Italy agrees lifting of overall EU sanctions against Myanmar

Nay Pyi Taw, 7 March—President U Thein Sein met his Italian counterpart Mr Giorgio Napolitano at Quineile Palace in Rome, Italy yesterday. The two Presidents held talks on ongoing political and economic reforms, promotion of human rights, peace process in Myanmar, closer cooperation in trade, culture and other sectors, assistance in Myanmar’s agricultural development drive and microfinance works, and cooperation between the two armed forces. The Myanmar President invited the Italian President to visit Myanmar. The President also met the Italian Prime Minister Prof Mario Monti at Chigi Palace and discussed ongoing reforms, peace process and situations in Kachin and Rakhine states, investment potential in Myanmar and strengthening bilateralities. Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin and Italian Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Giulio Maria Terzi Sant’Agata signed Agreement on the Treatment (Cancellation and Rescheduling) of the Debt and Agreement on Debt-for-Development Swap. The Italian President and Prime Minister recognized the political, economic and executive reforms put in place in Myanmar by the new government led by President U Thein Sein, promising to offer more help and closer cooperation to help Myanmar overcome challenges in transition period. The two agreed that EU should lift the overall sanctions against Myanmar and national exporters of Myanmar should have access to GSP, promising actions to ensure positive results when the EU reviewed those cases. The Myanmar President visited historic sites in Rome—Vittorio Emanuele II Monument, Colosseum and Vatican City in the evening. He also visited the residence of Myanmar Ambassador to Italy U Tint Swe to meet embassy staff and their families.

Marine products export to Thailand see significant surge

The marine products exportation to Thailand through border trade camps saw a significant surge in February, said the press release of the Ministry of Commerce. Myanmar’s marine products exported to Thailand through Myawady border trade camp, Kawthoung border trade camp and Myeik border trade camps could be exported to Thailand in last February, 1567 tons more in comparison with January. From April 2012 to February 2013, 125,777 tons of marine products worth USD 140 million were exported, according to the statement.

The export items include various kinds of fish, prawn, crab and dried fish and fish paste as well. From 20 to 26 February 34 tons of various kinds of fish, nearly seven tons of prawn, about two tons of crabs and over five tons of eel, over three tons of small crab and over four tons of fish paste worth USD 0.169 million were exported through Myawady border trade camp at Thai border. The export revenues hit USD 0.776 million in February. Likewise, export revenues of Kawthoung border trade camp amounted to USD 2.352 million in February with export volume of marine products reaching over 1225 tons.

Byline: Myint Maung Soe

Minbu  41°C
Magway  41°C
Chauk  43°C
**Pakokku sees more tourists**

With remarkable progress in tourism sector, a large flock of globetrotters have visited every nook and corner of the country. As a result, Pakokku region sees more arrivals of tourists. Visitors have come in flocks to visit historic Thihosbin Buddha Image and to observe ancient works which are being kept in Thihosbin museum in Pakokku. The bridge construction works on 15 July 2012. The bridge is situated on Pakokku-Pauk-Kyaikhu-Mindat road linking between Magway Region and Chin State (South) in Pauk, 7 March — Construction of Sinzar bridge being built by bridge construction special group (4) of the Ministry of Construction has been completed by 80 percent. The group started construction works on 15 July 2012. The bridge running from Chin State (South) to Pakokku in Magway region and heavy rainfall in last year caused damage to bridges and pavements. In the fire caused by an electric wire shock circuit engulfed Shwechan Dhamma Yeiktha Monastery at the top of Waipolina street in the township. The fire was held on Nguwah Road in Zabuthiri Township on 27 February. Ko Toe Myint Swe, 38, was found dead in the three-foot deep water of a lake of 50 square feet. He disappeared after accompanying the monks to the monastery on 27 February. As he did not get back home, his son-in-law and nephew launched a search for him in the village and nearby lakes. At last, they found him dead in the lake in the compound of their house. Witnesses said that he was drunk on that day. Thongwa Police Station is making further investigation into his drowning death whether there is foul play and other suspicions. — Kyemon

**Man found dead in a lake in Thongwa Township**

Thongwa, 7 March — A man who is believed to have been drowned was found found dead in a lake at Nanyaw village in Thongwa Township on 27 February. Ko Toe Myint Swe, 38, was found dead in the three-foot deep water of a lake of 50 square feet. He disappeared after accompanying the monks to the monastery on 27 February. As he did not get back home, his son-in-law and nephew launched a search for him in the village and nearby lakes. At last, they found him dead in the lake in the compound of their house. Witnesses said that he was drunk on that day. Thongwa Police Station is making further investigation into his drowning death whether there is foul play and other suspicions. — Kyemon

**Free eye care for Rakhine dwellers**

In the evening, the chief minister attended the opening of Sumprabum Hall and Khakabora Hall for Myitkyina University where he formally opened the building and delivered an address.

Next, Kachin State Social Affairs Minister Daw Baik presented certificates of honour to well-wishers who contributed to overall eye care expenditures of the team.

**Development work of Kachin State gaining momentum**

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**Zabuthiri Township gets new tarred road**

Nay Pyi Taw, 7 March — The opening of new tarred road was held on Ngwaw road in Thabyekon ward of Zabuthiri Township, here, on 4 March. Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Myo Nyunt, Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Khin Maung Hla and member of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee U Kyaw Myint formally opened the new tarred road and strolled along the road. At the ceremony held at Base Education Middle School in the ward, Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Myo Nyunt gave an account of development undertakings in the township. The newly-opened Ngwaw tarred road is 1950 feet long and 12 feet wide. It was upgraded form a gravel road to a tarred road on at the cost of K 27.67 million. During 2012-2013 fiscal year, K 698,538 million have been spent in construction of roads, bridges, pavements and drains in the ward.— MNA

**Sinzar bridge to boost regional development of Magway Region, Chin State (South)**

Pakokku, 7 March — A monastery was burnt to the ground in the fire in ward-20 of Hlinethaya Township, here, at about 2 pm on 26 February. The fire caused by an electric wire shock circuit engulfed Shwechan Dhamma Yeiktha Monastery at the top of Waipolina street in the township. Fire crews of Hlinethaya Township Fire Service Department accompanied by four fire engines put out the fire at about 2.40 pm. Hlinethaya Township General Administration Department provided necessary assistance to two monks and two novices of fire-hit monastery. — Kyemon

**Monastery fire in Hlinethaya Township**

Yangon, 7 March — An eye specialist team led by Eye Specialist Professor Dr U Kan Nyunt and Professor Dr U Ko Ko Tin provided free eye care service to patients with eye complaint at Myaynyin village of Thandwe on 1 March. The medical team comprising five eye specialists and 6 nurses performed free medical treatment to 313 patients from Thandwe, Gwa, Kyeintali and Taungup Township and gave eye surgeries to 83 patients with cataract. Moreover, they made necessary arrangements for an eye patient to be able to receive eye surgery from a Singapore eye care team at Yangon Hospital. Wellwishers Dr U Tin Kyi and Daw Than Ngwe and family of Baukhtaw in Yangon, U Sone Han and Daw Tin Tin Hwe and family of Singapore, U Aung Myat of Mother Trading and Construction and family of Yangon and U Kyi Lin and Daw San San Win and family of Insein in Yangon contributed to overall eye care expenditures of the team.

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Iran demands IAEA present documents for intended visit to Parchin site

TEHERAN, 7 March — Head of Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) said on Wednesday that the International Atomic Energy Agency has to present documents explaining the reason for its intended visit to the Parchin military site for inspections. Talking to official IRNA news agency, AEOI chief Fereidoon Abbasi said that Parchin is not and has never been used for nuclear activities.

If the IAEA wants to visit Parchin, they have to provide “solid documents and reasons,” said the Iranian nuclear official adding that in that case, the Iranian military officials will be consulted to make a final decision. The Parchin site has been the main concern of the IAEA since November 2011. Iran has previously refused to grant access to the site unless an agreement has been reached on a “structured approach”, a framework which would allow UN inspectors to look into Iran’s nuclear activities. Iranian officials say, would recognize some aspects of the country’s “peaceful” nuclear programme.

The UN nuclear watchdog on Monday hinted that the structured approach should not be an excuse for Iran to block access to Parchin, demanding full access to the site. — Xinhua

US envoy walks out of nuclear meeting over Iran’s Israel remark

VIENNA, 7 March — The US Ambassador to the United Nations nuclear watchdog walked out of an agency meeting on Wednesday in protest when Iran’s representative accused Washington’s ally Israel of “genocide”, diplomats said.

Officials from Canada and Australia also left the closed-door meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency’s (IAEA) 35-nation governing board when Iran’s Ali Asghar Soltanieh made his statement during a debate on Syria, they said. They later returned to the closed-door IAEA meeting, where such action is unusual though it has happened before in other international forums.

Soltanieh was not immediately available for comment. Iran has often criticised Israeli policies towards the Palestinians. It has also said Israel would be “wiped off the face of the earth” if the Jewish state attacked Iran.

US envoy Joseph Macmanus’ walkout highlighted tensions with Teheran a few hours after he accused the Islamic Republic of a “commitment to deception, defiance, and delay” in addressing IAEA concerns about possible nuclear weapons-related research. The European Union also used the meeting to call on Iran to stop obstructing an IAEA investigation and give the agency access to sites and documents, regardless of broader talks between Iran and world powers that resumed last week.

CAPE TOWN, 7 March — As more rhinos were poached, calls emerged on Wednesday for the re-erection of a 150-km border fence between Mozambique and South Africa. This came after the Department of Environmental Affairs released the latest update on rhino poaching statistics which showed that another 24 rhinos were lost since last week, bringing the total number of rhinos slaughtered this year. “The SANParks (South African National Parks) Board has recommended to the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs that the boundary fence between South Africa and Mozambique be reconstituted,” said SANParks CEO David Mabunda.

The fence is expected to bar poachers from entering into the South African Kruger National Park which bears the brunt of rhino poaching. The park has lost 107 rhinos since the beginning of this year. Most of the rhino poaching took place in the south of the park near camps such as Lower Sabie and Pretoriuskop bordering Mozambique. The park lost 425 rhinos to poaching last year.

Water and Environmental Affairs Executive Director Dr John Dugan said the reintroduction of the border fence is strictly dependent on an analysis of the rhino poaching situation in the Kruger National Park, and a lack of positive results emanating from the creation of a buffer zone within the Limpopo Transfrontier Park region bordering Mozambique.

There have been worries that erecting the fence would pose a threat to the movement of animals in the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park which incorporates national parks in South Africa, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe. — Xinhua

Training reduces insider attacks on US soldiers in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON, 7 March — Effective counterintelligence training and vigilance have significantly reduced the threat of insider attacks on US troops by Afghan soldiers, US Central Command head James Mattis said on Wednesday.

The US toll from such attacks declined to only one this year, Mattis told the US House Armed Services Committee at a hearing on the Capitol Hill. In contrast, a total of 45 US troops and International Security Assistance Force members had been killed by Afghan soldiers as of September last year, the American Forces Press Service reported.

“It goes to the very heart of trust,” Mattis said. “So far this year, (there’s only been) one attack. Now, I do not get complacent. I think I know why it’s gone down. It has to do with training.”

“It has to do with counterintelligence training we’ve given to the Afghans so they have ferreted out some of these people inside their ranks, and caught them,” Mattis said, adding that the allied forces now have very good techniques for doing this.

At the same time, there has been very little change in the US troops’ interaction with Afghan counterparts, Mattis said.

“We are very much involved with them, integrate with them,” he said. “We are obviously taking what you would consider prudent measures in the field to protect ourselves.”

The US commander commended what he described as “wholehearted” support from the Afghan government in addressing the problem of insider attacks by Afghan soldiers. “And it appears to be paying off,” Mattis said. — Xinhua

Abe, Park hold phone talks on ties

TOKYO, 7 March — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe held telephone talks with South Korean President Park Geun-hye late Wednesday in an effort to mend ties strained by territorial row.

During their talks, Abe said that Japan and South Korea share similar values of freedom and democracy and are neighbours with common interests, adding that both sides should closely cooperate so as to build up “future-oriented” relations through an overall perspective.

For her part, Park said the two countries are important partners in the East Asian region and her nation is willing to establish a “future-oriented” relationship with Japan.

Park emphasized that looking squarely towards history is key for the two countries to build up such bilateral relations. Earlier this month, Park urged the Japanese side to take “responsible” attitude towards history, referring to Japan’s 1910-45 colonial occupation. Relations between Japan and South Korea soured due to a pair of islands, which are called Dokdo in South Korea and Takeshima in Japan, in the Sea of Japan. The islets are controlled by South Korea. — Xinhua
Apps use brainwaves to guide, improve meditation

A graph in the app also shows the quality of meditation in real time throughout the session. “You get to literally look at what’s happening in the mind while you’re doing the practice,” Veinotte said. Transcend is one of several apps available for the MindWave headsets made by San Jose, Calif., company NeuroSky, and which connect to smartphones wirelessly. San Francisco-based company Emotiv Systems also creates headsets that run apps. NeuroSky’s CEO, Stanley Yang, said other uses for the headsets include concentration and focus games.—Reuters

The user picks the duration of time for the meditation and can also opt to listen to a guided audio meditation. A candle graphic in the app grows brighter as the quality of the practice increases, which is determined by brainwaves that indicate relaxation and concentration.

Rethinking objects and form are key to 3D printing revolution

“Google needs to become a marketplace,” said Scot Wingo, chief executive of ChannelAdvisor, which helps merchants sell more online. “This is another step.” Ebay is an investor in ChannelAdvisor.

Google handle the deliveries, the person explained on condition of anonymity because the service is still in the early development stage. Tom Fallows, a Google product management director with over a decade of experience, is running Google Shopping Express. The test is focused on the San Francisco Bay Area and has been going for at least a month, the person added.

Google has not yet decided how to charge for the service. It is considering an annual subscription, similar to Amazon, which charges $79 a year for free two-day delivery of many items purchased on Amazon.com.

However, Google may also charge a small fee each time a shopper orders through the service, the person said.

Google tests same-day delivery, raising marketplace speculation

The Google signage is seen at the company’s headquarters in New York on 8 Jan, 2013. Google is testing same-day delivery, raising marketplace speculation.

Google may be building an online marketplace that connects merchants and consumers, a business model that has made Amazon and eBay Inc successful in the United States. “Google needs to become a marketplace,” said Scot Wingo, chief executive of ChannelAdvisor, which helps merchants sell more online. “This is another step.” EBay is an investor in ChannelAdvisor.

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A new smartphone app aims to ease stress and guide users through meditation by monitoring brain waves that change as people become more relaxed. Transcend, made by the Canadian company Personal NeuroDevices, links the smartphone to a separately sold headset that records electrical activity along the forehead. “It doesn’t matter whether you’re meditating as part of a secular practice, or spiritual practice. It all creates the same change in the brain,” said Chad Veinotte, a director of the company, which launched the app last month.

NeuroSky’s CEO, Stanley Yang, said other uses for the headsets include concentration and focus games.—Reuters

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**BUSINESS & HEALTH**

**GM struggles to overcome Chevrolet and Opel**

_Weries_, 7 March—When Geneva taxi driver Bouliba Ben Hassine took his Opel Zafira MPV back to the dealership for maintenance, a salesman tried to sell him a Chevrolet Cruze station wagon.

“It’s a nice-looking model but far too thirsty, so I said no,” the 64-year-old said. “I only went in to change the spark plugs.”

Both Opel and Chevrolet are owned by US carmaker General Motors (GM). Ben Hassine’s experience is symptomatic of a rivalry that has developed between the two brands and risks damaging both. Chevrolet is General Motors’ (GM) largest and most important brand worldwide, selling roughly 5 million cars last year alone.

It plays a crucial role for the group in every major market except one—Opel’s home turf of Europe. Opel outsells Chevrolet around five-to-one in the European Union, a region that contributes only around 4 percent of the US brand’s sales.

When GM first rebranded Korean-built Daewoocars in Europe with the Chevy bowtie eight years ago, the plan was to market them as no-frills versions of sportier, more innovative Opels. But banned by critics and hurt like the rest of the industry by a brutal downturn in European demand, Chevrolet has responded by slashing prices and introducing more upmarket models—putting it on collision course with its sister brand.

At the Geneva car show this week, Chevrolet threatened to steal the limelight from Opel’s upscale Cascada soft-top by unveiling its sleek new Corvette Stingray convertible only a short distance away.

With Opel itself reeling from over $1 billion of annual losses and mired in a painful round of job cuts, the last thing it needs is Chevrolet using cutthroat sales tactics to muscle into Europe with the help of Opel’s own dealers. _Reuters_

**Dell’s special committee defends sale of company**

_Weries_, 7 March—A special committee of Dell’s (DELL.O) board of directors, which is considering alternative offers, is reviewing a new bid from VMware Inc’s (VMW.O) chief executive.

The committee said it was considering a recommendation from a special committee of Dell’s board of directors to recommend the VMware offer to Dell’s shareholders.

The committee said it had been in discussions with VMware and had reviewed a proposal from the company to acquire Dell’s remaining stake in VMware.

Dell, which is based in Round Rock, Texas, is the world’s largest computer maker.

Dell recently announced that it would sell its stake in VMware to Microsoft Corp for $1.1 billion.

**IKEA starts probe into source of bacteria in cakes**

Stockholm, 7 March—Sweden’s IKEA said on Sunday that it had started an investigation into the source of bacteria detectable in its cakes.

The bacteria that the Chinese authorities detected in the cakes posed no harm to health, which was why it could possibly pass the Swedish quality control, reported the Swedish Television SVT.

“The bacteria detected in the cakes should not have been there. We are investigating on how the bacteria would end up there,” Sara Paulsson, Press officer of IKEA, was quoted as saying by SVT.

“We believe that it is just this batch of cakes that were affected. All the products had received quality control against noxious bacteria before they left the factory in Sweden,” she added.

The Swedish company Almondy, IKEA’s supplier and the producer of the cakes, claimed that none of their products were involved in the outbreak.

IKEA, which imports from China, said it had covered the costs of the affected batch of cakes and had introduced new processes to ensure quality control.

**Health regulator issues subpoenas to four HealthSouth hospitals**

Miami, 7 March—HealthSouth Corp said four of its hospitals received subpoenas from the health regulator seeking information on patient admissions and compliance with Medicare rules.

HealthSouth shares fell more than 11 percent to $22.00 on Tuesday after the bell. HealthSouth said in a regulatory filing that the subpoenas were issued by the Miami Lakes, Florida office of the US Department of Health and Human Services and concerned allegations of improper or fraudulent claims submitted to Medicare and Medicaid. The agency also asked for copies of medical records for 101 patients treated at the four hospitals between September 2008 and June 2012. The hospitals have also been asked to produce details on marketing functions, predisersion screening, post admission physician evaluations and compliance with certain Medicare rules. The four hospitals accounted for about 4 percent of HealthSouth’s consolidated net operating revenues between October 2008 and July 2012, the company said.

_Reuters_

**Private sector adds 198,000 jobs in February**

New York, 7 March—US private employers added a larger-than-expected 198,000 jobs in February, bolstering hopes that hiring across the economy is improving, a report by a payrolls processor showed on Wednesday. Economists surveyed by _Reuters_ had forecast the ADP National Employment Report would show a gain of 170,000 jobs. January’s private payrolls were revised up to an increase of 215,000 from the previously reported 192,000.

The report is jointly developed with Moody’s Analytics. A solid gain in hiring ticked up despite worries about government belt-tightening and higher interest rates.

“It feels like underlying job growth continues to improve, and at the current pace, this should be enough to start bringing down unemployment,” said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody’s Analytics. The jobless rate is currently at 8.1 percent.

But panned by critics who said it was too soon to determine if the pace of growth later this year contributed to overall US growth for the first time since 2005.

“The pace of job growth is likely to accelerate further,” Zandi said. “So we’re not there yet, but we’re moving in the right direction,” he added.

The report said the pace of job gains will likely continue to accelerate, with an unemployment rate of 7.7 percent.

Employment Report would forecast the ADP National Employment Report would

 Reuters

**Nasdaq, SharesPost to set up market for unlisted stocks**

New York, 7 March—Nasdaq OMX Group Inc (NDAQ.O) will form a marketplace for trading in shares of unlisted companies in a joint venture with small trading platform SharesPost Inc, tapping into increasing investor interest in private firms.

The new venture, Nasdaq Private Market, will help the exchange rebuild its reputation as the exchange of choice for unlisted companies, after it was criticized for its role in the botched Facebook

 Reuters
Sudan, South Sudan to resume security talks in Addis Ababa on Thursday

KHARTOUM, 7 March—Meetings of the joint political and security committee between Sudan and South Sudan are to resume on Thursday in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa after failing to resume by mid of last February, Khartoum’s Al-Intibah daily reported on Wednesday.

“The political and security committee of Sudan and South Sudan will resume its meetings in Addis Ababa on Thursday with the participation of the two countries’ defense ministers,” the report said.

Khartoum is adhe- rent to its proposal according to the security agreement signed by the two countries,” the paper quoted a security source in the committee as saying, noting that the Suda- nese government delegation has left for Addis Ababa.

However, until Tuesday Juba has not yet submitted its proposals to the African committee of experts regarding the border differences, the report said.

It added that the African Union mediation mechanism on the outstanding issues between the two countries was expected to present a negoti- ating document to Sudan’s delegation concerning the negotiation with the Sudan People’s Liberation Move- ment (SPLM/ northern sec- tor).

Head of the African Union High-Level Implemen- tation Panel on Sudan (AUHIP) Thabo Mbeki has recently called on Sudan and South Sudan to resume the negotiations with the particip- ation of what he termed as key players.

Mbeki expressed hope that the coming round of negotiations between Khar- toum and Juba would be successful. On 27 November last year, Sudan and South Sudan signed a package of agreements on various issues during a presidential summit in the capital of Ethiopia.

Witnessed by the AUHIP members, the two sides inked three deals on co- operation, security and post-secession matters.

However, the signed agreements did not tackle the issues of Abiyet and bor- der demarcation. Though months elapsed since the two sides have signed the coop- eration agreement, yet they failed to implement it on the ground.—Xinhua

Syrian rebels seize UN peacekeepers near Golan Heights

An armed member of the Al Yarmouk Martyr brigade is seen in front of a white vehicle with ‘UN’ written on it at what said to be Jamla, Syria near Golan Heights on 6 March, 2013 in this still image taken from video posted on social media websites.—Reuters

BEIRUT, 7 March—Syrian rebels have seized a convoy of UN peacekeepers near the Golan Heights and say they will hold them cap- tive until President Bashar al-Assad’s forces pull back from a rebel-held village which has seen heavy recent fighting.

The capture was an- nounced in rebel videos posted on the Internet and confirmed on Wednesday by the United Nations, which said about 20 peacekeepers had been detained.

The seizure is the most direct threat to UN personnel in the nearly two-year-old uprising against Assad, and Human Rights Watch said it was investigating the same brigade for past executions.

It came on the day Brit- ain said it would aid to the opposition forces and the Arab League gave a green light to member states to arm the rebels.

The Arab League also invited the opposition Syr- ian coalition to take Syria’s seat at a meeting of the re- gional body in Doha later this month. Syria was sus- pended in November 2011 in response to its crackdown on protestors which has since spir- alled into civil war.

In the latest attack by the Syrian military, warplanes bombarded the north-eastern provincial capital of Raqqa for a second consecutive day on Wednesday, killing at least 39 people, opposition activits said. Video footage showed fighters putting dis- membered bodies in an ambu- lance.

The peacekeepers of the UNDOF mission have been monitoring a ceasefire line between Syria and the Israei-occupied Golan Heights, captured by the Jewish state in a 1967 war, for nearly four decades.

Israel has warned that it will not “stand idle” as Syr- ia’s civil war spills over into the Golan region.

The United Nations in New York said its peace- keepers had been detained by around 30 fighters in the Golan Heights. The Secu- rity Council and Secretary- General Ban Ki-mon con- demned the seizure of UN observers and demanded their immediate release.—Reuters

More world leaders offer condolences over Chavez’s death

CARACAS, 7 March—So far 10 leaders from foreign countries have confirmed at- tendance of the state funeral of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, the Foreign Minister of Venezuela said on Thursday.

“Nearly all the leaders will arrive here tomorrow to attend the official ceremony scheduled for Friday at the Military Academy in Fort Tiuna,” Venezuelan Foreign Minister Elias Jaua said.

Argentine President Cristina Fernandez, Bolivian President Evo Morales, and Uruguayan President Jose Mujica have already arrived in Venezuela to pay their re- spect to Chavez, according to local media.

Meanwhile, Cuba de- creed two days of official mourning on Wednesday and Thursday and a third day of national mourning on Friday. During the official mourning, the national flag will be hoisted at half-mast on public buildings and mili- tary establishments, while on Friday all public entertain- ment and festive activities will be suspended.

The Cuban government also called on the people to attend Thursday’s memorial activities around the coun- try, which would last from 8 am to 8 pm. On Wednesday, Communist Party of China (CPC) chief Xi Jinping, Chi- nese President Hu Jintao and top legislator Wu Bangguo all sent condolences over Chavez’s death. Chavez was a great statesman and out- standing leader of Venezuela, who led the Venezuelan government and people to huge achievements in the fields of economy, con- struction and won support and respect from the people, Xi said in his message. —Xinhua

Anxiety builds as Kenyans wait for presidential winner

NAIROBI, 7 March—Kenyans authorities said the outcome of the country’s presidential election would not be compromised by the failure of electronic vote counting technology that has delayed results for a third day.

Deputy Prime Minis- ter Uhuru Kenyatta, who is due to go on trial for crimes against humanity linked to the violent aftermath of the last election in 2007, has led since results started trickling in after polls closed on Mon- day.

But some strongholds loyal to his rival Prime Min- ister Raila Odinga have yet to declare their results.

Kenyatta’s lead ap- pears to have been eroded substantially, but it was too early to predict the outcome. At 1.45 am on Thursday (2205 GMT on Wednesday), Kenyatta had 1,119,761 votes to Odinga’s 819,573 from a handful of constituencies.

Election officials had said turnout was more than 70 percent of the 14.3 million eligible voters.

If neither major candi- date wins 50 percent of the vote, Kenyatta, 51, and Od- inga, 68, would have to face each other in an April run-off, prolonging the uncertainty.

Ahmed Isack Hassan, chairman of the Independ- ent Electoral and Boundaries commission, said vote count- ing could be concluded at the earliest on Friday or dr on to Monday, the last day on which by law the results must be made public.

“I also want to empha- sise that the fact that we are now abandoning the electron- ic voter transmission does not in any way mean that the integrity of the results which we are being announced are compromised,” Hassan told a news conference.

Kenyans are waiting to see if politicians will respect the results this time. Five years ago some rejected the outcome unleashing weeks of ethnic killing.—Reuters

Irran arrests political editor of reformist paper

DUBAI, 7 March—Iran arrested the managing direc- tor and political editor of a pro-reform daily on Wednes- day, with the semi-official Fars news agency saying their detentions were linked to the publication of a let- ter from a former president about media freedom.

With a presidential election three months away, Iran’s clerical leadership appears to be tightening its grip on the media to avoid a repeat of the protests that erupted after the disputed re-election of President Mahmoud Ah- madinejad in 2009.

Fars agency quoted the daily Maghreb’s editor, Amir Mousa Kazemi, as say- ing that the arrests “can be related to the publication of Mohammad Khatami’s letter” on Tuesday.

In the letter, the moder- ate former president, said Ahmadinejad, said he hoped Maghreb would continue to work alongside the “few remaining inde- pendent” publications in the country.

Khatami, publicly backed defeated candidate Mirhossein Mousavi during the 2009 presidential election, which reformists said was rigged. Iran denied the accusation and has put Mousavi under house ar- rest for more than two years, along with fellow opposition leader Mehdi Karoubi.

With Iran’s main reform- ist outlet detained, Khatami has sometimes been the voice of the moderate opposition movement. The paper said on its website it had sought his opinion about its work, which resulted in his letter’s publication.

“My colleagues in the Iranian Stu- dents’ News Agency, said managing director Mohammad Mehdiz Esmari Nasser and political editor Alireza Aghae are were detained by agents from Teheran pro- secutor’s office.” —Reuters
Sunflower adorns Meza Creek in Indaw Township

Due to concerted efforts of local farmers, sunflower plantations are thriving along the bank of Meza Creek in the villages of Indaw Township in Katha District in Sagaing Region.

"We achieve success in growing sunflower plants this year," said Administrator U Thein Tun of Thokkha Village-tract in Indaw Township.

Computer, office equipment donated to ward administrative office

Mandalay, 7 March—A ceremony to donate computer and accessories to the administrative office in East Pyigyi Kyetthayaw Ward was held at the office of the ward in Aungmyethas Township of Mandalay on 2 March morning.

U Win Sein of Maung Sein Win and Brothers

Nyaungchaungtha Beach attracts visitors in Nyaungdon Township

Nyaungdon, 7 March—A natural beach emerges in Yankin Sanya Village of Nyaungdon Township, at the confluence of Ayeyawady River and Panhaung River, and so the beach is called Nyaungchaungtha Beach.

Those who take relaxation and picnickers may enjoy breathing fresh air from Ayeyawady River. They may swim and take surfing on the waves. In addition, they may take fresh foodstuffs, said a person from Bago who took relaxation at the beach.

The holiday-makers may go to the beach in a short time. But they do not need to spend a large sum of money on trips to Nyaungchaungtha.

Its cost is lesser than that of Chaungtha and Ngwehsaung. At present, local people of Nyaungdon, those from Yangon and blottetters take relaxation daily.

Majors renovation completed at Palyan Gate of Kengtung

Kengtung, 7 March—Kengtung was an ancient city of Shan chieftains in Eastern Shan State. Chieftain Kyauk Maha Nan built ancient walls and gates in 1819 AD. Of them, there remains gate to Palyan City only. Department of Archaeology, Library and National Museum under the Ministry of Culture and local authorities started major renovation of the gate as fo 9 January.

Major renovation completed at Palyan Gate of Kengtung

Namtu Township IPRD raises reading habit

Namtu, 7 March—With the aim of raising reading habit of local people, Namtu Township Information and Public Relations Department practises door-to-door book borrowing system in ward villages and departments of the township.

The department invited students in the summer holidays who completed examination to take part in the reading contest and feeds refreshment on 13 February.—Myannna Alinn

Bangladesh Trade Fair kicks off in Yangon

Yangon, 7 March—Single Country Trade Fair of Bangladesh-2013 was organized for the first time in Myanmar at UMFFCCI in Lanmadaw Township, here, this morning.

The expo was formally opened by Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe.

The Union Minister, in his opening speech, called for higher trade volume between the two countries as the trade volume currently hung at USD 84 million only. He assured that the today’s expo facilitates promotion of trade and investments between the two countries welcoming the first-ever expo in Myanmar.

Next, Bangladesh Minister for Trade Mr. Gholam Muhammed Quader, the Vice-Chairman of Bangladesh Export Promotion Bureau, the Bangladeshi Ambassador to Myanmar and UMFFCCI President U Win Aung made speeches.

The expo was organized till 8 March. It showcases clothes, cosmetics, medicines, furniture, and consumer goods and handicrafts made in Bangladesh.—MNA

ECHO humanitarian aids for Rakhine, Kachin States

Nay Pyi Taw, 7 March—Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Repatriation Dr. Myat Myat Ohn Kyin received a delegation led by Mr. Esab Kentschynsky, Head of Asia-Pacific and America Department of European Commission Humanitarian Office.

MNA

Nyanlyin District DRA gets new office

Myitkyina, 7 March—The office of Directorate of Road Administration was opened in Nyanlyin District in Kachin State on 21 February morning.

The two-storey RC office was built at a cost of K 17 million.

Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Kyaw Soe Lay and Head of Kachin State Directorate of Road Administration U Lynn Cainti formally opened the office.

State Minister for Transport U Kamala Dutaun unveiled the signboard of the office and made a speech.

Officials then viewed repairs of locomotives at the Nyanlyin Locomotive Shed, repaving of Nyanlyin-Namsaung road section and facilities of communication station (exchange) in Mainam Village. The state minister on 22 February inspected construction of detour to Nyanlyin, maintenance of Bawdaw Yawyett Bridge on Shwedo-Miyitkyina Road, communiation stations and repaving of roads.

Myannna Alinn

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A five members delegation seen at Yangon International Airport on 3 March before their departure for PS Business School of Singapore at the invitation of ASEAN Preneurs Youth Leader Exchange-National University of Singapore.—MNA

Workers of Ministry of Construction have repaired the road to the ancient gate. Ancient Kungtung City had been equipped with 12 gates namely Mingala, Kenglan, Ngampa, Payang, Sempaung, Yangkhama, Nawnglek, Nawngpa, Khaikha, Yangpon, Yanggon and Palyan.

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The department invited students in the summer holidays who completed examination to take part in the reading contest and feeds refreshment on 13 February.—Myannna Alinn

Publications donated to village libraries in Thegon Township

Pyay, 7 March—Executive of Bago Region Anti-Narcotics Association U Shwe Win donated books to village libraries of Thegon Township of Pyay District, taking place at No. 91 on Letthama Street in Pyay on 25 February morning.

The wellwisher donated 555 copies of journals and magazines worth K 300,000 to Head of Thegon Township Information and Public Relations Department U Naing Lin.—Myannna Alinn

New Light of Myanmar, 7 March—With the aim of raising reading habit of local people, Namtu Township Information and Public Relations Department practises door-to-door book borrowing system in ward villages and departments of the township.

The department invited students in the summer holidays who completed examination to take part in the reading contest and feeds refreshment on 13 February.—Myannna Alinn

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Myanmar Alinn
The publication of “Printing and Publishing Draft Law” in 28-2 April 2013 issues of State-run newspapers has triggered the responses of the most media outlets. The responses are colourful. It is the essence of democracy that media critics, and express their views of the printing and publishing draft law. Freedom of expression and transparency are of great importance in democracy, and thus their criticism should be welcomed gladly.

However, the created law is quite abstract and realistic and based on the truth with righteous mind. It should not be that one-sided criticisms are made by turning a blind eye to the truth. It would just make the parties concerned dejected. It would not get to the truth and serve the national interests.

Analyzing the comments of all personalities, main points are found as follows:
(1) The fact that Myanmar provisional Press Council is preparing draft print media law from which freedoms are clarified that approving the government’s draft publishing law would reverse those freedoms embodied in the draft print media law.
(2) The fact that Section 7 (b) & (e) of the draft law—restraint on publishing pieces of writing that are believed to be aimed at instigating for violence or jeopardize community tranquility; and prevalence of law and order, and go against provisions in the Constitution and other existing laws—are aimed to restrict the journalists as well; that it restricts the freedom of press and publishing businesses.
(3) The fact that as publishing and printing permit known as work permit is restricted under the law, it is not different from the practice in the time of military regime; that those who break those provisions and rules in the law will face cancellation or suspension of their acknowledgment each year for a certain period means controlling the printers and publishers from other hand.
(4) The fact that establishment of news agencies is nothing to do with the publishing law and is only concerned with news media.
I would like to discuss those comments as much as my grey matter is capable of.

According to the comment No. 1, the point is courted by the Press Council of Myanmar Provisional Press Council and the draft media law are similar. The drafting and publishing law is just the law only concerned with publishing and printing businesses. It just prescribes rules and responsibilities printers and publishers are to abide by, issuing permits for printing and publishing businesses. The draft law does not touch the rights and responsibilities of the journalists, the media news.

In my understanding, press law just prescribes rights, ethics, and responsibilities of journalists and related provisions of the Press Council. If provisions about printing and publishing businesses are included in press law, the Press Council would need to register and supervise them also.

In my view, printing and publishing law is enacted for printing and publishing businesses and is only concerned with the focal ministry. The Press Council should formulate laws for journalists and press council affairs.

Reviewing the press law of Indonesia, it includes ten chapters—(1) general provisions, (2) regulations, works, rights, responsibilities and roles of media, (3) journalists, (4) press corporations, (5) press council, (6) foreign press, (7) publication, (8) punishments, (9) transition and (10) conclusion viewing. This is, we can know press law only includes provisions about journalists. In addition, our neighbour India has enacted two acts separately—The Press and Registration of Books Act and the Press and Publication of newspaper and The Press Council Act for the journalists.

So, it would be assumed that the Printing and Publishing Draft Law is not similar to the Press Media Law being drafted by the Press Council. The freedom of press will not be lost after the draft law is approved. The two separate laws will not influence each other. There will be the rights of media men in the Press Media Law because of the Press Council which will not be threatened by the enactment of the draft law.
I would like to discuss five provisions in Section 7, if prescribed, but these shall be only such as are provided by law and are necessary:
(a) For respect of the rights and reputations of others;
(b) For the protection of national security or of public order (ordre public), or of public health and morals.
These provisions underline the need to place emphasis on the laws and regulations on press law, the national security, public order, and public health and morals. They also stress the need to prescribe the provisions in the law.

Provisions in Section 7 do not pose a threat to the freedom of press but rather protect the State and citizens in accord with the constitution or the international human rights agreement.

If the provisions in Section 7 in Chapter III of the Draft Law are elastic, attention should be given to using more precise wording.

The Unnecessary Publications Act of the ASEAN acts like a Singaporean defined matters such as sex, horror, crime, cruelty, violence or the consumption of drugs or other intoxicating substances, and moral and public order in a manner that the availability of the publication is likely to be injurious to the public good as undesirable (See page 9)
Election is the foundation of democracy
From now on, compilation of voters’ list will be made:
UEC Chairman

Labour, Employment and Social Security Ministry to settle Myanmar illegal workers issue in Jordan

Correction
Please read “invalid publication” instead of “illegal publication” in 6th line of 3rd paragraph, 3rd line and 9th line of 5th paragraph and 7th line of 6th paragraph in sixth column on page 8 of this daily issued on July 7 2013. Error is regretted.

NAY PYI TAW, 7 March—Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint received an Indian delegation led by Director General Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia of Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) at his office, here, this afternoon.

They discussed development of SMEs, prospects of technology and investment in energy, electricity, minerals and resources between the two countries and totally lifting sanctions imposed against Myanmar by the US.

They agreed to hold regular consultations for enhancing bilateral cooperation for human resources development, making more investment and promoting border trade.

NAY PYI TAW, 7 March—A total of 1300 Myanmar workers are working at Century Miracle Apparel Mfg Co Ltd in Ramtha in Jordan, of whom over 1200 have been making coordination over their protests since 14 February through the Myanmar Embassy in Israel, the nearest Myanmar’s foreign mission to Jordan, to settle the dispute.

Thanking the negotiation of Myanmar Embassy and responsible person U Sai Tin Tun from New Covenant Office, U Tin Aye said that the commission, in accord with the law, played the role of supervising the activities of political parties in order not to violate the Constitution and existing laws while they are engaged in political, economic and social matters of the people.

He continued that the commission successfully organized the by-elections on 1 April 2012, gave its verdict on the electoral disputes occurred in the by-elections and allowed 55 political parties to register up to date.

He pointed out that genuine democracy was based on the election and the election will be the foundation of democracy. He stressed the need to enable all eligible voters to be able to enjoy the right to vote. He called for compilation of the accurate voters’ lists from now on. He stressed the need of taking lessons from previous elections, calling for more efforts to minimize the weak points in forthcoming elections.

He called on region/state/ district subcommittees to carry out the task of compiling lists of voters for upcoming 2015 elections by ward/village subcommittees in accord with laws, bylaws and directives.

After hearing reports presented by those present, the UEC chairman called on those present to make strenuous efforts for the emergence of free and fair elections in 2015.

Friday, 8 March, 2013

NATIONAL

9

New Light of Myanmar

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UEC Chairman U Tin Aye meets Region/State/District subcommittees at Union Election Commission Office.—MNA

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**VENEZUELA**

**CARACAS** — Deceased Venezuelan leader Hugo Chavez was hailed by weeping supporters on Wednesday as a spiritual father figure who sacrificed his life for his country.

The 58-year-old socialist president succumbed to cancer on Tuesday after 14 years in power that polarized a country with vast oil reserves by sideling traditional elites in favour of millions mired in poverty.

Supporters say Chavez, a larger-than-life persona in Venezuela, helped them throw off the shackles of capitalism and foreign interference, and that he fell ill because he devoted all his energy to a peaceful revolution. “He was like a father to us. He taught us how to love our country, our culture and our sovereignty,” said Madeleine Gutierrez, 29, an architect. Tears streamed down her cheeks as she hugged friends in a plaza named for Chavez’s hero Simon Bolivar, who liberated much of Latin America from Spanish colonial rule.

“Chavez lives! The fight goes on!” people chanted. Clad in red, the colour of the Socialist Party, they thronged the balmy streets of Caracas, creating rivers of crimson in homage to the departed president. Bands of motorcyclists hoonked their horns in impromptu motorcades.

Critics say Chavez squandered the wealth from an oil price bonanza by spending too much on inefficient social-welfare programmes, lost control of inflation, allowed violent crime to surge and insulted US and European leaders for sport.

But with his African and indigenous heritage, Chavez was the face of the country who say their father figure who sacrificed his life for us. You could call him a martyr,” said Jose Rondon, 48, wearing a beret like one used by Chavez, at the hospital where the president died. Rondon works for a union group affiliated with the Chavez government and, like many of the people on the streets interviewed by Reuters, has ties to his party. — Reuters

**Syria’s refugee tide passes one-million mark**

Syria’s refugee tide passed the one-million mark this week, the United Nations refugee agency said in a statement.

The UNHCR said an estimated 700,000 people have been killed.

Around half the refugees are children, most of them aged under 11, and the numbers leaving are mounting every week, the United Nations refugee agency said in statement. — Reuters

**US fighting use of armoured cars in money laundering**

St Louis — Mexican drug cartels are using armoured-car firms to help shield their efforts to smuggle and launder billions of dollars into legitimate-looking business profits, US authorities believe, and financial regulators are seeking to crack down.

The Treasury’s anti-money laundering unit, the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN), is preparing guidance for banks on how they should report receipt of large sums of cash from customers via armoured-car deliveries, a practice that also renewed an African Union peacekeeping force for a year and reconfigured the UN mission in the Horn of Africa country.

Somalia’s government had asked for the armoured cars to be removed entirely and the United States supported that, but other UN member states were wary of completely lifting the embargo on a country that is already awash with weapons, diplomats said.

“What we have tried to do is draw a balance between those who wanted an unrestricted lifting of the arms embargo and those who felt it was premature to lift the arms embargo,” Britain’s UN Ambassador Lyall Grant told reporters. “It is a good and strong compromise.”

The embargo on Somalia was imposed in 1992 to cut the flow of weapons to warlords, who a year earlier had ousted dictator Mohamed Siad Barre and plunged the country into civil war. Somalia held its first vote since 1991 last year to elect a president and prime minister.

The Security Council resolution leaves in place a ban on surface-to-air missiles, large-calibre guns, howitzers, cannons and mortars as well as anti-tank guided weapons, mines and night vision equipment.

The uprisings have since turned into an increasingly sectarian struggle between armed rebels and government soldiers and militias.

An estimated 70,000 people have been killed.

Around half the refugees are children, most of them aged under 11, and the numbers leaving are mounting every week, the United Nations refugee agency said in statement. — Reuters

**Syrians start trickling out of the country nearly two years ago when President Bashar al-Assad’s forces shot at pro-democracy protests inspired by Arab revolts elsewhere.**

The uprising has since turned into an increasingly sectarian struggle between armed rebels and government soldiers and militias.

An estimated 70,000 people have been killed.

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**Nine killed in plane crash in northern Peru**

LIMA, 7 March — All nine people on board an air- plane chartered by a small Peruvian mining company died after the plane became ensnared in power lines and crashed to the ground in northern Peru on Wednesday morning, which happened minutes before the plane was expected to land at a nearby airport in the La Libertad region. “Due to bad weather the plane got caught up in power cables. There are nine dead — the pilot, the co-pilot and seven others,” regional police chief Roger Torres told local media.

Residents in the region told the Peruvian radio programme RPP that they had found the charred remains of the plane and those on board. Retamas is among the top ten gold producers in Peru, which is the sixth largest gold producer in the world and exported more than 160 tonnes of bullion last year.

**Syrian refugee children stay inside a tent at the Al Zaatri refugee camp in the Jordanian city of Mafrag, near the border with Syria, on 6 March, 2013.** — Reuters

**Sudden gust strands vessel in Fiji, passengers safe**

Suva, 7 March — A passenger ship got stuck on a reef near Fiji’s Koro Island early Thursday and arrangements were being made to send another vessel to pick up the 110 passengers on board, local media reported.

MV Spirit of Fiji Islands was pulling out from Koro Island around 5 a.m. local time when a sudden gust of wind came to its portside, news website Fijivillage reported, adding “all the passengers are safe.”

Adriel Prasad, general manager of Consort Shipping Ltd., said the company has activated all safety and emergency procedures and was trying to arrange another ship to travel to the island to pick up the stranded passengers, who were being looked after well during this situation. — Xinhua
Japan’s new tsunami warning system focuses on evacuation

Tokyo, 7 March—The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) on Thursday adopted a new tsunami warning system, which primarily focuses on appropriate evacuation advisories rather than details of the incoming waves, local media reported.

Under the new warning system, the JMA will mark an expected tsunami only with “HUGE” or “HIGH” in the first round of warnings within three minutes after a preliminary 8-magnitude or larger earthquake occurs so as to alert people to the state of the emergency.

“HUGE” refers to tsunami with heights of more than 5 metres and “HIGH” to those above 1 metre, according to the JMA.

The agency suggests that people should “evacuate from coastal or river area immediately to safer places such as high ground and tsunami evacuation buildings” after the huge or high tsunami warnings are issued. If the tsunami advisories mark the waves over 20 cm are issued, people should “get out of water and leave coastal areas immediately,” said the agency, also suggesting people do not engage in fishing and swimming until advisories are lifted.

Local media also reported that the agency would use expressions as “great East Japan earthquake level tsunami may come” to warn the public. In the second round of warnings within 15 minutes after a quake, the JMA will classify the height of the expected tsunami as more than 10 metres, 10 metres, 5 metres, 3 metres and 1 metre. The agency said the warnings and advisories were based on the upper limits of each level for expected tsunami heights so as to avoid overestimation. A 9.0-magnitude earthquake hit Japan on 11 March, 2011 and triggered devastating tsunami off the country’s northeast coast, leaving more than 15,000 people dead.

Eight killed in traffic accident in West Java, Indonesia

Jakarta, 7 March—A small truck collided with a mini van in Cirebon of West Java on Wednesday, killing 8 people and seriously injuring 4, police said.

The accident occurred when the truck was having a problem with its brake and passing the street at the line for other vehicles from opposite direction. However, the driver made it not can make a collision with the van suddenly appearing from the opposite direction, West Java police chief Martinus Sitompul said.

“Because of this accident 8 people were killed and 4 others got serious injuries,” he was quoted by detikonline, one of the leading news portal in the country, as saying.

All the wounded persons have been rushed to a nearby hospital, while the truck driver is detained by police for investigation, he said.

Investment opportunities are vast in Thailand given its potential as a gateway for European Union countries to the Southeast Asian region and the 66 billion US dollars mega project by Thai governments involving transport, telecommunications and energy, she said.

She also asked the Belgian prime minister to consider Schengen visa waivers for Thai passport holders to promote tourism between the two countries. Yingluck made a similar request to the Swedish leader during her visit to Stockholm on Tuesday. The Thai and Belgian premiers agreed in principle to exchange knowledge on medical science, food safety, innovative technology, high-level research and development and logistics to boost Thailand’s competitive edge. Later Wednesday Yingluck is scheduled to meet with Jose Manuel Barroso, European Commission president when they will announce the enforcement of the Thai-European Union Free Trade Agreement.

Vietnam capital to reassign obese, rude traffic cops

Hanoi, 7 March—Pot-bellied, short, or abusive traffic policemen will be barred from working on the streets of Vietnam’s capital and assigned desk jobs instead as Hanoi police try to clean up their unsavoury image, a newspaper reported on Wednesday.

The city’s traffic police are following the worst offenders closely and compiling lists of those to be reassigned. All police on traffic duty will be made to carry a book on the code of conduct to remind them how to behave, the official Tien Phong (Vanguard) newspaper said.

“Little officers, or those with too big a belly will be moved to work in offices instead of guiding traffic and settling violations,” Colonel Dao Vinh Thang, head of the Hanoi Traffic Police Department, was quoted by Tien Phong as saying.

He said five teams of inspectors have been sent to monitor the behaviour of police on the street. Thang could not be reached for additional comment.

Temper often flare in the city of 7 million famous for constant streams of motorcycles and sometimes haphazard driving. Complaints have mounted about the conduct of traffic police, including allegations of corruption and abusive behaviour.

The latest initiative follows the deployment in January of female traffic inspectors, all part of a campaign to improve the image of the security forces.

Indian teen goes on trial for gang rape, murder

New Delhi, 7 March—An Indian teenager went on trial on Wednesday charged with taking part in the gang rape and murder of a young physiotherapist, a case which has sparked soul-searching about whether the country is too soft on young offenders.

Police say the juvenile and five men lured the 23-year-old woman and her male friend on to a New Delhi bus where they repeatedly raped her and beat them both before tossing them on to the road.

The woman died of internal injuries in Singapore two weeks after the 16 December attack in a case that sparked violent protests and turned a global spotlight on the treatment of women in India. The 17-year-old defendant, who cannot be named under Indian law, has been charged with the same 13 offences as his colleagues, accused of rape, murder and robbery, but is being tried separately by the juvenile court.

PM Yingluck calls Thailand haven for foreign investment during visit to Europe

Bangkok, 7 March—Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra on Wednesday urged the Belgian private sectors to take part in investment in Thailand’s mega infrastructure projects during her official visit, Thai News Agency reported.

During a meeting with her Belgian counterpart Elio Di Rupo, the Thai premier said Thailand has enjoyed political and economic stability, and a gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 6.4 percent.

Overseas mark the waves within the areas such as high ground and leave coastal areas immediately to safer places such as high ground and tsunami evacuation buildings. The latest initiative follows the deployment in January of female traffic inspectors, all part of a campaign to improve the image of the security forces.

Six men with their faces covered, accused of a gang rape in Punjab are escorted by police to a court at Gurdaspur in the northern Indian state of Punjab on 13 Jan, 2013.

Eighty-five suspected drug offenders were arrested in a two-day island-wide operation conducted by Singapore’s Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB), the bureau said on Wednesday.

Drugs worth more than 15.08 Singapore dollars (12,048 US dollars) were seized in the 48-hour operation conducted jointly with officers from the Singapore Police Force from 4 to 6 March, including 117 grams of heroin, 14 grams of “Ice”, 25 grams of cannabis and a small amount of ketamine.

“The latest island-wide operation is part of the CNB’s ongoing intensive enforcement efforts to remove illicit drug activities from the streets,” the bureau said in a statement. The bureau also detailed the chasing process of the suspected drug offenders, including drug abusers and drug traffickers.

The CNB said a man arrested during the operation this time is being investigated for drug trafficking. If convicted, he may face a minimum sentence of five years’ imprisonment and five strokes of the cane.

Eight people have been killed in road accidents in West Java, Indonesia on 7 March 2013.
Agricultural training, trade talks open

New Zealand-Colombia relationship

Wellington, 7 March — New Zealand Prime Minister John Key has agreed to help fund the training of agricultural workers in Colombia as part of a process to open up trade between the two nations.

Key, the first New Zealand prime minister to visit the Latin American nation, said that he and Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos had discussed the possible need for a bilateral comprehensive economic partnership.

Colombia was a member of the Pacific Alliance trade grouping with Chile, Mexico and Peru to which New Zealand had observer status, while New Zealand also had a free trade agreement with Chile, and was part of Trans Pacific Partnership negotiations with Chile, Peru and Mexico, said Key.

“However, Colombia is the only member of the Pacific Alliance with which New Zealand does not have a pathway to open trade and investment, and rectifying that would benefit both countries,” Key said in a statement from his office on Thursday.

New Zealand would also invest 3.4 million US dollars over four years in a joint project with the Colombian government to support the agricultural sector, through training and the sharing of New Zealand’s technical expertise.

“Colombia has made huge strides, economically and politically, over the past decade, and is fast becoming a major player in Latin America. Its agricultural sector is on the rise, and President Santos has told me Colombia’s dairy industry would benefit enormously from New Zealand’s skills and investment,” Key said.

“The demand for New Zealand’s expertise is opening up opportunities in Colombia for New Zealand businesses to invest in the local economy and export not only their goods, but their services.”

Seven indigenous people died in house fire in northeastern Cambodia

Phnom Penh, 7 March — Seven persons died and one injured in a wooden house fire early Thursday in Mondolkiri province’s Senmonorom town in far northeastern Cambodia, police said. The incident happened at 2:15 am local time early Thursday at the house of an ethnic minority family in a plot of farmland in the town, Peril Raming, police chief of Senmonorom town, said on Thursday.

“A family including father, mother and five children were killed in the blaze,” he told Xinhua over telephone. “Another woman, who was the family’s relative, was in critical condition while she escaped the fire by jumping out of the burning stilts-wooden house through a window.”

He said that among the dead, four were aged between 2 and 8 years old. Police concluded that the blaze was caused by a burnt cigarette smoked by the residence’s father.

“In their house, there were several containers of gasoline and engines as well as two motorcycles. After he smoked, he probably threw the burnt cigarette nearby the gasoline containers and ignited the fire,” he said.

It was the second remarkable fire incident in Cambodia after the first one happened at a night market in the tourism hub in northwestern Siem Reap Province in December, killing 8 people.—Xinhua

BRICS Business Council to be launched during summit in S Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 7 March — A BRICS Business Council will be launched during the group’s fifth summit this month in a step to intensify cooperation of five emerging economies, South Africa Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davies said on Wednesday.

The BRICS summit will be held in Durban, South Africa on 26-17 March. Davies said the council will constitute a platform to strengthen economic ties, trade and investment between the business communities of the five BRICS countries of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

The minister stated that the council will provide technical support, consultative advice and facilitate the implementation of multilateral business projects. The council will focus on specific areas.

“These areas include promotion of trade and industry and business cooperation, technology transfer and development, tapping business opportunities in third countries and multilateral business, advisory role, cooperation in the fields of manufacturing, infrastructure, banking and financial services, green economy, skills development and training and small and medium enterprises,” Davies said in a statement.

The minister added that the council will have a regular dialogue between the business communities and the five BRICS governments.

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‘Skyfall’ director Sam Mendes says no to Bond 24

LONDON, 7 March — British director Sam Mendes will not direct the next James Bond movie, despite impressive critics and breaking box office records with “Skyfall”, the 23rd movie in the spy series. Speaking to Empire magazine in an interview published on Wednesday, the Oscar-winning filmmaker said he would be focusing on his theatre projects for the foreseeable future.

The success of “Skyfall”, the top-grossing Bond film having earned more than $1.1 billion at the global box office, had led to media speculation that Mendes would return for Bond 24.

“It has been a very difficult decision not to accept Michael and Barbara’s very generous offer to direct the next Bond movie,” said Mendes, referring to Bond producers Barbara Broccoli and Michael G Wilson. “Directing ‘Skyfall’ was one of the best experiences of my professional life, but I have theatre and other commitments, including productions of ‘Charlie And The Chocolate Factory’ and ‘King Lear’, that need my complete focus over the next year and beyond.”

Priyanka Chopra

Priyanka Chopra is excited about her first item song

KOLKATA, 7 March — Priyanka Chopra is excited about her first item song ‘Babli Badnam Hai’ in Ekta Kapoor produced ‘Shootout at Wadala’.

“I did want (to) work with Ekta, and she was very persistent about the song. It was a conscious decision for me not to do an item song after all these years in Bollywood.

“But it was great opportunity as both of us had really wanted to work with each other.” — PTI

Tribeca Film Festival showcases eclectic mix of directors, films

NEW YORK, 7 March — The Tribeca Film Festival opens next month with 89 feature films from new and established directors, ranging from hard-hitting documentaries to romantic and teen comedies and gripping dramas. More than 6,000 films from 30 countries were submitted to this year’s festival, which was established more than a decade ago to revitalize the New York neighbourhood devastated by the 11 September attacks on the World Trade Centre.

Along with the 34 documentaries and 55 narrative feature films, the festival that runs from 17 to 28 April will include five projects in a new section called Storyscapes about trends in digital media. Documentaries will focus on famous people such as comedians Moms Mabley and Richard Pryor, along with Broadway actress Elaine Stritch, as well as movies that delve into the oil industry and hydraulic fracturing, or fracking.

“The romantic comedy ‘The Pretty One,’” the final chapter of Richard Linklater’s trilogy, “Before Midnight,” and Neil Jordan’s gothic vampire drama “Byzantium” will be among the narrative fiction films. “When we talk about the narrative competition, we talk about the kind of films that left us thinking about that film two days later, that really made a personal impact on us, that moved us,” Geoff Gilmore, the creative chief officer of Tribeca Enterprises, said in an interview. — Reuters

Bruno Mars tops Billboard 200 chart with help from Amazon MP3

LOS ANGELES, 7 March — R&B singer Bruno Mars grabbed the top spot on the Billboard 200 album chart on Wednesday for the first time after discounted online prices boosted sales of “Unorthodox Jukebox” some four months after its release. Mars’ album, which includes the hit “Locked Out of Heaven,” sold 95,000 copies last week, according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan.

Industry magazine Billboard said 64,000 units of the album were digital downloads following a one-day sale of $1.99 on Amazon.com’s MP3 site. Atoms for Peace, the rock group fronted by Radiohead singer Thom Yorke, claimed the second spot with their debut album “Amok” entering the chart at No 2, selling 50,000 units. Mumford & Sons’ Grammy-winning album “Babel” fell from the top spot last week into third, while the same Amazon MP3 online sale that helped Mars also vaulted hip-hop duo Macklemore & Ryan Lewis’ album “The Heist” from No 16 to No 4. Hillsong United, the band from Australian megachurch Hillsong, rounded out the top five with the album “Zion,” selling 34,000 units in its first week. Three of the top four albums are distributed by independent companies rather than large conglomerates, the first time it has happened since Nielsen SoundScan began tracking sales in 1991, Billboard said. Alternative Distribution Alliance distributed albums for Atoms for Peace and Macklemore & Ryan Lewis. RED Distribution released “Babel” for Mumford & Sons.

On the digital songs chart, Macklemore & Ryan Lewis’ cheeky ray “Thrift Shop” held at No 1 for the eighth consecutive week with 326,000 downloads, a 10 percent decline from last week. — Reuters

Salman Khan, Anushka Sharma most wanted celebrities online

NEW DELHI, 7 March — Bollywood stars Salman Khan and Anushka Sharma have emerged as the most wanted celebrities online in India, according to a recent study. The vivacious Anushka was the most liked and wanted female celebrity online in the months of December 2012 and January 2013, while Salman topped the survey in the male category in a study, conducted by Kwab.com, an online social cataloguing portal.

The study, based on half a million catalogued images among 50,000-plus users, observed the aspirations of Indians’ favourite idols, gadgets, food and luxury items, said a statement. — PTI

Salman Khan and Anushka Sharma have emerged as the most liked and wanted celebrities online. — PTI
Azzurra driven by new memories, not past glories

Victoria Azarenka of Belarus is interviewed during a media availability at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament in Indian Wells, California, on 6 March, 2013. — Reuters

FIFA concerned with Maracana delays

RIO DE JANEIRO, 7 March—World football governing body FIFA has reiterated its concern at delays in the redevelopment of Rio de Janeiro’s Maracana Stadium for the 2014 World Cup.

The iconic venue is still without a roof and turf as workers battle around the clock to finish the arena ahead of FIFA’s 15 April deadline. Maracana is scheduled to stage three FIFA Confederations Cup matches in June, including the tournament final. FIFA originally gave the venue six venues a December deadline to complete refurbishment works but only Fortaleza’s Castelao and Belo Horizonte’s Mineirao are ready.

“The city which I will be visiting in two days is the one that worries me the most,” FIFA secretary-general Jerome Valcke said during his tour of Recife’s Arena Pernambuco on Tuesday. Valcke was due to visit Belo Horizonte on Wednesday and Rio de Janeiro on Thursday, where an inspection of the Maracana will be followed by a meeting with the local 2014 World Cup organizing committee.

Vijay dominates Asian rankings, number 2 in world

NEW DELHI, 7 March—London Olympic silver medallist Vijay Kumar continued his stranglehold over the number one spot in the Asian shooting rankings for 25-metre rapidfire pistol while retaining the number two position in the world list. Vijay has logged 2321 points to maintain his lead over second-placed Feng Ding (2015) of China in his pet event.—PTI

Su Bingtian set new Chinese national record in men’s 60m sprint

NINGBO, 7 March—China’s top sprinter Su Bingtian broke his own national record in men’s 60m dash at the country’s indoor athletics championships here on Wednesday. The 23-year-old levelled the national record of 6.56 seconds set by himself in 2011 in the preliminary round in the morning, and went on to improve the old mark by 0.01 second in the afternoon’s final.

The world record of 6.39 was set by American sprinter Maurice Greene in Atlanta on 3 March, 2001 while the Asian record belongs to Qatar’s Talal MansourAl-Rahim, who was timed 6.51 on 3 March, 1993.

Su is considered as one of the most talented sprinters in China. In the 2012 London Olympic Games, he became the first Chinese to make into the semifinals of men’s 100m race in Olympic history.—Xinhua

Delhi to host Junior Hockey WC from 6-15 December

LAUSANNE, (Switzerland), 7 March—New Delhi’s Major Dhyann Chandel Stadium will play host to the men’s Junior Hockey Junior World Cup from 6-15 December, the International Hockey Federation said here today.

Apart from Junior World Cup, the Indian capital will also host the men’s Hero Hockey World League Finals from 18-18 January next year.

The Junior World Cup is held once in every four years and will feature the top 16 men’s junior teams.
**Baseball: Cuba bombards Japan to win Pool A**

**FUKUOKA, 7 March —** Japanese baseball faced its Cuban missile crisis on Wednesday and was found wanting as Cuba bombarded its last World Baseball Classic nemesis 6-3 in their first-round Pool A finale at Fukusaka Dome.

The victory, Cuba’s first in four WBC games against Japan, earned manager Victor Mesa’s men the Pool A championship.

Brave from Valencia but PSG into last 8 of Champions League

**MADEIRD, 7 March —** Paris Saint Germain were forced into a crunch 1-1 draw at home with Swiss Super League side Young Boys after Dani Parejo had lost possession in injury time.

The loss was PSG’s sixth in three tournaments. Four of those losses came at the hands of South Korea. The other was a controversial defeat to United States in the 2006 quarterfinals.

**Wozniacki backs beleaguered boyfriend McIlroy**

**INDIAN WELLS, California, 7 March —** Having had her own fair share of knocks in recent months while struggling for form on the tennis court, Caroline Wozniacki sprang to the defence of her golfing boyfriend Rory McIlroy in his time of trouble on Wednesday.

McIlroy, golf’s world number one, told a news conference in Miami earlier in the day that he had been wrong to walk off mid-round at last week’s Honda Classic and admitted his toothache was not bad enough to justify quitting the tournament.

“I think Rory did a really great job at the press conference,” Danish golfer Poul-Michael Jørgensen said. “I think he’s got to go out there this week and hopefully play some good golf.”

**Detroit turns down invitation to bid on 2024 Olympics**

**DETROIT, 7 March —** Detroit Mayor Dave Bing on Wednesday turned down an invitation to bid on hosting the 2024 Summer Olympics, citing “uncertainty” over the city’s long-term financial stability. One of 35 US cities to get an invitation from the United States Olympic Committee (USOC), Detroit is teetering on the verge of bankruptcy and would be an unlikely candidate to host the games. Detroit bid unsuccessfully to host the Olympics seven times between 1944 and 1972.

A statement released by Bing’s office said the city’s “rich history of hosting major events” and its location across the river from Canada make Detroit “an appealing candidate” to host the summer games in 2024. “Unfortunately, due to the timing and uncertainty of Detroit’s long-term financial stability, we must respectfully decline to participate in the statement of interest,” the statement said. Bidders are required to make an up-front $10 million payment and commit to a $3 billion operating budget.

Detroit in recent years has hosted a number of major sporting events, including a National Football League Super Bowl, NHL Stanley Cup hockey playoffs, NBA and NCAA basketball finals and last year’s Baseball’s World Series. Bing’s statement comes just days after Michigan Governor Rick Snyder announced a financial emergency in Detroit and his intention to appoint an emergency manager to control the city’s finances. The USOC sent invitations to bid to the nation’s 25 largest cities — Detroit is 18th — plus an additional 10 cities that had expressed interest, in February.

At the time, the governor’s office called the bid invitation “a welcomed vote of confidence” in Detroit’s future. USOC spokesman Patrick Sandusky said any city may bid but must meet several requirements, including having 45,000 hotel rooms, an Olympic Village that sleeps 16,500 and including having 45,000 hotel rooms, an Olympic Village that sleeps 16,500 and having 45,000 hotel rooms, an Olympic Village that sleeps 16,500 and having 45,000 hotel rooms, an Olympic Village that sleeps 16,500.

Detroit Mayor Dave Bing talks about the future of the city during an interview in his office in Detroit, Michigan on 5 Feb, 2013. **REUTERS**
The New Light of Myanmar
Friday, 8 March, 2013

Printing and Publishing Bill not disrupt freedom of expression, publishing

printing and publishing law as a one meeting the international norms and capable of decontaminating the poisoned printed matters without restricting the freedom of press as he submitted the draft to the Pyithu Hluttaw today.

The Union Minister quoted the paragraph 3 of Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, saying that it respects the individual rights and dignity, national security, public order, public health and morality despite freedom of expression and allows enactment of necessary legislations.

The Union Minister concluded that the draft prepared by the Information Ministry absolutely does not disrupt the freedom of expression and publishing aimed to safeguard the national interests but ensures security and convenience for all printers, publishers and journalists urging the Hluttaw to take serious consideration.

U Phyo Min Thein of Hluttaw constituency held discussions on the Communications Bill and Amyotha Hluttaw Representative Dr Khin Shwe of Yangon Region Constituency No. 9 participated in the discussion.—MNA

Muse-105th mile border trade zone to be upgraded into international standard one

NAY PYI TAW, 7 March—Amyotha Hluttaw representatives discussed the proposal on urging the Union government to upgrade Muse-105th Mile Border Trade Zone and to implement Muse development plan, which is submitted by Daw Nan Ni Ni Aye of Kayin State Constituency No. 6, at 23rd session of Amyotha Hluttaw today.

With regard to the proposal, Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint replied that Muse-105th mile border trade zone was implemented in April, 2005. The purpose of the zone is to establish market on Myanmar’s side, safe local products at desired prices, to earn more export earnings by selling value-added products, to systematically transform from border trade to normal trade. It was commissioned into service on 11 April, 2006. Private companies would be allowed through B.O.T system to upgrade it into international standard one.

He highlighted value-added products, trade facilitation, border trade online system, digital weight monitoring system, upgrade of the border trade zone. Muse development plan includes upgrade of road, ring-road, international standard airfield and hotels, he added.

Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee read out its report on the Communications Bill and Amyotha Hluttaw Representative Dr Khin Shwe of Yangon Region Constituency No. 9 discussed Employment and Skill Development Bill sent back by Pyithu Hluttaw with its amendment.—NLM

Union Cup closing ceremony held

NAY PYI TAW, 7 March—The final match of the men’s football tournament of the Union Cup took place at Wunna Thiluki Stadium here this evening along with the closing ceremony, attended by Chairman of Myanmar National Sports Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan. Vocalists entertained the guests with enthused songs.

Yangon Region beat Mandalay Region 2-0 to clinch the Union Cup and Nay Pyi Taw stood third in the tournament. Union Minister U Tint Hsan and responsible persons awarded the football teams and best footballers. MNA

Observers visit Hluttaws

Union Cooperatives Minister receives FAO Representative, Israeli Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 7 March—Union Minister for Cooperatives U Kyaw Hsan received Mr Hagay Moshe Behar, the Ambassador of the State of Israel to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the same venue at 4.30 pm and they discussed sharing of experience on microfinance tasks between Israel and the Ministry of Cooperatives. MNA

Tiger Myanmar Amateur Open Golf Championship 2013 on 19-22 March

YANGON, 7 March—Myanmar Golf Federation will organize Tiger Myanmar Amateur Open Golf Championship 2013 sponsored by Tiger Golf at Yangon Golf Club in Danyingone, Insein Township, from 19 to 22 March.

Only amateur golfers are allowed to enlist at Golf Club together with the admission fee of K 20,000 not later than at 1 pm on 17 March.

For further information may contact HAN EVENT MANAGEMENT, Ph: 09-2037671, 09-73130474 and 09-49102899.—NLM

Loans disbursed to vendors in Mohinny

MOHINNY, 7 March—The rural development bank on 5 March disbursed loans to the vendors of No. 2 market in Aungshabyaw Ward, Mohinny in Kachin State as part of poverty alleviation, in conjunction with the ceremony.

At the second loan-disbursing ceremony held at the hall of Mohinny Township Development Affairs Committee, Executive Officer of Mohinny Township Development Affairs Committee Assistant Director U San Naing explained the purpose of the activity.

A loan of K 16,500,000—K100, 000 for each—were provided to a total of 165 vendors. A loan of K 3 million was paid out for the first time on 23 November, 2011. NLM-001