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President U Thein Sein arrives in Vienna of Austria



President U Thein Sein observes charts of Verbund Company's hydropower plant on Danube River.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 4 March—President U Thein Sein arrived at Vienna International Airport of Austria at 10.5 am local time yesterday as he proceeded his Europe trip.

Chief of protocol department of Austrian foreign ministry Ambassador Dr Bettina Kimbauer and officials

welcomed the President and party at the airport, and Myanmar families and staff of the Myanmar Embassy in Germany at the Hotel Imperial.

In meeting with families of Myanmar national races, the President said that Myanmar is undertaking political and economic reforms and

there are developments in international relations with economic sanctions eased

and lifted. He tipped sound foundation of the country for economic development

of the country. He also called on them to join united efforts for socio-economic development of the country.

He then posed for a documentary photo with them.

The President in the afternoon visited St. Stephens Cathedral established since 1147 in downtown Vienna and Belvedere Castle where Austrian artworks are put on display.

He also visited Verbund Company's hydropower plant on Danube River. Head of the lower Danube working group Mr Heinz Peter Allmer conducted the President round the plant. He also briefed on the plant's environmental-friendly features.

Hydropower satisfies the power demand of Austrian people.

The President said

Myanmar also relied on hydropower to fulfill the demand, but damming the river degraded the environment and caused socio-economic damages as the villages in basin areas had to be relocated. It was also costly because the projects were far from the national power grid, he added. The Austrian model projects on Sittoung and Thanlwin rivers would generate electricity with least damage to the environment and the socio-economic status of the people, he said, revealing his hope for conducting feasibility tests to apply Austrian technologies in Myanmar.

The President also visited small-scaled hydropower plant on the canal connected with Danube River.

MNA

President U Thein Sein greets families of Myanmar national races in Austria.—MNA



Bangladesh Single Country Trade Fair 2013, 6-8 March

YANGON, 4 March—Embassy of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in Yangon and the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) of Dhaka will organize the Bangladesh Single Country Trade Fair 2013 for the second time at Mingalar Hall, UMFCI, here, from 6 to 8 March.

The trade Fair will introduce Bangladesh exportable products with the aim of strengthening trade and investment relations between Myanmar and Bangladesh, promoting Bangladesh exportable products in Myanmar market and enhancing existing

normal and border trade between the two countries.

Over 31 exhibitors will display their products at the trade fair, comprising food and drinks, handicrafts, household utensils, garments, ceramics, services, plastic ware, steel products, home electrical appliance, IT, security technology, construction and building materials, paper, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and herbal products.

Seminar on Exportable Products of Bangladesh will be held at 9 am on 7 March.

NLM

Significant day temperatures (4-3-2013)

Chauk	43°C
Thayawady	42°C
Bawlakhe	42°C

Refresher course of Toungoo District Court starts

TOUNGOO, 4 March—A refresher course of Toungoo District Court on clerical works was opened on 2 March morning.

Judge of Toungoo District Court U Aung Soe

elaborated on the purpose of the course in his opening speech. The four-week course is being attended by a total of 20 trainees from the courts of the six townships in Toungoo District.—NLM

Food poisoning at plywood factory in Homalin Township brings death toll to six

MONYWA, 4 March — The death toll from food poisoning at Lapyae Naga plywood factory near Yatpha Village in Htamanthi village-tract of Homalin Township stood at six including Soe Naing Tun, 20, one of 33 victims who had suffered food poisoning and are being given medical treatment at

Htamanthi station hospital.

Victims who died of food poisoning were Sithu, 25, Kyaukdoe (a) Kyaw Thu Nyein, 18, Kyaw Myo Aung, 19, Soe Naing Tun, 20, Po Lapyae, 18 and Ko Phyto, 19. All of victims are from South Obo ward of Monywa.

Of remaining 27 patients in Htamanthi station hospital, eight patients—six

men and two women—were transferred to 100-bedded Homalin Hospital on 27 February.

Food poisoning was suspected and links suggested with the breakfast served at the factory at about 11 am on 26 February. Further investigation into the case is ongoing.

Kyemon

Union Cup Games Men's, Women's volleyball tournament continues



NAY PYI TAW, 4 March — The final matches of the first-stage round robin event of men's volleyball tournament of Union Cup took place at the volleyball ground of Sports Training Centre (1), here, on 2 March.

Shan State upset Kachin State team 3-0 in Group (A), Kayin State won Magway Region team 3-1 in Group (B), Kayah State beat Mandalay Region team 3-2 in Group (C). The winning teams cruised to the next stage. In the round robin event of women's volleyball tournament, Yangon Region won Rakhine State 3-0.

Kyemon



Seizure of illegal teak in Sagaing Region

SAGAING, 4 March — A combined team comprising forest staff and police members seized 5.9810 tons of illegal teak and hardwood while conducting a search of a ten-wheeled truck driven by Sann Win at the entrance to Sagaing on

Sagaing-Monywa road on 22 February. Driver Sann Win and conductor Thein Tun Myint (a) Maung Tun were charged with the seizure of illegal teak. Likewise, the team arrested Hsan She (a) Lin Htet Soe, Maung Zaw and Kyaw Myo Thu (a) Kyaw

Thu together with 7.0232 tons of illegal hardwood while carrying out a search of 12-wheeled truck at the tollgate near Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon). The suspects were charged with the seizure of illegal teak.

Kyemon

House fire in Dala Township

DALA, 4 March — A fire broke out at a house in ward-11/14 in Dala Township at about 8 pm on 28 February.

The fire started from the overheated fuse of a lamp inside the room of the house.

Fire crews of Dala Township fire service, auxiliary fire brigade members and local people managed to bring the fire under control at about 8:25 pm.

No injury was reported,

but three houses were reduced to ashes and one house was damaged in the fire.

Dala Township police station filed a lawsuit against the house owner.

Kyemon

Pseudo-meat seized, incinerated

WAW, 4 March — A mobile team which has been assigned duty for the fight against illegal trade seized 15 bags of Thailand-made pseudo-meat (975 kilos) while conducting a search of a vehicle driven by Kyaw

Min Latt at Nyaungkhashe-DaikU junction in Waw Township of Bago Region recently. The seized pseudo-meats were incinerated on 1 March as they were a danger to the public health.

Kyemon

Car crash hurts five passengers in Shwepyitha Township

YANGON, 4 March — A car crash involved a Hilux and a Dyna occurred at the top of Bayintnaung Road and Yadana Theingi street in ward-9 of Shwepyitha Township at about 10.30 am on 1 March.

The Dyna of No (82) bus line driving from Aungmingala bus terminal

to Shwepyitha hit the Hilux with 15 passengers on board while it turned and headed for the bus terminal. Of passengers on the Hilux, three men and two women got injuries to their head, chest and legs. The injured were taken to Shwepyitha Hospital for medical treatment.

Kyemon



Four die, mother, son hurt in expressway crash

TOUNGGOO, 4 March — A fatal road accident happened to a vehicle carrying four people and two children at the place between Kywepwe and Nyaungchayhtauk of Tounggoo District on Yangon-Mandalay expressway at about 1 am on 28 February. The car crash claimed four lives and left two others seriously injured. The van driven by Aung Kyaw Moe (a) Ko Kywat, 35, from Myingyan to Yangon crashed into the blocks in the middle of the road and the bridge. The crash caused severe damage to the front part of the van.

Driver Aung Kyaw Moe (a) Ko Kywat, Kyaw Swa Myint, 38, a one-year-and-three-month old child and a housemaid were killed in

the car crash. Mee Mee (a) Myo Thet Wai, 32, and her elder son Phone Myat Min, 3, of Myingyan were severely wounded and hospitalized at

Tounggoo people's hospital. Ambulances of Myanmar Red Cross Society and Ah-yaw-jan ambulance service at 115th-Mile rushed to the scene

and necessary measures were carried out. Bawdikon police station on the expressway opened a case about the car crash.

Kyemon



Green light given to construction of more washrooms in Yangon

YANGON, 4 March — According to an official of Environmental Conservation and Sanitation Department under the Yangon City Development Committee, permission has been given to private sector for construction of washrooms in Yangon

through BOT system. Thorough examinations were made at the proposed places of businessmen before construction, he added.

"We have decided to give green light to the plan after making careful examination of the proposed

places that are away from religious edifices, underground power lines and water supply pipes and are not harmful to the environment," he explained.

Now, 28 washrooms and 10 mobile toilets are being kept open in

Yangon. A washroom is under construction at Htaunkkyant junction. Apart from scrutinizing the proposal to build washrooms by businessmen, surprise checks are being carried out whether already-opened washrooms have proper sewerage system in accord with rules and regulations of the committee.

Kyemon

WORLD

Kenyans to vote in tense head-to-head presidential race

NAIROBI, 4 March—Kenyans vote on Monday in a presidential election that will test whether the east African nation can restore its reputation as one of Africa's more stable democracies after a lethal ethnic rampage erupted following the 2007 poll.

Outgoing President Mwai Kibaki, the candidates and civil society groups have all appealed for a peaceful poll after the disputed vote five years ago unleashed a wave of killing by rival tribes that lasted weeks and left

more than 1,200 dead.

"I also make a passionate plea for all of us to vote peacefully. Indeed, peace is a cornerstone of our development," Kibaki, barred from seeking a third five-year term, told Kenyans in a televised address before polling day.

Yet, as in 2007, the race has come down to a high-stakes head-to-head between two candidates, Prime Minister Raila Odinga and Deputy Prime Minister Uhuru Kenyatta, and once again both will

depend heavily on votes from loyalists of rival tribes.

Though well ahead of six other contenders, polls suggest neither may be able to command enough ballots for an outright victory in the first round, which could set the stage for a tense run-off tentatively set for 11 April. A narrow first round victory for either could raise prospects for legal challenges.

Kenya's neighbours are watching nervously, after their economies felt



A woman carries a plastic bag on her head as she walks past a wall with various campaign posters on a street in Kenya's capital Nairobi on 3 March, 2013.—REUTERS

the shockwaves when violence five years ago shut down trade routes running through east Africa's biggest economy. Some landlocked states have stockpiled fuel and other materials.

Reuters

Obama renews budget offer to cut social safety nets



US President Barack Obama

WASHINGTON, 4 March—President Barack Obama raised anew the issue of cutting entitlements such as Medicare and Social Security as a way out of damaging budget cuts, a White House official said on Sunday, as both sides in Washington tried to limit a fiscal crisis that may soon hit millions of Americans.

Signaling he might be ready to explore a compromise to end automatic spending cuts that began late Friday, Obama mentioned reforming these entitlement programmes in calls with lawmakers from both parties on Saturday afternoon.

"He's reaching out to Democrats who understand we have to make serious progress on long-term entitlement reform and

Republicans who realize that if we had that type of entitlement reform, they'd be willing to have tax reform that raises revenues to lower the deficit," White House senior economic official Gene Sperling said on Sunday on the CNN programme "State of the Union."

Republicans have long argued that the only way to tame budget deficits over the long haul is by slowing the cost of sprawling social safety net programmes.

These include the Social Security retirement programme and Medicare and Medicaid healthcare programmes for the elderly, disabled and poor that are becoming more expensive as a large segment of the US population hits retirement age.—Reuters

Mortars land in central Syrian capital, rebels storm police academy in north

DAMASCUS, 4 March—Three mortar shells landed near government establishments in central Syrian capital Damascus on Sunday, as the rebels have reportedly stormed a police academy in the northern Province of Aleppo.

The three mortars landed in areas close to the custom directorate and the Ministry of High Education in al-Jamarek

area in Damascus, local reports said, as activists said the mortars landed close to the army's chief of staff headquarters, which is also adjacent to the custom directorate and the ministry.

The shells have apparently left no casualties. Meanwhile, the al-Khabar TV said that the rebels succeeded on Sunday in storming the police academy in Aleppo.—Xinhua

Election for Thailand's capital sees defeat for Thaksin's party

BANGKOK, 4 March—Thailand's main opposition party won an election for the governor of Bangkok on Sunday, dealing a surprise blow to the ruling party of exiled former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra which had hoped to win the city and cement its supremacy.

Incumbent governor and Democrat Party member Sukhumbhand Paribatra beat the candidate of Thaksin's Puea Thai Party, winning almost half the vote, the city administration said as the count neared completion.

"The Democrats won

because a large part of Bangkok were scared of Puea Thai holding too much power," political analyst Kan Yuenyong at Siam Intelligence Unit, told Reuters.

"In the long-term, Thailand is heading towards a system ruled by two main political parties."

Opinion polls had suggested Puea Thai candidate Pongsapat Pongcharoen, a former policeman, would drive the middle-class establishment party, the Democrats, out of power in Bangkok and usher in his party which is favoured by the poor.

Polls had shown Puea Thai leading by up to a nearly 17 percent margin.

It was the fourth consecutive Bangkok election victory for the Democrats, Thailand's oldest political party, which enjoys support from the middle class and conservative elite.

Puea Thai and its former incarnation, the Thai Rak Thai, have never won in Bangkok but is hugely popular with voters in poor north and northeast regions, who handed the party a victory in the last general election in 2011.

Thaksin, a graft-convicted telecoms tycoon, remains a powerful and popular political force from his home in self-exile in Dubai.

His sister is Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra who has presided over a period of calm since winning the 2011 election after years of upheaval that began with the ousting of Thaksin by the military in 2006. Sukhumbhand Paribatra, a member of the royal family and a former deputy foreign minister, thanked Yingluck for promising close cooperation with his city administration.

Reuters



Thailand's Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra (C) greets supporters as she arrives to her Puea Thai Party's headquarters in Bangkok on 3 March, 2013. Bangkok citizens vote to choose the new city's governor on Sunday.—REUTERS

Britain does not rule out future arms to Syria rebels

LONDON, 4 March—Britain cannot rule out providing arms to Syrian rebels in the future, although a new aid package it will announce this week will consist only of non-lethal assistance, Foreign Secretary William Hague said on Sunday.

Western countries have so far shied away from arming the rebels fighting against President Bashar al-Assad, despite their firm diplomatic backing for efforts to remove him.

Reuters and other news media have reported fighters getting increasingly large shipments of arms through Turkey and Jordan in recent months, with funding for those weapons believed to come from wealthy Arab states, like Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

Washington said on Thursday it would provide non-lethal aid to Syrian rebels to bolster their popular support. The package is expected to include medical supplies, food and \$60



million (39 million pounds). New US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel said on Friday he believed giving only "non-lethal support" was

Iraq shuts border crossing point with Syria

MOSUL, 4 March—The Iraqi security forces blocked on Sunday a border crossing point with Syria, a day after the Syria rebels seized the other side of the crossing from the Syrian governmental troops, an Iraqi security source said.

"The Iraqi security forces were ordered to block Al-Yaroubiyah border crossing point until further notice, because the Syrian government has lost control of the other side," a security source at the Iraqi town of Rabiea, close to the border crossing, told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The Iraqi security forces shut the border crossing with concrete blocks and deployed in the town of Rabiea, the source added. On Saturday, the source told Xinhua that the Syrian opposition forces took control of the border crossing point with Iraq's northern Province of Nineveh following fierce clashes with the Syrian army.

"Fighters from the Syrian opposition raised the flag of the Syrian Free Army on the government buildings on the Syrian side of Al-Yaroubiyah border crossing point after fierce clashes with the Syrian army," the source said. According to the source, the Iraqi security forces at the border point allowed receiving a wounded Syrian army officer and a number of wounded soldiers for treatment inside Iraq for humanitarian reasons.

The source noted that a Syrian soldier died on Sunday after receiving treatment for his wounds at a hospital in Nineveh Province, while five other wounded soldiers are still receiving treatment under tight security measures.

Xinhua

Britain's Foreign Secretary William Hague appears on the broadcast of the Andrew Marr Show at BBC studios in London on 3 March, 2013. REUTERS

correct. Britain has in the past also offered non-lethal aid to the rebels, such as radios, body armour and medical supplies.—Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

J-15 fighter able to attack over 1,000 km

BEIJING, 4 March—The J-15 fighter jet, likely to be commissioned to China's first aircraft carrier, is able to cover an area with a radius of over 1,000 km on attack missions, a chief designer said on Saturday.

The jet reaches similar technical standards of the third-generation carrier-borne fighters currently in service, said Sun Cong, a member of the 12th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference who is here to attend the political advisory body's annual session.

"The jet is close to the US F-18 Hornet fighter jet in terms of bomb load, combat radius and mobility," Sun said in an interview with Xinhua.

Great progress has been made on the fire-control radar and guided missiles on the fighter but more has to be done to improve its electronic countermeasures, he said. Nicknamed "Flying Shark," the J-15 fighter passed a test flight on 31 Aug, 2009. Last November, it conducted a successful landing on China's first aircraft carrier, the Liaoning.

Xinhua

Note-sharing service Evernote hacked; user data stolen

SAN FRANCISCO, 4 March—Evernote, a Web-based note-sharing service, said it was resetting the passwords of its 50 million users because hackers managed to breach its computer network and access some usernames, email addresses and encrypted passwords.

Evernote spokeswoman Ronda Scott said via email on Saturday that the attack "follows a similar pattern" to other cyber attacks on Internet-based companies in recent weeks, but she did not elaborate.

"In our security investigation, we have found no evidence that any of the content you store in Evernote was accessed, changed or lost," the company said on its website. "We also have no evidence that any payment information for Evernote Premium or Evernote Business customers was accessed."

Scott declined to say how many accounts had been exposed or whether it might be possible for the hackers to unscramble encrypted passwords.

A series of technology companies including Facebook Inc, Apple Inc, Microsoft Corp and Twitter have recently disclosed cyber attacks. In the majority of those cases, the companies said the unknown hackers exploited a bug in Java software and that no user information was compromised.

Twitter is the only major Internet company that has recently reported that its user information was exposed to hackers. On 1 February, Twitter reset passwords for some 250,000 accounts whose encrypted passwords may have been accessed.

Scott said Evernote believed that the hackers did not exploit a bug in Java when they broke into the company's system.

Evernote is a privately held company whose major investors include Meritech Capital, CBC Capital, Sequoia Capital, Morgenthaler Ventures, and DOCOMO Capital.—Reuters



A series of technology companies including Facebook, Apple, Microsoft and Twitter have recently disclosed cyber attacks.—REUTERS

Samsung Galaxy S IV may not have many colour options

NEW DELHI, 4 March—The well of information has leaked again, rewarding us mortals with more information about Samsung's newest flagship, the Galaxy S4. One of Samsung's Samsung insiders has revealed that the Korean company plans to sell the Galaxy S4 in only two colour options. The smartphone will reportedly be available in only white and black.

If true, this would mean Samsung is not joining the current trend of selling

colourful phones, at least with the Galaxy S4. Among manufacturers selling colourful phones, Nokia leads the pack with its highly colourful, peppy handsets.

Sony has experimented with colours and designs for quite a while now, and HTC has taken a leaf from Nokia's design book for its Windows Phone 8 handsets.

Besides the square edges the phone was recently revealed to have, the choice of a basic black or white colour scheme (if true) also signals

a departure from the design strategy used with the Galaxy S3. The S4's predecessor was available in brown, red, grey and black colours. However, Samsung hasn't abandoned the Galaxy series' design choices completely. Mobile Fun got its hands on some plastic cases for the new flagship.

The cases, of which there are several options to choose from, hint at a more angular design as opposed to the curvier corners of the Galaxy S3.—PTI



An official spokesperson from Sony Mobile has confirmed to IBNLive that the Sony Xperia Z is scheduled to be launched in India on 6 March.—PTI

NEW DELHI, 4 March—Sony is all set to launch its recently announced Xperia Z smartphone in India on 6 March. If you go the official Facebook page of Sony Mobile India, you will find

Sony's 5-inch Xperia Z coming to India on 6 March

the cover image stating, "Everything is about to change. 06/03/2013." The cover image also has a picture of a phone in the backdrop, which looks like the Xperia Z.

However, the image does not hint towards a launch event, but an official spokesperson from Sony Mobile has confirmed to IBNLive that the Sony Xperia Z is scheduled to be launched in India on 6 March.

The phone has a 5-inch full HD 1080p Reality Display, and is powered by a Snapdragon S4 Pro quad-core processor. Sony Xperia Z's Reality Display is powered by Mobile Bravia

Engine 2. The phone sports a 13 megapixel camera and includes 4GLTE. According to the company, the Xperia Z also includes Battery Stamina Mode that is said to improve the standby time by four times or more by automatically shutting down battery-draining apps whenever the screen is off and starting them up again when the screen is back on.

Despite its slim 7.9 mm body, Xperia Z is said to be durable with tempered glass and anti-shatter film on the front and back. It is a dust-resistant and water-resistant smartphone.

PTI



The Embrace plus bracelet keeps you connected to your smartphone and notifies you by flashing different colours for different apps and contacts.—PTI

Astronomers spy possible baby planet in stellar womb

CAPE CANAVERAL, 4 March—Scientists have found what they believe to be a planet-in-the-making that is still gathering material left over from the formation of its parent star.

The object appears as a faint blob nested inside a disk of gas and dust that swirls around a very young star known as HD 100546, located about 335 light years away in the constellation Musca, or The Fly, astronomers report in a paper published on Thursday in the *Astrophysical Journal*.

Light travels about 186,000 miles per second, or about 6 trillion miles (10 trillion km) a year. The embedded object appears to be about the size of Jupiter, although it is about 68 times farther away from its parent star than Earth is from the sun. At that distance, the object takes 360 years to complete one orbit around its star.

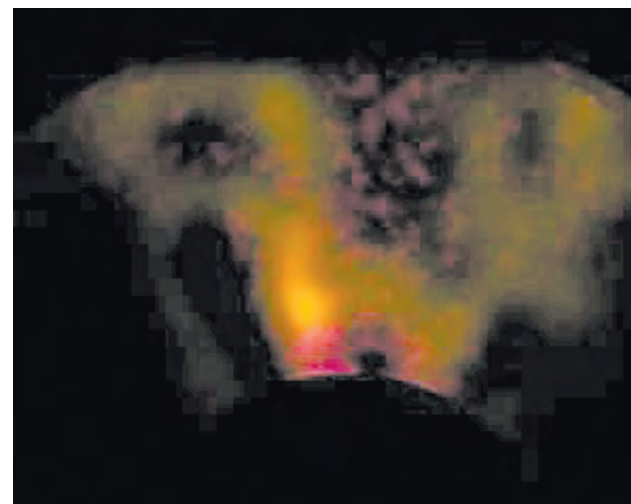
Jupiter, by comparison, orbits about five times farther from the sun than Earth and

completes an orbit in just under 12 years. Jupiter, the largest planet in the solar system, is more than 300 times the size of Earth.

If confirmed, HD 100546's planet would be the first of more than 800 extrasolar planets and more than 2,000 candidate planets

found while it was still in the formation phase.

"So far, planet formation has mostly been a topic tackled by computer simulations," lead researcher Sascha Quanz, with ETH Zurich's Institute for Astronomy in Switzerland, said in a statement.—Reuters



An image from the NACO system on ESO's Very Large Telescope shows a candidate protoplanet in the disc of gas and dust around the young star HD100546 in this picture released on 2 March, 2013 which was taken with a special coronagraph that suppresses the light from the brilliant star and allows the region of the protoplanet to be seen in great detail.—REUTERS

China's first solid-fuel rocket to debut before 2016

BEIJING, 4 March—China's first solid-fuel rocket Long March-11 is expected to make its first launch before 2016, a senior official of the rocket's designing institute said on Saturday.

Liang Xiaohong, deputy head of the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology, said the rocket will be easy to operate and cost-efficient to launch. It can remain in storage for long period and reliably launch on short notice.

"The development of the Long March-11 will greatly improve China's capabilities to rapidly enter the space and meet the emergency launching demand in case of disasters and emergencies," he told Xinhua.

The Long March-11 rocket system consists of a solid-fuel rocket and a launching support system. It will apply China's largest solid-fuel rocket engine, he said.

China has made more than 160 launching of liquid-fuel rockets successfully but is yet to make breakthrough on the development of the solid-fuel rockets.

Xinhua

BUSINESS & HEALTH

How will stricter control affect China's property market?

BEIJING, 4 March—China issued stricter measures on Friday to cool the heated property sector before the annual parliament session, amid public hope of pulling down soaring home prices.

The central government said in a notice that homeowners who sell their homes will be levied an income tax as high as 20 percent of the profit they make on the transaction. Prior to the new rules, income tax was 1 percent to 2 percent of the sale price.

The notice also said that local branches of the central bank in cities with soaring home prices can increase the down payment and mortgage loan interest rate for home buyers purchasing a second unit.



Zhang Xu, a market researcher with HomeLink, a leading property broker firm, said the policies will beef up tax and loan measures and make potential buyers to reconsider their purchase

decisions.

For example, if a home worth of 1 million yuan (159,236 US dollars) five years ago in Beijing is now sold at a price of 3 million yuan, the seller will be levied

400,000 yuan as income tax. The previous 1-percent policy just requires 30,000 yuan of income tax.

Zhang said the tax hike will increase the cost of second-hand

home transactions and hit speculative purchases in the property market.

The heated second-hand transactions recently seen in several major cities will cool down, he predicted.

Chen Guoqiang, vice president of the China Real Estate Industry Association, said tax hike will force many buyers to purchase first-hand homes.

Chen said if first-hand home supplies will not increase, the growing demands will finally push up home prices.

Along with a tighter grip on second-hand homes, China has already been working to increase home supplies.

In the notice, the central government asked local governments to increase land

supplies for housing and secure affordable housing construction.

Beside tax hike, a stricter control on mortgage loan is also expected to smother speculations.

Business insiders guessed that the down payment rate for a second unit may be increased to 70 percent in some major cities and loan interest rate may reach 1.3 times of the benchmark rate. But the notice did not give specific requirements. Zong Liang, a senior researcher with the Bank of China, said increase of down payment and loan interest rates can curb speculative purchases, but authorities must work to spare those who buy a second unit just to improve living conditions.—Xinhua

Rewards get kids active, but don't improve health

NEW YORK, 4 March—Children will meet activity goals to earn rewards, but the extra effort doesn't necessarily affect their weight and health, according to a new study.

The findings reinforce earlier research showing that incentives work to get kids more physically active, but the goal might need to be more challenging to show any health benefits.

"If I had to do it again I would do it at a higher level. It was too easy," said Eric Finkelstein at the Duke-National University of Singapore, who led the new study. Inactivity among kids is a pressing concern in the US and abroad (see Reuters

Health story of 29 March, 2010 here: reut.rs/jTEfxv).

"Kids are known to be inactive, getting five hours a day of screen time," said Gary Goldfield, a scientist with the Healthy Active Living and Obesity research group at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, who was not involved in the study. Finkelstein and his colleagues designed a programme meant to encourage more physical activity among elementary school-age kids.

All of the children in the study wore a pedometer for an average of nine months to measure how many steps they took each day.—Reuters

Women give up diets after five weeks, two days and 43 mins

LONDON, 4 March—Most women give up dieting after an average of five weeks, two days and 43 minutes, according to a new UK research. While one in seven (13 per cent) women in Britain stick to a diet for 13 weeks or more, nearly one in four (19 per cent) succumb to their favourite food cravings after a month.

Nearly one in ten women (8 per cent) lose the willpower to carry on dieting after just one week and 16 per cent give up after a fortnight, the 'Daily Mail' reported.

Some irresistible treats which dieters most crave include biscuits, cakes, sweets and even Indian and Chinese meals, found the study. The research among 1,000 women found that the

average age for a first diet is 26 years, but one in three women (33 per cent) started a slimming regime between the ages of 15 and 20.

Women said the most popular reason for losing

weight was being shocked at seeing themselves in a photograph or catching a glimpse of themselves in a shop window, found the study commissioned by a sugar substitute brand.



Some irresistible treats which dieters most crave include biscuits, cakes and even Indian and Chinese meals.

PTI

PTI

Probe into Walmart investments to take more time



NEW DELHI, 4 March—The Centre submitted before Madras High Court that it would take "some more time" for the conclusion of the probe by Enforcement Directorate into alleged violations of forex laws by the American retail giant Walmart in its investment in two Indian firms. ED has issued summons to Bharti Wal Mart Ltd officials for clarifications

in connection with the documents received from the concerned companies and government departments, an affidavit filed by a top ED official said.

"Investigations which are being conducted by ED would take some more time to be concluded as the documents received from the concerned companies and the concerned government

departments are being examined," ED Deputy Director Rajeswar Singh said in the affidavit.

ED has also made reference to concerned government departments to obtain material information and record relating to receipt of FDI by the said companies, Singh said in response to a PIL by a traders association. The Directorate has taken up appropriate investigation under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) into the alleged contravention of FEMA by Cedar Support Services Ltd, Bharti Wal Mart Pvt Ltd and Bharti Retail Ltd, relating to receipt of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in multi-brand retail trading by Bharti Retail Ltd, he said. The agency was investigating the receipt of FDI of Rs 455.80 crore

by Cedar Support Services Ltd and Rs 139.33 crore by Bharti Wal Mart Pvt Ltd, the affidavit said.

The probe would also go into the receipt of FDI as to whether the same was in conformity with the provisions of Section 6(3) (6) of FEMA read with the Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of Security by a person resident outside India) Regulations, 2000, Singh said. Petitioner T Vellayan, President of Federation of Tamil Nadu Traders Association, has sought a direction to authorities to examine, investigate or consider investment by a subsidiary of multi-brand retail company WalMart in two Indian firms in March-April 2010.

PTI

Celgene drug shown to be effective, safe in psoriasis trial

WASHINGTON, 4 March—Celgene Corp's experimental drug apremilast proved to be more effective than a dummy pill for psoriasis patients in a late-stage study, clearing the way for the company to file for US regulatory approval in the second half of 2013.

Celgene said 59 percent of patients in the 844-patient trial achieved a 50 percent improvement in symptoms at 16 weeks, using a standard score of the severity and extent of psoriasis, compared with 17 percent of placebo patients.

A 75 percent improvement in symptoms was seen in 33 percent of the treatment group and 5 percent of the placebo group.

The Phase 3 trial is the first of two pivotal studies

of the drug in patients with psoriasis, a disease in which itchy, painful skin plaques are thought to be caused by an inflammatory response initiated by the body's immune system.

Apremilast is a pill that inhibits an enzyme known as phosphodiesterase 4, or PDE4, and acts to damp down inflammation.

Celgene said previously it planned to file for Food and Drug Administration approval of the drug as a treatment for psoriatic arthritis in the first quarter of this year.

Side effects were consistent with those seen in earlier trials of the drug, with the most common being diarrhea and nausea.

Reuters

WORLD

Libya stops gas exports to Italy after militia fight

TRIPOLI, 4 March — Libya has stopped gas exports to Italy from its Mellitah complex after fighting on Saturday between militias, Libya's National Oil Corporation (NOC) and Italy's Eni said on Sunday.

Libya's defence ministry sent security personnel to secure the complex, about 100 km (60 miles) west of the capital Tripoli, to ensure exports could resume soon, said Abdulfattah Shagan, chairman of Mellitah, an NOC-Eni joint venture.

Mellitah supplies Italy with gas through the Greenstream pipeline, which at

full capacity pumps at least 8 billion cubic metres. Italy gets most of its gas from Algeria, Russia and Norway, with Libya providing about 10 percent. Saturday's fire-fight began after an argument escalated between former rebel fighters from nearby Zuwara and those guarding Mellitah, who are from the town of Zintan, a security source said. The clashes were now over, the source said.

It was the latest violent disruption to the energy industry in Libya where protests have shut down oil-export terminals in recent months and in the North

African region following January's bloody hostage-taking at an Algerian gas plant. "Gas exports have been completely halted," NOC deputy chairman Mustafa Sunalla told Reuters on Sunday.

Thousands of former rebels who fought to overthrow former leader Muammar Gaddafi in 2011 have been employed in a protection force to look after Libyan oil and gas installations.

But in recent months activists and local militia have disrupted operations in Libya's main industry, pursuing goals such as



The logo of oil company Eni is pictured at its San Donato Milanese headquarters near Milan on 5 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

better living conditions or more regional autonomy. In July they forced the closure of three major oil terminals.

This has hurt OPEC member Libya's oil output, which returned to close to pre-war levels of 1.6 mil-

lion barrels per day (bpd) faster than analysts expected after the 2011 conflict.

Eni said gas flows from Mellitah to Gela, Sicily, had been halted and Italy's industry ministry had been alerted.—Reuters

At least seven killed in Ecuador floods

QUITO, 4 March — At least seven people were killed after torrential rain triggered flash floods in Ecuador's western state of Guayas, local authorities said on Sunday.

Guayas governor Viviana Bonilla told reporters that one person was drowned and another six people were killed by electric shocks in the flooding area, and a child is missing.

The intense rains in Guayas began on Saturday afternoon and lasted until early Sunday morning. Flights were suspended at the local airport due to electric shocks. Guayas' emergency committee was activated to take care of the flood victims, landslides and traffic accidents, Bonilla said. Two shelters were opened by local authorities to accommodate the affected people.

More heavy rains were expected and the death toll might increase in the next few hours, Bonilla added.

Xinhua



A man talks on his mobile phone while standing amidst the rubble after a bomb blast in a residential area in Karachi on 3 March, 2013.—REUTERS

Bomb kills 45 in Pakistan

KARACHI, 4 March — A suspected suicide bomber attacked Shi'ite Muslims as they were leaving a mosque in Pakistan's commercial capital on Sunday, killing at least 45 people, in another signal Sunni militants are escalating sectarian attacks.

"It's like doomsday to me. I was watching television when I heard an explosion and my flat was badly shaken," said Mariam Bibi.

"I saw people burning to death and crying with pain. I saw children lying in pools of their own blood and women running around shouting for their children and loved ones."

Senior city official Hashim Raza said at least 45 people had been killed and 149 wounded in the blast in Pakistan's biggest city.

Military offensives and US drone strikes against the Taliban in Pakistan have reduced the number of suicide attacks on government and military targets over the past year.

But Sunni groups, most prominently the al-Qaeda-linked Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ), have escalated attacks against Shi'ites, who they believe are non-Muslims.

With a few hundred

hard-core cadres, the LeJ aims to trigger sectarian violence that would pave the way for a Sunni theocracy in US-allied Pakistan, say Pakistan intelligence officials.

Its immediate goal, they say, is to stoke the intense Sunni-Shi'ite violence that has pushed countries like Iraq close to civil war.

Bombings targeting Shi'ites have killed nearly 200 people in Quetta alone since the start of the year, and residents of the city say they are under siege by LeJ death squads who seem to act with impunity.

While the military have launched major offensives against Taliban fighters they have not taken similar action against Sunni sectarian groups.

In 2012, sectarian attacks and clashes climbed by 47 percent to 208, according to the Pak Institute For Peace Studies, a prominent Pakistani think tank.

While the Quetta carnage grabbed world attention, a Reuters inquiry into a lesser known spate of murders in Karachi suggests the violence is taking on a volatile new dimension as a small number of Shi'ites fight back.—Reuters

Six teenage boys go missing in East Siberia avalanche

MOSCOW, 4 March — Six teenage boys were missing after an avalanche on a remote mountain slope in Russia's East Siberian republic of Tyva, the local Emergency Ministry said on Sunday.

One survived the accident near the village of Murgur-Aksy close to the Mongolian border, some 5,000

km (3,100 miles) south east of Moscow, and alerted rescue teams.

Russia's Children's Rights Commissioner Pavel Astakhov said that the teenagers, aged 14-18, were climbing the mountain to leave small flags there, something believed to bring happiness, according to a local popular legend.

"The tragedy happened because of the reckless venture undertaken by the boys," he wrote on his Twitter page @RFdeti. "Now we are trying to find out where their parents are."

Dozens of rescue workers and a helicopter were searching for the missing boys, the ministry said.

Reuters

French soldier killed in Mali, Belmokhtar fate unsure

PARIS/GAO, 4 March — France said on Sunday a third French soldier had been killed in fierce fighting with Islamist rebels in northern Mali but could not confirm Chad's report that its troops had killed the al Qaeda commander behind January's mass hostage-taking in Algeria.

A whirlwind seven-week campaign has driven al-Qaeda-linked fighters who took over northern Mali last April into mountain and desert redoubts, where they are being hunted by hundreds of French, Chadian and Malian troops.

France's defence ministry said 26-year-old Corporal Cedric Charenton was

shot dead on Saturday during an assault on an Islamist hideout in the desolate Adrar des Ifoghas mountains near Algeria, the third French soldier killed in the campaign.

French army spokesman Colonel Thierry Burkhard said some 15 Islamists were killed in some of the fiercest fighting during the campaign so far but that he could not confirm Chad's claim that its troops had killed al-Qaeda commander Mokhtar Belmokhtar at a nearby camp in the remote Ametetai valley.

"We are facing a very fanatical adversary," Burkhard said, noting the Islamists were armed with

rocket and grenade-launchers as well as machine



guns, AK47 assault rifles and heavy weapons. "They are fighting without giving ground."

The death of Belmokhtar, nicknamed

French soldiers pass a donkey-driven cart outside the destroyed main market in Gao, on 2 March, 2013.

REUTERS

'the uncatchable', has been reported several times in the past and analysts share caution shown by Paris in confirming his demise.

Reuters

Southern California wildfire fully contained

LOS ANGELES, 4 March — Fire officials on Saturday said they had fully contained a wildfire that scorched the hills east of Los Angeles as record-setting dry weather parched Southern California.

The fire has burned about 310 acres in Riverside County, said Daniel Berlant, spokesman for the California Department of

Forestry and Fire Protection. It was fully contained by 6 pm local time, the Riverside County Fire Department said on its website.

The blaze broke out on Thursday afternoon in Jurupa Valley near the city of Riverside, about 55 miles east of Los Angeles.

No injuries or deaths have been reported, state and local fire officials said,

and only one structure and an outbuilding were damaged. The Riverside County Fire Department website said 50 firefighters were handling the blaze on Saturday evening. The cause is under investigation.

The fire was considered large for a blaze occurring in the typically cooler winter months, Berlant said. Record-setting dry weather

conditions have resulted in several recent wildfires in California.

"We are hoping for some rain, but we are definitely preparing for what could be a busy fire season," Berlant said. Voluntary evacuation orders were issued on Thursday but lifted as of Friday, fire officials said.

Reuters

LOCAL NEWS

Work proficiency of ward/ village administrators uplifted

WAKEMA, 4 March—Wakema Township General Administration Department opened the ward and village administrators work proficiency course at the town hall of Wakema from 4 February to 1 March.

About 140 administrators from 14 wards and 126 village-tracts attended

the course.

At the course, Chairman of Myanmar Consumers Protection Association Writer Ba Ok Khaing and Joint Secretary U Win Myint (Dr Bio) gave lectures on protection of consumers.

Myanma Alinn

Myawady observes Mon National Day

MYAWADY, 4 March—A ceremony to mark the 66th Mon National Day was held at the office of Mon literature and culture committee in Myawady Township on 26 February.

Meeting chair Naing Kyaw Htin spoke on the occasion in Mon language and Daw Phyu Phyu Win interpreted his speech.

The chairman of the organizing committee of the anniversary celebration Nai Myint Aung made a speech. Dr Aung Soe explained the Myanmar and Mon literature.

Myanma Alinn



Meisei gets more electricity from new generator

LOIKAW, 4 March—As one 50-kilowatt generator supplied electricity to Meisei Township of Bawlahe District of Kayah State, but it was not enough for local consumption.

Under the arrangement of the Ministry of Electric Power, one 100-KV generator came into operation for supplying electricity to the local people as of 4 February.

Kayah State Minister for Electric and Industry U Saw Hu Hu and State Electrical Engineer U Myint Aung Kyaw formally launched supply of electricity for the locals.

Local people said that if Meisei Township opens the border trade camp, the local people will increase consumption of electricity.

Myanma Alinn

Kayah State to reclaim 500 acres of modern farming

LOIKAW, 4 March—In accord with the guidance of the President, Kayah State Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Moe Yei Aung supervises the plan to reclaim 500 acres of farmlands for establishment of advanced

farming with cultivation of Palethwe hybrid paddy in Kayah State in 2013. Loikaw Township Irrigation Department cultivated high yield Palethwe hybrid paddy on 10 acres of Land in 2012 and produced 215 baskets of paddy. The department secured the third prize as the outstanding award in the Kayah State.

Head of Irrigation Department U Win Maung (Civil) and U Than Tun of the township will reclaim the farmland with high technology and modern farming equipment and then grow summer paddy with irrigated water.

Myanma Alinn

Shwegu illuminated on self-reliant basis

SHWEGU, 4 March—A ceremony to mark supply of electricity on a self-reliant basis was launched in Shwegu Township of Bhamo District in Kachin State.

On 21 February, the launching ceremony of electricity was attended by Township Administrator Assistant Director U Nyi

Nyi, District Electrical Engineer U Aye Kyaw, Power Supply Committee Chairman U Thein Tun and local people.

The 315 KVA T transformer II was built in the township with installation of 400 V power line, spending K 56.6 million.

Myanma Alinn



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 (Pinyinmana Township) Training grounds (1) and (2) (Zabuthiri Township)	
10.	Fustal (Men/women)	23-2-2013	6-3-2013	TC-1 Fustal 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 (Pinyinmana)	
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 (Pinyinmana Township)	
	Closing Ceremony	7-3-2013	-	Wunna Theikdi Stadium (Zabuthiri Township)	

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 5 March, 2013

Sons of Buddha

Since the life time of Lord Buddha it has been the duty of Buddhist monks to promote, propagate and perpetuate His teachings. After the Buddha ascended to the Nirvana, this duty totally fell on the monks.

As the sons of Buddha, monks have been carrying out the task of promoting, proliferating and perpetuating Buddhism since the Buddha attained Nirvana. They have been applying various means involving religious sermons and preaches, pariyattischools, and religious and welfare activities in carrying out the task.

But their main duty is to teach religious knowledge or in other words to preserve and disseminate Buddha's teachings in their original. So, monks are the main pillar of today's Buddhism. Without them, Buddhism cannot flourish or even exist long.

In this regard, we can say that the promotion, propagation and perpetuation of Buddhism mostly depend on monks. Accordingly, they must learn Patipatti well and observe their rules strictly to become dutiful monks. The State on its part is also providing assistance to the monks and the religious sector through financial and other means. It is holding religious examinations and honouring and conferring religious titles on monks, facilitating the missionary work of the monks, and constructing and renovating religious buildings.

People are also making donations to monasteries and religious edifices, sponsoring large-scale assemblies where venerable monks make religious discourses, holding collective novitiation ceremonies where a large number of men and boys enter temporary religious order, and providing health care services and education to the poor, the vulnerable and the disabled under the patronage of revered monks.

Moreover, both the State-run and private TV channels and radio stations are airing religious sermons of venerable monks daily.

We firmly believe that as long as monks or the sons of Buddha are doing their duty well and the State and the people are listening to their sermons and providing all necessary assistance to them, Buddhism will live forever.

India-Myanmar Business Seminar kicks off

YANGON, 4 March—India-Myanmar Business Seminar was launched at SummitParkview Hotel here this afternoon.

It was attended by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, region ministers, UMFCFI Vice-President U Tun Aung and members, Mizoram State Minister for Tourism, Industry, Geology and Mines Mr. S Hiato of India, Charge d' Affaires Mr. Sailas Thangal from the Indian Embassy to Myanmar, officials concerned from India Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Kolkata and Federation of

India Chamber of Commerce (FCCI) and distinguished guests.

The UMFCFI Vice-President, Charged' Affaires Mr. Sailas Thangal, President of Young Leaders Forum & Director, NICCO Group, Mr. Siddhant Kaul made speeches. Assistant Secretary General Mr. Manish Singhal of FCCI expressed words of thanks.

The seminar focused on potentials to cooperate in various sectors—energy, mines, agriculture, foodstuff and services.

MNA

YANGON, 4 March—High yield, nice taste and shorter growing period are strengths of 100-day Palethwe hybrid paddy strains, which agriculturalists are trying to produce and distribute jointly with private companies and farmers through private-public partnership.

Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing and Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint visited 500-acre Palethwe hybrid paddy seeds production farm of Nine Seas Company at 10000-acre modern mechanized farmland in Dagon Myothit yesterday morning.



Union Ministers U Myint Hlaing and U Win Myint view nurturing of plants.—MNA

Satake Rice Mill is reported to be constructed by Nine Seas Company

beginning May and scheduled to be completed in July. The Union A

& I minister called for ionization of wastages at harvest.—MNA

Myanmar Upstream Summit organized in Yangon

YANGON, 4 March—Union Energy Minister U Than Htay addressed the opening of Myanmar Upstream Summit 2013 at Traders Hotel here this morning.

The minister also met

Chief Executive Chee Hong Tat of Singapore-based Energy Market Authority at the same hotel after the meeting. He also gave an interview to Energy Reporter Jacop Gronholt-Pedersen of The Wall Street Journal on

investment opportunities in energy sector in Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise under the ministry, UK-based CWC Group Limited and Parami Energy Group of Companies organized the summit where

31 resource persons read out papers.

Also present at the meetings were Deputy Minister U Htin Aung, Managing Director of MOGE U Myo Myint Oo and officials.—MNA

MLF holds 13th annual meeting

Union Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint visits Medicine and Livestock Equipment Exhibition and Pet Show-2013.—MNA

YANGON, 4 March—The 13th Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Livestock Federation was held at Myanmar Fisheries Federation, here, yesterday

morning.

First, Union Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and President

of MLBF Dr Mya Han formally opened Medicine and Livestock Equipment Exhibition and Pet Show-2013.

In his speech at

MNA

Observers visit Hluttaws

NAY PYI TAW, 4 March—A total of 95 members of National League for Democracy of the townships in Monywa District, Sagaing Region, 41 faculty members and students of the International Relations Department of

Yangon University, 80 supervisors and trainees of Outstanding School Red Cross Youth Summer Training Camp visited 21st day sixth regular session of the first Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw today.

MNA

Tun Foundation Literary Awarding Ceremony on 9 March

YANGON, 4 March—The prize presentation for winners in the Tun Foundation Literary Award 2012 will be held at the building of Myanmar Banks Association in Yankin Township, here, at 1 pm

on 9 March.

All the winners have been invited to attend the ceremony. For further information, may dial 09-296325 and 09-73104487.

MNA

NATIONAL

Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing welcomes Russian Defence Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 4 March—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing welcomed the visiting Russian Defence Minister General Sergey K Shoigu at Zeyathiri Beikman this morning.

The Russian Defence Minister and the Commander-in-Chief received the salute of the Guard of Honour. Also Present on the occasion were Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Thura Thet Swe, Commander-in-Chief of (Air) Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint, senior military officers from Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office, the Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, Russian Ambassador Mr Vasilii B Pospelov and Military Attaché Colonel Vasilii I Savenkov.

Deputy Defence Minister of Russia Mr Anatoly I Antonov, Lieutenant General Igor

D Sergun of Chief of the General Staff Office accompanied the visiting Russian minister.

Next, Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met Russian Defence Minister General Sergey K Shoigu at Zeyathiri Hall.

The Vice-Senior General said that he was very pleased to see the significant visit of the Russian Defence Minister at the time of the 65th Anniversary of Myanmar-Russia diplo-matic ties after the first-ever visit of Russian Defence Minister to Myanmar 50 years ago. It was the gesture of fostering bilateral relations between the two countries, he added. He expressed thanks for Russian's assistance to Myanmar. Not only goodwill visits but also exchange visits of sports teams would be necessary for promotion of bilateral friendship and cooperation. There had been instability caused by political, economic, social and religious dilemmas



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Russian Defence Minister General Sergey K Shoigu and party.—MNA

in some regions while world nations including the Russian Federation were on the right track to the peace. So ensuring world peace called for the help of Russian Federation to contribute to it. The Vice-Senior General expressed his belief that the visit

of the Russian Defence Minister could contribute to regional peace and stability. Opportunity given to pursue further studies at the top universities of the Russian Federation was a signal of cementing bilateral friendship between the two countries.

The Russian Defence Minister said that the Russian Federation was ready to cooperate in respective sectors. Bilateral cooperation not only in defence sector but also in economic, social and cultural sector would enhance amity and friend-ship between the

two countries, he added. Plans would be made for admission to Moscow State University. He called for further cooperation in various sectors.

Next, the Vice-Senior General hosted a luncheon to the Russian Defence Minister and party. —MNA

MP voices concern ...

(from page 16)

Administration in drug elimination drive. It has also held discussions with Rehabilitation Council of Shan State to undertake rehabilitation works in Shan State in cooperation with UNODC and locals. The questioner said police on the ground mere perform their

duties rather than cracking down the drug cartels due to lack of fund and equipment. "In my home town, police do not take actions even when the locals report the (drug abuse) cases. This is why I am asking the parliament," added the questioner.

U Soe Win of Kyauktada Constituency then asked

about capacity-building and equipment of Myanmar Police Force and its global network with international agencies, hoping for the transparency of MPF.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Chief of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun replied that MPF joined Interpol in 1954 and Aseanapol in 1998

and has been cooperating with Interpol member countries and National Central Bureaus in international countries. It is also materializing the joint communiqué of the Aseanapol conferences in partnership with regional police forces.

It is also cooperating with UN agencies, INGOs apart from foreign countries

in action against human and drug trafficking and human rights campaigns. It has also received funds for procurement of advanced equipment in 2012-2013 FY both for operation and training.

Dr Than Win of North Okkalapa Constituency questioned the effectiveness of the measures of Food and Drug Administration (FDA) against unhealthy foods and illegal drugs, warning it as a "true national concern" for public health at today's Pyithu Hluttaw session.

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint quoting the 2008 WHO statistics denied his claim

that Myanmar is ranked second on the list of top cancer-suffering countries. However, he admitted that the rate is growing over the time. He announced the plan to expand the current workforce of just over 100 to 600 and upgrade the FDA to a separate department to be able to cope with the population of over 60 million people.

Thura U Aung Ko of Kanpetlet Constituency called for regular adjustment of overall allowances for public servants and retirees commensurate with the time, saying that empty stomachs can also lead to corruption and bribery. —NLM

Union Border Affairs Minister oversees rehabilitation undertakings in Rakhine State

NAY PYI TAW, 4 March—Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin and Commander

of Western Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko Naing made field trips in Rakhine State from 1 to 3 March to oversee regional development and rehabilitation works.

The Union minister in meeting with departmental personnel called for honesty and hard work, urging them to take fair share in tranquility and comprehensive develop-

ment of Rakhine State.

The Union minister and party visited Taungbwe Village in Kyauktaw Township, relief camps in MraukU Township, Minbya Township, Myebon Township and Pauktaw Township. In meeting with communal strife victims and locals, the Union minister vowed to coordinate and cooperate with them to find the best solution for the State and provided relief aids to them.

The Union minister also met personnel of UN agencies and INGOs, and reps from donor countries during his tour, calling for greater cooperation among themselves and with Union and state governments.

MNA



Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win presents gifts to local people.—MNA

Disaster risk management is a national duty: Union SWRR Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 4 March—National level course on inclusion of disaster and climate change-led risk management in development programmes jointly organized by Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and Asian Disaster Preparedness Center was opened at Amara Hotel here today, with an address by Union SWRR Minister Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin. The Union minister said

the ministry is cooperating with related ministries, UN agencies, NGOs and INGOs to shape the nation into a resilient society and to reduce the losses and damages caused by catastrophes.

She urged the trainees to take the disaster risk reduction as a national duty so as not to let disaster hamper the democratization process of the nation. The course will last for five days, it is learnt. —MNA

Germany's SPD tries to win voters with pledge to tame markets

BERLIN, 4 March—Germany's Social Democrats are vowing to "tame" financial market radicalism, split up banks and raise taxes on high earners in a left-leaning campaign programme the party hopes will help it defeat popular Chancellor Angela Merkel in a September election.

According to a draft of the programme seen by *Reuters* on Sunday, the SPD said no financial market participants, financial products or markets should be left unregulated in the future.

"The era of market radicalism is over. The ideology of conservatives and neo-liberals that markets look after the common good and increase prosperity by themselves was ... buried under the ruins of the global financial catastrophe," it said in a draft which the SPD executive will discuss on Monday.

"Europe needs to be at

the vanguard of new market regulations with which we will tame the financial markets." The SPD hopes its shift left, prompted by Merkel's move to the centre, and its increasingly sharp attacks against the powers of big banks will help it win back voters who deserted the party in the 2009 election when its percentage of the vote fell to a post-war low of 23 percent.

An Emnid poll on Sunday showed support for the SPD was at 27 percent.

SPD leader Peer Steinbrueck has got off to a bad start with his campaign however, alienating many core supporters by revealing his lucrative earnings as a public speaker, saying chancellors should earn more and scoffing at wine that costs less than 5 euros a bottle.

This week he also caused an uproar by calling Italian former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi



Peer Steinbrueck, Social Democratic Party (SPD) candidate for this year's German general election, arrives for a session of the Bundestag, the German lower house of parliament, on the deployment of German armed forces in Mali, in Berlin on 28 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

and comic-turned-politician Beppe Grillo "clowns" following their strong performance in weekend elections. In its draft programme the SPD reiterated its plans to separate retail and investment banking and said it wanted to regulate the shadow banking system, ban speculative financial products and force derivatives trading onto

regulated platforms.

The party also said it wanted to limit high-frequency trading and impose minimum holding periods on the practice which involves numerous lightning-speed automatic trades that make money from tiny price moves in the market and which has been blamed for causing market volatility.

Reuters

FAO sets up animal influenza ref centre in N China

HARBIN, 4 March — The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations on Monday designated an animal influenza lab in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province as the Reference Centre for Animal Influenza of the FAO. The Animal Influenza Laboratory (AIL), which belongs to the Harbin Veterinary Research Institute (HVRI) of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, is located in the provincial capital Harbin.

The AIL is the first FAO-recognized reference centre in China and the second in the world, after the Federal Research Institute for Animal Health, Friedrich-Loeffler-Institute of Germany. The establishment of the reference centre shows that the laboratory diagnosis and scientific research level of animal influenza in China has reached internationally-recognized, advanced levels.

The HVRI will share information and jointly carry out animal influenza supervision, prevention and control programmes with the FAO, as well as provide data on the epidemiology and influenza virus evolution in Asia and offer consultation on vaccines and immunity, said Dr Juan Luboth, chief veterinary officer (CVO) of the FAO.

"China and the FAO have cooperated a lot in fields of animal epidemic disease and laboratory biosafety in recent years. The establishment of the centre will push the cooperation into a new stage," said Yu Kangzheng, China's CVO.

China and the FAO will also strengthen cooperation on cross-border animal disease prevention and control, animal hygiene informatization and exchanges of veterinary experiences and information among various countries, Yu said.

Xinhua

Three killed, 19 wounded in two bomb blasts in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 4 March—At least three people were killed and 19 others wounded in two bomb attacks in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad and the holy Shiite shrine city of Karbala on Sunday, an Interior Ministry source told *Xinhua*. In Baghdad, two people were killed and ten wounded when two roadside bombs went off in a quick succession in the mainly Shiite neighbourhood of Hussieniyah in the north-eastern part of the capital, the source said on condition of anonymity.

In a separate incident, a roadside bomb detonated in the area between the major shrines of Imam al-Abbas and Imam al-Hussien in the city of Karbala, some 110 km south of Baghdad, killing a civilian and wounding nine others, the source said.

No one has so far claimed responsibility for the attacks, but al-Qaeda front in Iraq frequently claimed the responsibility for most deadly attacks in the country. Violence and sporadic high-profile bomb attacks are still common in the Iraqi cities despite the dramatic decrease in violence since its peak in 2006 and 2007, when the country was engulfed in sectarian killings. —*Xinhua*

House fire in Russia's Chelyabinsk kills five

MOSCOW, 4 March—Five people, including three children, were killed in a fire in Russia's Chelyabinsk Region early Sunday, the Interior Ministry said.

The fire, which broke out in a private house at about 4:00 am local time (0000 GMT) in the town of Kartaly, took three hours to

extinguish.

"The owner of the house, a woman and her three daughters aged one, six and seven were found dead in the debris cleanup," the *Itar-Tass* news agency quoted the ministry as saying. It was not immediately known what caused the fire.

Xinhua

Saudi border guards arrest 338,637 infiltrators, 4,986 traffickers in 2012

RIYADH, 4 March—Saudi Arabia's border guards arrested 338,637 infiltrators and 4,986 traffickers last year, *Al Hayat* newspaper reported on Sunday.

The authority also confiscated 753,693 narcotic pills, 2,475 ammunition, 16 rocket propelled gre-

nades, two mortar shells, 70 tonnes of firecrackers and a number of other illegal drugs, the spokesperson of border guards, Mohammed Al Ghamdi, told the newspaper. Meanwhile, three people were killed and 10 were injured in 143 attacks against the Saudi border guards last year.—*Xinhua*



Bulgarian soldiers march during the National Day celebration held in Sofia, Bulgaria, on 3 March, 2013.

XINHUA

Visitors pose for photos in front of a statue during the International Home and Housewares Show in Chicago, the United States, March 2, 2013. The four-day show kicked off on Saturday with the participation of some 2,100 exhibitor from around the world.

XINHUA



Greece opens new round of talks with EU-IMF auditors

ATHENS, 4 March—Greece launched on Sunday a new round of talks with auditors of European Union (EU) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) lenders which will determine the release of the next bailout tranche to Athens this month.

Greek Finance Minister Yannis Stournaras held a first meeting with two of the heads of the "troika" representatives at his office in Athens, opening a series of deliberations until 10 March in the context of the regular review of Greece's progress under the bailout programme agreed with international creditors since 2010. "The climate was very positive. They acknowledge the efforts made over the past few months," Stournaras commented after the meeting. On top of the

agenda this time, according to government sources, are thorny issues such as the reduction of the number of 150,000 public servants by 2015 and high unemployment, revenues collection, tax system reform to counter wide-spread tax evasion, privatizations and the ongoing bank recapitalization.

Creditors, who keep debt-laden Greece afloat with multi-billion euro rescue loans to avert a chaotic default in the eurozone in exchange of a tough austerity and reform programme, push for swifter steps, as Athens lags on timetables and targets set. Under the heavy burden of deep recession for a sixth year and record high unemployment rates of more than 27 percent, Greek officials request more breathing space to avoid social upheaval.

The average Greek citizen already suffers from waves of cuts on salaries, pensions and tax hikes with incomes having been slashed by up to 40 percent in three years. "There cannot be layoffs," Stournaras told local media this weekend regarding the pressure on public sector job cuts.

He explained that over the past two years the sector has shrunk by some 75,000 through retirement, arguing that the rate of retirements and the ongoing new mobility scheme should meet the goals by 2015. Under the scheme, starting with 25,000 employees this year, civil servants will be paid on reduced wages for a year and could be made redundant if there will be no vacancies found in the public sector during its overhaul.

Xinhua

REGIONAL

Six die in snow storms in Japan's Hokkaido

TOKYO, 4 March — Severe snow storms hit Japan's northeastern Tohoku region and Hokkaido and left six people dead over the weekend due to the extreme weather, local media reported on Sunday.

In Hokkaido's Nishikabu, a woman and her three children were confirmed dead at a hospital on Saturday night, believing to have died of carbon monoxide poisoning as exhaust pipe and windows of their car were blocked by snow, Japan's Kyodo News Agency quoted local police

as saying.

Also in Nishikabu on Sunday, a part-time worker was found collapsed in farmland and confirmed dead, local police said, adding she left her car behind about 300 metre away.

Meanwhile in Yubetsu, a 53-year-old man died and his daughter survived after their car was buried in snow on their way to a friend of the man, according to Kyodo.

Caused by a strong low pressure system, Japan's northeastern Tohoku region and Hokkaido saw severe

snow storms this weekend.

Japan's Meteorological Agency also issued snow storm advisories in the area on the extreme weather, which also caused the derailment of a bullet train on Saturday evening in Japan's Akita Prefecture. No one was injured in the accident.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Sunday ordered Keiji Furuya, state minister for disaster management, to check on the damage and to restore transport systems and provide information to local residents.

Xinhua



Hu Jintao, Xi Jinping, Wu Bangguo, Wen Jiabao, Jia Qinglin, Li Keqiang, Zhang Dejiang, Liu Yunshan, Wang Qishan and Zhang Gaoli sit on the platform during the opening meeting of the first session of the 12th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, on 3 March, 2013. The first session of the 12th CPPCC National Committee opened in Beijing on 3 March.—XINHUA

Shots fired during attempted cash van robbery

SYDNEY, 4 March — Shots were fired during an attempted armed robbery of a cash-in-transit van at a busy Sydney shopping centre on Monday morning, the New South Wales Police said.

At about 8:15 am (local time) on Monday, two security guards parked a cash-in-transit van in Bay Street at Broadway, south of the Sydney central business district and left the vehicle.

"They were approached from behind by two men with their faces covered, both armed with firearms while a third male stood near the van," the NSW police said in a statement. One of the guards was struck in the back of the head, possibly with the butt of a firearm while the other offender fired a shot into the air.

The offenders escaped the scene in a station wagon driven by a fourth man.

No money was stolen and no one was injured, police said.

Police have closed Bay Street outside the shopping centre. A crime scene has been established and police are currently speaking to a number of witnesses.

Xinhua

Xinhua launches new media newswire service

BEIJING, 4 March — Xinhua News Agency on Sunday launched a newswire dedicated to the new media service, taking the opportunity of the convening of the country's major political sessions.

The move is to help the state news agency adapt to the profound changes in the media landscape led by digital evolution, and to achieve its strategic change, Xinhua said in a statement.

Interaction, acuity, and flexibility will be the major features of the new media service, it said. The service will also provide customized reports for clients, with detailed stories and in-depth analyses.

The National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, the country's top political advisory body, started its annual session in Beijing on Sunday, while

the National People's Congress, China's top legislature, will open its annual meeting two days later.

Xinhua's new media service will take advantage of the "two sessions" to give its debut performance, providing a different news reporting with major news focuses, exclusive interviews, feature stories, as well as visual and digitized news, according to the statement.—Xinhua

30 injured in southwest China quake



Photo taken on 3 March, 2013 shows collapsed houses after a 5.5-magnitude earthquake in Eryuan County of Dali Bai Autonomous Prefecture, southwest China's Yunnan Province.—XINHUA

KUNMING, 4 March — Thirty people have been confirmed injured, including three seriously, after a 5.5-magnitude earthquake hit southwest China's Yunnan Province on Sunday afternoon.

Some 12,000 people have also been evacuated, said the provincial Civil Af-

fairs Department.

The quake hit Eryuan County, Dali Bai Autonomous Prefecture at 1:41 pm. The epicenter was in Xishan Township with a depth of 9 km.

Latest statistics showed 92,000 residents were affected by the quake, while 83,434 houses were

damaged and 1,781 others collapsed. Infrastructure including schools, transportation and communications systems, water and power lines was damaged to various degrees.

The Yunnan provincial government initiated a grade-III emergency response earlier and later upgraded it to grade-II.

The Civil Affairs Department said 3,000 tents, 7,000 cotton quilts and 7,000 coats were being sent to the quake-hit area.

A quake relief team consisting of more than 400 policemen, fire fighters and soldiers has been dispatched.

Some 34 aftershocks have been recorded after the quake.

In history, 19 earthquakes of magnitude 5 or above occurred within a 50-km radius of the epicentre.

Xinhua

Four policemen killed in Karachi, Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 4 March — Four policemen were killed when some unknown gunmen attacked a police check post in Pakistan's southern port city of Karachi on Sunday night, local police said.

Fayyaz Laghari, in-

spector general of Sindh police said that some unidentified gunmen on motorbikes opened fire at four policemen standing at a check post of the main highway of Karachi, the capital city of the coun-

try's southern Sindh Province.

The attack took place at about 9:20 pm local time and the assailants fled the scene following the attack.

No group claimed re-

sponsibility for the attack yet. The attack on police took place shortly after the city was jolted by twin blasts, targeting a residential area in the neighbouring Abbas Town area.

Xinhua

New Zealand seeks Arab backing for UN Security Council seat bid

WELLINGTON, 4 March — New Zealand Foreign Affairs Minister Murray McCully will push the country's bid for a United Nations Security Council seat in 2015-2016 when he attends the League of Arab States Executive Council meeting in Egypt. "I am looking forward to discussing New Zealand's bid for a seat on the United Nations Security Council with my counterparts in the region," McCully said in a statement before departing on Monday.

"The Arab League has been at the forefront of some of the most pressing international issues over the past

two years, including Libya and Syria," said McCully.

"Its leadership will be critical for dealing with the range of challenges that have resulted from the Arab Spring. This visit provides an opportunity for New Zealand to strengthen its relationship with a vitally important regional organization."

McCully would also visit Middle East countries, including Bahrain, Turkey and Jordan, for official talks that would cover ongoing regional security issues, and New Zealand's humanitarian assistance for Syrian refugees in Turkey and Jordan.

Xinhua



Security personnel stand by outside the village where a shootout occurred at Semporna in Sabah, Malaysia, on 2 March, 2013. At least 5 policemen were killed in an ambush in Malaysia's Sabah state as gunmen were spotted outside the village where standoff continued between security forces and Sulu gunmen, police said on Sunday.—XINHUA



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

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AGENT FOR: M/S KINGSOCEAN SHIPPING
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No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES**

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MERKUR BRIDGE VOY NO (031)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERKUR BRIDGE VOY NO (031) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.3.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P 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 MOL (S'PORE) PTE LTD**
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Dated 5 March 2013**

CORRIGENDUM

In the Trademark Caution of Yara International ASA appeared in page 12 of this Paper of 4.2.2013, the correct name of the Mark under Reg. No. 4/12178/ 2012 (23.10.2012) is "Nitrabor".

Jimi Hendrix estate rolls out "People, Hell and Angels" studio set

LOS ANGELES, 4 March — If there were any doubts about the lingering force of fabled rock guitarist Jimi Hendrix more than four decades after his death, his latest single should put them to rest. The single "Somewhere" went to No1 on the Billboard Hot Singles sales in February. That bodes well for the latest posthumous album plucked from the Hendrix musical vaults, which producers say has stood up well to the test of time.

"People, Hell and Angels," to be released on CD this Tuesday, is billed as a collection of twelve previously unreleased studio performances by Hendrix, although some of the songs have emerged in other versions since his death at age 27 in 1970 from an accidental drug overdose. The album arrives with the simultaneous release of newly struck mono vinyl editions of early Hendrix classic albums "Are You Experienced" and "Axis: Bold As Love."

The tracks on "People, Hell and Angels," were planned as a follow-up to the influential guitarist's



The cover of the Jimi Hendrix album "People, Hell and Angels" is pictured in this handout photo courtesy of Experience Hendrix LLC and Legacy Recordings.—REUTERS

chart-topping 1968 album "Electric Ladyland." "After the huge success of the (Jimi Hendrix) Experience and those first albums, he wanted to branch out more, and the blues sound on this is just different from the others," said Janie Hendrix, Jimi's step-sister and president and CEO of Experience Hendrix, the company founded by the musician's father to oversee the star's estate.

"This new album is very important for all his fans as it really showcases his creativity and a different side to him," she told Reuters.

Reuters

Jennifer Lawrence finds setting up Bradley Cooper with her friends "exhausting"



Bradley Cooper

Sam Claflin or Bradley, tress Laura Haddock] so and I got to choose. And much. Sam is so sweet. So I chose Bradley because sweet that he's almost not I love Sam's fiancée [ac- hot anymore."—PTI



Jennifer Lawrence

NEW DELHI, 4 March—Jennifer Lawrence wants to set Bradley Cooper up with her friends. 22-year-old actress Jennifer Lawrence joked she plans to get her Silver Linings Playbook co-star Bradley Cooper a book with pictures of her friends so he can choose who he wants to date.

She told MTV: "I feel like all I've been doing lately is setting him up. I was like, 'You know what? I'm gonna save time and just get you a

booklet with pictures of my friends. You just go through and pick them out, because this is getting exhausting."

Jennifer—who split from Nicholas Hoult in January after two years of dating—admitted reports of her dating Bradley, 38, are ridiculous and says she often gets linked to her co-stars. She added: "My publicist told me that a magazine was going to say I was having a thing with either ['The Hunger Games: Catching Fire's]

SPORTS

Arsenal say Kroenke has no plans to sell club

LONDON, 4 March — Stan Kroenke has no plans to sell his majority stake in Arsenal, a spokesman for the Premier League soccer club said on Sunday, responding to a report that a Middle East consortium planned a 1.5-billion-pound (\$2.25-billion) bid.

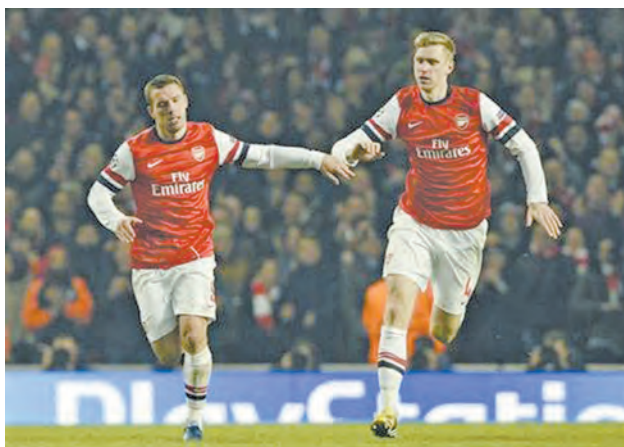
FC Twente lose ground in Dutch title race



THE HAGUE, 4 March—The departure of coach Steve McClaren earlier this week did not lead to better results for FC Twente, with the team losing ground on PSV, Ajax, Feyenoord and Vitesse in the Dutch Eredivisie this weekend. McClaren quit last Tuesday and his assistant Alfred Schreuder was temporarily appointed as his replacement, starting against Ajax in Enschede on Saturday.

Twente suffered an early deficit when Ajax defender Niklas Moisander found the net in the 4th minute with a long-distance strike. Ten minutes from half-time Toby Alderweireld doubled the score with a header: 0-2. Twente was not able to bounce back and remained without a win in 2013.

“We are in a difficult phase,” said debuting Twente coach Alfred Schreuder. “There is far too little confidence in the team. We knew that Ajax was good, did not expect the strength difference so big like in the first half.”—Xinhua



Arsenal's Lukas Podolski (L) celebrates with teammate Per Mertesacker after scoring against Bayern Munich during their Champions League soccer match at the Emirates Stadium in London on 19 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS

The Sunday Telegraph said the consortium, backed by funds from Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, had already requested a meeting with the American billionaire Kroenke, who owns a two-thirds stake in the famous north London club ahead of what would be a record takeover bid for a soccer club. “Stan Kroenke is committed to Arsenal for the long term and has no intention of selling his stake,” Arsenal communications director Mark Gonnella told Reuters. “There has been no contact from any potential investors,” he added. Gonnella noted that Kroenke, who also owns the St Louis Rams in the NFL, had never sold any of his sports investments.

Many Arsenal fans are unhappy with the way Kroenke — nicknamed “Silent Stan” for his low profile — is running the club, arguing he is putting profit before success on the pitch. Arsenal have not won a trophy since 2005 and are facing another barren season. Supporters are angry at paying the highest ticket prices in the country at their 60,000-seater Emirates stadium and criticize Kroenke for selling their best players to rival clubs.

Chelsea, owned by Russian oligarch Roman Abramovich, and Manchester City, supported by cash from Abu Dhabi have spent heavily in recent seasons and outperformed Arsenal.

Reuters



Miami Heat centre Chris Bosh reacts after scoring against New York Knicks center Tyson Chandler (6) and guard JR Smith (R) in the fourth quarter of their NBA basketball game at Madison Square Garden in New York, on 3 March, 2013.—REUTERS

Czech Pliskova beats Mattek-Sands for first WTA title

KUALA LUMPUR, 3 March — Unseeded Czech Karolina Pliskova won her maiden WTA singles title beating American wildcard entrant Bethanie Mattek-Sands in the Malaysian Open final on Sunday. The 20-year-old, playing her first singles final, dropped her first set in the tournament but rallied past Mattek-Sands 1-6, 7-5, 6-3.

“I was a little nervous at the start and couldn’t get my serves in. That contributed to the heavy (first set) loss,” Pliskova told reporters. “I woke up in the second set and began to serve better. This helped turn the tide. “It was a tough match but I’m delighted to win my first singles title. I still can’t believe it.”

Mattek-Sands got off to a flying start and looked set to win her first singles title in her fourth fi-

nal but the big-serving Czech, ranked 127, found her way back into the match. The match was tied 1-1 in the third and final set when a thunderstorm and rain halted play for more than 30 minutes on another hot and humid day in Kuala Lumpur.

“I’m still happy with the way I played all week. I don’t think the rain delay affected me at all,” Mattek-Sands said. “Just that she played very well. “The beauty of tennis is that there is another tournament next week so I just have to pick myself up and get on with it.” Pliskova, who served 10 aces in the match, collected \$40,000 in prize money.

Reuters



Karolina Pliskova

KT

Unrelenting Heat notch another win in pay-back tour

NEW YORK, 4 March — The unrelenting Miami Heat notched another win on their pay-back tour in a Sunday matinee, dashing the hopes of the New York Knicks while raising the question of whether any team can deny Miami another NBA title.

The Heat, led as usual by the spectacular LeBron James, erased a 15-point deficit at intermission by imposing their will down

the stretch for a 99-93 victory in Madison Square Garden that extended their winning streak to a franchise record-tying 14 in a row.

Reigning champions Miami ended New York’s modest three-game win streak and avenged a pair of 20-point losses to the Atlantic Division leaders early this season.

Dwyane Wade said revenge was not only

sweet, but important as the Heat sent a message to the Knicks after getting even with another quality team, the Memphis Grizzlies, on Friday.

“When you’re on a winning streak you’ve got to find many different ways to win ball games,” said Wade, who scored 20 points, handed out eight assists and pulled down eight rebounds.

Reuters

Thompson gets maiden tour win with Honda victory

PALM BEACH GARDENS, (Florida), 4 March — American Michael Thompson kept his head in gusty winds to win the Honda Classic on Sunday by two shots from Australian Geoff Ogilvy. In testing conditions, the 27-year-old Thompson, the joint overnight leader, held firm for his first win on the PGA Tour, ending with a birdie on the 18th for a one-under par 69 which left him nine-under for the

tournament.

Thompson, who finished tied second in last year’s US Open, will look back gladly on the eagle he made on the par-five third that gave him some breathing space before the inevitable bogeys came. The Arizona-born golfer had four bogeys and three birdies in his round but never let the dips disturb him in what was a cool display for a first time winner.—Reuters



Michael Thompson of the US takes his tee shot on the 8th hole during the final round of play in the Honda Classic PGA golf tournament in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida on 3 March, 2013.

REUTERS

GENERAL

Seed production, sorting technology conducted



NAY PYI TAW, 4 March — Under the arrangement of ASEAN MAFF and the assistance of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan, ten staff and 10 farmers attended the four-day seed production

and sorting technology course for the first session at Yezin Agricultural Research Department, here, as of 25 February.

The second session of the course that lasts 10 days will be conducted in Vietnam.

A 20-trainee team led by Director U Naing Kyi Win of Agricultural Educative Branch visited the agricultural research farm in Tatkon. The farm manager explained seed production and sorting technology of maize, sunflower, groundnut and green gram.

Myanma Alinn

Forlan double sends Internacional into final

PORTO ALEGRE, 4 March — Uruguay striker Diego Forlan struck twice as Internacional progressed to the final of Brazil's Piratina Cup with a 2-0 victory over Esportivo on Sunday.

The 33-year-old netted either side of half-time at the Centenario Stadium

to take his 2013 tally to six goals from six games for the Porto Alegre club.

Internacional will now meet Sao Luiz, who defeated Caxias 2-1 on Saturday, in next Sunday's final.

"We are working well together as a team and I was lucky to score two

goals but we have to keep things in perspective," Forlan said after the match. "It is a good feeling to reach the final. Now we have to focus because we have a difficult game ahead of us. We have a whole week to prepare."

Xinhua

Rosberg wraps up F1 testing with fastest lap

BARCELONA, 4 March — Nico Rosberg put Mercedes on top of the timesheets on Sunday in the final day of



Mercedes GP's Formula One driver Nico Rosberg of Germany drives during a training session at Circuit de Catalunya racetrack in Montmelo, near Barcelona, on 1 March, 2013.—REUTERS

Formula One testing before the Australian season-opener in Melbourne in two weeks time. The German's

time of one minute 20.130 seconds was comfortably quicker than team mate Lewis Hamilton's best lap of 1:20.558 on Saturday and the fastest in this year's Barcelona tests. "I can feel that the balance of the car is good. I have the general feeling that we are in a better position than in the second half of last year but this is testing not racing, of course," said Rosberg.

Team principal Ross Brawn said Mercedes, who had a disappointing 2012 season when they finished fifth overall, had achieved their test objectives but also warned against drawing too

many conclusions. "I am pleased with the progress that the team has made over the last month and the steps forward that have been made with the car," he said in a team review of the session. "We're realistic about our performance here and our position once we get to Melbourne, and we look forward to the challenge of a new season ahead."

Nine different drivers from five teams have led the timesheets in the 12 days of pre-season testing and all the signs are that the racing will be closer than ever, at least in the early races.

Reuters

Bayern Munich remain on track in German Bundesliga

BERLIN, 4 March — Mario Gomez' winner ensured Bayern Munich's 20th win of the season in a contested match at Hoffenheim, to close the 24th round of Bundesliga on Sunday. Bayern Munich carved out a hard earned victory at relegation threatened Hoffenheim thanks to the winner by Mario Gomez to restore their 17-point lead atop the Bundesliga

standings. Struggling Hoffenheim staged a courageous performance to keep the Bavarians away from their goal. Even better, the hosts were able to produce the first chance of the game as Daniel Williams sent a free kick into the side netting.

However, as the match progressed, the German giant started rolling when Mario Gomez made use of



his second opportunity of the match to break the deadlock at the 38th minute. Bayern's Jerome Boateng intercepted a pass by Igor

de Camargo to cross to Franck Ribery, who headed into path of Gomez, who had no problems to tap in from close range.—Xinhua

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(5-3-13 09:30 am ~

6-3-13 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * e-pension Easy and Convenient System for Pensioners
- * Myanmar Hospitality and Tourism Conference 2013
- * News
- * Songs for you
- * News
- * A Study Tour Around Nay Pyi Taw Model Farms (I)
- * Ayeyarwaddy Dreaming Images of Myanmar and Beyond Photo Exhibition
- * Life-like...Embossed relief painting
- * Miss Myanmar 2013
- * Topic on Journal "Let's make a wonderful trip to Ngwe Saung Beach!"
- * Conversation with Chief Economist for Asia Pacific Mr. Bert Hofman
- * News
- * Myanmar Music Concert & Variety Show
- * Traffic Count Survey is On-going
- * Talk A Lot
- * Myanmar Movies
- * "A Monk's Single Meal"

Myanmar TV

(5-3-2013, Tuesday)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 7:00 am | 5:30 pm |
| 1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw | 13. SEA GAMES (Go For Gold) (Billiard) |
| 7:25 am | 5:50 pm |
| 2. Health Programme | 14. People Talks |
| 7:30 am | 6:00 pm |
| 3. Morning News | 15. Evening News |
| 7:40 am | 6:15 pm |
| 4. International News | 16. Weather Report |
| 7:50 am | 6:20 pm |
| 5. People Talks | 17. Sing A Song |
| 8:10 am | 6:50 pm |
| 6. Song of National Races | 18. TV Drama Series |
| 8:15 am | 7:00 pm |
| 7. Documentary | 19. News |
| 8:30 am | 7:10 pm |
| 8. Songs of Yester Year | 20. TV Drama Series |
| 4:05 pm | 8:00 |
| 9. Musical Programme | 21. News |
| 4:35 pm | 22. International News |
| 10. 2013 University Entrance Examination (Myanmar) | 23. Weather Report |
| 5:05 pm | 24. Documentary (SEA Games) |
| 11. Songs For Upholding National Spirit | 25. Bakery World |
| 5:25 pm | 26. Song Programme |
| 12. The Mirror Images of The Musical Oldies | 27. Documentary |
| | 10:00 pm |
| | 28. News |
| | 29. India Drama Series |



Italy's Sara Errani holds her trophy during the awarding ceremony after the women's singles final match against Carla Suarez Navarro of Spain at the Mexican Open Tennis Tournament held in Acapulco, State of Guerrero, Mexico, on 2 March, 2013. Errani won the match 2-0.

XINHUA

Myanmar, Russia to promote bilateral ties



NAY PYI TAW, 4 March—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Nyan Tun received a delegation led by Defence Minister General Sergey K SHOIGU of the Russian Federation at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 12.45 pm today.

Present on the occasion together with the Vice-

Vice-President U Nyan Tun poses for documentary photo together with Russian Defence Minister General Sergey K SHOIGU and party.

MNA

President were General Hla Htay Win of Commander-in-Chief Office, Deputy Minister for Defence Commodore Aung Thaw, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Zin Yaw, the Director-General of the President Office and officials. The Russian delegation led by Defence Minister General Sergey K SHOIGU was accompanied by the Russian Ambassador to Myanmar.

Both sides discussed further strengthening of bilateral relations and promoting trade, economic and defence ties between the two countries.

MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw discusses formation of Union ministry of national races affairs

NAY PYI TAW, 4 March—16 Lawmakers debated the formation of Union level national races affairs ministry proposed by U Kyaw Din (a) U Htae Yal of Kayah State Constituency (2) on today's Amyotha Hluttaw regular session.

Salai Kwe Yan of Chin State Constituency (12) argued for the proposal, saying the government is responsible to handle national races affairs at all levels not only at state/region levels.

Ministry of Border Affairs is fulfilling the needs of ethnic races with the government's budget and international aids. The ministry and the region/state social affairs and ethnic races ministers could work together if necessary, he added. He requested the parliament to only put the proposal on record.

The proposal was not approved as the parliament voted on the proposal.

U Mana Naing of Chin State Constituency (10) said after the meeting,

MP voices concern over threat of illicit drugs

NAY PYI TAW 4 March—U Ye Tun (a) U Min Tun of Hsipaw Constituency asked about measures against illicit drug trading across the nation including in northern Shan State at Pyithu Hluttaw session today and Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Chief of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun replied that Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control is working in cooperation with United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, China National Narcotics Control Commission and Drug Enforcement (See page 9)



The 21st day sixth regular session of the First Pyithu Hluttaw in progress.

MNA



U Saw Tun Mya Aung of Kayin State Constituency (5) discussed that the national reconciliation is the point and every manner that harms the national unity should be avoided and the Union minister's comment should be taken into consideration.

Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung said that the

"The formation of Union level national races affairs ministry would help the government handle the ethnic affairs more thoroughly."

U Saw Mya Win of Kayin State Constituency (11) said, "The ethnic affairs are delicate and we should take time in handling them."

MNA

Representatives attending 21st day sixth regular session of the First Amyotha Hluttaw at Amyotha Hluttaw Building.

MNA

Dried fish industry in outskirts of Yangon booming

On my recent visit to Thayetpinchaung Village in Dagon Seikkan Township in the outskirts of Yangon Region, I witnessed a booming industry of fish processing. Their major market is urban population in Yangon, the commercial hub of Myanmar a few miles away.

"We mainly use sea fish to make dried fish. Fishes bought from the boats in different kinds and weights are transported to Thayetpinchaung by trucks. Most vessels anchor at Pazuntaung and Kyimyindine jetties where we can select and buy the fish we like," a person from Ngwe Lamin dried fish business said.

They sometimes use the already processed fishes from Bayintnaung cold storage. The first step of making dried fishes is

'salting'. Salted fishes are piled up in the wooden container and kept there for a day. Then, the fishes are cut and prepared for drying by seasoning salt and gunpowder for better colour. They are then kept in the wooden container for another one day. "We can dry them off by the sun the next morning," he said.

"It takes one and a half day to dry the fishes."

The dried fishes are then kept in the cold storage to

By Moe Thuzar Soe

prevent vaporization before they are packaged.

"Mostly, they are sold in Bayintnaung," he explained.

The business runs round the year with less produce in the rainy season. The demand from every nook and corner of the country soars in the open season, he said.

**Trs:HKA

