village in Gangaw Township at about 11.55 pm on 22 March.

The flames caused by fireplace embers licked the bamboo wall and swept through the whole house of U Ba Gyan. As fire crews accompanied by two fire engines of Gangaw Township Fire Service Department and seven water bowsers rushed there and struggled to control the fire, the fire died down at about 1 am the following day.

Fire victims were temporarily given shelters at the houses of their relatives and school. — Kyemon

New bridge put into service for rural development

THANLYIN, 26 March — The opening of a RC bridge took place on the road that links Win Khanni village and Pharku village of Thanlyin Township on 22 March.

Min, Executive Officer U Kyaw Min, Executive Officer U Kyaw Lin Than of Thanlyin Township Development Committee and the Presiding Sayadaw of Win Khanni monastery formally opened the bridge.

The new bridge will be of great benefit to villagers in transporting their local products to downtown Thanlyin.

He then observed training being given to the athletes and progress of construction work. — MNA

Progress of construction of recreation centre, training facility inspected

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US, Russia aim to reconvene stalled missile defence talks

Russia’s Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu speaks in front of the Russian flag while attending a news conference after a meeting with his Vietnamese counterpart Phung Quang Thanh (not pictured) in Hanoi on 5 March, 2013.—Reuters

Moscow/Washington, 26 March—Russian and US defence chiefs signaled on Monday their intention to reconvene long-stalled missile defence talks, the Pentagon said, following a change in US missile defence plans for Europe that has been met cautiously by Moscow.

There have been no meetings at the deputy minister-level since 2011, when six were held, a US defence official told Reuters. Talks set for 2012 were canceled because of Russia’s Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu was quoted as saying by Russian news agency RIA.-

The news came after a 16 March announcement that the United States would station 14 new anti-missile interceptors in Alaska in response to North Korean provocations, but at the same time forgo a new type of interceptor that would have been deployed in Europe.

Cold War-era foes Moscow and Washington have long been at loggerheads over the shield in Europe. President Barack Obama’s move in 2009 to scale down earlier, Bush-administration plans only offered a short-lived reprieve. Russia’s main concern is that the European shield would weaken its nuclear deterrent. Russia’s point man for US relations, Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov, said on 21 March that the Obama administration’s planned changes brought “nothing new” to the issue. He called for further dialogue, noting Moscow still had concern that US missile defences could threaten its security.—Reuters

Cambodian PM to visit China to advance bilateral ties

KANDAL, (Cambodia), 26 March — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said on Monday that he will pay an official visit to China early next month to meet with new Chinese leaders for talks on further enhancing bilateral relations.

The premier said that he is scheduled to meet with President Xi Jinping in Boao, a coastal town in south China’s Hainan Province, on 7 April before heading to Beijing on 8 April to hold an official talk with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang.

“I hope that new Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang will continue to support Cambodia in the development of infrastructure including roads and bridges,” Hun Sen said during a groundbreaking for the construction of the 7th Cambodia-China Friendship Bridge in southern Kandal Province.

“I am very pleased that Cambodia-China relation has reached the level of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership of Cooperation since 2010 and hope that the relation will be as solid as bridges across the rivers,” the premier said, recalling that the two countries’ ties were established in 1958 by Cambodia’s late former King Norodom Sihanouk and former Chinese Prime Minister Mao Zedong as well as former Premier Zhou Enlai.

“Now, it is in the period of King Norodom Sihanouk and I will continue to foster the ties with Chinese leaders,” he said.—Xinhua

Japan’s CRF headquarter to move to US base in Japan

Tokyo, 26 March—Japan and the United States agreed on Monday that headquarter of Central Readiness Force (CRF) belonged to Japan’s Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) will be moved to a US military base in Japan on Tuesday in an effort to promote Japan-US alliance.

At a joint statement signing ceremony held in Tokyo, US Major General Michael Harrison, commander of United States Army Japan and I Corps, shakes hands with Chief of Staff of the JGSDF Eiji Kimizuka agreed to move the headquarter to the US Camp Zama located in Japan’s Kanagawa Prefecture. Eiji said the decision will improve defence cooperation between the JGSDF and the United States Army Japan and will deepen the Japan-US alliance.

For his part, Harrison said that the move marks US-Japan security system stepped into a new phase that will help secure Japan’s security. The CRF, which comprises about 4,500 personnel, was established in March 2007 to take charge of special operations in Tokyo and area near the capital city and SDF’s overseas operation. Xinhua

Rebel mortar fire hits Damascus, army gunners retaliate

BEIRUT, 26 March—Syrian rebels lobbed mortar rounds into central Damascus on Monday, killing at least two people and drawing a fierce army response as bombardments shook the heart of the capital.

The state news agency said mortar bombs fired by “terrorists” had killed two people and wounded others near the Opera House on Ummayad Square, where Baath Party headquarters, Air Force Intelligence and state television are also located. The military retaliated with artillery fire from Mount Qasiun, overlooking the city. “I’ve heard dozens of regime shells so far, pounding rebels,” one resident said.

Photos posted by opposition activists showed black smoke rising from the square during what residents said was one of the heaviest bombardments in central Damascus since a revolt against President Bashar al-Assad erupted two years ago.

“The city is under attack,” said one bewildered resident, adding that the explosions had begun at 6:30 am (12.30 am EDT).

Free Syrian Army fighters carry weapons while walking down a debris-filled street in Aleppo on 19 March, 2013. Picture taken on 19 March, 2013.—Reuters

The conflict in Syria has killed 70,000 people and forced around 100,000 to flee the country, the United Nations says. Sustained fighting in Damascus could send thousands more into neighbouring states, especially Lebanon, which already hosts 370,000 of them. There were no immediate effect that the rebels, who have pushed into the Kfar Soush district, a few hundred metres (yards) from Ummayad Square, were trying to advance further.

Assad’s forces have retained control of central Damascus and most of southern Syrian cities, while losing swathes of territory to insurgents elsewhere, especially in the north and east. Colonel Riad al-Asaad, founder of the rebel Free Syrian Army (FSA), lost a leg in an overnight blast caused by a bomb placed beneath his car in the opposition-held eastern town of al-Mayadin, his deputy said. A Turkish official said Asaad was now being treated in Turkey and that his life was not in danger.

Asaad, who formed the FSA in 2011 as a poplar uprising against Assad turned into an armed rebellion, was one of the first senior officers to defect from the Syrian military, but was sidelined last year from a new Western-backed FSA command.—Reuters

Australia to withdraw most troops from Afghanistan by year-end

CABERERA, 26 March—Australia will withdraw most troops from Afghanistans’s south at the end of this year and shut down a major base for NATO-led forces, handing security to Afghan soldiers and police, Defence Minister Stephen Smith said on Tuesday.

Western and Afghan commanders, Smith said, had agreed that the major multinational coalition base at Tarin Kowt and its NATO airbase in Uruzgan Province would close at the end of 2013.

Most foreign combat troops are due to leave Afghanistan by the end of 2014 under a planned security transition from foreign forces to Afghans.

“It is a necessary and logical and natural consequence of transition being effective,” Smith said. “The effect of that closure will be that Aus- tralia will no longer have a permanent presence in Uruzgan Province, and the majority of Australian defence force personnel will return.” Australia has around 1,650 troops in Af- ghanistan, including special forces, based mainly in volatile Uruzgan, and was an original member of the US-led coalition that helped oust the former Taliban government in late 2001.

It has lost 39 troops in the war, with 242 wound- ed.

The United States and NATO allies are racing against the clock to train a 350,000-strong force of Afghan soldiers to meet the 2014 deadline, although there is widespread skepti- cism that target can be met.

“A lot of people are wor- ried about the military side and how are we going to get to 2014,” Washington- based Australian counter- insurgency expert David Kilcullen told Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) television. Reuters
**Chinese scientists unlock key genetic code of wheat**

**BEIJING, 26 March—** Scientists from China and the United States have mapped a key genetic code for bread wheat, a discovery that will help improve the crop’s productivity and ability to withstand extreme conditions.

The sequencing and drafting of the A genome, one of the three basic genomes of wheat, was published on the website of the journal Nature on Saturday.

Researchers present the generation, assembly and analysis of a whole-genome shotgun draft sequence of the genome of wheat T urartu, the donor of the A genome.

The identification of around 38,000 wheat genes is expected to help provide a valuable resource for accelerating deeper genomic breeding studies and offer a new foundation for the study of wheat evolution, domestication and genetic improvement.

The research, launched by a team from the Institute of Genetics and Development Biology under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), was conducted by top Chinese researchers in the field—Yan Caixia, Xi Jinan, also a researcher with the China National Institute of Agricultural Technology (CHIC), said at a speech in Beijing.

Researchers plan to integrate the information into the wheat reference genome database, which will help to improve the crop’s adaptability to the environment, and to adapt to the needs of modern agriculture, the report said.

**Apple buys Silicon Valley startup WiFiSlam**

**NEW YORK, 26 March—** Apple has acquired a Silicon Valley startup, WiFiSlam, which makes mapping applications for smartphones.

Apple confirmed the acquisition, but declined to give details.

The news was earlier reported by The Wall Street Journal, which quoted a person familiar with the matter as saying that Apple paid around $20 million for the company.

“Apple acquires smaller technology companies from time to time, and we generally do not discuss our purpose or plans,” an Apple spokesman told Reuters.

WiFiSlam develops technology that provides indoor tracking and similar services. Big tech companies such as Apple and Google have been racing to provide more and better map applications for users. Google’s application, Google Maps, is widely accessed on Google’s Android platform and rival Apple’s iOS platform.

**Global telecoms giant ZTE sees gold in Chinese roots**

**HONG KONG, 26 March—** China’s ZTE Corp, which helped bring the telephone to millions of homes during the Deng Xiaoping era, is counting on a new generation of tech-savvy smartphone users to drive its sagging fortunes.

Shenzhen-listed ZTE, founded in the mid-1980s, clinched its first major overseas contract in Bangladesh in the mid-1990s. Since then, it has been aggressively expanding overseas and challenging rivals Ericsson and Alcatel-Lucent in emerging markets from Asia to Africa.

But years of rapid overseas investment and chasing global market share at the expense of profitability are finally taking their toll on the world’s No 5 producer of telecoms gear. ZTE is now returning to its Chinese roots, eyeing 4G network contracts from domestic mobile operators China Mobile Ltd, China Unicom Ltd and China Telecom Corp Ltd.

“China’s three mobile operators plan to spend a combined 345 billion yuan ($56 billion) this year on network expansion. That includes investment in 4G, which promises rapid data downloads for millions of mobile users holding Apple Inc’s iPhones or Samsung Electronics’ Galaxy phones,” the report said.

Hong Kong-listed China Mobile, the world’s top carrier with 715 million subscribers, is flocking out 41.7 billion yuan from its total spending of 190.2 billion yuan for this year to build 200,000 4G base stations covering more than 100 cities. The Chinese government is expected to issue 4G licenses later this year. Smaller rival China Unicom said on 21 March it planned to spend 5 billion yuan to build 200,000 4G base stations on 4G once it gets a license.

China Telecom has yet to announce its 4G investment. ZTE, which has flagged three profit warnings in the past year and is poised to post its first-ever annual loss for 2012, is likely to grab the bulk of contracts along with its cross-town rival Huawei Technologies Co Ltd due to its state-backed status, analysts said.

**Yahoo acquires mobile news start-up Summly**

**SAN FRANCISCO, 26 March—** Yahoo Inc has snapped up mobile news aggregator Summly, the companies said on their websites Monday.

Summly, founded by 17-year-old Nick D’Aloisio, sorts news by topics in quick bites for smartphones. The Summly app will be removed from the Apple Inc store and will be integrated into Yahoo’s mobile initiatives.

Terms of the deal were not disclosed. Yahoo has acquired several small mobile and web start-up companies since former Google executive Marissa Mayer became chief executive last year.

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WiFiSlam develops technology that provides indoor tracking and similar services. Big tech companies such as Apple and Google have been racing to provide more and better map applications for users.

Google’s application, Google Maps, is widely accessed on Google’s Android platform and rival Apple’s iOS platform.
Overseas investors eye Chinese property

BEIJING, 26 March— China may see an increase in property transactions involving overseas investors, a consultant Knight Frank said Wednesday, 27 March, 2013.

China’s slowing economic growth, retailers’ confidence in the market is intact and they continue to open new stores in Shanghai...

Shanghai’s office and retail property sectors will see significant increases in large-scale deals this year, supported by investors’ strong interest in commercial real estate, according to a research report from international property consultant Knight Frank...—Xinhua

Shanghai’s Grade A offices remained at 5.1 percent. Despite the overseas economic turmoil and where economic conditions are tough and TNT Express generates the bulk of sales, said interim chief executive Bernard Bot. About 4.6 billion, or 63 percent, of 7.3 billion euros in 2012 revenue came from Europe, the Middle East and Africa. If the restructuring is successful, TNT Express will have an adjusted operating margin of around 8 percent and sales growth of roughly 2 percent by 2015, it said. That forecast assumes a return to a normal economic climate in crisis-hit Europe, Bot said, where markets remain unusually uncertain.

“The business we have is the business we have, in terms of its geographic scope, and that’s where we are going to focus, improve, and try to get the best possible margins,” Bot told journalists.

But yes, we also have to accept that we are a cyclical stock and are to some extent dependent on the economic development.” Bot said that the 20 store locations since 22 July, 2008, in the United States on Friday.

Goldman Sachs cut its rating, 4 percent on Monday after the advertising of the product was limited. “As a result, despite the product itself being relatively well received by sales associates and online reviews, sell-through at most locations was less than 10 per day,” said Jankowski. The brokerage received by sales associates...

BlackBerry shares slide on Goldman downgrade

TOLEDO, 26 March— BlackBerry stock fell nearly 4 percent on Monday after Goldman Sachs cut its rating, citing a disappointing US launch for the smartphone maker’s new touchscreen device that went on sale in the United States on Friday. “Our retail checks at over 20 store locations in the United States on Friday.

The credit repair fund will buy debts in delinquency with the seed money of around 800 billion won that will be raised through borrowing and subordinated bond issuance. About 500 billion won will be transferred to the fund from the existing, state-run fund for debt restructuring. The remaining 700 billion won will be used to transform high-rate loans to low-rate ones, can be offset by the reimbursement of delinquent debts and the profits of guaranteed commission. The number of around 210,000 with overdue debts, which account for 16 percent of the total delinquent debts, was estimated to benefit from the credit repair fund, the regulator said. The planned fund was feared to entice debtors to delay repayment with the intention of benefiting from debt write-offs.—Xinhua

S Korea to launch credit repair recovery fund for debtors

SEOUL, 26 March— South Korea planned to launch credit repair recovery fund for debtors, amid concerns that massive household debts may cripple consumer spending and economic recovery, the financial regulator said on Monday. Kookmin Bank, Hong Kong, and Chong Hwa Bank, or national happy fund in English, worth 1.5 trillion won (US $1.3 billion) are being set up on Friday to help household defaulters restore credit through reserves for debt repayment, such as write-offs and the lengthening of debt repayment, according to the Financial Services Commission (FSC).

People with debts overdue more than six months of less than 100 million won (10,000 US dollars) can apply to the fund for debt restructuring. Borrowers of high-rate loan from non-bank institutions can transfer their loans to those of interest rate of around 10 percent.

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The credit repair fund will buy debts in delinquency with the seed money of around 800 billion won that will be raised through borrowing and subordinated bond issuance. About 500 billion won will be transferred to the fund from the existing, state-run fund for debt restructuring. The remaining 700 billion won will be used to transform high-rate loans to low-rate ones, can be offset by the reimbursement of delinquent debts and the profits of guaranteed commission. The number of around 210,000 with overdue debts, which account for 16 percent of the total delinquent debts, was estimated to benefit from the credit repair fund, the regulator said. The planned fund was feared to entice debtors to delay repayment with the intention of benefiting from debt write-offs.—Xinhua

A new BlackBerry Z10 smartphone is displayed at a store in New York, on 22 March, 2013.

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A new BlackBerry Z10 smartphone is displayed at a store in New York, on 22 March, 2013.
Five killed, 13 injured in Iraqi violence

BAGHDAD, 26 March—Four people were killed and 13 others wounded in separate attacks in Iraq on Monday, while an al-Qaeda milita
tant leader was shot dead in a raid, the police said.

In Iraq’s eastern Prov-
ce of Diyala, two police-
men were killed when a roadside bomb struck a joint police-army patrol in the western part of the prov-
cincial capital city of Baqu-
ba, some 65 km northeast of Iraq’s capital Baghdad,
a provincial police source
told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Five policemen and three soldiers, including an officer, were wounded by the blast, the source said.

In a separate incident, a paramilitary member of local Awakening Council group was killed and three others wounded when gun-
men, believed to be affiliated to al-Qaeda in Iraq, attacked their checkpoint at a village some 35 km northeast of Baquba, the source said.

The Awakening Council group, also known as Sons of Iraq, consists of armed groups, including some powerful anti-US Sunni insurgent groups, who turned their rifles against al-Qaeda after the latter ex-
cercised indiscriminate kill-
nings against both Shiites and Sunni communities.

Also in the province, an Iraqi army and police force shot dead Abu Ji-
had, a suspected al-Qaeda leader, when they raided his safe house at the village of Makheisah, some 30 km northeast of Baquba, the source said.

Abu Jihad is believed to have been involved in many attacks against Iraqi military patrols in Diyala Province, he added.

In addition, two soldiers were wounded when gun-
men attacked their checkpoint in the same village, he said.

In Salahudin Province, a policeman was killed when a sticky bomb attached to a car detonated while he was driving north in the provincial capital city of Tikrit, some 170 km north of Baghdad, a provincial police source anonymously told Xinhua.—Xinhua

Jordan closes main border crossing with Syria

AMMAN, 26 March—Jordan closed its main bor-
der crossing of Irbid and prevented from entering in the first such closure of the crossing since the revolt against President Bashar al-Assad’s rule started two years ago.

“The border post is ef-
ficacely closed because there has been clashes since yesterday and they are continuing,” minister Samih Maaytah told Reu-
ters.

The crossing is a thor-
oughfare for passengers and was transit route before the Syrian conflict for hundreds of trucks daily carrying goods to Turkey from the Gulf and vice versa.

Situated near the Jor-
danian border, Syria’s southern Deraa Province is a vital battleground. Reb-
els in the last month have
teped up fighting for con-
rol of the border area and Deraa town after gaining territory in the country-
side and capturing several army bases. They have also overrun several towns near Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

The decision followed the announcement by the United States on Friday that it would deliver $300 million in annual aid to the Palestine-
s, almost half of which had
been withheld by the Con-
gress in response to the Pal-
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American and Israeli pledges come on the heels of Obama’s three-day visit to the region last week when he called for a
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Fifth Shwekyar robe-offering and consecration ceremony held in Nay Pyi Taw Uppatasanti Pagoda

Nay Pyi Taw, 26 March—The fifth Shwekyar robe-offering and consecration ceremony of four Maha Manimaya Jade Buddha Images which are kept in the cave and Sutaungpyae Buddha Image kept at the building of the north-east corner of Uppatasanti Pagoda was held at the cave of the pagoda, here, this morning.

The ceremony was attended by members of the Sangha led by State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Chairman Sayadaw of Mandalay Bhamo Monastery Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Buddhajotika Dr Bhaddanta Kumarahbhivamsa, Union Minister at the President Office Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Nay Pyi Taw Mayor U Thein Nyunt, Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Hsan Hsint, the Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, Deputy Ministers, Deputy Attorney-General and departmental heads, members of religious associations and guests.

First, Union ministers and officials offered Shwekyar robes, alms, fruits and water to four Jade Buddha Images and Sutaungpyae Buddha Image. Next, the ceremony to consecrate the Buddha images followed.

Then the congregation received the Nine Precepts administered by the Sayadaw and members of the Sangha recited parittas. Union ministers and party presented provisions to members of the Sangha.

Afterwards, SSMNC Secretary Sayadaw of Chaunkhtatgyi Pagoda Monastery Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Khenmindasami delivered a sermon and those present shared the merits gained.—MNA

Pagodas in Nay Pyi Taw packed with devotees on Fullmoon Day of Tabangau

Nay Pyi Taw, 26 March—As today is Fullmoon day of Tabangau, the pagodas in Nay Pyi Taw where Buddha Pujauniya are being held were packed with devotees.

The fifth golden robe offering and Buddha consecration ceremony took place at Uppatasanti Pagoda this morning. In the evening, religious associations from the ministries offered alms, fruits, flowers and water to the pagoda.

The 140th anniversary of Buddha Pujauniya of Sutaungpyae Lawka-maranzein pagoda was held at the pagoda in Pyinmana Township. Wellwishers donated rice to Sayadaws and nuns, and offered fruits, alms, flowers, water and light to the pagoda.

Similarly, Datusaya (Datapungsu) Pagoda and Maha Munim Image in Zabuthiri Township, Historic Paya Koese Pagoda, Kokhangyi Pagoda and Hlaekhantiang Pagoda in Pyinmana are also packed with devotees and pilgrims.—MNA

Yangon religious edifices crowded with devotees

Yangon, 26 March—The pagodas, stupas and monasteries in Yangon were crowded with devotees and pilgrims today.

The 2601 Anniversary of Buddha Pujauniya of the Shwedagon Pagoda was held on a grand scale starting from 6th waxing to Fullmoon day of Tabangau for 10 days. Wellwishers offered alms, flowers, water, light and dawn alms to the pagoda in the morning. The pagoda board of trustees and wellwishers then sahred the merit gained.

The 56th Anniversary of Buddha Pujauniya and rice offering ceremony of Shwehponepint Pagoda took place at the pagoda this morning. The pagoda board of trustees donated alms, fruits and snacks to the pagoda and offered rice to the Sayadaws and nuns. Similar ceremony was organized by the pagoda board of trustees at historic Aparazita Santawshin Kyakwine Pagoda.

Botataung Pagoda, Sule Pagoda, Swetawmyay Pagoda, Thiri Mingalaz Kaba Aye Pagoda, Maha Wizaya Pagoda, Kohtutyi, Chaunkhtutyi, Ngahututyi Pagodas, Kyakkaikal, Kyakkaikale, Thanlyin Kyakhaikhau Pagoda, Padagyi and pagodas and stupas in Yangon Region were also packed with devotees today.—MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Soe visits relief camps in Meiktila

Nay Pyi Taw, 26 March—Lt-Gen Myint Soe from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) this morning visited relief camps in Meiktila.

Lt-Gen Myint Soe together with Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint observed health care services being given by Tatmadaw mobile medical team and medical team of the Ministry of Health at No 3 BEHS relief camp in Meiktila and comforted the victims.

They also donated offertories to Sasana Waiponla Monastery Sayadaw and provided relief aid to the victims. Lt-Gen Myint Soe viewed the health care services being given by Tatmadaw mobile medical team to the victims at relief camp in the monastery.

Myanmar youth golf team leaves for Thailand

Yangon, 26 March—A Myanmar youth golf team comprising 18 golfers led by Vice-President U Min Thein of Myanmar Golf Federation and Joint General Secretary U Myo Tun left here on 24 March for Thailand to take part in the 12th True Visions International Junior Golf Championship 2013 to be held in Bangkok from 26 to 29 March.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by responsible persons of the federation and their relatives. Myanmar golf team has always participated in the international golf tournament which is held annually. Ye Htet Aung stood first in the individual event and Myanmar is ranked third in the team event of the previous year’s golf tournament.

With the aim of achieving success in golf sports in upcoming XXVII SEA Games that Myanmar will host in 2013, Myanmar golfers are taking part in international events.—NLM
Foster equal rights for each and every citizen

The government is striving for the flourishing of democratic practices that recognize human rights, empower citizens through participatory processes, strengthening the rule of law and improving access to justice and information, creating an environment for civil society to contribute to policy formulation, budgetary processes and delivery of services at the grassroots level.

While taking reform measures, all issues must be based on people-centered development approach. In making plans, it is required to collect information in accordance with the objective conditions and plans are to be implemented with perfect coordination.

As the government knows well that political reforms are essential to put economic reforms in place, its efforts are evident ensuring participation of all the citizens in political process. Meanwhile, it is exerting continued efforts to foster equal rights for each and every citizen to work as well as job opportunities, instituting economic reforms.

It places special emphasis on rural development and poverty reduction for socio-economic development of rural people, the majority of population. With regard to production, employment and increasing income, focus is to be placed on improvement of public health care service delivery directly beneficial to people, social security, access to electricity, and better communication service.

In building up the nation into a developed one, success could not be achieved by the government alone. Mass participation is needed. As the government is committed to the flourishing of democracy and overcoming challenges ahead in the march towards its goal, all the citizens are to step up support to it solidifying their position as reliable ones.

MMA (Buddhist Association) holds AGM

YANGON, 26 March—The Buddhist Association of Myanmar Medical Association (Yangon Region) held the annual general meeting for 2012-2013 at the B hall of MMA on 17 March. Vice-Chairperson Prof Daw Ohn Kyi made a speech. General Secretary Dr Khin Oo Myint read the annual report. Joint Treasurer Dr Daw Kyi May Thein read the financial statement. Those present participated in the discussions.

**Honouring the 68th Anniversary Armed Forces Day**

Cartoon Tha Byay

**President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win donate alms to members of the Sangha.—MNA**
Religious titles offered to members of the Sangha, laypersons for contributing to flourishing of Sasana

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon offer provisions to a Sayadaw.

Vice-President U Nyan Tun and wife Daw Khin Aye Myint offer alms to a Sayadaw.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham presents title to U Chit Sein of Daingwun Kwin in Mawlamyine.

Vice-President U Nyan Tun presents title to Col Tin Hlaing (Retd) of Ward-1 in Mayangon Township.

Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, wife of Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, presents title to a nun.

Daw Khin Aye Myint, wife of Vice-President U Nyan Tun, presents title to a nun.
Union Transport Minister holds talks with Minister-President of Government of Flanders of Belgium and party

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—Minister-President Mr. Kris Peeters of the Government of Flanders of Belgium and party paid a call on Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung at the ministry, here, yesterday morning.

At the call, they

held discussions on implementation of comprehensive water management project for Ayeyawady River in cooperation with SBE Co from Belgium, water conservation by building low dams along Ayeyawady River, works being carried out by feasibility study group starting from 1 March after MoU was signed to generate hydropower, implementation of wind power as Myanmar has abundant vacant lands along its coast, field study for environment to be made by Belgian and Myanmar experts, construction of low dams that will be beneficial for generating hydropower and conservation of Myanmar’s weather pattern, water course, fisheries and agrobusiness and improvement in water resources and transport sector in Ayeyawady River.—MNA

MEP arranges to supply power mainly to people

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—Ministry of Electric Power and Ministry of Energy worked together to supply power sufficiently to the people during the matriculation examination period from March 1 to 22.

To produce more power during the period, Ministry of Electric Power also ran two turbines from Kyunchaung, Shwetaung, Myawady and Mawlamyine plants and by suspending supply to industries while running regular power plants.

Gyobingauk, Okpo, Minhla townships placed under curfew

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—Gyobingauk township and municipal area of Gyobingauk in Bago Region have been placed under curfew as mobs destroyed houses, shops and religious buildings around 11.30 pm yesterday harming the rule of law.

To prevent the conflicts and riots, the local authority declared a dusk-to-dawn curfew at 3 pm today, banning gathering, public speaking, marching, instigating, protesting and rioting in the municipal area of the town.

Similarly, six wards in Okpo and 54 village-tracts in Okpo Township have been placed under curfew after mobs destroyed houses, shops and religions buildings around 9.45 pm on 24 March. Latpanyakkyaw Village-tract, Tawgyi and Sitkwin Villages in Minhla Township have also been placed under curfew and it was declared at 4 pm today.

The Information Team of the Government has urged the people to avoid acts of violence and religious extremism that could disrupt the reform process and development tasks being carried out by the government with added momentum.—MNA

Cash donated to free clinic

SHWEBO, 26 March—Directors U Myint Aung, Captain Myint Oo (Rtd) and U Aung Kyaw Lin of Payaw Shwebo All-round Development Public Co Ltd donated K 1 million to Parahita Myitta Kyiyein Free Clinic in Ward 1 of Shwebo on 16 March.

In-charge of the clinic U Khin Shwe accepted the cash donation.

The clinic was opened in 2011 for needy persons. So far, it has provided health care services to over 2600 patients.—Myamma Amin

Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu held cordial discussion with Mr. John Guy, Florence and Herbert Living Curator (South and Southeast Asian) of the Arts of Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.—MNA

Five suspects detained in connection with Okpo violence

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—Myanmar Police Force detained five suspects who got involved in the violence in Othekon village in Okpo Township of Bago Region.

At night of 24 March in Othekon Village-tract of Okpo Township, officials concerned cracked down the violence caused by a group of persons who threw stones at religious buildings, shops and houses with the use of catapults. The five suspects were taken into custody at Minhla police station yesterday afternoon.

Security measures are being taken in order to prevent the spread of violence in other places including Okpo Township and Minhla Township. Actions will be taken against the detainees for the sake of the Rule of Law.—MNA

Wellwishers donate cash and kind to victims in Meiktila, carry out sanitation task

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—Thanks to security personnel, Tatmadawmen and people who discharge security duty day and night, the local people can do their regular works without any anxiety.

The authorities manage convenience of shelters and foods for over 7000 victims accommodated at five relief camps in Meiktila and over 3000 at 16 monasteries.

Wellwishers, personnel of companies, organizations and political parties donated cash and kind for the victims and carried out sanitation tasks at the relief camps.

V i c e - C h a i r m a n of Union Solidarity and Development Party Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Hla Oo and party comforted the victims at the relief camp of Meiktila Basic Education High School No.1 and those at Wandawpyae Monastery after providing relief items.

USDP members carried out sanitation tasks at the relief camp opened at Meiktila District Gymnasium.

From yesterday afternoon to this afternoon, Peace Myanmar Group and Grand Wynn Co. Ltd donated 3000 packets of instant noodle, 2000 bottles of drinking water, 816 packets of snacks, 16 bottles of clothes, Puanglaung (2) Myitta Phya Association 2340 packets of instant noodle, 648 packets of drinking water, 15 bags of rice, 30 viss of edible oil and nine bales of clothes, Kanbalu Social Association of Sagaing Region 690 packets of instant noodle, 1110 bottles of drinking water, three bags of rice, 11 bales of clothes, 357 cups and 240 soap boxes, U Min Aung (Thiri Mingala Ward of Meiktila) 1032 bottles of drinking water, 486 bottles of soft drink and one bale of clothes, Hluttaw representatives, wellwishers and members of the Sangha of Taungtha Township K 1,110,000, 180 packets of instant noodle, six bags of rice, 20 viss of edible oil and 50 viss of jaggery, Ministry of Industry 1800 bottles of drinking water and three bales of clothes, U Shwe Kyi, U Aung Htwe families 500 kits of medicines, the assistant director of Irrigation Department K 699,000, eight bales of clothes, 500 spoons and 750 plates, USDP 20000 packets of snacks, 800 bags of rice, 2200 viss of edible oil and 200 kits of medicines, Save the Children 9060 packets of instant noodle and 5568 bottles of drinking water to the donation centre opened at Communication Staff Quarter in Meiktila.

On 23 and 24 March, Region Hluttaw representative U Tin Oo of Pyawbwe Township donated K 1 million, Thaw Tar Win Construction Co K 200,000, Daw Nilar Win of Aung San Ward of Meiktila K 100,000 and Kyinlon Myanmar Co Ltd K 4,050,000.

The donations of wellwishers from 23 March morning date to amounted to K 11,289,000.

Wellwishers donate cash and kind to the donation centre as well as provide relief items to victims at the relief camps in person.—MNA
New Zealand government hopes for police action on quake building collapse

WELLINGTON, 26 March —A New Zealand government minister said on Tuesday that he hopes the police will take action against engineers responsible for the collapsed building that killed most of the victims of the 2011 earthquake in Christchurch.

Building and Construction Minister Maurice Williamson told Radio New Zealand that the country’s two top engineering bodies had said they were powerless to act against engineers responsible for design and construction deficiencies in the Canterbury Television (CTV) building.

“The six-storey building collapsed and caught fire in the 22 February quake, killing 115 people, including 64 Asian students studying at an English language school. “If you had 115 people die in an aircraft .. or you had 115 people die in a medical misadventure in a hospital the public would be clamouring for somebody to be brought to book,” Williamson told Radio New Zealand. The only option remaining was a police prosecution, as he did not have powers under any legislation to pursue the matter, he said.

Earlier this month, Police National Headquarters had said it was still engaged in complex technical assessments of documents from the Canterbury Earthquakes Royal Commission of Inquiry and the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment, said the report.

Williamson said legislation might be needed to enable sanctions in future cases.

The commission’s report released in December last year detailed how the CTV building, which was designed in 1986 and completed around 1988, had a “design that was deficient in a number of important respects” and should never have been issued with a construction permit because it failed to comply with Christchurch City Council regulations.

The commission also found the building was never properly structurally assessed after being damaged in strong earthquakes on 4 September and 26 December, 2010, despite being inspected by three building officials.

Seventeen students from the Chinese mainland, 28 from Japan, two from South Korea, 10 from the Philippines, one from Taipei and six from Thailand were among those incinerated or crushed in the building collapse last year. The 6.3-magnitude quake on 22 Feb, 2011, killed 185 people in total.

Six killed in factory fire in southern India

NEW DELHI, 26 March —At least six people were charred to death in a deadly fire which broke out at a factory on the outskirts of the southern Indian state of Karnataka’s capital Bengaluru on Monday, a senior police official said.

“The fire initially broke out at a neighbouring timber yard and subsequently spread to the car seat production factory early this morning when some of the workers were sleeping and thus trapped inside. We have recovered six charred bodies,” he said, on condition of anonymity.

Local TV channels reported that some 10 fire tenders took several hours to bring the blaze under control. A probe has been ordered to ascertain the cause of the fire, the official added.

Sixes are common because of lack of enforcement of safety regulations. Last year, major fire at a fireworks factory in a nearby town of Tamil Nadu claimed the lives of 38 workers.

Indonesian army ready to assist police in investigating prison attack

JAKARTA, 26 March— Indonesian Army Chief of Staff General Pramono Edhie Wibowo said on Monday that the army was ready to help, we must provide the personal (to help) to help, we must

S Korea’s candidate for WTO head named honorary ambassador

SEOUL, 26 March—Bark Tae-ho, South Korea’s candidate to succeed Pascal Lamy as head of the World Trade Organization (WTO), was appointed as honorary ambassador for economic and trade affairs, the Foreign Ministry said on Monday.

The former South Korean trade minister over the past 14 months was named as the honorary ambassador with a one-year tenure to support his campaign activities for the director-general of the WTO, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Militants storm Afghan police facility in E Province, nine killed

JALALABAD, (Afghanistan), 26 March—At least nine people including three policemen were killed and eight were wounded on Tuesday morning in explosisons and ensuing firing in a police facility in Jalalabad, the capital city of eastern Afghanistan province of Nangharar, police said.

“Based on initial information, up to six militants armed with suicide vests and weapons launched an attack against Fast-Reaction Police Force compound in Jalalabad city at around 4:30 am local time and the firing is ended as we spoke,” a police source in the city told Xinhuas anonymously.

The killed included three policemen and six militants, he said, adding six civilians and two policemen were wounded in the early morning attack in the province, 160 km east of Kabul. The attack took place while the US Secretary of State John Kerry is visiting the three Afghan security forces sealed off the scene shortly after the attack. The blasts caused a plume of grey smoke to rise above the scene. Police and the rescue team reached the site following the attack was reported and all the injured people were rushed to nearby hospital, the source said.

No group claimed responsibility for the attacks, but Taleban suspects routinely claim responsibility for such attacks.

New Light of Myanmar

Regional
Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Information
News and Periodicals Enterprise
Invitation for Expression of Interest for Production of The New Light of Myanmar Daily

1. The Request for Expression of Interest is invited to create joint venture with local and foreign entrepreneurs in order that The New Light of Myanmar Daily published in English version by the News and Periodicals Enterprise be transformed into a standard newspaper.

2. In submitting the Expression of Interest:
   a. The following facts are to be included in the submission of local entrepreneurs:
      i. Name of entrepreneur/company, and number of National Scrutiny Card
      ii. Curriculum Vitae of entrepreneur and brief background history of company
      iii. Documents of the company and financial statement
      iv. Bank Statement for the past two years approved by Certified Public Accountant
      v. List of members of current Board of Directors
      vi. Volume of maximum investment
      vii. Volume of desired profit
      viii. Documents to be submitted exclusively

b. The following facts are to be included in the submission of foreign entrepreneurs:
   i. Name of entrepreneur/company, and Passport No.
   ii. Curriculum Vitae of entrepreneur and brief background history of company
   iii. Documents relating to the foreign company
   iv. Financial Statement
   v. List of members of the current Board of Directors
   vi. Volume of maximum investment
   vii. Volume of desired profit
   viii. Documents to be submitted exclusively

3. Local and foreign entrepreneurs who will submit the Expression of Interest are to send their submissions to Building No. 7, News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information, Nay Pyi Taw not later than (25-4-2013). For further information, please contact phone numbers: 01-201192, 067-412123 and 067-412128.

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International agribusiness fair begins in Cuba

HAVANA, 26 March—China was among 10 countries in attendance on Monday as the 16th International Agro-industrial Food Fair started on Monday in Havana.

The seven-day Fagrop 2013 features growers, breeders, entrepreneurs, suppliers, veterinarians and other industry representatives from China, Germany, Canada, Spain, Venezuela and other nations.

Among the exhibitors is Jiang Su Hongze, a company founded in 1999 in Nanjing, China, that specializes in pesticides, fungicides, herbicides and other products.

Other firms included Mexico’s VETMEX, Panama’s Empacadora de Pilas, Germany’s Bayer and Laubing, Spain’s SL Gonio/Onedalaz and Grupo UGAO, and Cuban companies Tabacuba and Tecnouzar.

The fair aims to help Cuba boost its food output and reduce its reliance on imports, organizer Adolfo Arcos said.

Cuba imports about 80 percent of its food at a cost of about 2 billion US dollars a year.

Yadira Ramirez, event director for the Agricultural Trade Company of the Ministry of Agriculture, said that for the first time, the Chamber of Commerce of Cuba was promoting business rounds among participants.

Monday’s fair agenda included conferences on biosecurity and new diseases threatening poultry.

Some 50 Cuban and foreign companies are on hand in four pavilions to showcase their equipment and technology.

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MY KOTA TABAH VOY NO (543)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (543) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.3.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the VOY NO (543) are hereby notified that the vessel will

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Three injured asylum seekers flown to Australia’s capital for treatment

SYDNEY, 26 March—Three injured asylum seekers have been flown to Australia’s capital of Perth for treatment, local media reported on Tuesday.

The three including a young boy, a pregnant woman and a 36-year-old man were injured when the fishing boat carrying 95 people capsized off Australia’s Christmas Island on Monday morning. The Royal Flying Doctor Service retrieved the patients late on Monday and arrived in Perth on Tuesday morning, according to the Australian Associated Press (AAP). —Xinhua
SRK, whose team Kolkata Knight Riders won the IPL series last year is apparently thrilled to perform at the opening ceremony. Katrina too is also set to give a sizzling performance. PTI

Shah Rukh Khan, Katrina Kaif, Pitbull: IPL’s opening acts

NEW DELHI, 26 March—Superstar Shah Rukh Khan and international rapper Pitbull are all set to give a power packed performance at the Indian Premier League (IPL) opening ceremony on 2 April, 2013 in Kolkata.

Actress Katrina Kaif will also give a sizzling performance at the ceremony marking the beginning of the sixth season of the IPL series, which opens on 3 April, 2013. (Read: Katrina is unfazed about competition with SRK)

Shah Rukh Khan owns the Kolkata Knight Riders team in partnership with actress Juhi Chawla. The team won the last edition of the IPL. He is thrilled to perform at the ceremony. (Read: Farah Khan hopes SRK does her IPL signature moves) “SRK loves the city of joy and he is already very excited to perform there. PTI

Kristen Stewart, One Direction win twice at Kids Choice Awards

LOS ANGELES, 26 March—Green slime spewed furiously at the Kids Choice Awards on Saturday, where “Twilight Saga” star Kristen Stewart and British boy band One Direction won two awards apiece.

Stewart, 22, escaped the slime but plunged her hands into the green goo, saying she “felt like I have finally found my kindergartner self,” as she accepted trophies for movie actress and favourite female butt kicker.

Organizers said more than 350 million votes were cast online in more than 20 categories, spanning film, television, books, music and sport for the stunt-filled annual award show on youth channel Nickelodeon.

Hosted by “Transformers” actor Josh Duhamel, who is married to singer Fergie, the show in Los Angeles featured performances by Pitbull and Christina Aguilera, as well as Ke$ha.

Johnny Depp and Katy Perry accepted orange blimp-shaped trophies for favourite female singer and movie actor respectively and both stars had words of wisdom for the audience of kids and young teens.

“This is such a cool award ... stay safe, stay in school, don’t do drugs,” Perry told them. Depp said he was “truly honoured and humbled. Thank you for what you are, which is the future.”

Selena Gomez, 20, the ex-girlfriend of pop star Justin Bieber, took the female TV actress award for her Disney Channel series “Wizards of Waverly Place,” even though the show came to an end more than a year ago.

Bieber, who is on tour in Europe, was voted favourite male singer and was among several stars who did not make it to accept their award in person.

No-shows included One Direction, who are also on tour and who won for favourite music group and song for “What Makes You Beautiful.”

T-shirt evokes late actor Heath Ledger as laidback skateboarder

SYDNEY, 26 March — Five years after the death of renowned Australian actor Heath Ledger, friends and family have joined to pay tribute to the man known to the world as the evil Joker with a t-shirt honouring him as a laidback skateboarder with a touch of the daredevil.

and Ross Lynch, 17, who was named favourite TV actor for Disney Channel’s pop star series “Austin & Ally.”

Sandra Bullock, Neil Patrick Harris, Duhamel, Pitbull, Nick Cannon, Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson and dozens of audience members got covered in slime gushing out from water cannons, presenter’s podiums, ceilings, and even the tail of a fake gymnastic horse.

Other awards went to Nickelodeon’s “Victorious” for top TV show, “The Hunger Games” for favourite movie, “Wreck-It Ralph” for top animated movie, and race car driver Danica Patrick and basketball player LeBron James for top athletes.

The Kids Choice Awards will be broadcast around the world in more than 25 languages, Nickelodeon said.

L e d g e r died at the age of 28 from an acciden
tal overdose in January, 2008. He was subsequently awarded a posthumous Oscar for his portrayal of the Joker in the Batman blockbuster “The Dark Knight”.

The t-shirt features a photograph of a faintly smiling Ledger posing with a skateboard by the Los Angeles River. It was taken in 2004, the year he was filming the hit “Brokeback Mountain.” “Heath loved skateboarding and wanted to do a shoot he enjoyed”, said Ben Watts, the older brother of actress Naomi Watts and a New York-based photographer.—Reuters

Actor Heath Ledger arrives at the premiere of the film “Candy” in New York November 6, 2006.

Reuters

Actress Kristen Stewart arrives at the 2013 Kids Choice Awards in Los Angeles, California on 23 March, 2013. Reuters
Fred rescues draw for Brazil against Russia

LONDON, 26 March—Fred scored a last-minute equaliser to give World Cup hosts Brazil a 1-1 draw against Russia in a football friendly on Monday as the South Americans remained winless since the return of coach Luiz Felipe Scolari.

Victor Fayzulin put Russia ahead in the 73rd minute at London’s Stamford Bridge, netting from a disputed free-kick as the tiny Adriatic nation and fears over the state of the pitch following a downpour and the possibility of being five points behind the tiny Adriatic nation and starting place in the face. “We don’t play for draws and we haven’t played for any draws yet,” Hodgson told a news conference on Monday.

“We certainly won’t be playing for a draw tomorrow and we have enough attacking qualities in the team and we’ll be trying to use those qualities.

“We’re here to play and I’m convinced we’ll play well.”

Hodgson, who took over in May last year, just ahead of Euro 2012, laughed off Montenegro’s comments earlier on Monday that England were already making excuses for a possible defeat.

England not in soggy Montenegro for a draw says Hodgson

Podgorica, 26 March—England have not travelled to Montenegro to play for a draw in their World Cup qualifier on Tuesday, said manager Roy Hodgson.

The former World Cup winners are two points behind Montenegro in Group H having played half of the fixtures with Ukraine and Poland and a further six points ahead with a game in hand. Hodgson said his side would not set up defensively against Montenegro despite

McLaren see glimmers of hope

LONDON, 26 March—A joke in Formula One a week ago was that Lewis Hamilton had acquired a dog while Jenson Button was driving one.

If Button’s McLaren is still a long way from being the fastest car on the track, the 2009 world champion put an end to some of the snickering when he took the lead—in a motor racing sense—in Sunday’s Malaysian Grand Prix.

On paper, little may appear to have changed: Hamilton finished third for his first podium as a Mercedes driver while former team mate Button retired after a calamitous pitstop that robbed him of the chance of solid points.

However his Mexican team mate Sergio Perez took his first points for the team in ninth place and the car’s performance was enough to give Button cause for hope.

“It’s easy to say I could have been on the podium...I’m sure a lot of people would disagree with me but I think we had a chance to fight the Mercedes,” he told report- ers afterwards.

“I think at worst it could have been fifth and we could have pushed the Mercdes. It’s a good improvement from the last race. Only a week ago we never would have thought we’d be fighting for fifth, let alone a little bit better,” he added.

“The positives are that we are improving and I can see that we will be even more competitive in China.”

Button was ninth in the Australian season-opener when McLaren were shown to be struggling with a car that marked a departure from last year’s race winner rather than being a simple evolution.

There was more embar-rassment when it emerged that an impressive lap time set in the opening pre-sea- son test at Jerez might have been due to a suspension part being fitted the wrong way around, lowering the ride height to a level unsus-tainable in race conditions.

The evidence from the Malaysian weekend was that a corner might have been turned.

“As a team we haven’t had to (turn a corner) but the car has had to and I think we’ve made some good improvements,” said Button.—Reuters

WBC covers salary for players sidelined 30 days or more

SARASOTA, (Florida), 26 March—Major League Baseball (MLB) teams that lose players for a significant time due to injuries at the World Baseball Classic will be compensated by the tournament, an MLB spokesman said on Monday.

The WBC has insurance covering the salaries of MLB players who subsequently miss at least 30 days of the regular season, the spokesman said.

New York Yankees first baseman Mark Teixeira, due to earn $22.5 million this season, was expected to miss about eight weeks with a torn ligament in his right thumb that he suffered playing for Dominican Republic in the World Cup hosts Brazil a 1-1 equaliser to give World.

Barcelona coach Tito Vilanova will return to Spain after an operation for cancer.

Barca coach Vilanova to return to Spain this week

BARCELONA, 26 March—Barcelona coach Tito Vilanova will return to Spain this week after two months of cancer treatment in New York, the La Liga club said on Monday.

“Tito Vilanova will this week leave the city of skyscrapers to return to the Catalan capital,” Barca said in a statement on their website (www.fcbarcelona.es).

The club did not say whether he would be well enough to return to work.

The 44-year-old former Barca player needed a second round of surgery in December following an initial operation to remove a tumour from his salivary gland in November 2011. His assistant Jordi Roura took charge while he relocated to New York for a course of chemotherapy and radiotherapy.

Barca stuttered in Vilanova’s absence and they were eliminated from the King’s Cup and beaten in La Liga by arch-rivals Real Madrid.

Barcelona’s coach Tito Vilanova listens to questions during a news conference at Joan Gamper training camp, near Barcelona, on 4 Dec, 2012.—Reuters

Baseballs and a catcher’s mitt lie on the grass before a MLB spring training baseball game between the Boston Red Sox and Baltimoroe Orioles in Sarasota, Florida, on 25 March, 2013.—Reuters

McLaren Formula One driver Jenson Button of Britain drives during the Malaysian F1 Grand Prix at Sepang International Circuit outside Kuala Lumpur, on 24 March, 2013.—Reuters

Fred of Brazil (R) and Roman Shirko of Russia fight for the ball during their friendly international soccer match at Stamford Bridge in London, on 25 March, 2013.—Reuters

Barca’s coach Tito Vilanova listens to a question during a news conference at Joan Gamper training camp, near Barcelona, on 4 Dec, 2012.—Reuters

Roman Shirokov of Russia and Russia came closest to breaking the deadlock when a swift counter-attack ended with Fayzulin firing into the side netting after a quick breakaway.

Kaka, seeking to estab-lish a permanent place in the side after an absence of nearly two years following

The 2010 World Cup, did his chances no harm with an encouraging performance that included one superb passing exchange with Oscar and Neymar early in the second half.

Fayzulin put Russia ahead in the 73rd minute after Thiago Silva and Julio Cesar had blocked shots on the line.

Brazil appeared to be heading for a demoralising defeat until Hulk released Marcelo and his cross was fired in from close range by Fred.

Reuters

Fred of Brazil (R) and Roman Shirko of Russia fight for the ball during their friendly international soccer match at Stamford Bridge in London, on 25 March, 2013.— Reuters

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Woods heads to Masters basking in renewed success

ORLANDO, 26 March — Tiger Woods’ renewed success has him back on top of the world rankings, but questions thrown at him after Monday’s triumph at Bay Hill were about something he has not done for a long time, win the Masters.

While all signs point to Woods being close to his best after years of struggling with injuries, personal strife and a tedious swing overhaul, his comeback will not be complete in many minds, including his own, until he snaps a drought in the majors that dates back to 2008 US Open. Woods’s 77th PGA Tour victory moved him within five of Sam Snead’s record, but it is another mark, Jack Nicklaus’s 18 majors, that has been the 37-year-old American’s ‘Holy Grail’ since he burst onto the professional golf scene.

With 14 major titles on his resume, Woods will get a chance to add to his total and confirm his comeback is complete at next month’s Masters at Augusta National, where he has four wins but none since 2005. Asked what Monday’s Arnold Palmer Invitational victory at Bay Hill, his final competitive tune-up before Augusta, meant to him Woods had a brief answer: “more media interviews.”

Woods has collected three wins in five starts this season, the earliest he has captured three titles in a season since 2008, making him the clear favourite going into the Masters. But success in his final Masters tune-up has never translated into victory at the year’s first major. Three-Times Woods has won his final event before the Masters (2000, 2003, 2008) and each time failed to reach the Augusta winner’s circle.

Still, few will be betting against Woods slipping into a fifth green jacket next month.—Reuters

Japan seeks trading talks worldwide to relieve economic woes

TOKYO, 26 March—Japan and the European Union on Monday agreed to launch Free Trade Agreement (FTA) talks, the third major trading talks that the world’s third economy engaged in, to stimulate its exports so as to revitalize the country’s sluggish economy.

The decision was made during telephone talks between Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and European Council President Herman Van Rompuy, who postponed his visit to Japan due to the financial crisis in Cyprus. In an effort to create a trading bloc that covers about one third of world’s gross domestic product, the two sides agreed to start the free trade talks as early as April with targets of reducing tariffs and liberalizing trade and investment. Japan will mainly focus on tariffs that the 27-country bloc imposes on the country’s automobiles and electronic productions, while the EU will ask Japan to lift non-tariff barriers on food and medicine and in the field of public-sector procurement of goods and services.

Visiting European Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht estimated that it would take three to four years for the two sides to conclude the FTA talks, local media reported.

Japanese business leaders on Monday also called for the swift conclusion of the Japan-EU FTA talks. “We yearn for the conclusion of an economic partnership agreement between Japan and the European Union as soon as possible,” Hisayasu Yonekura, chairman of the Japan Business Federation, or Keidanren, was quoted by Japan’s Kyodo News as saying at a luncheon meeting with leaders of European companies. Abe, also the leader of Japan’s ruling Liberal Democratic Party, vowed to win upper house election to be held in summer and the victory is believed to hinge on the performances of “Abenomics” that aims to revitalize Japan’s export-reliant economy.—Xinhua

British banks’ profits wiped out on past mistakes

LONDON, 26 March—Britain’s major banks’ increased profits last year were wiped out by a mixture of regulatory fines and customer redress provisions, said a report by KPMG released on Monday.

KPMG said Britain’s major banks recorded a 45-per cent rise in core profits in 2012 to a combined sum of 31.5 billion pounds (about 48 billion US dollars), but the increase was wiped out by a mixture of regulatory fines, customer redress provisions and the accounting consequences of improved creditworthiness.

KPMG listed two main factors for the improvement in core performance from the banks, namely better credit performance and stronger investment banking results. Bill Michael, EMA Head of Financial Services at KPMG, said: “Banks had a better performance year in 2012 but their improved core profits were eaten up by fines and other exceptional items, leaving them down on 2011.”

“In terms of their reputations, 2012 was a dire year. This is why it is so important for them to address cultural and ethical perceptions and issues. Restoring customer trust is critical,” he said.

He said British banks had strengthened their balance sheets and made strides to bolster their capital, adding that “they are becoming better able to carry out their essential function of providing support to businesses and promoting economic growth.”—Xinhua

Japanese cars and electronics dominate US market

WASHINGTON, 26 March—Sales data released Monday showed that Japanese cars and electronics dominate US market in 2012.

According to data from the US Motor Vehicle Manufacturers Association, Japanese companies sold more cars in the US than any other foreign carmaker in 2012. Toyota sold 2.5 million vehicles, followed by Honda (1.9 million), Nissan (1.3 million) and Subaru (530,000)

Japanese automakers dominated the US market, with two of every three sedans and three of every five SUVs. The US market remains a key driver of the Japanese economy, accounting for about 12 percent of total Japanese auto sales and 30 percent of its profits.

Japanese firms also sold more electrical goods, including appliances and television sets, in the US than any other country, according to the US Trade Association.

The data showed that the US market is important to Japanese firms, especially since Japan’s economy is struggling. The US market is a key driver of the Japanese economy, accounting for about 12 percent of total Japanese auto sales and 30 percent of its profits.

Japan’s top-selling cars in the US in 2012 were Honda Civic, Toyota Corolla and Camry and Nissan Altima. Honda CR-V and Toyota RAV4 were the top-selling SUVs.

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End—Xinhua

A visitor views flowers and plants during the Macy’s Flower Show 2013 at Macy’s Herald Square Broadway Plaza in New York City, on 25 March, 2013. Drenched in spectacular palette of colours, this year’s show evokes the inspiring architecture and vibrant spirit of south Asia. “The Painted Garden” show will last until 7 April.

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL
(27-3-13 07:30 am – 26-4-13 09:30 am) MST
News
The Backbone of Construction Industry
Music
68th Anniversary Armed Forces Day
News
Have Internet Cafes Dwinded Away?
The Advertisements that make City ugly
Mythun (Counterpart of Cattle)
News
Myanmar Pet Show 2013
News
Myanmar Preparation for ASEAN Chair 2014
Orientation Workshop
Myanmar Hospitality and Tourism Conference 2013
News
Uppanamani Pagoda Festival
A Day in the life of the Pa-O Family
Myanmar Agro-Tech Expo 2013
News
Have Internet Cafes Dwinded Away?
The Advertisements that make City ugly
When you become a human being
News
Paintings decorated with Pencil’s waste materials
Myanmar Movies “Dancer and Drummer”

Myanmar TV
(27-3-2013, Wednesday)
6:00 am
1. Live Broadcast of 68th Tatmadaw Day Parade
8:45 am
2. Songs in honour of (68th) Anniversary Armed Forces Day
4:05 pm
3. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
4:10 pm
4. Cultural Dances
4:20 pm
5. University Of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Third Year (Oriental)
4:35 pm
6. Classical Song
4:40 pm
7. Songs in honour of (68th) Anniversary Armed Forces Day
4:50 pm
8. ASEAN Programmes
5:15 pm
9. Sing & Enjoy
6:00 pm
10. Evening News
6:15 pm
11. Weather Report
7:00 pm
12. News
7:10 pm
13. Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than
7:30 pm
14. Alikna Wut Yi Music Troupe
8:00 pm
15. News
8:15 pm
16. People Talks
17. International News
18. Weather Report
19. Road to SEA Games (Yachting-2)
20. TV Drama Series
10:00 pm
21. News
22. Myanmar Movie

Tourists visit Ap Chan Island for a weekend vacation in south China’s Hong Kong, on 24 March, 2013.

Xinhua

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Cash and relief items donated to victims of Meiktila

Vice-President U Nyan Tun attends prize awarding of Nay Pyi Taw Invitational Pencak Silat Event

Myanmar, Belgium to cooperate in livestock breeding sector

Victims of violence provided with medical care in Meiktila

The donation of cash and relief items for victims in Meiktila in progress.