President U Thein Sein pays goodwill visits to New Zealand, Australian Commonwealth

NAY PYI TAW, 13 March—At the invitation of New Zealand Prime Minister Mr John Key and Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia Ms Quentin Bryce, President U Thein Sein of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar left here this afternoon by Special Flight to pay goodwill visits to New Zealand and the Australian Commonwealth.

The president was seen off at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Vice-President U Nyan Tun, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win, Union ministers, the Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command and departmental heads.

The President was accompanied by Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye, Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win, Union Ministers U Winna Maung Lwin, U Tin Naing Thein, U Ohn Myint, U Khin Yi, Dr Mya Aye, Dr Myint Aung, Dr Kan Zaw and Dr Ko Ko Oo, deputy ministers Dr Win Myint and U Ye Htut and departmental heads.

MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham calls on Laotian President, Cambodian PM, visits pagodas in Vientiane

NAY PYI TAW, 13 March—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham called on President of Lao People’s Democratic Republic Mr Choummaly Sayasone at the Presidential Palace Haw Kham in Vientiane at 2 pm yesterday.

Also present at the call were Union Minister U Soe Maung, Deputy Ministers and officials, the Laotian Minister at the President Office, the Laotian deputy minister of Foreign Affairs, the Laotian deputy minister of Home Affairs, Laotian Ambassadors to Myanmar Mr Nilahath Sayarth and senior officers.

UN executive boards satisfied with role of Union Attorney-General Office

NAY PYI TAW, 13 March—Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin received legal experts from Nishimura & Asahi Law Firm of Japan and heads of six UN executive boards separately at his office today.

The Japanese law firm sought permission from the Attorney-General of the Union to set up their branch in Myanmar to offer legal advice to Japanese companies and investors. The heads of UN executive boards that were here to observe the developments in Myanmar expressed their satisfaction of the role of the Attorney-General Office in implementing the rule of law.

The Attorney-General appealed for assistance in inbound international investment to help facilitate ongoing economic reforms.

Also present at the call were Union Minister U Soe Maung, Deputy Ministers and officials, the Laotian Minister at the President Office, the Laotian deputy minister of Foreign Affairs, the Laotian deputy minister of Home Affairs, Laotian Ambassadors to Myanmar Mr Nilahath Sayarth and senior officers.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham poses for documentary photo together with President of Lao People’s Democratic Republic Mr Choummaly Sayasone.—MNA

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Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham poses for documentary photo together with President of Lao People’s Democratic Republic Mr Choummaly Sayasone.—MNA

They cordially discussed further strengthening of bilateral relations, promotion of cooperation between the two countries while Myanmar is taking the chair of ASEAN, further cooperation in all sectors so as to improve mutual understanding similar to that of ASEAN, ACMECS and GMS, cooperation in construction of Myanmar-Lao Mekong Friendship Bridge, placing emphasis on cooperation in

(See page 8)
**Diamond orb, pennant-shaped vane for Lawkananda Pagoda conveyed**

Aung Hngaein, Yaw Sein, San Yu Htwe, Thazin Aung, archers Thin Thin Khaing, coach officer Ye Min Swe of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Myat Thuza Myint of the Department, Mr. Lee Song Tun (Manager) of Sports & Physical Education, Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Khin Maung Aye, Deputy Minister for Education U Aye Kyu, Ayeyawady Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding and Fisheries U San Maung Myint, Director-General of Education Department U Eikdi Hla, deputy commissioner U Kan Win of District General Administration Department and wellwisher U Win Ko Ko formally opened the school building. Member of the Board of Trustees U Khin Win handed over documents related to the school to Township Education Officer Daw Aye Thein.

The new school building is 120 feet long, 30 feet wide and 15 feet high. The building is constructed at a cost of K 30 million.

**Military medics give free treatment to local people**

Myanmar archery team leaves for Thailand

**Breeders urged to increase breeding of milch cows, production of dairy products**

Nay Pyi Taw, 13 March—Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Khin Maung Aye visited Union milch cow breeding farms of U Maung Maung Lwin and Nan Wai Milk Powder Factory in Shwemyo, breeding zone of Takton Township, the integrated farm of U Maung Thin in Nyaunglunt (West) Village in Takton Township.

**Age-wise international chess tournament kicks off in Mandalay**

**Upgraded BEMS handed over in Mawgun**

Mawlamyine, 13 March—A ceremony to hand over upgraded Basic Education Middle School was held in the presence of upgraded Basic Education Middle School in Mawlamyine, Naypyidaw, locality of Ayeyawady Region on 4 March.

**Myanmar archery team leaves for Thailand**

Yangon, 13 March—A 12-member delegation led by President of Myanmar Archery Federation Dr. Phyo Ko Ko Tint Hsan and Director U Kyaw Oo of Ministry of Sports as deputy leader comprising Deputy Director U Ye Myint Tun (Manager) of Sports and Physical Education Department, Mr. Lee Song Bong (Chief Coach), IP Myat Thuza Myint of the Ministry of Home Affairs, coach officer Ye Min Swe of Ministry of Sports and archers Thin Thin Khaing, San Yu Htwe, Thazin Aung, Aung Hingyi, Yaw Sein, Ya and Aye Aye Thin left here by air on 9 March to take part in the First Asian Archery Grand Prix to be held in Bangkok from 9 to 15 March and to attend the Asian Archery Federation Meeting on 10 March.—MNA

**Self-reliant bridge across Pyu Creek under construction**

Pyu, 13 March—Pyu Creek originates from Bago mountain range, six miles west of Pyu Township. The swift current of Pyu Creek was a natural barrier for local people. As of 7 January, Engineer U Kyaw Lin and party are building the bridge which is 328 feet long and nine feet wide with the contribution of local people from U Sein Su Village. A plan is underway to complete the bridge at the end of March.

On completion, the bridge will be used for two-ton vehicles and it will contribute to smooth transportation for the local people.—Myanma Alinn

**Boarding fire at Shwepyitha garment factory**

Yangon, 13 March—A fire broke out at a two-storey hostel comprising 28 rooms of Ayeyawady Garment Factory Company at No. 29/56 at the corner of Minlan and Nwethagi streets in Ward 2 of Shwepyitha Township in Yangon Region at 12.30 pm on 9 March.

The fire started from mosquito coin committed by Daw Khin Saw Win, 52.
**NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR**

**WORLD**

**US spy chief says Syrian opposition remains disorganized**

WASHINGTON, 13 March—Forces seeking to oust Syrian President Bashar al-Assad are gaining strength and territory, but the Syrian opposition remains fragmented and is grappling with an infusion of militant foreign fighters, Director of National Intelligence James Clapper said on Tuesday.

Two years into an uprising against Assad’s rule, US intelligence agencies do not know how long the Syrian leader will keep his hold on the country, Clapper said at a Senate Intelligence Committee hearing on global security threats.

“...and training to non-Islamist foreign fighters, Director of National Intelligence James Clapper testifies before a Senate Intelligence Committee hearing on ‘Current and Projected National Security Threats to the United States’ on Capitol Hill in Washington on 12 March, 2013.—Reuters

**Sanctions on the DPRK not goal**

BEIJING, 13 March—China on Tuesday reaffirmed its opposition to Pyongyang’s nuclear tests, and committed to determining peaceful means for achieving the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

“China maintains that sanctions shall not be the objective, and urges relevant parties to stick to dialogues and explore effective ways of attaining lasting peace and stability in the region under the framework of the six-party talks,” Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said at a daily Press briefing. Hua made the remarks when asked to comment on the US unilateral sanctions on the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK). She did not directly comment on the actions of the United States, but cited the latest resolution of the United Nations Security Council. The UN Security Council on Thursday unanimously passed resolution 2094, condemning the DPRK’s third nuclear test, which took place on 12 February. The DPRK also conducted nuclear tests in 2006 and 2009.—Xinhua

**Washington “finalizing” nominations for top economic and trade positions**

WASHINGTON, 13 March—President Barack Obama appears to be nearing a decision on nominations for three top economic and trade positions, the president of the Export-Import Bank said on Tuesday. “...”Ex-Im President Fred Hochberg said in an interview. Hochberg said the US ambassador of bizarre UN envoy accusing the 15-member council on human rights in Russia. Haile Menkerios, briefed the 15-member council on how to address the situation.

“Unfortunately perhaps in the interests of defusing such a (situation), the Russian Federation tabbed a draft statement which only discussed a very narrow aspect of the substance of the larger statement,” Rice told reporters. “We objected to the issuance of a statement —divorced from the larger set of issues.”

**British Prime Minister David Cameron gestures as he speaks during a news conference in Riga on 28 Feb, 2013.—Reuters

**Russia and US in tit for tat at United Nations over Sudan, South Sudan**

UNITED NATIONS, 13 March—The United States and Russia traded swipes at the UN Security Council on Tuesday over proposed statements about peace progress in Sudan and South Sudan, with Russia’s UN envoy accusing the US ambassador of bizarre behaviour and making outlandish claims. It was the latest in a series of tense public exchanges between Moscow and Washington, whose relations have become increasingly frosty in recent months because of disagreements over how to deal with Syria and human rights in Russia.

UN special envoy for Sudan and South Sudan, Haile Menkerios, briefed the 15-member council on efforts by neighbouring states to implement a deal mediated by the African Union in September to resolve a conflict over oil and land. South Sudan seceded from Sudan in July 2011. US Ambassador to the United Nations, Susan Rice, said the United States had been working for the past two weeks to negotiate a broad statement by the council welcoming positive developments, but also noting areas lacking progress.

“Unfortunately perhaps in the interests of defusing such a (situation), the Russian Federation tabbed a draft statement which only discussed a very narrow aspect of the substance of the larger statement,” Rice told reporters. “We objected to the issuance of a statement —divorced from the larger set of issues.”

**US Ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice sits in a Security Council meeting regarding Libya at the UN Headquarters in New York on 12 March, 2012.—Reuters

**Britain, France, push EU to drop Syria arms ban**

LONDON/PARIS, 13 March—Britain and France raised the pressure on other European Union members on Tuesday to lift a ban on supplying arms to Syria, where anti-government rebels are outnumbered by forces loyal to President Bashar al-Assad. Britain warned that it could break with the embargo altogether, which requires unanimous agreement by the EU’s 27 members to take effect, while France hinted it would push to get the bloc to amend the ban to allow the supply of arms.

The arms embargo is part of a package of EU sanctions on Syria that currently roll over every three months, with the last extension unanimously agreed by the EU last month and which came into effect on 1 March. Without unanimous agreement to either renew or amend the ban in the next three months’ time, the embargo lapses. “I hope that we can persuade our European partners, if and when a further change becomes necessary, they will agree with us,” Cameron told a parliamentary committee when asked whether Britain could “vet” the embargo.

“But if we can’t, then it’s not out of the question we might have to do things in our own way. It’s possible,” he added. Britain has not explicitly said it wants to arm the rebels, but repeatedly has said it does not rule out the option, depending on events on the ground. In France, Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said “a new balance of power” has to be created in Syria. **Reuters**
Baseball-sized snail destroyed in Australia to protect crops

SYDNEY, 13 March—A baseball-sized snail with an insatiable appetite for hundreds of plants including cocoa and papaya has been seized and destroyed by Australian officials, who said it posed a huge threat to local agriculture. The animal was found crossing a Brisbane shipping container yard and identified as a giant African snail, an East African pest capable of growing up to 30 cm (12 inches) long and one kg (2.2 lb) in weight. It is known to eat 500 different species of crops, fruits, native Australian plants and even other giant African snails, according to an Australian government website. "Giant African snails are one of the world’s largest and most damaging land snails," said Paul Nixon, acting regional director at the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, in a statement. The snail can lay 1,200 eggs a year, tolerates extreme temperatures and has few natural enemies in Australia. It also carries parasites that can infect humans with the disease meningitis, which can in some cases be fatal.

The last major Austral-
ian outbreak of the snail was in 1977, when 300 giant snails were exterminated in Queensland in an intensive eight-month campaign of community education, baiting and snail collection. The snail was destroyed and officials inspected the container yard and found no evidence of additional snails, eggs or snail trails. They will continue surveillance into next week. "Australia’s strict biosecurity requirements and responsive system has so far kept these pests out of Australia, and we want to keep it that way," Nixon said.—Reuters

Mozilla says it’s not planning to build a browser for iOS

NEW YORK, 13 March—Mozilla has come out swinging against Apple’s policies towards third-party browsers in iOS. Speaking at an SXSW session, Jay Sullivan, vice president of product development at Mozilla said that the company is not working on a native browser for iOS and does not have any plans to do so. The development was reported by CNET.

Sullivan mentioned that the limitations imposed by Apple is an impediment to the company’s plans of making the browser that it actually wants to. "It’s worth noting that Apple requires third-party browsers to use the built-in UIWebView for rendering. It uses the Nitro JavaScript engine for its own browser, Safari, while developers cannot use their own rendering and javascript engines in their iOS browser apps, giving Safari a big edge in terms of performance," Sullivan said.

In addition to these limitations, Apple does not allow users to set a third-party browser as their default browser app. Mozilla had pulled its Firefox Home app from the App Store in September 2012 and had said that it intended to focus its resources on other projects. It had made the source code available on GitHub, though.

The app was not a browser and just enabled Firefox users to access their desktop history, open tabs and bookmarks, and open them on their iOS devices.

It’s also interesting to note that Google had made available the Chrome browser on iOS last year, though it has to abide by the limitations imposed by Apple. Opera also offers its Opera Mini browser on the App Store, which renders webpages on its own servers.

However, Opera is set to unveil a new mobile browser which would be based on WebKit, for iOS. "This is to replicate the financial success of other joint ventures including William Hill," Mor Weizer, chief executive of Playtech, told Reuters.

He added that basing the calculation on 2017 earnings would give the collaboration time to take effect.

Google updates Gmail Offline app for Chrome, web apps for iOS, Android, BlackBerry

NEW YORK, 13 March—Google has updated the Gmail Offline app for Chrome as well as mobile web apps for Android, iOS, BlackBerry and Kindle Fire devices, bringing a refreshed user interface. It’s interesting to note that Google has left Windows Phone out of the list, with the two companies being at loggerheads at several occasions in the past. While Google has not provided a detailed change-log, it does mention that the update includes the changes that were first pushed to the Gmail native app for iPhone and iPad in December 2012, and would include a refreshed user interface in addition to new features such as improved search and integration with Google Calendar.

The update had brought profile pictures in messages, some new animations such as swivels and transitions in addition to infinite scrolling in the message lists. The update had also introduced the ability to sign-in to multiple accounts, RSVP to Google+ events as well as +1 and comment on Google+ posts directly from the app.

Ladbrokes signs software deal to boost online presence

LONDON, 13 March—Ladbrokes Plc, Britain’s second-largest bookmaker, has positioned itself for a stronger push into online and mobile gambling through a tie-up with a specialist software developer. Shares in Ladbrokes jumped to their highest in five years, encouraged by the prospect of the company taking a bigger share of the fast-growing online market via the deal with Playtech Ltd, a developer of software platforms for online poker, bingo and other games.

The betting firm will take on 40 staff from Playtech to form a new digital marketing team, the companies said on Monday. Ladbrokes’ customers will get access to Playtech’s 200 casino games this year, before their gaming assets are eventually merged onto one platform.

Ladbrokes, a familiar sight in Britain’s town centres with 2,200 retail outlets, has struggled to keep up with the online offering of UK market leader William Hill Plc. Earlier this month, William Hill took full control of the internet venture it previously ran with Playtech, buying out the latter’s stake for 423 million pounds ($633 million) as it looks to expand online.

The online gambling sector is seeing a wave of consolidation and deals amid signs that the US is readying to legalize it. Online gambling firm 888 Holdings announced two US agreements on Monday. Ladbrokes said the deal with Playtech should help spur its own growth, but declined to say how much it expected to profit. "I’m very confident that over the next five years this is going to allow us to accelerate (underlying earnings growth)," Ladbrokes Chief Executive Richard Glynn told Reuters, noting the company’s online offering would become more comparable to what is available from its stores.

Following its William Hill windfall, Playtech will be entitled to royalties generated under a software agreement with Ladbrokes and a “success fee” based on 27.5 percent of any increase in Ladbrokes core earnings for 2017.

"This is to replicate the financial success of other joint ventures including William Hill,” Mor Weizer, chief executive of Playtech, told Reuters. He added that basing the calculation on 2017 earnings would give the collaboration time to take effect.

HP director defends chairman Lane

SAN FRANCISCO, 13 March—Hewlett-Packard Co’s (HPQ.N) lead independent director defended Chairman Ray Lane and two fellow board members on Monday, contesting a recommendation from proxy adviser ISS that shareholders oust them for their role in the mis-managed acquisition of Autonomy Plc in 2011.

In a detailed letter to shareholders on Monday ahead of the company’s annual general meeting, Rajiv Gupta said the board has laid a solid foundation for HP’s turnaround and warned that ejecting longtime directors would de-stabilize the company. "Losing some of our directors in an abrupt and disorderly manner could undermine our efforts to stabilize the company," Gupta, a former CEO of specialty materials maker Rohm & Haas DOWRUL, wrote on Monday. "What the company needs now is stability and consistency of leadership so that the Board and the management team can devote all of their focus and energy towards executing on our strategic plan."

HP CEO Meg Whitman is trying to revive a company once synonymous with Silicon Valley but fell on hard times in a contracting personal computing market, by re-focusing the sprawling corporation on enterprise computing services. Gupta did not address the Autonomy angle in his letter, but outlined the credentials of all three men that leading proxy adviser ISS recommended against.

In particular, he highlighted Lane’s global and management experience as former Chief Operating Officer of software giant Oracle Corp (ORCL.O). Leading proxy adviser ISS, closely followed by investor seeking guidance on controversial issues, last week suggested voting against Lane, a managing partner at high-powered Silicon Valley venture capital firm Kleiner Perkins.
Walgreen sued over Vitamin E supplement claims

NEW YORK, 13 March—Walgreen Co has been sued by a California woman who accused the largest US drugstore chain of deceiving customers into believing its Vitamin E dietary supplement contributes to cardiovascular health.

The complaint, filed on Friday in federal court in Chicago, challenges a label from oxidation which may contribute to cardiovascular disease by helping to protect LDL cholesterol from oxidation which may cause cellular damage.”

Andrea Trujillo, the plaintiff, said the representation was false and misleading because clinical studies show that Vitamin E does not work as the retailer advertised.

Trujillo claimed to have paid $12 each for several bottles of the supplement at a Walgreen’s in her hometown of Bakersfield, California.

“Plaintiff utilized the product as directed, and consistent with the scientific evidence that the product is not effective, the product did not work,” the complaint said. The statement in question has not been evaluated by the US Food and Drug Administration, according to the label, which was re-produced in the complaint.

Walgreen spokesman John Graham declined to comment. A lawyer for Trujillo did not immediately respond to a request for comment. According to the National Institutes of Health, Vitamin E has an antioxidant function that protects cells from damage caused by so-called free radicals, which can contribute to the development of cardiovascular disease and cancer.—Reuters

Gold price closes higher in Hong Kong

HONG KONG, 13 March—The gold price in Hong Kong moved up 10 HK dollars to close at 14,689 HK dollars per tael on Tuesday, according to the Chinese Gold and Silver Exchange Society.

The price is equivalent to 1,589.92 US dollars a troy ounce, up 1.08 US dollars at the latest exchange rate of 1 US dollar against 7.76 HK dollars.

Pentagon needs $12.6 billion per year through 2037 for F-35

WASHINGTON, 13 March—The Pentagon needs to budget $12.6 billion each year through 2037 to finish development and paying for all the Lockheed Martin Corp F-35 fighters it plans to buy, according to a report released by a congressional watchdog agency on Monday. This amounts to $2 billion more in projected annual funding needs than the Government Accountability Office (GAO) had included in a draft report obtained and published by Reuters on Saturday.

The draft report excluded the cost of the fighter’s single engine, which is built by Pratt & Whitney, a unit of United Technologies Corp, said Joe DellaVedova, a spokesman for the Pentagon’s F-35 programme office. The report said the Pentagon was expected to shell out $316 billion through 2037 on the remaining development and purchase of the radar-evading warplane, on top of billions of dollars already spent, for a total programme cost of around $400 billion.

“Overall, the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter programme is now moving in the right direction after a long, expensive, and arduous learning process. It still has tremendous challenges ahead,” GAO concluded in its annual report to Congress on the F-35, the Pentagon’s costliest weapons programme.

The F-35 is an advanced fighter meant to serve the US Air Force, Navy and Marines for decades to come. The programme, which has seen costs rise 70 percent from initial projections amid numerous technical complications, is facing a critical phase in which any new setbacks or reductions in orders from the US military and its allies would further boost the cost per plane.—Reuters

A new sign is displayed over the entrance to the AIG headquarters offices in New York’s financial district, on 9 Jan, 2013.—Reuters

AIG shareholders win class-action status in lawsuit versus US

NEW YORK, 13 March—Two groups of American International Group Inc (AIG) shareholders won class-action status from a federal judge on Monday in a $25 billion lawsuit by former Chief Executive Maurice “Hank” Greenberg over alleged losses caused by the US government’s bailout of the insurer.

US Court of Federal Claims Judge Thomas Denny ruled in Greenberg’s lawyer, David Boies, of Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP, as lead counsel for the classes.

Greenberg’s Starr International Co, once AIG’s largest shareholder with a 12 percent stake, sued the United States in 2011 over what eventually became a $182.3 billion bailout for the New York-based insurer.

“Chikyu” in the Pacific off Aichi Prefecture, central Japan, on 12 March, 2013. (Kyodo News)

Japan extracts gas from methane hydrate offshore, 1st case in world

TOKYO, 13 March—Japan on Tuesday extracted natural gas from a next-generation energy source called methane hydrate in the seabed in Pacific waters off central Japan, the first such case in the world, the Economy, Trade and Industry Ministry said.

“We started production of a certain amount of methane gas from around 9:30 am,” a ministry official said, noting that if the gas is extracted stably for about two weeks in the ongoing trial it would be a “major step” toward future commercial development of the resource. Methane hydrate is believed to exist across a wide area of seabed in waters surrounding Japan, with its deposits estimated to be sufficient to cover domestic consumption of natural gas for about 100 years.—Kyodo News

Euro zone crisis not over, says ECB’s Weidmann

FRANKFURT, 13 March—The euro zone crisis is not over, France is slipping on reforms and the Bundesbank has set aside billions in new provisions for what it sees as risky Eurozone Central Banks move, Germany’s central bank said on Tuesday.

Presenting Bundesbank 2012 results that showed a sharp increase in its risk provisions, the German central bank’s chief, Jens Weidmann, urged governments to tackle the roots of their troubles withlanması ile mücadele etmek için ihtiyaç olan ve 14,4 milyar euro’ya ulaşabilir.

Weidmann, a member of the ECB’s Governing Council, opposed the bank’s yet-to-be-used bond-buy plan agreed last September and believes euro zone governments must shape up to situate their economies to exit the crisis rather than looking to the ECB for help.

“The crisis is not over despite the recent calm on financial markets,” Weidmann told a news conference. There was uncertainty about the reform course in Italy and Cyprus, he said, adding: “The reform course in France seems to have floundered.”

The ECB’s other German policymaker, Joerg Asmussen, last month urged France to take “concrete and measurable” steps to bring down its budget deficit, telling Reuters Paris faced a test of its credibility.

The Bundesbank is concerned about risks the ECB has taken on to help banks through the crisis, for example by accepting lower-rated assets in return for cash, exposing it to larger losses if a bank fails to repay. The Bundesbank said it increased its risk buffers by 6.7 billion euros to 14.4 billion euros.

Weidmann, Germany’s economic powerhouse expanded robustly during the first two years of the euro zone crisis but growth slowed last year and the economy shrank 0.6 percent in the fourth quarter.
**Venezuela to probe Chavez cancer poisoning accusation**

**CARACAS, 13 March—**Venezuela will set up a formal inquiry into claims that deceased President Hugo Chavez’s cancer was the result of poisoning by his enemies abroad, the government said. Foes of the government view the accusation as a typical Chavez-style conspiracy theory intended to feed fears of “imperialist” threats to Venezuela’s socialist system and distract people from daily problems. Acting President Nicolas Maduro vowed to open an investigation into the claims, first raised by Chavez after he was diagnosed with the disease in 2011.

“We will seek the truth,” Maduro told regional TV network Telesur.

“We have the intuition that our commander Chavez was poisoned by dark forces that wanted him out of the way,” Foreign scientists will be invited to join a state committee to probe the accusation, he said. Maduro, 50, is Chavez’s handpicked successor and is running as the government’s candidate in a snap presidential election on 14 April that was triggered by the president’s death last week.

He is trying to keep voters’ attention firmly focused on Chavez to benefit from the outpouring of grief among his millions of supporters. The opposition is centering its campaign on portraying Maduro, as an incompetent who, they say, is exploiting Chavez’s demise. “Let’s take the president (Chavez) away from the political debate, out of respect for his memory, his family, his supporters,” opposition candidate Henrique Capriles’ campaign chief Henri Falcon told reporters. Polls from before Chavez’s death gave Maduro a lead over Capriles of more than 10 percentage points. Capriles lost to Chavez by 11 percentage points in October.

Capriles has tried to jump-start his campaign with accusations that Maduro and other senior officials lied about the details of Chavez’s illness, hiding the gravity of his condition from Venezuelans.

That sparked a torrent of attacks, with senior government officials using words like “Nazi” and “fascist” to describe Capriles, who has Jewish ancestors. In a televised message, Information Minister Ernesto Villegas read a letter to the “sick opposition” from the late president’s daughter, Maria Gabriela Chavez, who has at times been viewed as a possible future successor.

“Stop playing with the pain of a nation and a devastated family,” she wrote. “It is unfair, inhuman, unacceptable that they now say we were lying about the date of his (death) focus on politics, don’t play dirty.” Capriles was quick to respond with a flurry of tweets. “Never, in all these years have you talked about the president or his family. If one word has been taken thus by his family, I’m sorry,” he wrote on Twitter. “I don’t offend families as they have mine. They have even called me a Nazi, when my great-grandparents were murdered in a Nazi concentration camp,” he added, referring to the government. That sparked a torrent of tweets. “Never, in all these years have you talked about the president or his family. If one word has been taken thus by his family, I’m sorry,” he wrote on Twitter. “I don’t offend families as they have mine. They have even called me a Nazi, when my great-grandparents were murdered in a Nazi concentration camp,” he added, referring to the government.

**Israel troopers kill Palestinian, wound two in West Bank clash**

**HBEHRON, (West Bank), 13 March—**Israeli troops killed a Palestinian on Tuesday during a confrontation with a stone-throwing crowd in a flashpoint district of the occupied West Bank, both sides said. The incident in Fuwar, near the city of Hebron, stoked tensions ahead of a visit by US President Barack Obama next week that has been billed as a bid to encourage new peacemaking.

Witnesses said Israeli soldiers raided Fuwar and opened fire after coming under a barrage of rocks from local Palestinians. Hospital officials said a 25-year-old man died after being shot in the head and two others were wounded by the Israelis. Citing the results of an initial investigation, an Israeli military spokeswoman said the troops had been attacked with fire-bombs on a nearby road and pursued the assailants into Fuwar, where they encountered the stone-throwers.

“Feeling a threat to their lives, they (the soldiers) fired toward the assailants,” the spokeswoman said, confirming that a Palestinian was killed in the shooting. Obama is expected to fly in on 20 March for separate talks with Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and, in the West Bank, with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. Netanyahu and Abbas last held talks about internationally-backed plans for founding a Palestinian state alongside Israel in late 2010.

Palestinian frustration at the stalled diplomacy has been fanned by Israel’s expansion of West Bank settlements and a refusal to hand over its administration the armed Hamas who run the Gaza Strip and rejoin coexistence with the Jewish state. Palestinian officials have taken to the streets to protest against Israel’s jailing of thousands of their countrymen. The resulting confrontations, often bloody, have drawn warnings on both sides that a full Palestinian revolt could be brewing.

**No position change on Falkland Islands following referendum, says US**

**WASHINGTON, 13 March —The Obama administration on Tuesday said that its position regarding the Falkland Islands, known as the Malvinas to the Argentines, remains unchanged, but acknowledged that the Falklands residents have clearly expressed their preference in a recent referendum.**

“The residents have clearly expressed their preference for a continued relationship with the United Kingdom,” US State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said of the two-day referendum that ended on Monday on the islands, in which 99.8 percent of participating voters chose to keep the archipelago a self-governing British overseas territory.

“That said, we obviously recognize that there are competing claims,” Nuland told reporters at a regular news briefing here. “Our formal position has not changed. We recognize the de facto UK administration of the islands, but we take no position on sovereignty claims.”

The islands, inhabited by less than 3,000 people, have been under British control since 1833, but are claimed by Argentina as well. The two countries fought a brief war in June 1982, resulting in the deaths of more than 1,000 people and the loss of more than 10 percent points. Capriles lost to Chavez by 11 percentage points in October.

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The islands, inhabited by less than 3,000 people, have been under British control since 1833, but are claimed by Argentina as well. The two countries fought a brief war in June 1982, resulting in the deaths of more than 1,000 people and the loss of more than 10 percent points. Capriles lost to Chavez by 11 percentage points in October.

**Syria denies declaration of general mobilization**

**DAMASCUS, 13 March—**Syria’s state media on Tuesday published as unfounded media reports that the Syrian army has declared a state of general mobilization. While denying the reports of general alert circulating on some anti-Syrian government Arab TV’s, the state TV said “joining the military service is a sacred duty.” “Our valiant troops are on the highest readiness and ability to defend the security of the homeland and citizens from terrorism,” according to a statement carried out by the state TV. The controversy a possible declaration of general mobilization has started since Friday, when Syria’s prominent Sheikh Said Ramadan al-Bouti called on the country’s grand Mufti to declare the general alert. On Sunday, Syria’s Supreme Iftaa Council, the highest clergy council in the country, issued a statement calling the Syrian public to support the Syrian army and the youth to join the service to defend the country, the heritage and religion from what the statement branded as the enemies wanting to rip the country in pieces. The state media clarified in its statement that the Iftaa Council’s statement was about the regular obligatory service not mobilization. Earlier in the day, the pro-government al-Watan newspaper cited sources as saying that the Syrian army “is so well,” noting however that the citizens should start to take part in defending their areas.

“The Syrian army has enough manpower and equipment for many years to come in the war to defend Syria,” the source was cited by the paper as saying, stressing, however, that “this doesn’t mean that Syrian troops should only be continued to watch the news of battles without taking part each according to his ability.” While the idea of general mobilization does not seem sound in the midst of the conflict that has been ripping Syria apart, such move needs to be announced by the president himself to take effect. Such an idea has come as the Syrian troops have become stretched out in clashes in several cities as part of the war of attrition that the West-backed rebels have been waging.—Xinhua

Experts inspect minefield No 64, 3.5 kilometres from Puerto Argentino (Port Stanley), on the Malvinas Islands (Falkland Islands), on 12 March, 2013. During the 1982 war between Argentina and Britain, some 16,000 mines were estimated to be left on the islands by Argentina. The British government commissioned a mine action plan through technology best available currently to perform the work.—Xinhua
Mandalay B secures champion in quadripartite football tournament

In the final match, Mandalay B team emerged champion with a 5-2 win over Sagaing team. After the match, Management Director Daw Yu Yu Aye, on behalf of Managing Director Daw Moe Moe Tun of Tuk-Tuk and spare part trading of Moe Thauk Hnin Co Ltd which was main sponsor presented championship trophy to Mandalay B team. Myanna Ailin

Assistance for people from project areas of Upper Paunglaung Hydropower Plant explained

PINAUNG, 13 March—A ceremony to make clarification on Upper Paunglaung Hydropower Project in Pinlaung Township was held at the hall of the Hydropower Implementation Department near Konchaing Village in the third week of February. Shan State Minister for Electric and Industry U Sai Tun Yin and Kayan National Race Minister U Laurence made speeches.

The departmental officials explained progress of the hydropower plant implementation.

Ward and village administrators and village elders from 10 villages of Thabyegon Village-tract and 12 villages from Hteinbin Village-tract reported on difficulties in the resettlement from the wetland area of Paunglaung Station. The departmental officials explained fulfillment of the department and cooperation of local people.

The hydropower project is located 26 miles of Pyinmana and 15 miles of the power station. It was built with the aim of generating 32 kilowatt hour millions per year.

The department is carrying out resettlement of 9374 people from 2246 households of Hteinbin and Thabyegon village-tracts, reclamation of housing plots, provisions of assistance for health, religious, education and administrative fields, construction of better status of buildings for them, assistance of construction materials for the local people to build their housings as they like, provision of agricultural and horticultural farms, construction of inter-village roads and road related buildings, installation of power line to new villages for supply of electricity from Upper Paunglaung Hydropower Plant and installation of housing electric meters. Myanna Ailin

Eindu-Gyaing-Kawkareik-Thingan Nyinaung road section being upgraded

At that time, two deputy directors, 17 township level judges and two deputy judicial officers, totalling 20. The ceremony to take oaths by judges and judicial officers of Sagaing Region was held on 13 February. At that time, two deputy directors, 51 township level judges and 10 judicial officers, totalling 63 took oaths in the presence of the Chief Justice of the region. Myanna Ailin

Modern lab technology shared in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 13 March—Organized by SML Medical Center (Mandalay Branch), the talks on modern lab technology was held at Shwepyitha Hotel in Mandalay on 23 February.

Mandalay Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Hlaing and region ministers, specialists, clinic owners, doctors and lab technicians attended the talks.

Liver specialist professor U Than Sitt gave talks on hepatitis B and its therapies and Regional & Scientific Affairs Manager Ms Ahila Padmana Than on modern lab technology.

Later, they replied to queries raised by those present.—Myanna Ailin

UMFCCI to hold subject-wise talks

YANGON, 13 March—UMFCCI will hold subject-wise talks at its office tower on Minye Kyawswa Road in Lannmadaw Township on 20 March.

Dr Linda Yuen-Ching Lim (Professor of Strategy) explained fulfilment of the requirements of dwellers.

 Judges, judicial officers take oath in Sagaing Region

MYANNA, 13 March—With a view to ensuring establishment of best judicial estate for the people in practising judicial power by judges and judicial officers at different courts in Sagaing Region and ensuring emergence of reliable judicial estate for the people, judges and judicial officers at different levels of courts in Sagaing Region took oaths for the second time in the presence of Sagaing Region Chief Justice U San Ko and Sagaing Region High Court Judge U Win Myint on 7 March.

It was participated by one assistant director, 17 township level judges and two deputy judicial officers, totalling 20. The ceremony to take oaths by judges and judicial officers of Sagaing Region was held on 13 February. At that time, two deputy directors, 51 township level judges and 10 judicial officers, totalling 63 took oaths in the presence of the Chief Justice of the region. Myanna Ailin

Development undertakings carried out in Sagaing

SAGAING, 13 March—The chairman of Sagaing Townsiders and party make utmost efforts for fulfilling requirement of dwellers.

They carried out sanitation with the use of trolleyware donated by Sayadaw Ashin Cheikinda.

Vehicles with unlicensed commodities turns over

WAW, 13 March—A vehicle that was driven along the detour of Hahtawhcon Village in Waw Township of Bago Region turned over on the road recently.

According to the information by a dutiful people, officials of Mobile Team No 2 inspected the vehicle.

The vehicle driven by Ko Hla Shein of Hpa-an Township was loaded with 11 packets of orchid including packets of orchid imported from Thailand without any custom duty weighing 2573.45 kilos.

Taking permission from the authorities, the mobile team auctioned the commodities from the vehicles on Nyaungkla-shwe Daik-U Road at 10 am on 7 March as the goods could spoil easily. Maung Win Ko So, son of U Nyunt Hlaing purchased these goods at K 1.7 million.—Myanna Ailin

Knowledge about human trafficking disseminated

NAY PYI TAW, 13 March—Talks on anti-human trafficking and crime reduction was held at the administrative office in Aungzaba Ward of Zabuthiri Township on 4 March evening.


At the talks, Ward Administrator U Maung Maung Thein made a speech. Police Col Win Khaung explained human trafficking and its victims and then donated books to the ward administrator. Myanna Ailin

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Artisanal businesses can help reduce poverty

There are 10 kinds of arts which have been flourished in the country since the time of kingdoms. There are three groups of artisanal products: utensils useful for daily purposes, decorations and arts such as paintings, sculptures, embossing, laceworks, etc.

Artists in urban and suburban areas are relying on making artisanal products for their livelihood and the number of local and foreign tourists which are the main customers of their products.

The products in the third group are value-added and quality artisanal products and only middle-class people and tourists can buy them and the Myanmar traditional artisanal products hold great potential for growth and for penetrating foreign markets if they are added value.

In most developing countries, artisanal products play an important role in creating job opportunities and the small and medium businesses including artisanal product business have become the second job providers after the agriculture sector in those countries.

In India, export value of artisanal products makes up 25% of the country’s GDP, and the business has created jobs for 1.3 million people. Artisanal product business is a kind of enterprises based on creativity and can become an industry. Only when SMEs grow up, will industries develop.

Today is the right time to encourage the Myanmar traditional artisanal businesses which are scattering across the country as the country and market are opening up.

Loans with low interest rate, technical support and creating market channels are a sine qua non for encouraging the small-scale businesses so that they can grow up.

Being labour intensive works, the artisanal business would create job opportunities and reduce the poverty in the country when they are booming in the country.

Diplomats visit relief camps in Rakhine State

NA Y P YI TAW, 13 March—Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Zaw Win, Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Kyaw Kyaw Win, US ambassador to Myanmar Mr Derek James Mitchell and four members, Chargé d’Affaires ai of Australia, Chargé d’Affaires ai of Britain and Chargé d’Affaires ai of Australian Embassy Ms Ruth Stewart, Chargé d’Affaires ai of British Embassy Mr Matthew Hedgas held talks at Sittway Airport, on 11 March.

The meeting focused on relief camps, construction of makeshift camps, cooperation with UN and international organizations, humanitarain aids, education, health and local businesses.

In the afternoon, the deputy minister and partner met victims at Ohnhtawng relief camp and construction of Shu-khinthar road.

On 12 March, they visited Kyemyinpyin relief camp in Pauktaw Township, Seyesonu relief camp in Sittway and Aungmangalar ward relief camp.

More Nippon humanitarian assistance for national races

NA Y P YI TAW, 13 March—Union Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint received Chairman of the Nippon Foundation of Japan and Japanese Government’s Special Envoy for National Reconciliation in Myanmar Mr. Yohei Sasakawa and party at the ministry, here, this morning.

During the meeting, they discussed progress of peace talks being held with national race armed groups to foster the 7th Summit, the Vice-President said delights for reviewing the implementation of plans laid down during the 5th CLMV summit and reaching agreement on future plans.

He also said that he firmly believed that the agreements on future plans reached during the 6th CLMV summit would help improve the living standard and economic development of the region.

He also pledged that Myanmar would make its best to successfully host the 7th summit and he expressed thanks for the warm receptions of the previous host countries.

The summit saw discussions on implementation of projects adopted at the 5th Summit to bridge development gap among CLMV members and serve common interests.

The Summit saw leaders reviewed progress in implementation of projects and discussing views on implementation of CLMV integration and economic cooperation adopted in 2014 and aim of CLMV future cooperation and future plans. The Vice-President and partner attended the dinner hosted by Laotian Prime Minister in the evening together with the attendees of 5th ACMECS Summit and 6th CLMV Summit.

Vice- President Dr Sai Mauk Kham calls on Laotian...

(from page 1)

culture, tourism, religion, education and agriculture sectors between the two countries and promoting cooperation in all sectors in the future.

The Vice-President also called on Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen at Sananhmakhet Room of Don Chan Palace Hotel in Vientiane at 5.30 pm.

Also present were Union Minister U Soe Maung and Deputy Ministers, Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Hor Hamhong, Cambodian Minister of Commerce Mr Cham Prasidh and senior officer.

Their discussions focused on further strengthening of friendly ties between the two countries, sharing of experience by Cambodia to Myanmar’s chairmanship in 2014, active cooperation in culture, tourism, trade, investment, agriculture and forest sectors between the two countries and investment of Cambodian entreprenueers in Myanmar.

Yesterday morning, the Vice-President and party paid homage to That Luang Pagoda in Vientiane. They also visited Kayson Phouviham Museum, Ho Phra Kem Temple and Wat Sisaket Temple.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham makes donation at That Luang Pagoda in Vientiane.—SNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham visits Kayson Phouviham Museum in Vientiane.—SNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham attends…

(from page 16)

Foreign Investment Law.

Myanmar has massive work force that would facilitate labour-intensive industries. He highlighted the suspension of EU and US economic sanctions and US’s general license for Myanmar.

US also issued general license to four Myanmar banks recently.

Myanmar was implementing three special economic zones, he added. He pointed out the importance of Dawei Deep Sea Port and Dawei Special Economic Zone.

He firmly believed that the region would see development through practical cooperation and continued implementation of CLMV’s future processes.

He also expressed thanks to partner countries, Japan and ASEAN Secretariat. Myanmar would host the 7th CLMV summit, he added.

The 6th CLMV Summit joint declaration was then confirmed and the date and venue for the 7th summit fixed. In his address to mark the Myanmar’s hosting of the 7th Summit, the Vice-President said delights for reviewing the implementation of plans laid down during the 5th CLMV summit and reaching agreement on future plans.

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The 6th CLMV Summit served as a reminder of resolutions made at 2004 Vientiane Summit in Laos, 2005 Kuala Lumpur Summit in Malaysia, 2007 Cebu Summit in the Philippines, 2008 Hanoi Summit in Vietnam and 2010 Phnom Penh in Cambodia and reaffirmed the commitment to maintain traditional neighborhood among CLMV members and serve common interests.

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No plans to buy, supply power due to huge investment

Health Ministry agrees with legal enactment allowing second-degree related donors in kidney transplantation

Ywataw-Natmauk railroad section inaugurated
Mexico telecoms reform pits America Movil vs Televisa

Mexico City, 13 March — Mexico’s ambitious bid to overhaul its phone and television markets threatens to eat into revenue of the major players, telecoms tycoon Carlos Slim and TV mogul Emilio Azcárraga, and may force them to seek new business on each other’s turf. A new bill aims to stir up competition in the telecoms sector by allowing increased foreign ownership of media and phone companies, and giving regulators the power to force players controlling more than 50 percent of the market to sell some assets.

The planned reform has been hailed as the boldest attempt to strengthen the market since Slim, the world’s richest man, first acquired former fixed-line phone monopoly Telefónica in 1990. Telmex is now part of Slim’s telecommunications giant America Movil, whose shares have been hit since the reform was presented on Monday. Investors have also sold off shares of Azcárraga’s broadcasting giant Televisa, albeit less so. Uncertainty over how the reforms will be implemented could put further pressure on the share prices of both companies.

“We believe that the net risks introduced by this proposal are higher for America Movil than for Televisa, but negative for both,” wrote analyst Gregorio Gallegos, who manages 8 billion pesos ($640 million) in equity at Mexico City-based Actinver, adding that he expected Televisa and America Movil shares to fall further still.

Important details of the reform, such as how regulators might force dominant companies to restructure to meet a 50 percent market-share cap, are still to be worked out.

Reuters

Venezuela invites int’l organizations to observe presidential election

Caracas, 13 March — Venezuelan electoral authorities said on Tuesday that they had invited international organizations to observe the upcoming presidential election. Invitations had been extended to the Union of South American Nations, the Southern Common Market and some 50 other international bodies, said the National Electoral Council (CNE).

The race to determine the successor of Hugo Chavez, who died on 3 March, will be held on 14 April, and some 18.9 million people are eligible to vote, according to the CNE. So far the CNE has recognized seven of the eight applicants for candidacy, including acting President Nicolas Maduro from the ruling party and opposition leader Henrique Capriles. The application of Pana Change party nominee Gonzalez Contreras was rejected for failure to submit his management plan. According to the Venezuelan constitution, a new and direct general election must be held within 30 days after the death of a head of state.

Xinhua

Brazilian, Spanish DMs eye stronger defence cooperation

Brasilia, 13 March — Defence ministers of Brazil and Spain met here on Tuesday and voiced their readiness to strengthen two countries’ cooperation in defence. “It is important that Brazil and Spain maintain tight relations. We have shared principles,” said Brazil’s Celso Amorim after the meeting with Pedro Morenes.

In the meeting, the two pledges to strengthen defence collaboration, especially in promoting the exchanges of technology and defense materials between the two countries. In addition, among others, natural disasters and to the Government of the Russian Federation and said the UN mission in Congo was investigating the cause of the crash.

The United Nations has an estimated 17,000 peacekeepers in Congo, and operates an extensive aviation network to counter an almost total lack of roads in the vast central African country.

Reuters

Turkish Cultural Year events to start in China in March

Ankara, 13 March — The events of the 2013 Turkish cultural year, which began in China in March, Turkish Culture and Tourism Minister Omer Celik said here on Tuesday.

“In recent years, the Turkish government is very concerned about the development of cultural relations between Turkey and China, and the Chinese government is attaching great importance to the further development of cultural exchange with Turkey with the creation of many promising opportunities,” Celik said at a Press conference in Turkey’s capital Ankara. For his part, Chinese Ambassador to Turkey Gong Xiaosheng said that “through in-depth exchanges between the two countries and Turkey, we believe that the Chinese and Turkish cultural activities and cooperation will be promoted in various fields.”

Xinhua

Australia to boost its cultural industry with a new cultural policy

Canberra, 13 March —Australian government will implement a new cultural policy to boost its cultural industry and create jobs and encourage a new generation of artists, Arts Minister Simon Crean announced in Canberra on Wednesday. The new cultural policy, called Creative Australia, will set aside a total of 235 million (almost 241.9 million USD) over four years to implement the policy.

According to his speech at the National Press Club today, federal government will boost spending on the Australia Council by 75.3 million (almost 77.54 million USD) over four years under a new national cultural policy. He said the Australia Council will get a “clear mandate” to support and promote vibrant and distinctively Australian creative arts.

According to the policy, the arts body, Creative Partnerships Australia, will receive 8.6 million (almost 8.85 million USD) in additional funding to build partnerships between artists, businesses and private donors. An extra 20.8 million (almost 21.42 million USD) will go to arts training over four years and 20 million (almost 20.59 million USD) will be spent on attracting international film production. In addition, Video game design, indigenous arts and digital production are also a part of the policy.

Xinhua

6.0-magnitude quake hits Kamchatka Peninsula, Russia

Beijing, 13 March — A 6.0-magnitude earthquake jolted Kamchatka Peninsula, Russia, at 11:12 am Wednesday Beijing Time, according to the China Earthquake Networks Centre (CENC).

The epicentre, with a depth of 10 km, was monitored at 60.2 degrees north latitude and 163.3 degrees east longitude.

Xinhua
Death toll rises in clashes between Malaysian forces and Filipino armed group

**KUALA LUMPUR, 13 March**—Another Malaysian soldier and three Filipino militants were killed on Tuesday in clashes on Borneo Island, bringing the death toll to 66 since a Filippine militant group arrived in Malaysia’s Sabah state a month ago to stake a territorial claim.

One Malaysian soldier died and three Filipino militants were killed during the ensuing exchange of gunfire.

The Group of Ministers (GoM) is expected to finalise its task tomorrow to pave the way for the submission of the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2013 afresh on Thursday.—PTI

Cabinet divided, GoM set up on rape bill

**NEW DELHI, 13 March**—Amid persisting differences in the Cabinet, the tough law against rape and other crimes was today referred to a Group of Ministers which held its first meeting and reported substantial progress in evolving a consensus.

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Procedings initiated for China’s leadership change

**BEIJING, 13 March**—The change of China’s leadership for a new term of five years was formally initiated by the national legislature, with a candidate list discussed by the presidium of the first session of the 12th National People’s Congress (NPC) on Tuesday afternoon. Pre-sided over by Zhang Dejiang, the presidium’s executive chairman, the meeting made a decision that the list of 43 candidates for the 12th NPC Standing Committee chairman, vice chairpersons, secretary-general and members, as well as president and vice president of the People’s Republic of China and chairman and chief of the Central Military Commission of the PRC, will be tabled by the presidium to the NPC delegations for discussion and consultation.

The Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee has placed great importance on recommend-ing candidates for the state leadership positions, and has made an overall consideration when arranging the personnel changeover for the 18th CPC National Congress, fuelled political and professional qualifications, the CPC Central Committee has also called on whether the candidates would meet the requirements of the positions and improve the leadership’s lineup, Liu said.

The CPC Central Committee has maintained that after some senior com-rades retire, the state organs should be enriched by younger comrades in a bid to realize a smooth handover be-tween generations, increase vitality of the leading class and better handle new situations and tasks, Liu said.—Xinhua

Thai rosewood gets international protection to curb China trade

**BANGKOK, 13 March**—Thai rosewood, which fetches exorbitant prices on the international market, was granted protection under international law on Tuesday, with China the main target, but it was not immediately clear how much it will have.

A 1989 National Logging Ban also prohibits logging of all rosewood and other precious wood species in Thailand. But a weak enforcement means Thai rosewood is smuggled into neighboring countries and shipped to end-users, principally China.

Rosewood log-ging is dogged by violence and corruption fuelled by its high market price. Thai rosewood can fetch up to $50,000 per cubic meter. Even the smallest log is valuable. Last year, 45 Cambodian loggers were shot dead by Thai authorities while out searching for rosewood, according to the Cambodian govern-ment, although the Thai authorities dispute that figure. — Reuters

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Chinese soldiers killed in a gunfight with the Jaffna Police says.

The police found food, mobile telephones and clothes in the possession of the five asylum seekers who were preparing for the jour-ney to Australia. Under a plan announced by the Australian Foreign Min-istry, Australia is to provide Sri Lanka with additional surveillance and electronic equipment to expand the island’s capacity to target smuggling operations and better identify vessel depar-tures and locations.

A US computer secu-rity company said last month that a secretive Chinese military unit was likely behind a series of hacking attacks mostly targeting the United States.

China says it is willing to discuss cyber security with the US.

**SEATTLE, 13 March**—China offered on Tuesday to talk with the United States about cyber security amid an escalating war of words between the two sides on computer hacking, but suspicion is as deep in Beijing as it is in Washington about the accusations and counter-accusations. The world’s two leading econo-mies have been squaring off about the accusations and the US government denials of hacking.

**BEIJING, 13 March**—China is willing, on the basis of the principles of mutual respect and mutual-benefit, to discuss cyber issues with the United States.

Senior US government of-ficials interviewed at the ongoing annual meeting of China’s largely rubber-stamp parliament reiterated government denials of hav-ing anything to do with hacking.

“Talk from the US has no foundation whatso-ever”, said Mai Gen Liu Li-anhua from the Guangzhou Military District. “And what evidence is there? There isn’t any!”—Reuters

Part of the building of ‘Unit 61398’, is seen in the outskirts of Shanghai on 19 Feb, 2013. —Reuters

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**BEIJING, 13 March**—The change of China’s leadership for a new term of five years was formally initiated by the national legislature, with a candidate list discussed by the presidium of the first session of the 12th National People’s Congress (NPC) on Tuesday afternoon. Pre-sided over by Zhang Dejiang, the presidium’s executive chairman, the meeting made a decision that the list of 43 candidates for the 12th NPC Standing Committee chairman, vice chairpersons, secretary-general and members, as well as president and vice president of the People’s Republic of China and chairman and chief of the Central Military Commission of the PRC, will be tabled by the presidium to the NPC delegations for discussion and consultation.

The Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee has placed great importance on recommend-ing candidates for the state leadership positions, and has made an overall consideration when arranging the personnel changeover for the 18th CPC National Congress, fuelled political and professional qualifications, the CPC Central Committee has also called on whether the candidates would meet the requirements of the positions and improve the leadership’s lineup, Liu said.

The CPC Central Committee has maintained that after some senior com-rades retire, the state organs should be enriched by younger comrades in a bid to realize a smooth handover between generations, increase vitality of the leading class and better handle new situations and tasks, Liu said.—Xinhua

Chinese soldiers killed in a gunfight with the Jaffna Police says.

The police found food, mobile telephones and clothes in the possession of the five asylum seekers who were preparing for the journey to Australia. Under a plan announced by the Australian Foreign Ministry, Australia is to provide Sri Lanka with additional surveillance and electronic equipment to expand the island’s capacity to target smuggling operations and better identify vessel departures and locations.

A US computer security company said last month that a secretive Chinese military unit was likely behind a series of hacking attacks mostly targeting the United States.

China says it is willing to discuss cyber security with the US.

**SEATTLE, 13 March**—China offered on Tuesday to talk with the United States about cyber security amid an escalating war of words between the two sides on computer hacking, but suspicion is as deep in Beijing as it is in Washington about the accusations and counter-accusations. The world’s two leading economies have been squaring off about the accusations and the US government denials of hacking.

**BEIJING, 13 March**—China is willing, on the basis of the principles of mutual respect and mutual-benefit, to discuss cyber issues with the United States.

Senior US government officials interviewed at the ongoing annual meeting of China’s largely rubber-stamp parliament reiterated government denials of having anything to do with hacking.

“Talk from the US has no foundation whatsoever”, said Mai Gen Liu Lianhua from the Guangzhou Military District. “And what evidence is there? There isn’t any!”—Reuters

Part of the building of ‘Unit 61398’, is seen in the outskirts of Shanghai on 19 Feb, 2013.—Reuters

**BRISBANE, 12 March**—Proceedings initiated for China’s leadership change
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BBC RHINE VOY NO ( )
Consignees of cargo carried on MV BBC RHINE VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14-3-2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T. where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BBC CHARTERING & LOGISTIC CMG & COK
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (541)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (541) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14-3-2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T. where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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

Egypt refuse 750 million USD urgent aid loan from IMF

CAIRO, 13 March — Egypt’s Finance Minister Al-Morsy Hegazy said on Tuesday in a press statement that Egypt refused an urgent aid loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimated at 750 million US dollars.
The minister said that the government made the decision out of concerns that such an urgent loan could bring about risks on the national economy, adding that the Egyptian economy is on its way to recovery and stability. Hegazy also said that the Egyptian government has fulfilled the preparation of a reforming economic and social program, noting that Egypt, as a member in the IMF has the right of getting a loan tantamount to 300 percent of its share in the fund, which means about 4.8 billion US dollars. Egypt is currently struggling for a rescue loan of 4.8 billion US dollars from the IMF to survive a severe financial crisis created by two years of turmoil and instability following the upheaval in early 2011 that ousted former President Hosni Mubarak.

Walt Disney head seeks regulatory certainty for govt

Mumbai, 13 March — Asking for certainty in business environment in the country, global entertainment giant Walt Disney International Chairman Andy Bird today said clear policies and firm decisions can attract greater investment to India.

“It’s critical for everyone involved to at least understand what the rules of the marketplace are and to be fairly confident that those rules are not going to change unexpectedly,” Bird said in keynote address at the 14th edition of the Filmcity Frames here.—PTI

Eight killed, 120 wounded in attacks in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 13 March — A suicide bomber killed five people and wounded 120 others in northern Iraq on Monday, while three people were killed in two other attacks in central Iraq, the police said.
A suicide bomber blew up his explosive-laden car near the police headquarters in the town of al-Debas, some 45 km northwest of Kirkuk city, killing five people and wounding 120 others, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Three of the killed were policemen and some 65 of the wounded were students in a nearby secondary school, the source said.
The huge blast caused severe damages to the police headquarters as well as to the school and a government building, the source added.
The ethnic-mixed Province of Kirkuk and its capital Kirkuk City, some 250 km north of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, are part of the disputed areas between the Kurds and both Arabs and Turkomans.

In a separate incident, two civilians were killed by gunmen using silenced weapons in Sabie al-Bour area in north of Baghdad, an Interior Ministry source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

In Iraq’s eastern province of Diyala, gunmen on a motorcycle shot dead a blacksmith near the provincial capital city of Baquba, some 65 km northeast of Baghdad, a provincial police source anonymously told Xinhua.—Xinhua
**Bride wars? Brangelina, Jennifer Aniston’s wedding dates may clash**

LOS ANGELES, 13 March — Actress Jennifer Aniston-Justin Theroux’s wedding date is likely to clash with Brad Pitt-Ange- lina Jolie’s.

Brad Pitt, who was married to Aniston in the past, will reportedly obtain a marriage licence by end of this month, which will entitle him to marry within 90 days and this can be close to Aniston’s wedding date, which is yet to be announced.

“Brad and Angelina left themselves short of time to sort out their wedding because of the licence deadline. A few months is nothing when you’re planning a wedding especially one as major as theirs,” thesun.co.uk quoted a source as saying.

“Everything points to them getting married in May just after the Cannes Film Festival ends, because they’ve got their hearts set on tying the knot in France,” the source added.

If the wedding dates clash, there can be a split in Hollywood celebrities attending the two big weddings. “All that goodwill would go out the window if Brad’s wedding date comes close to hers. Jennifer will see it as an attempt to upstage her and there will be a battle over Hollywood guests,” a source said.

“Shes knows they will be judged on who had the better wedding by pulling in the biggest stars,” the source added.——PTI

**Justin Bieber concert in Portugal canceled**

LONDON, 13 March — Canadian singer Justin Bieber has canceled one of two planned concerts in Portugal this week, the venue in Lisbon said on its website on Monday.

A source close to the singer, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the cancellation was not linked to Bieber’s collapse on-stage in London last week, which forced the teen sensation to take a 20-min- ute break for oxygen and was forced to cancel the gig, which was added within a month.

“Due to unforeseen circumstances, Justin Bieber was forced to cancel the second performance in Por-
tugal, 12 March,” a state- ment said on the website of the Pavilhao Atlantico.

“The Canadian singer is eager to play for the Por-
tuguese fans on 11 March,” it added. Ticket holders for the canceled gig were entitled to a refund if they claimed it within a month.

The Bieber source did not give a reason for the cancellation, but local media in Portugal reported that tickets sales for the 12 March gig, which was added to his itinerary in Febru-
ary, were lower than organ- izers had hoped.

Bieber described his visit to London as a “rough week”. As well as the col-
lapse, the 19-year-old was caught on film in an expl- osive-flled altercation with a photographer, showed up nearly two hours late for a

show leading to widespread anger and was labeled a “pop brat” by a leading tab-
loid.

Discovered on You-
Tube in 2008, Bieber has built an online following of
tens of millions of fans and is one of the pop world’s biggest stars. In February, he became the youngest artist to land five chart-topping albums in the key US market.—Reuters

**Iron Man 3 to release in India before the US**

MUMBAI, 13 March — Superhero film Iron Man 3, starring Robert Downey Jr as industrialist Tony Stark aka Iron Man, will hit Indian screens on 26 April, a week before it releases in the US.

The third film in the series will see Stark embark on a journey of revenge as his world is reduced to rubble by a ma-
levolent enemy.

As he fights his way back, Stark dis-
"cover"s the answer to the question that has secretly haunted him: does the man make the suit or does the suit make the man?

Starring Robert Downey Jr, Gwyneth Paltrow, Don Cheadle, Guy Pearce, Re-
becca Hall, Stephanie Szostak, James

Bazad Dale with Jon Favreau and Ben Kingsley, Marvel’s Iron Man 3 is directed by Shane Black.

The screenplay is by Drew Pearce and Shane Black and is based on Marvel’s iconic Super Hero Iron Man, who first ap-
ppeared on the pages of Tales of Suspense in 1963 and had his solo comic book debut with The Invincible Iron Man in May of 1968.—PTI

**Barbara Walters denies reports Hasselbeck leaving “The View”**

NEW YORK, 13 March — Barbara Walters on Monday denied reports that Elisabeth Hasselbeck was leaving the daytime televi-
sion talk show “The View,” saying the co-host gave the show “perspective and balance.”

US Weekly magazine on Friday first reported Hasselbeck, 35, would leave the ABC talk show at the end of the season in August, citing an unnamed source who said Hasselbeck’s outsp-
oken conservative views did not attract enough viewers.

Deadline.com and the Hol-
lywood Reporter also re-
ported that Hasselbeck’s contract would not be re-
newed.

There is a particu-
larly false story that keeps getting picked up about Elisabeth’s alleged depar-
ture, saying that we don’t approve of her conservative views,” Walters, who cre-
ated the long-running talk show, said on Monday’s programme.

“Everything points to this as major as theirs,” the source added.——PTI

“The truth is we love Elisabeth. I like her person-
ally and she’s just a won-
derful person,” Walters said.

“But beyond that, we value and appreciate her point of view, it’s impor-
tant to us because Elis-
abeth helps give the show perspective and balance,” Walters said. “So we have no plans for Elisabeth to leave.”

ABC had previously released a statement following the reports saying only that Hasselbeck “is a valued member of ‘The View’ and has a long-term contract.”

Hasselbeck joined the long-running women-oriented talk show in 2003 and became known for her heated arguments with former co-host and liberal Ro-
ie O’Donnell. Co-host Joy Behar, who has been with the programme since its de-
burt in 1997, said on Thurs-
day that she would leave the show after the current season.—Reuters

If the two big fat weddings take place on the same day it may result in battle over Hollywood guests.—PTI

**Canadian pop star Justin Bieber is held back by a member of his security team as he confronts a photographer outside his hotel in central London in this still image taken from video on 8 March, 2013.**

**Television personality Barbara Walters arrives for the premiere of the film “Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps” in New York on 20 Sept, 2010.—Reuters**
Barcelona 13 March—A fired-up Lionel Messi answered his critics by inspiring Barcelona to a sensational Copa del Rey League comeback against AC Milan on Tuesday with two goals in a 4-0 home win to help them reach the quarter-finals. Barca, all-but written off after a surprise 2-0 reverse at Milan’s San Siro stadium in last week’s first leg, came storming back at the seven-times European Cup winners to progress 4-2 on aggregate after a memorable night.

They looked to Messi to spark a fightback and the four-times World Player of the Year did not disappoint with a scintillating display backed up by midfield trio Xavi, Andres Iniesta and Sergio Busquets and full-backs Jordi Alba and Daniel Alves.

Barca were ahead at the Nou Camp in the fifth minute through Messi’s brilliant curling effort and the Argentina forward, who has suffered rare criticism in recent weeks, levelled the tie on aggregate five minutes before halftime with a low drive. Barcelona ruthlessly dominated, with Milan struggling to get the ball out of their own half for long periods, and David Villa struck a third 10 minutes after the break before Jordi Alba netted a breakaway goal in the second minute of added time. Before Alba’s effort finally killed the tie, Milan had pressed forward looking for the goal that would send them through and there was a palpable release of tension in the giant arena when the Spanish fullback’s shot hit the back of the net before the celebrations began in earnest. Barca’s win makes them the first Copa del Rey Champions League to ever overturn a two-goal first leg deficit without the benefit of an away goal while only four sides had successfully fought back from a deficit of more than one goal.

“We started really fired up, as we always are,” Villa told Spanish television.

“The early goal helped us a lot, but it was something we looked for from the first minute,” added the Spain forward, who has struggled for form since returning from a broken leg which he suffered at the end of 2011. “We believed we could do it from the first minute, in fact from the final whistle of the last game,” he said.

“We are delighted for the fans. We always believed we could do it. For them, with them, and we have done it.”—Reuters

**Perfection once again within reach, says Kim**

Kevin Coughlin

Barcelona’s Lionel Messi (C) is challenged by AC Milan’s Riccardo Montolivo (R) and AC Milan’s Kevin Constant looks on during their Champions League round of 16 second leg soccer match at Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on 12 March, 2013.—Reuters

Barcelona, 13 March—Two competitions into her comeback, South Korean Olympic champion Kim Yuna believes figure skating perfection is once again within her reach as she returns to the world championship stage. Kim, who produced a flawless display and record scores to win gold at the 2010 Vancouver Winter Games, dazzled a riveting audience on Tuesday as she ran through her short programme offering flashes of the artistry and athleticism that made her a global sporting sensation.

“The Vancouver Olympics was the first competition ever where I completed my short and free programme without any mistakes,” Kim told reporters following her training session. “That in itself is a huge accomplishment.”

“Delivering a clean program requires a lot of practice and I truly believe that if I do practice a lot I can deliver such performance once again.”

Returning to the ice in a bid to defend her Olympic title next year at the Sochi Winter Games, Queen Yuna, as Kim is known to her legions of fans around the world, has displayed few signs of rust in her comeback.

After a 20-month absence, Kim made her long-awaited return to competition in December 2012.

Kim Yuna of South Korea skates during practice sessions at the ISU World Figure Skating Championships in London, Ontario, on 12 March, 2013.—Reuters

**Barca’s win makes them the first Copa del Rey Champions League to ever overturn a two-goal first leg deficit without the benefit of an away goal.**

**Bolt, Ennis win top Laureus awards**

Rio de Janeiro, 13 March—Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt and British heptathlete Jessica Ennis won the Laureus World Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year Award on Tuesday following their success at the 2012 London Olympic Games.

In recognition of the year award program went to Europe’s Ryder Cup team after their stunning victory over the United States at Medinah last September.

“Rafael Nadal was a fantastic player for ten years and he was one of the best in the world and his efforts and achievements have been extraordinary,” said Laureus Academy chairman chair Vladimir Potanin. “But if I had to choose between a tennis player and a football player, I would choose Bolt.”—Reuters

**Olympic gold medal sprinter Usain Bolt arrives for the 2013 NBA All-Star basketball game in Houston, Texas, on 17 Feb, 2013.**—Reuters

**Sharapova, Azarenka advance at Indian Wells**

Indian Wells, 13 March—Former champion Maria Sharapova raised her game when it mattered to storm into the BNP Paribas Open quarter-finals with a 7-5, 6-0 victory over Spaniard Lara Arruabarrena-Veicino on Tuesday.

Australian Open champion Victoria Azarenka also cruised into the last eight, pounding Poland’s Urszula Radwanska 6-3, 6-1 in a match lasting just under 90 minutes despite being hampered by a sore ankle.

Fifth seed Petra Kvitova advanced with a comfortable 6-2, 6-2 win over fellow Czech Klara Zakopalova but third seed Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland was knocked out, losing 6-1, 4-6, 7-5, 1-6.

### Indian Wells, 13 March—Former champion Maria Sharapova raises her game when it mattered to storm into the BNP Paribas Open quarter-finals with a 7-5, 6-0 victory over Spaniard Lara Arruabarrena-Veicino on Tuesday.

**Russian world number three Sharapova won a tight opening set then swept through the second in only 22 minutes to reach the quarter-finals at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden for a third consecutive year.**

The second seed will next meet Italy’s Sara Errani, a 6-3, 6-2 winner against Frenchwoman Marion Bartoli earlier in the day, in a rematch of last year’s French Open final clinched by the Russian.

“Stepped up my game in the second set,” Sharapova, who was champion here in 2006 and 2012 but lost to Errani last year, said courtside after wrapping up victory in one hour 18 minutes. “The first set was so up and down I had to buckle down, stepping into the returns and getting into a few more first serves. It was a slow start.”

**Maria Sharapova**

**McLaren’s Formula One driver Sergio Perez of Mexico drives during a training session at Circuit de Catalunya racetrack in Montmeló, near Barcelona, on 2 March, 2013.**—Reuters

McLaren’s Formula One driver Sergio Perez of Mexico drives during a training session at Circuit de Catalunya racetrack in Montmeló, near Barcelona, on 2 March, 2013.—Reuters

**Perez “desperate” for first win with McLaren**

London, 13 March—McLaren expect their new Formula One signing Sergio Perez to win races this season and the 23-year-old Mexican is “desperate” to do so. After two years with Sauber, Perez has moved up to one of the sport’s most successful teams as replacement for 2008 world champion Lewis Hamilton following the British’s departure for a new challenge with Mercedes.

“As a Formula One driver, you dream to win your first race. It’s something you have dreamed of all your life,” Perez told British reporters ahead of his McLaren debut in Sunday’s Melbourne season-opener.

“I have no idea what it feels like. I have to be honest, I am desperate for winning. I haven’t won a race yet in my (F1) career so I am desperate to get a win,” he added.

“But when I ... start the season I will just drive normally, I will not be driving desperately to get my win. I need to be consistent, I need to score points and know the win will come at some point.”

Perez has not scored a point since he was announced as McLaren’s new signing, a run of six races since he was 10th in Singapore last September.

Before that he had chalked up three podiums, including two second places, for a solid mid-table Swiss team who make the most of their limited resources but rarely challenge for victories.
**Fourteen dead, eight injured in China bus crash**

China’s Hubei Province on Tuesday evening. Two of the injured are in critical condition, the health bureau in Jingzhou City said in a Press release on Wednesday morning. Emergency treatment continued overnight, but doctors are uncertain if they will survive, it said. Of the other six injured, the release said four cases are serious but stable.

The double-decker coach, owned by a transport company in Enshi, went through the guardrail of the Jingzhou Yangtze River Bridge and hit the ground at around 7 pm. The vehicle had 36 seats and was carrying 22 people from the provincial capital Wuhu to Enshi. Authorities are yet to identify the victims, most of whom were migrants. An investigation has been launched.—Xinhua

**Uruguay tries to curb hooliganism with generosity**

Montevideo, 13 March—Uruguay an Interior Minister Eduardo Bonomi on Tuesday said the government gave away tickets to soccer matches to foster goodwill between rival fans. “We are betting that a sense of cooperation will prevail,” said Bonomi, in a radio interview.

Days ago, a controversy brewed after fans have run-ins with fans of visiting Argentine team Velez. Bonomi, who has come under fire from some opposition legislators for the unusual tactic to curb soccer hooliganism, said some fans simply prefer confrontation to cooperation. Violent clashes between rival fans have killed at least five people in the last two decades in Uruguay.—Xinhua

**Djokovic, Murray into last 16 at Indian Wells**

INDIAN Wells, (California) 13 March—Australian Open champion Novak Djokovic recovered from a poor start while third seed Andy Murray displayed much sharper form as they both advanced to the fourth round of the BNP Paribas Open on Tuesday.

Top seed Djokovic beat Bulgaria’s Grigor Dimitrov 7-6, 6-1 in an error-strewn match on the Stadium Court in hot afternoon conditions at Indian Wells before Scotsman Murray overcame Taiwan’s Lu Yen-Hsun 6-3, 6-2 in an evening encounter.

Seventh seed Juan Martin Del Potro of Argentina brushed aside Germany’s Bjorn Phau 6-2, 7-5 while eighth-seeded Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga withstood a first set by furry fish to overcome the American 7-6, 7-6. Djokovic came from 2-5 down to win his opening set 7-4 on the tiebreak, then broke his opponent’s serve in the second and sixth games of the second set to seal victory in just over an hour. Dimitrov, who at 21 was the youngest player left in the draw, made four double faults when serving for the first set at 5-3 and his challenge then quickly folded. Serb Djokovic extended his winning streak to 20 matches, his last defeat coming in October to big-serving American Sam Querrey in the second round of the ATP Masters 1000 event in Paris.

Intriguingly the pair will meet again in the last 16 at Indian Wells, Querrey having scripted past Australian Marinko Matosevic 7-6, 6-7, 6-5 earlier in the day. “I tried to hang in there and stay in the match,” a relieved Djokovic said courtside after improving his record for the year to 15-0. “I started very bad, very poor. He served very well but he made four double faults at 5-3 and got me back into the match. He made a lot of unforced errors and I just had to get the ball back in the court.”

Asked about the challenge of Querrey in the fourth round, Djokovic replied: “It will be very interesting. He won our last encounter in Paris a few months ago. He has a very big serve.” World number three Murray was delighted to gain revenge against Lu, who beat the Scot in their only previous meeting, in the first round of the 2008 Beijing Olympics. “It was a tough match,” Murray said after breaking his opponent’s serve twice in each set while also having to battle hard to hold his own serve early on.—Reuters

Djokovic of Serbia returns a shot against Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria during their men’s singles match at the BNP Paribas Open ATP tennis tournament in Indian Wells, California, on 12 March, 2013.—Reuters

**“Star Trek” rifle, Green Hornet’s car lead Hollywood auction**

LOS ANGELES, 13 March—A futuristic prop “Star Trek” rifle, Superman’s suit and Green Hornet’s car are to survive the production of the film. The rifle and car will be joining more than 800 lots of items from the “Hollywood Legends” auction spanning decades of Hollywood film history.

A hot collector item is a Superman flying outfit, with red cape and boots, worn by late actor Christopher Reeve in “Superman IV,” and expected to fetch between $20,000 and $30,000.

Items belonging to Marilyn Monroe, including a cocktail dress and collections of photographs from films and model shoots, are also on the auction block. These include the brown wool cocktail dress is expected to pull in between $5,000 and $7,000, while photographs from the actress’s famous “last sitting” shoot before her death in 1962 are priced up to $600.

A collection of late actress Brittany Murphy’s personal and film-set effects, including movie scripts, love letters, designer gowns, passports and inimitable photos shot by her husband Simon Monjack, is expected to fetch between $400 and $3,000.—Reuters
Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham attends 6th CLMV Summit

Presidential Palace, Vientiane of Laos yesterday.

It was also attended by Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen, Laotian Prime Minister Mr Thongsing Thammavong, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, the Vietnamese Prime Minister and the ASEAN Secretary-General made discussions. Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, in his address, said CLMV have become more developed by promoting cooperation in the social, economic and culture sectors of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam.

He affirmed that Myanmar would make close cooperation with rest of the countries. He continued to say that he has chance to hold discussions with the partner countries on speeding up CLMV cooperation at the summit. He recognized respective departments’ successful implementation of projects for 2015 ASEAN Community, especially fourth economic ministerial meeting held in Cambodia in August, 2012.

He also hailed successful holding of first CLMV tourism ministerial meeting, implementation of tourism industry for 2013-2015 and joint declaration held in Vietnam in September, 2012. He also applauded successful test-run of ACMECS Single Visa Scheme between Cambodia and Thailand.

It is heartening to see progress in trade, investment, cooperation of agriculture, industry, energy, transport and ICT and human resource development, he added.

Friendship Bridge project between Myanmar and Laos will be materialized soon. The bridge would contribute to development of tourism industry and trade in the region as well as the golden triangle region.

To be a leading country in agriculture, industry and energy sectors, Myanmar is making efforts for promoting cooperation of these sectors. Myanmar is also making efforts not only for regional food sufficiency but also for world food sufficiency.

He said that Myanmar has already enacted the new CLMV (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam) Ministerial Meeting held in Cambodia in August, 2012.

Nay Pyi Taw, 13 March—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham took part in the 6th CLMV Summit at Don Chan Palace in Vientiane of Laos yesterday.

It was also attended by Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen, Laotian Prime Minister Mr Thongsing Thammavong, Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Nguyen Tan Dung, ASEAN Secretary-General Mr Le Luong Minh, ministries, deputy ministers, high-ranking officials and businessmen from CLMV countries.

Prime Minister of Laos Mr Thongsing Thammavong delivered an inaugural address. The Laotian Prime Minister, the Cambodian Prime Minister, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, the Vietnamese Prime Minister and the ASEAN Secretary-General made discussions.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, in his address, said CLMV have become more developed by promoting cooperation in the social, economic and culture sectors of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam.

He affirmed that Myanmar would make close cooperation with rest of the countries. He continued to say that he has chance to hold discussions with the partner countries on speeding up CLMV cooperation at the summit.

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Nay Pyi Taw, 13 March—U Nyan Tun, Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received representatives of Executive Boards of the United Nations led by Brazilian Ambassador Mr Antonino Marques Porto at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, this morning.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Ministers U Win Myint, Dr Myo Myint and Dr Daw Thein Htay and departmental officials. The UN delegation was accompanied by UN Resident Coordinator to Myanmar Mr Ashok Nigam.

At the call, they discussed cooperation with UN Agencies for realizing the UN Millennium Development Goals and contributions of the UN agencies to development of social and economic sectors of Myanmar in the reform process.

Nay Pyi Taw, 13 March—Vice-President U Nyan Tun receives representatives from UN Executive Boards.

Union Commerce Minister holds talks with US guests

Nay Pyi Taw, 13 March—Union Commerce Minister U Win Naing extended greetings.

Next, the chief minister and officials formally cut the ribbon to open the medical equipment showrooms.

Later, the post-graduate course on hepatology followed.

Yangon, 13 March—French-Myanmar Postgraduate Course on Hepatology conducted.

Chairman Professor U Win Naing extended greetings.

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