

President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Bulgarian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Rosen Plevneliev, President of the Republic of Bulgaria, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Bulgaria, which falls on 3 March 2013.—MNA

Our Three Main National Causes

- * Non-disintegration of the Union
- * Non-disintegration of National Solidarity
- * Perpetuation of Sovereignty

Political reform process is being implemented by means of all inclusiveness of all political parties and peace-making with national races armed groups



NAY PYI TAW, 2 March—President U Thein Sein arrived at Helsinki International Airport of Finland yesterday morning via Oslo of Norway.

The President and party were welcomed at the Airport by Myanmar Ambassador to Finland U Soe Nwe, Finnish Ambassador to Myanmar Ms Sirpa Maenpaa, Head of Protocol department of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland Ms Tiina Myllyntausta and officials.

In the afternoon, the President held discussions with Finnish President Mr Sauli Niinisto, at Presidential Palace in Helsinki.

It was also attended by the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, the Union ministers, the deputy ministers,

departmental heads, Finnish Foreign Minister Mr Erkki Tuomioja and high-ranking officials.

The Finnish President said that he welcomed Myanmar's President on his first-ever visit to Finland and Myanmar's democratic reform processes under the leadership of his counterpart. Finland wanted to extend a helping hand to Myanmar's political and economic reforms, peace-making processes and human resources development tasks.

President U Thein Sein for his part replied that both countries have established diplomatic ties since 1954 although both countries are far from each other in terms of the geographical location. The establishment of diplomatic relations was going to turn 60 years. Due to the different political systems practiced over past 20 years, relations between the two countries were cool. Thanks to Myanmar's democracy system, more cooperation between the

two countries would be seen.

Political reform process is being implemented by means of all inclusiveness of all political parties and peace-making with national races armed groups. Peace-making process is the most challenging one. He highlighted government's efforts from ceasefire to eternal peace by holding political talks. Political talks with national races could be held. Rehabilitation tasks called for donor countries' assistance. For economic development, Myanmar needed international's aids for capital, technology, human resource development.

The Finnish President also said that Finland was a Paris Club member country and had already written off 50 percent of debt Myanmar owed to. In 2014, Euro 6.5 million would be granted for Myanmar's development tasks. He pleaded that Finland would assist in establishment of good governance, rule of

law and peace-making processes in Myanmar.

After the meeting, both leaders met the press. Finnish President hosted a lunch to the Myanmar President and party.

In the evening, the President met Noble Laureate former Finnish President Mr Martti Ahtisaari at Finland Foreign Ministry.

The President explained Myanmar's current reform processes and peace-making processes with national races armed groups.

The former President discussed Crisis Management Initiative Group's urging EU to engage with Myanmar in 2006, his role played in international peace-making processes and assistance in Myanmar's peace-making processes.

In the evening, International Development Minister Ms Heidi Hautala hosted a dinner to the Myanmar delegation at Presidential Palace.

MNA

President U Thein Sein shakes hands with Finnish President Mr Sauli Niinisto at Presidential Palace in Helsinki.

MNA



President U Thein Sein and Finnish President Mr Sauli Niinisto meet the press after the meeting at Presidential Palace in Helsinki.—MNA

Hotel services, telecommunication facilities discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March—Shan State Government and Inlay Region hoteliers held a meeting at the hall of Shan State Government Office in Taunggyi on 21 February morning.

Chief Minister U

Sao Aung Myat of Shan State made a speech, and Secretary of the Shan State Government U Ye Naing Aung reported on progress of hotel services in Inlay region. Officials replied to queries raised by entrepreneurs from

hotels. The state government officials and departmental officials explained general round discussions.

On 22 February, the Shan State government and Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications held a coordination meeting at the office of Shan State Manager of MPT in Taunggyi. Their discussions focused on progress of telecommunication matters.

Myanma Alinn

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker's Cup Football Tourney commences

PYAWBWE, 2 March—The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker's Cup Men's Open Football Tournament was kicked off at the people's sports ground in Pyawbwe on 26 February afternoon.

Among the spectators were Mandalay Region Hluttaw representative U Tin Oo, Deputy Township Administrator U Kyaw Soe Lin and staff, departmental officials, members of the football tournament organizing committee and

referees and contending football teams.

Mandalay Region Hluttaw representative U Tin Oo and Deputy Township Administrator U Kyaw Soe Lin made speeches.

Eight ward and village football teams are taking part in the tournament from 26 February to 19 March.

Cash awards are K 400,000 for the first prize, K 300,000 for the second and K 100,000 for the third.

Myanma Alinn



Stimulant tablets seized in Mawlamyine

MAWLAMYINE, 2 March—A team led by IP Maung Maung Kyaw of Criminal Supporting Section of Mon State Police Force searched Myo Thura Naing (a) Naung Naung sitting near the strand road of Ngwe Moe Hotel in Mayangon Ward of Mawlamyine at 11.30 am on 15 February.

The authorities seized 170 WY brand stimulant

tablets in Dunhill brand cigarette box, weighing 17 grams, one mobile phone from his short sleeve shirt and K 22,300.

According to his confession, the authorities together with witnesses searched a building in Pabedan Ward and seized 123 WY brand pink stimulant tablets, 66 R brand stimulant tablets and one WY brand

green stimulant tablet weighing 190 grams. The drug trafficker managed to escape from the scene.

Myoma Police Station opened files of lawsuit against Myo Thura Naung (a) Naung Naung, 31 of Mayangon Ward and the person who escaped from the scene under Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Myanma Alinn

Summer golf course 4 March

YANGON, 2 March—With the aim of turning out new generation golfers for the State, the summer golf course will be conducted

at I Win Golf Academy of Yangon City Development Committee in Yangon as of 4 March. Experienced coach U Hsan Tun (PGA

Golf Professional) and other coaches will give training to the trainees.

The fee for training was K 50,000.—Myanma Alinn

Mudita Clinic provides health care to people

YWANGAN, 2 March—Mudita free clinic, built by Sayadaw Bhaddanta Puññavara of Thiri Mingala Monastery of Hse Village in Ywangan Township of Danu Self-Administered Zone, was opened at the clinic on 23 February.

Myogyi Sayadaw gave words of advice for the opening of clinic.

The wellwisher Sayadaw, member of Leading Body of Danu Self-Administered Zone U Ko Ko, Township Administrator U Phone Htet Naing Myint and Township Medical Officer Dr Aye Lwin formally opened the clinic.

After that, the medical

officer and nurses provided health care services to 40 older persons. The clinic was opened with the aim of providing necessary pharmaceuticals to the aged of above 65 years old and cash assistance to needy people.

Myanma Alinn

Motorcyclist killed by truck after knocking down dog on Yangon-Mandalay Highway

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March—A motorcyclist was killed by a truck after falling off his bike that hit a dog crossing on Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway near Winpyan village at about 6 pm on 25 February.

The motorbike driven by Aung Ko Min from Pyinmana to Tatkon knocked down a dog crossing on the road and he fell off his bike on the opposite lane where he was hit by the 10-wheeled truck driving from Tatkon to

Pyinmana. He was died of the head injury on the spot.

"No damage to the motorbike. The crash helmet was found tied on the bike. If the victim had worn his crash helmet, he would not have been killed in the road accident. Now the truck that hit the motorcyclist without a crash helmet was being kept at Bawgathiri bus terminal. The name of the driver is under investigation," says a local.—Kyemon

Mechanical Training Schools turn out technicians

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March—Union Minister for Industry U Aye Myint arrived at Mechanical Training School (Hsinde) near Hsinde Village of Padaung Township in Bago Region on 17 February.

The Union Minister viewed learning of trainees at drawing room, electrical fitter shop, electrical machine maker shop, motor vehicle shop, pattern maker shop, machinery fitter shop and machine tool operator shop. After inspecting offices, hostels, mess hall and compound of the school, the Union Minister gave necessary instructions to officials.

The training school has turned out 3292 trainees with

the assistance of GIZ agency of Germany since 1877 and created job opportunities for the youths. The school admits 200 trainees a year to provide eight subjects to them.

The Ministry of Industry has established Mechanical Training School (Mandalay) with the technology of

Township DAC gets 5% of tax

NYAUNGSHWE, 2 March—Nyaungshwe Township Internal Revenue Department handed over five per cent from the tax to the Township Development Affairs Committee on 22 February.

Five per cent tax, accounting for K 2,667,700 has been collected as first quarters from tax payers. The second and third quarters for tax worth K 4.1 million were handed over to the Township DAC.

The ceremony was attended by Township Administrator U Soe Win Naing, Executive Officer U Kyaw Zin of Township Development Affairs Committee, Head of Township Internal Revenue Department U Nay Lin Aye and departmental officials.

Myanma Alinn



MNA

WORLD



The United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (C) attends a Press conference of the Human Rights Council's 22nd Session in Geneva, Switzerland, on 1 March, 2013. The United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Friday urged both sides of the Syrian conflict to take the "very small window of opportunity" to hold talks to end the nearly two-year-old crisis. XINHUA

Main Macedonian parties reach deal to end political crisis

SKOPJE, 2 March—With the help of a European Union delegation, Macedonian parties on Friday reached a deal to end the political crisis plaguing the country in the last two months and threatening its EU ambition.

The deal was reached after hours of meeting among European Enlargement Commissioner Stefan Fule, European Parliament's Rapporteur on Macedonia Richard Howitt, former president of the European Parliament Jerzy Buzek, Macedonian President Gjorgje Ivanov, Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski and leader of the oppositional SDSM Branko Crvenkovski.

As part of the deal, the opposition parties led by the social-democrats SDSM will not boycott the local elections set for 24 March and their MPs will return to the parliament. An agreement for early parliamentary elections should be reached by September.

"The agreement also includes setting joint ad hoc commission that will investigate the incidents in the parliament. The issue for

early general election has to be discussed after the local elections," Howitt said after the meeting.

The opposition was demanding early general elections, arguing that the government had lost its legitimacy to rule after SDSM lawmakers were thrown out of the assembly last December when they tried to block the vote for the 2013 budget law.

The incident caused the opposition MPs to leave the parliament and led to two-month-long protests on the streets. Ivanov and the EU officials expressed satisfaction for the agreement.

"I'm pleased with the positive attitude of the leaders of all political parties that have decided to bring back on track the European agenda of the country," Ivanov said.

"We are pleased to see that the political leaders have finally been able to show their political responsibility and courage to agree on a solution," the EU trio said in a joint statement.

XINHUA



Construction workers and engineers examine rail tracks in the Huzhou Railway Station in Huzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province, on 26 Feb, 2013. The 150-kilometre Hangzhou-Ningbo high-speed railway linking Hangzhou and Ningbo, two hub cities in Zhejiang, commenced its integration test here on Friday.—XINHUA

Assad forces take Aleppo village, reopening supply line

BEIRUT, 2 March—Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's forces seized a village southeast of the city of Aleppo on Friday, reopening a supply line to the country's biggest city where they have been battling rebels for eight months, a monitoring group said.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the capture of Tel Shghaib marked the last step to creating a land supply route north into Aleppo from Hama Province, crucial for Assad's forces who have lost control of part of the main north-south highway.

Activists reported another day of fierce fighting around Aleppo, including the military airport at Nairab, three miles north of Tel Shghaib which Assad's forces retook. "It's a significant gain for the regime," the British-based Observatory's director Rami Abdelrahman said

Putin, Obama agree to work closely on Syria, Mideast peace

Moscow, 2 March — Russian President Vladimir Putin and his US counterpart Barack Obama on Friday agreed to work closely on Syria and the Middle East peace process, the Kremlin said.

The two leaders made the pledge when they had a telephone conversation on Friday, the Kremlin's Press service said.

"The leaders agreed to work closely together on high-profile issues related to Syria, the Middle East

peace process," the Kremlin's Press service said.

"The leaders shared the common desire to avoid steps capable of negatively affecting bilateral relations," it said, without giving further details.

The press service said Putin reaffirmed his invitation to Obama for an official visit to Russia.

"The presidents agreed to have a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the G8 summit in Northern Ireland," it added.—Xinhua

of the army's push north, which reversed many rebel advances when they moved south into Hama from Aleppo Province at the end of last year.

The United Nations says 70,000 people have been killed, nearly a million

of broader Middle East conflict, would fall apart if the government and rebels keep fighting instead of seeking a negotiated peace.

US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Thursday Washington would provide non-lethal aid including



Boys are pictured through a broken windshield as they stand on a street in Aleppo on 28Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

have fled the country and millions more have been displaced or need aid.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said on Friday that Syria, a major Arab state on the fault lines

medical supplies and food to rebel fighters, as well as \$60 million to help the civilian opposition provide services including security, education and sanitation.

Reuters

German lower house passes tighter copyright protection bill

BERLIN, 2 March—The German Bundestag, or lower house of the parliament, approved a bill on Friday to tighten copyright protection for material used on the Internet.

Lawmakers voted in favor of the copyright law by a vote of 293 to 243, with three abstentions. It is now up to the upper house of the parliament to vote for the bill's final approval.

According to the new legislation, publishers retain the exclusive right of use of their online content for one year, requiring internet search engines to acquire a licence in order to republish original content.

Guenter Krings, vice-chairman of Chancellor Angela Merkel's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) parliamentary group, cited financial losses for publications as the reason to update the current copyright law in the age of the Internet.

"This wasn't necessary when papers used to appear only in print form," said Krings.

However, the bill allows the use of "single words or small text passages" without royalties, easing search engines' concerns that the law would charge them for displaying search results with snippets of original text. But the length of one such free-of-charge snippet is not defined in the bill.

Xinhua

Kenyan leader appeals for peace ahead of Monday polls

NAIROBI, 2 March—Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki on Friday appealed to citizens to vote peacefully and help determine the future of the nation, saying peace is the cornerstone of the country's development.

In a televised address to the nation, Kibaki who is not eligible for re-election after serving for 10 years into office, emphasized that Kenyans must consolidate the development strides the country has made by ensuring a free, fair, just and peaceful election.

"This Monday, you, as a voter have a date with destiny. By voting, you decide the leadership that will manage your hopes

and aspirations. In casting your vote, you will be exercising your democratic right and taking your place in history," he said.

Some 14.3 million Kenyans are due to vote on Monday elections which are regarded as one of the most significant event in the history of this country because they will be the very first to be held since the 2007/2008 post election violence, when, within a seven-week period following the polls, and as a direct consequence of the contested results.

The elections are also significant because they will be the very first to be organized under

Kenya's 2010 Constitution, which provides for safeguards against unfair, insecure, corrupted, non transparent or inefficiently administrated elections.

Already, the country's security agencies and the electoral body charged with overseeing the 4 March polls have confirmed their readiness for the exercise.

However, despite the eagerness to vote, fear of election violence erupting in the East African nation is growing as the clock ticks towards 4 March.

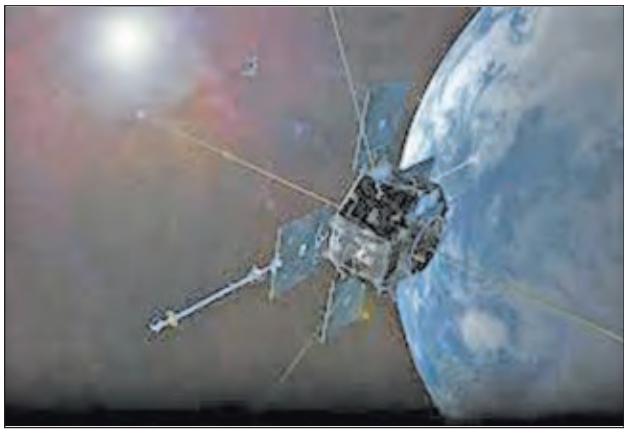
Kibaki noted that every election produces winners and losers and appealed to those who shall be declared winners to embrace victory

with humility and begin the journey of serving the people in earnest.

"Let us send a clear message to the world that our democracy has come of age. A peaceful vote is a vote for a secure, prosperous and stable Kenya. Remember Monday 4 March is your date with destiny. Cast your vote and keep the peace," he added.

President Kibaki called on all Kenyans to play their individual roles through tolerance and by embracing peace. "To those who will not win, your country still needs you. There are many other roles you can play in our development endeavors." —Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



NASA probes reveal new radiation belt around Earth

WASHINGTON, 2 March—The Van Allen Probes mission has discovered a previously unknown third radiation belt around Earth, US space agency NASA announced on Thursday.

Previous observations of Earth's Van Allen belts have long documented two distinct regions of trapped radiation surrounding our planet. Particle detection instruments aboard the twin Van Allen Probes, launched on 30 August, revealed the existence of this new, transient radiation belt. Scientists observed the third belt for four weeks before a powerful interplanetary shock wave from the sun annihilated it.

The belts, named for their discoverer, James Van Allen, are critical regions for modern society, which is dependent on many space-based technologies.

The Van Allen belts are affected by solar storms and space weather and can swell dramatically. When this occurs, they can pose dangers to communications and GPS satellites, as well as humans in space.

"The fantastic new capabilities and advances in technology in the Van Allen Probes have allowed scientists to see in unprecedented detail how the radiation belts are populated with charged particles and will provide insight on what causes them to change, and how these processes affect the upper reaches of Earth's atmosphere," NASA's Associate Administrator for Science John Grunsfeld said in a statement.

The findings were also published online on Thursday in the journal *Science*.

Xinhua

Facebook buys Microsoft ad technology platform

SAN FRANCISCO, 2 March—Facebook Inc said on Thursday it had agreed to buy advertising technology from Microsoft Corp that measures the effectiveness of ads on its website, which should help in its fight with Google Inc for online advertising revenue.

Under the long-rumored transaction, Facebook will purchase the Atlas Advertiser Suite, an ad management and measurement platform that Microsoft took on with its \$6.3 billion acquisition of digital ad agency aQuantive in 2007. Facebook did not say how much it paid for the technology. Unable to make it work for its own purposes, Microsoft wrote off \$6.2 billion of the aQuantive deal's value last year.

Facebook has long been dogged by doubts about the effectiveness of its ads and was embarrassed just days before its initial public offering in May when General Motors Co declared it was



The Facebook logo is pictured in the Facebook headquarters in Menlo Park, California on 29 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

pulling the plug on all paid advertising on Facebook's network.

Since then, Facebook has introduced a number of tools and partnerships to prove to marketers that advertising on its social network delivers enough bang for the buck.

Brian Boland, Facebook's director of monetization product marketing, said the purchase of Atlas was not a step toward creating a much wider ad network beyond the

Facebook site, but analysts believe that is Facebook's ultimate goal.

"Although the statement announcing the deal focused on Atlas' measurement tools rather than its ad targeting technology, we expect that Atlas will soon be using Facebook's data to target sponsorships, in-stream ads, and other rich ad formats across the entire web, and that's big news," said Forrester analyst Nate Elliott.

Reuters

Facebook, Google tech gurus to design cancer research game

LONDON, 2 March—Scientists from a British cancer charity are teaming up with technology gurus from the likes of Amazon, Facebook and Google to design and develop a mobile game aimed at speeding the search for new cancer drugs.

The project, led by the charity Cancer Research UK, should mean that anyone with a smart phone and five minutes to spare will be able to investigate vital scientific data at the same time as playing a mobile game.

The first step is for 40 computer programmers, gamers, graphic designers and other specialists to take part in a weekend "GameJam" to turn the charity's raw genetic data into a game format for future so-called "citizen scientists".

"We're making great progress in understanding the genetic reasons cancer develops. But the clues to why some drugs will work and some won't are held in data which need to be analyzed by the human eye—and this could take years," said Carlos Caldas at Cancer Research UK's Cambridge Institute.

"By harnessing the collective power of citizen scientists we'll accelerate

the discovery of new ways to diagnose and treat cancer much more precisely."

After the GameJam, which runs in London from 1-3 March, an agency will build the game concept into reality and the team plans to launch it in mid 2013.

Cancer already kills more than 7.5 million people

targeted way based on their genetic profile and that of their tumors. In a major international study on breast cancer genetics published last year, CRUK researchers said they are now able to classify the disease into 10 subtypes—a finding that could lead to more accurate and tailored treatment in



A worker prepares the Cancer Research UK Garden ahead of the opening of the Chelsea Flower Show 2011 on Tuesday, in London in this file photo taken on 22 May, 2011.—REUTERS

a year and the number of people with the disease worldwide is expected to surge by more than 75 percent by 2030, according to the World Health Organization's cancer agency IARC.

CRUK's scientists are working hard to identify the genetic faults that drive cancer to try to find new ways of diagnosing and treating patients in a more

future.

That study also found several completely new genes that drive breast cancer, offering potential targets for new types of drugs.

Yet this type of research generates colossal amounts of data that need to be analyzed, CRUK said as it announced the gaming project.

Reuters

EU aims to prevent astronomically costly crashes in space

BARCELONA, 2 March—A new EU-wide system to track satellites could help reduce collisions with orbiting space debris, crashes that cost operators millions and could knock out mobile and GPS networks. The system, proposed by the European Union's executive, aims to help monitor dangerous space junk and alert satellite operators to collision risks ahead of time, the European Commission said on Friday.

The EU could get a "big bang" for its buck, since last-minute course changes to satellites are estimated to cost operators 140 million euros each year, with that cost expected to rise over 10 years. When satellites aren't able to move out of the way in time, impacts can damage delicate electronics and reduce their operational life. They can also disrupt mobile phone calls, cause flight cancellations and interfere with weather forecasts.

The proposal would help EU member states combine their space surveillance

systems and encourage them to invest in new technology.

Setting up and operating the service will cost roughly 10 million euros a year and could be up and running by 2016, a Commission spokeswoman said. She said the EU will pay this cost, in the hope that it spurs around 50 million euros in further investment from member states in new technology like radar, telescopes, and data centres.

Space debris includes any man-made litter left in space parts of rocket launchers, inactive satellites and broken pieces from past collisions.—Reuters



Long March-7 rocket's maiden launch hopefully in 2014

BEIJING, 2 March—China's indigenous carrier rocket Long March-7 hopefully will make its first launch in 2014, a senior official of the rocket's designing institute said on Friday.

Liang Xiaohong, Party chief of the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology, made the remarks during an exclusive interview with Xinhua.

The Long March-7 rocket, of which key technological break-throughs have been made in the design and production, is expected to be one of China's backbone carrier rockets for the nation's future space missions, he said.

Xinhua

China to use new rocket for moon landing mission

BEIJING, 2 March—A rocket expert said on Friday that China has developed a modified model of Long March-3B carrier rocket for an upcoming moon landing mission to be completed by the Chang'e-3 moon orbiter.

The orbiter's structure and size are considerably different than those of its predecessors, requiring some modifications for the carrier rocket, according to Liang Xiaohong, Communist Party of China (CPC) chief of the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology.

With its improved design, the modified model of March-3B carrier rocket has greater reliability and carrying capacity, Liang said. The Chang'e-3 is scheduled to be launched in the latter half of the year.

Xinhua

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Screening might avert many lung cancer deaths

NEW YORK, 2 March —A calculation based on results from a large lung cancer screening trial projects that 12,000 deaths a year among the highest-risk smokers and ex-smokers in the US could be avoided with a national screening programme.

The National Lung Screening Trial, published in 2010, found 20 percent fewer deaths from lung cancer in a group of people at highest risk for the disease when they were screened annually with CT scans, a form of high-resolution X-ray that can spot suspicious lung nodules.

Based on the 8.6 million Americans who would fall into that high-risk category because of a decades-long history of smoking, researchers at the American Cancer Society say in a new study that 12,000 fewer people a year would die of lung cancer if national screening were put

in place.

"This is the first paper that attempts to assess the impact of screening on lung cancer cases nationally," one of the authors, Ahmedin Jemal, told *Reuters Health*. "Twelve thousand is a lot of cases," he said.

In the National Lung

example by smoking 20 cigarettes a day for 30 years, or 40 cigarettes a day for 15 years—were considered to be at the highest risk for lung cancer.

The 20 percent reduction in deaths among people in that category in the trial was "a singular, enormous

"That was a pivotal event that should have woken people up," said Kessler, who also wrote an editorial accompanying the new study in the journal *Cancer*.

To put a number on the potential benefits demonstrated in the NLST, the American Cancer Society researchers used US census and health survey data to calculate the number of Americans at highest risk for lung cancer.

About 60,000 of those people die from lung cancer every year, according to their estimates, which could be reduced to 48,000 if every one of those people had a CT scan to identify early-stage nodules that could be removed surgically.

A national screening program would represent a breakthrough in the battle against lung cancer, which kills about 160,000 people in the US every year, the researchers argue.

Reuters



Cigarette butts in an ashtray in Los Angeles,

California.—REUTERS

Screening Trial, current or former smokers between the ages of 55 and 74 who had accumulated 30 "pack-years" of smoking—for

accomplishment" said Larry Kessler, of the University of Washington in Seattle, who studies the diagnostic value of screening technologies.

China says it could tighten property controls

BEIJING, 2 March—China could increase required downpayments and loan rates for buyers of second homes in cities where prices are rising too quickly, the State Council said on Friday in the central government's latest move to contain housing costs.

Local governments must set home price control

targets in the first quarter, the central government said in a statement on its website, www.gov.cn.

The State Council, China's cabinet, on 20 February restated its intention to extend a pilot property tax program to more cities and urged local authorities to put price-control targets on new homes, in an effort to calm

real estate markets.

"Currently the property tightening campaign is at a critical stage, sentiment on rising home prices have strengthened," on Friday's statement said.

In February, average home prices in China's 100 biggest cities rose for the ninth straight month although the pace of increase slowed, a private survey showed on Friday.

Rising home prices have reignited concerns about property inflation and analysts say local governments may announce plans to tighten property purchases after Beijing reiterated its pledge to calm the house market. Currently, minimum downpayments for second homes are 60 percent of a home's value while mortgage rates for such purchases are 1.1 times the central bank's benchmark interest rates.—Reuters



A man walks past a wall at a construction site at a new residential area in Beijing on 27 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS

Chinese power firm's emissions trading reaps millions

TAIYUAN, 2 March —A Chinese power generating firm that uses coal-bed methane as materials announced on Friday that it received 278 million yuan (44 million US dollars) in 2012 through participating in an emissions trading scheme that forms part of the Kyoto Protocol. The Shanxi Jincheng Anthracite Mining Group (JAMG), based in China's largest coal-producing Province of Shanxi, generated 1.4 billion

kilowatt hours of electricity last year with natural methane gas extracted from coal beds, according to the company.

Coalbed methane is a byproduct of coal, and a major danger in coal mines. If it is explored, coal mines will have methane content slashed by 70 percent to 85 percent and become much safer. As a clean energy source close to natural gas, coalbed methane can be used as industrial chemical, a domestic fuel and for electricity generation.

Through the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) defined in the Kyoto Protocol, the JAMG sold its certified emission reduction credits, each equivalent to one tonne of carbon dioxide, to industrialized nations needing to meet emission reduction targets under the protocol. The JAMG has 91 gas turbine generators with an installed capacity of 189 megawatts, 138 megawatts of which belong to the CDM project.—Xinhua

One in five US adult smokers have tried e-cigarettes

WASHINGTON, 2 March—In 2011, about 21 percent of American adults who smoke traditional cigarettes used electronic cigarettes, also known as e-cigarettes, up from about 10 percent in 2010, according to a study released on Thursday by the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Overall, about six percent of all US adults have tried e-cigarettes, according to the study. "E-cigarette use is growing rapidly," said CDC Director Tom Frieden in a statement. "There is still a lot we don't know about these products, including whether they will decrease or increase use of traditional



cigarettes." Although e-cigarettes appear to have far fewer of the toxins found in smoke compared to traditional cigarettes, the impact of e-cigarettes on long-term health must be studied, the CDC cautioned.

Research is needed to assess how e-cigarette marketing could impact initiation and use of traditional cigarettes, particularly among young people, it added.

Xinhua

EU approves Novartis drug for gout



A logo is pictured on a building of Swiss drug maker Novartis before its annual general meeting in Pratteln near Basel on 22 Feb, 2013. REUTERS

ZURICH, 2 March—The European Commission has approved Novartis' drug Ilaris for patients with an often painful form of inflammatory arthritis, the drugmaker said on Friday.

Novartis said the EU had approved the drug

also known as ACZ885 for patients with acute gouty arthritis who could not tolerate other treatment options.

Ilaris, which blocks a protein called interleukin-1 beta that is thought to increase inflammation,

is already sold for treating cryopyrin-associated periodic syndromes, a rare inflammatory disorder.

In 2011, US health regulators rejected Ilaris for use in gout over concerns about side effects.

Reuters

WORLD

Croatia to hold elections for European Parliament members in April

ZAGREB, 2 March — Croatian President Ivo Josipovic announced on Friday Croatia will hold the country's first elections for its representatives to the European Parliament (EP) on 14 April. Josipovic told the reporters that the date was set after he had discussions with the government, parliamentary parties, bodies in charge of polls and other relevant officials.

"I would like to point out the importance of the elections for deputies to the European Parliament. This will be the first time for the Croatians to elect their representatives to the European Parliament," he said.

Croatia is scheduled to join the EU on 1 July. According to Croatia's Treaty of Accession to the EU, the country should have 12 members in the EP when it becomes the 28th member of the EU. Now it has 12 observers in the EP.

After Josipovic's announcement, Croatian Foreign and European Affairs Minister Vesna Pusic called on citizens to go to the polls. "It enables us to decide on our broader homeland, Europe, which exerts great influence on our homeland Croatia," Pusic said.—Xinhua



Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich speaks during a Press conference in Kiev on 1 March, 2013. President Viktor Yanukovich on Friday explained his views on domestic and international issues and gave an introduction to Ukraine's economic development.—XINHUA

Kenya nabs 181 kg bhang in anti-drug bust

NAIROBI, 2 March — Kenya's revenue authorities said on Friday they have seized 181 kg of bhang (canabi sativa) at the border with Tanzania in the latest incident of drug trafficking.

The Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) spokesman Kennedy Onyonyi said the consignment had been declared as sunflower cakes and was being transported into Kenya from Tanzania when it was seized on Wednesday.

Onyonyi said the consignment had been placed in a truck at the Namanga border station during a normal verification exercise.

"A joint verification team consisting of a KRA verification officer and representatives of other government agencies, detected several bags of bhang which had been covered with rusted iron sheets inside a truck," he said in the

statement.

"On suspicion that the consignment might have been contraband items, the officers detained the truck for a further and detailed verification upon which they discovered the sacks of bhang," Onyonyi said.

He said the driver of the truck escaped immediately the concealment was detected and the case is currently being investigated by the anti-narcotics unit of the police.

The arrest comes as the East African nation stepped war against drug trafficking in the country. In January, the revenue collector arrested a 25 year old lady of Tanzanian extraction with about 5 kg of heroin at the country's main airport.

The 25-year-old journalist was arrested during an ongoing surveillance and targeting operation aimed at curbing drug trafficking

through Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA).

The East African nation has been restructuring the anti-narcotics police unit which has helped the country improve its capability to arrest drug peddlers using Kenya as a transit hub.

Kenya recently signed a bilateral agreement with some Western nations that among others allows the countries to cooperate on sharing intelligence on drug tracking crime.

The drug use if blamed for affecting the ability of thousands of youth in the coastal town from going to school or performing economically productive roles.

According to the survey, which was conducted in 2012, the level of drug consumption reduced for most substances abused compared to the rate recorded in 2007.—Xinhua

Brazil to build first nuclear submarines

RIO DE JANEIRO, 2 March — Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff unveiled a multi-billion-US-dollar naval plant on Friday in southeast Rio de Janeiro state, where the country plans to build its first nuclear submarine with French technology. Brazil will build five submarines, including a nuclear-powered sub, in partnership with France, which agreed to transfer the technology to Brazil in a 2008 agreement.

Rousseff highlighted the project, saying Brazil was now joining "the se-

lect club of countries with nuclear submarines," five members of the United Nations Security Council.

Rousseff said Brazil can manage to dedicate itself to advanced industry without losing sight of other important goals, such as overcoming social inequalities. "Brazil can do it. It has all the conditions to fulfill its great role in the science and technology development, in the exploration of space, in the defence industry, but at the same time generate income and jobs, and deal with

overcoming and eradicating poverty," she said.

With an investment of 7.8 billion reals (about 3.9 billion US dollars), the naval plant, called the Metallic Structures Construction Unit, is designed to be part of a naval base and shipyard in the city of Itaguaí.

The plant will generate 9,000 direct jobs and 32,000 indirect jobs, according to the Defence Ministry. The first submarine is expected to be operational by 2017 and the nuclear sub is expected to roll off the assembly line in 2023.—Xinhua



Somali government security forces stand guard at the restaurant where twin explosion targeted in Mogadishu on 1 March, 2013. Seven people were injured, two of them seriously on Friday after twin bomb attacks targeted a popular beachfront eatery in the Somali capital Mogadishu, government official and witnesses said.—XINHUA

Canada, Peru sign MOU on defence cooperation

OTTAWA, 2 March — Canada's Minister of National Defence Peter MacKay and his visiting Peruvian counterpart Pedro Cateriano Bellido signed here on Friday a Defence Cooperation Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

MacKay said that this document signals Canada's interest in working with its hemispheric partners toward deeper policy, peace and humanitarian operations, disaster response and military education and training.

"I'm pleased to establish a defence partnership with Peru that strengthens our ties and contribute to hemispheric stability and

security," he said following a signing ceremony held in the Parliament building.

Peru became in 2005 a member of Canada's Military Training and Cooperation Programme, which to date has provided courses in peace support operations, language, civil-military relations, and professional and staff development for more than 70 Peruvian officers, according to the Canadian defence department.

Canada also interacts with Peru in a number of multilateral hemispheric defence fora, including the Conference of Defence Ministers of the Americas. Peru will be hosting the Conference in 2014.—Xinhua

Pentagon allows F-35 jets back in air

WASHINGTON, 2 March — The US Defence Department on Friday announced that it has lifted the grounding of F-35 Lightning II joint strike fighter jets after analysis concluded that a cracked turbine blade found in an engine on a single plane of the model had resulted from overuse in test operations.

In an email statement,

Kyra Hawn, spokeswoman with the F-35 Joint Program Office, said that engineers have so far discovered no other cracks in inspections of other engines, and that no engine redesign is needed.

"This decision concludes a cautionary flight suspension that began on 21 February after a 0.6-inch crack was found on a third stage turbine blade of a

test aircraft at the Edwards Air Force Base, F-35 Integrated Test Facility during a routine inspection," Hawn said.

The engine in question, she explained, was part of the F-35 test aircraft fleet and had been operated for extended time in a high-temperature environment.

"Prolonged exposure to high levels of heat and

other operational stressors on this specific engine were determined to be the cause of the crack," Hawn said.

The Pentagon grounded the F-35 fleet after a routine engine inspection last month revealed a crack on a low pressure turbine blade of an Air Force-model F-35A at the Edwards base in California.

Xinhua

World Bank chief pledges more efforts to combat climate change

WASHINGTON, 2 March — World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim on Friday pledged that the World Bank was committed to tackling climate change "more than anything else."

"What we have to realize is that climate change is not a future threat. It is here with us today," Kim said at

a special event titled "Connect4Climate: Right Here, Right Now" to celebrate creative youth engagement in the effort to combat climate change. "I want you understand that in a world today, especially the poorer countries, this is a problem with us right now," he noted.

"I'm here today just

to deliver a very simple message. The World Bank is committed to tackling climate change more than anything else," Kim said.

Kim proposed starting a social movement to engage broader and more diverse audiences to deliver bold solutions on climate change.—Xinhua



Journalists take photos of balloon explosion debris on the site in Luxor, Egypt, on 1 March, 2013. Luxor governorate is scheduled to hold a mourning ceremony here for the victims of the explosion. A total of 19 tourists were killed and two others injured in a balloon explosion Tuesday morning in Luxor governorate.—XINHUA

WORLD

Jamaica closes debt reducing offer

KINGSTON, 2 March—Jamaica closed a debt reducing programme offer on Thursday with almost unanimous acceptance of the bondholders, according to an official statement released on Friday.

"The participation rate achieved for the exchange is approximately 99 percent," said the statement issued by the finance ministry and the public service ministry.

The statement also said that the government is happy to see "the strong participation from across the country and from all segments of the investor community."

The authorities have still been working to court the support of the remaining 1 percent for the National Debt Exchange (NDX) programme. The NDX offer, launched on Feb. 12, was key to reaching a staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a 750-million-US dollar economic support programme.

The executive board of the IMF is expected to decide on final approval at a meeting this month.

The NDX is part of the austerity measures implemented by the Jamaican government to reduce the country's spiraling debt,

estimated at 1.7 trillion Jamaica dollars (17.71 billion dollars) or 140 percent of the island nation's gross domestic product.

In the offer, the Jamaican government is swapping high interest payouts on 860 million dollars of domestic bonds for lower rate ones.

Under the programme, holders of the 12.5 percent fixed-rate Jamaican dollar bonds were offered a new 7.25 percent fixed-rate bonds maturing in 2016, while the 6.75 percent dollar bonds were swapped for a new 5.25 percent ones maturing in 2020.

Xinhua



US President Barack Obama delivers a statement on the sequester at the White House in Washington DC, capital of the United States, on 1 March, 2013. US President Barack Obama said Friday that the across-the-board government spending cuts were "dumb" but the nation will survive the so-called "sequester." —XINHUA

Peruvian president says free trade accord with EU to advance ties

LIMA, 2 March—The free trade agreement between Peru and the European Union (EU) will help promote bilateral ties, Peruvian President Ollanta Humala said on Friday.

The accord, which took effect on Friday, "consolidates the historic relationship that we have maintained with Europe," Humala said.

Under the deal, the EU will eliminate tariffs on 93 percent of Peruvian imports, including farm products on which a tariff of up to 45 percent was previously levied.

"We have the capacity, through this multilateral accord, to improve our national industry and have access to this significant market, which last year became Peru's main source of direct foreign investments," said Humala.

In 2012, the EU overtook China to become Peru's largest trade partner. Two-way trade amounted to 12.9 billion US dollars with Lima in trade surplus.

Xinhua

Tunisia extends state of emergency for another three months

TUNIS, 2 March—Tunisia's President Moncef Marzouki has extended the country's state of emergency for another three months, the official TAP Press agency reported on Friday evening, quoting a communique from the presidency of the republic.

The decision was taken following consultation with outgoing Prime Minister Hamadi Jebali and the speaker of the Constituent Assembly Mustapha Ben

Jaafar, the communique said. The state of emergency was imposed on Jan. 14, 2011 following the uprising that overthrew Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

The last time the state of emergency was extended was on 1 Feb, 2013.

The news comes as the country is facing a major political crisis triggered by the assassination last month of a leading opposition figure and fears of arms smuggling.—Xinhua



Working staff arrange an exhibition area during the 2013 Beijing Wedding Expo in Beijing, capital of China, March 1, 2013. The three-day event kicked off on Friday. XINHUA

Macao int'l airport records 25 % passenger growth in February

MACAO, 2 March—Macao International Airport (MIA) handled 390,000 passengers in February 2013, up 25 percent year-on-year, according to figures released on Friday by the airport.

MIA achieved the first peak season in 2013 due to the Chinese Spring Festival vacation. The average daily passenger volume in February was over 13,000. A new daily record of over 19,000 passengers was made on 15 February. For the whole February, MIA also recorded 21 percent increase in aircraft movement over the same period last year.

Moreover, passengers of the Chinese mainland, Taiwan and East Asia routes increased 38 percent, 9 percent and 28 percent respectively year-on-year.—Xinhua

Russia assumes rotating UN SC presidency for March

UNITED NATIONS, 2 March—Russia on Friday assumed the rotating presidency of the UN Security Council for March. Vitaly Churkin, the permanent representative of Russia to the United Nations, took over the rotating council presiden-

cy from Kim Sook, the South Korean UN ambassador who held the council presidency for the month of February.

Churkin is expected to brief the press here Monday on the work program of the most powerful UN body in this month. The Russian

Federation is one of the five permanent members on the 15-nation UN body. The other four are China, France, Britain and the United States. The council also has 10 non-permanent members elected to two-year terms.

Xinhua

1,087 judges relocated to avoid conflicts of interest

BEIJING, 2 March—A total of 1,087 court officials and judges who were working in the same jurisdiction as with their lawyer family members have been relocated, the Supreme People's

Court (SPC) announced on Friday.

China issued a regulation in February 2011 to require judges to change office if their spouses, sons or daughters work as lawyers

in the same jurisdiction. The regulation was intended to address public complaints about justice being undermined by judge-lawyer collusion, string-pulling and bribery.—Xinhua

Lebanon arrests 54 kidnapping suspects

BEIRUT, 2 March—Lebanon's Interior Minister Marwan Charbel revealed on Friday that security forces have arrested 54 people involved in dozens of kidnapping cases, but scores remained on the run.

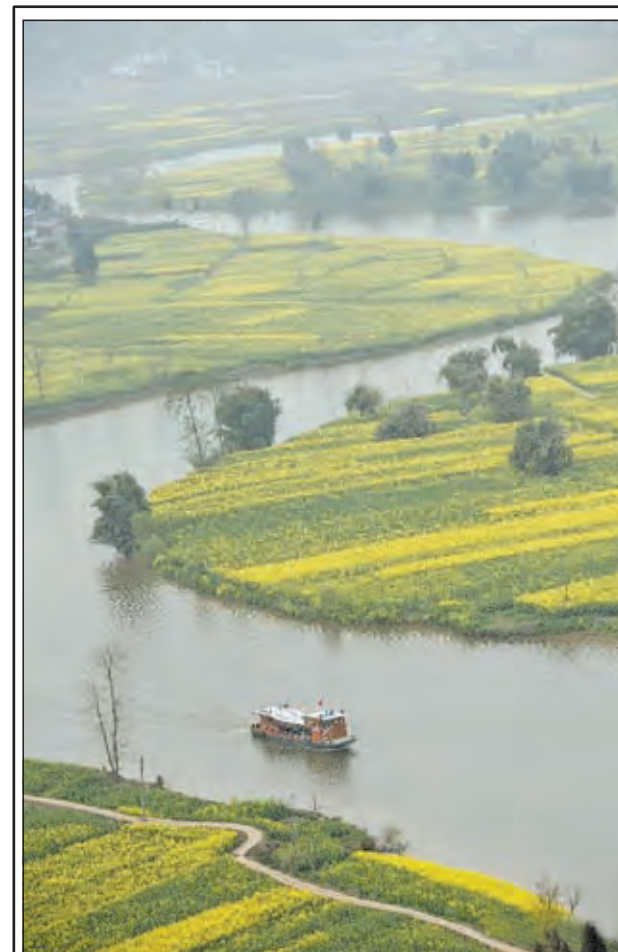
Following a meeting with Central Security Council, Charbel said that "those responsible for the kidnappings... will not receive any politician cover."

So far, 54 suspects have been arrested while 87 others are still on the run in

more than 39 cases of abductions, the minister told reporters.

Lebanon witnessed lots of kidnapping cases lately, mostly targeting wealthy businessmen or their family members for ransom.

Xinhua



Tourists watch the rape flowers by boats during the 6th rape flower festival in Tongnan County, southwest China's Chongqing Municipality, on 1 March, 2013. The festival will last until late March. XINHUA

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 3 March, 2013

Make overall investment in agricultural development

The numbers of farmlands of a certain country indicate its food security while the world is calling for farmers to produce more food to be able to meet the need of its rapidly growing population. With the degradation of land and water resources, climate change, population explosion and continued disputes over farmland confiscation in developing countries make the world vulnerable to food insecurity and uncertain to feed its expected nine-billion-strong population by 2050.

Being a country mainly relying on agr.business, arable farming is of vital importance to food sufficiency and economic growth of arable and vacant land-rich Myanmar where farmers make up 70 per cent of total population. So development of agricultural sector is the top on the list of priorities for rural region development and poverty alleviation scheme. This mean that, to meet the government's drive to alleviate poverty, sustainable intensification of agricultural productivity on existing farmlands and more reclamation of vacant and virgin lands will be necessary, calling for overall investment in agricultural development.

If our country wants to see agricultural output growth, new technologies, pesticides and high-yield crops are needed following the transformation from conventional to mechanized farming although she is believed to be one blessed with fine topography and favorable climate patterns. Poor farming practices, coupled with highly-degraded farmlands, could lead to a decrease in productivity of the nation's agro-industry, thereby contributing towards profound effects on socioeconomic status and living standards of those whose livelihood depend on agricultural sector. Moreover, it would do serious harm to domestic food sufficiency and export of surplus, jeopardizing the national goal of ensuring rural region development and poverty alleviation.

Overall investment in agricultural sector—new farming methods such as use of high-yield strains and modern farm equipment, effective measures for changing the trend in the nation's export of agricultural produce to be an exporter of valued-added processed agricultural products and conservation of farmlands which are at risk of soil erosion, land degradation and being confiscated by unscrupulous profit-seekers—are to be made. Only then, will the country achieve success in its top priority of agricultural development for 70 per cent of its total population.

Loans disbursed to farmers in Kalay District

KALAY, 2 March—The government rose loans to farmers as of 2013-2014 fiscal year for development of agricultural sector. The government disbursed K 100,000 per acre for farmlands and K 20,000 per acre for croplands to farmers. In Kalay District, farmers got K 213.65 million in Kalay, those in Kalewa K 11.04 million, and those in Mingin K 230.95 million, accounting for K 455.64 million.—*Myanma Alinn*

Union Foreign Affairs Minister felicitates Bulgarian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March—U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Nickolay E. Mladenov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Bulgaria, which falls on 3 March 2013.

MNA

Union Border Affairs Minister oversees regional development and rehabilitation tasks in northern Rakhine State

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March—Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win, accompanied by Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin, Western

The Union Minister and party visited construction site of Waithali-Udaung road section being implemented by the ministry on 27 February. They then donated offertories and cash



Union Minister Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win greets locals in Maungtown of Rakhine State.—MNA

Command Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko Naing and officials inspected regional development and rehabilitation tasks in Maungtown Township of Rakhine State on 27-28 February.

assistance to the Sayadaw Maj-Gen Ko Ko Naing in Mawyawady Village and met villagers. They also presented agricultural tools to villagers in Kinegyi village.

On 28 February, the Union Minister and party

'Textiles of the Two Lands' to mark 65th anniversary of Myanmar-Thai diplomatic ties

YANGON, 2 March—'Textiles of the Two Lands' exhibition will commemorate 65th Anniversary of establishment of Myanmar-Thai diplomatic relations and 80th birthday of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit of Thailand, the organizers said at the press conference.

They met the press

at the Thai Embassy in Dagon Township, here, this afternoon.

Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Pisanu Suvanajata told the press that the purpose of the event at Junction Square Shopping Mall and Chatrium Hotel in Yangon is to further improve amicable relations between the two peoples.

MNA

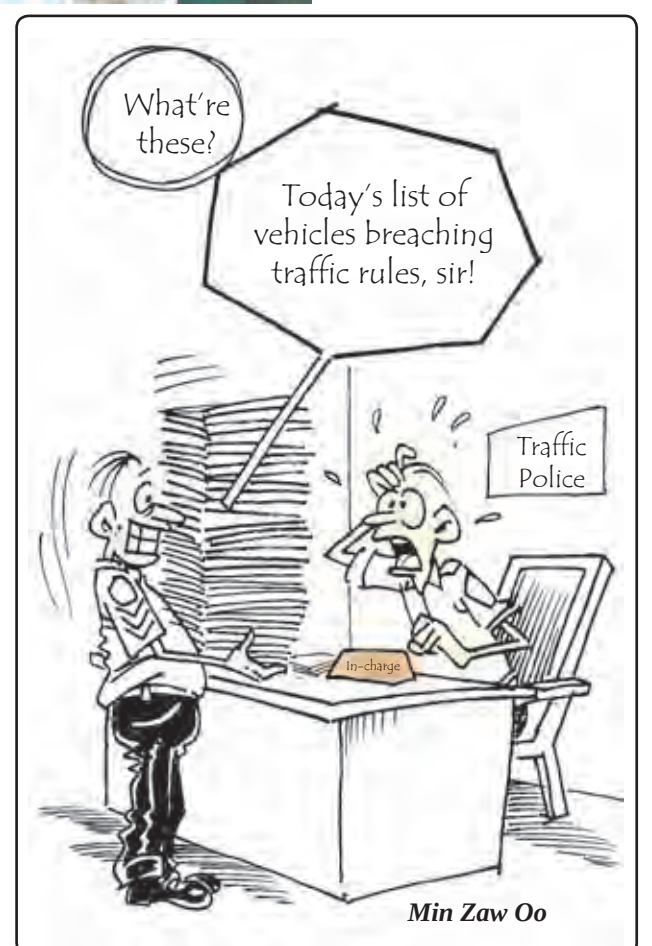


President U Thein Sein shakes hands with Former Finnish President Mr Martti Ahtisaari at Presidential Palace in Helsinki.
(News on page 1)—MNA

met departmental officials and locals at the office of general administration department in Taungpyo Letwe sub-township in Maungtown Township and fulfilled the requirements presented by the sub-township administrator.

The Union Minister and party also viewed the functions of No. 1 checkpoint in Maungtown and met principal and trainees at the women's vocational training school. Afterwards, they provided cash assistance to the staff and trainees.

MNA



Min Zaw Oo

NATIONAL

Ordination ceremony of Koreans held

YANGON, 2 March—Organized by Korea-Myanmar Friendship Association, Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana under the Ministry of Religious Affairs held an ordination ceremony of 27 Koreans, at State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) on Kaba Aye Hill, here, this afternoon.

Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Hsan Hsint and wife and Deputy Minister U Soe Win and wife attended the ceremony and donated offertories to the Sayadaws. The ceremony is meant to promote and propagate Theravada Buddhism among Korean monks.

MNA

Talks on hepatitis B given in Pakokku



PAKOKKU, 2 March—The talks on hepatitis B disease was given at the

National Hall of Ward 8 in Pakokku on 25 February morning.

Liver specialist Professor Dr Khin Maung Win gave lectures on hepatitis diseases.

It was attended by Township Administrator U Aung Naing Oo, Chairman of Myanmar Medical Association (Pakokku Branch) Dr Sein Win and member doctors, health staff, members of Red Cross Brigade, nurses, Fire Brigade, Women's Affairs Organization and Maternal and Child Welfare Association, workers of Development Affairs Committee and other totalling over 250. The talks was jointly organized by Myanmar Medical Association (Pakokku Branch) and Zifam Co.

Myanma Alinn



Vice-Presidents of Myanmar Hockey Federation U Kyaw Kyaw Hlaing and U Zaw Win and General Secretary U Khin Maung Latt seen at the airport on 1 March before their departure for Kuala Lumpur of Malaysia to attend Asian Hockey Federation Conference.—NLM

Union Science and Technology Minister meets US guests

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March—Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo held talks with a 13-member delegation led by Director of Global Partnerships Mr. Chris Jurgens of United States Agency for International Development Office of Innovation and Development Alliances of United States of America at the ministry, here, on 27 February morning.

Both sides discussed development of ICT sector in Myanmar, materialization of e-Government, implementation of public-private-partnerships (PPP) projects, teaching of necessary marketing strategies to students to distribute hardware and software in the market



Union Minister Dr Ko Ko Oo holds talks with Director of Global Partnerships Mr. Chris Jurgens of United States Agency for International Development Office of Innovation and Development Alliances of United States of America and party.—MNA

manufactured by IT experts, research works in cooperation with companies, universities and scholars and cooperation in network infrastructure development.—MNA

Union Cup Games Dates and Venues for Sports Events

Nos	Sport categories	Event Period		Venue	Remark
		From	To		
	Opening ceremony	28-2-2013	-	Wunna Theikdi Stadium (Zabuthiri Township)	
1.	Track and field	3-3-2013	7-3-2013	Wunna Theikdi Stadium (Zabuthiri Township)	
2.	Badminton	23-2-2013	27-2-2013	TC-1 Badminton Training Hall (Zabuthiri Township)	
3.	Basketball	1-3-2013	6-3-2013	TC-1, Basketball Training Ground (Zabuthiri Township)	
4.	Billiards and snooker	23-2-2013	2-3-2013	TC-2 Billiards Hall, Lewe Township	
5.	Physical fitness	12-2-2013	-	MCC (Yangon, Thingangyun Township)	
6.	Boxing	24-2-2013	1-3-2013	TC-1 boxing training gym (Zabuthiri Township)	
7.	Chess	26-2-2013	2-3-2013	Gold Camp (mess hall) (Zabuthiri Township)	
8.	Cycling (Cross Country)	1-3-2013	6-3-2013	Mount Pleasant cycling ground (Ottarathiri Township)	
	Cycling (Down Hill)	1-3-2013	6-3-2013	Mount Pleasant cycling ground (Ottarathiri Township)	
	Cycling (BMX)	1-3-2013	6-3-2013	Mount Pleasant cycling ground (Ottarathiri Township)	
	Cycling (Road Race)	1-3-2013	6-3-2013	TC-1 Cycling training gym (Zabuthiri Township) Pinlaung road/ Taungkya Village and Leinli bridge	
9.	Football (Men/women)	20-2-2013	7-3-2013	Wunna Theikdi Stadium (Zabuthiri Township)/ Paunglaung ground (Pyinmana Township) Training grounds (1) and (2) (Zabuthiri Township)	
10.	Futsal (Men/women)	23-2-2013	6-3-2013	TC-1 Futsal training gym (Zabuthiri Township)	
11.	Judo	25-2-2013	27-2-2013	TC-2 Judo training gym (Lewe Township)	
12.	Karatedo	4-3-2013	6-3-2013	TC-2 Karatedo training gym (Lewe Township)	
13.	Sepak Takraw	25-2-2013	5-3-2013	TC-1 Sepak Takraw training gym (Zabuthiri Township)	
14.	Table Tennis	23-2-2013	27-2-2013	TC-1 Table Tennis training gym (Zabuthiri Township)	
15.	Taekwondo	1-3-2013	3-3-2013	TC-1 Taekwondo training gym (Zabuthiri Township)	
16.	Tennis	23-2-2013	28-2-2013	TC-1 Tennis training gym (Zabuthiri Township)	
17.	Pancek Silat	2-3-2013	6-2-2013	TC-2 Martial Arts training gym (Lewe Township)	
18.	Traditional Boxing (Muay)	3-3-2013	5-3-2013	TC-1 Boxing training gym (Zabuthiri Township)	
19.	Volleyball	27-2-2013	7-3-2013	TC-1 Volleyball training gym (Zabuthiri Township)	
20.	Weightlifting	1-3-2013	3-3-2013	Paunglaung Gymnasium (Pyinmana)	
21.	Wushu	1-3-2013	3-3-2013	TC-2 Wushu training gym (Lewe Township)	
22.	Wrestling	4-3-2013	7-3-2013	Paunglaung gym (Pyinmana Township)	
	Closing Ceremony	7-3-2013	-	Wunna Theikdi Stadium (Zabuthiri Township)	

Chinese, Cote d'Ivoire leaders mark 30th anniversary of ties

BEIJING, 2 March—Chinese President Hu Jintao on Saturday exchanged congratulatory messages with Cote d'Ivoire President Alassane Ouattara to mark the 30th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

Hu said that with mutual respect and equal treatment, development of the China-Cote d'Ivoire friendly cooperation remains healthy and stable since establishment of the two sides' diplomatic relations.

Both sides support each other over issues related to significant concerns

and maintain close coordination in international and regional affairs, Hu said, adding that the two countries' political mutual trust has continuously deepened over the decades.

He said that China, taking the 30th anniversary as an opportunity, is willing to make joint efforts with Cote d'Ivoire in continuously promoting the two countries' friendly cooperation for the benefit of the two peoples.

In his message, Ouattara said that Cote d'Ivoire is satisfied with the high-level friendly cooperation

between the two countries, and also is confident in a bright and fruitful future of China-Cote d'Ivoire relations.

The Chinese side has been firmly supporting for Cote d'Ivoire's peace and development, he said, adding that his country is ready to work with China in advancing the two countries' bilateral ties.

Also on Saturday, Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi exchanged congratulatory messages with his Cote d'Ivoire counterpart Charles Koffi Diby.

Xinhua



Correspondents attending report on the upcoming first annual session of the 12th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) queue up to get their Press cards in Beijing, capital of China, on 28 Feb, 2013.—XINHUA

US energy intensity projected to continue steady decline through 2040

HOUSTON, 2 March—Energy intensity in the United States has been declining steadily since the early 1970s and is expected to decline through 2040, the US Energy Information Administration said on Friday.

A country's energy intensity is usually defined as energy consumption per unit of gross domestic product (GDP).

"Greater efficiency and structural changes in the economy have reduced energy intensity," the agency said in a report on Friday.

From 1950 to 2011, energy intensity in the United States decreased by 58 per-

cent per real dollar of GDP, according to the EIA.

The EIA expects residential energy intensity, measured as delivered energy used per household, to decline about 27 percent from 2005 to 2040.

Commercial energy intensity, measured as delivered energy used per square foot of commercial floorspace, is projected to decline about 17 percent from 2005 to 2040.

Industrial sector energy intensity, measured as delivered energy per dollar of industrial sector shipments, rises above its 2005 level initially owing to the

2007-09 recession but ultimately decreases 25 percent below its 2005 level in 2040, according to the EIA projections.

Transportation sector energy intensity is more difficult to measure because of the multiple modes of transportation, the agency said.

Light-duty vehicle energy intensity, which is measured as their consumption divided by the number of vehicle-miles traveled, is projected to decline by more than 47 percent from the 2005 value, the EIA said.

Xinhua

Spanish unemployment rate reaches 26.2 percent

MADRID, 2 March—Spain's unemployment rate reached 26.2 percent in January, according to data published on Friday by the European Union's statistical office (Eurostat).

Spain's unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percent in the first month of 2013, after decreasing by 0.1 percent in December.

This week also saw the Bank of Spain warn about the situation of the Spanish economy, which will continue falling in the first quarter of 2013 because of a contraction in domestic demand and fall in investment.

The contraction of the domestic demand is due to increased prices and high unemployment rate, both affecting Spaniards' purchasing power.

On Thursday, the National Institute of Statistics (INE) confirmed this trend, pointing out GDP contracted by 0.8 percent in the fourth quarter of 2012.

The Spanish government also reported the public deficit for 2012 was 6.7 percent of GDP, missing the EU target of 6.3 percent.

Xinhua



Chinese artists perform traditional dance during the "Chinese Spring Festival 2013" at Rabindra Bharati University in Calcutta, capital of eastern Indian state West Bengal, on 1 March, 2013. The Chinese Embassy to India and the India China Economic and Cultural Council organized the "Chinese Spring Festival 2013" to showcase Chinese music, dance, and martial art.

XINHUA

Eight S Africa police officers arrested for brutality

JOHANNESBURG, 2 March—Eight police officers, implicated in brutality that led to the death of a taxi driver, have been arrested on murder charges, authorities said on Friday.

The eight officers, two warrant officers and six constables, were arrested after being suspended and disarmed by National Police Commissioner Riah Phiyega earlier in the day.

The suspects were held accountable for the death of Mido Macio, who was dragged behind a police vehicle and was later found dead in the holding cells at Daveyton police station in Benoni near Johannesburg on Tuesday, the Independent Police Directorate (IPID) said.

President Jacob Zuma has ordered an investigation into the incident.

The incident, videoed by an amateur and went viral on the YouTube, has sparked outrage in the country.

"From the video, which has gone viral, it is obvious that the rights of Mido Macia were violated in the most extreme form," Phiyega said.

The suspects will remain in custody until they appear in the Daveyton Magistrate's Court on Monday, IPID said.

Phiyega has also ordered the removal of the commander of Daveyton police station for the duration of an internal police probe.

Police claimed that the 27-year-old driver, who came from Mozambique, had tried to disarm an officer who had confronted him because his minibus was obstructing traffic.

But a witness reportedly denied the claim, saying Macia had been trying to get his driving license back from the police instead of trying to disarm the officer.

A post-mortem revealed Macia died of head and internal injuries.

Xinhua



A visitor selects rattan products during the 23rd East China Import and Export Fair in east China's Shanghai Municipality, on 1 March, 2013. The fair, with the participation of more than 3, 500 exhibitors, opened here on Friday.—XINHUA

Guangzhou limiting non-local vehicles to ease congestion

GUANGZHOU, 2 March—The southern Chinese megacity of Guangzhou is set to put restrictions on vehicles registered outside of the city in a bid to ease congestion. An official with the city's traffic committee said at a Press conference on Friday that a preliminary

programme has been drafted to keep a certain number of out-of-town vehicles off the city's roads.

The programme will be released to the public for comments before being implemented, said the official.

Details of the programme were not disclosed

at the Press conference.

Traffic jams in Guangzhou have worsened recently. Average rush hour speeds have slowed to 20 km per hour, and are expected to become even slower. Increasing motor vehicle emissions have also worsened the city's air

quality.

Last year, the city announced that it would allocate the city's annual 120,000 new car registration quota through a dual auction-lottery model, forcing many residents to register their vehicles elsewhere.

Xinhua

REGIONAL

Cambodia launches green growth plan 2013-2030

PHNOM PENH, 1 March — Cambodia on Friday adopted the national policy and strategic plan for green growth 2013-2030, aiming at developing the economy with consideration for environmental and natural resources sustainability.

The plan was approved during the weekly cabinet meeting presided over by Prime Minister Hun Sen.

"The national policy, compiled by the ministry of environment, aims to balance between economic development and environment, society, culture and sustainable consumption of natural resources in order to

enhance people's well-being and living conditions," said a media statement after the meeting.

"The strategic plan for green growth 2013-2030 is to promote Cambodian economy towards the green economy, focusing on effective use of natural resources, environmental sustainability, green jobs, green technologies, green finance, green credit, and green investment," the statement said.

It said the country has already adopted several legal instruments for the green growth implementation. Those included the

roadmap for green growth, the memorandum of understanding on green growth cooperation between Cambodia and South Korea's Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), the National Council of Green Growth, and Cambodia's membership into an agreement on the establishment of the GGGI.

The GGGI was officially launched in March 2010 by former President of South Korea Lee Myung-bak. Its core activity is advising member countries on forming a Green Growth Plan (GGP).

Xinhua



Photo taken on 1 March, 2013 shows the scenery of a park in Shijiazhuang, capital of north China's Hebei Province. A cold front cleared the smog that lingered in the city for days.

XINHUA

Four dead, seven missing in C Philippine landslide

MANILA, 2 March — Four people were killed while seven others are missing following a landslide in a geothermal power plant in central Philippines on Friday, media reported.

Local media reports

said two weeks of intermittent rains triggered a landslide in the Upper Mahiao Geothermal Project of the Lopez Group in Leyte.

The company was quoted as saying that of the 43 workers at the geother-

mal plant, 32 workers were injured and are already being treated in a nearby hospital. A search and rescue operation for the missing workers has already been launched by the company.

Xinhua



Students do ear exercises during an activity celebrating the upcoming Ear-care Day, which falls on 3 March every year, at a primary school in Zaozhuang City, east China's Shandong Province, on 28 Feb, 2013. XINHUA

Animal abusers in Singapore may see tougher punishment

SINGAPORE, 2 March — The Animal Welfare Legislative Review Committee said on Friday that they are calling for tougher punishment for animal abuse and abandonment in Singapore, after a first ever one-year long review set up by the government according to the city-state's existing animal welfare laws.

Among the 24 recommendations in total, the committee has proposed that repeat or malicious offenders could be slapped with fines reaching 50,000 Singapore dollars (40,323 US dollars) and / or three-year jail terms, comparing with the current maximum penalty of fine up to 10,000 Singapore dollars or one year in jail, or both.

They would also be barred from keeping pets for up to one year, the committee added.

Some first-time animal abusers may see the original penalty, as well as perform community service.

Meanwhile, the committee also calls for higher penalties for business-

es, with penalties up to 100,000 Singapore dollars, and a ban from operating for up to a year.

Besides some regulations on commercial pet breeding activities and pet boarding facilities, the proposals also advice that the government should set a minimum age of 16 years old for buying a pet, even including pet fish.

It is said that the committee has submitted its recommendations to the city-state's National Development Ministry for consideration.

It's very common to see some offenders sentenced to jail or fined because of their animal abuse here. At the end of last year, two cats had been cruelly dismembered in a community. The case had arisen intense condemnations both on the internet and the local media. K Shanmugam, the city-state's Law and Foreign Affairs Minister, called the act "gruesome" and "sick."

Xinhua

Cambodian PM orders "strict measures" to curb bird flu outbreaks

PHNOM PENH, 2 March — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen on Friday ordered all relevant ministries and institutions to take "strict measures" to prevent and eliminate the spread of Avian Influenza H5N1 virus, which has killed 8 people so far this year.

In a circular signed on Friday, Hun Sen said during the first two months of 2013, the H5N1 virus has broken out and infected to nine people—eight of them died. "Even though there are preventive measures by relevant institutions, the spread and death toll from the virus are still alarmingly concerned," he said.

To ensure the safety for people more effectively, the premier ordered the ministry

of agriculture to continue strengthening necessary and urgent measures to prevent and eliminate the spread of H5N1 virus.

"The ministry must thoroughly and constantly inspect poultry's health throughout the country, and carry out bio-safety and sanitary measures at all poultry farms, slaughter-houses and markets," he said in the circular. "The ministry must promote broader awareness of bird flu virus to the public." He also instructed the ministry of agriculture and the ministry of health to continue strengthening cooperation in information exchange to take measures timely to prevent and eliminate the virus.

In addition, he ordered

the ministry of interior to take a firm and urgent measure to prevent the illegal trafficking of poultry in all images and at anywhere. Cambodia sees the worst outbreak of the virus this year since the disease was first identified in 2004. To date, the country has recorded 30 human cases of the virus, killing 27 people.

The latest death was a 35-year-old man from eastern Kampong Cham Province, who died on Monday.

On Tuesday, Health Minister Mam Bunheng appealed to people to be more careful about the outbreaks of bird flu virus, urging people not to eat ill or dead poultry. "Poultry must be cooked well. Properly cooked poultry

meat is therefore safe to consume," he told reporters.

Sonny Krishnan, communications officer with the World Health Organization (WHO) in Cambodia, said that home slaughtering and preparation of sick or dead poultry for food is hazardous.

He said parents and guardians should keep their children away from poultry—do not allow them to touch feathers and do not keep poultry in their house.

"Parents and guardians must also make sure children wash their hands with soap and water after any contact with poultry," he said. "If they have fast or difficult breathing, they should seek medical attention at the nearest health facility."—Xinhua



Tourists queue to enter the Tian'anmen Square during a sunny day in Beijing, capital of China, on 1 March, 2013. The first session of the 12th National People's Congress (NPC) and the first session of the 12th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) will open on 5 March and 3 March respectively. —XINHUA

5.2-magnitude quake hits Mindanao, Philippines

MANILA, 2 March — An earthquake measuring 5.2 on the Richter scale jolted Mindanao, Philippines at 00:11:08 GMT on Saturday, the US Geological Survey said.

The epicentre, with a depth of 89.40 km, was initially determined to be at 5.4972 degrees north latitude and 126.9683 degrees east longitude.

Xinhua

Singapore to host 16th round of TPP negotiations

SINGAPORE, 2 March — Singapore is scheduled to host the 16th round of Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations from 4-13 March, the city-state's Ministry of Trade and Industry said on Friday.

Over 600 delegates from the 11 TPP countries, Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, the United States, Vietnam and Singapore, will attend the meeting. Besides, 300 stakeholders, including business representatives, academics and non-governmental organizations from around the world, are going to attend the Stakeholders' Forum on 6 March, and various seminars and panel discussion sessions.

According to the statement by the ministry, the 11 TPP countries have a

combined Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of about 21 trillion US dollars, which is over 50 percent of the total GDP of the 21 members of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).

Singapore had previously hosted the 6th round of the TPP negotiations in March of 2011, "where solid progress was made with substantive discussion in all areas, including goods, services, investment and government procurement," the ministry added.

The controversial TPP negotiations initially included four countries like Chile, New Zealand, Singapore and Brunei. After the US decided to join the negotiations, Australia, Vietnam and Peru announced their decision to join the TPP, followed by Malaysia, Mexico and Canada.—Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SINGAPORE BRIDGE VOY NO (034)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINGAPORE BRIDGE VOY NO (034) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.3.2013 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING
LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV HANNA MARIE VOY NO (1308)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HANNA MARIE VOY NO (1308) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.3.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING
(MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797



People walk past a Russian-made commercial plane Sukhoi Super Jet 100 (SSJ 100) at Halim Perdana Kusuma Airport in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 28 Feb, 2013. An Indonesian airlines firm, Sky Aviation, received on Wednesday the initial delivery of SSJ 100, expecting five to join the fleet by the end of this year.—XINHUA

Accident in Russia's chemical plant injures 30

Moscow, 2 March—A total of 30 people were injured and 27 others hospitalized after an accident at a chemical plant in Russia's

Perm Territory, the *Interfax* news agency quoted the Emergency Situations Ministry as saying on Friday.

Xinhua

Fire breaks out at Texas refinery, no injuries

HOUSTON, 2 March—A Marathon Petroleum refinery in the US state of Texas caught fire on Thursday, but no one was injured in the blaze, said the company.

The fire broke out in the mid-afternoon when a hose leading to a tank came loose, setting fire to a pump at the plant, which is located in Texas City, Marathon officials were quoted by newspaper *the Houston Chronicle* as saying.

Emergency officials said the pump was carrying a gasoline-like substance, and fire officials allowed the fire to burn itself out, according to the report.

There are no reports of injuries or threats to the environment, said the officials, adding that an investigation will start as soon as the fire is fully extinguished. The plant is also the site of a deadly explosion almost eight years ago. Marathon Petroleum took control of the plant from BP on 1 February and renamed it.

The 2005 explosion at the plant, which was owned by BP at that time, killed 15 people and injured scores of others. The incident led to safety operation changes at BP and other refineries around the country.

Xinhua

Portugal hosts tourism exhibition targeting foreign destinations

LISBON, 2 March—Portugal's largest travel fair Bolsa de Turismo de Lisboa (BTL) kicked off on Wednesday and will last until Sunday with slogans such as "Travel in your world. Embrace Portugal".

This year, the trade fair is appealing to Portuguese to travel abroad dedicating half of its space to promoting 36 foreign destinations although the general mood was one of optimism.

According to President of Portugal's Hotel Association (AHP) Cristina Siza Vieira, Portugal plans to open 27 new hotels in 2014. This comes at a time when there is a 20-percent gap between supply and demand as hotel prices go down.

At the AHP pavilion, Siza Vieira told *Xinhua* that, "Portugal remained competitive within the European market offering good value for money, although demand from Spanish holidaymakers has dropped by 10 percent."

The AHP president said, "A heavy fiscal load, bureaucratic and often expensive municipal legislation means that Portugal's hotel industry has become unprofitable."

"Demand from Brazil and Angola has kept the luxury market afloat while many three star hotels are operating at a loss," she said.

AHP, which represents 70 percent of Portugal's hotel market, estimates that

in 2012 some 13 million visitors who came to Portugal were able to choose from 1,019 hotels or 91,670 rooms leaving around 20 percent more hotels than currently required.

This year BLT is focusing on the domestic market with large stands representing northern and central Portugal as well as the up and coming Alentejo region. According to Goncalo Rebelo de Almeida, CEO of Vila Gale Hotels, Portugal's second largest hotel chain, "As Portuguese and international customers spend less time and money in Portugal there is a need to grow more abroad to sustain portuguese market."

Rebelo de Almeida said that Vila Gale has

opened six hotels in Brazil which has become a very important market for the Portuguese hotel sector.

The Vila Gale CEO said that after a boom in construction and real estate companies building hotels it was now time for industry specialists to innovate the Portuguese market.

Rebelo de Almeida said, "The number of hotels and tourists has grown in Portugal but clients are now spending less money and less time in Portugal averaging four to five nights instead of a week or 10 days."

"The key to growth will be marketing Portugal and reaching untapped markets such as Germany, Russia and Brazil," Rebelo de Almeida said.—Xinhua

UN chief believes attempts to arm protagonists in Syria unhelpful

UNITED NATIONS, 2 March—UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Thursday said arming the parties involved does not help to address prolonged crisis in Syria, which has claimed more than 70,000 lives so far.

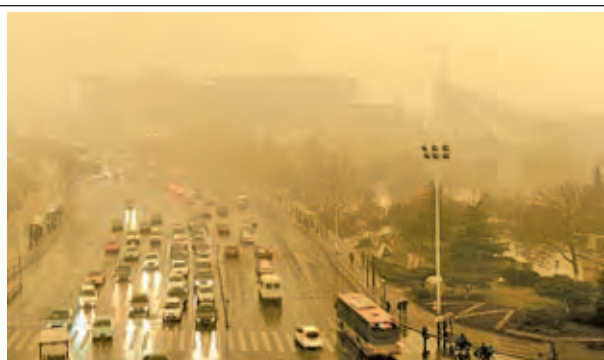
"The Secretary-General believes that any attempts to arm the protagonists in the fighting in Syria are unhelpful," Eduardo del Buey, the deputy UN spokesman, said at a daily news briefing when asked about outside involvement in the Syrian conflict.

The UN chief has continuously reiterated his firm conviction that resorting to violence and military means will only lead to more suffering and destruction, saying that "a political solution is the only way out."

Representatives from dozens of nations held an in-

ternational conference called "Friends of Syria" earlier on Thursday in Rome to discuss rendering more support to the opposition, whose members in exile have been calling on the international community to provide the rebels on ground with qualitative weaponries to tilt the balance in the fight against the Syrian army. John Kerry, the US Secretary of State, reportedly said that the Obama's administration will provide the rebels Free Syria Army "non lethal" help, with Washington offering 60 million US dollars as for the opposition. The US government has declared its latest intention to push for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's resignation and a political transition to end the almost two-year-long conflict in Syria.

Xinhua



Vehicles move as they are engulfed by a hazy day in Jinan, capital of east China's Shandong Province, on 28 Feb, 2013. —XINHUA

AQIM commander Abou Zeid killed in northern Mali

BAMAKO, 2 March—A senior commander of AQIM, al-Qaeda's branch in north Africa, was killed during a French military operation in northern Mali, a TV station reported on Thursday.

Algerian television Ennahar monitored here said that Abou Zeid, a senior commander of AQIM,

al-Qaeda's branch in north Africa, was killed with some 40 militants in northern Mali after French troops' operation.

Last week, Malian Prime Minister Diango Cissoko announced that large-scale military operations in his country "are coming to an end."

Xinhua



Dancers of the National Ballet of China perform "Swan Lake" in Vancouver, Canada, on 27 Feb, 2013. The Chinese ballet troupe performed "Raise the Red Lantern" last week in Montreal as the beginning of their two-week Canadian tour.—XINHUA

ENTERTAINMENT

Revealed: the all new desi Mallika Sherawat

MUMBAI, 2 March—Mallika Sherawat who has done a cover up act in K C Bokadia's upcoming film Dirty Politics, now loves to go desi as well. In a stark change of image, the sex siren has decided to wrap herself in six yards for her next B-Town outing in which she essays an orphan.

While she still harbours Hollywood dreams and keeps travelling between Mumbai and US, the actress was recently busy shooting in Indore with co-stars Om Puri and Rajpal Yadav.

Says a unit source,

"She is keen to be seen in a new image and shed her sexy image for this film. Mallika is banking on this project as her last film Kismet Love Paisa Dilli was a dud. She hopes the makeover will prove to be lucky for her."

Though initially it was claimed that the film is based on the controversial Bhanwari Devi case in Rajasthan, the makers have now rechristened her character as Anokhi Devi to avoid any problems. The last shoot schedule however will be in Jodhpur and Jaipur in Rajasthan.—PTI

Mallika Sherawat



International vocal arts competition starts in Russia's Vladivostok

VLADIVOSTOK, 2 March—The international vocal arts competition for children and youth "Voice of Friendship" opened in Russia's Vladivostok city on Friday.

Children from Russia, China and Vietnam participated in the three-day competition for soloists, vocal groups, vocal and choral

groups.

The competition is held in three categories: academic, folk and modern singing. There are three age categories of participants: 9-11 years, 12-14 years and 15-17 years.

It aims to popularize the vocal arts among children and young people.

Xinhua

Abhishek Bachchan is a great dad: designer Ritu Beri



NEW DELHI, 2 March—Ace designer Ritu Beri has roped in Abhishek Bachchan to launch the fourth edition of her annual children's fashion collection and she says the actor is the perfect choice because he is a great father.

Abhishek, 37, who has one-year-old daughter Aaradhya with wife Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, will be the star guest at this year's charity Baby Beri show for The Blessed Hearts Foundation.

PTI

Actress Jennifer Lawrence's "Silver Linings" clothes fetch \$12,000



Jennifer Lawrence, best actress winner for her role in "Silver Linings Playbook," poses with her Oscar backstage at the 85th Academy Awards in Hollywood, California, on 24 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 2 March—Clothing worn by Jennifer Lawrence in her

Oscar-winning role as an outspoken young widow in "Silver Linings Playbook"

beat expectations by taking in about \$12,000 at auction.

The wool, full-length winter coat worn by Lawrence in the Oscar-nominated comedy topped all items, selling for \$4,652 in the three-day online auction, Los Angeles auction house Nate D Sanders said on Friday.

The memorabilia dealer had expected the items to fetch between \$500 and \$1,500 each following the 22-year-old's Best Actress win at the Academy Awards on Sunday. Lawrence also won awards from the Golden Globe and Screen Actors Guild in January for her

"Silver Linings Playbook" performance.

The custom-tailored white pants Lawrence wore during the film's climactic ballroom dance scene with co-star Bradley Cooper went for \$3,493, and a package of a teal sports bra and blue long-sleeved shirt sold for \$3,175.

A black tank top from Lawrence's wardrobe, but not worn in the film, fetched \$624. Movie studios often hand off costumes to auction houses, where even small outfits can bring in high prices from fans and collectors.

Reuters

Richard Burton immortalized in Hollywood next to Taylor

LOS ANGELES, 2 March—British actor Richard Burton finally received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame next to that of his two-time wife, Elizabeth Taylor, on Friday, nearly 30 years after his death. Welsh-born Burton, who died in 1984, received the career honour as part of the 50th anniversary of ancient Egypt movie drama "Cleopatra," in which he and co-star Taylor began their storied and tumultuous love affair.

The couple's adopted daughter, Maria Burton, accepted the honour of the iconic terrazzo and brass star along Hollywood Boulevard in the historical heart of the US film industry. Burton was nominated for an Oscar seven times between 1953 and 1978 but never won the prize. Actor and fellow Welshman Michael Sheen spoke at the unveiling and recalled the awe he felt when Burton and Taylor, one of Hollywood's most famous couples, visited the village where Sheen grew up.

"The same beach that I built my boyhood sand castles (on) and learned to failingly swim — it was that same beach, that one legendary day, Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor descended from the heavens, like gods from Olympus, in a helicopter ... and landed on those sands," Sheen said. "They stepped out swathed in luxurious fur coats — it was the '70s — and walked among us for too short a time," he added. Burton, whose star is

the 2,941th installed, starred in 11 films with Taylor, including "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" in 1966 and "The Taming of the Shrew" in 1967.

The couple's scandalous love affair during 1964's "Cleopatra" was made into a US television movie "Liz & Dick," starring Lindsay Lohan, last year. Burton and Taylor wed for the first time in 1964 and divorced in 1974.

Reuters



Family members and friends pose together during a ceremony posthumously honouring actor Richard Burton with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Hollywood, California, on 1 March, 2013.—REUTERS

Bollywood film recreates Mumbai attacks of 2008



People walk underneath a promotional billboard for Ram Gopal Varma's film "The Attacks of 26/11" by a roadside in Mumbai on 28 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

MUMBAI, 2 March—A dramatized Bollywood account of the Mumbai attacks of 2008, when 166 people died in a three-day rampage, opened in Indian cinemas on Friday to present an unusually emotive tale told from the perspective of a police officer. "The Attacks of 26/11" chronicles the events that began on 26 Nov, 2008, when 10 gunmen went on a killing spree throughout the coastal city, attacking two luxury hotels, a train station and a Jewish centre, among other places.

It is the latest in a recent spate of Bollywood

movies taking inspiration from real-life incidents, a practice that used to be unusual. Just over the last few years, there have been films on the gruesome murder of a model and a daring bank heist. The film's director, Ram Gopal Varma, said he decided to make the film to try and answer questions about how a small handful of attackers was able to lay siege to a vast metro-polis the size of Mumbai.

"How can 10 men hold a city of 1.5 crore (15 million) people to siege? That is something everyone should know," Varma told Reuters. The film focuses on

the city police and their response to the attacks. Veteran actor Nana Patekar playing a high ranking Mumbai police officer referred to only as "joint police commissioner." Patekar's character, based on a real policeman, narrates the film, which portrays in graphic detail how the hapless police force, caught completely unawares, struggles to cope with an attack of such enormity.

At one point he frantically tells a government official, "I don't know what to do." "You need to understand that the police were confused and didn't know what to do," Varma said. "If you were in their shoes, you would react the same way to an incident of this magnitude. It is important to understand their point of view." Advertising posters show a group of 10 men, the attackers, in a dinghy heading towards the iconic sea-facing Taj Mahal hotel, one of the most recognized buildings in Mumbai—a nod to the powerful shock and emotions the attack still evokes, symbolized by the hotel.—Reuters

SPORTS

Olympic champion Chen withdraws halfway at IAAF Race Walking Challenge

TAICANG, (China), 2 March—London Olympic champion Chen Ding withdrew halfway from the men's 20 kilometres event of 2013 Taicang IAAF Race Walking Challenge here on Friday, which saw his national teammate Li Jianbo claim the title in chilly and wet conditions.

It was the season opener for the 20-year-old Chen who clocked one hour 18 minutes and 48 seconds to claim the 20km walk title at 2012 London Olympic Games. However, the 20-year-old seemed reluctant to show his full strength. After leading for several kilometres, Chen slowed down as he was left out from the leading group and quit the race at the 10 km mark.

"I felt good today. I led in the early stage and was

walking in great rhythm. But it was quite cold and with the National Games and World Championships yet to come this year, my coach and I both agreed that I need to save my energy and strength for the following competitions, which are of greater importance for me," said Chen. The



London Olympic champion Chen Ding

low temperature as well as continuous rain and wind did make great trouble for the walkers. Several athletes almost fell down at the wet and slippery course at the very beginning of the race.

China's Li Jianbo, a 50km specialist who finished seventh in London at that distance, clocked 1:18:52 to win the men's 20km race. The runner-up Cai Zelin, 21, who finished fourth in the 20km in London, was three seconds behind Li, while three-time Olympic medalist Jared Tallent of Australia finished third in 1:20:41. It's the third successive year for this competition to be held in Taicang and the 28-year-old Tallent became the first foreigner that managed to break the domination of local walkers and clinched a podium finish.—Xinhua

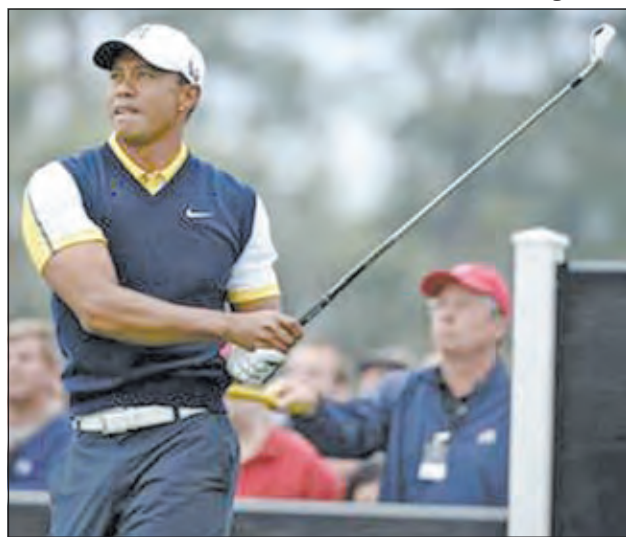
Tiger says McIlroy should choose words more carefully

PALM BEACH GARDENS, (Florida), (Florida), 2 March—Tiger Woods, who has endured his share of controversy and media scrutiny, said world number one Rory McIlroy should choose his words more carefully after withdrawing from the Honda Classic with what was initially a mysterious explanation. Before driving away from the PGA National course on Friday after a nightmare start to his round, McIlroy told reporters: "I'm not in a great place mentally. I can't really say much, guys. I'm just in a bad place mentally."

Later, in a statement, the 23-year-old Northern Irishman said he was having pain with a wisdom tooth and that he was unable to concentrate. Former world number one and 14-times major winner Woods was

asked after his second consecutive even-par 70, whether he had talked to McIlroy about handling the media focus. "He's just got to be more just got to think about it a little bit

more before you say something or do something," said Woods. "It can get out of hand, especially when you get into social media and start tweeting and all those different things that



Tiger Woods of the US hits the ball at the 9th tee during second round play in the Honda Classic PGA golf tournament in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida on 1 March, 2013.—REUTERS

US among nations aiming to supplant Japan at WBC



Japan's Ichiro Suzuki (C) celebrates with team mates after defeating South Korea during the World Baseball Classic (WBC) Tokyo round in Tokyo Dome in this file photo taken on 7 March, 2009.—REUTERS

NEW YORK, 2 March—Championship baseball comes early this year as Japan aims to extend their dominance over hungry rivals, including the United States, in the 16-team World Baseball Classic starting on Saturday. Top players have come together

ahead of their own regular seasons for the sport's top international competition, with baseball powers such as the Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Cuba and South Korea eager for a chance to supplant Japan, winners of the first two editions of the event.

"Our one mission is to win," New York Yankees second baseman Robinson Cano told New York's WFAN Radio about playing alongside fellow

Dominicans Jose Reyes, Edwin Encarnacion, and Nelson Cruz. "For us, it's serious." Players may be in the early stages of building up to form, but a sense of urgency can be felt among many challengers. The US team was knocked out in the second round in 2006 and in the semi-finals in 2009, and they seem determined to play to their potential as a point of pride.

"I'm very excited to represent the country and wear the red, white and blue," said US second baseman Brandon Phillips of the Cincinnati Reds, whose WBC team mates include Ryan Braun, Joe Mauer, Mark Teixeira and last year's National League Cy Young winner RA Dickey. "It's something I've always wanted to do since 1996, and I was a batboy in the Olympics," he said, recalling his time as a 15-year-old in his hometown of Atlanta. "Hopefully, we can go out there and make the USA proud. Get that first place—bring it home."—Reuters



Novak Djokovic of Serbia reacts after winning his men's singles semi-final match against Juan Martin Del Potro of Argentina during the ATP Dubai Tennis Championships, on 1 March, 2013.—REUTERS

Serena gets in trouble for trying to photograph Woods

PALM BEACH GARDENS, (Florida), 2 March—Tennis world number one Serena Williams found herself in trouble with security officials at the PGA Tour's Honda Classic on Friday after she tried to photograph Tiger Woods.

Under PGA Tour rules, spectators are not allowed to take pictures or video

of players on competition days. A short video posted on CBSSports.com shows a tournament official pulling Williams's phone down as she was about to snap a photograph with her phone during the second round of the Honda Classic and she then tweeted about the episode.

"Apparently you can't take pictures of golfers. In my defence peeps always take pics of tennis players," Williams tweeted. Williams, who did manage to post a picture of Woods driving from the tee on her Twitter account, although it was not clear if she herself had taken the picture, also said the security was "mad" and "yelled" at her during the episode.—Reuters



Serena Williams of the US serves the ball to Victoria Azarenka of Belarus during the final match at the Qatar Open tennis tournament in Doha on 17 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

Berdych downs Federer to reach Dubai final



Tomas Berdych of Czech Republic hits a return to Roger Federer of Switzerland during their men's singles semi-final match at the ATP Dubai Tennis Championships, on 1 March, 2013.—REUTERS

DUBAI, 2 March—Third seed Tomas Berdych saved three match points before beating defending champion Roger Federer in the semi-finals of the Dubai championships on Friday to set up a final against Novak Djokovic. Czech Berdych recorded his fifth win in eight matches over Federer, triumphing 3-6, 7-6, 6-4 while top seed Djokovic extended his winning streak to 17 matches by beating Juan Martin del Potro 6-3, 7-6.

Djokovic and Federer have claimed eight of the

past 10 Dubai titles between them and the 5,000 capacity crowd were urging the world's top two to win through under the floodlights. Serb Djokovic obliged in the first semi but a tired Federer fell short, losing at the semi-finals stage of the tournament for the first time in eight appearances. "I couldn't have a better feeling than this one, coming from court playing Roger almost in front of his home crowd," Berdych told reporters.

Reuters

GENERAL

Loan for tri shaw drivers

DAIKU, 2 March — Organized by DaikU Township Development Committee, the ceremony to pay loan to drivers was held at Kawliya Hall in DaikU under poverty alleviation scheme enabling the

drivers to become owner.

At the ceremony, Bago Region Hluttaw Representative U Ko Htay and Chairman of DaikU Township Development Committee and Township Administrator

U kyawswar Aung, Executive Officer U Aung Khine of DaikU Township Development Committee presented three million kyat to the tri shaw drivers.

Kyemon

French tribunal blocks Roland Garros extension

PARIS, 2 March — The extension of the French Open's Roland Garros site, which has been championed by Paris mayor Bertrand Delanoe, was stopped by an administrative tribunal on Friday.

The project was approved by the city's government two years ago but the tribunal ruled that the local residents' complaints



A ball boy holds tennis balls during an exhibition match ahead of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris in this file photo taken on 24 May, 2008.—REUTERS

were not thoroughly considered and the fee payable by the French tennis federation (FFT) was set too low. The extension, which the FFT said would cost 273 million euros (\$356.90 million), has been fought by residents' associations because the building work would encroach on the nearby Auteuil botanical greenhouse complex. The FFT said it would appeal.

Reuters

Obituary Daw Chaing Aged 86

Beloved wife of U Ba Win (a) Aw Teong Whei of Los Angeles in US, mother of Dr U Kyaw Tun-(Daw Mya Yin), Dr Daw Mya Khin, Dr U Maung Sein-Dr Daw Than Than Myint, Dr U Soe Win-Daw Kathy, Dr U Myo Tun Win-Daw Khin San Myaing and U Min Maw-Dr Daw Mya Win (Myanmar Life Hotel), Grandmother of Dr Tommy Kyaw Tun-Christina, Dr Jimmy Kyaw Tun, Dr Julie Kyaw Tun, Jimmy Hu, Oscar Hu, George Hu, Alex Aw, Ma Mya Sanda Min (a) Chi Chi, Ma Mya Nanda Maw (a) Non Non passed away in Los Angeles at 6.45 am LST on 27-2-2013 (Wednesday). The funeral will be held in Los Angeles on 4-3-2013.

Bereaved Family



"No single statement carries a price higher than the blood of a person."

The US Secretary of State joined the Israeli Prime Minister and UN Secretary-General to criticize the Turkish Prime Minister's Zionism to crimes against humanity on his first trip to the country. He said Tayyip Erdogan's comment at UN meeting in Vienna was found to be "objectionable".



John Kerry
US Secretary of State

"Every bomb, in a period of democracy, is targeted against democracy itself, and not against specific individuals."

The Greek minister made the above comment after the bomb explosion Tuesday near his residence in central Athens. He was believed to be the target of the bomb blast that caused no casualty.



George Voulgarakis
Greek Culture Minister

"We don't want to run a risk of a second No to the constitution."

Italian Prime Minister and Ex-President of European Commission Prodi Monday said the 25-member EU needs a new "simplified" constitution text acceptable to all members. He said the charter should be drafted in "more corporate and optimistic atmosphere".



Romano Prodi

- NLM -

Guthrie in Honda driver's seat, McIlroy withdraws

PALM BEACH GARDENS, (Florida), 2 March—American PGA Tour rookie Luke Guthrie shot a sparkling



Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland hits the ball into the water near the 18th hole during second round play in the Honda Classic PGA golf tournament in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida on 1 March, 2013.—REUTERS

seven-under 63 for a one-stroke lead after the second round of the Honda Classic on Friday while world number one Rory McIlroy

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(3-3-13 09:30 am ~ 4-3-13 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * US-Myanmar Trade and Investment Relations: The Path Forward
- * Myanmar payment Union and Chin Union Pay
- * Evergreen Classical Music
- * News
- * Beautiful Sun Rise in MraukU
- * Beauty & Colour
- * "Acute & Chronic Liver Disease" Training Workshop
- * To be Upgrades National Museum
- * MI People's Celebrities "Are they Futuer brides?"
- * Grnius Fashion
- * "Myanmar Movies Impact" dramatic Film or Comedy, Which One do you like best? (Part-1)
- * News
- * "Myanmar Movies Impact" dramatic Film or Comedy, Which One do you like best? (Part-2)
- * 24th Gangaw Village Art Exhibition
- * Case Studies for 2014 ASEAN Chairmanship
- * People's Voice
- * Myanmar Movies "Only Mom Can"

Myanmar TV

(3-3-2013, Sunday)

- | | | | |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|
| 7:00 am | 1. Paritta By Venerable MinGun Sayadaw | 2:20 pm | 14. Union Cup Games (Live Broadcast) (Football-Men, Semi-final) (Magwe Vs Yangon) |
| 7:25 am | 2. Health Programme | 4:50 pm | 15. Musical Programme |
| 7:30 am | 3. Morning News | 5:00 pm | 16. Sing & Enjoy |
| 7:40 am | 4. International News | 6:00 pm | 17. Evening News |
| 8:00 am | 5. (38) Phyar Mingalars | 6:20 pm | 18. Cartoon Series |
| 8:15 am | 6. SEA Games (Go for Gold) (Diving) | 7:00 pm | 19. News |
| 8:35 am | 7. Musical Programme | 7:10 pm | 20. TV Drama Series |
| 8:45 am | 8. Teleplay (Traffic) | 8:00 | 21. News |
| 11:00 am | 9. Martial Song | 8:00 | 22. International News |
| 11:25 am | 10. Round Up Of The Week's TV local News | 10:00 pm | 23. Weather Report |
| 11:50 am | 11. Myanmar Video | | 24. Tamnyethnar Takwetsar |
| 2:20 pm | 12. Documentary | | 25. TV Drama Series |
| 2:35 pm | 13. Joint Performace by State Orchestra and State Traditional Orchestra | | 26. News |
| | | | 28. New Melody |

Schwarzenegger flexes muscles again in bodybuilding world

LOS ANGELES, 2 March —Arnold Schwarzenegger is going back to his bodybuilding roots. The action movie star turned politician will become group executive editor for the magazines *Flex*, and *Muscle & Fitness*, writing monthly columns in the publications and their online websites, American Media said on Friday.

The "Terminator" star, who began his Hollywood career as a bodybuilder and went on to win five Mr Universe titles, held the same position at the magazines before he was elected California governor in 2003.

"Bodybuilding has always been part of my life, and I know Muscle & Fitness and Flex will continue to motivate others



Actor Arnold Schwarzenegger attends a photo call of the film "The Last Stand" in Cologne on 21 Jan, 2013.

REUTERS

— as it did me — to lift weights and lead a healthy lifestyle (and) promote the sport of bodybuilding," Schwarzenegger said in a statement. Schwarzenegger's relationship with the two magazines goes back to 1968, when he was just 21, and he has appeared on their covers more than 60 times. Schwarzenegger, 65, has taken a diverse path since stepping down as California governor in January 2011, returning to movies in films like "The Last Stand" and "The Expendables 2," writing an autobiography, and launching an eponymous global policy think tank at the University of Southern California's Los Angeles campus.—Reuters

one shot from missing the cut and nine strokes behind the lead going into Saturday's third round.

Guthrie, 23, was flawless as he carded seven birdies at PGA National to move into the driver's seat with a one-stroke lead over compatriot Michael Thompson (65). Canadian Graham DeLaet (68) and American Boo Weekley (67) were a further shot off the pace.

But the attention was all on McIlroy, who pulled out on his ninth hole after a nightmare start to his second round, dropping seven shots from his opening eight holes with a triple-bogey, a double-bogey and two bogeys.—Reuters

Vice-President U Nyan Tun calls for employment of modern machinery and technologies to manufacture value-added products



Vice-President U Nyan Tun at Myanmar Rice Mill and Machinery for Value-added Agricultural Produces Exhibition-2013.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March—Vice-President U Nyan Tun called for swift domestic transactions and speedy export procedures for trading of agricultural produces.

The Vice-President says farmland reforms are essential as he addressed the Myanmar Rice Mill

and Machinery for Value-added Agricultural Produces Exhibition-2013 at Myanmar Convention Centre in Mayangon Township, Yangon this morning.

He demanded shift to marketable quality strains, supply of suitable inputs and machinery for harvest,

standardization of the farmland measurements, construction of production routes and irrigation canals, establishing market network and ensuring appropriate prices for agricultural development.

He also underscored the need for manufacturing value-added products rather than exporting agricultural output in raw to help enhance the socio-economic status of farmers who make up of the 70 per cent of the population.

He noted the record high export volume of rice in 46 years as 1.26 million tons have been exported

until 15 February during 2012-2013 fiscal year.

The exhibition reportedly includes dissemination of pre- and post-harvest technologies, paper reading session, and business matching and is believed to fulfill the requirements for agricultural modernization to a certain extent, opening up business opportunities for

farmers and businessmen.

The exhibition will go on until 5 March, hosting 145 booths of 40 foreign and local companies. It is jointly organized by Myanmar Rice Dealers Association and Myanmar Agribusiness Public Corporation Ltd under the aegis of the Ministry of Commerce.

MNA

Union Defence Minister receives Russian Defence Minister and party

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March—Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Wai Lwin received a delegation led by General Sergey K. SHOIGU, Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation at the meeting hall of Information

and Mobile Communications Enterprise of Myanmar Economic Cooperation, here, today.

They discussed further bilateral cooperation between the two armed forces.—MNA



Vice-President U Nyan Tun visits booths at Myanmar Rice Mill and Machinery for Value-added Agricultural Produces Exhibition.—MNA

Significant night temperature (2-3-2013)

Chauk	41°C
Aunglan	41°C
Taungdwingyi	41°C

Myanmar selects final squad for AFC Challenge Cup qualifiers

By Shine Htet Zaw



Myanmar national football team's head coach has called up final 23 players to the squad for 2014 AFC Challenge Cup qualifiers Group (A) football matches to be hosted by Myanmar.

The backroom staff of Myanmar national football team are Manager U Tin Myint Aung, Head Coach Park Sung-Hwa, Assistant Coach U Zaw Win Tun, Fitness Coach Ha Hyeok-Joon, Goalkeeping Coach U Myo Chit, Media Officer U Soe Moe Kyaw, Interpreter U Aung Thura and Dr Aung Kyaw Oo.

Goalkeepers Thiha Sithu, Pyae Phyto Aung and Kyaw Zin Phyto, Defenders

Thet Naing, Zaw Min Tun, Aung Hein Kyaw, Thein Than Win, Pyae Phyto Aung, Ye Zaw Htet Aung and Zaw Zaw Oo, Midfielders Naing Lin Oo, Phyto Ko Ko Thein, Yan Aung Kyaw, Yazar Win Thein, Kyi Lin, Sithu Aung, David Htan, Paing Soe, Myo Zaw Oo and Forwards Soe Kyaw Kyaw, Kaung Sithu, Soe Min Oo and Kyaw Zeyar

2-3-2013	India Vs China (Taipei)	4.00 pm
	Myanmar Vs Guam	6.45 pm
4-3-2013	Guam Vs India	4.00 pm
	China (Taipei) Vs Myanmar	6.45 pm
6-3-2013	China (Taipei) Vs Guam	4.00 pm
	Myanmar Vs India	6.45 pm

*All matches will be played at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre.

Kyemon: 2-3-2013

Trs: HKA

Win made the final squad.

Myanmar will play India, Guam and China (Taipei) in the group (A) matches on 2-6 March at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon. On 2 March, India plays China (Taipei) at 4 pm and Myanmar faces Guam at 6.45 pm.

Here are schedule of group matches:-