President U Thein Sein accepts credentials of Philippine Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 29 March—Mr Alex Garcia Chua, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar presented his credentials to U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the Presidential Palace, here, at 11.00 am today.

Present on the occasion together with the President were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt and Director-General U Thurain Thant Zin of the Protocol Department.—MNA

President U Thein Sein holds discussion with Mr Alex Garcia Chua, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines to Myanmar.—MNA

President U Thein Sein accepts credentials of Chinese Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 29 March—Mr Yang Houlan, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar presented his credentials to U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the Presidential Palace, here, at 11.30 am today.

Present on the occasion were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt and Director-General U Thurain Thant Zin of the Protocol Department.

MNA

Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Home Affairs
Press Release (1/2013)
March 29, 2013
3rd Waning of Tabaung 1374 ME

Announcement of warning about rioting in some areas in Myanmar

1. The Section 354 of the State Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar states that “Every citizen shall be at liberty in the exercise of the following rights, if not contrary to the laws, enacted for Union security, prevalence of law and order, community peace and tranquility or public order and morality: to express and publish freely their convictions and opinions; to assemble peacefully without arms and holding procession; to form associations and organizations; to develop their language, literature, culture they cherish, religion they profess, and customs without prejudice to the relations between one national race and another or among national races and to other faiths.

2. However, a clash broke out at a shop in Meiktila, Mandalay Region, on 20 March, 2013, and mobs started rioting and also ran amok with deadly weapons. The protest turned to anarchic violence and spread to other townships in other regions, and so far, 163 times of violence have occurred in 15 townships, reaching casualty toll 43 and leaving 86 injured. A total of 1355 houses, shops and buildings and 39 vehicles were destroyed in the rioting, leaving 11,376 people homeless and 9065 victims of the violence are being provided shelter at six relief camps. Sixty-eight mobs who involved in the violence were arrested and actions are being taken against them.

3. Curfews were imposed on 15 townships to guarantee peace and stability of the State and safeguard lives and property of the general public as there had been instigations designed to spread the violence taking advantage of the honesty of the public at a time when tensions began to ease.

4. Those incidents were found to be the breach of existing laws and most of the offences committed were—
(a) Section 143 of the Penal Code (participation in unlawful assembly)
(b) Section 144 of the Penal Code (participation in unlawful assembly while armed with deadly weapon)
(c) Section 145 of the Penal Code (continued participation in unlawful assembly with the knowledge that it has been ordered to disperse)
(d) Section 147 of the Penal Code (rioting)

(See page 8)
Regional development gaining momentum in Hainggyikyun

KYEMON, 29 March — Aye Myo Zin. Ayethaya police station filed a lawsuit against Nwaryayko village in sector (4-B) in ward-8 of Ayethaya of Taunggyi Township. They found U Myo Tint (Hsaung Hayman Studio) was dead on the bed with a cut on the right side of his neck. Initial investigation revealed that he died in his sleep a few minutes after picking a fight with his wife, Mi Ko Zin. Ayethaya police station opened the case and investigation is ongoing.

Men dies after picking a fight with his spouse

TAUNGGYI, 29 March — A 47-year-old man died after picking a brawl with his 21-year-old wife in Ayethaya of Taunggyi Township recently.

As police were informed of a brawl of a married couple, they rushed the scene of incident at No (223) in sector (4-B) in ward-8 of Ayethaya in Taunggyi Township. They found U Myo Tint (Hsaung Hayman Studio) was dead on the bed with a cut on the right side of his neck. Initial investigation revealed that he died in his sleep a few minutes after picking a fight with his wife, Mi Ko Zin. Ayethaya police station opened the case and investigation is ongoing.

Seikkan Township WAO, MCWA perform social activities in Yangon west district

YANGON, 29 March — Jointly-organized by Yangon West District and Seikkan Township Woman’s Affairs Organization and township Information and Public Relations Department, a book show and a roundtable discussion on preservation of Myanmar traditional culture at office of Inland Freight Handling Committee in Mawin ward of Seikkan Township, here, on 25 March.

Chairpersons of respective township WAOs led the discussion, calling for preservation of tradition costumes, customs and literature for future generation. Moreover, Yangon West District Maternal and Child Welfare Association performed social activities in cooperation with Seikkan Township MCWA and Health Department, providing expectant mothers and children under five with refreshment and medicines and giving free medical treatment and educative talks to freight handlers at the mobile clinic.

Mob goes on rampage after picking quarrel with theatrical actor in Zalun

ZALUN, 29 March — After a quarrel between a crowd of fans and a theatrical actor, an angry moboftroupe audience went on the rampage at the play house of Swan Theatrical Troupe in the festive ground of Zalun Pyidawpyan Pagoda Festival in Zalun of Ayeyawady Region at about 2.30 am on 27 March. The incident occurred while the actor was singing a song on the stage after the actor kicked an audience as he was getting impatient with the audience who performed different kinds of styles of presenting awards to him.

His behavior provoked a group of audience anger and led to a clash with them.

Replacement of pylons, service lines for electrical safety in Kyangin Township

KYANGIN, 29 March — Aimed at making local people full safeguard from the possible danger of electricity and ensuring full supply of power, Kyangin Township Electric Power Supply Enterprise performed reinstallation of 400 volts power line and substitution of substandard and worn pylons along the line on Kyangin Phayagyi road on 24 March.

The outbreak of clash left stage lights, vehicles of the troupe and the stage destroyed and the troupe was forced to leave there.

Although there has been a clash between the actor and the angry mob of audience, Zalun Pyidawpyan Pagoda Festival was held peacefully and concluded yesterday.

Farm machinery training course in Sagaing Region

SAGAING, 29 March — Organized by Sagaing District Agriculture Mechanization Department, the opening of a training course for local farmers to operate and maintain farm machinery took place at Thazin village Basic Education Middle School in Hsartaung village-tract in Sagaing Township of Sagaing Region on 20 March. Altogether 20 farmers in Hsartaung village-tract took the course till 23 March.
Attempt to end Italy crisis stalls, President mulls next move

ROME, 29 March—Centre-left leader Pier Luigi Bersani has failed in his attempt to find a way out of Italy’s political deadlock, and President Giorgio Napolitano will now seek another solution, the President’s Palace said on Thursday.

Bersani reported back to Napolitano on Thursday night after being given a mandate almost a week ago to see if he could find enough support to form a government after the inconclusive election in February.

Napolitano’s office said Bersani, who took the largest share of the vote but failed to win a viable majority, had told him his talks with other parties had ended without resolution and the president would now assess other options “without delay.”

Bersani said he had told Napolitano of “significant, positive elements of understanding” in the talks with groups including Silvio Berlusconi’s centre-right bloc and the populist 5-Star Movement led by ex-comic Beppe Grillo. “I also explained the difficulties deriving from objections or conditions which I did not consider acceptable.”

The failure to reach a conclusion leaves Italy still stuck in political limbo more than a month after the election with the bank crisis in Cyprus fuelling fears of financial market turmoil that could threaten the stability of the euro zone. Officials said Napolitano would not have given up on forming a government but the PDL, poured scorn on the centre-left leader and said he had wasted a month in a fruitless bid that proved he did not have the numbers to govern.—Reuters

France to cut troops in Mali to 1,000 by year-end

PARIS, 29 March—France will reduce its troop numbers in Mali to 2,000 by July and to 1,000 by the end of the year, down from 4,000 at present, President Francois Hollande said on Thursday.

After its intervention in January to halt an advance by northern al-Qaeda-linked rebels towards the capital Bamako, France is keen to wind down its presence quickly and hand over to African and UN troops.

Hollande said France was determined that Mali should hold elections as scheduled in July but insisted that France did not have a preferred candidate.

Hollande said it was possible that France chose Africa’s heads of state for it are over, he told French television in an interview that could last more than one hour to defend his 10-month-old government’s record. The West African former colony is to hold a Presidential election on 7 July and legislative elections two weeks later—vital steps to stabilize the gold- and cotton-producer after a French intervention which has helped the Malian army claw back large parts of its vast, desert north from heavily armed rebels.

Hollande reiterated France’s official policy of not giving in to ransom demands for kidnap victims and suggested that Philippe Verdun, a French hostage snatched in Mali in 2011, could already be dead.

However he said he had “signed off” of a group of seven French nationals, including four children, who were kidnapped in Cameroon last month by the Nigerian Islamist group Boko Haram.—Reuters

Oil tank blast in east China, casualties unknown

JINAN, 29 March—An oil tank exploded and caught fire in east China’s Shandong Province on Friday, local authorities said. The blast happened around 9 am in a tank storage area in an industrial zone in Gaoliu Township in the City of Qingzhou, a municipal firefighter said.

The number of casualties, if any, is not yet known. Subsequent explosions are possible, as more tanks containing crude oil are located nearby, the firefighter said.

More than 10 fire trucks have been sent to the scene to put out the fire. The cause of the blast is under investigation.—Xinhua

Putin flexes Russian military muscle in naval exercise

MOSCOW, 29 March—President Vladimir Putin ordered large-scale military exercises in the Black Sea on Thursday, projecting Russian power towards Europe and the Middle East in a move that may vex neighbours.

Officials suggested the surprise drill would test reaction speed and combat readiness, but Putin’s order also seemed a signal to the West of Russia’s presence in the region.

President spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters Putin triggered the maneuvers as he flew back overnight from South Africa as a summit to put out the fire. The president’s Palace said.

Peskov said 36 warships and an unspecified number of planes would take part, but not how long exercises would last.

Putin has stressed the importance of a strong and agile military since returning to the presidency last May. In 13 years in power, he has often cited external threats when touting of the need for reliable armed forces and Russian political unity.

Late last month, Putin ordered military leaders to make improvements to the armed forces in the next few years, saying Russia must thwart Western attempts to balance of power. He said maneuvers must be held with less advance warning, to keep soldiers on their toes. Putin, 60, has used his role as commander-in-chief to cast himself as a strong leader for whom national security is foremost. State media emphasized he ordered the exercises from a plane in the dead of night.

Russia’s Black Sea Fleet, whose main base is in the Ukrainian port of Sevastopol, was instrumental in a war with ex-Soviet neighbour Georgia in 2008 over the Russian-backed breakaway regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

Putin meets with four African leaders under democracy, growth

WASHINGTON, 29 March—US President Barack Obama on Thursday met with leaders of Sierra Leone, Senegal, Malawi and Cape Verde, with focus on democracy building and economic growth in their countries.

Obama spoke highly of the advances made in the two areas by the four countries after talks with Sierra Leone’s President Ernest Bai Koroma, President Macky Sall of Senegal, President Joyce Banda of Malawi and Prime Minister Jose Maria Pereira Neves of Cape Verde.

“The reason that I’m meeting with these four is that they exemplify the progress that we’re seeing in Africa,” Obama told reporters at the White House.

He pointed to “consecutive fair and free elections” as well as “good governance” and “significant” economic growth in Sierra Leone following a brutal civil war just 10 years ago, and Banda, one of two female Presidents in Africa, for making “significant progress” in her country following a constitutional crisis last year.

As to Senegal, Obama spoke of democracy sustained in the West African nation as then President Abdoulaye Wade had tried to run for a third term but was beat by Sall in the elections in April last year.

He praised Cape Verde “a real success story” as the country is moving into “the middle of the pack” in terms of development levels because of “good governance and management.”

The President said his talks with the four leaders focused on how to continue to build on strong democracies, the economic situation in their countries, how to engage young people, and some of the regional challenges like terrorism and drug threats.

“My main message to each of these leaders is that the United States is going to be a strong partner, not based on the old model in which we are a donor and they are simply a recipient, but a new model that’s based on partnership and recognizing that no continent has greater potential or greater upside than the continent of Africa if they in fact have the kind of strong leadership that these four individuals represent,” the president said.

US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel met with leaders of Sierra Leone, Malawi and Cape Verde earlier in the day, and discussed issues of mutual concern including extremist networks, illicit trafficking and maritime security.

Xinhua
**Fossil of carnivorous dinosaur found in northeastern Japan**

Photo taken in Kujii, Iwate Prefecture on 29 March, 2013, shows Takato Sasaki, a 13-year-old junior high school student from neighbouring Aomori Prefecture. A fossil found in Kujii in May 2012 by Sasaki has been confirmed as a toe bone of a Coelurosaurus, a carnivorous dinosaur living in the latter part of the Cretaceous period around 85 million years ago, a researcher said the same day.—*Kyodo News*

**Nokia fined by Indian tax officials, court issues stay**

HelloSiu, 29 March—Nokia said on Thursday that Indian tax officials had issued the Finnish mobile phone maker with a fine although the Delhi High Court issued a stay on the demand.

Nokia did not comment on the amount. In January a senior Indian tax official said there was an investigation related to allegations that the firm may have evaded around 30 billion rupees ($552 million) in taxes.

“Nokia reiterates its position that it is in full compliance with local laws as well as the bilaterally negotiated tax treaty between the governments of India and Finland, and will defend itself vigorously,” it said. ($1 = 54,3800 Indian rupees).—*Reuters*

**Members of new ISS mission approved**

Moscow, 29 March—The next principal and backup crews of the International Space Station (ISS) have been confirmed for an orbital duty period around 85 million years ago, a researcher said Friday. While more than 10 fossils of carnivorous dinosaurs have been found in Japan, “it is uncommon that a bone of the toe, which is easily worn away, was found in such good condition,” said Ken Hirayama, a Waseda University professor who examined the newly found fossil.

Judging from the 3-centimetre-long, 1-cm-in-diameter bone of the left back foot, the dinosaur is estimated to have been 1- to 2-metres tall, according to Hirayama. The discoverer of the fossil was Takato Sasaki, a 13-year-old junior high school student from neighbouring Aomori Prefecture.

A fossil found in Kujii in May 2012 by Sasaki has been confirmed as a toe bone of a Coelurosaurus, a carnivorous dinosaur living in the latter part of the Cretaceous period around 85 million years ago, a researcher said the same day.—*Kyodo News*

London, 29 March—One of the largest ever cyber attacks is slowing global internet services and the disruption could get worse, experts said on Wednesday, after an organization blocking “spam” content became a target.

Spamhaus, a London and Geneva-based non-profit organization which helps weed out unsolicited “spam” messages for email providers, said it had been subjected to “distributed denial of service” (DDoS) attacks on an unprecedented scale for more than a week.

“Based on the reported scale of the attack, which was evaluated at 300 Gigabits per second, we can confirm that this is one of the largest DDoS operations to date,” online security firm Kaspersky Lab said in a statement.

“There may be further disruptions on a larger scale as the attack escalates,” Spamhaus publishes blocklists used by internet service providers (ISPs) to weed out spam in email traffic. The group is directly or indirectly responsible for filtering as much as 80 percent of daily spam messages, according to Cloudflare, a company that said it was helping Spamhaus mitigate the attack.

“We’ve been under this cyber-attack for well over a week,” Steve Linford, chief executive of Spamhaus, told the BBC. “They are targeting every part of the internet infrastructure that they feel can be brought down.”Perpetrators of DDoS attacks typically target websites by flooding servers with messages from multiple systems so they cannot identify and respond to legitimate traffic.—*Reuters*

**Google launches same-day delivery in San Francisco Bay Area**

San Francisco, 29 March—Google launched a same-day delivery service in the San Francisco Bay Area on Thursday as the world’s largest Internet search company works with retailers such as Target Corp to compete more with e-commerce leader Amazon.com Inc.

Google has been testing the service, called Google Shopping Express, with employees for a few months. The company opened it up to the public on Thursday morning in a limited launch focused on San Francisco residents and others living south of the city from San Mateo to San Jose.

Shoppers who sign up will get six months of free, same-day delivery of online orders placed with select retailers in the area. Google plans to charge for the service in the future, but it has not decided how much yet.

Companies taking part in the test include national retailers such as Target, Office Depot Inc, Staples Inc and Toys ’R’ Us Inc and smaller, local firms such as Blue Bottle Coffee and Palo Alto Toy & Sport.

Google is working with local courier companies that pick up products from local stores and deliver them to shoppers’ homes.

Google Shopping Express is the latest sign the company is expanding from its online search roots into e-commerce, where it is competing more with Amazon, the world’s largest Internet retailer. By getting into local delivery services, Google is joining an increasingly crowded field.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc, the world’s largest retailer, is testing a same-day delivery service called Walmart To Go in five metro areas.

EBay Inc launched a same-day delivery service in San Francisco and New York last year.—*Reuters*

**New subatomic particle discovered by BES III scientists**

Beijing, 29 March—A group of international scientists working with the Beijing Spectrometer III (BES III) on Tuesday announced that they may have detected a new subatomic particle.

The new finding, referred to by the scientists as Zc(3900) for the time being, is likely to be a new exotic hadron, or a subatomic particle that does not fit into simple subatomic models, according to scientists working with the BES III, the main detector for the upgraded Beijing Electron-Positron Collider (BEPC II).

“One of the goals for the BES III experiments is to search for exotic hadrons that don’t fit into the traditional model for quarks,” said Shen Xiaoyan, spokesperson for the scientists.

Almost 300 scientists from 11 nations have been taking part in the BES III experiments.—*Xinhua*
**BUSINESS & HEALTH**

**US FDA approves new multiple sclerosis treatment**

WASHINGTON, 29 March—The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Wednesday approved Tecfidera capsules to treat adults with relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis (MS). MS is a chronic, inflammatory, autoimmune disease of the central nervous system that disrupts communication between the brain and other parts of the body. It is among the most common causes of neurological disability in young adults. For most people with MS, episodes of worsening function (relapses) are initially followed by recovery periods. Over time, recovery periods may be incomplete, leading to progressive decline in function and increased disability. 

Results from two clinical trials showed that those taking Tecfidera had fewer MS relapses compared to people taking placebo. One of the trials showed that those taking Tecfidera experienced a worsening of disability less often than patients taking a placebo. According to the FDA, Tecfidera may decrease a person’s white blood cell count. Flushing and stomach problems were the most common adverse reactions reported by patients receiving Tecfidera in clinical trials.

**Over six million Australians suffer from liver disease**

SYDNEY, 29 March—Liver disease now affects more than six million Australians, or over a quarter of the country’s population, according to a new expert report launched on Wednesday by the Gastroenterological Society of Australia and Australian Liver Association. The Australian Liver Association’s (ALA) health expert, who compiled the report, are concerned with the prevalence of liver disease and its impact in the country. The report found the total financial cost of liver disease in Australia was 5.4 billion AU dollars (5.65 billion US dollars) a year.

AL A Chairperson and liver specialist Amany Zekry says liver disease must receive prompt attention and urgent recognition as a chronic condition and national health priority. “With the number of Australians with liver disease reaching over eight million by 2030 it is imperative we act quickly,” she said. “It is responsible for one quarter of all organ transplants and if left untreated, results in liver cancer—our fastest growing form of cancer in Australia. The findings of the report confirm 20 lives are lost every day to chronic liver disease in Australia.

**UAE man dies from novel coronavirus**

GENEVA, 29 March—A 73-year-old man from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) died on Tuesday in Germany from the infection with the novel coronavirus, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Tuesday evening.

WHO said in its latest disease update that the man was transferred from a hospital in Abu Dhabi to Munich on 19 March. Germany’s Robert Koch Institute informed WHO of the new confirmed case. WHO also said that the British patient in the family cluster reported on 11 February with travel history to Pakistan and Saudi Arabia prior to his illness has died. To date, WHO has been informed of a total of 17 confirmed cases of human infection with the novel coronavirus, including 11 deaths.

**Panasonic aims to achieve 350 b yen operating profit in FY 2015**

Tokyo, 29 March—Panasonic Corp said on Thursday it aims to achieve a group operating profit of over 350 billion yen in fiscal 2015 by further accelerating streamlining of its loss-making businesses including the television business. 

As the company announced its medium-term business plan, President Kazuhiro Tsuga said in a press conference in Tokyo the firm will strive to return all its business units to the black in fiscal 2015. "We have said it will not pull out from plasma display television operations for now although they have dragged down its earnings. “Withdrawing from the business would be the last option. We can’t go for an easy way,” he said. The company is expected to post a group operating loss in the TV business of around 86 billion yen in the current business year ending on 31 March, but the size of the loss would be smaller than the 210 billion yen in the previous fiscal year.

Tsuga pledged to make the TV business profitable by fiscal 2015 by pursuing a divesting of TV panel operations and cost reductions.

**Jobless claims rise, but GDP data shows more growth**

WASHINGTON, 29 March —The number of Americans filing new claims for unemployment benefits rose last week, but not enough to suggest the labour market recovery was taking a step back. Other data on Thursday showed the economy expanded more in the fourth quarter than the government had previously estimated.

The reports reinforced the view that the economy perked up in the first quarter, although it still appeared vulnerable to fiscal austerity measures that kicked in early in the year. “The underlying growth trend is showing some encouraging signs, but the key risk is how much fiscal tightening we’ll see this year,” said Laura Rosner, economist at BNP Paribas in New York. Jobless claims increased more than expected last week, but they have trended lower this year and near five-year lows. Last week, initial claims for state unemployment benefits increased 16,000 to a seasonally adjusted 357,000, the Labour Department said.

A four-week moving average for new claims, a better measure of labour market trends, rose 2,250 to 343,000. Still, for many economists a trend reading below 350,000 level points to a firm pace of hiring in March. “The improvement in the pace of hiring, but the size of the loss would be smaller than the 210 billion yen in the previous fiscal year.

Presscorp said the Japanese electronics manufacturer’s medium-term business plan. Tsuga said the company will strive to return all its business units to the black in fiscal 2015.

Kyodo News

**Panasonic Corp President Kazuhiro Tsuga speaks at a press conference in Tokyo on 28 March, 2013 about the Japanese electronics manufacturer’s medium-term business plan. Tsuga said the company will strive to return all its business units to the black in fiscal 2015.**

**S Korea keeps current account surplus for 13 months**

SEOUL, 29 March—South Korea kept the current account surplus trend for 13 straight months due to faster reduction in imports than exports, central bank data showed on Thursday.

Current account surplus was 2.71 billion US dollars in February after posting a 2.23 billion-dollar surplus in the prior month, according to the Bank of Korea. The reading stayed in the black for 13 months in a row. Exports fell 7.9 percent from a year earlier to 42.22 billion dollars in February after jumping 14 percent in the previous month.

New Year’s holiday moved from February this year last January, decreasing business days and consequently a reduction in exports. Imports declined at a faster pace of 11 percent than exports, leading the surplus to widen last month. Xinhua

**A job seeker fills out forms at a table while attending a career fair with prospective employers in New York City, on 24 Oct, 2012.—REUTERS**

**Panasonic Corp President Kazuhiro Tsuga speaks at a press conference in Tokyo on 28 March, 2013 about the Japanese electronics manufacturer’s medium-term business plan. Tsuga said the company will strive to return all its business units to the black in fiscal 2015.**

**S Korea keeps current account surplus for 13 months**

SEOUL, 29 March—South Korea kept the current account surplus trend for 13 straight months due to faster reduction in imports than exports, central bank data showed on Thursday.

Current account surplus was 2.71 billion US dollars in February after posting a 2.23 billion-dollar surplus in the prior month, according to the Bank of Korea. The reading stayed in the black for 13 months in a row. Exports fell 7.9 percent from a year earlier to 42.22 billion dollars in February after jumping 14 percent in the previous month.

New Year’s holiday moved from February this year last January, decreasing business days and consequently a reduction in exports. Imports declined at a faster pace of 11 percent than exports, leading the surplus to widen last month. Xinhua

**Japan warns firms of possible shrinking after a drop in earnings.**

**Japan warns firms of possible shrinking after a drop in earnings.**

**US Treasuries prices rose in morning trading.**

Despite an acceleration in hiring since mid-2012, the Federal Reserve has appeared worried that budget tightening by the government could dampen progress in the labour market, and policymakers last week renewed a pledge to keep buying bonds at a monthly pace of $85 bl until the labour market outlook improved substantially.

**A job seeker fills out forms at a table while attending a career fair with prospective employers in New York City, on 24 Oct, 2012.—REUTERS**

**S Korea keeps current account surplus for 13 months**

SEOUL, 29 March—South Korea kept the current account surplus trend for 13 straight months due to faster reduction in imports than exports, central bank data showed on Thursday.

Current account surplus was 2.71 billion US dollars in February after posting a 2.23 billion-dollar surplus in the prior month, according to the Bank of Korea. The reading stayed in the black for 13 months in a row. Exports fell 7.9 percent from a year earlier to 42.22 billion dollars in February after jumping 14 percent in the previous month.

New Year’s holiday moved from February this year last January, decreasing business days and consequently a reduction in exports. Imports declined at a faster pace of 11 percent than exports, leading the surplus to widen last month. Xinhua
**PORTUGAL PM admits court ruling may sink government**

LISBON, 29 March—Portugal’s premier Pedro Passos Coelho has told his closest colleagues his government may fall if the country’s constitutional court rejects some of his austerity measures, Público newspaper said on Thursday.

Such a collapse, or a major failure in meeting budget targets, could derail Portugal’s exit from its European Union bailout programme and add another layer to the euro zone crisis, currently focused on Cyprus.

A government spokesman would not comment on the report.

The newspaper said the prime minister had told the permanent commission of his Socialists Party that the government was unlikely to be able to find alternative measures to compensate, for an unfavourable ruling from the court.

The court, expected to rule in the next few weeks, has been analyzing this year’s budget, which includes the largest tax hikes in living memory. Various opposition parties have argued that cuts to pensions, civil servants’ salaries and welfare benefits undermine workers’ basic rights. A ruling against the plan could compromise around 2 billion euros out of 5 billion euros in this year’s austerity measures.—*Reuters*

**Turkey denies mass deportation of Syrian refugees**

ISTANBUL, 29 March—Turkey denied on Thursday it had rounded up and deported hundreds of Syrian refugees following unrest at a border camp, highlighting the strain the exodus from Syria’s civil war is placing on neighbouring states.

Witnesses said hundreds of Syrians were bussed to the border after Wednesday’s clashes in which refugees in the Suleymanasah camp, near the Turkish town of Akcakale, threw rocks at military police, who fired teargas and water cannon.

Turkey’s foreign ministry said a group of 130 people, identified with the help of camera footage as being “involved in the provocation”, decided to cross back into Syria voluntarily, either because they did not want to face judicial proceedings or because of repercussions from other refugees.

“Reports that this group was expelled across the border are incorrect,” the foreign ministry issued in a written statement.

“As required by the temporary protection status and within the framework of the ‘open door’ and ‘non-refoulement’ principle, our country does not turn back Syrians wanting to come to Turkey or forcibly eject those in our country,” it said.

The United Nations refugee agency UNHCR voiced deep concern at reports of deportations and said it had taken up the issue with Turkey and was seeking more information. Such actions would be against UN conventions governing the treatment of refugees.

“There has been a big deportation operation here, they got rid of lots of people. They kicked out two of my boys and three of my brother’s sons.”—*Reuters*

**Kidnapped British businessman released in Nigeria**

LAGOS, 29 March—Nigerian police on Thursday said a British national who was abducted and kidnapped by unknown gunmen in southwest Lagos State five days ago has been released.

State police spokesperson Ngozi Braide said that the British businessman was released by his abducted on Tuesday night in an unnamed area of Lagos.

“Yes, he was released, but I don’t have the full details, but he has since return home,” she added.

The man was abducted on Saturday in front of his home by unknown gunmen as he was returning from a late night function.

The US Consulate on Monday said unidentified foreigner was kidnapped in southwestern Nigeria, adding it broke the news to alert its citizens.

Kidnapping of expatriates is rare in Lagos, regarded as Nigeria’s economic capital. But high-profile kidnappings and abduction of foreigners for ransom are rampant in the southern oil-rich states and most victims were released unharmed after payment of ransoms. The Nigerian extremist group Boko Haram and another Ansaru sect have recently claimed responsibility for the abduction of some foreigners.—*Xinhua*

**Drought affects 23 million in China**

The NDRC has also organized meetings to analyze the causes of drought and work out relief measures. Authorities said the drought may last, as heavy rain is not expected in April.—*Xinhua*

**British man released, won case against Nicaragua**

BEIJING, 29 March—A British diplomat who has been held hostage in Nicaragua for over a year has won a court case which could pave the way for him to be released.

The diplomat’s lawyer said on Tuesday that a court had ruled in favour of a claim that the government was owed money for work performed.

If the judge rules in the diplomat’s favour, it could mean the government is eventually forced to release him. But the diplomat said he did not expect to be allowed to leave the country immediately.

“Negotiations are ongoing regarding my release and the payment of my salary,” he said.

The diplomat, who was arrested in 2011, had not been formally charged and was released on bail in early 2012. But the court ruled that the government was owed more money for work done in the years leading up to the diplomat’s arrest.—*Xinhua*

**Mortar kills 15 at Damascus University, Syria says**

BEIRUT, 29 March—Fifteen Syrian students were killed when rebel mortar shells hit a Damascus University canteen on Thursday, state-run news agency SANA said, as attacks intensified in the centre of the capital.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition monitoring group, said a mortar killed 13 people at the university, without saying who fired the shells.

Other activists confirmed the attack but no opposition group has denied or claimed responsibility.

Insurgents trying to end four decades of rule by the family of President Bashar al-Assad have formed a semi-circle around the capital and intensified attacks from positions on the outskirts this week.

A bastion for Assad’s forces, the capital city is a crucial prize in a two-year-old uprising that has developed into a war in which more than 70,000 people have been killed.

Another 1.2 million Syrians have also fled to neighbouring countries and North Africa, where they have registered as refugees or are awaiting processing, according to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Highlighting the strain the conflict is placing on neighbouring states, Turkey, key to about 260,000 of the refugees, denied on Thursday it had rounded up and deported hundreds of Syrians following unrest at a refugee camp.

SANA quoted mortar rounds landed in a canteen at the College of Architecture in Baramkeh, a central district near several government buildings, including the Defence Ministry, the headquarters for state media and Assad’s official residence.

Pro-government Al-Ikhbariya TV showed images of doctors trying to resuscitate at least two young women wounded and bleeding on the floor of what appeared to be an outdoor canteen. A young woman was shown walking in a hospital, her face bleeding heavily.

SANA quoted the president of Damascus University as saying the death toll, initially put at 12, had risen to 15 in what state and pro-government media called a terrorist attack.—*Reuters*
CBM makes it clear between authentic K 5000 banknote and counterfeit one

NAY PYI TAW, 29 March—The Central Bank of Myanmar issued a statement to the public to be able to distinguish between authentic K 5000 banknote and counterfeit one with the following significant points:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authentic banknote</th>
<th>Counterfeit banknote</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(A) Texture of paper is compact and even, changing into cream color under ultraviolet, resistant to elements and dampness.</td>
<td>(A) Texture of paper is smooth but not compact, not changing into cream color under ultraviolet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(B) Complete with two alphabets and seven numbers in Myanmar and English with red color under ultraviolet.</td>
<td>(B) Although it is compete with two alphabets and seven numbers in Myanmar and English, no red color under ultraviolet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(C) Watermarks in white elephant and 5000 are clearly seen when putting vertically in light but are not seen under ultraviolet.</td>
<td>(C) Watermarks in white elephant and 5000 are not clearly seen when putting vertically in light.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(D) Security thread is placed vertically and 5000K is printed in obverse/reverse with red, blue and yellow color under ultraviolet.</td>
<td>(D) There is no security thread placed vertically and K 5000 is not properly printed in obverse/reverse, not in neat and tidy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(E) Relief printing system and it is bright, sharp and clear with letter and paint in relief.</td>
<td>(E) Letter and paint are not clear and sharp as it is printed normally.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rural regions in Thongwa Township get tube-wells

Bhamo, 29 March—A ceremony to launch Manaw Ayea highway transport service of Bhamo was held in front of Sasama Beikman on Bogyoke Street in Mingon Ward on 18 March morning. Commander of No 21 Operations Control Command Brig-Gen Phone Myat, Kachin State Hluttaw representative U Kyaw Swe and Bhamo District Deputy Commissioner U Tezar Aung of General Administration Department formally opened the new bus line. The Commander of No 21 Operations Control Command sprinkled scented water on the buses.

The district and township administrators presented bottles of purified drinking water to passengers. The buses then left for Myitkyina. Fares for the Hilux bus is K 10000 per passenger besides the seats of driver for 120 miles long Bhamo-Myitkyina route and K 8000 at rear and K 15000 per passenger at Pagero and van. The local people are pleased for runs of new bus lines as the region has restored peace and stability as of July 2011. Myanma Alinn

Bhamo launches new bus lines for smooth transportation

Kyauktaw people get electricity at full capacity

As part of efforts to implement the rural development tasks, a total of 20 2-inch tube-wells, water tanks and pumping stations have been built in 19 villages in 2012-2013 fiscal year for supply of water in the summer. The sinking tube-wells were funded with K 2 million contribution by Myanma Alinn

Forest fire at farmland in Kyaukphyra Village of Myeik

Myeik, 29 March—A forest fire broke out on the hill near Kyaukphyra Village in Kyaukphyra Village-tract of Myeik in Taninthayi Region at 6.45 pm on 21 March. According to the investigation, an unknown person set fire at the reclaimed farmland of U Tin Ko Latt and then run away.

Head of Township Fire Station U Myo Thura Win and five members, 45 members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade and 65 people put out the fire with the use of two fine engines and two water tankers at 10 pm. Myanma Alinn

Myeik, 29 March—To be able to take action against those who broke disciplines for exporting and importing goods, to protect consumers, promote trade and reduce illegal trade, the mobile teams in Myeik checked MT Kokuie Mary No 3 oil tanker at the buoy of Myeik light house, seven miles from Seiknge jetty of Myeik on 20 March morning. Officials of the mobile team inspected 400 tons of diesel legally imported with licence. Myanma Alinn

Pre-SEA Games Sailing Contest 5-8 April

PATHEN, 29 March—The Pre-SEA Games Sailing Contest will be held at Ngwehsaung Beach Resort in Pathein District from 5 to 8 April, according to Pathen District Sports and Physical Education Department. A total of 89 sailors from Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and India will take part in nine events.

Traditional dances will be entertained to the enthusiasts at the opening ceremony. Myanma Alinn

Pre-SEA Games Sailing Contest

23 stone Buddha images unearthed in Bhamo

Bhamo, 29 March—A plan was implemented to rebuit the prayer hall of Aikkhaw and Shwekyina pagodas in Bhamo. In the construction tasks, a throne at the old prayer hall was unearthed. In so doing, one stone Buddha image was discovered five feet deep under the throne on 9 March. On 10 and 11 March, one standing stone Buddha image, one reclining Buddha image and two medium size Buddha images totalling 23 were unearthed from the construction site. Myanma Alinn

Leader of Social and Cultural Working Group Dr Daw Khin Swe Myint of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation donated 300 copies of books, newspapers and journals to Sarpyokhin Library in Shweintein Village, MaythawoOth Library in Hcayawama Village, Akyang People’s Library in Khaungtaing Village and Parshita Library in Mongthauk Village of Inlay region of Shan State on 16 and 17 March. Myanma Alinn

Distinguishing between authentic K 5000 banknote and counterfeit one

NAY PYI TAW, 29 March—The Central Bank of Myanmar issued a statement to the public to be able to distinguish between authentic K 5000 banknote and counterfeit one with the following significant points:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authentic banknote</th>
<th>Counterfeit banknote</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(A) Texture of paper is compact and even, changing into cream color under ultraviolet, resistant to elements and dampness.</td>
<td>(A) Texture of paper is smooth but not compact, not changing into cream color under ultraviolet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(B) Complete with two alphabets and seven numbers in Myanmar and English with red color under ultraviolet.</td>
<td>(B) Although it is compete with two alphabets and seven numbers in Myanmar and English, no red color under ultraviolet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(C) Watermarks in white elephant and 5000 are clearly seen when putting vertically in light but are not seen under ultraviolet.</td>
<td>(C) Watermarks in white elephant and 5000 are not clearly seen when putting vertically in light.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(D) Security thread is placed vertically and 5000K is printed in obverse/reverse with red, blue and yellow color under ultraviolet.</td>
<td>(D) There is no security thread placed vertically and K 5000 is not properly printed in obverse/reverse, not in neat and tidy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(E) Relief printing system and it is bright, sharp and clear with letter and paint in relief.</td>
<td>(E) Letter and paint are not clear and sharp as it is printed normally.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CBM makes it clear between authentic K 5000 banknote and counterfeit one

Distinguishing between authentic K 5000 banknote and counterfeit one

NAY PYI TAW, 29 March—The Central Bank of Myanmar issued a statement to the public to be able to distinguish between authentic K 5000 banknote and counterfeit one with the following significant points:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authentic banknote</th>
<th>Counterfeit banknote</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(A) Texture of paper is compact and even, changing into cream color under ultraviolet, resistant to elements and dampness.</td>
<td>(A) Texture of paper is smooth but not compact, not changing into cream color under ultraviolet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(B) Complete with two alphabets and seven numbers in Myanmar and English with red color under ultraviolet.</td>
<td>(B) Although it is compete with two alphabets and seven numbers in Myanmar and English, no red color under ultraviolet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(C) Watermarks in white elephant and 5000 are clearly seen when putting vertically in light but are not seen under ultraviolet.</td>
<td>(C) Watermarks in white elephant and 5000 are not clearly seen when putting vertically in light.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(D) Security thread is placed vertically and 5000K is printed in obverse/reverse with red, blue and yellow color under ultraviolet.</td>
<td>(D) There is no security thread placed vertically and K 5000 is not properly printed in obverse/reverse, not in neat and tidy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(E) Relief printing system and it is bright, sharp and clear with letter and paint in relief.</td>
<td>(E) Letter and paint are not clear and sharp as it is printed normally.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Towards a path of love and fraternity

Despite every major religion embracing love as a universal principle and value, the world has witnessed mass genocide, carnage and war atrocities stemming from personal hatred or national interests, proving the “survival of the fittest theory” of evolution, which says that humans are driven to compete for existence selfishly.

In fact, civilization and bloodshed had been like heads and tails of a coin as wars were inevitable for communities and nations to build themselves stronger, bigger and better. But, have the darkest chapters of the world already gone with the time after the brutal two world wars? In modern world, there seems to less inter-state conflict with the pattern of conflict having shifted to more complex model of intra-state conflict.

Many human tragedies should have been avoided if there had been less animosity and enmity or there had been more kindness and sympathy toward each other. Conflicts are unavoidable in intercultural interactions where a lot of misunderstanding can occur, often leading to resentment between two different communities. In fact, revenge is not as sweet as it is thought to be, but it just begets retaliation, resulting in an endless circle of reprisal just to bring suffering for both sides. Under the sun, humans are humans everywhere regardless of his skin colour and the race he belongs to. There are only good guys and bad guys and exactly no good races or bad races.

We being human beings all are obliged to cool down, but not to heat up, the heated world already boiling up with various kinds of tensions. Laws must be respected and the irresponsible use of freedom of expression should be avoided. Enough is enough. To clear the clouds of misunderstanding and set off on a path of love and fraternity would be the most practical solution to resolve interfaith tensions.
President U Thein Sein receives US-ASEAN Business Council Chairman

NAY PYI TAW, 29 March—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received US-ASEAN Business Council Chairman Mr. Evan Greenberg at the hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 4 pm today.

Both sides concentrated on promoting of trade between the US and ASEAN, development of oil, natural gas, forest, mines, and financial sectors, setting up a long-term investment plan in insurance sector with firm pledges, and programmes on sharing technical knowhow and making investments in the country.

It was attended by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Shein, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw and departmental heads.

MNA

Healthcare service provided to Meiktila riot victims

NAY PYI TAW, 29 March—Specialists from Meiktila, Kyaukse and Mandalay hospitals and Public Health Care Department of Ministry of Health are providing health care service to victims at relief camps in Meiktila.

Likewise, authorities concerned are taking census of the population at the relief camps according to age segments. Victims, finally being able to breathe sighs of relief, began cooking themselves today.

MNA

Security forces fire warning shot at mobs in Thegon Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 29 March—Security forces fired warning shot at the mobs that were destroying shops nearby Padigon Station in Padigon Village-tract in Thegon Township of Bago Region at 10:15 pm yesterday.

Likewise, security forces fired warning shot at the mobs that were destroying two houses in Shwepyiaye Ward of Padigon Village-tract at 11:10 pm yesterday.

Besides, authorities concerned fired warning shot at the mobs that were attempting to tear down a religious building in 1st Myoma Street of the township at about 11:30 pm yesterday.

Security forces together with monks and residents dispersed the mobs that were approachingareligious buildingin Ward-1 of Thegon Township yesterday night.

Similarly, security forces could disperse the mobs who had destroyed four shops and two houses in the market street of Inna Village-tract at 1:20 am today.—MNA

Indian-Myanmar joint venture talks 4 April

YANGON, 29 March—A 17-member business delegation led by Secretary General Dr T Roy from Calcutta Chamber of Commerce of India will visit Myanmar from 1 to 5 April.

Those delegation will hold discussions on textile industry, heavy construction, real estate service, electronics, tea and agriculture, timber, mine, energy, steel, jute, finance, tourism industries for joint venture with Myanmar entrepreneurs at Mingalar Hall of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry at 2 pm on 4 April.

Those wishing to attend it may enlist UMECCI headquarters not later than 2 April.

MNA

Ministry of Electric Power Announcement

NAY PYI TAW, 29 March—Offshore platform of the Yadana Offshore Natural Gas Rig of the Ministry of Energy will be repaired from 5 April to 13 April, 2013. During the nine-day period of repair, gas transportation through the Kanbuk-Myainggalay pipeline and the Yangon-Payy-Myanmaray pipeline would be stopped.

During the period, the production of electricity from four power plants in Yangon Region and four power plants in townships would decrease about 330 megawatt equivalent to 20 % of the power demand of the country.

To be able to supply power to the people, the ministry will suspend the power supply to state- and private-owned factories, industrial zones and heavy industries. Meanwhile, the ministry would increase the share from inland natural gas fields and would increase the production of the hydro power plants.

However, the water level in the dams of the hydro power plants have reached low in the summer season and the production of the power plants would decrease up to 20 % of the power demand of the country during the period of repairing the offshore platform. Therefore, the people are urged to efficiently use the power during the period.—MNA

UEC Chairman promises free and fair elections in 2015

NAY PYI TAW, 29 March—Union Election Commission, seven civil society organizations that are putting heart and soul in democratization process of Myanmar, Union Attorney-General Office, Union Auditor-General Office, and Union ministries met this morning at the UEC Office, with an address by UEC Chairman U Tin Aye.

The UEC Chairman restated the motto of the UEC which says “free and fair election, cornerstone of the genuine democracy”, according to the UEC Chairman, the UEC will undertake voter registration on trial to ensure every eligible voter cast vote in general elections. It will also carry out education programmes for ethnic voters in their languages.

The UEC Chairman promised to make 2015 multi-party general elections free and fair.

Personnel of the seven CSOs, and offices and departments concerned gave suggestions on election matters.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker receives Chairman and CEO of ACE

NAY PYI TAW, 29 March—Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa received a delegation led by Mr Evan Greenberg, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of US-ASEAN Business Council (ACE) at the meeting hall No.1 of Pyithu Hluttaw Committee Building, here, this morning.

On the occasion, they discussed development of insurance in Myanmar and assistance of ACE for insurance, economic and investment sectors of Myanmar.

Also present at the call together with the Deputy Speaker were Secretary of Planning and Financial Development Committee U Aye Mauk and officials of the Hluttaw Office.

MNA

President U Thein Sein receives US-ASEAN Business Council Chairman

NAY PYI TAW, 29 March—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received US-ASEAN Business Council Chairman Mr. Evan Greenberg at the hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 4 pm today.

Both sides concentrated on promoting of trade between the US and ASEAN, development of oil, natural gas, forest, mines, and financial sectors, setting up a long-term investment plan in insurance sector with firm pledges, and programmes on sharing technical knowhow and making investments in the country.

It was attended by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Shein, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw and departmental heads.

MNA

UEC Chairman U Tin Aye speaking at the meeting between UEC, seven civil society organizations and Union Level Organizations.—MNA

Healthcare service provided to Meiktila riot victims

NAY PYI TAW, 29 March—Specialists from Meiktila, Kyaukse and Mandalay hospitals and Public Health Care Department of Ministry of Health are providing health care service to victims at relief camps in Meiktila.

Likewise, authorities concerned are taking census of the population at the relief camps according to age segments. Victims, finally being able to breathe sighs of relief, began cooking themselves today.

MNA

Specialists of Meiktila, Kyaukse and Mandalay hospitals and Public Health Care Department of Ministry of Health giving healthcare service to victims.—MNA

Security forces fire warning shot at mobs in Thegon Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 29 March—Security forces fired warning shot at the mobs that were destroying shops nearby Padigon Station in Padigon Village-tract in Thegon Township of Bago Region at 10:15 pm yesterday.

Likewise, security forces fired warning shot at the mobs that were destroying two houses in Shwepyiaye Ward of Padigon Village-tract at 11:10 pm yesterday.

Besides, authorities concerned fired warning shot at the mobs that were attempting to tear down a religious building in 1st Myoma Street of the township at about 11:30 pm yesterday.

Security forces together with monks and residents dispersed the mobs that were approaching a religious building in Ward-1 of Thegon Township yesterday night.

Similarly, security forces could disperse the mobs who had destroyed four shops and two houses in the market street of Inna Village-tract at 1:20 am today.—MNA

Security forces fire warning shot at mobs in Thegon Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 29 March—Security forces fired warning shot at the mobs that were destroying shops nearby Padigon Station in Padigon Village-tract in Thegon Township of Bago Region at 10:15 pm yesterday.

Likewise, security forces fired warning shot at the mobs that were destroying two houses in Shwepyiaye Ward of Padigon Village-tract at 11:10 pm yesterday.

Besides, authorities concerned fired warning shot at the mobs that were attempting to tear down a religious building in 1st Myoma Street of the township at about 11:30 pm yesterday.

Security forces together with monks and residents dispersed the mobs that were approaching a religious building in Ward-1 of Thegon Township yesterday night.

Similarly, security forces could disperse the mobs who had destroyed four shops and two houses in the market street of Inna Village-tract at 1:20 am today.—MNA

Security forces fire warning shot at mobs in Thegon Tsp
**UN chief “deeply disappointed” at failure to adopt arms trade treaty**

**WASHINGTON, 29 March** — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said on Thursday that he was “deeply disappointed” with the failure of the UN conference to adopt a treaty, which would regulate the multi-billion-dollar international arms trade.

“The Secretary-General is deeply disappointed with the failure of the Final United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty to reach an agreement on a treaty text,” said a statement issued by Ban’s spokesman.

“The treaty had been within reach, thanks to the tireless work and spirit of compromise among member states,” said the statement. The last Arms Trade Treaty talks ended in July without agreement after the United States dashed the hope of the agreement by saying that it needed more time to consider the proposed accord.

The UN General Assembly in December 2006 voted to begin a new but last round of talks on the treaty regulating international trade in conventional weapons. Earlier last week, Ban has stressed that reaching consensus through compromise on all sides is long overdue.

**A bullet train is ready for a test run of the Nanjing-Hangzhou High-Speed Railway from Hangzhou East Railway Station in Hangzhou, capital of east China’s Zhejiang Province, on 28 March, 2013. The new Nanjing-Hangzhou High-Speed Railway is a supplement to railway travelling within China’s Yangtze River Delta. The 249-kilometre rail line will reduce travel time from Nanjing to Hangzhou to about an hour.** —Xinhua

**35,000 Central African Republic refugees identified in DR Congo**

KINSHASA, 29 March — The authorities in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo) have identified 35,000 refugees from neighbouring Central African Republic.

The number has surpassed the 30,000 initially expected in DR Congo’s Equateur Province, with the influx of 5,000 over the weekend, the authorities disclosed on Wednesday.

The development was reported at a Press conference held in Kinshasa by Sylvester Mudingayi, who is in charge of the public relations department for the UN humanitarian office OCHA.

“The capacity to receive refugees are very limited in Zongo village where the refugees have settled,” Mudingayi said, adding that “the humanitarian workers were worried about the worsening of the situation for the local population, especially given the current food crisis and other survival challenges.”

He said the UN refugee agency UNHCR had started relocating some of the refugees who arrived recently in Zongo to camps in Worobe village, situated 14 km from Zongo in Equateur Province.

In Orientale Province, the UNHCR has kicked off the registration of more than 4,200 new refugees from Central African Republic in Ango and Bondo localities. These refugees arrived in the area in December 2012 and on 25 March, mostly living with host families.

The UNHCR plans to identify sites around Ango and Bondo or Buta to relocate the refugees with the aid of local authorities.—Xinhua

**Most Americans view UN as necessary despite doubt about effectiveness**

WASHINGTON, 29 March — Two-thirds of Americans regard the United Nations as playing a necessary role in the world today, though many of them think the world body is not doing a good job, says a Gallup poll released on Thursday.

Some 66 percent of Americans say the UN plays a necessary role in the world, up 2 points from 2005; only 29 percent say the UN does not play a necessary role, down 3 points from 2005, according to the poll conducted on 25-26 February.

While the United States remains an active member of the UN, it appears in recent years as if the world body has taken a less prominent role in US foreign policy than in the past. Much of that may date back to the 2003 US decision to invade Iraq, for which Washington sought UN approval but went ahead without it, Gallup said in a report on the poll.

Though the Americans in general still see the UN as being relevant on the world stage, they are not highly positive about the job that the UN is doing. Only 35 percent of Americans say that the world body is “doing a good job in trying to solve the problems it has to face.” During times of war or international crisis, including during the Korean, Vietnam and Gulf Wars, Americans view the UN more favourably than other times.—Xinhua

**UNDP praises Cuba’s climate change research**

HAVANA, 29 March — The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) praised Cuba’s research on climate change for its scientific and multidisciplinary natures, Cuban state media reported on Thursday.

Barbara Pesce-Montero, regional representative of UNDP in Cuba, said that Cuba has a strong commitment to sustainable economic and social development models that combine human welfare with environmental protection and the rational use of natural resources, the Communist Party daily Granma said. Speaking at the opening of the Workshop on Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change in Havana, the UN official also stressed the importance of documenting Cuba’s scientific climate knowledge to make it available to other countries in the region.—Xinhua

**US dentist may have exposed thousands of patients to HIV, Hepatitis**

HOUSTON, 29 March — A dentist in Tulsa city in the US state of Oklahoma may have infected many as 7,000 patients to hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV since 2007, state officials said on Thursday.

Health officials are urging the some 7,000 patient of Oklahoma dentist W Scott Harrington to be tested for HIV and hepatitis in an ongoing investigation with the state board of dentistry, according to FOX news. The possible exposure reportedly happened at the dental practice of Harrington in Tulsa and Owasso in Oklahoma, and officials are sending letters to 7,000 patients who have visited the facility since 2007. Harrington had a high volume of patients who were diagnosed hepatitis or HIV, and he allegedly violated sanitation laws among others.

Since then, the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Board of Dentistry, said on Thursday.

**Obama seeks to build momentum for gun control 100 days after Newtown massacre**

WASHINGTON, 29 March — US President Barack Obama on Thursday mourned the victims of the Newtown shooting massacre over 100 days after the tragedy and urged Congress to move on gun-control legislation.

“When the tragedy happened, the entire country was shocked and pledged to do something about it, said Obama, “Shame on us if we’ve forgotten.”

Surrounded by weeping mothers of the children lost to gun violence, Obama made his emotional plea at a White House event and tried to build momentum for a package of gun-control legislation to be considered by the Senate in April.

Tears aren’t enough. Expressions of sympathy aren’t enough. Speeches aren’t enough. We’ve cried enough,” said the President, stressing that it’s the time to “turn heartbreak into something real.”

The President went on to urge the passage of gun control measures, a universal backround checks on gun purchases in particular.

“Now, in the coming weeks, members of Congress will vote on whether we should require universal background checks for any-one who wants to buy a gun so that criminals or people with severe mental illnesses can’t get their hands on one,” said Obama.

He said polling showed that 91 percent of Americans support tightening background checks.

“And this is our best chance in more than a decade to take common-sense steps that will save lives,” he said.—Xinhua

**Afghan newly graduated Policemen take oath during their graduation ceremony in Sari Pul province in northern Afghanistan on 28 March, 2013. A total of 33 Afghan police cadets graduated on Thursday after two-month training in Sari Pul province, police officials said.** —Xinhua

**Afghan newly graduated Policemen take oath during their graduation ceremony in Sari Pul province in northern Afghanistan on 28 March, 2013. A total of 33 Afghan police cadets graduated on Thursday after two-month training in Sari Pul province, police officials said.**
Chinese troops to take part in 10+8 joint drill in Brunei

BEIJING, 29 March—China will send troops to take part in the ASEAN+8 joint drill to be held in Brunei in June, a Ministry of National Defence spokesman said on Thursday.

The joint drill will be held by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and eight partners (Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea, Russia, the Republic of Korea and the United States), spokesman Yang Yujun said at a Press conference.

In 2012, members of the ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting (ADMM)-Plus agreed to hold joint humanitarian rescue and disaster relief exercises, as well as establish a group of military medical experts under ADMM-Plus, Yang said.

In April 2011, the first experts’ working group meeting on humanitarian rescue and disaster relief under ADMM-Plus, co-chaired by China and Vietnam, made a three-year plan that includes the joint drill. “China has kept close and positive communication with Brunei and other members,” said Yang. “China hopes the joint drill will boost pragmatic cooperation in disaster relief among member countries, as well as the sound development of ADMM-Plus.”

Hiroshima updates number of A-bomb victims

OKA SA, 29 March—The Japanese City of Hiroshima released a new report on Thursday about the results of its survey into the actual damage from the 1945 atomic bombing of the city, updating the total number of atomic bomb victims to 557,478, more than 15,000 people recorded in the previous file, city officials said.

The report was compiled as part of the city’s more than 30-year-old investigation project on the victims, focusing on demographic changes in recent decades. The released data was based on the latest tallies, calculated until 2011 with 120,000 additional historical sources such as medical treatment notes and necrologies, according to the research division of the Atomic Bomb Survivors’ Relief Department at the Hiroshima City Office.

The report also updated the actual number of “direct victims” of the atomic bombing—those who were within the city and its neighbouring towns and villages—to 384,743, while the number of victims who have died so far is 277,996, less than the 280,959 indicated by previous data in 1999.

Kaoru Ohsugi, Director of the division, said in Xinhua that since there are still different ways to interpret the numbers concerning the A-bomb victims and damage, the division decided to update the figures, collecting new information and checking the details using computers.

Japan’s Diet passes 13.2 trln yen stopgap budget for fiscal 2013

TOKYO, 29 March—Kyodo Japan’s Diet on Friday passed a 13.2 trillion yen stopgap budget for fiscal 2013 from Monday to fund the central government’s spending for 30 days, with the principal budget for the next fiscal year being unlikely to be enacted before May.

The provisional budget, which is the biggest of its kind ever in Japan, was approved at the House of Counsels, the upper house, with the backing of the ruling bloc and the main opposition Democratic Party of Japan.

Enactment of the annual budget for the next fiscal year has been delayed since the Liberal Democratic Party-led government was only formed on 26 December following the 16 December general election, setting back budget drafting.

Of the stopgap budget, 5.43 trillion yen will go on social security spending, the Finance Ministry said. The measure will also cover 3.67 trillion yen in grants to local governments and 1.54 trillion yen in public works projects.—Kyodo News

Thai PM reassures parliament about transparency of spending loans

BANGKOK, 29 March—Thai Premier on Thursday gave reassurances to the parliament that the spending of 68 billion US dollars in loans for Thailand’s infrastructure development will be transparent.

In Prime Minister Yutluck Shinawatra’s prelude to the Thursday’s Lower House debate on the highly-criticised borrowing, she clarified that the government has resisted to issuing the bill rather than seeking funds from the national annual budget to enable projects to carry on without disruption in light of the country’s unstable political situation.

In the draft bill, approved by the Cabinet last week, the 68 billion dollars budget will be spent in the government’s three strategies: shifting Thailand’s logistics from road to rail systems, linking the centre of each region to neighbouring countries, and building infrastructure to serve main economic areas in the provinces.

The Premier said the long-term loans will not affect Thailand’s financial landscape though public debts against GDP will be higher since the massive investment will automatically increase GDP, she said.

She said internal political conflict since 2006 have hindered the state’s investment for infrastructure development, pushing up the national budget to enable projects to carry on without disruption in light of the country’s unstable political situation.

13 bombs defused in eastern Afghanistan

KABUL, 29 March—Afghan security forces and the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) have defused 13 Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in eastern Afghan provinces, the ISAF said on Thursday.

“The Afghan and Coalition Forces found and safely cleared 13 improvised explosive devices and detained one suspected insurgent during operations in eastern Afghan-istan throughout the past 24 hours,” the ISAF’s Regional Command-East said in a press release.

The home-made bombs were neutralized in Khost, Ghazni, Paktika, Kunar and Wardak provinces, it said.

Taliban militants, who have been waging an insurgency for more than one decade, used IEDs to launch roadside bomb attacks on security forces but the lethal weapon also inflicted casualties on civilians. The security forces have recently intensified operations across the country as spring and summer known as the fighting season is drawing near.

Taliban shadow governor killed in northern Afghan province

MAIMANA, (Afghanistan), 29 March—A Taliban shadow governor was killed in northern Afghan Province of Faryab overnight, the provincial government spokesman said on Thursday.

“Upon intelligence report, an Afghan border police force carried out a search operation to capture a Taliban shadow governor named Khurullah Khan but during the firefight Khan and two other Taliban insurgents were killed in Qaramqol District on Wednesday night,” spokesman Jawid Beidar told Xinhua.

He said Khan was involved in several anti-government activities in Qaramqol and neighbouring districts in the Province. The relatively peaceful northern provinces have been seeing Taliban-led violence recently. Earlier Thursday, five policemen were wounded and one militant was killed in a clash in neighbouring Jawzjan Province.—Xinhua

Chinawares are torn down by strong wind and fall into pieces at a shop in Liuzhou City, south China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 28 March, 2013. A strong wind and thunder hit the city on Thursday.—Xinhua
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV TAIKLI VOY NO (14)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV TAIKLI VOY NO (14) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.3.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W (3) 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: EASTERN CAR LINER S’PORE PTE LTD
Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV HAN ZHI VOY NO ( )
Consignees of cargo carried on MV HAN ZHI VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.3.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (5) where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S HANSSY SHIPING PTE LTD
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV NIAMUN NASIR VOY NO ( )
Consignees of cargo carried on MV NIAMUN NASIR VOY NO ( ) 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: EASTERN CAR LINER S’PORE PTE LTD
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV GSS YANGON VOY NO (1312)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV GSS YANGON VOY NO (1312) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.3.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING (MALAYSIA) SDN BHD
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

IMF says Cyprus rescue deal unique in nature
WASHINGTON, 29 March—The International Monetary Fund(IMF) said Thursday that the agreement reached this week to bail out Cyprus is unique in nature and may not be applicable elsewhere.
In a news briefing, IMF spokesman Gerry Rice called the case of Cyprus “very complex, unique in nature” when asked whether the rescue for Cyprus could be a model for other countries facing financial crisis.
“It would be difficult to extend the case to the rest of Europe or to the world,” he added. Rice defended the rescue deal reached between Cyprus and Brussels earlier this week, saying it upfront addresses challenges as the oversized banking sector and two deeply insolvent banks had tipped the tiny Mediterranean country into crisis.
The plan, which may help Cyprus secure the 10 billion euro bailout from international lenders, would impose heavy losses on uninsured depositors of the two major banks. Rice said the Cyprus case showed “the need for Europe to continue moving towards a banking union, that includes not only the single supervisory mechanism but also a single resolution mechanism.”
After being closed for nearly two weeks, banks reopened in Cyprus Thursday with strict restrictions on transactions. IMF staff are in Cyprus now finalizing the technical details of the rescue agreement, Rice said. After that, the IMF executive board will make an official decision on its share of the financial package for the debt-laden country.
Xinhua

Two shot dead at home in Bastia, French Corsica Island
PARIS, 29 March—Two people were found shot dead at their home Thursday morning in Bastia, in the northeast of Corsica Island in France, local media reported.
A source close to the investigation announced that a man and a woman died of violence in their apartment, the French news agency AFP said.
The neighbours of the deceased heard a loud shouting and then came the sound of the gunshots in the early morning in the victims’ apartment located in the downtown of Bastia in the Haute-Corse Department of France.
The emergency services then found the two bodies, both were shot dead. Forensic and police investigation are underway.—Xinhua

No pain, no gain

Dear Christian Brethrens,
The Good News of the Easter Day will be aired on MRTV-4 at 12.25 hour on 31-3-2013 (Sunday).

Announcement
The office of ILO Liaison Officer will move the following address with effect from 1 April 2013.
No. 1 ( A ), Kanbue ( Thitsar ) Road Yankin Township, Yangon Region, Ph : 01- 566 538, 566 539, 578 925, 579 956 Fax : 01- 566 582 PO Box 679

Two shot dead at home in Bastia, French Corsica Island
PARIS, 29 March—Two people were found shot dead at their home Thursday morning in Bastia, in the northeast of Corsica Island in France, local media reported.
A source close to the investigation announced that a man and a woman died of violence in their apartment, the French news agency AFP said.
The neighbours of the deceased heard a loud shouting and then came the sound of the gunshots in the early morning in the victims’ apartment located in the downtown of Bastia in the Haute-Corse Department of France.
The emergency services then found the two bodies, both were shot dead. Forensic and police investigation are underway.—Xinhua

No pain, no gain

Dear Christian Brethrens,
The Good News of the Easter Day will be aired on MRTV-4 at 12.25 hour on 31-3-2013 (Sunday).
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.

Sales of Timberlake’s new album beat expectations in first week

LOS ANGELES, 29 March— Justin Timberlake’s first album since 2006 made a bumper US debut, selling an unexpectedly better 968,000 copies in the first week since its release, according to figures on Tuesday from Nielsen SoundScan.

“The 20/20 Experience” gave Timberlake, 32, the top spot on this week’s Billboard 200 album chart and marked the singer’s best solo effort yet.

The heavily-promoted release from the former N’Sync boy band singer had been expected to sell about 750,000 copies in its first week.

But after warm reviews and fan fever, the album sold almost 300,000 copies more than the first week sales for Timberlake’s last release — 2006’s hit album “FutureSex/LoveSounds” — despite an overall decline in album sales in recent years.

“The 2020 Experience” marks Timberlake’s musical comeback after focusing on his movie career in films like “The Social Network” and “Friends with Benefits,” launching his own record label, investing in social networking website MySpace, and marrying actress Jessica Biel.

Despite the big first week, Timberlake came in below country-pop singer Taylor Swift’s debut in November 2012 when her “Red” album sold 1.2 million copies in its first week.

Timberlake’s “The 20/20 Experience” was released on RCA Records, a unit of Sony Music Entertainment.

---

Katie Holmes wants Suri to focus on education

NEW DELHI, 29 March— Dawson’s Creek actress Katie Holmes wants daughter Suri to stay grounded and focus on studies.

Katie is reportedly keen for her six-year-old daughter — from her relationship with ex-husband Tom Cruise — to remain grounded despite early calls for her to star in commercials. An insider told RadarOnline.com: “Suri may be one of the most photographed children on the planet but she won’t be doing her own photo shoots for fashion houses just yet.

“She’s just wants Suri to have as normal a childhood as possible. “[She] is trying to keep her grounded and forget the celebrity lifestyle that she’s become accustomed to.” They suggested education was something “drilled into” the 34-year-old mother growing up and she would like her child to avoid the world of show business. The source added: “[School was] something her parents drilled into her when she was young. “They pushed Katie through Notre Dame Academy and Katie will be equally as hands-on with Suri … in an ideal world. Katie doesn’t want Suri to follow in her footsteps into showbiz.”

---

Actor and filmmaker Robert Pattinson ready to forgive Kristen Stewart’s infidelity

LONDON, 29 March— Twilight Actor Robert Pattinson may be basking deteriorating eyesight and a failing memory but the veteran performer showed no sign of faltering when he teamed up with fellow James Bond star Ben Whishaw on a London stage on Monday.

---

Actress Judi Dench rules on stage despite age taking toll

LONDON, 29 March— Actress Judi Dench may be battling deteriorating eyesight and a failing memory but the veteran performer showed no sign of faltering when she teamed up with fellow James Bond star Ben Whishaw on a London stage on Monday.

---

US singer Justin Timberlake

---

**Katie Holmes**

NEW DELHI, 29 March— Dawson’s Creek actress Katie Holmes wants daughter Suri to stay grounded and focus on studies.

---

**Robert Pattinson**

LONDON, 29 March— Twilight Actor Robert Pattinson may be basking deteriorating eyesight and a failing memory but the veteran performer showed no sign of faltering when he teamed up with fellow James Bond star Ben Whishaw on a London stage on Monday.

---

**Judi Dench**

LONDON, 29 March— Actress Judi Dench may be battling deteriorating eyesight and a failing memory but the veteran performer showed no sign of faltering when she teamed up with fellow James Bond star Ben Whishaw on a London stage on Monday.
Sharapova into Sony Open final, Murray to semis

Maria Sharapova of Russia celebrates her semi-final victory over Jelena Jankovic of Serbia at the Sony Open tennis tournament in Key Biscayne, Florida on 28 March, 2013.—Reuters

Saturday, 29 March—Maria Sharapova will face Serena Williams in the final of the Sony Open while Britain’s Andy Murray will take on France’s Richard Gasquet in the men’s semi-final after grinding down Croatian Marin Cilic. Williams needed just 65 minutes to deal with fourth seeded defending champion Agnieszka Radwanska 6-0, 6-3, while Sharapova, who won at Indian Wells earlier this month, demolished Serbia’s Jelena Jankovic 6-2, 6-1.

Despite Sharapova’s good form, Williams will start as clear favourite in Saturday’s final—she is 11-2 in meetings with the Russian and has won the last 10 matches between the pair.

One of just 10 women who have won all four grand slams, Sharapova has been collecting titles all over the world but has never won the Sony Open, played in her home state of Florida, despite playing four previous finals.

“It would mean so much to me,” she said in a court-side interview. “I love this city, it’s the first city I landed in when I came to the United States as a little girl.”

The second-seeded Murray fought back from a break down twice in the first set and then crafted his way through the second to deal with the tall Croat.

“It was a tough, tough match. Second set especially was a lot of long, long games and tough points,” said Murray.

“I just managed to come through that. Obviously I took a while to get to the finish line but I thought I played a solid match with not too many errors and was tough in the important moments,” he told reporters.

The US Open champion is the highest seeded player left in the men’s draw after world number one Novak Djokovic lost to Tommy Haas and will leapfrog Roger Federer to second place in the world rankings if he wins the title.

“I’d like to get to number two this week. It would be nice, but I’d rather focus on trying to win my matches,” said the Scotman, who will fancy his chances against eighth-seeded Gasquet.

Gasquet was solid, hitting 17 winners and breaking serve three times as he made up for his defeat to Berdych in the round of 16 at Indian Wells.

The Frenchman knows he is the underdog against Murray, who has lost to four times in seven matches, but believes he is capable of producing an upset.

“I can win against Andy. He’s the favourite, the number three in the world but I know his game, I know how he plays,” he said.—Reuters

Vettel apologises to Red Bull staff

LONDON, 29 March—Formula One world champion Sebastian Vettel has apologised in person to Red Bull staff for ignoring team orders in a controversial Malaysian Grand Prix last weekend.

The team said the 25-year-old German had also spoken to aggrieved team mate Mark Webber, who had victory snatched away in the closing laps after the race at Sepang and the pair had shaken hands.

“He said he can’t turn back the clock but he’s accepted what he did was wrong,” team principal Christian Horner said of Vettel, who visited the Milton Keynes factory on Tuesday to address employees.

“He’s apologised to the team and to every single member of staff for his actions, because he recognises the team is vitally important and being part of the team is a crucial aspect to being able to challenge for those championships.”

Vettel had also apologised to Webber in a news conference after Sunday’s race, saying he had made a mistake.

The German has won the last three drivers’ titles with Red Bull, who are chasing their fourth successive constructors’ championship.

The German had qualified on pole position in Malaysia but found himself behind his team mate after the pit stops with the team instructing the pair to hold station to save fuel and prevent excessive tyre wear.

New York, 29 March—American DA Points shot a sparkling eight-under 64 to take a one-shot lead after the opening round of the Houston Open on Thursday, while Rory McIlroy continued his undaunting start to the year at Redstone Golf Club.

The 36-year-old Points, who had struggled with seven missed cuts from nine events for the season, shrugged off the dismal form with nine birdies and a solitary bogey to be one stroke clear of countrymen Cameron Tringale and John Rollins.

A week after being unseated by Tiger Woods as world number one, Northern Ireland’s McIlroy battled to a one-over 73 after a poor front nine saw him reach the turn at three-over. McIlroy found some form with four birdies coming in, but added another two bogeys to be well off the pace in his last warm-up before Augusta. “I felt like on the front nine I was a little tentative and I made a couple of silly mistakes, making double on the par-five there so I just went down and tried to commit to my shots more on the back nine and it seemed to help,” McIlroy told reporters.

“There were still a couple of loose shots here and there but all and all it was a tricky day and if I could have got it back to even par I would’ve been pretty happy.”

“But I’m one-over par and hopefully conditions are a little calmer tomorrow morning and I can go out there and make some birdies. Points, bidding for his second title after the 2011 Pebble Beach Pro-Am and a second start at the upcoming Masters, started on the back nine and birdied his first five holes out of the gate before another on the 17th for a scorching 30 at the turn.

Adding further birdies at three, seven and eight, Points rolled in over 160 feet of putts through the round with a new putter, but said he had been struggling mentally in the lead-up.

“It’s super difficult (to stay positive). It may be the hardest thing I’ve ever had to do but I just keep plugging away and keep trying to do the right things,” he told reporters.

American Points leads at Houston, McIlroy battles

DA Points, of the US, watches his tee shot on the second hole, during the final round of the Wells Fargo Championship PGA golf tournament in Charlotte, North Carolina on 6 May, 2012.—Reuters

Andy Murray of Britain hits a return during his quarter-final match against Marin Cilic of Croatia at the Sony Open tennis tournament in Key Biscayne, Florida on 28 March, 2013.—Reuters

ICC presents Test Championship mace to Graeme Smith

Durban, 29 March—South Africa captain Graeme Smith on Thursday received the ICC Test Championship mace and prize money of USD 650,000 for leading the team to the top spot in ICC Test rankings on the annual cut-off date of 1 April.

Smith received the mace from the ICC’s supremes and referees manager, Vince van der Bijl, in a ceremony at the Wanderers in Johannesburg.

“I am truly honoured and humbled to receive the Reliance ICC Test Championship mace and prize money, not just on behalf of myself, the players and the team management but on behalf of all South Africans,” said Smith.

“We all appreciate the enormous privilege of representing our country and taking on the responsibility that goes with it,” he added.

South Africa have finished at the number one spot for the first time since the current ranking system was introduced in 2003.

India are placed third behind England in the current rankings.—PTI

New Light of Myanmar

SPORTS

was wrong,” team principal Christian Horner said of Vettel, who visited the Milton Keynes factory on Tuesday to address employees.

“He’s apologised to the team and to every single member of staff for his actions, because he recognises the team is vitally important and being part of the team is a crucial aspect to being able to challenge for those championships.”

Vettel had also apologised to Webber in a news conference after Sunday’s race, saying he had made a mistake.

The German has won the last three drivers’ titles with Red Bull, who are chasing their fourth successive constructors’ championship.

The German had qualified on pole position in Malaysia but found himself behind his team mate after the pit stops with the team instructing the pair to hold station to save fuel and prevent excessive tyre wear.

New York, 29 March—American DA Points shot a sparkling eight-under 64 to take a one-shot lead after the opening round of the Houston Open on Thursday, while Rory McIlroy continued his undaunting start to the year at Redstone Golf Club.

The 36-year-old Points, who had struggled with seven missed cuts from nine events for the season, shrugged off the dismal form with nine birdies and a solitary bogey to be one stroke clear of countrymen Cameron Tringale and John Rollins.

A week after being unseated by Tiger Woods as world number one, Northern Ireland’s McIlroy battled to a one-over 73 after a poor front nine saw him reach the turn at three-over. McIlroy found some form with four birdies coming in, but added another two bogeys to be well off the pace in his last warm-up before Augusta. “I felt like on the front nine I was a little tentative and I made a couple of silly mistakes, making double on the par-five there so I just went down and tried to commit to my shots more on the back nine and it seemed to help,” McIlroy told reporters.

“There were still a couple of loose shots here and there but all and all it was a tricky day and if I could have got it back to even par I would’ve been pretty happy.”

“But I’m one-over par and hopefully conditions are a little calmer tomorrow morning and I can go out there and make some birdies. Points, bidding for his second title after the 2011 Pebble Beach Pro-Am and a second start at the upcoming Masters, started on the back nine and birdied his first five holes out of the gate before another on the 17th for a scorching 30 at the turn.

Adding further birdies at three, seven and eight, Points rolled in over 160 feet of putts through the round with a new putter, but said he had been struggling mentally in the lead-up.

“It’s super difficult (to stay positive). It may be the hardest thing I’ve ever had to do but I just keep plugging away and keep trying to do the right things,” he told reporters.

American Points leads at Houston, McIlroy battles

DA Points, of the US, watches his tee shot on the second hole, during the final round of the Wells Fargo Championship PGA golf tournament in Charlotte, North Carolina on 6 May, 2012.—Reuters

Andy Murray of Britain hits a return during his quarter-final match against Marin Cilic of Croatia at the Sony Open tennis tournament in Key Biscayne, Florida on 28 March, 2013.—Reuters

ICC presents Test Championship mace to Graeme Smith

Durban, 29 March—South Africa captain Graeme Smith on Thursday received the ICC Test Championship mace and prize money of USD 650,000 for leading the team to the top spot in ICC Test rankings on the annual cut-off date of 1 April.

Smith received the mace from the ICC’s supremes and referees manager, Vince van der Bijl, in a ceremony at the Wanderers in Johannesburg.

“I am truly honoured and humbled to receive the Reliance ICC Test Championship mace and prize money, not just on behalf of myself, the players and the team management but on behalf of all South Africans,” said Smith.

“We all appreciate the enormous privilege of representing our country and taking on the responsibility that goes with it,” he added.

South Africa have finished at the number one spot for the first time since the current ranking system was introduced in 2003.

India are placed third behind England in the current rankings.—PTI
Travel restrictions on Pistorius lifted

---

**Cape Town**, 29 March—The Pretoria High Court on Thursday lifted travel restrictions on paralympian Oscar Pistorius, allowing him to take part in international competitions on certain conditions.

Soon after the decision was made, Pistorius’ agent said the double amputee may target championships in sports tournaments, the world championships in Moscow in August in particular.

Judge Bert Bam said the paralympian would be allowed to use his passport to travel outside the country on conditions his passport will be held by a court while he is in South Africa, and he can only leave the country if he provides an itinerary of his travel plans at least a week before he is due to leave.

Once returning home, Pistorius must hand his travel documents back to the court within 24 hours.

Pistorius is charged with murdering his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp on 14 February, Valentine’s Day. But Pistorius says he shot Steenkamp because he mistook her for a burglar.

He was released on bail after almost one week in police cells and his next court appearance is scheduled for 4 June.

Although Pistorius’ lawyers said in the appeal hearing that he had no immediate plans to compete in international tournaments, Zyl said in remarks published by the local media Sports24 that the judge’s decision definitely paved the way for Pistorius to take part in international competitions.

But Zyl said any return to competition would be up to Pistorius, who hasn’t run competitively since September or trained for two months.

---

**South Africa to update railway communication service with Chinese technology**

**Pretoria**, 29 March—“Our train communication service will be equipped with the advanced Chinese digital radio system for signaling”, the South African railway service announced on Thursday.

The leading global information and communication technology solution provider Huawei has been chosen to supply the GSM-R (Global System for Mobile Communications Railway) after a competitive bidding and procurement,” said Lucky Montana, CEO of the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA) at a press conference.

The PRASA is the South African state-owned enterprise responsible for most passenger rail service in the country.

Although Pistorius’s release was made, Pistorius’ agent said the double amputee may target championships in sports tournaments, the world championships in Moscow in August in particular.

Judge Bert Bam said the paralympian would be allowed to use his passport to travel outside the country on conditions his passport will be held by a court while he is in South Africa, and he can only leave the country if he provides an itinerary of his travel plans at least a week before he is due to leave.

Once returning home, Pistorius must hand his travel documents back to the court within 24 hours.

Pistorius is charged with murdering his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp on 14 February, Valentine’s Day. But Pistorius says he shot Steenkamp because he mistook her for a burglar.

He was released on bail after almost one week in police cells and his next court appearance is scheduled for 4 June.

Although Pistorius’ lawyers said in the appeal hearing that he had no immediate plans to compete in international tournaments, Zyl said in remarks published by the local media Sports24 that the judge’s decision definitely paved the way for Pistorius to take part in international competitions.

But Zyl said any return to competition would be up to Pistorius, who hasn’t run competitively since September or trained for two months.

---

**Cypriot FM briefs Chinese, Russian Ambassadors on bailout deal**

**Nicosia**, 29 March—Cypriot Foreign Minister Ioannis Kassoulides on Thursday briefed Chinese and Russian Ambassadors to Cyprus on the bailout deal agreed with the Eurogroup and related issues.

An official statement issued by the ministry after separate meetings Kassoulides had with Chinese Ambassador Liu Ximeng and Russian Ambassador Vyacheslav Shumskiy, said Kassoulides had the opportunity to analyze and explain to the ambassadors the provisions of the bailout memorandum, the reasons behind this decision, as well as the consequent structural changes that will occur in Cyprus’ banking system, as a result of the recapitalization of the two main banks of the island.

Kassoulides indicated that the Republic of Cyprus has already been taking all appropriate measures for the effective implementation of the provisions of the Memorandum, setting up a special task force to address any difficulties and problems to this end.—*Xinhua*

---

**New Zealand's Jesse Ryder watches his shot during their Cricket World Cup quarter-final match against South Africa in Dhaka on 25 March, 2011. Ryder is in hospital with serious head injuries after being involved in a fight in Christchurch.**

---

**Wellington**, 29 March—New Zealand cricketer Jesse Ryder’s condition was improving and he was responding to medical staff and his family on Friday as police said they had arrested a 20-year-old man in connection with the alleged assault.

So far in the altercation with Christchurch, an elderly couple had been injured, said Sergeant Brian Archer told reporters on Friday.

He said the couple took wedding dress photos in a park in Zhourshau City, east China’s Zhejiang Province, on 28 March, 2013. Ten elderly couples who have been married for over 50 years took free wedding dress photos here on Thursday. *Xinhua*

---

**Ryder responding, man arrested for assault**

---

**Reuters**
Low-priced sim cards coming soon

NAY PYI TAW, 29 March—President U Thein Sein addresses the coordination meeting on sim card sales.

NAY PYI TAW, 29 March—Myanmar’s taking of ASEAN Chairmanship would contribute much to trade, investment and tourism industry, said Chairman of Central Committee for Myanmar’s Alternate ASEAN Chair in 2014 and Establishment of ASEAN Community Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham at the Central Committee’s second coordination meeting and coordination meeting for holding of CLMV and ACMECS summits, at President Office here, today.

In his speech, the Vice-President said that like other countries, Myanmar needs to designate main contents, direction and prioritized tasks as alternate ASEAN chair. Myanmar has a duty to set up 2015 ASEAN Community while taking alternate ASEAN chairmanship. ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) is at the core of ASEAN Community. ASEAN Community could be successfully set up only when AEC is firmly established.

He highlighted that it needs to remove non-tariff barriers to become a real free trade area, to introduce Single Window System for imports and exports and to reduce transaction costs.

Myanmar needs to make preparations for handling of international and regional crisis as an ASEAN chair.

After the meeting, the Vice-President viewed sample outfits for leaders of ASEAN Summit.

NAY PYI TAW, 29 March—To alleviate the public sufferings, security forces together with the Tatmadaw men and civilians have been taking strict security measures in Meiktila since the violence occurred there. As a result, the locals are doing their regular works at present.

Despite the restoration of peace and stability, Meiktila is still being placed under tight security measures not to occur riots and unrests again.

NAY PYI TAW, 29 March—A total of 7421 victims from 1987 households are being accommodated at five relief camps.

Wellwishers, companies, organizations and political parties donated cash and relief items worth K 1,423,700. So far, wellwishers have donated K 29,764,000 to the relief camps.