

President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Ghanaian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 6 March—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr John Dramani Mahama, President of the Republic of Ghana, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Ghana, which falls on 6 March 2013.

MNA

Austrian President pledges support for fully lifting of EU sanctions against Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 5 March — Austrian President Dr. Heinz Fisher welcomed President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein at Presidential Palace in Vienna at 11 pm local time yesterday.

Next, President U Thein Sein held talks with the Austria President at the separate meeting.

Also present at the meeting between the two countries together with the President were Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win, Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin and

and social sectors, works carried out for creating a political configuration in which all political parties were allowed to partake, release of inmates who were serving prison terms due to various reasons to be able to take part in nation-building endeavours, peace making process with national races armed groups in pursuit of a lasting peace, challenges that the nation faces in democratic transition and measures to be taken to tackle challenges and fully lifting of sanctions against Myanmar for ensuring socio-economic development of the people.

After the meeting,

Next, the Austrian President hosted dinner to the President and party.

In the afternoon, the President held talks with Prime Minister Mr. Werner Faymann at the Office of the Prime Minister of Austria and Parliament Speaker Mrs Barbara Prammer at Austria Parliament.

The President said that bilateral relations were strained due to the difference between the political systems of the two countries but Myanmar and Austria had established diplomatic ties since 1953. The President called for strengthening intergovernmental government

with Myanmar parliament, saying that she hoped for positive outcome while reviewing EU policy on Myanmar.

In his extended greetings at Myanmar-Austria Economic Forum, the President invited foreign investments to be able to fulfill the needs of capital, technology and human resources in Myanmar which is in need of political stability and economic development for strengthening democratic system. As foreign investment law and bylaws had emerged, investors were being invited, he added. He pointed out



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and party hold talks with Austrian President Dr. Heinz Fisher and party.—MNA

U Soe Thane and Myanmar Ambassador to Austria U Soe Nwe. The Austrian President was accompanied by Cabinet Director Dr. Rene Pollitzer and senior officials.

They held talks on Myanmar's reform process in political, economic

the two leaders made clarifications on their meeting and answered the queries raised by media at press conference where the Austrian President pledged Austria's support for completely lifting of EU sanctions against Myanmar.

connectivity, interparliamentary connectivity and people-to-people connectivity as Myanmar is exercising democratic practices.

The Austrian Parliament Speaker vowed to build friendly relations

economic sanctions which are not fully lifted and generalized preference system which is not realized to facilitate the exports of national race entrepreneurs, thereby jeopardizing the undertakings for socio-economic development



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein shakes hands with Austrian President Dr. Heinz Fisher.—MNA

of the people and foreign investments in Myanmar.

He called on those present to offer their support for fully lifting of EU sanctions against Myanmar, inviting more investments

with better bilateral relations between the two countries.

The President left Vienna by air in the evening and arrived in Brussels of Belgium at 8.15 pm local time. — MNA

Closing of Union Cup Games to be broadcast live

NAY PYI TAW, 5 March —The closing ceremony of the Union Cup Games 2013, final match of men's football event and prize presentation ceremony will be broadcast live on 7 March evening.

TV Myanmar, Nay Pyi Taw Radio Myanmar

and Sky Net Sport Channel will start programmes on the ceremony of the Union Cup Games live at 3.30 pm.

The final match of the women's football tournament will be broadcast live at 7.30 pm.

MNA

Winners of Union Cup Games men's, women's weightlifting contests



In +75 kilos event, Cho Cho Win of Yangon Region, Kyi Pyar San of Kachin State and Su Su Lwin of Rakhine State stood first, second and third respectively.

Sa Than Htaik Win of Ayeyawady Region stood first in men's 85 kilos event, followed by Chun Thein Swe of Shan State and Aung Aung of Rakhine State.

In men's 94 kilos event, Saw Aung Naing won first prize, Win Hsan Aung of Kachin State second and Si Si of Yangon third.

The winner of men's 105 kilos event was Kyaw Tun Aung of Magway Region. Than Htaik Soe was runner-up. Myat Than Aung of Kachin State was runner-up to Zaw Htet Aung of Yangon Region in +105 kilos event.

Kyemon

NAY PYI TAW, 5 March — Weightlifting contests— women's 48 kilos, men's 56 kilos, women's 53 kilos, men's 62 kilos, women's 58 kilos, men's 63 kilos, men's 69 and 77 kilos, women's 69, 75 and +75 kilos and men's 85, 94, 105 and +105 kilos— of Union Cup Games ahead of 2013 SEA Games was held at Paunglaung gymnasium,

here, on 1-3 March.

Lei Lei Win of Magway Region stood first in women's 69 kilo event, followed by Swe Lei Mon of Kachin State and Wah Wah Haling of Yangon Region.

Amy Lwin of Shan State won first prize and Naw Phaw Gay of Chin State second prize in 75 kilos event.

Speedster crashes into the back of road roller on Yangon-Mandalay expressway

TOUNGGOO, 5 March — A covered vehicle crashed into the back of road roller driving before it on Yangon-

Mandalay expressway, west of Tounggoo, at about 9 pm on 28 February, claiming one life in the car crash.

The car driven by Kyaw Swe Win, 34, carrying Shwe Pa Zun cake and foodstuff hit the road roller on the back at

Globetrotter convoy passes through Meiktila

MEIKTILA, 5 March — A convoy of 29 vehicles carrying 54 globetrotters, members of Germany-based The Sea Bridge For Motorhome passed through Meiktila at 9.30

on 1 March and headed for Kalaw. The program was organized by Journeys Nature And Culture Travel Company.

The group of globetrotters comprising 44 Ger-

mans, one Australian, two Dutchmen, two British persons and one Iranian were traveling with the convoy from Mandalay to Kalaw. The convoy will pass through Kalaw, Inlay, Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mawlamyine, Hpa-an and Myawady along their journey to Mae Sot in Thailand. The convoy was being supervised by General Manager U Ye Myint of Myanmar Tourism Enterprise, Assistant Manager U Sann Hlaing, GM U Tin Win and Tour Guide U Than Maung.

A woman driver, one of globetrotters in the convoy, said that she was very pleased with a warm welcome of Myanmar people who provided them with refreshment along the road.

Kyemon



Union Cup Games Traditional Boxing (Mway) contest kicks off

NAY PYI TAW, 5 March — Matches of Traditional Boxing (Mway) were held at Training Centre (1), here, yesterday.

Winners of men's traditional boxing (Mway) contest were Moe Thi

(Yangon) in 45 kilos event, Myo Myint (Kayin) in 48 kilos event, Saw William (Kayin) and Min Thu (Magway) in 57 kilos event, Tin Aung Soe (Rakhine) and Kyaw Htoo Aung (Kayah) in 60 kilos event, Soe Lin Oo (Yangon) in 63 kilos event, Min Htay San (Kayin) and Maung Tu (Magway) in 67 kilos event and Tun Tun Min (Mon) and Yan Gyi Aung (Yangon) in 71 kilos event,

Winners of women's

traditional boxing (Mway) contest were Shwe Sin Wint Wah (Taninthayi) in 48 kilos event, Hnin Ei Swe (Taninthayi) in 51 kilos event and Grace (Mon) and Cho Mar Htway (Taninthayi) in 54 kilos event. In the afternoon, 10 matches of men's traditional boxing (Mway) contest and three matches of women's traditional boxing (Mway) contest were held.

Kyemon

Upgrading of concrete road in Nay Pyi Taw Zabuthiri Township



NAY PYI TAW, 5 March — While Nay Pyi Taw Council is carrying out the task of ensuring Nay Pyi Taw Council Area to be equipped with the characteristic of a city and greening task,

tarmacking of Zeyahtani road is being undertaken from the traffic lights at the junction of Razathingaha road and Zeyahtani road in Zabuthiri Township starting from 2 March morning. — Kyemon

One man dies after having toad dinner

PYU, 5 March — A man died after having dinner with toad dish at a hut on Myayarpin Hill in Pyaungthay village-tract in Pyu Township of Bago Region on 20 February.

U Tin Htwe, 54, and U Maung, 40, had their dinner

with toad dish prepared with 50 toads and U Tin Htwe was pronounced dead on the hut a few minutes after the dinner. U Maung had severe food poisoning and he is being given special care at Zeyawady station hospital.

Kyemon

Aung" motorized boat steered by Chit Naing, 27, of Twantay Township carrying 700 bags of fish feedstuff hit the stationary CP in the middle of the river and sank due to the crash.

Kyemon

Bawdikon police station filed a lawsuit against the car crash. — Kyemon

Young man dies after consuming pesticide in Zalun Township

ZALUN, 5 March — A young man died after drinking herbicide at a house in Nyaungbinzay ward of Zalun Township at about 5.30 pm on 23 February.

Ye Min Htet, 18, died after consuming pesticide used on the farmland when he was alone at home and he was taken to Zalun Hospital. Zalun Township Police Station is investigation into the case whether he died from drinking pesticide or not. — Kyemon

WORLD

Russia willing to consider making it easier for Libya to buy arms

UNITED NATIONS, 5 March —Russia is prepared to consider ways of making it easier for Libya's government to buy arms, but voiced serious concern about lifting an embargo on the North African state already awash with weapons, Russia's UN ambassador said on Monday.

Libya's Prime Minister Ali Zeidan said last week he planned to ask the UN Security Council to lift the embargo, which was imposed at the start of an uprising in 2011 that culminated in the ouster of dictator Muammar Gaddafi.

Russia's UN Ambassador Vitaly Churkin, who is president of the Security Council this month, said there were concerns about the Libyan government's lack of authority in the vast desert country and the spread of weapons its borders.

He said Libya had not yet made an official request for the arms embargo to be lifted, but the issue would likely be discussed by the 15-member council before a meeting on Libya later this month. "Some council members do have reservations about lifting the arms embargo," Churkin told re-

porters, noting that Libya's government was already able to purchase weapons with the approval of a Security Council sanctions committee.

"Of course it can be regarded as a somewhat cumbersome procedure even though it's supposed to happen rather quickly," Churkin said. "I think we will also be looking at ways maybe to facilitate the possible acquisition of arms by the Libyan government short of full fledged lifting of the arms embargo."

The Libyan government has struggled to exert authority across the coun-



Russian Ambassador to the United Nations Vitaly Churkin speaks to the media after a Security Council meeting at the United Nations in New York on 14 April, 2012.

REUTERS

try. State security forces remain weak and militias, made up of former rebel fighters, hold the power on the ground.

Reuters

Israel warns it cannot "stand idle" as Syria war spills over border

UNITED NATIONS, 5 March—Israel warned the UN Security Council on Monday that it could not be expected to "stand idle" as Syria's civil war spills over its border, while Russia accused armed groups of undermining security between the states by fighting in a demilitarized zone.

Israeli UN Ambassador Ron Prosor wrote to the

restraint thus far."

Israel does not have a reputation for being idle. Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak said that an attack on a Syrian arms complex on 30 January showed Israel was serious about preventing the flow of heavy arms into Lebanon, appearing to acknowledge that the Jewish state carried out the strike.



Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations Ron Prosor addresses the United Nations General Assembly during a meeting at UN Headquarters, in New York, on 29 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

15-member council to complain about shells from Syria landing in Israel.

"Israel cannot be expected to stand idle as the lives of its citizens are being put at risk by the Syrian government's reckless actions," Prosor wrote. "Israel has shown maximum

The United Nations says more than 70,000 people have been killed during a two-year revolt against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, which began as peaceful protests but turned violent when Assad's forces cracked down on the demonstrations.—Reuters

At least five die in plane crash in Congolese town of Goma



People gather at the site where a twin-propeller plane crashed at Goma airport in eastern Congo in this handout photo released by MONUSCO on 4 March, 2013.—REUTERS

GOMA, 5 March—At least five people were killed on Monday when a twin-

propeller plane crashed as it tried to land in bad weather in the eastern Congolese

town of Goma, the airline said.

CAA, the airline operating the Fokker 50 plane, said five crew members were killed while another was still missing after the crash.

"The (three) passengers were injured but their lives are not threatened," David Blattner CEO of CAA, told Reuters.

"There are conflicting reports that there might be one person dead on the ground," he added. The flight was arriving from the town of Lodja, some 700 km (440 miles) to the west. Democratic Republic

of Congo has one of the world's worst air safety records.

There have been numerous crashes in Goma, the main town in the east, where the runway has not been fully repaired after a volcanic eruption in 2002 left it covered in lava.

Government spokesman Lambert Mende earlier said nine people had been killed in the crash but he later confirmed the figures provided by CAA.

A Reuters reporter at the scene saw four bodies removed from the wreckage of the plane, which was lying in several pieces.—Reuters

UN nuclear chief presses Iran on access to military base

VIENNA, 5 March—The UN nuclear watchdog raised pressure on Iran to finally address suspicions that it has sought to design an atomic bomb, calling for swift inspector access to a military base where relevant explosives tests are believed to have been carried out.

Airing frustration at the lack of progress in his agency's investigation, Yukiya Amano told its 35-nation governing board on Monday that negotiations with Iran must "proceed with a sense of urgency" and be focused on achieving concrete results soon.

Because Iran is not providing the necessary cooperation with inspectors, the International Atomic Energy Agency "cannot conclude that all nuclear material in Iran is in peaceful activities", said Amano, the IAEA's director-general.

His message that Iran must act now was echoed by the United States and its top Gulf ally Saudi Arabia. They declared on Monday that separate but related talks between Teheran and world powers on a wider diplomatic solution to the nuclear dispute could not go on indefinitely.

Israel, Iran's arch-enemy and convinced Teheran is secretly trying to

develop a nuclear weapon, has grown impatient with the protracted talks and has threatened pre-emptive war against Teheran if it deems diplomacy ultimately futile.

"There is a finite amount of time," US Secretary of State John Kerry, in Riyadh, said of the talks between a group of six world powers and Teheran, Saudi Arabia's main regional adversary.

Reuters



International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Yukiya Amano attends a news conference during a board of governors meeting at the United Nations headquarters in Vienna on 10 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS

Six million facing hunger in southern Africa

GENEVA, 5 March—More than 6 million people across Angola, Lesotho, Malawi and Zimbabwe are at risk of severe food shortages because of repeated cycles of drought and flooding, the global humanitarian body IFRC said on Monday.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said the crisis was passing largely unnoticed in the outside world and its appeals for financial support had won limited support.

"This is a chronic crisis in which cycles of drought and flooding are destroying crops, livestock and safe drinking-water supplies. People don't have enough to eat or clean water to drink," said IFRC official Alexander Matheou.

"Malaria, cholera and diarrhoea are common," said Matheou, the Geneva-based body's regional representative in southern Africa, in a statement distributed to a news briefing.

The IFRC said four countries were suffering

particularly badly, with 725,000 people in Lesotho — about 40 per cent of the country's population — hit by the crisis.

Nearly 2 million were at risk in Malawi, more than 1.8 million in Angola, and 1.6 million in rural areas of Zimbabwe. In all four, rates of child malnutrition were soaring, reaching 50 percent more than last year in some areas. An additional complication, Matheou said, was the prevalence of HIV across southern Africa.—Reuters

At least 40 Syrians killed on road home from Iraq

BAGHDAD, 5 March—Unidentified gunmen killed at least 40 Syrian soldiers and government employees who were being taken to the Syrian border by Iraqi authorities on Monday after fleeing into Iraq from a Syrian rebel attack last week, Iraqi officials said.

A convoy carrying the Syrians was ambushed in Iraq's western Province of Anbar, where thousands

of Iraqi Sunnis have been protesting daily for more than two months against the Shi'ite-led government and the perceived marginalization of their sect.

The conflict in neighbouring Syria, where mainly Sunni Muslim rebels are fighting to overthrow a leader backed by Shi'ite Iran, is whipping up sectarian tensions in Iraq and the wider

Middle East.

That has raised concerns of a return to the kind of sectarian strife that killed tens of thousands in Iraq in 2006-2007.

"The incident took place in Akashat when the convoy carrying the Syrian soldiers and employees was on its way to the al-Waleed border crossing," a senior Iraqi official told Reuters.

Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Google search results 'hacked' over Malaysia-Filipino standoff

BARCELONA, 5 March— Supporters of an armed bid by Filipino intruders to lay claim to a Malaysian state took their campaign to cyberspace on Monday, manipulating Google search listings to show a message backing the incursion.

A Google search for the word "Sabah", the state at the centre of Malaysia's biggest security crisis in years, came back with a search results

and said to be the easternmost state but in fact, it is part of the Sultanate of Sulu," the passage read, shown in a box previewing the Wikipedia entry for Sabah.

Malaysians have been shocked by the militant incursion, which began when an estimated 100-300 people landed on the shores of Sabah on 12 February, claiming the state for the heir to a former Philippine sultanate.



page that quotes "Wikipedia" calling Malaysian control of the state "illegitimate."

"Sabah is illegitimately considered one of the 13 member states of Malaysia,

The website of Stamford College in Malaysia was apparently hacked at the weekend, its front page replaced by a message that said "The time has come to

reclaim what is truly ours."

"Sabah is owned by the Philippines, you illegally (sic) claiming it," it said.

Philippine news portals have said a number of sites in the country were hit by pro-Malaysia hackers.

A tense stand-off between the intruders and security forces who have them pinned down in the farming village of Tanduo erupted in a bloody firefight on Friday that left 12 gunmen and two police officers dead.

Another gun battle erupted on Saturday in Semporna, hours away from Tanduo by road, dramatically escalating tensions and raising the overall toll of reported dead to at least 18 militants and eight police officers.

Followers of the 74-year-old Manila-based Islamic leader, Jamalul Kiram III, say the gunmen are ready to die to defend his claim to Sabah, which was once controlled by the now-defunct sultanate.

PTI



China's first jumbo jet to debut in 2014

BEIJING, 5 March— China's first jumbo jet, the C919, is expected to make its maiden flight in 2014 as planned, its chief designer told *Xinhua* on Monday.

The design of C919's airframe has been completed and the ground tests of the jet's major equipment will start in 2013, said Wu Guanghui, the jumbo jet's chief designer and vice general manager of the Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China (COMAC), the aircraft's

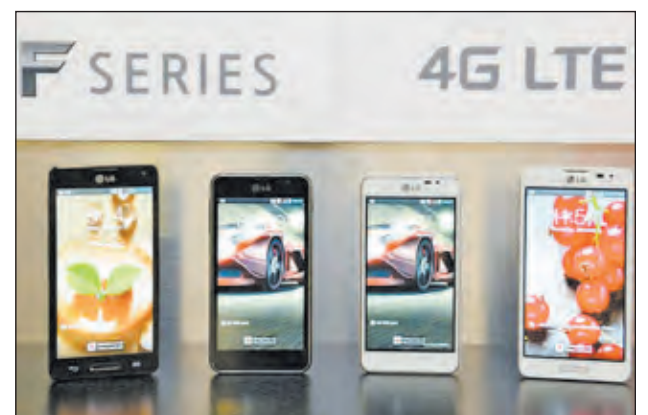
manufacturer.

The company had overcome a lot of difficulties, including insufficient experiences and technological reserves, weak industrial foundation and fierce competition, and had made new progresses in 2012, he said.

The COMAC will complete a series of technical review work and conduct over 40 wind tunnel tests in 2013, said Wu, who is in Beijing to attend the first session of the 12th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

Xinhua

LG's LTE smartphone sales top 10 million



According to Strategic Analytics, global shipments of LTE smartphones are forecast to increase to 275 million units this year.—PTI

SEOUL, 5 March—LG Electronics said on Monday that it has sold more than 10 million smartphones based on the high-speed long-term evolution (LTE) technology. LG's global LTE smartphone sales topped the 10 million mark last week as the company made an aggressive push into the fast-growing fourth-generation (4G) market, according to an e-mailed statement.

The result came as the LTE smartphone market is expected to grow rapidly. According to Strategic Analytics, global shipments of LTE smartphones are forecast to increase to 275

million units this year, reported *Xinhua*.

The company rolled out its LTE smartphones last year in around 10 countries such as the US, Germany, Japan and South Korea. LG planned to launch its Optimus G smartphone in about 50 nations by the end of this month. "Aggressive pushing forward with 4G LTE technology allows LG to satisfy the needs of consumers and is a huge factor in our growing success in global LTE smartphone sales," said Park Jong-seok, president and chief executive of LG's mobile communications division.

PTI

K-12 student database jazzes tech startups, spooks parents

NEW YORK, 5 March— An education technology conference this week in Austin, Texas, will clang with bells and whistles as startups eagerly show off their latest wares.

But the most influential new product may be the least flashy: a \$100 million database built to chart the academic paths of public school students from kindergarten through high school. In operation just three months, the database already holds files on millions of children identified by name, address and sometimes social security number. Learning disabilities are documented, test scores recorded, attendance noted. In some cases, the database tracks student hobbies, career goals, attitudes toward school—even homework completion.

Local education officials retain legal control over their students' information. But federal law allows them to share files in their portion of the database with

private companies selling educational products and services.

Entrepreneurs can't wait. "This is going to be a huge win for us," said Jeffrey Olen, a product manager at CompassLearning, which sells education software.



A guard helps a student cross an intersection in Pelham, New York on 8 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

CompassLearning will join two dozen technology companies at this week's SXSWedu conference in demonstrating how they might mine the database to create custom products—educational games for students, lesson plans for

teachers, progress reports for principals.

The database is a joint project of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which provided most of the funding, the Carnegie Corporation of New York and school officials from several states. Amplify

Education, a division of Rupert Murdoch's News Corp, built the infrastructure over the past 18 months. When it was ready, the Gates Foundation turned the database over to a newly created nonprofit, inBloom Inc, which will run it.

States and school districts can choose whether they want to input their student records into the system; the service is free for now, though inBloom officials say they will likely start to charge fees in 2015. So far, seven states—Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Massachusetts—have committed to enter data from select school districts. Louisiana and New York will be entering nearly all student records statewide.

"We look at personalized learning as the next big leap forward in education," said Brandon Williams, a director at the Illinois State Board of Education.

Federal officials say the database project complies with privacy laws. Schools do not need parental consent to share student records with any "school official" who has a "legitimate educational interest," according to the Department of Education.

Reuters

Penta T-Pad WS708C tablet launched in India at Rs 6,999

NEW DELHI, 5 March— Pantel Technologies has launched a new tablet PC—WS708C—in the Indian market. Priced at Rs 6,999, the tablet is powered by a cortex A9 1GHz processor, Mali 400 3D Accelerator GPU. It has a 7-inch TFT LCD capacitive multi touchscreen with a resolution

of 800x400 pixels.

Running the latest Jelly Bean Android operating software, the tablet has a dual SIM slot. It has 512MB DDR III RAM. It has 4GB of internal memory, which is expandable up to 32GB. The tablet has a 2 megapixel rear camera and a front VGA camera. Other features include Mini USB,



3000mAh battery, Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, and HDMI Port. The Phablet comes with free 3D goggles so as to allow the user to enjoy 3D viewing on the Penta T-pad.—PTI

It has 4GB of internal memory, which is expandable up to 32GB. The tablet has a 2 megapixel rear camera and a front VGA camera.—PTI

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Philippine bourse slips on profit-taking

MANILA, 5 March—Lack of positive leads prompted investors to sell their positions on Monday.

The bellwether Philippine stock exchange index lost 0.07 percent, or 4.71 points, to 6,637.56, while the broader all-share index slipped by 0.03 percent, or 1.48 points, to 4,172.07.

Trading volume reached 3.87 billion shares worth 10.74 billion pesos (263.85 million US dollars) with 98 stocks declining, 62 advancing and 49 unchanged. Of the six counters, only the financials and

the services sector bucked the trend.

“The Philippine stock market has faced a strong challenge to rise above 6,720 as well as to sustain levels above 6,700,” analyst Justino Calaycay of Accord Capital Equities Corp. said in his daily stock market comment.

Investors, he said, are struggling to balance political concerns in Italy and the approach of a 1 March sequestration in the US on one hand and a slew of generally inspiring economic numbers both here and

abroad.

Calaycay said what is keeping investors hooked on the local equities is the fact that it still offers investors the “best balance between return and risk.”

The Philippine equities went to as low as 6,564.77 on Monday, providing a window of opportunity for investors to start accumulating stocks.

Stock in the 30-company index closed mixed. Among those sold down were Ayala Corp., Ayala Land, Inc. and SM Prime Holdings, Inc.—Xinhua



An employee walks past a logo of Alibaba (China) Technology Co Ltd during a media tour organized by government officials at its headquarters on the outskirts of Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province on 20 June, 2012.—REUTERS

Alibaba eyes up to \$8 billion jumbo loan

HONG KONG, 5 March—Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Group is back in the loan market with an eye on a jumbo financing of up to \$8 billion to refinance existing debts, barely a year after borrowing \$4 billion in loans, according to sources.

The borrower is said to have approached lenders seeking proposals for the loan, proceeds from which will refinance US\$4bn in loans put in place last year as well as fund Alibaba's obligations under a \$7.1 billion share buyback deal it struck with Yahoo Inc (YHOO.O) last May.

The Chinese Internet company is refinancing its outstanding loans with a new borrowing to free itself from covenants that capped its borrowings to \$4 billion.

The additional \$4 billion it is raising from the latest borrowing will finance its share buyback deal with Yahoo.

As reported earlier, the buyback, agreed by Alibaba and Yahoo on 21 May 2012, will cost \$7.1 billion and will be funded by \$6.3 billion in cash and \$800 million through a new issue of preferred stock by Alibaba to Yahoo.

Sources expect Alibaba to pay lower pricing than on its loans signed last year, which were well received.

The \$4 billion in loans completed last year comprised a \$1 billion four-year facility signed in July by eight banks and three other loans of \$1 billion each signed in June.

The three other loans

include two bilaterals of three and four years from China Development Bank (CDB) CHDB.UL, and a \$1 billion three-year facility from a group of 19 lenders. The three-year facility from 19 banks was part of a \$3 billion dual-tranche debut which also comprised a \$2 billion bridge that was taken out by CDB's bilaterals.

The \$1 billion three-year loan from the 19 banks paid a top-level upfront fee of 300 basis points, while the \$2 billion 12-month bridge paid 175 basis points.

The \$4 billion in loans last year funded the privatization of Hong Kong-listed Alibaba.com and financed the buyback of half of the 40 percent stake Yahoo held in Alibaba.

Reuters

Nine cheap and healthy foods to help women stay young



1. Lemon
2. Apricot
3. Olive
4. Grapefruit
5. Cherry
6. Pomegranate
7. Carrot
8. Cucumber
9. Grape

Xinhua

Mongolia called on to create own brands

ULAN BATOR, 5 March—Senior officials attending the opening of the Mongolian Economic Forum on Monday called on their country to create its own brands to enter into the international market.

Prime Minister Norov Altanhuyag said “Mongolian brand, Mongolia creates” has always been the Mongolian people's dream.

Although Mongolia's per capita possession of resources ranks among the world's highest, most of its mineral products, meat, leather and cashmere are exported as raw materials with no added value, he said.

Mongolia should promote an upgrade and transformation of its economic structure, create

its own brands and enter into the international market, the prime minister said.

Deputy Prime Minister Dendev Terbishdagva also urged Mongolian enterprises to join forces to create their own brands to sell abroad.

Mongolian cashmere made under minus 40 degrees could be able to produce highest grade cashmere, but Mongolian cashmere products were not well-known in the international market, he said.

The two-day economic forum was mainly aimed at providing suggestions for vigorously developing deep processing of Mongolian cashmere, leather, dairy and other products, local media reported.—Xinhua

NEW YORK, 5 March—Can crunches create six-pack abdominal muscles? Do weight-lifting women risk bulging biceps? Is stretching always a good idea?

Experts say disentangling folklore from fact is not easy in fitness, where misconceptions are as pervasive as push-ups and as stubborn as love handles.

Jennifer Burke, a fitness manager at a Crunch gym in West Hollywood, California, said many women still worry that weight training will create big and bulky muscles.

“Women say ‘I don't want to get bulky,’ but unless you take in extra calories or testosterone supplements, that's just not going to happen,” said Burke, who eases reluctant clients into resistance training gently,

Fitness experts separate folklore from fact



Giang Hoang, 38, of Los Angeles exercises on the beach in Santa Monica, California on 27 May, 2011. REUTERS

with body-weight exercises.

“When they see their bodies getting long lean muscles, getting toned, they trust you a little more and you can start adding in dumbbells and machines,” Burke said.

The US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that adults engage in muscle-strengthening activities that

work all major muscle groups—legs, hips, back, abdomen, chest, shoulders and arms—two or more days a week.

“A lot of people think if they want to lose a lot of weight they should do cardio, but the best thing is to add in resistance training as well,” Burke said.

“You'll get bigger, faster results because you're working on lean muscle

tissue which burns more calories in the long run.”

While it's true that muscle weighs more than fat, it's also more compact.

“Five pounds (2.3 kilograms) of muscle is the size of your fist.

Five pounds of fat is the size of your forearm” she said. Burke added that another misconception is that lower-intensity exercise such as the fat-burning setting on most cardio machines is better for burning calories.

“That's absolutely not true,” said Burke. “If you increase the intensity you'll burn more calories.”

The CDC's rule of thumb is that one minute of vigorous-intensity activity is about the same as two minutes of moderate-intensity activity.

Reuters

Sequestration not favoured method to cut budget deficit

WASHINGTON, 5 March—A sound plan is needed to reduce the budget deficit over the next 10 years, but wholesale government spending cuts should not be the core of the programme, according to a new survey of economists.

The National Association for Business Economics' poll of 196 members found more than 70 percent

opposed the full implementation of \$85 billion in federal budget cuts known as the “sequester” that were set to start taking hold last Friday. The International Monetary Fund last week warned that the spending cuts, if fully implemented, could shave at least 0.5 percentage point off gross domestic product this year.—Reuters



Dollar trades at mid-93 yen level in early Tokyo deal

TOKYO, 5 March—The US dollar traded in the mid-93 yen range on early Monday in Tokyo.

At 9 am, the dollar was quoted at 93.53-61 yen compared with 93.55-65 yen in New York and 92.58-59 yen in Tokyo at 5 pm on

Friday.

The euro fetched 1.3015-3016 dollars and 121.76-78 yen against 1.3016-3026 dollars and 121.82-92 yen in New York and 1.3075-3076 dollars and 121.05-09 yen in Tokyo late Friday afternoon.—Xinhua

WORLD

NATO expects decision on post-2014 Afghan force by mid-year

KABUL, 5 March— NATO expects a decision by the middle of this year on the size of a training force to be kept in Afghanistan once most foreign troops leave in 2014, alliance Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said on Monday.

The Pentagon has said a NATO-led training force of between 8,000 and 12,000 was under consideration. Questions remain over how well Afghan security forces being built up by NATO will be able to tackle Islamist Taliban insurgents in the face of intensifying violence and how Western states can justify financial support for a force that has been saddled with accusations of torture by the United Nations.

"It takes some time to

stand up a new training mission, of course, and we will need the clarification within the next few months," Rasmussen told *Reuters* after talks with President Hamid Karzai in the Afghan capital Kabul.

"I would expect it (the size of the force) to be finalised very soon because we also need to start planning," he said.

Many Afghans eagerly await a firm decision on the number of foreign troops who will stay in their country once NATO's military operation officially ends at the end of next year.

"President Karzai assured me today that Afghanistan wants a NATO-led training mission to stay, to train, to give advice, to assist the Afghan security forces after 2014," Rasmus-



NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen (L) talks with Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai during their meeting in Kabul on 4 March, 2013.

REUTERS

sen said of the training mission, which is called "Resolute Support".

An earlier suggestion of a "zero option" by White House officials — a complete US withdrawal after 2014 — spooked some Afghan lawmakers, who

warned this could lead to full civil war. But troop numbers are also politically sensitive in many NATO countries where voters have tired of the increasingly unpopular and costly 12-year war against Taliban insurgents.—*Reuters*

Second sinkhole appears in Tampa area

SEFFNER, (Florida) 5 March— A second sinkhole appeared in the Tampa area on Monday, just miles from one that opened beneath a home last week and swallowed a man from his bed, though the latest one appeared not to pose immediate danger, police said.

The latest sinkhole opened between two homes and was about 12-feet round, 3 feet deep around the edge and about 5 feet deep in the centre, said Hillsborough County spokesman Willie Puz.

He said the latest sink-

and filled with clay and debris. It is unlikely that Bush's body will ever be retrieved, officials said.

On Monday, demolition crews returned to Bush's home to demolish the rest of the house before efforts will begin to stabilize the sinkhole.

Two nearby houses have been evacuated because the sinkhole has weakened the ground underneath them, and their residents probably will never be allowed inside again, said Jessica Damico of Hillsborough County Fire



An unidentified man helps to move some of the items salvaged from the house, where Jeffrey Bush was swallowed by a sinkhole, during its demolition in Seffner, Florida on 3 March, 2013.—REUTERS

hole appears to be unrelated to the one that opened last Thursday under the home of 37-year-old Jeff Bush.

"It is not geologically connected," Puz said.

Bush disappeared into the hole that opened up under his bedroom on Thursday night. The other occupants of the house, which is owned by the family of Jeremy Bush's fiancée, had been preparing for bed when they heard a loud crash and Jeff Bush screaming. The hole was about 30 feet wide and 60 feet deep

Rescue.

Bush, a landscaper who mowed highway medians for a living, had moved into the four-bedroom home only two months ago which he shared with his brother, Jeremy Bush, 36, and four others.

Workers recovered a family Bible, flag, military medals, a purse, teddy bears and generations of photos. On Monday they recovered two antique rifles that were family heirlooms.—*Reuters*

Pakistani teen, Colombia president among Nobel prize nominees



Pakistani schoolgirl, Malala Yousufzai, who was shot in the head by the Taliban for advocating girls' education, is seen sitting in her hospital bed in this undated still picture taken from video provided by the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, in Birmingham, central England, and received in London on 4 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

OSLO, 5 March— A Pakistani schoolgirl who was shot in the head by the Taliban for advocating girls' education is a wild

card entry for this year's Nobel Peace prize, with the leaders of Colombia and Myanmar among likely candidates for the award.

Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos was certain to be on the list for his efforts to end half a century of conflict with the FARC guerrillas, alongside Myanmar's Thein Sein, who has led a transition from decades of dictatorship, people familiar with the committee's deliberations said. Former US President Bill Clinton was once again a possible candidate for his charitable work.

However, Russian punk rock band Pussy Riot, which gained international notoriety when three of its members were jailed for performing a "punk prayer" against President Vladimir Putin in a Moscow cathedral, were

not seen as likely winners. The Norwegian Nobel Committee, which announces its decision on 12 October, received a record number of nominations for this year's award.

"The prize keeps gaining importance and attention," said its Director Geir Lundestad. "Presidents, prime ministers, former laureates submitted many of the nominations ... and we have plenty of new names as well as 'old' ones on the list." The 15-year old Pakistani schoolgirl Malala Yousufzai has become an internationally recognized symbol of resistance to the Taliban's efforts to deny women education and other rights.—*Reuters*

Snowstorm hits north-central US, heads to mid-Atlantic

MINNEAPOLIS, 5 March—A blizzard roared into North Dakota on Monday and was expected to dump up to a foot of snow in neighbouring Minnesota before moving east over the mid-Atlantic states, where it could bury the Washington area with its biggest snowfall of the winter, the National Weather Service said.

Blowing snow and drifts up to three feet (0.9 metre) left parts of Montana and the northwest North Dakota oil region with visibility at a quarter of mile under blizzard conditions that were expected to last into Monday night, the

weather service said.

The North Dakota transportation department was recommending "no travel" on roads across the northwestern part of the state where there is a blizzard, stretching along the northern edge of the state across to roads north of Grand Forks. Up to 15 inches of snow was expected in northwestern North Dakota and 9 inches in the Grand Forks area, on the eastern border with Minnesota. But the state took the latest storm in stride.

"It's a normal late winter storm for us," said Adam Jones, a meteorologist with

the National Weather Service in Bismarck.

The Minneapolis and St Paul metropolitan area was dusted by an inch or two of snow on Monday from a separate storm system, and up to 10 inches was expected from the main winter storm, mostly overnight into Tuesday morning, the weather service said.

The storm was expected to dump heavy snow along the Minnesota and Wisconsin border, with up to a foot in the far southeastern corner of Minnesota, before heading across southern Wisconsin and into Illinois.—*Reuters*

Neighbour killed trying to save three seniors in Tennessee fire

NASHVILLE, 5 March— Authorities are investigating whether an explosion caused a fast-spreading house fire in Tennessee that killed three senior citizens and a neighbour who tried to save them.

"I've seen a lot of things that are bad, but here something happened real bad, real fast," said Macon County Fire Chief Keith Scruggs on Monday, his voice cracking.

Scruggs, a firefighter for 39 years, said he knew all four victims of the fire, which happened on Sunday night just outside the city

limits of Lafayette, a close-knit rural community about 55 miles northeast of Nashville. All were overcome by smoke inhalation.

"Everybody knows everybody," Scruggs said of the community of 8,000. "This is the most that have ever died in a house fire that I remember." Firefighters reached the house four minutes after being called but found it already engulfed in flames. Firefighters encountered several explosions while trying to extinguish the blaze. Scruggs said the fire could have been caused by an oxygen or propane

tank explosion. The cause is under investigation.

The dead include Robert Solomon, 80, an Alzheimer's and dementia patient, and his wife, Barbara Solomon, 73, who had recently retired as the charge nurse at Macon County General Hospital, Scruggs said. She recently had both hips and a knee replaced, and was not very mobile, he said.

Alice Cockrill, 65, Barbara Solomon's sister, also died, Scruggs said. She had spent most of her time in bed with chronic pain and other issues, he said.

Reuters

WORLD



Slovenian Finance Ministry State Secretary Andrej Sircelj (L), French Finance Minister Pierre Moscovici and Greek Finance Minister Yannis Stournaras (R) attend a euro zone finance ministers meeting at the European Union Council in Brussels on 4 March, 2013.

REUTERS

France says will meet its deficit target in 2014

BRUSSELS, 5 March—France, the euro zone's second-largest economy, will miss its budget deficit target this year but can reach the goal in 2014, the country's Finance Minister Pierre Moscovici said on Monday.

Under pressure to show budgetary discipline to the rest of the euro zone and reassure financial markets, Moscovici pleaded for understanding from the European Commission, the EU executive that is policing countries' debts and deficits.

"We need to be intelligent and find a balance between fiscal consolidation and growth... France can bring its budget deficit to below 3 percent in 2014," Moscovici told a news conference after a meeting with his euro zone counterparts in Brussels.

"We will not meet our deficit forecast for 2013 and I don't want to deepen austerity at a time of recession and stagnation," Moscovici said, referring the euro zone's economy, which the Commission expects to

shrink 0.3 percent this year.

"We don't have any more adjustment plans for 2013," he said of France.

France is expected to show almost no growth this year—a 0.1 percent expansion—the Commission said in its latest forecast last month. Partly because of the lack of growth, the Commission has forecast that France's deficit will be 3.7 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) this year, well short of the 3 percent target under European rules.—Reuters

Twelve pro-army militiamen killed in Yemen

ADEN, 5 March—A suicide bomber killed at least 12 members of a pro-government militia that helped the Yemeni army to drive al-Qaeda-linked Islamist militants out of southern strongholds in a US-backed campaign last year, a commander said on Monday.

Nizar Jaafar said 15 other people had been wounded in the attack on an office of the Popular Committees in the town of Lawdar in the southern province of Abyan.

Residents said the force of the blast shook the centre of Lawdar. No one claimed responsibility for the attack, but Islamist group Ansar al-Sharia has previously said it carried



A police trooper holds a machine gun mounted on a police truck as he secures the vicinity around a state security court during the trials of al-Qaeda suspects in Sanaa on 4 March, 2013.—REUTERS

out similar bombings, often in reprisal for the tribal fighters' role in driving the militants out of their strongholds.

Yemen has been grap-

pling with multiple challenges since a popular uprising forced President Ali Abdullah Saleh out of office in 2011 and brought Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi

in his place.

Apart from the Islamist militant insurgency, the US-allied country which is next door to the world's top oil exporter, Saudi Arabia, is fighting a separatist movement seeking to revive the Socialist state that merged with North Yemen in 1990, as well as a potential challenge from Shi'ite Muslim rebels known as Houthis in the north.

Ansar al-Sharia has carried out a campaign of suicide attacks against the Yemeni army and its militia allies after they were forced to quit cities they captured in 2011, during the turmoil that accompanied the popular protests against Saleh.

Reuters

Turkey, Greece seek to boost economic ties amid tensions

ISTANBUL, 5 March—More than 250 businessmen from Turkey and Greece met here on Monday to explore the possibilities of broadening economic and trade relations between the two neighbours despite differences in some areas.

"Turkey and Greece aim to reach the 10 billion US dollars trade volume by the year of 2015," Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who also attended the Turkish-Greek Business Forum, said during the event. Tourism is one of the promising areas of cooperation between Turkey and Greece. Rifat Hisarcikliglu, president of Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey (DEIK), suggested at the forum that Turkey and Greece could develop tourism packages together to attract tourists from the Middle East and Asia.

Before the forum, the two governments headed

by Erdogan and his Greek counterpart Antonis Samaras signed 25 agreements in a bid to boost cooperation on education, press, energy, tourism and sports.

However, some longstanding problems between the two neighbouring countries cast shadow on the future development of bilateral economic relations—one of the disputes being the gas exploration rights in the Eastern Mediterranean, and

another, the Cyprus issue.

"I think the increasing trade volume between Turkey and Greece can erase political tensions and conflicts. Turkey and Greece could cooperate with each other to solve the gas exploration disputes," said Alexander Karapiperis from Greek company Ergani, who believed that trade with Turkey helps Greece to solve domestic financial crisis.

Xinhua



Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan (above) addresses during Turkish-Greek Business Forum held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 4 March, 2013.—XINHUA

South African official says BRICS summit preparations at advanced stage

JOHANNESBURG, 5 March—The South African government announced on Monday that preparations for the upcoming 5th BRICS Summit are at advanced stage.

"At this point, preparations are at advanced stage for the 5th BRICS Summit. From the substance and logistic perspective, we are satisfied with the state of readiness," said Ebrahim Ebrahim, South Africa's Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation.

The official stressed that the South African

government is confident that "the summit will be a great success."

The 5th BRICS Summit will be held in the southeastern port city of Durban from 26 to 27 March under the theme "BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Development, Integration and Industrialization."

It will be the first time for South Africa to hold the BRICS summit since it officially became a membership of the group on 24 Dec, 2010, following formal invitation by the BRIC nations to join the group.

Xinhua

Locust reached Gaza Strip, not dangerous

GAZA, 5 March—The government of Islamic Hamas movement said on Monday that the swarms of locust which stormed the Gaza Strip earlier Monday evening were not big and not dangerous or harmful.

The swarms of locust were very little and only reached the fields in some parts of southern Gaza Strip, Saleh Bakheet, director general of plant protection department in the ministry of agriculture, said in a Press statement.

He said the swarms of locust came from Egypt and crossed into the south-

ern area of the Gaza Strip, adding that little swarms had reached the farms and green fields of Abassan village, east of the city of Khan Younis.

"It represents no kind of danger or harms to people and plants," Bakheet said, adding that "the situation is under full control and protection of the ministry of agriculture."

Farmers said that 10 locusts were founded in each dunum (1,000 square metres). Officials of the agriculture ministry said it would be dangerous if huge swarms of locust cover an

area of 30 dunums (30,000 square metres).

Meanwhile, Israeli Radio reported that the swarms of locust covered various green fields and areas in southern Israel, mainly near the borders between Israel and Egypt.

The radio said that farmers in the area said swarms of locust were not that huge and do not represent any danger to their farms.

However, they expressed concerns that within the coming few days, swarms of locust would increase.—Xinhua

Learjet makes emergency landing at St Louis airport



An image captured from a video footage from KSDK shows a Learjet 45 airplane with reported landing gear problems being met with rescue vehicles and first responders upon making an emergency landing at Lambert-St Louis International Airport in St Louis, Missouri on 4 March, 2013.—REUTERS

ST LOUIS, 5 March—A Learjet 45 with reported landing gear problems made an emergency landing at Lambert-St Louis International Airport on Monday afternoon, an airport official said.

The aircraft reportedly had eight passengers aboard and had been headed to the smaller St Louis Downtown Airport, which is across the Mississippi River in Cahokia, Illinois, according to an official at that airport.

Lambert-St Louis spokesman Jeff Lea said that all the passengers had gotten off the plane and that it would be inspected and towed from the runway. The airport had rescue vehicles on hand in case there had been problems during the landing.

Xinhua

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 6 March, 2013

Toward a country of sustainable development

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is enhancing relations with the international community to access knowledge, experience and resources to accelerate its development progress. It recognizes its responsibility to its citizens and to its partners to achieve the most it can from this cooperation. The government and its development partners agree to take concrete actions to make their cooperation more effective and workable.

In a measure of achieving national priority, the government is extensively engaged in developing a culture of democratic practices that recognizes human rights and empowers citizens through participatory processes, strengthening the rule of law and improving access to justice and information, creating an enabling environment for civil society to contribute to policy formulation, budgetary processes and delivery of services at the grass roots level.

Furthermore, it is pursuing market based, inclusive growth, equitable and sustainable development and accelerating peace-building, political reforms and development initiatives to promote reconciliation and national harmony in recent conflict and ceasefire areas while integrating capacity enhancing objectives into all development plans and developing appropriate strategies to unleash and develop capacity.

As a developing country, we have to make the most of our natural resources in pursuit of economic growth. But, sustainable economy is a question of seeking a balance between exploitation and conservation of environment.

Since development and environment are complementary and not antagonistic terms, public education is instrumental to reinforce the durability of social and economic infrastructures and facilities, and only then, we may be able to leverage from the solid base to advance toward a country of sustainable development.

SWRR Ministry, Asian Disaster Risk Management Centre sign deal

NAY PYI TAW, 5 March—The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and Asian Disaster Risk Management Centre signed a MoU here this morning.

Union Minister Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin addressed the signing ceremony at Amara Hotel, calling for strengthened cooperation between the two organizations. Director-

General of Relief and Resettlement Department U Soe Aung and Executive Director Dr Krasae Chanawongse of the centre signed the deal.

The executive director spoke words of thanks.

The ministry will put forward disaster risk management bill drafted with the support of the centre to the parliament in the near future.—MNA



President U Thein Sein meets with Speaker of Austria Parliament Mrs Babara Prammer at the discussions. (News on page 1)—MNA

Seminar on International Arbitration held

NAY PYI TAW, 5 March—Under the capacity building programme of parliaments, a seminar on International Arbitration took place at the Hluttaw Office, here,

this afternoon.

Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Mya Nyein gave an opening speech and officials from the Supervisory Committee for Hluttaw Capacity Building

explained the purpose of it.

Experts Mr Christopher Lau, Mr Robert San Pe and U Min Naing Oo led the discussions. The three-day seminar was attended by representatives from Pyithu

Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw and officials from Hluttaw Capacity Building Supervisory Committee and members and officials from the Hluttaw Office.

MNA

Coord meeting on cooperation in development of Shweli-Kyaukpyu corridor project held

NAY PYI TAW, 5 March—The Second Joint Expert Group Meeting on China-Myanmar Highway Project from Ruili to Kyaukpyu between the Ministry of Construction and a panel of experts from the Construction Ministry of

Yunnan Province of the People's Republic of China was held at the meeting hall of the ministry, here, this morning.

Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin delivered an address at the meeting.

Next, Deputy Director-General Mr. Rei Weimin of International Relations Department of the Ministry of Construction of the PRC spoke words of thanks.

Afterwards, Managing Director U Kyaw Lin and officials of the Public

Works held talks with Deputy Director-General Mr. Guan Changyu of the Ministry of Construction of the PRC on cooperation in development of Shweli-Kyaukpyu corridor project at the meeting that runs through 7 March.—MNA

Platforms of Yadana Gas Field Project under repair

NAY PYI TAW, 5 March—Measures are being taken for the platforms—production platform, living quarter platform and flare platform of Yadana Gas Field Project which is fulfilling energy and electricity demands of the State—to withstand wave impact of the sea and to upgrade the natural gas production rig without having no effect on natural gas production.

While the maintenance works were in progress, Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Sein Tin Win and officials visited production platform of Yadana gas field project in the Gulf of Mottama, offshore Mottama Gulf by helicopter this morning.



Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay views production platform of Yadana gas field project in the Gulf of Mottama.—MNA

After hearing reports on subsidence project presented by the GM and responsible persons of Total E&P Myanmar, the Union minister and the Chief Minister coordinated the requirements

and gave instructions on continued production and supply of natural gas during the period of matriculation examinations, stressing to produce 15 million cubic feet of natural gas per day

in March.

Next, the Union minister and party inspected upgrading of production platform and called on Myanmar staff to work harder.

MNA

LOCAL NEWS

Fire drill at Hopin Myoma Market

MOHNYIN, 5 March—A fire drill was practised at Myoma Market in Hopin of Mohnyin District on 24 February.

It was attended by departmental officials, Head of Township Fire Services Department U Hein Min Htaik and members, members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade, workers of

Township Development Affairs Committee and members of the market committee. The head of the Township FSD explained fire hazard and root causes of outbreak of fire. Later, members of Fire Brigade participated in the fire drill with the fire engine and fire extinguishers.

Myanma Alinn

Mawlu gets better GSM telephone services

MAWLU, 5 March—GSM phone lines came into operation as of 22 February in Mawlu of Indaw Township in Sagaing Region.

MM Co built a 42-m GSM tower at the Post Office and Communication Station in Mawlu and Fortune Co installed modern communication devices at the tower.

Mawlu Region has 43 villages from 10 village-tracts which are home to about 5000 local people. The tower gives communication services to six-mile radius of Mawlu. At present, GSM handset shops are selling communication equipment to the local people at fair prices in competitiveness.

Myanma Alinn



Cash and kind donated to quake victims

NAY PYI TAW, 5 March—Wellwishers donate cash and kind for victims of earthquake-hit Mandalay and Sagaing regions through Department of Relief and Resettlement and the Yangon Region Department of Relief and Resettlement under the Ministry of Social Welfare,

Relief and Resettlement.

On 24 February, U Wan Shein-Daw Khin Htwe donated K 50,000 and Dr Kyi Oo-Dr Khin Mar Shein K 50,000. On 25 February, Daw Swe Swe Aung donated K 20,000. Officials accepted the cash donations.

MNA

Take Fire Preventive Measures

Diamond orb hoisted atop Shwesaryan Pagoda in Patheingyi



MANDALAY, 5 March—Village of Patheingyi Township of Mandalay Region.

Yangon wins by four goals to two in semi-final with Magway

NAY PYI TAW, 5 March—Yangon Region team played against Magway Region in semi-final of men's football tournament of Union Cup Games at Wunna Theikdi stadium on 3 March.

Yangon team struggled to manage the long-kick strategy of Magway until 20 minutes after the game started and relied on counter attack only. But Yangon concealed its first goal from Striker Saw Naing Moe Aung's solo attack. One minute later, the equalizing goal came from Magway

striker Htet Wai Lin.

As soon as the second half of the game started, Yangon team played well in rhythm with the game. Hset Phyo Wai of Yangon made third goal for his team after 8 minutes. But Magway Striker Htet Wai Lin headed the ball into an open goal, making his second goal of the game. Yangon attacked more in the second half and deserved to score fourth goal by midfielder Kyaw Thurein. At the end of the game, Yangon won by four goals to two. — Kyemon

Handbag snatched in Bago

BAGO, 5 March — A handbag snatch occurred in front of Basic Education Middle School No (6) in Yonegyi ward of Bago at about 9.30 pm on 28 February. While walking out from Shwe Wah Tun Hotel with her colleague to have dinner outside, three unknown men snatched the handbag of Daw Khin Khin Yi, professor/head of Law

Department of Toungoo University, and they drove away on the motorbike.

The handbag contained K 290,000, one Nokia handset worth K 150,000, a purse worth K 20,000, two identity cards.

No (1) Police Station in Bago opened a case on the handbag snatch and is investigating into the case is ongoing. — Kyemon

NYAUNGLEBIN, 5 March—Under the aegis of Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Zabu Aye Sayadaw of Nyaunglebin Township, Nyaunglebin Township Sasana Nuggaha Association will hold the second novitiation ceremony of the township at Zabu Aye Tawya Monastery in Pyuntaza on 11 March.

From 12 to 19 March, Sayadaws from Tawyaagi Monastery and Wiweka Tawya Monastery of Nyaunglebin will give lecture to children who would be novitiated in the culture course. Those wishing to donate cash and kind to 120 boys' novitiation ceremony may contact U Win Myint, Chairman of Sasana Nuggaha Association, Tel: 09-428030450,

120 boys to be novitiated in Nyaunglebin



U Win Myint, Head of Religious Affairs Department, 09-49040139, U Thein

Aung, executive of the association, 09-428120954, 052-50160, U Than Shwe,

09-5385205, U Thet Naing, 09-5040209 and U Soe Myint, 09-428173499. — NLM

Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Sasanabhivamsa, Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Tejjobhasabhivamsa, and Secretary of Region Sangha Nayaka Committee (Sudhamma) DaikU Monastery of Mogaung Taik Agga Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita Bhaddanta Jotikabhivamsa and members of the Sangha.

Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint and wife, region level officials and wellwishers participated in hoisting diamond orb and pennant-shaped vane.

Myanma Alinn

State School of Fine Arts turns out artists



YANGON, 5 March—The certificate presentation ceremony of State School of Fine Arts (Yangon) of the Fine Arts Department of Ministry of Culture was held at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street in Dagon Township of Yangon

Region on 3 March morning.

Deputy Minister for Culture Daw Sanda Khin presented completion certificates to the students.

The deputy minister and party then viewed painting and sculpture works of the students. — MNA

Kenyatta takes early lead as Kenya counts votes



Kenya's Deputy Prime Minister and presidential candidate Uhuru Kenyatta (C) casts his ballot inside a polling station in Kenya's town of Gatundu, on 4 March, 2013.

REUTERS

NAIROBI, 5 March—Uhuru Kenyatta opened an early lead as Kenya continued the count on Tuesday in a presidential election that brought out millions of voters despite pockets of violence that killed at least 15 people. Kenyans, who waited patiently in long lines, hope the vote will restore the nation's image as one of Africa's more stable democracies after tribal blood-letting killed more than 1,200 people when the result of the 2007 vote was

disputed by rivals.

Early tallies from Monday's broadly peaceful voting gave an edge to Kenyatta, the 51-year-old deputy prime minister, over rival Prime Minister Raila Odinga, 68. That lead could still be overhauled because it was based on a count from just over 20 percent of polling stations, provisional figures from the election commission indicated. Final results are likely to be announced later on Tuesday. Election officials had said

turnout was more than 70 percent of the 14.3 million eligible voters but have not given a precise total. The United States and Western donors have watched the vote closely, concerned about the stability of a nation seen as a regional ally in the fight against militant Islam.

They also worry about what to do if Kenyatta wins, because he faces charges of crimes against humanity at the International Criminal Court (ICC) related to the violence five years ago.

For an outright victory, a candidate needs more than 50 percent of votes cast, otherwise the top two face a run-off, provisionally set for April. Odinga may be facing his last crack at the presidency after narrowly missing out in 2007 to now-outgoing President Mwai Kibaki. Losing to Kenyatta, the son of Kenya's first president after independence, would mark another defeat in the family's ambitions after Odinga's father also failed to secure the top post.—Reuters

ROME, 5 March—Italy could be inching closer towards another election within months after centre-left leader Pier Luigi Bersani issued an ultimatum to anti-establishment comic Beppe Grillo to support a new government or return to the polls.

Last week's election, in which Grillo's 5-Star Movement won a huge protest vote, left no group with a working majority in parliament, making an alliance with a rival the only way out. On RAI state television late on Sunday, Bersani underlined his opposition to two of the options floated—another technocrat government like the outgoing one led by Mario Monti or a coalition with Silvio Berlusconi's centre-right.

That would leave only one possibility to avoid elections—Grillo's backing for the centre-left, which won the lower house in the election but does not have enough support in the Senate.

"Now (Grillo) must say what he wants, otherwise

we all go home, including him," Bersani said.

Grillo has repeatedly said his populist movement, which he refuses to call a party, would not give a vote of confidence to any government of established parties, although it could support individual laws.

"We have already said it several times: we won't give a vote of confidence to a government of political parties," the movement's newly named Senate leader, Vito Crimi, told its novice lawmakers on Monday during a meeting in Rome

streamed on Grillo's blog.

He said the party could consider supporting a technocrat government such as the one headed by outgoing prime minister Monti.

The uncertainty in Italy, during a long limbo before talks to form a government begin after 15 March, has unsettled international markets. The spread between Italian 10-year benchmark bonds and German bunds—a measure of investor confidence—widened on Monday to an almost three-month high.

Reuters



Italian PD (Democratic Party) leader Pier Luigi Bersani speaks during a news conference in Rome on 26 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

Banks offer 16.7 bln dollar loans for SMEs in Poland

WARSAW, 5 March—Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk on Monday said five banks have signed deals with the Polish state-owned bank Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego (BGK) to offer loans worth up to PLN 50 billion (16.7 billion US dollars) to small- and medium-sized Polish enterprises. Local media reports said the BGK estimated that some PLN 30 billion would be made available in two years, and that about 50 small- and medium-sized enterprises might benefit

from the programme.

But Tusk said that the ultimate value of the loans could reach PLN 50 billion, adding that the lack of capital during an economic downturn is one of the most acute problems for companies. Established in 1924, BGK is Poland's only state-owned bank. The primary business objective of the bank is to provide banking services for the public finance sector, in particular through the support of the government's economic programmes.—Xinhua

From shirt store to multi-billionaire: Inditex founder Ortega rises to number 3 in Forbes rich list

MADRID, 5 March—Armanio Ortega, the founder of the textile group Inditex, is now the third richest man in the world according to the magazine *Forbes* which published its rich list on Monday.

Ortega has moved up two places over the last year from being the fifth richest man in the world and has a fortune estimated at 57 billion US dollars, up 19.5 billion dollars since the start of March 2012.

He is only beaten by Mexican Carlos Slim and Microsoft founder Bill Gates.

Although he stepped down as the chairman of Inditex in 2011, Ortega still owns 60 percent of the shares of the group whose most famous brand is Zara, which he founded in 1975 and which has grown since then to become a worldwide phenomenon, which by the end of October 2012 had

almost 2,000 stores and was represented in every continent on earth.

Key to Zara's recent growth has been its expansion in China, while last year also saw the store open up its website in Chinese in order to expand its market penetration beyond the 50 plus cities which currently have stores.

2012 was a good year for Inditex, which registered a 27 percent rise in profits in the first 10

months of the year as the group was able to withstand the effects of the economic crisis and see its volume of sales rise by 17 percent. This was partly due to the fact the group, which also includes marks such as Massimo Dutti, Pull and Bear, and Bershka, opened almost 400 new stores during the year, including the group's 6000th store, which is on London's emblematic Oxford Street.—Xinhua

Chavez's breathing problems worsen, has severe new infection

CARACAS, 5 March—President Hugo Chavez's breathing problems have worsened and he is suffering from a new, severe respiratory infection after undergoing cancer surgery in Cuba, Venezuela's government said in a sombre update on Monday.

Reading the latest official assessment of Chavez's health, Information Minister Ernesto Villegas said the 58-year-old socialist leader's condition was very delicate.

"Today there is a worsening of his respiratory function. Related to his depressed immune system, there is now a new, severe infection," Villegas said.

"The president has been receiving high-impact chemotherapy, along with other complementary treatments ... his general condition continues to be very delicate."

Chavez made a surprise pre-dawn return to Venezuela from Cuba two weeks ago. The govern-



Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez smiles in between his daughters, Rosa Virginia (R) and Maria while recovering from cancer surgery in Havana in this photograph released by the Ministry of Information on 15 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

ment said he is in a tightly guarded suite at a Caracas military hospital. He has not been seen in public nor heard from since his 11

December operation in Havana, his fourth cancer surgery since the disease was detected in his pelvic region in mid-2011.—Reuters

German car sales decline 10 pct in February

BERLIN, 5 March—Germany, Europe's biggest car market, saw a sharp year-on-year fall in sales of 10.5 percent in February, the Federal Motor Transport Authority (KBA) said on Monday, as the auto industry is still under the shadow of the eurozone debt crisis. About 66 percent of the 200,683 newly registered cars were for commercial use, the KBA said in a statement.

However, the February figure marked a 4.5-percent increase compared with

January. According to Germany's VDIK association of car importers, new car registrations in the first two months of this year totalled 392,000.

German car sales fell 2.9 percent in 2012 with a total of 3.08 million models, still outperforming other European markets like France and Italy.

German automakers' resilient performance during the debt crisis has been attributed to strong demand in North America and Asia. Xinhua

REGIONAL

Wen suggests new gov't expanding domestic demand



Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao delivers the government work report during the opening meeting of the first session of the 12th National People's Congress (NPC) at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, on 5 March, 2013.—XINHUA

BEIJING, 5 March—Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao on Tuesday advised his succeeding government to “unswervingly” take expanding domestic demand as the government’s long-term strategy for economic

development, given the “fundamental” role of consumption and the “key” role of investment in driving economic growth.

In his last delivery of government work report as China’s premier, Wen said

he made his suggestions based on an understanding of the work of the past ten years, especially of the past five years.

“The difficulty in and key to expanding domestic demand lie in consumption, and that is also where the potential lies,” Wen told nearly 3,000 national legislators at the annual session of the 12th National People’s Congress (NPC).

Consumption has become China’s primary driving force for economic growth, contributing to about 51.8 percent of China’s gross domestic product growth last year, while fixed-asset investment helped drive another 50.4 percent of the GDP growth, according to data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

Xinhua

Vietnamese, Portuguese communist parties boost ties

HANOI, 5 March—The Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) wants to further boost friendship and cooperation with the Portuguese communist party and people, said Le Hong Anh, Politburo Member and permanent member of the CPV Central Committee’s Secretariat on Monday.

Anh made the statement in capital Hanoi during his reception of General Secretary of the Portuguese Communist Party Jeronimo de Sousa, who led his party’s high-ranking delegation to visited Vietnam from 1-4 March. Anh said the visit manifested new development of the friendship and cooperation between the two parties and countries.

The Portuguese party leader expressed his delight to re-visit Vietnam and wit-

ness the country’s renewals in socio-economic development, especially valuable experience of the CPV in building and developing the socialist country of Vietnam. He also informed the host of information about the country and party of Portugal, confirming that he would try to contribute to promoting the close relations and cooperation between the two parties in the coming years.

During his stay in Vietnam, Jeronimo de Sousa held talks with CPV’s External Affairs Commission Hoang Binh Quan, worked with the CPV’s Central Theory Council, the Ministry of Planning and Investment, and Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, and toured some economic sites in Hanoi.—Xinhua

Mongolian president meets Danish parliament speaker on cooperation

ULAN BATOR, 5 March—Mongolian President Tsakhia Elbegdorj met visiting Danish senior officials here on Monday on the two countries’ cooperation in energy, agriculture and culture.

“Mongolia is interested in promoting cooperation with Denmark in such fields as culture, education, science and so on,” Elbegdorj told the Danish parliamentary delegation

led by Parliament Speaker Mogens Lykketoft.

He also expressed his willingness to introduce Denmark’s environmentally friendly technologies to the Central Asian country.

The delegation, which started its official visit on Saturday, was also scheduled to hold talks with Mongolian Foreign Minister L Bold and Mining Minister D Gankhuyag.

Xinhua

People are stranded in the Songhuajiang River, northeast China’s Jilin Province, on 4 March, 2013. Nine people were evacuated to safety by a helicopter after three ferries carrying nine passengers were stranded for more than 28 hours in the Songhua River on Monday.—XINHUA



Four killed, 18 injured in firing in Pakistan’s Karachi

ISLAMABAD, 5 March—At least four people were killed and 18 others injured when some unknown gunmen sprayed bullets in various areas of Pakistan’s southern port city of Karachi on Monday evening, local media reported.

Urdu TV channel ARY said that two people were killed and several others injured when some unknown gunmen opened fire at the people who were on their

way back home after offering funeral prayer of Sunday night’s bombing victims in Al-Asif Square area of the city.

Shortly after the attack, angry mob set four banks on fire and injured four people in National Highway area.

In a similar attack in Sohrab Goth area of the city, some unknown gunmen opened fire at a police mobile, injuring several

people including one policeman. The protesters also set four banks on fire in the area.

Later in Ancholi area of the city, two people were killed and several others injured in firing by unknown gunmen.

The Rangers’ spokesperson, said that four ranger personnel were injured in separate incidents of firing across the city.

Xinhua

New Zealand port decision opens access for large cargo ships

WELLINGTON, 5 March—The New Zealand government on Tuesday opened the way for larger foreign cargo vessels into the country, bringing estimated efficiency gains of more than 300 million NZ dollars (248.08 million US dollars), by approving expansion of one of its major port channels. Conservation Minister Nick Smith said in a statement he had granted consents for the dredging of the entrance and shipping lanes at the Port of Tauranga, on the east of the North Island, to accommodate “S” class vessels.

Port of Tauranga chief executive Mark Cairns said the dredging project will be carried out in several stages, with the first starting at the end of this year and taking six months to a year to complete. “Larger ships, both containerized and bulk, have relatively higher fuel efficiency and are therefore more carbon efficient, with lower operating costs per unit,” Cairns said in a statement.

“This will enhance the competitiveness of New Zealand exporters and provide lower freight costs for importers.” The New Zealand Shippers’ Council estimated the value to New Zealand of bigger ships operating on the Southeast Asia trade routes could be up to 338 million NZ dollars a year, increasing up to 391 million NZ dollars a year by 2020.—Xinhua

Journalists work during the opening meeting of the first session of the 12th National People’s Congress (NPC) at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, on 5 March, 2013. XINHUA



Malaysian security forces launch attack against Sulu gunmen

KUALA LUMPUR, 5 March—Malaysian security forces on Tuesday launched an all-out assault on Tuesday against the Sulu gunmen holed up in a village in Malaysia’s Sabah state, aiming at ending the three-week standoff.

The operation was started at 7 am, Prime Minister Najib Razak announced in a statement, in order to “defend the dignity and sovereignty of the country.”

Inspector General of police Ismail Omar told a Press conference before noon that the operation was conducted by police and the army.

The operation is still ongoing and the security forces have met some resistance, but there are no reports of any casualties on the security forces so far, he said,

The casualties of the intruders are also unknown, he added. Local media reported fighter jets were used in the aerial attack, followed by the artillery firing and a ground assault by the security forces to the Tanduo village, where more the 180 members of the Royal Army of the Sulu Sultanate, including some heavy armed, have holed up for three weeks.

Xinhua



One of the most rewarding things that can happen when watching a documentary is to learn something really new, something so gob-smackingly alien to your experience that you’ve never even heard of it before.

French director Eric Valli made of Nepal documentaries such as Honey Hunt and the Oscar-nominated Caravan.—XINHUA

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utm@kcyangon.com
Dated 6 March, 2013

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Italian Embassy in Yangon is seeking candidates for 2 positions as "Administrative Assistant", requiring previous experience in secretariat and administrative tasks. Very good English and Myanmar knowledge (spoken and written) is required, while Italian will be highly valued.

Candidates must submit by March 19th, 2013 an application form, available at the Embassy and at: www.ambyangon.esteri.it, to: Italian Embassy, 3 Inya Myaing Rd, Golden Valley, Bahan Twsp, Yangon or to: archivio.yangon@esteri.it.

Applicants shall be: at least 18 years old; in good health; high-school equivalent degree; Resident in Myanmar for at least 2 years.

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For Ajinomoto Co., Inc.,
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utm@kcyangon.com
Dated 6 March 2013

Drive Safely



Firemen work at the AkzoNobel plant in the Texas city of La Porte, the United States, on 4 March, 2013.

A fire broke out at a chemical plant Monday afternoon in the US state of Texas, officials said.

XINHUA

Four soldiers wounded in mine blast in SE Turkey

ANKARA, 5 March—Four soldiers of the Turkish security forces were wounded in a land mine blast in southeastern Turkey on Monday, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported.

The mine exploded while a military convoy was passing a road near Tavsan Tepe area in Lice town of

Diyarbakir Province at 08:00 pm local time (1700 GMT), leaving four Turkish soldiers injured, Diyarbakir Governor Mustafa Toprak was quoted as saying.

The injured were taken to Hani State Hospital for medical treatment, Toprak said, adding that an investigation into the blast is underway.—Xinhua

Vietnam receives 1.21 mln foreign tourists in first 2 months

HANOI, 5 March—Foreign visitors to Vietnam in the first two months of 2013 posted some 1.21 million people, down 9.6 percent over the same period last year, Vietnam's General Statistics Office reported on Monday.

Of the total figure, some 743,900 foreign visitors came to Vietnam for travel, down 8 percent year-on-year. Visitors coming for business purpose post-

ed 204,900 person-times, down 8.4 percent, while numbers of visitors coming for visiting relatives purpose down 14.3 percent to 200,600 person-times.

During the period, the country saw a growth in number of foreign visitors from Russia with 38 percent, New Zealand (up 24.8 percent), Indonesia (21.9 percent), Thailand (18.8 percent) and South Korea (10.4 percent).

Dragon boats make big splash across Australia

SYDNEY, 5 March—Often called the world's fastest growing water sport, Australians are also in on the dragon boat phenomenon, with about 3,000 paddlers competing in the popular Sydney Chinese New Year dragon boat races this year.

The sport has grown by about 70 percent in numbers in Australia over the past five years, Melanie Cantwell, Chief Operations Officer of Dragon Boats NSW, told Xinhua recently.

As the biggest dragon

boat meet in the Southern Hemisphere, the Sydney Chinese New Year races are now reaching maximum capacity, Cantwell said, with teams from all over NSW traveling to Darling Harbour to compete, and almost 200,000 spectators looking on.

For Australians, the attraction of the sport is not just participating in a multi-cultural event; "it's very social and lots of people can come together, they can be competitive, men and women can compete together,

unacceptable feature of daily life, we have to respond everywhere and on every level."

The executive director of UN Women, UN Undersecretary-General Michelle Bachelet, said, "The world can no longer afford the costs of violence against women and girls, the social and economic costs and the costs in deep human pain and suffering."

"Over the past few months, women, men, and young people took to the streets with signs that ask 'Where is the justice?'," she said.

"They declared solidarity with a Pakistani girl shot for defending the right to education," said Bachelet. "They pledged justice

Children play near the relief tents at Qiantian Village of Liantie Township in Eryuan County of Dali Bai Autonomous Prefecture, southwest China's Yunnan Province, on 4 March, 2013. A 5.5-magnitude earthquake hit Eryuan County on 3 March. Thirty people have been confirmed injured, while some 21,000 people have been evacuated.—XINHUA



UN meeting seeks to end all violence against women, girls

for a young woman in India and another in South Africa who were brutally raped and later died. They demanded an end to the endless cases of rape and violence that threaten the lives of countless women and girls in every country but never make the headlines."

Marion Kamara, chair of the Commission on the Status of Women, said, "We are here to showcase achievements, and to speak frankly about gaps and challenges. Most importantly, we are here to deliver results for the women and girls around the world."

"The scourge of violence against women and girls is at the core of the gender equality," she said.

Xinhua

Mozambican delegation in Brazil for toxic waste treatment

MAPUTO, 5 March—A Mozambican delegation consisting of members from the ministries of agriculture and environment is in Brazil for experience in treating agro-plastic bags used in the agriculture sector, the government said on Monday.

Mozambicans want to know how to store and incinerate the bags in order to preserve environment in the southern African country.

According to a statement released by the Agriculture Ministry, the mission from Sunday to Friday was scheduled to begin with Parana, where the members of the delegation were set to see a storing center of plastic bags.

The delegation is headed by the national director of the Project on the Elimination of Toxic Waste, Khalid Cassam, and the national director of agricultural services, Mahomed Rafik Vala.—Xinhua

Xinhua

ENTERTAINMENT

Stephen Chow's blockbuster continues box office conquest

BEIJING, 5 March—"Journey to the West: Conquering the Demons," a period adventure comedy created by writer-director Stephen Chow, had raked in more than 1.1 billion yuan (176.7 million US dollars) as of Sunday, the film's production company announced.

The film took in 80 million yuan when it debuted on 10 February, the biggest opening ever for a

domestic film. It pulled in a combined 1.08 billion yuan throughout February, the Huayi Bros. Media Group said. Chow's 3-D action comedy, based on the classic Chinese novel "Journey to the West," follows the adventures of a young demon hunter.

China's current box office record is held by "Lost in Thailand," a low-budget comedy that has earned



more than 1.26 billion yuan since it debuted last December. However, many believe Chow's movie will break that record before it leaves theatres.—Xinhua

Oprah Winfrey to deliver commencement address at Harvard

BOSTON, 5 March—Talk show host, entrepreneur and philanthropist Oprah Winfrey will deliver this year's graduation address at Harvard University, the Ivy League school said on Monday.

"Oprah's journey from her grandmother's Mississippi farm to becoming one of the world's most admired women is one of the great American success stories," Harvard President Drew Faust said in announcing her selection.

Winfrey will join a long list of politicians, policy makers, captains of industry and authors — including George

d JK Rowling—who have offered their wisdom and advice to Harvard's graduating classes. She will speak at the school's 362nd graduation exercises on 30 May.

Long a fixture on *Time Magazine's* 100 most influential people list, the 59-year-old Winfrey has been popular on the college commencement circuit, speaking at Stanford University, Duke University and Spelman College in recent years.—Reuters



Whitney Houston's FBI files show fan letters, possible extortion

LOS ANGELES, 5 March—The FBI on Monday released decades-old files on late pop singer Whitney Houston, detailing letters from obsessed fans and an alleged extortion attempt investigated by the bureau. The 128 pages from Houston's files posted online on the FBI's website showed one fan's attention-seeking letters but did not divulge any new insights into the troubled singer's personal life.

Houston, known both for her soaring ballads and well chronicled history of drug abuse, was found dead last year in a Beverly Hills hotel bathtub. She was 48. Authorities called her death an accidental drowning due to cocaine use and heart disease. The FBI cases were opened at the height of the singer's career between 1988

and 1999. Names and several details were redacted from the files. Among the Grammy-winning singer's FBI files, released through a Freedom of Information Act request, were love letters sent by a Vermont man, who wrote that he "might hurt someone with some crazy idea."

The file shows the FBI interviewed the man but the bureau concluded no law was broken because the man said he would have only hurt Houston's reputation by proclaiming his love publicly. An alleged \$250,000 extortion attempt was brought to the FBI's attention shortly after Houston's marriage to R&B singer Bobby Brown in 1992 and threatened to make public private information unless the "I Will Always Love You" singer paid.—Reuters



A video pays tribute to singer Whitney Houston during the VH1 Divas 2012 show in Los Angeles, on 16 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

James Bond bosses want Adele to sing next theme tune

LONDON, 5 March—Producers of James Bond franchise reportedly want singer Adele to repeat her *Skyfall* success with a new smash-hit tune. The bosses want the 24-year-old to sing the theme song for the next 007 movie as well after she won an Oscar for *Skyfall* theme, reported Sun Online. "Producers are thrilled by how well the song has been received and hope Adele's presence on the next film will replicate that success. They want her to become as synonymous with Bond as Dame Shirley," a source said.

Welsh legend Shirley, 76, had Bond hits with *Gold-*

finger (1964), *Diamonds Are Forever* (1972) and *Moonraker* (1979). But none won awards or sold as many as *Skyfall's* three million copies worldwide.

Meanwhile Adele's aunt has told how relatives wept with joy as they watched the star at last week's Academy Awards in Los Angeles. Anita Adkins, elder sister of the star's mother Penny, said, "We streamed it live online through the night. When Adele burst into tears, we all did the same. We're all quite strong but we're also very emotional. Adele's one of us. We feel what she feels." PTI



Adele won the Oscar this year for the *Skyfall* theme song. PTI

Supermodel Heidi Klum new judge on NBC's "America's Got Talent"

NEW YORK, 5 March—Supermodel and television host Heidi Klum said on Monday that she will be a new judge on the popular summer TV talent show "America's Got Talent." Klum will be the fourth judge on the talent show created by British entertainment mogul Simon Cowell. She joins comedian Howie Mandel, radio "shock jock" Howard Stern and former Spice Girl Mel B on the show hosted by Nick Cannon.

"Excited 2 join @HowardStern @howiemandel @OfficialMelB & @NickCannon on @nbcagt as new judge! Will be so fun," Klum tweeted. Broadcaster NBC said Klum, 39, adds a discerning taste to the jury panel.

"As we look to develop an act that will get the world's attention, we and the contestants will benefit

from Heidi's international sensibility and understanding of what works in today's global entertainment industry," NBC president of alternative programming, Paul Telegdy, said in a statement.

NBC said last month that Mel B would replace Sharon Osbourne, who quit the show after her son Jack was dropped from another reality show by the network. German-born Klum was due to join the other judges for the nationwide auditions set to start on Monday in New Orleans. The show is open to singers, dancers, magicians and other performers with a top prize of \$1 million.

NBC is betting that Klum and Mel B will boost falling audiences for the summer show, which experienced record low numbers during the finale in September with less than 11 million viewers.

Klum is also the host on Bravo's fashion-design competition "Project Runway" as well as model competition "Germany's Next Top Model" in her native country. Bravo is a division of NBCUniversal, which is owned by Comcast Corp.

Reuters



Supermodel Heidi Klum

SPORTS

Cuba, Japan clinch second-round berths in WBC

NEW YORK, 5 March — Cuba powered its way to the second round of the World Baseball Classic on Monday with a 12-0 rout of China that was stopped in the seventh inning because of the mercy rule at Yafuoku Dome in Fukuoka, Japan. Jose Abreu crowned the Cuban triumph with a grand slam home run as Cuba improved to 2-0 in Pool A competition to join Japan into the next round, to be played at the Tokyo Dome.

Japan, winner of the first two editions of baseball's elite international competition in 2006 and 2009, also advanced thanks to a victory over inexperienced China in Fukuoka, posting a 5-2 victory over them on Sunday. The reigning champions benefitted from a sterling

performance from starting pitcher Kenta Maeda, who limited China to one hit and struck out six over five scoreless

AT&T Park, where the semi-finals and final of the 16-team tournament will be played.

In Pool B play in Tai-



innings. Four teams will compete in Tokyo for the right to advance to the final round at San Francisco's

chung, Taipei, South Korea stayed in the hunt for a second-round berth by shutting out Australia 6-0 on

Japan's players react after they defeated China in their World Baseball Classic (WBC) qualifying first round game in Fukuoka, southern Japan on 3 March, 2013.

REUTERS

Kobe leads Lakers to beat Hawks 99-98

LOS ANGELES, 5 March — Kobe shot 13-for-27, 2-for-5 three-pointers and 6-for-8 free throws, finishing with 34 points, six rebounds, four assists, which lift the Los Angeles Lakers to hold off the Atlanta Hawks 99-98 at Staples Centre on Sunday night.

With this victory, the Lakers got back to .500 with 30-30, ranked ninth behind the Utah Jazz and the Houston Rockets. Kobe scored 11 points at the first quarter, as well as the fourth, and the Lakers' last six points, giving the team a great opening and

happy ending. The Hawks' Josh Smith and Al Horford played aggressively too, who blew the Lakers' 16-point lead in the second half, almost turning around the game.

Nash had 15 points, 10 assists, Howard contributed 11 points with 15 rebounds, Metta World Peace hit 13 points while Antawn Jamison added 10 points off the bench for the Lakers.

The Hawks' Horford finished with 24 points and five rebounds; Josh Smith donated 19 points, seven rebounds and seven assists.

Xinhua



IOC begins on-site evaluation on Tokyo's bid for the 2020 Olympics

TOKYO, 5 March — The International Olympic Committee's (IOC) Evaluation Commission on Monday kicked off its four-day visit in Japan's capital of Tokyo to assess the city's bid for the 2020

Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Tokyo visit



DISCOVER TOMORROW

is the first step of the commission, which will also visit other candidate cities, namely Madrid and Istanbul, on 18 and 24 March respectively.

During the four-day evaluation,

the commission led by IOC Vice President and Committee Chair Craig Reedie will be presented by Tokyo's explanations on 14 themes, such as vision and concept for the Games and sports venues, laid out by the IOC. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said in the commission that the Olympic torch should visit Tokyo again in 2020, calling to host the Games in the

city is a "lifelong dream" of him.

Tokyo Governor Naoki Inose also expressed the enthusiasm of the city to host the event and called Tokyo is a "surprising city." Tokyo first hosted the Olympic Games in 1964 and the city failed in bidding for the 2016 Olympic Games, which will be hosted by Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro.—Xinhua

McIlroy regrets decision to withdraw from Honda Classic

NEW YORK, 5 March — Rory McIlroy has admitted he was wrong to withdraw from the Honda Classic last week, saying he now regretted his decision to stop playing.

The world number one was heavily criticized after he quit the tournament midway through Friday's second round with what

was initially a mysterious explanation.

The Northern Irishman was playing badly and appeared certain to miss the cut when he shook hands with his playing partners after just eight holes. Before leaving the course, McIlroy told reporters he was in a "bad place mentally." Shortly after he issued a

statement blaming his early exit on a severe toothache while apologizing for quitting, but now admits he should have kept playing.

"It was a reactive decision," he told Sports Illustrated about quitting after he hit his approach shot into the water on the par-five 18th, his ninth hole of the day.

"What I should have done is take my drop, chip it on, try to make a five and play my hardest on the back nine, even if I shot 85." "What I did was not good for the tournament, not good for the kids and the fans who were out there watching me — it was not the right thing to do."

McIlroy has been struggling all year after switching clubs but reaffirmed his belief that his equipment was not to blame.

Reuters



Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland

Carolina netminder Ward to miss six to eight weeks

NEW YORK, 5 March — Carolina Hurricanes goaltender Cam Ward is expected to miss six to eight weeks with a sprained knee ligament, the NHL team said on Monday, dealing the Southeast Division leaders a serious blow.

Ward was injured midway through the second period of Carolina's

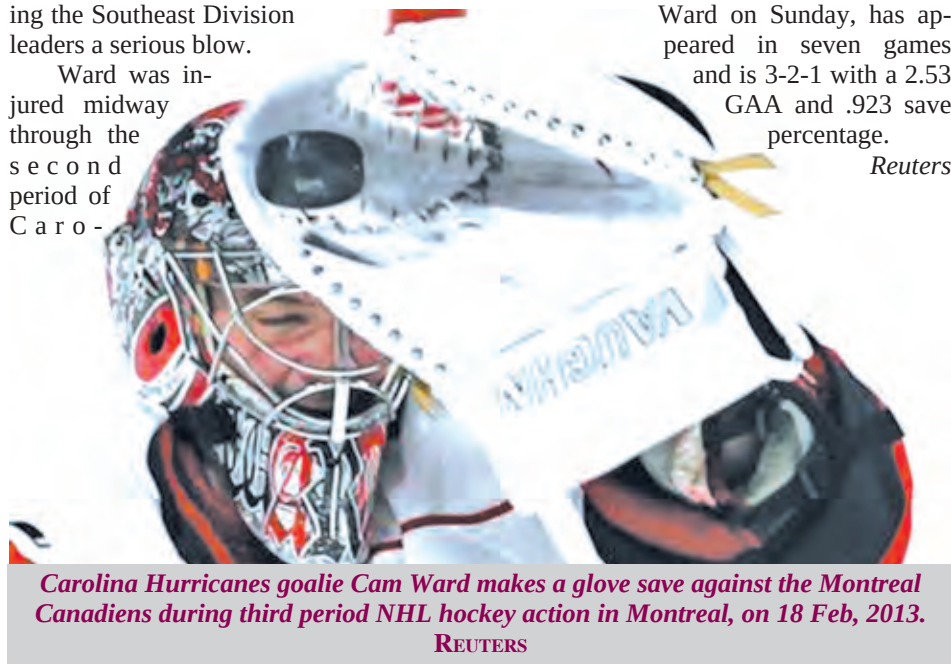
3-2 win over Florida on Sunday, and the injury could sideline him through the end of the regular season, which ends on 27 April for Carolina.

The 29-year-old Ward

is 9-6-1 with a 2.84 goals-against average and .908 save percentage this season, and is expected to be replaced as primary netminder by Dan Ellis.

Ellis, who replaced Ward on Sunday, has appeared in seven games and is 3-2-1 with a 2.53 GAA and .923 save percentage.

Reuters



Carolina Hurricanes goalie Cam Ward makes a glove save against the Montreal Canadiens during third period NHL hockey action in Montreal, on 18 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS

GENERAL

FSD members, local people participate in fire drill



MANDALAY, 5 March — A fire drill was practised in front of Sein Myintmo tea shop at the corner of 68th and 30th streets in Patkon Pyawbwe Ward of Chanmyathazi Township in Mandalay on 26 February.

Head of Mandalay District Fire Services Department U Hla Min explained danger of fire and fire preventive measures. The talk was attended by local people and service personnel.

Later, members of Fire Brigade and workers of tea shop led by Head of Mandalay District Fire Services Department U Hla Min practiced fire drill.—*Myanma Alinn*

Blake to run at opening Doha Diamond League meeting

LONDON, 5 March — Jamaica's 100 metres world champion Yohan Blake is the first high-profile athlete to sign up for the opening Diamond League event in Doha, organizers said on Monday. The meeting on 10 May in Qatar is the first of the 14 Diamond League fixtures.

"This will be my first time in Qatar and I am looking forward to going to Doha, for my first Diamond League appearance on the



Sprinter Yohan Blake of Jamaica addresses a news conference during the upcoming Memorial Van Damme, IAAF Diamond League athletics meeting, in Brussels on 12 Sept, 2011.—REUTERS

Asian continent," Blake said in a IAAF statement. "I have heard about the fast track in Doha and I hope to break the meeting record (9.85 seconds, Olusoji Fasuba, 2006). I always want to surprise the audience, everywhere I go."

"I am the second fastest man in the world at the moment. My ambition is to become the best. I have to continue working very hard for that. Anything is possible." —*Reuters*

Yankees GM breaks leg in parachute jump for charity

NEW YORK, 5 March — New York Yankees General Manager Brian Cashman broke his right fibula and dislocated his ankle upon landing from a parachute jump for charity in Florida, the team said on Monday.

Cashman, 45, the main executive who decides which multimillion-dollar contracts to offer on Major League Baseball's highest paid team, was attempting to raise awareness for the Wounded Warrior Project, which aids US military veterans when they return from war. He was injured on the second of two tandem jumps with a parachutist

from the US Army Golden Knights at the Homestead Air Reserve Base outside of Miami, the team said in a statement.

Surgery was scheduled for later on Monday at Broward Health Medical Centre, the statement said. "I'm in great spirits and it was an awesome experience," Cashman said in the statement. "The Golden Knights are first class. While I certainly didn't intend to raise awareness in exactly this fashion, I'm extremely happy that the Wounded Warrior Project is getting the well-deserved additional attention." —*Reuters*



New York Yankees' General Manager Brian Cashman watches batting practice during workouts at the team's spring training complex in Tampa, Florida on 27 Feb, 2012.—REUTERS

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(6-3-13 09:30 am ~ 7-3-13 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * Photo Exhibition on the Occasion of the 65th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Russia and Myanmar
- * Textiles of the Two Lands
- * News
- * Record Album
- * News
- * "Easily Cooked & Tasty Dishes" Spiced Crab
- * News
- * Melamu Ceti with various statues reflecting life of Buddha
- * Education, Living and Health Care Exhibition
- * News
- * Glue Sniffing
- * News
- * Conversation with President of Austrian Federal Economic Chamber Dr. Christoph Leitl
- * News
- * Your Home in PyinOoLwin
- * News
- * Myanmar Movies "Deadhead Yet Cherished"

Myanmar TV

(6-3-2013, Wednesday)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 7:00 am | 4:25 pm |
| 1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw | 13. 2013 University Entrance Examination (Chemistry) |
| 7:25 am | 5:00 pm |
| 2. To be Haelthy Exercise | 14. ASEAN Programmes |
| 7:30 am | 5:10 pm |
| 3. Morning News | 15. Sing & Enjoy |
| 7:40 am | 6:00 pm |
| 4. International News | 16. Evening News |
| 8:00 am | 6:15 pm |
| 5. Road to 27th SEA Games (Archery) | 17. Weather Report |
| 8:10 am | 7:00 pm |
| 6. Cultural Dances | 18. News |
| 8:20 am | 7:45 pm |
| 7. Documentary | 19. Documentary |
| 8:35 am | 8:00 pm |
| 8. Musical Programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troup) | 20. News |
| 8:40 am | 21. People Talks |
| 9. Teleplay (Haelth) | 22. International News |
| 8:55 am | 23. Weather Report |
| 10. Classical Song | 24. Documentary (SEA Games) |
| 4:05 pm | 25. Alinka Wut Yi Music Troupe |
| 11. Musical Programme | 26. TV Drama Series |
| 4:15 pm | 10:00 pm |
| 12. Dance of National Races | 27. News |
| | 28. Myanmar Movie |



Mexico's players celebrate during the awarding ceremony of CONCACAF Under-20 Championship Grand Final soccer match against US, held at Cuauhtemoc Stadium in Puebla, Mexico on 3 March, 2013. XINHUA

Flacco signs six-year contract with Ravens

NEW YORK, 5 March — Quarterback Joe Flacco signed a six-year contract to remain with the Baltimore Ravens, the team said on Monday in a deal that reportedly makes the Super Bowl MVP the highest paid player in National Football League (NFL) history.

Financial terms of the deal were not disclosed but various media reports said it was worth \$120.6 million, moving him past New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees, and his six-year, \$120 million deal, as the league's top earner.

The laid back Flacco downplayed the importance of the record contract that kept him from shopping his talents around. "It was pretty uneventful, to tell you

the truth," Flacco, 28, told reporters at a news conference. "It's not really a big deal. "Our goal is to win the Super Bowl. That's always been one of my goals. It's never necessarily been a goal of mine to get paid like this, it's just what comes with the job."

The strong-armed Flacco, the only NFL quarterback to win at least one playoff game in each of his first five seasons, threw for 11 touchdowns and no interceptions in Baltimore's postseason run to the Super Bowl title. In last month's championship game, Flacco completed 22-of-33 passes for 287 yards and three touchdowns against the strong defence of the San Francisco 49ers in a 34-31



Baltimore Ravens quarterback Joe Flacco celebrates after his team defeated the San Francisco 49ers in the NFL Super Bowl XLVII football game in New Orleans, Louisiana, on 3 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

victory. Before the season, Flacco was derided in some circles for declaring himself one of the league's elite quarterbacks since his

statistics were not particularly impressive on a team that played conservatively and relied on their staunch defence.—*Reuters*

Trust is a must to attract foreign investment: MP*MPs seen at 17th day sixth regular session of first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.—MNA*

NAY PYI TAW, 5 March—Six lawmakers discussed the pros and cons of signing Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards 1958 (New York Convention) at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session today.

The convention's principal aim is that foreign and non-arbitral awards will not be discriminated against and it obliges parties to ensure such awards are recognized and generally capable of enforcement in their jurisdiction in the same

way as domestic awards. An ancillary aim of the convention is to require courts of parties to give full effect to arbitration agreements by requiring courts to deny the parties access to court in contravention of their agreement to refer to the matter to an arbitral tribunal, according to United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).

“To make the economy a success, it all depends on trust. No matter what legislation is enacted and no matter what agreement is signed, no potential investor

would make investment unless they have confidence in (political) landscape of the country,” says Daw Aung San Suu Kyi of Kawhmu Constituency.

She called for preparing what is necessary, reiterating internal strength and competence as sine qua non to serve the interests of the citizens to the fullest.

She also stressed the need of local judicial system to meet the international norms, recommending that legal experts should improve their professional knowledge of arbitration.

Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Set Aung warned against the over-reliance on donor countries and associations, calling for a focus on software development rather than hardware development.

Other MPs also spoke in favour of signing the convention with all agreeing it as a prerequisite to attract foreign investment. So, the Union Assembly agreed to sign the convention.

So far, 148 out of UN member countries have signed the convention, according to UNCITRAL.

NLM

UMFCCI members visit Hluttaws

NAY PYI TAW, 5 March—A 16-member group of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry observed the 17th day sixth regular session of first

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw today. They then looked around Hluttaw buildings and left there.—MNA

Weather forecast on squalls warning

NAY PYI TAW, 5 March—During the pre-monsoon period from March to Mid May, isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in the afternoon or

evening accompanied with 35-40 mph surface wind, hails and lightning, due to the rising day temperature in the whole country.

Public is advised to

take necessary awareness with the Weather News and Warning, announced Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

MNA

**Objectives of the 68th Anniversary
Armed Forces Day 2013**

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

Myanmar timber to be exported to EU soon

Byline:
Myint Maung Soe

Teak exporters said that it is expected to export Myanmar teak to EU coming June as there will be a coordination meeting between Myanmar Timber Enterprise and an EU delegation before reaching an agreement on export of Myanmar teak to EU market.

The general secretary of Myanmar Forest Products and Timber Merchants Association said that it is necessary to take necessary measures to be able to meet the demands of EU market. “Timber certification

process is needed before export of forest products and timber exports in Myanmar”, U Zaw Win of the association said. The Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry announced that export of wood logs will not be allowed by 2014.

Now timber from Myanmar is being exported to India, China, Thailand and Bangladesh under the temporary permits issued by the ministry. Wood logs and finished wood products from Myanmar are being exported to foreign countries.

Myanma Alinn: 3-3-2013

Trs: YM

**Wushu event reaches final in Union Cup Games**

Myo Ko (Yangon) and Naing Naing Lin (Bago) vigorously fighting in 65-kilo class men's Shanshou event.

The final matches of Wushu event in the Union Cup Games continue at Wushu Sports Training Hall of Sports Training Centre No. 2 in Lewe on 3 March morning.

At first, women's Shanshou events were held. Hla Hla Win (Mandalay) secured the first prize in the 48-kilo class, Naw Mar Tun (Shan) second and Waso Khaing (Ayeyawady) and Myat Myat Min (Ayeyawady) joint third.

Hsu Hlaing Oo (Mandalay) stood first, Hsu Myat Hlaing (Ayeyawady) second and May Win Khin (Mon) third in the 52-kilo class. Khaing Khin Oo (Ayeyawady) won the first prize, Mu Mu Htwe (Taninthayi) second and Swe Wint (Mandalay) third in the 60-kilo class.

Men's events followed in the afternoon. Wai Yan Lin (Bago) won the first prize, Kyaw Zin Win (Shan) second and Aung Chan Tha (Bago)

third and Chan Myaw Hlaing (Taninthayi) joint third in the 48-kilo class.

In the 56-kilo class, Yasu Maung (Mandalay) bagged the first prize, Zaw Moe Aung (Bago) second and Chit Ko Ko (Chin) and Wai Lin Aung (Mandalay) joint third.

The first prize went to Kyaw Lin Tun (Ayeyawady), second to Kyaw Naing Tun

(Mandalay) and joint third to Than Zaw (Mon) and Thurein Lin (Bago) in the 60-kilo class.

Myo Ko (Yangon) secured the first prize, Naing Naing Lin (Bago) second and Sai Myo Thant (Taninthayi) and Akkar (Mon) joint third in the 65-kilo class.

Myanma Alinn: 4-3-2013

Trs: TTA

Article: Pe Myint Oo
Photo: Soe Nyunt