People extend hero’s welcome to President U Thein Sein on return from Europe trip

Nay Pyi Taw, 8 March—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein arrived back here by special aircraft at 8:45 pm today after paying goodwill visits to the European countries—Norway, Finland, Austria, Belgium and Italy. President U Thein Sein and party were welcomed back by Union Minister at the President Office U Aung Min, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Shein, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Hsan Oo, Charges d’affaires ai and officials from Thailand, France, Norway, Italy and EU member countries at Yangon International Airport.

Together with the President, delegation members Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win, Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin and U Soe Thane, Deputy Ministers U Thant Kyaw, U Ye Htut, Dr Daw Thet Thet Zin, Dr Daw Thein Thein Hay and departmental heads arrived back on the same flight. MNA

Cash and kind donated for quake sufferers

Nay Pyi Taw, 8 March—Donations in the form of cash, foodstuffs and clothes have been made for quake victims in Mandalay Region and Sagaing Region at Relief and Resettlement Department (Head Office) of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. Asia World Co Ltd contributed K 200 million and Ko Tun Min-Ma Htay Htay Win K 50,000 for victims on 6 March. MNA
New Light of Myanmar
LOCAL NEWS

Judges, judicial officials take oath in Rakhine State

KYONDOE, 8 March — Such was the suddenness of torrential downpour with hailstones that houses were destroyed and one woman wounded in Kyondoee of Kawkareik District in Kayin State at about 6 pm on 3 March.

The downpour battered the town, bringing high wind and hailstones that tore off the roofs and collapsed eight houses in ward-2 and three houses in ward-3. No death was reported but Daw Mya, 56, of ward-2 injured and she was taken to Kyondoee People’s Hospital.

Torrential downpour with hailstones collapses houses, uproots trees in Kyondoee

Heavy rain and high wind cut electric lines, uprooted trees and lampposts and toppled houses, leaving 53 people homeless.

Local battalions, Myanmar Police Force, officials of township development department, ward administrators and townsmen provided necessary assistance to the displaced households and performed clearing the debris.

Officials of Kayin State government presented K 100,000, one bag of rice, clothing, and household goods each to the displaced households. Supply of electricity resumed after reinstallation of power lines.

Roundtable discussion on curbing crimes in Mawlamyine

NAYPYITAW, 8 March — Organized by Mawlamyine Township Police Station, a roundtable discussion on curbing crimes took place with the participation of police officers, ward administrators and townsmen of Mawlamyine Police Station in Mawlamyine on 27 February.

First, Head of Mawlamyine Township Police Force Captain Myo Thant spoke on the occasion.

Next, Police Inspector Hsan Win of Mawlamyine Police Station stressed the need of the commitment of ward administrators and local people in the fight against gambling, drug abuse and human trafficking crimes, and in the drive for the arrest of culprits.

Then the police officers answered the queries raised by those present.

MVA
Kitchen fire in Sagaing Township

YANGON, 8 March — A kitchen fire broke out at the house of U Aung Kyi in Baukthauk Village in Hsartuang station, 32-mile from Sagaing, at about 4.30 am on 4 March.

The fire started from the stove on which the pot of rice was cooking. A shower of sparks from the stove left when he was worshipping had set fire to the bamboo wall and the fire swept through the whole house. Twenty houses and nine cowsheds were reduced to ashes in the fire.

Under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner U Myant Wai and Sagaing District Police Commander Police Lt-Col Tin Wun, fire crews put out the fire at about 6.30 am.

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SITTHAYA, 8 March — An oath-taking ceremony of judges and judicial officials in Rakhine State took place at the meeting hall of Rakhine State High Court on 4 March. Rakhine State Chief Justice U Kyauk spoke on the occasion.

Next, 20 judges and five judicial officials took oath before the chief justice.

Then the chief justice briefed those present about experience and instructions of the fourth work coordination meeting between the Supreme Court and Region/State High Courts and district courts.

Kyemon

Solar panels help farmers grow seasonal crops in Taungdwingyi Township

SAGAING, 8 March — Measures are being taken to tap underground water with the use of pumps run by solar power for agricultural purpose in Jokekon Village on the bank of Yanpal creek, south of Vishu old city in Taungdwingyi Township of Magway Region.

On 3 March, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Khin Zaw accompanied by officials arrived in the village where a solar power-run pump was installed.

The pump is used to be affected greening Vishu region crops the whole year round, benefit to farmers in grow of rice, grass and vegetables. That’s why, solar panels are of great consumption. That’s why, solar panels are of great benefit to farmers in grow crops the whole year round, greening Vishu region which is used to be affected by drought, supplying adequate drinking water to local people and their cattle and availability of electricity.—Kyemon

One of two crash victims killed in collision with car

DAWEI, 8 March — A crash involved one vehicle and two motorbikes occurred in front of Dawei Education College on Arzani Road in Dawei at about 8.45 am on 4 March.

A HIACE SUPER CUSTOM driven by U Kyaw Shein was in collision with two motorbikes driven by U Aung San and Banyar (a) Shan Lay, 29, of Dawei, one of two crash victims, was pronounced dead at the scene of the road accident. Banyar (a) Shan Lay was admitted to Dawei Hospital due to serious injuries he had suffered in the accident. Dawei Police Station opened a case about the crash. — Kyemon

Bus conductor run over while falling asleep under car

YANGON, 8 March — As another bus conductor drove off the car, a bus conductor was run over and killed while he fell asleep under a stationery passenger bus near Thayatchan bus-station on the road to West University in Htantabin Township, here, at about 2.45 am on 1 March.

While bus conductor be attended to the needs of local people. According to a local, a solar power-run pump produces underground water from 6000 to 9000 gallons of water per hour, saving cost of fuel consumption. That’s why, solar panels are of great benefit to farmers in grow crops the whole year round, greening Vishu region which is used to be affected by drought, supplying adequate drinking water to local people and their cattle and availability of electricity.—Kyemon

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YANGON, 8 March — A kitchen fire broke out at No (3) Steel Plant of Myanma Economic Corporation at Ywama of Insein Township, here, at about 10.30 am on 6 March.

The fire started at stockpiles of overage vehicles for destruction in the plant. Fire fighters accompanied by 53 fire trucks and six administrative vehicles managed to bring the fire under control and put out the fire at about 12.15 pm. No injuries were reported in the fire. Yangon Region Security Affairs Minister Col Tin Win and officials of Fire Services Department made close supervision at the scene of the fire.

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Fire breaks out at No. 3 Steel Plant

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Kyemon
States with strict gun laws found to have fewer shooting deaths

WASHINGTON, 8 March—States that have more laws restricting gun ownership have lower rates of death from shootings, both suicides and homicides, a study by researchers at Boston Children’s Hospital and Harvard University found.

States with the most laws on gun ownership, including Massachusetts and New Jersey, have 42 percent lower rates of death from guns than those with the least restrictions, including Utah and Oklahoma, according to the study, published on Wednesday in the online edition of *JAMA Internal Medicine*.

The study was released as a Senate committee approved new gun-control measures backed by President Barack Obama to crack down on illegal trafficking in firearms in the wake of the December massacre at a Connecticut elementary school.

Based on data from 2007 through 2010, the study looked at the relationship between the number of restrictions states placed on gun ownership—from background checks on gun buyers to bans on military-style assault assault—on the number of gun-related homicides and suicides reported. Reuters

Obama’s shift to schmooze offensive reflects political reality

US President Barack Obama speaks before he signs the Violence Against Women Act while at the Department of Interior in Washington, on 7 March, 2013.—Reuters

WASHINGTON, 8 March—President Barack Obama’s abrupt shift to a schmooze offensive—dining and visiting with Republican lawmakers—reflects a need for some resolution in the budget wars so he can move on to other priorities like gun control and immigration that could define his second term.

A drop in his approval ratings in recent weeks and a new round of media questions about his scant socializing with members of Congress have also likely put pressure on Obama to start talking to his political foes.

“He has a limited amount of time to tackle the items on his agenda, like immigration, increasing the minimum wage and gun control,” said Nancy-Ann DeParle, who recently stepped down as deputy White House chief of staff and is now a Brookings Institution guest scholar.

“Hurt’s waste time on a protracted battle over the budget and sequester,” said DeParle. “That should be left to the Congress to figure out.”

With another budget deadline looming, he needs to get a deal completed so he can seek legislative approval of other items on his second-term agenda. Reuters

Putin to attend discussions on light industry

ST. PETERSBURG, 8 March—Russian President Vladimir Putin arrived in the northwestern city of Vologda on Thursday to attend discussions on the local textile industry. Vologda is home to Vologda Textiles, Russia’s largest supplier of linen fabrics, both domestically and internationally.

Since its entry into the World Trade Organization in January, Russia should extend its light industry a priority for development in an effort to diversify its economy, which is heavily on the oil and gas sectors. Russian Minister of Industry Denis Manturov has announced new measures aimed at helping firms like Vologda Textiles compete in global markets.

During his visit to Vologda Textiles, Putin congratulated workers on their recent successes at home and abroad and pledged his government’s renewed support. Xinhua

Europe should go extra mile for Ireland, Portugal

DUBLIN, 8 March—Europe should do all it can to assist Portugal and Ireland’s return to financial markets, not limiting its help to just extending loans under their EU/IMF bailouts, International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde said.

“I would be cautious not to limit it to an extension,” she said in an interview with the Irish Times newspaper on Thursday, a day ahead of an official visit to the country—her first mission to a bailout euro zone state.

She also said policymakers should guard against complacency after the global economy came close to collapse last year, given the risk of a relapse.

Ireland and Portugal, which have both stuck closely to the economically painful terms set out by their international lenders, have in return asked for the bailout loans to be extended.

European Union finance ministers sought advice on Tuesday on how to help the countries demonstrate the success of their bailout programmes by returning to international debt markets.

Referring to those deliberations, Lagarde added: “I think it has really been refined yesterday during the discussions as an adjustment that might include very much an extension of the maturities but is not limited only to the extension of maturities.”

Referring to Ireland, she said “any avenue” should be explored that supported the country’s return to economic growth and self-sufficiency.

Referring to Ireland, Lagarde arrives in Ireland on Friday to meet with authorities aiming for a successful exit from the bailout programme at the end of the year.

The newspaper quoted her as saying that there was not much more that could be done on interest rates but that “financial people can think of lots of things”. Pushing out Ireland’s bailout repayments at the end of the term was one option.—Reuters

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New Light of Myanmar

Science & Technology

Angry Birds for iPhone, iPad goes free, adds 15 new levels

NEW DELHI, 8 March—Angry Birds, the popular game that started it all for Rovio, is now available for free on iPhone and iPad. This is the first time that the original game is being offered for free since the launch of the game in 2009. Angry Birds app for iPhone usually costs $0.99 while the Angry Birds HD app on iPad goes for $2.99. Moreover, this app has also got an update that added 15 new Bad Piggies levels for gamers to master.

Appfire was first to spot the free listing and shared that the game may regulate Apple’s next Free App of the Week. Some believe that this move is triggered by the fact that Rovio has fallen off of the top 80 highest grossing iPhone apps for the first time since May 2010.

At the moment, it is not clear whether this is a promotional deal offered by Rovio or permanent move by the company.

Angry Birds Toons, China to further regulate stem cell clinical experiments

BEIJING, 8 March—China will further regulate stem cell clinical experiments to protect the interests of providers and testees, according to draft rules by medical watchdogs.

The Ministry of Health (MOH) and the State Food and Drug Administration (SFDA) jointly publicized the draft rules on Thursday to solicit public opinions. All clinical experiments on stem cells are subject to ethical review, said the MOH.

Researchers must submit relevant materials surrounding stem cell products, selection criteria and detailed consent forms of providers and testees, safety evaluation reports, research plans, and resumes of main participating researchers to the ethical board for review.

Only top-level hospitals certified by the SFDA as eligible for carrying out drug clinical tests can apply to be stem cell clinical experimental bases. Also according to the rules, during the first three phases of stem cell clinical experiments, testees should not be charged.

Medicinal institutions that violate the rules will lose their qualification and face penalties.—Xinhua

Regulators end probe of big five EU telecoms firms over standards

BRUSSELS, 8 March—EU antitrust regulators said on Thursday they were closing a preliminary investigation into Europe’s biggest telecoms firms over development of new technology standards for mobile services. The European Commission, which acts as competition watchdog for the 27-country European Union, said it was satisfied that the operators had handed standardization work over to the GSMA mobile industry grouping and other sector-wide associations.

It had been worried that work by five major operators – Vodafone, France Telecom, Telecom Italia, Deutsche Telekom and Telefonica – risked shutting out competitors and harming consumers.

“The Commission welcomes this transfer, which allows more stakeholder participation. It is a positive step that reduces the risk of standard setting work affecting competition negatively,” the Commission said in a statement.

New Chinese fossil discovery named Luanchuan Man

ZHENGZHOU, 8 March—Chinese paleoanthropologists have given the name Luanchuan Man to Homo erectus fossil specimens discovered in central China’s Henan Province.

The fossilized teeth of an early human were recently discovered at the Sunjiadong excavation site in Luanchuan County in the city of Luoyang.

Researchers from the Henan Provincial Bureau of Cultural Relics said on Thursday that the teeth came from the skull of a deceased minor.

The extinct Homo erectus species is believed to have lived around 2 million to 200,000 years ago.

Li Zhanrang, a member of an archaeological research team in Henan, said experts believe the stratum of the Sunjiadong site belongs to the middle Pleistocene period, or the same period as Peking Man, an example of Homo erectus that was discovered in the Zhoukoudian cave system near Beijing in the early 20th century.

Xinhua

China to launch quantum experiment satellite in 2016

BEIJING, 8 March—China has initiated to launch a satellite for quantum information and technology experiments in 2016, a leading quantum physicist said here on Thursday.

Prof Pan Jianwei said, “We hope to establish a quantum communication network from Beijing to Vienna.”

“Such a plan is impossible without international collaborations,” Pan said at a Press conference on the sidelines of the annual session of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, China’s top political advisory body.

The field of quantum communication, the science of transmitting quantum states from one place to another, has caught global attention in recent years owing to the discovery of quantum cryptography, which is described as a way of creating “unbreakable” messages. A member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Prof Pan of the University of Science and Technology of China led a frontier research team to conduct a 30.40-km quantum communication test on the Great Wall in 2005.

Samsung loses latest Apple patent suit in UK

LONDON, 8 March—Apple won a patent infringement lawsuit on Thursday in an English court, which exonerates the iPhone maker from charges it unlawfully used Samsung technology.

Samsung had argued that three individual patents relating to packaging and transmitting data on 3G mobile networks had been infringed, but the court found all three claims invalid.

This is the latest case in a global barrage of claims and counterclaims between the two companies, which between them account for one in every two smartphones sold worldwide.

Apple declined to comment. The Korean of Samsung announced a sweet legal victory over its California-based rival last summer when another British judge ruled its Galaxy tablet should not be blocked from sale in Britain.—Reuters

India 2012 tablets shipments top 3.11 million; Samsung, Micromax, Apple top vendors

MUMBAI, 8 March—Tablets seem to be the new love interest for the Indian consumer. As per a report of Cyber Media Research (CMR) in the Calendar year 2012, a whopping 3.11 million units of tablets were shipped in India. Furthermore, 1.09 million of these tablets were shipped in the fourth quarter (October to December) of 2012.

According to CMR report, Samsung is the leader in the tablet category with 25.1 percent share for the CY 2012. At second spot is Micromax with 14.3 percent market share. Apple with 9.1 percent market share was at the third spot.

Talking about the growth in the Indian tablet market, Faisal Kawoosa, Lead Telecoms Analyst, CMR said, “The year 2012 and particularly the last two quarters (3Q 2012 and 4Q 2012) were significant for the India tablets market. We have seen the market for these devices grow substantially in 2012, particularly in the second half which made up over 70 percent of the total sales.” To this Tarun Pathak, Telecoms Analyst, CMR added, “Samsung has been able to maintain the lead in the market only because of the first-mover advantage with the Galaxy Note and the Galaxy Note II.”—PTI
**Business & Health**

**Fight tobacco marketing, boost vaccinations to curb cancer, says report**

*A youth holds a cigarette while waiting for a train in Jakarta. [Reuters]*

**London, 8 March—** Fighting the tobacco industry’s tactics in the world’s poorest countries and ensuring the best vaccines get to those most in need are key to cutting the number of cancer deaths worldwide, according to a report by specialists in the disease.

Experts reporting from a meeting of cancer organizations across the world said smoking and other forms of tobacco use are the main drivers of a growing global burden of cancer.

They urged governments to put citizens’ health above the financial gains they reap from the tobacco business.

“The number of people diagnosed with cancer across the world is increasing. But there are clear actions that all countries can take which will go a long way to reducing both the numbers diagnosed from cancer and deaths from the disease,” said Harpal Kumar of the charity Cancer Research UK in a report published by the journal *Science Translational Medicine* on Wednesday.

Kumar, who worked with Harold Varmus of the US National Cancer Institute and others, said those actions included higher taxes on tobacco products, ensuring health workers set an example by not smoking, de glamourizing the habit and protecting poor countries from increased marketing efforts by the industry.

Some 12.7 million people are diagnosed with cancer every year worldwide and cancer now accounts for more than 15 percent of annual deaths globally.

Smoking is known to cause lung cancer—one of the most deadly forms of the disease—and also increases the risk of many other cancers including head and neck cancers, cancers of the bladder and kidneys, and breast, pancreas and colon cancer.

Wednesday’s report also said more needs to be done to ensure access and uptake of cancer-preventing immunizations—like the HPV vaccine against cervical cancer—is as high as it can be.—*Reuters*

**Six foods rich of calcium**

1. Green vegetable
2. Sesame paste
3. Oats
4. Bean products
5. Beans
6. Milk

**Jobless claims unexpectedly fell, signal labour market gains**

*A job seeker (left) meets with a prospective employer at a career fair in New York City on 24 Oct, 2012. [Reuters]*

**Washington, 8 March—** The number of Americans filing new claims for unemployment benefits unexpectedly fell last week, suggesting a pick-up in the labour market recovery.

Initial claims for state unemployment benefits fell 7,000 to a seasonally adjusted 340,000, declining for a second straight week, the Labour Department said on Thursday.

The prior week’s claims figure was revised to show 3,000 more applications received than previously reported.

Economists polled by *Reuters* had expected first-time applications to rise to 355,000.

A Labour Department analyst said no states had been estimated and there were no special factors influencing the report.

The data has no bearing on February’s employment report, due on Friday, as it falls outside the survey period.

According to a *Reuters* survey of economists, employers probably added 160,000 jobs to their payrolls last month, a small pick-up up from January’s 157,000, a count. That would just be enough to hold the jobless rate steady at 7.9 percent.

Economists say job gains of at least 250,000 per month over a sustained period are needed to significantly dent unemployment, which measures hourly output per worker, fell at a 2 percent pace.

It had increased at a 3.1 percent rate in the third quarter.

**Economists polled by *Reuters* had expected the decline productivity to be revised to a 1.6 percent rate. The drop largely reflects a surge in hiring while output continued to expand at a slower pace.**

The economy added about 600,000 jobs in the fourth quarter, but gross domestic product only grew at a 0.1 percent rate. Growth is expected to accelerate in the first quarter, although output pace is not expected to be above 2 percent as the economy adjusts to tighter fiscal policy.—*Reuters*

**Thai Beverage to become component stock of Straits Times Index**

**Singapore, 8 March—** Thai Beverage, the winner of the recently takeover battle for Singapore-based Fraser and Neave, is going to replace IHH Healthcare, the Malaysia-based hospital operator, to be one of the 30 Straits Times Index (STI) constituents, the Singapore Exchange said on Thursday.

Directed from 18 March, the change was followed by the conclusion of the half-yearly review of the FTSE ST Index Series by Singapore Press Holdings, Singapore Exchange and FTSE Group. The next review is scheduled for 6 June.

By replacing Neptune Orient Lines, IHH Healthcare joined the STI from last September not long after its a dual market debut in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur last July.

Thai Beverage is controlled by Thai tycoon Charoen Sirivadhanabhdi, who has recently been in the news since his battle with Heineken in controlling Asia Pacific Breweries and then the takeover tussle for Fraser and Neave.

The bourse added that the STI reserve list, comprising the five highest ranking non-constituents of the STI by market capitalization, will be Hutchison Port Holdings Trust, Keppel Land, Ascendas Real Estate Investment Trust, UOL Group and CapitaCommercial Trust. They will replace any constituents that become ineligible before the next review.

The STI is widely followed by investors as the benchmark for the Singapore market and is used as the basis of arange of financial products including Exchange Traded Funds, futures, warrants and other derivatives.—*Xinhua*
**WASHINGTON/New York** 8 March—US prosecutors unsealed an indictment against a son-in-law of Osama bin Laden on Thursday that charged him with conspiracy to kill Americans, after US government sources said he was arrested overseas and brought to New York.

Suleiman Abu Ghaith, a midfielder who appeared in videos representing al-Qaeda after the 11 September attacks in 2001, had initially been picked up in Turkey and was brought to the United States in an operation led by Jordanian authorities and the FBI, the sources said.

The Turkish government deported him to Jordan, the sources said, where local authorities and the FBI took custody of him. He was brought to the United States in the last few days, a law enforcement source said. US officials including Attorney General Eric Holder announced the indictment on Thursday, saying he would be arraigned on Friday at US District Court in lower Manhattan, only blocks from the site of the World Trade Centre, which was destroyed in the 11 September attacks.

Abu Ghaith becomes one of the highest-ranking al-Qaeda figures to be brought to the United States. When Holder previously announced plans to try defendants in the 11 September attacks in the same courthouse, he was forced to back down by public opposition, and the trials were moved to the US military base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

New York police were less concerned Abu Ghaith’s case would present a security problem than they were about the trials of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and four others charged with plotting the attacks, a law enforcement source said.

**Israel warns of Lebanon in pain in next war with Hezbollah**

From its local supplier concentrated horsemeat is being delivered in Sweden.

**France to secure Mali before handing over mission**

**Sano Paulo, 8 March—**A young woman died on Thursday from injuries sustained during a 27 January fire at the Kiss nightclub in southern Brazil, bringing the death toll from the college town tragedy to 241, authorities confirmed. The US government shipped cyanide-treatment kits to Brazil to help victims.

**Soldiers listen to France’s Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian (not pictured) speak at a French military encampment at a Malian air base in Gao on 7 March, 2013.**—Reuters

Gao, 8 March—France will only hand over to Afri
can troops in Mali when secur
ity is restored, French De
fence Minister Jean-Yves Le
Drian told his forces during a
surprise visit to the rugged
north of the country where
they are battling Islamist re
bel groups. Reviewing the
ranks of French soldiers in the
dusty Adrar des Ifoghas moun
tains, Le Drian paid homage
at the courage of troops
engaged in fierce fire-fights
with Al Qaeda militants in the
desolate desert region near
the Algerian border.

An eight-week, French-led offensive has broken the
control of al Qaeda-linked Islamists over the nort
ern two-thirds of the impoverished landlocked nation,
though pockets of resistance remain in the desert and
mountains. “Our mission is to liberate Mali, strengthen the country, and assure its
sovereignty,” Le Drian said in Gao, the main town in north
ern Mali, shortly after he visi
ted his troops in the mountains.

“The security of Mali, and the security of our country, go together,” he said. France launched a ground and air operation on 11 January, say
ing the Islamist rebels’ hold of Mali’s north posed a risk to the security of West Africa and Europe. Having halted a push southward by Islamist rebels, French forces have driven militants out of major
towns and, alongside hun
dreds of Chadian soldiers, are now seeking to clear re
bels from caves redoubts in the
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**Israel warns of Lebanon in pain in next war with Hezbollah**

Israel has declared that its forces will retaliate if it carries out long
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**Basketball players run past a statue of Jesus Christ as they arrive for a match in a stadium on the outskirts of Brasília, Brazil, 8 March, 2013. Reuters**

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**Soldiers listen to France’s Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian (not pictured) speak at a French military encampment at a Malian air base in Gao on 7 March, 2013.**—Reuters

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An eight-week, French-led offensive has broken the
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H.E U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, paid an official visit to Italy on 6-7 March 2013. President U Thein Sein was warmly welcomed by the President of the Republic of Italy Giorgio Napolitano and by the President of the Council of Ministers Mario Monti. The Leaders of the two countries had very friendly and constructive discussions, reflecting the growing relations between Italy and Myanmar. Building upon the successful outcome of Foreign Minister Giulio Terzi’s visit to Nay Pyi Taw (April, 2012) and of the talks between President U Thein Sein and Prime Minister Monti in Vientiane (November, 2012), this visit to Italy, the first ever paid by the Head of State of Myanmar, marked a fundamental milestone in the relations between the two countries.

The Parties exchanged views on the bilateral relations and on regional and international issues of mutual interest. They agreed to further explore the vast potential of bilateral partnership, particularly in the economic sector.

Italy has followed with the utmost interest and deep appreciation the historic changes in Myanmar over the last years at the initiative of President U Thein Sein and his Government. In particular, Italy has always been supportive of the wide-ranging reforms in the field of democratization and rule of law as well as the promotion and protection of human, social and labour rights. Italy is therefore ready to actively support the sustained efforts for advancing those reforms under President U Thein Sein’s guidance, the Government’s action and the Parliament’s contribution. Italy has acknowledge that unprecedented remarkable progresses have been achieved so far in the field of national reconciliation. In this regard it encouraged Myanmar to continue to address the situation in Rakhine State and to improve the status of local populations, the conflict in ethnic areas, in particular with the Kachin, and the release of the remaining prisoners of conscience. The Parties recognized the need to continue inclusive participation in the political process.

The Parties underlined the importance of constructive engagement by Myanmar’s regional partners, also within ASEAN, so as to contribute to long lasting solutions to the political and economic challenges of the country.

Italy expressed the hope of a positive outcome of the ongoing review process of the EU sanctions towards Myanmar. The Parties expressed support to the aspiration of Myanmar to benefit from trade facilitation on the basis of the EU-GSP regime. President U Thein Sein expressed appreciation for the balanced and forthcoming stance coherently held by Italy within the EU regarding Myanmar.

The Parties took stock of the good level of dialogue and cooperation between the respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs and stressed the importance of strengthening mutual understanding and bilateral cooperation.

The Parties expressed the interest of developing closer relations between the competent Authorities in other sectors, including cultural heritage, university and research.

They also expressed the interest in exchanging parliamentary visits, aimed at sharing experiences and best practices in the field of law-making process. The Parties emphasized the need to strengthen a political and legal framework conducive to increasing the economic relations between Myanmar and Italy. They reaffirmed their commitment to encourage more economic interaction in both public and private sectors. They agreed to develop a business-friendly environment to further increase trade and investment for the mutual benefits of both countries and people.

They agreed that the key economic and financial reforms undertaken by Myanmar and the commitment to further measures are significantly contributing to the re-engagement of Myanmar with multilateral financial institutions.

The Parties acknowledged the great potential for expanding bilateral relations, trade and investment, as well as cooperation in the field of SMEs, infrastructure, energy, machinery and safeguard of cultural heritage are some of the most relevant areas for the enhancement of the economic and business activities between the two countries.

Taking into account complementarily between their economies, the parties agreed to strengthen the bilateral economic relations and to encourage cooperation between the business communities, including sectoral visits, missions and country presentations, as well as joint initiatives by respective State Agencies for trade and investment promotion. In this framework, President U Thein Sein expressed the hope that the incoming government leaders of Italy may visit Myanmar in the near future, possibly accompanied by representatives of the business community. He also offered to cooperate to organize a Myanmar country presentation in Italy. Both activities will promote exchanges and business meetings between the two sides.

Italy recognized the progress of the legal framework for business activities in Myanmar by the adoption of the Foreign Investment Law and its implementing regulations, aimed at defining a level playing field for foreign companies willing to operate in the country. President U Thein Sein expressed deep appreciation for the Italian support to the drafting of the said regulations.

Having regard to the promotion of responsible business conduct and to relevant benchmarks and criteria defined at multilateral level, the Parties recalled the importance of their joint efforts to create a framework conducive to the adoption by the investors, from the start, of business behaviors that lead to sustainable local development and social progress.

The Parties agreed to step up bilateral and multilateral cooperation, with an aim to support Myanmar development strategic and the implementation of the Framework for Economic and Social Reforms, with a particular emphasis on capacity-building. Cooperation shall take into account jointly agreed priority sectors, such as rural development, the promotion of micro-small and medium sized enterprises, the preservation of cultural heritage, health, education, environmental protection, good gover. Bilateral cooperation, environmental protection, good governance.

Bilateral cooperation will also foster cooperation between Local Governments, Universities and NGOs. Jointly agreed projects will be funded through grants, debt-swap and soft loans, in line with the respective rules and procedures.

The Debt Cancellation and Restructuring Agreement in furtherance of the Paris Club agreed minutes, as well as the Debt Swap Agreement, that were both signed today, lay the basis for increasing development cooperation activities, also paying the way for soft loan funding in favour of jointly agreed projects.

The parties will also seek to conclude an Agreement for the avoidance of double taxation with respect to taxes on income and the prevention of fiscal evasion. Myanmar and Italy shared the views that energy activities present vast untapped potential to be fully exploited, also through the expertise, know how and technological skills of Italian oil and gas companies.

The parties highly valued the importance of cultural relations, respect for local traditions and for the protection of human rights and religious freedom. They affirmed the determination to cooperate to these aims also in the relevant multilateral organizations and fora. In this regard, the parties took note of the proposal submitted by the Italian Authorities for a bilateral agreement on cultural, scientific and technological cooperation and expressed their determination to seek an early conclusion of such agreement.

Italy confirmed its intention to also intensify the cooperation with Myanmar in the field of cultural heritage by contributing to the implementation of “Heritage, Tourism and Urban Living” aimed at focusing on topics covering cultural heritage policy, economic and social development and urban planning.

Acknowledging the prominent role played by Prime Minister Monti to improve the economic situation in Italy and in the Euro area, President U Thein Sein expressed his confidence in the sustained efforts by Italy to strengthen the reforms and improve the governance of the Euro area. He also noted that Myanmar may become a promising hub for Italian business, thanks to its growth prospects, domestic market potential and intra-regional trade which could prove beneficial for Italy as well.

President U Thein Sein underlined Myanmar’s readiness to engages a reliable partner of the EU in Asia, namely within ASEAN whose chairmanship Myanmar will hold in 2014, ASEM and other multilateral fora in the region.

Italy and Myanmar recognized the strategic value of ASEAN’s goal to become an economic community in 2015. The emerging ASEAN community features very interesting opportunities not only for ASEAN or EU partners in general but also for Italy. In this regard, Italy underlined Myanmar’s contribution to ASEAN’S competitiveness through connectively and deepened integration with the global economy. Italy’s interest to exploit the opportunities offered by ASEAN economic integration and to engage more with the region, as one of the most dynamic for the global economy, was also stressed.

The two parties underlined the ever growing relevance of ASEAN-EU relations, as contacts and links at all levels become more frequent and significant. They welcomed the prospect of negotiating a Myanmar-EU Investment Agreement and expressed their commitment to work together towards a strengthened ASEAN- EU partnership, in particular during their respective chairmanships of the two organizations in 2014.

Rome, 6 March 2013
Myanmar, new face to foreign visitors

With the gradual opening-up and dramatic changes in her political landscape, Myanmar has been back on the list of tourist destination, attracting more foreign tourists both from Asian and Western countries. More than 1 million foreign tourists visited Myanmar in 2012 and over 1.5 million foreign visitors are expected in 2013.

It is not because Myanmar has few things to explore and experience that she receives a lot fewer visitors than all of her neighbours, but because it still lacks certain infrastructure, especially hotel accommodation to cope with mass tourism. There is room for improvement in hotel market which is expected to grow rapidly along with an exponential increase in travel in the late 2013 and throughout 2014 when Myanmar hosts XXVII SEA Games and ASEAN Summit and related meetings.

There is a famous saying in business world—customer is the king. But, “customer service” is of something what we have paid almost no attention for ages here in Myanmar. This is because of the lack of choices for customers. Now is the time we need to put special focus on quality of service as high standards of customer service will promote the level of customer satisfaction and this would in turn help develop the service industry.

Most of the potential tourists to Myanmar will be the new faces. This means first impressions would count much in their decision to come and visit Myanmar next time. There are reported cases of mugging of foreign tourists in Bagan, the mystical archaeological showcase in central Myanmar and some other places. This if continues would threaten the national image and damage Myanmar and some other places. This if continues the mystical archaeological showcase in central Myanmar would count much in their decision to come and visit Myanmar next time.

All in all, we Myanmar people are honest, simple, hospitable, kind and generous by nature and all we need perhaps is to make these characteristics known to others. This should not be the others be what we take pride in and the brand image of Myanmar.

Consultation Workshop on Development of Guideline on Recovery Planning held

NAVPYITAW, 8 March—The Consultation Workshop on the Development of Guideline on Recovery Planning sponsored by the Relief and Resettlement Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and UN agencies was held at the Hotel Amara in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone here this morning.

Director of Relief and Resettlement Department U Aung Khang made an opening speech, and Senior Project Manager Mr Sudhir Kumur of Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre shared experience on recovery guidelines. This was followed by a general round of discussions. Afterwards, representatives of the respective working groups presented challenges and gaps needed to be remedial.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann received a delegation led by Speaker of the Danish Parliament Mr. Mogens Lykketoft at Zabuthiri Hall of Hluttaw Complex, here, this noon.

Also present at the call were Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Committee Chairpersons Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, U Soe Tha, U Maung Maung Thein, U Hla Myint Oo and U Hay Myint, committee secretaries and committee members and officials of the Hluttaw Office. The Danish Parliament speaker was accompanied by high ranking officials, Danish Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Mikael H. WINThER and officials from the Danish embassy.

At the call, the Pyithu Hluttaw speaker said that parliament and parliamentarians extended a warm welcome to the goodwill delegation, Myanmar parliamentarians led by him visited Danish parliament and he was pleased to meet the goodwill delegation again. He underscored that the role the parliament plays in democracy is crucial, adding although the parliament is made up of different parties and national races it is engaged in the interest of the State and the people setting aside partisan, racism, dogmatism and ism.

He added that it is putting in the fore human rights and democracy in amending and enacting laws. The Danish parliament speaker also disclosed that he was pleased to pay a visit amidst reform process in Myanmar. Not only foreign countries but also Denmark is interested in political achievements and changes in Myanmar, he said. He also pointed out the importance of freedom of expression and freedom of press in realizing democracy. The Danish speaker pledged to strengthen friendship and cooperation between the two parliaments of Denmark and Myanmar.

Then, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Swa and the Danish parliament speaker and party had documentary photo taken together.

After the meeting, the Danish parliament speaker and wife and party were hosted a luncheon at mess hall of the Hluttaw complex by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann. It was attended by wife of Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Daw Khin Lay Thet, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint and wife Daw Khin Pyone, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa and wife, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Mya Nyein, Pyithu Hluttaw committee chairpersons and secretaries, committee members and officials from the Hluttaw Office.

First, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann extended greetings and visiting Danish parliament speaker spoke words of thanks before having a luncheon together.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann also received Administrator Mr. Rajeev Janardan Shah of USAID.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann shaking hands with Administrator Mr Rajeev Janardan Shah of USAID.
University of Fisheries Sciences to be established: 
**Dy Livestock and Fisheries Minister**

NAY PYI TAW, 8 March—Sixth regular session of First Pyithu Hluttaw continued for its 24th day session today.

With regard to the question of U Sein Win of Maubin Constituency, Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Khin Maung Aye replied that plans are under way to open Fisheries University or University of Fisheries Sciences under National Comprehensive Development Plan (NCDP) and National Projects in cooperation with partner donor countries.

Regarding the question of U Khin Maung Yi of Ahlon Constituency on if there is any plan to open Fisheries University, Deputy Minister for Information U Paik Htway said that Sky Net has started transmitting delay Hluttaw channel as of 4-7-2012. Myanna Radio and Television will extend its channels to four free-to-air channels as of 2013-2014 financial year after digital system has been installed. Among them, one Hluttaw channel will be incorporated by November this year.

Deputy Minister for Agricultural and Irrigation U Ohn Than replied the question of U Kyaw Myint of Maungtaw Constituency on if the government has a plan to help the poor farmers. He said that farming and land reclamation would be allowed in line with Farm Land Laws, Rules and Regulations and Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Lands Management Laws and Regulations prescribed by respective Region/State governments.

**MP calls for free health care service for the poor**

NAY PYI TAW, 8 March—Six lawmakers discussed the proposal of U Phone Myint Aung of Yangon Region Constituency No (9) called the ward/village administrators the basic executive organs for welfare of grass-root people, calling for holding elections of ten-household representatives under law at Amyotha Hluttaw session today.

U Paw Lyang Lwin of Chin State Constituency No (9) called the ward/village administrators the basic executive organs for welfare of grass-root people, calling for holding elections of ten-household representatives in compliance with laws, bylaws and regulations.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint made complaints regarding the wrongdoings can be sent to relevant region/state government and the Home Affairs Ministry which will take actions against such misuse of power.

The proposal was put to vote and “No” vote outnumbered the “Yes”, rejecting the proposal.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than replied that measures are being taken for creation of job opportunity and local food sufficiency. With respect to the question of U Tin Maung Oo of Shwepyitha Constituency on employment programme for unemployed graduated youths, Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Daw Khin San Yi replied that special emphasis is being placed on quality education rather than quantity. Plans are under way to open more vocational training courses and schools for human resource development.

**Myanmar, Hong Kong discuss trade promotion**

NAY PYI TAW, 8 March—Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun met a high-level delegation led by Executive Director Mr. Fred Lam of Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) at MICC, here, this morning.

In meeting with them, the Union Minister clarified realization of democracy practice in Myanmar and implementation of market economic system. The Union Minister also invited them to cordially discuss for promotion of trade and investment sectors in Myanmar. The delegation members raised questions for their knowledge and the Union Minister and Deputy Director-General Daw Cho Win of Directorate of Investment and Companies Administration made clarifications. Present at the meeting were Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Dr Lin Aung, Deputy Commerce Minister Dr Pwint Hsan, Central Bank of Myanmar Governor U Than Nyin, Myanmar Investment Commission Member Daw Mya Thuzar, officials and 175 entrepreneurs of HKTDC.

**Summer English course opened**

MYEIKYINA, 8 March—The Summer English Course was opened at Myeikyin Basic Education High School in Myeikyina on 4 March.

Course in-charge Daw Myat Thin Lwin explained matters related to the course.

Fourth standard to matriculation students may attend the course free of charge.—Myanma Alinn
Opinions of citizens on President U Thein Sein’s fruitful goodwill visits to European countries

President U Thein Sein after paying goodwill visits to Norway, Finland, Austria, Belgium and Italy, arrived back Yangon this morning.

The President’s soaring success in diplomatic front, economic front and political front has been pride for Myanmar citizens. The President’s efforts could bring Myanmar which maintained poor diplomatic relations with western countries for scores of decades back on world stage and revitalize Myanmar’s export market and reach debt settlement agreement with debtors and attract influx of international aids and foreign investment, setting an example to global nations with peaceful and subtle democratization.

People from all walks of life welcome back the President on his return from Europe trip, honoring his efforts and achievements during his tour.

Newscrew from Myanmar News Agency (MNA) asked the opinions of people about gains from the President’s visit to EU countries and prospects. We asked about why they welcomed the President, what they think the President’s trip contribute to their business and whether they welcomed the President on their own accord.

U Kyaw Myat Moe (General Secretary of Myanmar Restaurateurs’ Association) “We, Myanmar Restaurateurs’ Association, are pleased with the changes and thus we are here to welcome the President.

Thanks to the efforts of President, we (Myanmar) gain growing attention from other countries. As result, we have seen significant increase in number of foreign tourists to us. So, we also get the benefits as restaurateur.

We’re here on our accord. 130 employees from 11 restaurants are here to welcome the President”.

U Thein Zaw Oo (Assistant Operation Manager) Myanmar Restaurateurs’ Association “We’re pleased and all the others here can be found smiling being here. I’m much appreciated with the President’s efforts. I think there would be more opportunities for the youth”. Dr. Khin Ma San (Deputy General Manager) W o o d e n p r o d u c t s manufacturing “I’m very pleased to see the President putting heart and soul into political and economic reforms across the nation. We (employees of the factory) take pride in the President because of the tangible results. I am so glad for the unprecedented changes.

I believe our nation would grow thanks to the leading role of the President and collaborative efforts of his cabinet”.

Phyo Ko Ko (student) “I think there would be more opportunities for the youth and more progress thanks to the President”. Kyaw Zin Win (student, Shwebo University) “I’m here on my own volition to welcome the President. We need try harder as our economy is weaker than others. We need to have more people in employment. In my view, we could create more jobs in short time if we cooperated with foreign countries”.

U Win Aung (UMFCCI President) I am very pleased with President’s efforts for the interests of the country and the people. It is expected that massive foreign investments are likely to flow into the country.

U Kyaw Yin Hlaing (programme Director of Myanmar Peace Center) The reason why these countries invited the President is that they want to show their support for Myanmar’s reforms. During his visits, they made commitment that will be beneficial to the country. It is said that his tours has achieved successes than expected. They invited the President because they want to show that the world countries need a president like him. This news is known from the embassies since they invited him. There are so many countries that had made reforms like Myanmar. Not only US President Mr Obama but also European leaders said that those countries should take an example of President U Thein Sein’s government.

U Soe Myint (CEC member of Union of Myanmar Travels Association) “I'm here on my own volition to welcome the President. I would like to express my thanks to the President. I would like to say thank you on behalf of the entire people including garment factory workers and members of UMFCCI. I have a feeling it is totally different from the previous one. Whenever I am abroad and I introduce myself as a Myanmar, the people gather around me. This feeling makes me flying in the air. I receive a sign of recognition from others. I believe that the President’s visit was a boost in this case. The better Myanmar sees trading, the more benefit she will.

U Kaung Myint Htin (Myanmar Garment Manufacturers’ Association) I am asked why I welcome the President. I would like to answer it simply. The reason is to express my thanks to the President. I would like to say thank you on behalf of the entire people including garment factory workers and members of UMFCCI. I have a feeling it is totally different from the previous one. Whenever I am abroad and I introduce myself as a Myanmar, the people gather around me. This feeling makes me flying in the air. I receive a sign of recognition from others. I believe that the President’s visit was a boost in this case. The better Myanmar sees trading, the more benefit she will.

As we commemorate International Women’s Day, we must look back on a year of shocking crimes of violence against women and girls and ask ourselves how to usher in a better future.

One young woman was gang-raped to death. Another committed suicide out of a sense of shame that should have attached to the perpetrators. Those two young women were shot at close range for daring to seek an education. These atrocities, which rightly sparked global outrage, were part of a much larger problem that pervades virtually every country and every realm of life.

Look around at the women you are with. Think of those you cherish in your families and your communities. And understand that there is a statistical likelihood that many of them have suffered violence in their lifetime. Even more have

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Australia to take further action to eliminate modern slavery

Canberra, 8 March — Australian government will implement its new measures aimed at cracking down on slavery and people smuggling. Prime Minister Julia Gillard said on Friday, the International Women’s Day. According to a statement from her, as people celebrate International Women’s Day, Australian government will ensure that its procurement rules and practices assist in identifying and stamping out slavery.

Slavery and people-trafficking are crimes that affect almost every nation on earth — as either source, transit or destination countries. And it is not a phenomenon to which Australia is immune. “I’m proud to announce a new whole-of-government strategy to reinforce ethical behaviour in procurement so that no firm providing goods or services to the Commonwealth is tainted by slavery or people-trafficking anywhere in the supply chain,” Gillard said.

She pointed out about 16 million women worldwide have been enslaved and trafficked over the past decade, and it is imperative governments work to restore people’s freedom. Although there is no evidence that is currently happening, she said, there is a risk of it becoming an issue as the global economy becomes more integrated. —Xinhua

Pakistan PM to pay personal visit to India on Saturday

Islamabad, 8 March — Pakistani Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf will pay a personal visit to India on Saturday, the Foreign Ministry said on Thursday.

Foreign Ministry spokesman, Moazzam Khan said that the prime minister will visit the shrine of Muslim saint “Aymer Sharif.”

Responding to questions at weekly press briefing the spokesman said that no talks are yet scheduled with Indian leadership.

Sources say that the prime minister will be accompanied by his family members during the day-long visit to the shrine at Rajasthan state. President Asif Ali Zardari also visited the shrine last year. However, the Indian prime minister had invited him for a luncheon as there had been substantial increase in relations.

Mr Ashraf’s visit comes following escalation along the Line of Control (LoC), which divides the countries in the disputed Kashmir region. Both sides accused each other of the 2003 ceasefire violation. Cross-border clashes has killed four Pakistani soldiers and two Indian troops since January.

Asked to comment on Indian prime minister’s remarks that Pakistan was not doing enough against terrorism, Khan said Pakistan condemns terrorism and extremism in all its forms and manifestations. He said it is a common threat and requires a common strategy and cooperation among all countries of the region.

“Pakistan wants resolution of all issues with India through dialogue including the recent incident on the Line of Control,” Khan said. He said Pakistan has even gone to the extent of sharing investigations under the mechanism of UN system. —Xinhua

Developing landlocked nations discuss achievements, hurdles in Laos

Vientiane, 8 March— The Euro-Asian final regional review of Almaty Programme for Action, which focuses on development issues for Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), concluded here on Thursday. The meeting closed with the issuing of the Vientiane Consensus, a document with identified achievements, hurdles and future goals for the LLDC group. There are 31 Landlocked Developing Countries, including Laos, one of the least developed nations in South East Asia.

The group found that since the Almaty Programme was adopted in 1993, progress had been made in the sectors of health, education, social development and transport infrastructure. The consensus also stated, however, that further progress needed to be made in improving trade access, sustainable and even development.

The meeting observed that the policies of the LLDCs need to be oriented towards stimulating productive investment, building technological capacities and strengthening linkages within and across sectors and between different enterprises.

The meeting found the need for LLDCs to address vulnerabilities to external shocks, including rising and volatile food and fuel prices and economic and financial downturns, creating favourable market access, promoting employ...
Yukiya Amano gets second term as IAEA chief

VIENNA, 8 March 2013

The International Atomic Energy Agency’s (IAEA) board of governors on Wednesday approved a new four-year term for the agency’s Director General Yukiya Amano, diplomats said.

The 65-year-old Japanese diplomat will start his second term in December following approvals from all IAEA member states in September. Normally, Director General approved by the board of governors would be approved unanimously.

In Amano’s second term, Iran’s nuclear issue is expected to be his greatest challenge, after he and his team have failed to make any substantial breakthrough over the so called “structured approach” to resolving the outstanding issues on the possible military dimensions of Iran’s disputed nuclear programme.

Western countries fear Iran is enriching uranium to develop the capacity to build nuclear weapons.

Ministry of Information
Invitation to open tender to purchase FM Transmitters for Myanmar Radio and Television

1. Open tenders are invited to purchase FM Transmitters to be installed at 13 retransmission stations of Myanmar Radio and Television of Ministry of Information.

(A) FM Transmitters & Accessories

Harris (USA) 13 Lots

2. Open tender forms may be drawn from Myanmar Radio and Television, Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon) from 9:30 am to 16:30 pm during the office days as of 9-3-2013.

3. Open tender forms are to be submitted in the presence of the Tender board members at Myanmar Radio and Television, Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon) from 9:30 am to 16:30 pm on 18-3-2013. Overdue tender forms will not be considered.

4. The open tender forms disciplines and detailed information are available at the following address.

5. Verification of purchasing items’ quality and price will be held at Office No.7, Ministry of Information, Nay Pyi Taw at 9:00 am on 22-3-2013.

Purchasing Committee
Myanmar Radio and Television
Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon)
Ministry of Information
Ph: 067-79410, 067-79135

US paint warehouse explosions injure three

CHICAGO, 8 March—Explosions at a paint manufacturing warehouse in northwest suburban Cary of Chicago on Wednesday injured three people, Chicago Tribune reported.

Two explosions in the afternoon ripped off the front of the brick structure and leaf a small hole at the rear of the building. Three workers at the warehouse were taken to hospitals for treatment.
Los Angeles, 8 March — Actress Demi Moore is seeking alimony from estranged husband Ashton Kutcher, according to divorce documents filed in a Los Angeles court on Thursday. Kutcher, the star of CBS television comedy “Two and a Half Men,” filed for divorce from the “GI Jane” actress in December 2012 after more than a year of separation. Requesting financial support from Kutcher, 35, is an unusual move for Moore, 50, who was one of the top female earners in Hollywood during the 1990s. Her court filing did not specify an amount sought.

Kutcher and Moore both cited irreconcilable differences in their divorce papers filed in Los Angeles Superior Court. In Kutcher’s filing, the actor said he would not seek spousal support but would not deny support to Moore. Forbes magazine has estimated Kutcher earned $24 million from May 2011 to May 2012, making him the highest-paid TV actor. Representatives for Moore and Kutcher did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Moore began dating Kutcher a few years after her split from actor-husband Bruce Willis, when Kutcher was a young star on the TV sitcom “That ‘70s Show.” Their relationship became tabloid fodder due to their 16-year age gap, and the couple married in September 2005 in Los Angeles.

Los Angeles, 8 March — “Star Wars” original cast members Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher and Mark Hamill are in talks to join the next installment of the science-fiction franchise, a person with knowledge of plans for the upcoming film told Reuters on Thursday.

Ford, Fisher, Hamill in talks for new “Star Wars” films, declined to comment. Reuters was unable to reach representatives for Hamill, who played Luke Skywalker from 1977 to 1983. Fisher, who played Princess Leia in the first “Star Wars” trilogy, got the rumor mills buzzing over her split from actor-husband Bruce Willis, when Kutcher was a young star on the TV sitcom “That ‘70s Show.” Their relationship became tabloid fodder due to their 16-year age gap, and the couple married in September 2005 in Los Angeles.

Los Angeles, 8 March — Canadian teen pop star Justin Bieber tweeted that he was “getting better” after collapsing on stage from shortness of breath during a performance in London and being rushed to the hospital on Thursday. Bieber’s spokeswoman, Melissa Victor, told Reuters that the singer had fainted on stage at his concert at London’s O2 arena and had been taken backstage where he took a 20 minute break and was given oxygen by doctors.

Bieber, 19, returned to the stage after the break and his representatives said he was OK. Victor said the “Boyfriend” singer ignored his collapse that Bieber was suffering from a heart murmur and that the singer was suffering from a heart murmur.

Canadian teen pop star Justin Bieber. Reuters

Justin Bieber “getting better” after collapsing at London gig

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Canadian teen pop star Justin Bieber. Reuters

Justin Bieber “getting better” after collapsing at London gig
**SPORTS**

**Woods in share of Doral lead, McIlroy struggles**

The world's top three players—McIlroy, Woods and England's Luke Donald—were grouped together, providing a fascinating opportunity to compare their games with the US Masters just over a month away. Woods's nine birdies were his best tally since the opening round of the BMW Championship last September, while McIlroy shot a one-over 73 after 14 holes over bogeys. Woods has won this tournament on six occasions at various venues, including most recently in 2007 at Doral where he also won the Ford Open twice. Starting on the tenth hole, the 14-times major winner followed two birdies with bogeys at the 13th and 14th holes before quickly bouncing back by picking up shots at the 16th and 18th. “It was certainly a day that could have been a little bit lower,” said Woods. **Reuters**

**Corinthians lifted from 60-day closed door matches**

Defending Copa Libertadores champion Corinthians will be lifted from the 60-day sanction of playing matches behind closed door, the club said on Thursday. Corinthians was not allowed to play in front of its fans at home matches after the South American football confederation imposed the punishment to the Brazilian club after the death of a 14-year-old Bolivian boy in a Copa Libertadores match against Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Corinthians said the confederation decided it will keep the club's supporters from attending away matches for the next 18 months, but dismissed the 60-day suspension for home matches. The club was fined 200,000 US dollars. **Reuters**

**Turkey's Ilyasova riding high in expanded role with Bucks**

Ersan Ilyasova is a tantalizing talent whose confidence can fade quicker than his jump shot, though a recent dose of self-belief has him firing in both departments. On some nights, the 6-foot-10 (2.08m) Ilyasova resembles a Turkish Dirk Nowitzki, with his high-arcing jumper appearing as endless as his potential. There are also stretches, as evidenced early in the 2012-13 National Basketball Association (NBA) season, when the 25-year-old Turk looks unsure and out of place; a big man who prefers the perimeter to the paint, an international player trying to secure his place with the Bucks.

But with a new head coach and a new outlook, Ilyasova feels that those dark days are long behind him. “The season started slow for me, there were ups and downs,” Ilyasova, who has come on strong lately and is averaging 12.1 points and 6.5 rebounds, told Reuters on Wednesday while in Los Angeles for a game against the Clippers. “We’ve changed the culture and I’m feeling confident and trying to build on that. I’m looking forward to playing much better.” **Reuters**

**Peru summons 15 players overseas for match against Chile**

On Thursday, Peru called up 15 players from abroad for a World Cup soccer qualifier against Chile. The players are goalkeeper Raúl Fernández (FC Dallas, United States), defenders Alberto Rodríguez (Rio Ave FC, Portugal), Carlos Zambrano (Eintracht Frankfurt, Germany), Yoshimar Yo- tan (CR Vasco da Gama, Brazil) and Luis Advincula (TSG 1899 Hoffenheim, Germany). Midfielders Rinaldo Cruzado (Newell's Old Boys, Argentina), Juan Vargas (Genoa CFC, Italy), Luis Ramírez (Ponte Petra, Brazil), Álvaro Ampuero (Parnu FC, Estonia), Juan Marín (Queretaro FC, Mexico) were also called up. The list also includes forwards Andre Carrillo (Sporting Clube, Portugal), Paolo Hurtado (FC Pacos de Ferreira, Portugal), Jefferson Farfan (FC Schalke 04, Germany), Claudio Pizarro (FC Bayern Munich, Germany) and Paolo Guerrero (Sport Club Corinthians Paulista, Brazil).

Coach Sergio Markarian from Uruguay said the overseas players will practice with the local league's players. **Xinhua**

**Indian Wells (California), 8 March—Buoyant Rafael Nadal of Spain hits the ball during a practice session at the BNP Paribas Open ATP tennis tournament in Indian Wells, California, on 7 March, 2013. **Reuters**

**New Light of Myanmar**

Saturday, 9 March, 2013
Adidas sees role for Reebok despite writedown

LONDON, 8 March—Adidas is to stick with its troubled Reebok business even though the German sportswear group had to make a 265 million euro ($344.5 million) writedown on the brand at the end of last year. Adidas, which bought Reebok in 2005 for $3.8 billion to try to close the gap with market leader Nike, last year had to cut its 2015 sales target for the brand by a third after two quarters of declining sales.

But the group believes Reebok has a future alongside the Adidas own-name brand and the TaylorMade golf unit.

Federer says biological passports good news

REUTERS

Roger Federer

Roger Federer (Alaska), 8 March—Roger Federer applauded Thursday’s announcement that tennis will introduce biological passports for players each year under its anti-doping programme.

“Cote d’Ivoire urges gender equality law

ABIDJAN, 8 March—Just a day before the celebration of the International Women’s Day, a women organization in Cote d’Ivoire pleaded for the adoption of a law on gender equality at all decision making levels in the West African country.

“Cote d’Ivoire should seek to progressively promote equality between men and women,” Madelaine Bley Miandiga, the chairperson of the Network of Women in Cote d’Ivoire’s Political Parties (REFEPCI), said in a statement issued on Thursday.

She said women should be involved in efforts to correct the current imbalance that exists between them and men, by joining the government in an acceptable representation through normative reforms with the most important being the law on gender equality.

Former Iditarod champion first to reach Alaska race’s midpoint

ANCHORAGE, (Alaska), 8 March—A four-time champion of Alaska’s Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race was first to reach the halfway point at a time in which the wilderness trail is named, before quickly losing his nominal lead to another musher, race officials said on Thursday. Lance Mackey, the only musher to win the 1,000-mile Iditarod four times in a row, drove his dog team on Wednesday night into the interior Alaska ghost town of Iditarod. His prize for being first to Iditarod is $3,000 in gold nuggets, officials said.

The race, which has grown from an obscure contest many considered a one-time lark into a world-famous, big-money sports extravaganza, began in Anchorage on Saturday and will finish in the Bering Sea town of Nome. Winners in recent years have reached Nome in about nine days. In Iditarod, Mackey was joined by four other mushers—fellow four-time champions Jeff King and Martin Buser, and race veterans Sonny Lindner and Aaron Burmeister. All rested their teams at the checkpoint on Thursday afternoon. But Buser later announced, snatching the lead from Mackey, who won the race in 2007 through 2010. Other teams could also overtake him as Mackey has yet to take a 24-hour rest that is required of all Iditarod competitors.

Buser has already taken day-long mandatory layover, as have Burmeister and other top contenders who were on their way to Iditarod on Thursday, including 2012 runner-up Aliy Zirkle and 2004 winner Mitch Seavey.—Reuters

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Vice-President U Nyan Tun receives Administrator of USAID delegation

Nay Pyi Taw, 8 March—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Nyan Tun received a delegation led by Dr Rajeev Janardan Shah, Administrator of US Agency for International Development-USaid at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 10 am today.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Zin Yaw, Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Daw Khin San Yi, the director-general of the President Office and officials.

The USAID delegation was accompanied by US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Derek Mitchell. They cordially discussed matters related to cooperation programmes between Myanmar and US, cooperation with social organizations in Myanmar, control of HIV, AIDS in the health sector, health care services for children and women and reduction of mortality rate, development of research works and higher education in linking universities in the education sector, plans for humanitarian aid, and investment of US companies for reform and development of agriculture sector of Myanmar.—MNA

Union Education Minister meets scouts

Nay Pyi Taw, 8 March—Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye met scouts from No. 1 Basic Education High School of PyinOoLwin and No. 16 BEHS of Mandalay at the morning this morning.

The Union Minister called scouts as neutral persons with altruistic attitude and urged them to set example to their peers serving the interests of own school, village and people. Deputy Ministers U Aye Kyu and Dr Ba Shwe also gave instructions to the scouts.

The ceremony was celebrated at the meeting hall of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, here, this morning, with an address by Patron of MWAf and Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association wife of the President Daw Khin Khin Win.

The ceremony was attended by wives of the Vice-presidents Daw San Shwe Hmon and Daw Khin Aye Myint, chairpersons of the hluttaws, chairpersons of the union ministers, patrons of MWAf and MMCWA, ambassadors, representative of NGOs at home and abroad and invited guests.

International Women’s Day celebrated

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Building a Lasting EU-Myanmar Partnership

JOINT STATEMENT

On 5 March 2013, the President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy, the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, and the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, U Thein Sein, agreed that, in light of the historic changes in Myanmar, they will work in partnership:

- To make Myanmar into a modern democracy. To ensure that the best international standards are met, the EU will work closely with Myanmar’s branches of the state, as well as with the Election Commission. The three Presidents welcomed the wish of the EU Parliament and the Myanmar Hluttaws to strengthen their cooperation.
- To achieve a lasting peace. Without peace there can be neither democracy nor prosperity in Myanmar. The Government is committed to inclusive negotiations for a lasting political settlement. These should address long standing differences to achieve sustainable peace. The EU will support the Government’s efforts for peace and the Myanmar Peace Centre.
- To promote human rights and the rule of law for all people living in Myanmar. The Government has taken steps to achieve freedom of expression, assembly and association. The release of prisoners has opened a new chapter in Myanmar political life. The review mechanism established by the government - which includes members of the opposition and former prisoners - will ensure that remaining cases are dealt with in a spirit of openness and reconciliation. The EU and Myanmar will establish dialogue and cooperation in this field to help Myanmar fulfill its commitments. The EU will support the efforts of the Myanmar Government to build an independent, impartial and efficient judiciary.
- To work with Myanmar as an active and respected member of the international community. In this respect Myanmar’s readiness to accede to international Human rights agreements and to the Additional Protocol to IAEA’s Comprehensive safeguards agreements is particularly important.
- To create an EU-Myanmar partnership in trade and investment. The foundations of growth and prosperity for all Myanmar citizens will be laid through economic reforms implementing the Government’s vision of people-centred economic and social development, a market economy and a level playing field for business. These reforms have already been initiated. In support of this comprehensive reform process, the EU has launched the process to restate as early as possible unhindered access to the EU market including preferential treatment under GSP/EBA. As a next step the EU and Myanmar will explore the feasibility of a bilateral Investment Agreement to increase investment flows. Both sides will promote best practices in Corporate Social Responsibility and responsible investment. Both sides have also agreed to take concrete steps to promote and deepen business partnerships and economic cooperation.
- To work together on preparedness, response and resilience to emergencies, by building up a professional and effective response system.
- To build a development partnership. In line with the

Nay Pyi Taw Accord and the Government’s Action Plan and commitment to poverty reduction, the EU is for its part committed to maintaining its increased assistance for national development priorities. The EU will assist the Myanmar Government in its efforts to build a more prosperous future. The EU will continue supporting Myanmar’s development through its cooperation programs. In parallel, both sides commit to establishing a comprehensive policy dialogue on sustainable development.

To bring our societies closer, through academic exchanges, media contacts, tourism and cultural cooperation. The Government of Myanmar is committed to protecting Myanmar’s cultural heritage and to that end will consider offering a sustainable model in Yangon’s heritage conservation zone for establishment of a Europe House. Myanmar is committed to sustainable tourism for the benefit of the people of Myanmar, their traditions and culture. Myanmar also welcomes cooperation with the EU in the domain of national heritage preservation and reconstruction.

To maintain the momentum of the partnership and to turn these commitments into reality, both sides will establish a joint Task Force. It will meet in Myanmar in November to assess progress and develop further cooperation in the future.

Brussels 5 March 2013.