President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U’ Thein Sein delivering an opening address at meeting 1/2013 of financial commission.—MNA

Union government making efforts to increase individual incomes including government staff

2014 FY re-drew up in accordance with the national planning bill 2013 approved by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, he added. As the GDP is K 59248.953 billion, a budget deficit will run at 4.94 % of GDP, he said.

In addition, the Union government has already earmarked for raising salary and daily wages rates, allowances and regional

expenses for staff in remote areas. A total of K 385 billion will be spent for it, he said.

His New Year message sent to the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker and Hluttaw representatives on 1-1-2013 states that Union Receipts and Payment Law will be prescribed year on year and assistances, increased on a step-by-step basis, he said.

He urged Financial Commission members to discuss the amended Budget drafted in accord with National Planning Bill (2013).

After that, secretary of Financial Commission Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Shein explained the Union Budget for 2013-2014 financial year and the Union Receipts and Payment Bill for 2013 financial year. Then, Region/ State Chief Ministers, the Union ministers, the Union Attorney-General and the Union Auditor-General submitted the financial matters.

In his concluding speech, Chairman of Financial Commission President U Thein Sein said that the Union Budget for 2013-2014 financial year and the Union Receipts and Payment Bill (2013) approved at today meeting are to be sent to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw via the Union government. Objectives of National Planning Law are to be implemented under the leadership of the Union government and Region/State governments after the budget and the bill are approved by sixth regular session of first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. The Union government is making efforts to increase individual incomes including the government staff. The government is also taking measures for the active participation of the staff in the process of ensuring clean government and good governance by enabling the staff to enjoy the rights. (See page 7)

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham arrives in Luang Prabang of Laos

N A Y P I T A W, 12 March—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham, arrived Luang Prabang, Laos, at 10:25 am local time yesterday, to attend the 5th ACMECS Summit and the 6th CLMV Summit to be held in Vientiane, Laos.

They were welcomed at the Luang Prabang International Airport by Vice-Governor of Luang Prabang Province Mr. Sai Sa Mon Khom Thavong, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Dr. Khammoun Viphongsay, Myanmar Ambassador to Laos U Kyaw Soe Win, military attaché Brig-Gen Win Myint and officials.

The Myanmar delegation led by the Vice-President comprises Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung and deputy ministers.

The Vice-President and party arrived at Luang Prabang International Airport. Next, the Vice-President and his entourage proceeded to Manoluck Hotel in Luang Prabang where they are going to be staying.
Work-coord meeting on forming supporting committees for development held

NAY PYI TAW, 12 March—A work-coordination meeting on forming the management committee, Township Development Affairs Committee and supporting committee for development took place at the office of Kayah State’s government on 8 March morning.

KAYAH State Chief Cash donated for construction of fire station, ECG machine

PAWBO, 12 March—The Union government presented one fine engine to Pyawbwe Township of Mandalay Region for taking fire preventive measures.

The local people are trying hard to open one more fire station in the western part of Pyawbwe.

A ceremony to donate cash to the fund for opening No 2 fire station was held at the hall of the Township General Administration Department on 3 March.

OLD students of Institute of Traditional Medicine pay respects to former faculty members

MANDALAY, 12 March—The fourth respect paying ceremony was held in conjunction with the get-together of students of 17th batch of Mandalay Institute of Traditional Medicine at Diamond House on 84th street between 37th and 38th streets in Mahaungmye Township on 3 March.

It was attended by faculty members and old students.

Plantsations provide fuel

WUNDWIN, 12 March—Fuel from firewood plantations in the area of Wundwin Township Forest Department in Meiktila District of Mandalay Region was distributed to local people on 6 March.

Staff Officer U Soe Win Naing of Township Forest Department explained cultivation of trees and plans of the department to distribute firewood to the local people.

Next, officials presented fire woods to 40 households of Zaung-changon (North) Village.

NAY PYI TAW, 12 March—The cash donation for renovation of Kamayut Basic Education High School No 2 and construction of six-storey new school building was held at the meeting hall of the school yesterday afternoon, with an address by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe.

Cash donated for renovation of Kamayut BEHS No 2, construction of six-storey school building

NAY PYI TAW, 12 March—The cash donation for renovation of Kamayut Basic Education High School No 2 and construction of six-storey new school building was held at the meeting hall of the school yesterday afternoon, with an address by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe.

Construction of new Dagon Dockyard inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 12 March—Deputy Minister for Transport U Han Sein visited new Dagon Dockyard in Dagon Myothit Township yesterday morning.

Managing Director U Win Pe of Inland Water Transport and Deputy Superintending Engineer U SK Myat Thu reported on development Co K 10 million and old students of the school K 2 million through the Chief Minister who returned the certificates of honour to them.

Then, Headmistress Daw May Hla Yi of the school spoke words of thanks.—MNA

Certificates presented to students at State School of Fine Arts (Mandalay)

Fire drill at Yathedaung Myoma Market

YATHEDAUNG, 12 March—A fire drill was practised at Myoma Market of Yathedaung Township Development Affairs Committee on 3 March.

The fire drill was attended by Township Administrator U Moe Hsan officials of the No 2 fire station construction committee accepted the cash donations.

Myanma Alinn

Fire destroys two buildings at Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station

NAY PYI TAW, 12 March—Outbreaks of fire occurred at two buildings at railway project in the compound of Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station in Pobbatthiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

The fire started at bush near the old workshop of the project due to overheat at 2.20 pm on 9 March, destroying one workshop building of 40 feet in length and 20 feet in width.

Under the supervision of Li-Col Win Myat of Nay Pyi Taw Command Headquarters and officials, Tun, Deputy Administrator U Zay Wunna Hlaing, Executive Officer U Maung Tin Oo of Township Development Affairs Committee and in-charge of the Township Fire Station U Tun Shwe Khang.

Myanma Alinn

University of Fisheries for new generation youths

NAY PYI TAW, 12 March—As Myanmar is striving for turning out human resources to ensure all-round development, a plan is being implemented to open University of Fisheries, according to an official of Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries.

The university will be opened for turning out technicians to keep abreast of other countries in fishery sector. We need such kind of university in our country,” said an official.

The government is making arrangements for spending a large sum of money on establishment of the university, seeking monetary assistance from international community.

On completion of establishment, the university will admit students in coming few years.

University of Fisheries will be first-ever institution to provide fishery science to students in Myanmar. The students from the university will have the opportunity to pursue fishery technology, fisheries science, fish breeding and production of marine products including fish meeting international standard.—Myanma Alinn

Wellwishers Chairman of Ayeyawady Foundation U Zaw Zaw donated K 50 million, Patron of the School Board of Trustees Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Manjotadhara U Chu Than K 10 million, U Shauk San of Natural World Co K 15 million, Asia World Co K 10 million, Capital

Myanma Alinn
US President Barack Obama announces new cabinet members in the East Room of the White House in Washington, on 4 March, 2013.—Reuters

WASHINGTON, 12 March — President Barack Obama on Monday met Arab American leaders who urged him to deliver a message of hope to the Palestinian people on his Middle East trip this month, even though he has made clear he will not use the visit to launch a new Israeli-Palestinian peace initiative.

Obama met the group on Monday to seek input for his meetings in the region. He is expected to hold separate talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Jordan’s King Abdullah. “He underscored that the trip is an opportunity for him to demonstrate the United States’ commitment to the Palestinian people — in the West Bank and Gaza — and to partnering with the Palestinian Authority as it continues building institutions that will be necessary to bring about a truly independent Palestinian state,” a White House official said. Obama also told them he would “reiterate America’s commitment to Israel’s security,” the official said.

Many Palestinians have been frustrated by Obama’s failure to do more to advance a peace deal, despite having declared a hard-fought compromise on a limited easing of the arms embargo to help Assad’s opponents. There is no sign of any significant change since he made that announcement.

A UN Security Council diplomat also told Reuters soon, though they said there were no firm plans to make an announcement in the coming days. Syrian rebels fighting President Bashar al-Assad’s government decided on Tuesday to hold a ceremony to mark the restoration of Japan’s sovereignty seven years after defeat in World War Two, a sign of his drive to repair what conservatives consider dented national pride.

The popular 58-year-old Abe, who returned to office when his party swept back to power in a December poll, wants to revive Japan’s wartime history with a less apologetic tone. His Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) had pledged in the campaign to make 28 April “Restoration of Sovereignty Day”, to mark the day in 1952 when the United Nations’ commitment to the Palestinian people — in the West Bank and Gaza — and to partnering with the Palestinian Authority as it continues building institutions that will be necessary to bring about a truly independent Palestinian state,” a White House official said. Obama also told them he would “reiterate America’s commitment to Israel’s security,” the official said.

Many Palestinians have been frustrated by Obama’s failure to do more to advance a peace deal, despite having declared a hard-fought compromise on a limited easing of the arms embargo to help Assad’s opponents. There is no sign of any significant change since he made that announcement.

A UN Security Council diplomat also told Reuters soon, though they said there were no firm plans to make an announcement in the coming days.
Apple to use Qualcomm’s Snapdragon SoC for low-cost iPhone

Anupam Saxena, 12 March—According to a report by China Times, Apple is planning to use Qualcomm’s Snapdragon SoC (system on a chip) in its purported low-cost iPhone whose manufacturing is expected to commence during the second quarter of the year. The report was spotted by AppleInsider via Japanese blog Macotakara.

As per the report, Apple plans to use Taiwan based chipmaker TSMC’s 28nm process to build cheaper iPhone’s Snapdragon SoC, and that Apple is likely to stick to 3G connectivity or the phone, so it’s not likely to use an SoC that supports LTE on board.

Qualcomm had recently launched the Snapdragon 400 and 200 processors for mid-range and entry-level smartphones which are also based on the 28nm process, and includes a GPU for all major connectivity options save LTE allowing manufacturers to cut component cost. So it can’t be ruled out that Apple might be looking at them as potential SoCs for the low-cost iPhone.

The China Times report also predicts that Renesas Electronics will produce the low-cost iPhone’s LCD drivers, and that the NAND flash memory will be procured from Toshiba, Elpida, Micron Technology, SK Hynix and SanDisk.

A recent report by Apple Insider via Japanese blog Macotakara claimed that Apple is currently working on two different iPhone models and that one of these will be a successor to the iPhone 5 with a 4.5-inch screen while the other will a cheaper smartphone model sporting a polycarbonate body. The blog also mentioned that the next iPhone is likely to be expected by sometime in 2014, while the cheaper model should launch sooner.

Earlier this year, DigiTimes had also reported about the launch of a low-cost iPhone suggesting that Apple could use Qualcomm’s latest Snapdragon chipssets, the dual-core MSM8960 or the quad-core APQ8064 in the phone.

Hopes fade of Higgs particle opening door to new realms soon

Geneva, 12 March—Scientists’ hopes that last summer’s triumphant trampoline of the particle that shaped the post-Big Bang universe would quickly open the way into exotic new realms of physics like string theory and new dimensions have faded this past week.

Five days of presentations on the particle, the Higgs boson, at a scientific conference high in the Italian Alps point to it being the last missing piece in a 30-year-old cosmic blue-print and nothing more, physicists following the event say.

“There are getting slimmer and slimmer what we are going to see something else exciting anytime soon,” said physicist Pauline Gagnon from CERN near Geneva in whose Large Hadron Collider (LHC) the long-sought particle was found. And US scientist Peter Higgs whose work opened the Higgs universe to new possibilities.

Apple uses, Seoul, 12 March—Samsung Galaxy S IV launch is one of the most anticipated events and now that we’re drawing closer, the rumours are coming thick and fast.

The latest one, courtesy SamMobile mentions that the Galaxy S IV will come with a new display technology from Samsung in the form of a “green PHOLED”, that bears similarities to the company’s current AMOLED displays. What’s different you ask? Well, according to the blog’s “insider”, the new display uses colour GREEN-YELLOW to make it 25% more efficient in terms of battery consumption.

Furthermore, the blog also reiterates the earlier rumoured floating touch technology that will be a part of the Galaxy S IV. The technology present in Samsung’s Air view, is only found in the famed S Pen as of now. This is the same technology that Sony had first incorporated in its Xperia Sola (Review | Pictures) smartphone. It lets consumers browse the web by hovering their finger above the screen so it acts like a moving cursor, without actually having to touch the display.

The Samsung-focused blog also confirms through its same “insider” source that the device will pack an eight-core Samsung Exynos Octa processor, a 13-megapixel rear camera, 2 GB RAM, and a Photosphere-like feature function called Samsung Orb.

Also, it will run Android 4.2.1 at launch, with an update to Android 4.2 promised to come in the same month as its release. An enhanced version of Samsung’s TouchWiz Nature UX, most likely version 2.0, will also make its way to the smartphone.

What’s interesting is that so far, we’ve heard about two different Samsung devices for the Galaxy S IV. While one comes with the aforementioned specs, the other has a Qualcomm Snapdragon 600 processor and a Super LCD3 screen. It’s still unclear, which of the two will officially be unveiled or whether both indeed will go on sale. —PTI

Publishers oppose Amazon’s bid to gain new Web names

New York, 12 March—Two publishing industry groups, the Authors Guild and one of American Publishers, are opposing Amazon.com Inc’s request to own new domain names, The Wall Street Journal reported.

The organizations argue that allowing Amazon to have such domain adresses that end in suffixes such as “book,” “author” and “read” would be a threat to competition, the paper said. Barnes & Noble Inc has also opposed Amazon’s request, the paper said. An Amazon spokesman declined to comment on the objections, the paper said.

Last year the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers began a process to allow organizations to register for new Web address suffixes, other than “.com” and “.edu.” The ambitious plan to liberalize Internet addresses attracted 1,930 applications, almost half of them from north America, with Amazon and Google

Alibaba Group picks Jonathan Lu as new CEO

Shanghai, 12 March—Alibaba Group said Jona-than Lu will replace former leader Jack Ma as the chief executive officer of the Chinese e-commerce giant, starting in the position from 10 May, the company said on Monday.

Lu is currently the group’s executive vice president and used to head up the firm’s successful online shopping platform Taobao. —Reuters

An employee serves a guest at the reception counter inside the headquarters office of Alibaba (China) Technology Co. Ltd on the outskirts of Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province on 21 May, 2012. —Reuters

A computer screen is pictured before a scientific seminar to deliver the latest update in the search for the Higgs boson at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Meyrin, near Geneva on Monday. —Reuters

Alibaba Group picks Jonathan Lu as new CEO

Shanghai, 12 March—Alibaba Group said Jona-than Lu will replace former leader Jack Ma as the chief executive officer of the Chinese e-commerce giant, starting in the position from 10 May, the company said on Monday.

Lu is currently the group’s executive vice president and used to head up the firm’s successful online shopping platform Taobao.—Reuters

An employee serves a guest at the reception counter inside the headquarters office of Alibaba (China) Technology Co. Ltd on the outskirts of Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province on 21 May, 2012. — Reuters

A computer screen is pictured before a scientific seminar to deliver the latest update in the search for the Higgs boson at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Meyrin, near Geneva on Monday. — Reuters

Alibaba Group picks Jonathan Lu as new CEO

Shanghai, 12 March—Alibaba Group said Jona-than Lu will replace former leader Jack Ma as the chief executive officer of the Chinese e-commerce giant, starting in the position from 10 May, the company said on Monday.

Lu is currently the group’s executive vice president and used to head up the firm’s successful online shopping platform Taobao.— Reuters

An employee serves a guest at the reception counter inside the headquarters office of Alibaba (China) Technology Co. Ltd on the outskirts of Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province on 21 May, 2012. — Reuters

A computer screen is pictured before a scientific seminar to deliver the latest update in the search for the Higgs boson at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Meyrin, near Geneva on Monday. —Reuters

Alibaba Group picks Jonathan Lu as new CEO

Shanghai, 12 March—Alibaba Group said Jona-than Lu will replace former leader Jack Ma as the chief executive officer of the Chinese e-commerce giant, starting in the position from 10 May, the company said on Monday.

Lu is currently the group’s executive vice president and used to head up the firm’s successful online shopping platform Taobao.— Reuters

An employee serves a guest at the reception counter inside the headquarters office of Alibaba (China) Technology Co. Ltd on the outskirts of Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province on 21 May, 2012. — Reuters

A computer screen is pictured before a scientific seminar to deliver the latest update in the search for the Higgs boson at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Meyrin, near Geneva on Monday. —Reuters

Alibaba Group picks Jonathan Lu as new CEO

Shanghai, 12 March—Alibaba Group said Jona-than Lu will replace former leader Jack Ma as the chief executive officer of the Chinese e-commerce giant, starting in the position from 10 May, the company said on Monday.

Lu is currently the group’s executive vice president and used to head up the firm’s successful online shopping platform Taobao.— Reuters

An employee serves a guest at the reception counter inside the headquarters office of Alibaba (China) Technology Co. Ltd on the outskirts of Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province on 21 May, 2012. — Reuters

A computer screen is pictured before a scientific seminar to deliver the latest update in the search for the Higgs boson at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Meyrin, near Geneva on Monday. —Reu
Antibiotic resistance a “catastrophic threat”: UK medical chief

A plate which was coated with antibiotic-resistant bacteria called Klebsiella with a mutation called NDM 1 and then exposed to various antibiotics is seen at the Health Protection Agency in north London on 9 January 2011.—REUTERS

One of the best known superbugs, MRSA, is alone estimated to kill around 19,000 people every year in the United States. The disease is more than HIV and AIDS — and a similar number in Europe.

And others are spreading. Cases of totally drug resistant tuberculosis have appeared in recent years and a new wave of “super superbugs” with a mutation called NDM 1, which first emerged in India, has now turned up all over the world, from Britain to New Zealand.

Last year the WHO said untreatable superbug strains of gonorrhea were spreading across the world.

BOJ head nominee Kuroda: no need to set price target for core-core CPI

The Japan government’s nominee for the Bank of Japan (BOJ) governor Haruhiko Kuroda bows at the start of his speech during a hearing session at the lower house of parliament on 4 March, 2013.—REUTERS

Tokyo, 12 March—The Bank of Japan does not need to alter its 2 percent inflation target or set a target for consumer prices, excluding both food and energy, Haruhiko Kuroda, the government’s nominee for next central bank governor, said on Monday.

The BOJ’s price target is currently focused on core prices, which exclude fresh food but include energy costs, said Kuroda, 68, president of the Asian Development Bank.

Japan’s core-core consumer prices exclude food and energy, which is similar to the measure of core consumer prices used in the United States.

Kuroda, an advocate of aggressive monetary easing, spoke to lawmakers in the upper house of parliament at a confirmation hearing.

Last month, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe named Kuroda, Japan’s former top currency diplomat, to be the new Bank of Japan governor in a shift for radical BOJ easing to end nearly two decades of deflation.

Mummies from different times, places shared key heart risk

Chicago, 12 March—CT scans of 137 mummies spanning four geographies and 4,000 years of history show that hardening of the arteries was commonplace, and individuals living in historic cultures of ancient Egypt, the Unangan peoples of the Aleutian Islands between Alaska and Siberia, and individuals living in ancient Egypt.

The team found signs of probable or definite atherosclerosis in 34 percent of the mummies studied.

“For mummies over age 40, half of them had some vascular calcifications,” said Dr Randall Thompson of Saint Luke’s Mid America Heart Institute in Kansas City, who led the study.

“Considering we couldn’t see all of the arteries in any mummy, that is a reasonably high prevalence,” he said.

The findings are not the first evidence from mummies that atherosclerosis occurred in ancient peoples. Prior studies have shown evidence of hardened arteries in Egyptian mummies, but many believe that was due to the fact that ancient Egyptians only mummified elite members of society, who may have eaten a high-fat diet and gotten too little exercise, much like individuals in modern societies.

The latest study, however, spans a much broader swath of society, looking individuals from different regions and societies and with very different diets.

“What we’ve put together in this is four cultures with very disparate lifestyles and geography. We have a more-convincing argument about the presence of this disease in ancient people,” Thompson said.

Cove Energy directors look to replicate success in Mozambique

London, 12 March—Three key executives that were behind the creation and sale of Cove Energy Plc (CNYGF.PK) have reunited to raise funds for oil and gas projects in Mozambique, the Financial Times reported on Sunday. John Craven, Michael Blaha and Michael Nolan, now directors of Discover Exploration, are looking to raise about $50 million, the Financial Times reported.

Discover Exploration is focusing on waters east of Mozambique in the Rovuma Basin. The waters are controlled by the small island state of Comoros.

Discover Exploration is backed by directors’ funds and privately held Dutch oil company Oranje-Nassau Energie, the daily reported. The Financial Times also reported that the company plans to tap further funds from institutional investors in London, after having signed a production-sharing contract with Comoros.

Malaysia’s exports grow 3.5 pct in January

Kuala Lumpur, 12 March — Malaysia’s exports in January grew 3.5 percent year-on-year to 56.99 billion ringgit (18.32 billion US dollars) on improved shipments of petroleum products and manufactured goods, the domestic trade ministry said on Monday. Exports fell 5.8 percent on year-on-year in January. Exports of refined petroleum products increased by 35.4 percent from the same month last year. Shipments of agricultural products, however, declined by 16.4 percent on an annual basis to 5.66 billion ringgit (1.82 billion US dollars) as lower prices of palm oil and crude rubber hurt exports.—Xinhua

Bloated China steel sector facing closures, big miners to suffer

Beijing, 12 March—China’s bloated steel sector is facing a wave of closures in the next few years, with slowing demand and decades of “blind” expansion finally about to catch up with the industry, a senior executive and parliamentary delegate said.

Zhang Wuzong, the chairman of the privately-owned Shandong Shiheng Special Steel Group and a forty-year veteran of the industry, told Reuters in an interview that China’s problems would also scupper the huge expansion plans of suppliers like Rio Tinto (RIO.AX)(RIO.L) and BHP Billiton (BHP.AX) (BLT.L), which have bet their future on sustained demand growth in China.

No steel firm will be immune, with the future of China has at least 900 million tonnes of crude steel production capacity, far higher than its official total output of 716 million tonnes in 2012.

Profits in the sector fell 98 percent last year with many firms making losses.

An employee works at a steel factory that exports to Europe and America in Jiangxi, Zhejiang province, on 28 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

Tokyo, 12 March—Exports fell 5.8 percent in January, the monthly trade deficit nearly tripled to a record $7.3 billion, data showed on Tuesday, as slowing economic growth and a strong yen weighed on demand.

Exports fell 5.8 percent year-on-year in January to $49.86 billion, while the trade deficit jumped three-fold to $7.32 billion in January from $2.28 billion in December.

Japan’s trade deficit for the first three months of the year is now more than $21 billion, the biggest since the same period in 2006.

Exports to China fell 13 percent, though those to the US were up 22 percent. Exports to Europe were up 1.8 percent, while those to Southeast Asia slipped 1.3 percent.

Imports fell 7.6 percent, dragged down by a 12.1 percent drop in energy imports as Japan’s economy has grown at a slower pace this year as recovery from natural disasters last year fades.

Imports fell 7.6 percent year-on-year to $57.18 billion in January, much more than the 0.9 percent decline expected by economists in a Reuters poll.

Japan’s current account surplus narrowed to $7.38 billion in January from $28.46 billion last December, exceeding the median forecast of $1.76 billion in a Reuters poll.
Falkland Islanders vote overwhelmingly to keep British rule

STANLEY, 12 March — Residents of the Falkland Islands voted almost unanimously to stay under British rule in a referendum aimed at winning global sympathy as Argentina intensifies its sovereignty claim, results showed on Monday. The official count showed 99.8 percent of islanders voted in favour of remaining a British Overseas Territory in the two-day referendum, which was rejected by Argentina as a meaninglesss publicity stunt. Only three “no” votes were cast.

“Surely this must be the strongest message we can get out to the world,” said Roger Edwards, one of the Falklands’ assembly’s eight elected members. “(The message) that we are content, that we wish to retain the status quo ... with the right to determine our own future and not become a colony of Argentina.” Pro-British feeling is running high in the barren and blustery lands that lie off the tip of Patagonia, and turnout was 92 percent among the 1,630 Falklands-born and long-term residents registered to vote.

Three decades since Argentina and Britain went to war over the far-flung South Atlantic archipelago, residents have been perturbed by Argentina’s increasingly vocal claim over the Malvinas — as the islands are called in Spanish. Local politicians hope the resounding “yes” vote will help them lobby support abroad, for example in the United States, which has a neutral position on the sovereignty issue. “We’re never going to change Argentina’s claim and point of view, but I believe there are an awful lot of countries out there that are sitting on the fence ... this is going to show them quite clearly what the people think,” Edwards added.

US Secretary of Defence Chuck Hagel (R) walks with UN General Philip Breedlove, US Air Force Commander for Europe, upon Hagel’s arrival at Ramstein Air Base in Germany, on 11 March, 2013.—REUTERS

Helicopter crash in Afghanistan kills five foreign troops

KABUL, 12 March — A helicopter crash in southern Afghanistan killed five members of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force, NATO said on Tuesday, although there were no immediate details about the cause of the crash. A brief ISAF statement said the crash occurred on Monday.

The cause of the crash is under investigation, however initial reporting indicated there was no enemy activity in the area at the time of the incident,” the NATO statement said.

It also did not give any details about the nationalities of the troops killed, although US and British forces make up the bulk of the NATO-led contingent in Afghanistan’s south. Australian troops also still operate in the south. The crash came on the same day that two US troops and an Afghan police and soldiers were killed in a so-called insider attack by a person in an Afghan military uniform in the restive east of the country.

New Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel left Afghanistan earlier on Monday after a difficult first trip to Kabul.

As Afghan trip goes badly off script, Hagel opts for caution

KABUL, 12 March — It was a harrowing international debut for Chuck Hagel, whose first trip to Afghanistan as defence secretary went dramatically off-script and challenged the American narrative about the 11-year-old war. His first full day in Afghanistan began with the sound of suicide bomb attack about a mile away from his morning meetings at a NATO facility. But the real damage came the next day when Washington’s mercurial ally in the war, Afghan President Hamid Karzai, accused the United States of colluding with the Taliban hours before the two met.

Put in an awkward position, Hagel appeared cautious and at pains to avoid sharply criticizing the Afghan leader in public, even as he firmly disputed Karzai’s assertions.

In private, Hagel requested and had a private one-on-one meeting with Karzai where he was “firm and direct” with the Afghan president, a US official said. Hagel declined to provide reporters with details of the private exchange.

Asked about Karzai’s comments, White House national security advisor Tom Donilon cited “difficult questions” surrounding the transfer of security control from the NATO-led force to Afghan soldiers.

“We’ve had challenges before. We’ve continued to work with President Karzai. But we’re I think on track to meet the goals we’ve set for ourselves,” Donilon said in response to a question after a speech in New York.

After Chavez, Latin America’s ideological battle may ease

CARACAS, 12 March — Hugo Chavez’s exit from the world stage may take the sting out of an ideological battle that has enveloped Latin America since a new batch of leftists started taking power about 15 years ago to challenge US “imperialism”.

Fans say Chavez’s hyperactive energy is irreplaceable, and even before his death last Tuesday the appeal of his boisterous, hard line approach to economic and foreign policy had faded. Instead, momentum has moved towards the more pragmatic leftist model led by Brazil that places private investment or, in case of a handful of aggressive free traders in the region, a free-market one associated with Washington but with additional social welfare spending to fight poverty.

Both paths are converging around a broad centre. Brazil, always having seen itself as the “natural leader” of South America, has the most to gain in the post-Chavez era. Though the socialist Chavez government got along well with his Brazilian peers, his combative style sometimes upset them. Chavez’s death changes things. He occupied an important space within the Latin American left and now there will be a political realignment. One Brazilian diplomat told Reuters, insisting on anonymity.

“The death of Chavez could eventually lead to the end of radicalism on the continent,” said another Brazilian diplomat. Since Chavez’s death, Brazilian documentation that could not confirm the adequacy of the previous decision in favor of SNC,” Gulick said.

On Monday, he said the latest award to Argentina and Embraer involved “a new evaluation team, internal and external advisers and a new source selection authority.” The Government Accountability Office, a congressional agency that oversees federal procurement challenges, has up to 100 days to decide the matter.

Reuters

US Air Force defends Afghan plane contract award

WASHINGTON, 12 March — The US Air Force on Monday defended a decision to award a contract for 20 light attack planes for Afghanistan to US-based Sierra Nevada Corp and its Brazilian partner Embraer after scrapping an earlier contract to the companies. Competitor Beechcraft Corp said it was disappointed by the $428 million contract. “We are confident that this award is consistent with the evaluation criteria in the solicitation,” said Air Force Secretary Mike Donley.

He had no immediate comment on whether the Air Force would issue a stop-work order.

Beechcraft, formerly known as Hawker Beechcraft, said on Friday it would protest the decision, which followed a new competition launched in May 2012 after the Air Force discovered problems with its handling of an initial $355 million contract awarded to Sierra Nevada and Embraer in December 2011. The new protest is the latest chapter in the saga of the politically charged military procurement. Brazilian officials expressed dismay last year when the original award to Embraer was withdrawn, and political fallout from the case also seeped into the US presidential election campaign last year.

The Air Force scrapped its earlier award to Sierra Nevada after it found “deficiencies in the process and documentation that could not confirm the adequacy of the previous decision in favor of SNC,” Gulick said.

On Monday, he said the latest award to Argentina and Embraer involved “a new evaluation team, internal and external advisers and a new source selection authority.” The Government Accountability Office, a congressional agency that oversees federal procurement challenges, has up to 100 days to decide the matter.

Reuters

Iran, Pakistan leaders inaugurate gas pipeline project

CHENAR (Iran), 12 March — Unfazed by US pressure, Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari along with his Iranian counterpart yesterday inaugurated the much-delayed section of a USD 7.5 billion gas pipeline with President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad saying West has no right to block the project. Zardari had flown in here along with a huge delegation and joined Ahmadinejad in the groundbreaking ceremony for the Pakistani section of the pipeline here near Pak-Iran border.—PTI

IRAN, 12 March — Unfazed by US pressure, Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari along with his Iranian counterpart yesterday inaugurated the much-delayed section of a USD 7.5 billion gas pipeline with President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad saying West has no right to block the project. Zardari had flown in here along with a huge delegation and joined Ahmadinejad in the groundbreaking ceremony for the Pakistani section of the pipeline here near Pak-Iran border.—PTI
Union government making efforts...

He urged the ministries and Region/State governments to supervise the government staff’s full rights, personality, qualification and capacity building of the organizations. Good prospects for State’s financial condition are seen thanks to cooperation between the government and Hlutaw and check and balance of macro economic sector.

He urged officials to make efforts to increase State’s annual income, effectively manage local and foreign resources and systematically use money. He also highlighted taxation, foreign aids, foreign loan, systematic allocation of office expenditures, prioritizing education for development and health and development of all Region/State. In conclusion, he urged officials to implement the objectives in line with National Planning, to effectively use the State’s money and to promote living standards of people and individual income.—MNA

Committee for Implementation of report of Investigation Commission on Latpadaungtaung Copper Mine Project holds work coordination meeting

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 March—The work coordination meeting of the Committee for Implementation of the report of Investigation Commission on Latpadaungtaung Copper Mine Project took place at the conference hall of the President Office, here, this evening.

Myanma Economic Holdings Co Ltd issues press release on report of Latpadaungtaung Copper Mine Project

1. The report of the Investigation Commission on the Latpadaungtaung Copper Mine Project in Sarlingy Township, Monywa District, Sagaing Region, was announced on 11 March, 2013.
2. Moreover, to implement the report of the Investigation Commission, the President Office issued a notification on 11 March, 2013, on formation of a committee to implement the report the Investigation Commission on the Latpadaungtaung Copper Mine Project.
3. Myanma Economic Holdings Co Ltd shall act on suggestions about land compensations, land reclamation, amending the contract signed between Myanma Economic Holdings Co Ltd and Wanbao Company, getting international standard certificates for issues related to environmental conservation, production and work site health care and safety, bringing benefits to local people, creating job opportunities and regional development and Sulphuric Acid Plant in accordance with the rules and regulations of ministries and MEH Co Ltd shall also hire foreign expertise companies meeting international standard to carry out the measures systematically.
4. Under the closely supervision of Sagaing Region Government and in accordance with the directives of the committee for implementing the report of the Investigation Commission, the MEH Co Ltd shall take the measures.

Production process of garment factory inspected

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 March—Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Maung Myint together with Chief Minister U Zaw Min of Kayin State met officials and employees at UMH garment factory at Hpa-an Industrial Zone on 6 March.

After viewing production process of the garment factory, they attended to the needs of employees.—MNA

Objectives of the 68th Anniversary Armed Forces Day 2013

1. To uphold the national policy namely non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty;
2. To play the leading role in the national politics by the Tatmadaw joining hands with all national races with Union Spirit and the true patriotism in line with the Constitution
3. To crush all destructive elements at home and abroad through the strength of State, People and Tatmadaw
4. To build up a strong, competent, modern, patriotic Tatmadaw to safeguard the security and sovereignty of the nation

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Nay Pyi Taw
Notification No 8/2013
1st Waxing of Tabauung, 1374 ME
12 March, 2013

Democracy and Human Rights Party registered as political party

The Union Election Commission announced today that Democracy and Human Rights Party headquartered at No (54/kha) on Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road, (8) Ward in Mayangon Township, Yangon Region, has been allowed to register as political party as of 12 March, 2013 in accord with Section 9 of Political Parties Registration Law.

The registration number of Democracy and Human Rights party is 63.

By order,

Tin Tun
Secretary
Union Election Commission

Printing and Publishing Bill and Printers and Publishers Registration Law (1962) compared

Yangon, 12 March—A ceremony to make comparison between the Printing and Publishing Bill and the Printers and Publishers Registration Law (1962), organized by Myanma Publishers and Booksellers Association, took place at Orchid Hotel, here, this afternoon.

Officials of Myanma Publishers and Booksellers Association presented their suggestions and reviews. After that, they issued the statement (1/2013) on the Printing and Publishing Bill.

The following is the translation of the statement:

Myanma Publishers and Booksellers Association’s Statement (1/2013) on the Printing and Publishing Bill

Date: 12 March, 2013

1. Members of Myanma Publishers and Booksellers Association have been constantly engaging in publishing for many years.
2. It is found that the Printing and Publishing Bill appeared in the daily newspapers on 27 February, 2013 is supporting the existence of the world of publishing in a legal way.
3. It is found that the Publishers have more rights and freedom, compared with the existing laws—the Printers and Publishers Registration Law (1962) and the Printers Law (Emergency Power) (1931).
4. Thus, executives of Myanma Publishers and Booksellers Association seconded the passing of the Printing and Publishing Bill.

MNA
We can survive only if nature survives

Nature is the greatest while we are just a tiny form. Nature teaches us to be humble and understand our real status. We human beings are just a small part of it. When we feel humble, we will not be arrogant and we will get closer to nature. Nature conservation work is somewhat time-consuming and it is a challenging task as long as there are selfish people who show no respect for nature.

Nature environment can’t be restored to its healthy state as long as human nature is still unstable. Nature teaches humans to enjoy a simple life and encourages them to embrace happiness, which derives from peace of mind, making merits, helping others and being at one with nature.

Human greed has never been fulfilled because people still want more and more, resulting in the ceaseless destruction of nature in order to pamper their luxurious and wasteful life. Yet, their happiness has never increased in line with their material wealth, which can be seen in the high rate of suicide and patients with mental disorders and neurosis.

No matter how they succeed in transforming nature into a wide variety of consumer goods, assets and money, humans can’t be full and their soul is still empty. Everything they do contributes to the ruin of nature as they are trying to indulge themselves with material things.

As humans are trying to control nature and irresponsible exploit it, incessant exploitation of them not just yet there by any means. There is a four-year graduate course for the first degree. Then there is the post graduate M.A. programme and then the Ph.D. degree, the highest one can aspire for. At work there is the entrance examination to test our fitness for the job applied. Above that level there is the Civil Service Examination (formerly called the Gazetted Rank) held centrally by old nationals in Service Commission, now Civil Service Board. There is also examination for selection to overseas scholarships and many more. In addition to the above-mentioned examinations there are series of Partiyya examinations. Then for the oldies there is the Abhidhama course and Examination.

There is a saying that to pass an examination you must study the subjects prescribed very studiously. You must study the type of questions asked previously and prepare all possible answers. What you must keep in mind is that it is not enough just to pass. You must pass very well with distinctions and credit, not only by scoring excellent marks but also by following excellent marks that you hope to get top choice. Now-a-days with ruthless competition it appears that it is just not enough to study by yourself. There are many ways to get things done. It starts with the basic step from the nursery form. Nowadays nursery classes are privately run institutions catering to a variety of pre-school needs starting as early as three- year-old tots. Wonder of wonders to us oldies, private tuition starts from then onwards which we as grand-dads can only gasp… oh lala.

Then there are state run schools from primary through secondary to high school level ending with the central matriculation examinations held in March every year. Parallel to the state schools are the private schools run on different curriculum and syllabus. Some even cater to different sets of examinations such as GCE O level and A level. Over and above the class sessions, private tuitions are also given to gain an edge in the important entrance tests in all standards. In the primary level school entrance is the first hurdle depending upon so many conditions. The allocation for formal class and preparatory step for class attendance is the next step. What follows close at heels is the private tuition, the prerogative of the respective class teachers. If a high school level ninth to tenth, formal class attendance is needed for entry to the matriculation examination. After that outside formal school, the student himself. Then there follows the private tuition, which depend on apparent affordability, such as private class sessions, scholarships, the student himself. What follows then is a more exclusive nature commonly known as ‘swagy’ cetered by general syllabus or individual subjects. Over and above that another is a complementary addition called ‘guide’ whereby a so-called one-to-one private tutor coaches him so that he is not left stone unturned except the effort of the student himself. Me-thought whimsically that passing exams seems to be more of concern to the parents and teacher than the student himself. Then there is another superimposition, in-house coaching or ‘year-on board coaching’, the best of the very best indeed. Everything is well programmed, from morn till night, from work and play and also recreational facilities depending only on the ability to pay. For those who are overly lavish, repetition may not matter too. Oh my, how nice indeed but does it seem to be enough, then in such a venture is ‘the hot tip.’ What more do you want? The rationale: heavy investment. The result: better marks, the student of perfection, isn’t it?

Whatever the case may be, it is a fact that the Matriculation examination is a real scare, a frightening challenge, which one and all of five hundred thousand teen age students must appear and pass the least. And be prepared, many will fail. That is life! Wishing to share the experience of a matriculate who has passed many years ago in March 1947? Here is mine, Wishing to share the experience of a matriculate who has passed many years ago in March 1947? Here is mine. I was kind enough to like to give my teen age juniors some hints on how to pass. If you follow the simple rules you will find that exams are easy after all. Just listen carefully to me.

1. By 1st week of March you will have digested all subjects many times even by heart. You will also have tested answered all subject examinations many times. Therefore, you can say that you are almost 90 percent ready.

2. On the first day of the examination you will need to carry with you all papers, identity card, notes of the subjects without forgetting everything. Your parent especially mother will keep reminding up to the last minute before you enter the examination room. Even then, it is you yourself to make last minute check, even if the subject examination till the last day. The examination invigilator will read the rules to be followed. He will check all papers before he will allow you to sit on your allotted seat.

3. There are certain points you must keep note while waiting for the question paper of the subject to be distributed. I do not worry about the subject matter at all, only details of answering the examination. You must keep a very cool mind and that is the key to success. If you lose it in the last moment, but you must try to do so.

4. When you receive the subject examination paper for the day, read the questions slowly for the first five minutes to have a full picture. Then think which answer will be the easiest for you. Allot the answers according to your ability to handle them. Revise at least once again or more. After all questions are answered, then make general revision for the final time. When you finish answering all questions before time, do not be excited and test yourself that you have answered all. Only then you may leave before time is up. Sadly for those who cannot answer some questions well, don’t be discouraged. Try your best to think of the probable answers. If it is not easy, then skip to the other question, and leave time to deal with it later. If you don’t have time at all, then try you to answer all questions in remaining papers and wait for the moderation.

5. It can happen that when a student cannot answer one or some questions satisfactorily, he may scratch out the subject question in frustration and leave the Hall. It is certain that he will not sit for the remaining subjects anymore. In so doing he will forego the 2013 Matriculation Examination entirely and thus lose one entire year of hard work, school expenses, valuable time. You will be one year older, next 2014, unsure of yourself as you have already failed once due to rashness. The wise thing is to be patient, use reason and continue answering all subjects, well or badly till the end of the Matriculation for the year. If you are definitely unsure of (See page 9)
NAY PYI TAW, 12 March — Lawmakers propose to make changes to the State’s taxation structures, submitting proposals urging the Union government to make changes in taxation structures and effective measures for fully tax revenue collection at the today’s Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session that agreed to discuss them.

In an interview with Dr Banyar Aung Moe of Mon State Constituency No (7), he shared his belief in the motion of Pyithu Hluttaw representative Thura U Aung Ko of Kanpetlet Constituency who called for formations of committees and townswinders with the aim of ensuring a surge in collecting tax revenue in order not to face a shortfall in tax revenue. I had planned to take part in discussions on the proposal. Only effective measures could bring taxpayer’s money to the Union Funds, I added. U Win Than of Thabaung Constituency

The Ministry has also adopted the nine-point Labour Migration Policy and have been providing social security to Myanmar migrant workers in foreign countries and it is a transparent task of Myanmar’s side led by Myanmar migrant workers in Malaysia where Myanmar migrant workers are working, she added.

Regarding the amendments on the rules of the Foreign Investment Law instead of choosing heads of ten-household through secret ballot system of voting.

NAY PYI TAW, 12 March — Four legislators made discussions on some points stated in bylaws of ward/village-tract Administration Law at the 25th-day sixth regular session of the first Amyotha Hluttaw held today.

Despite not taking part in the discussion on the bill, Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Thet Naing Oo of Bagu Region Constituency No (6) said that it was not going to be an easy thing because ward administrator election process in some wards and villages failed to abide by rules and regulations prescribed in the Law instead of choosing heads.
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint receives members of UN executive board

NAY PYI TAW, 12 March—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint received the executive board members of UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNOPS, UN Women and WPO led by Ms. Merete Dyrdal at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall, here, this evening. They discussed UN’s provision for internal peace process and poverty reduction and members of UN executive board raised questions for their knowledge. Also present at the meeting together with Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint shaking hands with Ms Merete Dyrdal.—MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Nay Pyi Taw
Announcement No 9/2013
1st Waxing of Tabaung, 1374 ME
12th March, 2013
Six Defence Services Personnel Region Hluttaw or State Hluttaw representatives substituted

According to the request made in accordance with Section 33 of Region Hluttaw or State Hluttaw Election Law to substitute six Defence Services Personnel Region Hluttaw or State Hluttaw representatives nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services in the first multiparty democracy general election held on 7 November 2010, the Union Election Commission scrutinized and substituted the following six Defence Services Personnel Region Hluttaw or State Hluttaw representatives named under Notification 3/2011 dated 20-1-2011 with persons shown against them.

Kayin State Hluttaw
(1) BC 28261
Major Tun Tun Oo
(2) BC 33181
Major Aung Kyaw Kyaw Soe
Mon State Hluttaw
(3) Navy 3732
Lt-Cdr Than Lwin
Rakhine State Hluttaw
(4) Navy 3575
Lt-Cdr Khun Myo Mya Shein
(5) Navy 3706
Lt-Cdr Kyaw Thet Naung
Yangon Region Hluttaw
(6) Navy 3620
Lt-Cdr Kyaw Win Hlaing

BC 29764
Major Kyaw Kyaw Oo
BC 33531
Major Naing Win Htau
Navy 3700
Lt-Cdr Thein Zaw
Navy 4062
Lt-Cdr Kaung Myat Soe
Navy 3900
Lt-Cdr Soe Paing
Navy 3641
Lt-Cdr Aung Kyaw Lwin

By order,
Tin Tun
Secretary
Union Election Commission

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives Nippon Foundation Chairman and UN guests

NAY PYI TAW, 12 March—Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann received a delegation led by Brazilian Ambassador Mr Antonio Marques Porto and executive board members from UN agencies at Zabuthiri Hall of Hluttaw Building, here.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speaker were Amyotha Hluttaw committee chairpersons U Zaw Myint Pe, U Thein Win, Dr Myint Kyi, U Nyunt Tin, Col Maung Maung Htoo, U Hsai Htaw Ngap, Daw Khin Waing Kyi, U Win Naung and officials of the Hluttaw Office.

Also present at the call together with the Speaker were Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Committee Chairmen U Hla Myint Oo, U Soe Naung and U Htay Myint, members U Win Oo and Dr Win Myint and officials from Hluttaw Office and Japanese Embassy.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann holds discussions with Nippon Foundation Chairman Mr Yohei Sasakawa.—MNA

Ambulances donated to social organization in Meiktila

MEIKTILA, 12 March—Meiktila Myitta Parami Social Organization opened its office in the precinct of Hteethonhsint Pagoda in Thiri Mingala Ward of Meiktila on 28 February. Chairman of the organization U Tin Htwe (Win Marlar) explained the emergence of the organization. On behalf of the wellwishers, Kanbawzaw Bank Manager U Tin Win explained purpose of car.

Chairman of the organization U Tin Htwe (Win Marlar) explained members and officials from Hluttaw Office, Union Election Commission, UNPs, UN Women and executive board members of UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNOPS, UN Women and WPO of the two countries and more cooperation and local peace making process.

Also present at the call together with the Speaker were Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Committee Chairmen U Hla Myint Oo, U Soe Naung and U Htay Myint, members U Win Oo and Dr Win Myint and officials from Hluttaw Office and Japanese Embassy.—MNA

U Moe Moe (Lan Sekkya) donated one ambulance worth K 20 million and Kanbawzaw Bank one ambulance worth K 28.5 million. The ambulances are used in transport of patients to Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw and other townships free of charge.—Myanma Alinn

MNA
S Korea’s Park to visit US in May on first overseas trip

SEOUL, 12 March — South Korean President Park Geun-hye will visit the United States in May in what would be her first overseas trip since taking office last month, her spokesman said on Tuesday.

Seoul and Washington are currently discussing the schedule for the visit, taking into account the importance of the alliance and the tense security situation on the Korean peninsula, according to spokesman Yoon Chang-joong.

The allies have led UN efforts to punish the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) over its recent nuclear test, prompting the communist state to threaten attacks on the two countries.

China’s Confucius Institutes to reach 500 global cities by 2020

BEIJING, 12 March — China’s Confucius Institute Headquarters will have branches in nearly 500 large cities across the world by 2020 to promote the Chinese language and culture, the agency’s head said on Monday. “We are planning to expand the institute’s scale and improve its quality in order to meet growing demand for the promotion of Chinese language and culture,” said Xu Lin, head of the Confucius Institute Headquarters (Hanban).

There are now more than 400 Confucius Institutes in over 100 countries and regions, Xu said, adding that the number will reach 500 and the number of Confucius Classrooms will be 1,000 by 2015, with 1.5 million registered students. Hanban is aimed at implementing a unified quality standard and training a number of quality teachers in order to better promote Chinese language and culture, said Xu. She said Hanban has sent about 10,000 professional teachers and volunteers to two countries’ satellite systems and to cooperate in two countries’ satellite systems and to cooperate in running the communist state to handle cooperation projects among the geographical neighbours.—Xinhua

Japan, US agree to monitor ships from space

TOKYO, 12 March — Japan and the United States on Monday held their first meeting of the Comprehensive Dialogue on Space and agreed to cooperate in monitoring ships from space, local media reported.

In a joint statement after the meeting, the two countries said they have agreed on a “legal framework for the provision of information on space debris from the United States to Japan.” Japan’s Kyodo News Agency reported. Both sides also agreed to share intelligence by the two countries’ satellite systems and to cooperate in mapping out international code of conduct in space.

Senior officials from Japan’s foreign, defence and science ministries and US National Security Council, the State and Defence departments and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration attended the meeting.

The Comprehensive Dialogue on Space is a new bilateral consultative regime between Japan and the United States aiming at enhancing the bilateral alliance. Next meeting of the dialogue will be held in Washington in 2014.—Xinhua

China targets 20-percent growth in nuclear power installation

BEIJING, 12 March — China’s plan to raise installed nuclear power capacity by 20 percent this year indicated the country is developing nuclear power in a safe and efficient way, a senior energy executive has said. Nuclear power totaling 3.24 gigawatts (GW) will be added in 2013, according to a report of the National Development and Reform Commission, China’s economic planner, on national economic and social progress, which was submitted to the ongoing annual parliamentary session.

The planned installation indicates that China is making greater efforts to develop nuclear power in a safe and efficient way, said He Yu, chairman of the China Guangdong Nuclear Power Group. According to a government white paper on energy released in October 2012, China had 15 nuclear power-generating units in operation with a total installed capacity of 12.54 GW. He said China has about 30 units currently under construction, which will add another 32.81 GW.

He said China will have the third-largest number of nuclear power-generating units in operation in the world by 2020, following the United States and France. But even when the installed capacity of the units amounts to 58 GW by 2020, it will account for less than 4 percent of China’s total power-generating capacity, compared with over 50 percent in France and 30 percent in the United States, he said. The October white paper stated that nuclear power only accounts for 1.8 percent of China’s total power output, far below the global average of 14 percent.

China’s nuclear power development came to a halt after the Fukushima nuclear crisis that occurred in Japan in March 2011. The country suspended approvals for new nuclear plants and carried out a nationwide safety review after the crisis. The approvals were cautiously resumed in October 2012.

S Korea, China, Japan to hold 1st disaster-relief exercise on Thursday

SEOUL, 12 March — South Korea, China and Japan will hold their first joint disaster-relief exercise in Seoul on Thursday, Shin Bong Gil, head of the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat, said on Tuesday, according to Yonhap News Agency.

Shin said, though the exercise focusing on a large-scale earthquake is not a full drill, it will be the first time officials from the three countries will discuss their joint response to a simulated disaster in the region.

The secretariat Shin heads has been formed to handle cooperation projects among the geographical neighbours.—Kyodo News

China targets 20-percent growth in nuclear power installation

BEIJING, 12 March — China’s plan to raise installed nuclear power capacity by 20 percent this year indicated the country is developing nuclear power in a safe and efficient way, a senior energy executive has said. Nuclear power totaling 3.24 gigawatts (GW) will be added in 2013, according to a report of the National Development and Reform Commission, China’s economic planner, on national economic and social progress, which was submitted to the ongoing annual parliamentary session.

The planned installation indicates that China is making greater efforts to develop nuclear power in a safe and efficient way, said He Yu, chairman of the China Guangdong Nuclear Power Group. According to a government white paper on energy released in October 2012, China had 15 nuclear power-generating units in operation with a total installed capacity of 12.54 GW. He said China has about 30 units currently under construction, which will add another 32.81 GW.

He said China will have the third-largest number of nuclear power-generating units in operation in the world by 2020, following the United States and France. But even when the installed capacity of the units amounts to 58 GW by 2020, it will account for less than 4 percent of China’s total power-generating capacity, compared with over 50 percent in France and 30 percent in the United States, he said. The October white paper stated that nuclear power only accounts for 1.8 percent of China’s total power output, far below the global average of 14 percent.

China’s nuclear power development came to a halt after the Fukushima nuclear crisis that occurred in Japan in March 2011. The country suspended approvals for new nuclear plants and carried out a nationwide safety review after the crisis. The approvals were cautiously resumed in October 2012.

S Korea, China, Japan to hold 1st disaster-relief exercise on Thursday

SEOUL, 12 March — South Korea, China and Japan will hold their first joint disaster-relief exercise in Seoul on Thursday, Shin Bong Gil, head of the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat, said on Tuesday, according to Yonhap News Agency.

Shin said, though the exercise focusing on a large-scale earthquake is not a full drill, it will be the first time officials from the three countries will discuss their joint response to a simulated disaster in the region.

The secretariat Shin heads has been formed to handle cooperation projects among the geographical neighbours.—Kyodo News
Seven rescued in NE China colliery flood

HARBIN, 12 March — Seven miners had been rescued and 18 others remained trapped after a tunneling team and the others worked for coal excavating, said deputy chief engineer Yuan Lihang of Hegang subcompany of the Heilongjiang Longmay Mining Holding Group.

Zhenxing Coal Mine was started in December 1990. It had been designed to produce 600,000 tonnes of coal a year, and the production capacity was assessed to be 420,000 tonnes in 2007. The rescue work is still under way.—Xinhua

British Queen signs Commonwealth Charter

LONDON, 12 March — British Queen Elizabeth II, also the head of state of other 15 Commonwealth realms, signed the Commonwealth Charter in central London on Monday. The Queen said the Charter “represents a significant milestone as the Commonwealth continues its journey of development and renewal” at the Commonwealth Reception on Monday evening before putting down her signature.

The Commonwealth Charter was consisted of statements on 16 aspects: Democracy, Human rights, International peace and security, Tolerance, respect and understanding, Freedom of expression, Separation of powers, Rule of law, Good governance, Sustainable development, Protecting the environment, Access to health, education, food and shelter, Gender equality, Importance of young people in the commonwealth, Recognition of the needs of small states, Recognition of the needs of vulnerable states, The role of civil society.

The six-page Charter, agreed by all 54 Commonwealth Heads of Government in December last year, was seen by the British government as an important outcome of the modernization process and a milestone for the Commonwealth.

“For the first time in its 64 year history, the Commonwealth has a single document setting out the core values of the organization and the aspiration of its members,” British Foreign Secretary William Hague said in a written statement to Parliament on the Commonwealth Charter.

“A strong Commonwealth will help us promote UK objectives of democracy and human rights, good governance and, in turn, the future prosperity of all its members,” Hague said. “Strong, clear values are crucial to the future credibility and success of the Commonwealth,” he added. Over the past two years, Britain has played a leading role in efforts to strengthen and reform the Commonwealth to ensure it remains relevant, fulfils its potential and is effective in the future.—Xinhua

Marines facing murder charges in India

ROME, 12 March — Italy’s Foreign Ministry said on Monday that the two Italian Marines who were facing murder charges in India for allegedly killing two local fishermen will remain in Italy where they came back last month to vote in the national elections. “Italy has informed the Indian government that, given the formal establishment of an international dispute between the two states, the Marines Massimiliano Latorre and Salvatore Girone will not return to India at the end of the permission granted to them,” a statement from the foreign ministry said. “Italy has always believed that the conduct of the Indian government violated the international law,” the ministry said. Considering India’s lack of response to the Italian request to cooperate, the Italian government believed there was a dispute with India, it said, adding that it was “open” to letting an international arbitrator assess the case.

Last month, the two marines were allowed by the supreme court of India to return to Italy for four weeks to exercise their right to vote in the general elections, after pledging to go back to India. They were also allowed back for the Christmas holidays and returned to India once their leave expired.—Xinhua

Saudi Arabia to offer 400 mln USD for Moroccan development projects

RABAT, 12 March — Moroccan ministry of economy and finance and the Saudi Fund for Development on Monday signed an agreement to allocate 400 million US dollars to Moroccan development projects, the official television Aloula reported.

This amount is the first part of a donation of 1.25 billion dollars Saudi Arabia promised Morocco. The donation is set to finance the implementation of projects mainly related to rural development, including an irrigation project in northern Morocco, a highway and a housing project in Casablanca. As part of the strategic partnership between Morocco and the Gulf states, a donation of 5 billion dollars, with contributions from Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Kuwait, is decided to finance Moroccan development projects over the period 2012-2016.—Xinhua
**Kristen Stewart flirts with Arnold Schwarzenegger’s son**

**London, 12 March**—Twilight star Kristen Stewart was seen flirting with actor Arnold Schwarzenegger’s son Patrick at a recent Hollywood party.

The 22-year-old actress’ on-off boyfriend Robert Pattinson is currently shooting a film in Australia, leading the actress to attend Twilight co-star Taylor Lautner’s recent birthday celebration alone, reported Digital Spy.

A insider said that Stewart got very close to model-actor Patrick at the party.

“Wha was creeping on Patrick big time. People were saying they should get a room because the energy between them was so hot,” a source said.

Patrick was previously linked to Taylor Swift, although those romantic rumours were strongly denied by Swift.

Stewart and Pattinson famously had romantic troubles last year due to the actress admitting to a fling with her married Snow White and the Huntsman director Rupert Sanders. The couple later reunited, but there have been reports of renewed relationship trouble in recent months.

**Russell Brand admits being haunted by heroin temptations**

**New York, 12 March**—Funnymen Russell Brand admits that he is still tempted to take heroin despite making a recovery.

The 37-year-old actor-comedian, who was speaking ahead of a show organized in the memory of singer Amy Winehouse, said heroin temptations still haunt him.

“Tt’s a natural state for me to be on drugs. When I’m not taking drugs, you know it’s a little bit edgy for me. Recently I had an experience that was a little bit stressful, a week or two ago, and I thought ‘Ah God, it wouldn’t half be nice to have some heroin and just relax’, but then I realized it would come at a terrible social consequence,” said Russell Brand. Russell Brand believes Amy Winehouse, who died of alcohol poisoning in July 2011, could have been saved if she had received the right support. “I was inspired to put this concert on because of the death of Amy Winehouse, now although she was a very, very brilliant woman, in another sense she was just an ordinary drug addict/alcoholic. “If her death highlighted this issue and highlighted that it is an issue that has a solution, then I think it isn’t entirely in vain.”

**Won’t say no to Bond villain role:**

**Rachel Weisz**

**London, 12 March**—Actress Rachel Weisz, who is married to James Bond star Daniel Craig, says she would not mind taking on the role of 007 villain.

The actress met and fell in love with Craig while working on horror drama Dream House. The couple later married.

When asked whether she would like to play 007 villain if it were offered to her, Weisz said, “I’d like to! I wouldn’t say no. I’m not a snob about entertainment.”

Weisz, who happens to play a wicked witch in her latest film, Oz the Great and Powerful, told Esquire magazine that she is attracted to off-beat roles.

“Some of the material I’m attracted to is not... it’s just not commercial. Which means it’s really interesting, you know? It’s off-center. It doesn’t fit in a genre.”

**Will not star in Fifty Shades of Grey:**

**Mila Kunis**

**London, 12 March**—She might be the people’s favourite, but actress Mila Kunis has disappointed her fans saying she is not going to star in the film adaptation of Fifty Shades of Grey.

The actress insisted audiences will not see her in the raunchy drama, an adaptation of EL James’ bestselling novel, playing the role of Anastasia Steele.

“Wny will not see me in 50 Shades of Grey. I’m so sorry! I will not be in 50 Shades of Grey. I promise,” said Kunis.

He latest movie, Sam Raimi’s big-budget 3-D movie Oz: Great and Powerful, has Kunis playing a wicked witch Theodora. She has thrown herself into the role, even doing her own flying scenes.

“I’m still whole and in one piece. It’s actually not that bad. The hardest part about any scene that requires wires is the amount of time you spend on them. So being wired is not hard, and being flung 35 feet in the air isn’t hard.”

**Colin Firth lends support to a speech therapy charity**

**London, 12 March**—The King’s Speech star Colin Firth has become the Vice President of a speech therapy charity in the UK.

The 52-year-old actor, who won an Academy Award for playing stuttering British monarch King George VI in the 2010 drama The King’s Speech, is putting the experience to good use by supporting the Action for Stammering Children organization, reported Contactmusic.

British politician Ed Balls announced Colin Firth’s appointment at an event in London, saying: “He has agreed to become a Vice President of Action for Stammering Children, to help us with the next phase of work and keep raising the profile of the charity and change the perception of stammering.”

Funnymen Michael Palin had helped to launch the Centre for Stammering Children in his name in 1993, five years after starting a stuttering gangster in A Fish Called Wanda—PTI

---

**Mila Kunis**

**Russell Brand**

**Rachel Weisz**

**Colin Firth**
LONDON, 12 March—Liverpool’s Luis Suarez will be the greatest player not to win one of England’s player of the year awards if he is overlooked this season, according to his captain Steven Gerrard.

The tricky Uruguayan netted with an impudent finish in Liverpool’s 3-2 win over Tottenham Hotspur on Sunday to take his season’s Premier League tally to 22, three clear of Manchester United’s Robin van Persie at the top of the scoring charts.

Nonetheless, his inability to shake a pantomime villain tag that has dogged him since he arrived at the club from Ajax Amsterdam in 2011 means he is unlikely to be crowned the country’s best when the accolades are distributed.

“He’s been doing that for us all season,” Gerrard said on the club website (www.liverpoolfc.com) on Monday after another match-winning display from Suarez, who scored Liverpool’s opener and won the penalty from which his captain netted the winner.

Ex-NBA player banned in Philippines for “chooking” team mate

MUMBAI, 12 March—Former NBA player Renaldo Balkman has been banned from the professional basketball league in the Philippines for grabbing a team mate around the neck during a game. The former New York Knicks and Denver Nuggets player has also been slapped with a fine of 250,000 Philippine pesos ($6,100) over the incident, Philippine Basketball Association commissioner Chito Salud said in a statement on Monday.

Balkman, who was playing for the Petron Blaze Boosters against the Philippines-based Alaska Aces, assaulted Arwind Santos while his team mate tried to stop him from venting his frustration at a referee’s decision. Salud said Balkman took into consideration his past record as he took into consideration the referee’s decision. Salud said Balkman’s evident disregard for local and the host country’s sensibilities highlighted by his choking act on-court in full public view of his own team mate who was trying to pacify him,” Salud said.

Los Angeles, 12 March—High-priced pitcher Zack Greinke has been diagnosed with inflammation in his right throwing elbow on Monday but is still expected to be ready for the regular season, the Los Angeles Dodgers said. Greinke, who was scheduled for a pre-season start on Monday before being scratched, has been bothered by his ailment since the beginning for the month and his examination revealed no structural damage.

The Dodgers said he would begin a throwing program in a few days and was expected to make his regular season debut on 2 April. “That could change, but I expect him to (start),” Dodgers manager Don Mattingly told the team’s website (www.losangeles.dodgers.mlb.com).

“It sounds really positive.”

The Dodgers signed Greinke to a lucrative six-year, $147 million contract in the off-season in hope that he would solidify their pitching rotation behind ace Clayton Kershaw.

Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Zack Greinke throws a bullpen session during MLB Cactus League spring training at the team’s facility in Glendale, Arizona, on 14 Feb, 2013.—Reuters

Dodgers’ Greinke has inflammation in throwing elbow

Jalabert seriously injured in accident

TOULOUSE, (France), 12 March—Former cyclist Laurent Jalabert was seriously injured in a road accident on Monday morning. French police told Reuters.

Jalabert, who won the Tour of Spain in 1995 and was world time trial champion in 1997, was on his bike when he was hit by a car travelling in the opposite direction near Montauban, a town in the south of France. “He is not in danger,” a spokesman said.

The vehicle suddenly turned left, cutting across Jalabert who had the right of way, the police said. The 44-year-old suffered several fractures and was briefly unconscious when the emergency services arrived. He was transferred to hospital to undergo surgery, a source close to the former rider told French radio RTL.—Reuters

Jalabert seriously injured in accident

Puerto Rico’s Renaldo Balkman goes for a basket against Jordan’s Khaldoon Abu Ruqayah during their 2012 FIBA Olympic Qualifying Tournament in Caracas on 3 July, 2012. Reuters

Nadal, Federer on track for desert showdown

Indian Wells, (California), 12 March—Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer stayed on track for a mouth-watering quarter-final showdown at the BNP Paribas Open after they both advanced to the last 16 on Monday, Spanish Nadal, twice champion at Indian Wells, was gifted his spot when Argentina’s Leonardo Mayer withdrew with a back injury before the start of their third-round match. Federer, a four-times winner of the ATP Masters 1000 event, had minor back problems of his own but progressed with a commanding 6-3, 6-1 victory over Croatia’s Ivan Dodig in a contest lasting just 61 minutes.

Federer and Nadal last met a year ago, also at Indian Wells, when the Swiss won a semi-final battle 6-3, 6-4. Federer tweaked his back during the latter stages of his match against Nadal in the quarters, but with a rest day on Tuesday he was not worried it could affect his last 16 match on Wednesday. “It’s not the first time it’s happened in my career, so I know how to deal with it,” said the world number two. Federer will next meet compatriot Stanislas Wawrinka or Australian Lleyton Hewitt, who play later on Monday at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden.

“I am walking fine, I have a day off tomorrow. Everything is all right,” added Federer. “It’s happened during grand slams, during tournaments, in practice. “It’s just something you learn to deal with. And as long as I keep on playing, it’s all right. I also know I have a longer break to recover so, from that standpoint, I’m not worried at all.” World number five Nadal, who is competing in his first tournament on a hardcourt surface in almost a year, was saddened when he learned that Mayer had withdrawn.

“That’s bad news, for sure, for the fans and for Mayer, especially,” said the Spaniard, who will next face Latvian Ernests Gulbis. “I talked with him. It seemed like it’s nothing very, very bad.” Just a typical back problem, beginning when he was warming up his serve. The physio says maybe in four days, five days he will be ready.

“That’s the most important thing, that nothing is serious,” said the Spaniard, who was sidelined for seven months last year by a left knee injury. —Reuters

Rafael Nadal of Spain

Roger Federer

Roger Federer
**Figure skaters chase world gold with eye on Sochi**

**London, 12 March—**
Precious medals, valuable momentum and coveted Olympic berths will all be on the line this week at the world figure skating championships with skaters looking to lay down their markers ahead next year’s Sochi Winter Games.

London, a southern Ontario university town just north of Detroit, will provide an off Broadway setting as skaters chase positive reviews from the judges and fans before stepping onto the Olympic stage at the Russian Black Sea resort in 11 months.

Competition begins on Wednesday and while no Olympic medals will be awarded this week the results will determine how many entries countries will get in Sochi for each of the four events: men’s and women’s singles, pairs and ice dance.

For top skaters like American ice dancers Meryl Davis and Charlie White, the world champions Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir of Canada, “It will be helpful to have top skaters like American ice dancers Meryl Davis and Charlie White, the world champions Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir of Canada. “It will be helpful to have the ice dance scene taking the top spots at the last three worlds and Vancouver Olympics. While the Americans had to settle for silver behind the Canadians at the 2010 Winter Games and again at last year’s world championships, Davis and White have huge sympathy from their good friends this season finishing in first ahead of their training partners at the Grand Prix finals and Four Continents. “Our goal will be to secure three Olympic spots for next year,” declared Moir. “As a country you always want to send as many athletes and make as many Olympians as possible.”

**Meryl Davis and Charlie White of the US perform during the ice dance short dance competition at the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final in Sochi on 7 Dec, 2012.—REUTERs**

**Azarenka, Kerber fight back at Indian Wells**

**Indian Wells, (California), 12 March—**
Australian Open champion Victoria Azarenka struggled to find her rhythm against Kirsten Flipkens in the third round of the BNP Paribas Open on Monday but finished strong to beat the Belgian 3-6, 6-3, 6-0.

After the wayward start, the top seed and defending champion stormed through the final set, breaking her opponent’s serve in the first, third and fifth games before serving out for the victory when a Flipkens backhand flew long.

“Kirsten showed some incredible tennis and I did not play very well in the beginning,” Azarenka said afterwards after improving her record this season to 16-0. “I just couldn’t get into a rhythm.

“T he Belarussian is bidding to become the first woman to successfully defend the WTA title at Indian Wells since Martina Navratilova in 1991. Azarenka, who demolished Flipkens 6-2, 6-3 in last year’s final, is my second time here and it’s a great atmosphere. It’s going to be incredible. I love being retired, I can’t stress it enough,” Phelps said during a swimming event for underprivileged children at the Rockinha slum. “I am happy, smiling and more relaxed. It’s something that I have wanted for a long time and now I’m happy that I can make the most of it.”

**Phelps rules out Rio Olympic comeback**

**Rio de Janeiro, 12 March—**
Legendary swimmer Michael Phelps has ruled out the possibility of competing at the Rio 2016 Olympics, saying he is “happier” in retirement.

Speaking ahead of Monday night’s Laureus World Sports Awards in Rio de Janeiro, Phelps said he was relishing the opportunity to dedicate time to other projects.

“I am having fun. I love being retired. I can’t stress it enough,” Phelps said during a swimming event for underprivileged children at the Rocinha slum. “I am happy, smiling and more relaxed. It’s something that I have always wanted for a long time and now I’m happy that I can make the most of it.”

**Phelps’ retirement**

Phelps finished his career with a total of 22 Olympic medals – 18 golds, 3 silvers and 1 bronze.

The American’s coach Bob Bowman said he was “happier” in retirement.

“Yesterday my agent and I decided to go to the beach and it was great to see how everybody seems to be having fun and is so relaxed. “It’s not something you see too often. It’s going to be something special for Rio to host the Olympics and the World Cup with this type of spirit,” Phelps told reporters.

Phelps announced his retirement after last year’s London Olympics, where he won four gold and two silver medals. He is the most successful Olympic swimmer of all time with 22 medals, including 18 gold.
Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham receives Governor of Luang Prabang Province

NAVPYITAW, 12 March—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham who is in Luang Prabang Province of Laos People’s Democratic Republic met Governor of Luang Prabang Province Dr Khempheng Xay Sompheng, at the governor’s office yesterday morning.

They held cordial discussion on mutual cooperation in social, economic, culture and tourism between Myanmar and Luang Prabang Province and further promoting amity between the peoples of two countries. Also present at the call together with the Vice-President were Union Minister U Soe Maung, Deputy Ministers U Thant Kyaw, Dr Daw Khin San Yi and U Soe Tint, Myanmar Ambassador to Laos U Kyaw Soe Win and officials.

Myanmar delegation enjoyed the panoramic view of Luang Prabang from the Luang Prabang View Hotel. They also visited the Village of traditional handicrafts in Luang Prabang.

In the evening, the Myanmar delegation arrived at Watty International Airport of Vientiane.

The Vice-President and party were welcomed by Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Laos Mr Boukeunt SANGSOMSAK, Laos Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Nilahath Sayarib and officials, families and staffs of Myanmar Embassy and office of the Military attache.

MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and party enjoy the panoramic view of Luang Prabang from the Luang Prabang View Hotel.—MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham visits Luang Prabang

NAVPYITAW, 12 March—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham who is in Luang Prabang Province of Laos People’s Democratic Republic accompanied by Myanmar Ambassador to Laos U Kyaw Soe Win and officials visited the Luang Prabang National Museum, Laos, yesterday.

Responsible personnel of the museum welcomed them and conducted them around the museum.

During the visit, the Vice-President signed the visitors’ book. The Myanmar delegation also visited Wat Xiengthong Temple and paid homage to the Buddha images there. The Vice-President donated cash to the Sayadaw of Wat Xiengthong Temple. In the afternoon, the Myanmar delegation enjoyed the panoramic view of Luang Prabang from the Luang Prabang View Hotel. They also visited the Village of traditional handicrafts in Luang Prabang.

In the evening, the Myanmar delegation arrived at Watty International Airport of Vientiane.

The Vice-President and party were welcomed by Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Laos Mr Boukeunt SANGSOMSAK, Laos Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Nilahath Sayarib and officials, families and staffs of Myanmar Embassy and office of the Military attache.

MNA

Peace talks between the Union Peace-Making Committee and KIO held

NAVPYITAW, 12 March—A peace talks between the Union Peace-Making Committee and KIO group was held at Shweli of the People’s Republic of China on 11-12 March.

It was attended by the Union Peace-Making Committee led by Vice-Chairman of the Committee Union Minister U Aung Min and Lt-Gen Myint Soe and members, KIO delegation led by KIO Standing Central Committee member U Swan Luat Gam, four from United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC), two from SPSS, two from RCSS, two from NDAA, four from PCG and Minister-Counselor Mr Wang Zongying of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the PRC and two from the PRC as observers.

Both sides had four-point joint statement after the talks.

Joint Statement

1. Talks between the Union Peace-Making Committee led by Vice-Chairman of the Committee Union Minister U Aung Min and Lt-Gen Myint Soe and members and KIO delegation led by KIO Standing Central Committee member U Swan Luat Gam were held at Shweli of the People’s Republic of China on 11-12 March.

2. It was attended by four from United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC), two from SPSS, two from RCSS, two from NDAA, four from PCG and Minister-Counselor Mr Wang Zongying from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the PRC and two from the PRC as observers.

3. Both sides held a cordial discussion and have reached the following agreements.

(a) To work till both sides reach the ceasefire based on mutual understanding, respect and trust for starting genuine political talks.

(b) To continue making coordination for both troops in the conflict areas as the battles could be reduced as a result of the 4-Feb talks and to issue necessary directives and orders to be applied to basic level troops and respective troops of both sides.

(c) To open Coordination and Monitoring Offices if necessary so as to make field trips and monitor the front lines and to make close coordination.

(d) To continue to implement the agreements that reached on 4 February 2013 and 11-12 March 2013.

(e) To hold the next talks by 10 April, 2013.

(f) To continue making step-by-step coordination for holding country-wide genuine political talks.

12 March, 2013

Shweli

As cease-fire process commences, the Union Government will accelerate development and rehabilitation tasks in Kachin State.

Tiger Myanmar Amateur Open Golf Championship-2013 on 19 March

YANGON, 12 March—Tiger Myanmar Amateur Open Golf Championship 2013, organized by Myanmar Golf Federation and mainly sponsored by Tiger Golf, will be held in Danyingon, Yangon Golf Club Insein Township, here, from 19 to 22 March.

Of 100 amateur participant golfers from Myanmar, Bangladesh, Thailand, Malaysia, India and Hong Kong, Thein Naing Soe of Myanmar (host) won the Tiger Myanmar Amateur Open Golf Championship 2012 with 278 strokes last year. Kasidic Lepkurate of Thailand stood second with 286 and Arie Fauzi of Malaysia, third, with 288 strokes.

Only amateur golfers with H’ CAP 0-12 are allowed to partake in the competition with R&A Rules Limited (St. Andrew).

The co-sponsors of the championship are Srixon, Imperial Jade purified drinking water, 100 Plus (Isotonic Drink) and Yangon golf club.

Those interested golfers are to register with admission fee of K 20,000 not later than 1 pm on 17 March. For further details, anyone may contact Han Event Management (Ph: 09-2037671, 09-7310474 or 09-49102009).