

President U Thein Sein offers religious titles to recipient Sayadaws, offers rice and alms to members of the Sangha



President U Thein Sein, Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun and party attend religious titles presentation ceremony.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—President U Thein Sein presented religious titles to recipient Sayadaws and offered rice to members of the Sangha at Sasana Maha Beikman in the precinct of Nay Pyi Taw Uppatasanti Pagoda this noon.

Also present on the occasions were Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe

Hmon, Vice-President U Nyan Tun and wife Daw Khin Aye Myint, Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Oo, Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Mya Thein, Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Tin Aye, Deputy

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Nwe, Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa and wife, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win and wife, Union ministers, the Auditor-General of the Union, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, deputy ministers, departmental heads and guests.

Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Mandalay Region Bharmo Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa administered the Five Precepts.

President U Thein Sein presented Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru titles to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Adiccha of Mahayin Pariyatti Monastery of Kadoe Village in Mawlamyine Township and Sayadaw Bhaddanta Chandavamsa of Zeyawady Monastery in Peinnedaw Ward in Dawei.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham offered Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru titles to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sujatasara of Dahattaw Monastery in Kungyan

Ward of Mahaangmye Township and Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kesara of Maha Aungmye Yeiktha Monastery in Hlinethaya Township.

Vice-President U Nyan Tun also offered Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika titles to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Nana of Sitha Monastery in Aungmyethazan Township and Sayadaw Bhaddanta

Vice-Senior General Soe Win, U Nanda Kyaw Swa, General Hla Htay Win, Union ministers, the Auditor-General of the Union, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command and deputy ministers presented Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika, Agga Maha Pandita, Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja, Agga Maha Kamma-thanaçariya, Agga

thavaçaka Pandita, Kammathanaçaria, Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Ganthavaçaka Pandita, Kammathanaçariya, Saddhamma Jotikadhaja titles to recipient Sayadaws.

Likewise, Daw Nan Shwe Hmon and Daw Khin Aye Myint presented religious titles to title recipient nuns within and abroad. Daw Kyu Kyu Hla also offered religious titles



President U Thein Sein presents religious title to Mr. Tongarrildgo Ang Kasa from Medam in Indonesia.—MNA



President U Thein Sein presents Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru title to a Sayadaw.—MNA

Arindama of Zeyawady Monastery in Dawei Township.

Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo,

Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita, Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja, Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita, Maha Kammathanaçariya, Gan-

to nuns.

President U Thein Sein, Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun (See page 8)

LOCAL NEWS

Mobile team makes field trip in Myeik



MYEIK, 26 March — With the aim of strengthening rights of consumer and strict enforcement of regulations on import and export of goods at Border Trade Department under the Ministry of Commerce in Myeik, boosting trade and fighting against illegal trade, a mobile team made an inspection tour of MT-PNG Express oil tanker anchored seven miles off Seiknge jetty of Myeik on

Smuggled herd of cattle confiscated

MAWLU, 26 March — A combined force led by Police Inspector Myo Khaing of Katha District Police Force arrested a group of smugglers and seized a herd of cattle near Nantyon village in Inndaw Township of Sagaing Region on 17 March.

Police members caught nine smugglers including Zaw Oo of Pyin Htaungkon village of Indaw Township together with 42 head of cattle that are going to be smuggled to a neighbouring country via Mohnyin Township of Kachin State while they were on patrol near Nantyon

Child run over by trailer in Dagon Myothit (North) Township

YANGON, 26 March — A child was run over by a trailer and killed while a woman who held him had been knocked to the ground near a bus-stop on Pyidaungsu road in Dagon Myothit (North) Township at about 3.45 pm on 21 March.

The trailer driven by Zaw Lin Tun, 22, of Dagon Myothit (North) Township hit Ma Yin Moe Aye, 36, who was holding Maung

18 March. The team found 405 tons of diesel carrying onboard the tanker under the licence. —Kyemon

Seizure of illegal teak, hardwood in Sagaing Township

SAGAING, 26 March — A combined force comprising forest staff and police members discovered illegal sawn wood while conducting a search of a stationary vehicle with no driver near Hsinmyarshin Pagoda on Sagaing-Monywa motorway on 22 March.



village according to a tip-off. Actions are being taken against the smugglers.

Kyemon

Head-on collision between car, motorbike on Kyondoe-Kawkareik road

KYONDOE, 26 March — A head-on collision between a saloon and a motorbike took place at the entrance to Inn-gyi village of Kyondoe in Kawkareik Township on 18 March.

The vehicle driven by U Thein Win, 47, of Ward-4 in Myawady collided head-on with the motorcycle driven by U Saw Thein Yi, 45, school head of Inn-gyi BEPPS, together with Daw Mu Naw Naw, 45, at mile post No (42/43) on Kyondoe-Kawkareik road

near the village at about 8 pm.

The motorcyclist had got injury to his head and collapsed unconscious in the street. The neck of the women victim had also got swollen from the crash. Investigation is ongoing.

Kyemon

Pilot census taking in 20 townships in Yangon Region

YANGON, 26 March — An educative talks on a pilot taking of population census was given to dwellers of five wards in Lanmadaw Township, which is included in the list of townships where a pilot census taking will be carried out, on the first floor of Lanmadaw BEHS No (2) on 17 March.

Officials concerned clarified the procedure that, a population census would be taken in 2014 around 30 years after taking of nationwide population census in 1973 and 1983, calling on those present to provide accurate data in answering population and housing questions of census taking procedure.

It is learnt that such kinds of educative talks will be organized in all 20 townships where a pilot census taking 2013 will be taking place. — Kyemon

Progress of construction of recreation centre, training facility inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March — Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung inspected construction of archway of recreation centre

for outstanding students in front of Pale Ngwehsaung hotel, preparations for the opening ceremony of the centre in the compound of the

Fire negligence reduces houses to ashes in Gangaw Township

GANGAW, 26 March — A fire destroyed 33 houses and left 157 people homeless at Pyitma village in Gangaw Township at about 11.55 pm on 22 March.

The flames caused by fireplace embers licked the bamboo wall and swept through the whole house of U Ba Gyan. As fire crews accompanied by

two fire engines of Gangaw Township Fire Service Department and seven water bowsers rushed there and struggled to control the fire, the fire died down at about 1 am the following day.

Fire victims were temporarily given shelters at the houses of their relatives and school. — Kyemon



Man dies in Hlegu Township from mistakenly drinking pesticide for alcohol

YANGON, 26 March — A man died after mistakenly drinking pesticide for alcohol drink at Ngahsutaung village-tract in Hlegu Township of Yangon Region.

A fatal accident happened to Maung Li Shin Phu, 29, when he mistakenly drank TD Win pesticide

for drink of alcohol in his bedroom at about 5.35 am on 19 March. He was taken to Insein Hospital to receive medical treatment, but he died at about 1.15 pm in the hospital.

Ngahsutaung police station filed a case and investigating is ongoing.

Kyemon

New bridge put into service for rural development

THANLYIN, 26 March — The opening of a RC bridge took place on the road that links Win Khanni village and Pharku village

of Thanlyin Township on 22 March.

Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Kyaw Min, Executive Officer U Kyaw Lin Than of Thanlyin Township Development Committee and the Presiding Sayadaw of Win Khanni village monastery formally opened the bridge.

The new bridge will be of great benefit to villagers in transporting their local products to downtown Thanlyin.

Kyemon

Federation where he cordially greeted the deputy minister for sports, the president of the federation and responsible persons and athletes.

He then observed training being given to the athletes and progress of construction work.

MNA



WORLD

US, Russia aim to reconvene stalled missile defence talks



Russia's Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu speaks in front of the Russian flag while attending a news conference after a meeting with his Vietnamese counterpart Phung Quang Thanh (not pictured) in Hanoi on 5 March, 2013.—REUTERS

MOSCOW/WASHINGTON, 26 March—Russian and US defence chiefs signaled on Monday their intention to reconvene long-stalled missile defence talks, the Pentagon said, following a change in US missile defence plans for Europe that has been met cautiously by Moscow.

There have been no meetings at the deputy minister-level since 2011, when six were held, a US defence official told *Reuters*. Talks set for 2012 were canceled because of scheduling conflicts, he

said. The Pentagon said Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu expressed a desire to reconvene the talks, and that Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel assured him they would continue and would be carried forward by the Pentagon's policy chief, Jim Miller.

"We are very interested in further developments on the European missile defence and our minister offered to restart regular consultations on that between deputy ministers," Anatoly Antonov, a deputy

of Shoigu, was quoted as saying by Russian news agency RIA.

The news came after a 16 March announcement that the United States would station 14 new anti-missile interceptors in Alaska in response to North Korean provocations, but at the same time forgo a new type of interceptor that would have been deployed in Europe.

Cold War-era foes Moscow and Washington have long been at loggerheads over the shield in Europe. President Barack Obama's move in 2009 to scale down earlier, Bush-administration plans only offered a short-lived respite. Russia's main concern is that the European shield would weaken its nuclear deterrent. Russia's point man for US relations, Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov, said on 21 March that the Obama administration's planned changes brought a new element to the issue. He called for further dialogue, noting Moscow still had concern that US missile defences could threaten its security.— *Reuters*

Rebel mortar fire hits Damascus, army gunners retaliate

BEIRUT, 26 March—Syrian rebels lobbed mortar rounds into central Damascus on Monday, killing at least two people and drawing a fierce army response as bombardments shook the heart of the capital.

The state news agency said mortar bombs fired by "terrorists" had killed two people and wounded others near the Opera House on Ummayyad Square, where Baath Party headquarters, Air Force Intelligence and state television are also located. The military retaliated with artillery fire from Mount Qasioun, overlooking the city. "I've heard dozens of regime shells so far, pounding rebels," one resident said.

Photos posted by opposition activists showed black smoke rising from the square during what residents said was one of the heaviest bombardments in central Damascus since a revolt against President Bashar al-Assad erupted two years ago.

"The city is under attack," said one bewildered resident, adding that the explosions had begun at 6:30 am (12.30 am EDT).

The conflict in Syria has killed 70,000 people and forced a million to flee the country, the United Nations says. Sustained fighting in Damascus could send thousands more into neighbouring states, especially Lebanon, which already hosts 370,000 of them. There were no immediate reports that the rebels, who have pushed into the Kfar Souseh District, a few hundred metres (yards) from Ummayyad Square, were trying to advance further.

Assad's forces have retained control of central Damascus and most other Syrian cities, while losing swathes of territory to insurgents elsewhere,

especially in the north and east. Colonel Riad al-Asaad, founder of the rebel Free Syrian Army (FSA), lost a leg in an overnight blast caused by a bomb placed beneath his car in the opposition-held eastern town of al-Mayadin, his deputy said. A Turkish official said Asaad was now being treated in Turkey and that his life was not in danger.

Asaad, who formed the FSA in 2011 as a popular uprising against Assad turned into an armed rebellion, was one of the first senior officers to defect from the Syrian military, but was sidelined last year from a new Western-backed FSA command.— *Reuters*



Free Syrian Army fighters carry weapons while walking down a debris-filled street in Aleppo on 19 March, 2013. Picture taken on 19 March, 2013.—REUTERS

Cambodian PM to visit China to advance bilateral ties

KANDAL, (Cambodia), 26 March — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said on Monday that he will pay an official visit to China early next month to meet with new Chinese leaders for talks on further enhancing bilateral relations.

The premier said that he is scheduled to meet with President Xi Jinping in Boao, a coastal town

in south China's Hainan Province, on 7 April before heading to Beijing on 8 April to hold an official talk with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang.

"I hope that new Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang will continue to support Cambodia in the development of infrastructure including roads and bridges," Hun Sen said during

a groundbreaking for the construction of the 7th Cambodia-China Friendship Bridge in southern Kandal Province.

"I am very pleased that Cambodia-China relation has reached the level of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership of Cooperation since 2010 and hope that the relation will be as solid as bridges across the rivers," the premier said, recalling

that the two countries' ties were established in 1958 by Cambodia's late former King Norodom Sihanouk and former Chinese President Mao Zedong as well as former Premier Zhou Enlai.

"Now, it is in the period of King Norodom Sihamoni and I will continue to foster the ties with Chinese leaders," he said.— *Xinhua*

Japan's CRF headquarter to move to US base in Japan

TOKYO, 26 March—Japan and the United States agreed on Monday that headquarter of Central Readiness Force (CRF) belonged to Japan's Ground Self-Defence Force (JGSDF) will be moved to a US military base in Japan on Tuesday in an effort to promote Japan-US alliance.

At a joint statement signing ceremony held in Tokyo, US Major General Michael Harrison, commander of United States Army Japan and I Corps, and Chief of Staff of

the JGSDF Eiji Kimizuka agreed to move the headquarter to the US Camp Zama located in Japan's Kanagawa Prefecture.

Eiji said the decision will improve defence cooperation between the JGSDF and the United States Army Japan and will deepen the Japan-US alliance.

For his part, Harrison said that the move marks US-Japan security system stepped into a new phase that will help secure Japan's security. The CRF, which



US Major General Michael Harrison (L), commander of United States Army Japan and I Corps, shakes hands with Chief of Staff of the Japan's Ground Self-Defence Force (JGSDF) Eiji Kimizuka during a joint statement signing ceremony in Tokyo, Japan, on 25 March, 2013.

XINHUA

comprises about 4,500 personnel, was established in March 2007 to take charge of special operations

in Tokyo and area near the capital city and SDF's overseas operation.

Xinhua

Australia to withdraw most troops from Afghanistan by year-end

CANBERRA, 26 March — Australia will withdraw most troops from Afghanistan's south at the end of this year and shut down a major base for NATO-led forces, handing security to Afghan soldiers and police, Defence Minister Stephen Smith said on Tuesday.

Western and Afghan commanders, Smith said, had agreed that the major multinational coalition base at Tarin Kowt and its NATO airbase in Uruzgan Province would close at the end of 2013.

Most foreign combat troops are due to leave Afghanistan by the end of 2014 under a planned security transition from foreign forces to Afghans.

"It is a necessary and logical and natural consequence of transition being effective," Smith said.

"The effect of that closure will be that Australia will no longer have a permanent presence in Uruzgan Province, and

the majority of Australian defence force personnel will return." Australia has around 1,650 troops in Afghanistan, including special forces, based mainly in volatile Uruzgan, and was an original member of the US-led coalition that helped oust the former Taliban government in late 2001.

It has lost 39 troops in the war, with 242 wounded.

The United States and NATO allies are racing against the clock to train a 350,000-strong force of Afghan soldiers to meet the 2014 deadline, although there is widespread skepticism that target can be met. "A lot of people are worried about the military side and how are we going to get to 2014," Washington-based Australian counter-insurgency expert David Kilcullen told Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) television.

Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



High school student Zhu Jie from the High School Affiliated to Beijing Institute of Technology volunteers to introduce a space observation system to visitors on the open day at China Meteorological Administration in Beijing, capital of China, on 23 March, 2013, the World Meteorological Day.—XINHUA

Chinese scientists unlock key genetic code of wheat

BEIJING, 26 March—Scientists from China and the United States have mapped a key genetic code for bread wheat, a discovery that will help improve the crop's productivity and ability to withstand extreme conditions.

The sequencing and drafting of the A genome, one of the three basic genomes of wheat, was published on the website of the journal *Nature* on Monday.

Researchers present the generation, assembly and analysis of a whole-genome shotgun draft sequence of the genome of wheat *T. urartu*, the donor of the A genome.

The identification of

around 38,000 wheat genes is expected to help provide a valuable resource for accelerating deeper genomic breeding studies and offer a new foundation for the study of wheat evolution, domestication and genetic improvement.

The research, launched by a team from the Institute of Genetics and Development Biology under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), was conducted by Shenzhen-based BGI, a leading genomics organization, and the University of California, Davis.

Bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) is one of the most widely cultivated and

consumed food crops in the world. It feeds about 40 percent of the world's population and provides 20 percent of a human's daily recommended amounts of calories and protein.

Major efforts are underway around the world to increase the crop's yield and quality by boosting genetic diversity and resistance to cold, drought and disease.

However, the extremely large size and polyploid complexity of the wheat genome have so far posed substantial barriers for researchers to gain insight into its biology and evolution.—Xinhua

Jiaolong sub starts scientific missions in June

SHANGHAI, 26 March—Chinesemannedsuubmersible *Jiaolong* will officially start conducting scientific missions in June, its chief designer said on Monday.

Xi Jinan, also a researcher with the China Shipbuilding Industry Corp (CHIC), said at a speech in Shanghai that the sub will spend nearly five months conducting research each year for the following five years.

In 2013, it will carry out scientific investigations of poly nodules at depths of 5,300 metres in the northeast Pacific Ocean, and gather information from sulfide mine sites in the southwest Indian Ocean.

It will also penetrate unexplored areas to provide technical materials for

contracts to be approved by international seabed authorities.

The CHIC, which built the sub, will continue to solicit and train oceanauts and push forward research on support facilities such as building on-sea support bases and developing more domestically made spare parts.

Jiaolong completed a record dive of 7,062 metres in the Marian Trench in the Pacific Ocean in June 2012, which enabled China to join the ranks of deep-seafaring countries. The United States, Japan, France and Russia currently lead the world in the development of deep-sea exploration technology, each possessing their own submersibles and support bases.—Xinhua

Apple buys Silicon Valley startup WiFiSlam

NEW YORK, 26 March—Apple has acquired a Silicon Valley startup, WiFiSlam, which makes mapping applications for smart phones.

Apple confirmed the acquisition, but declined to give details. The news was earlier reported by *The Wall Street Journal*, which quoted a person familiar with the matter as saying that Apple paid around \$20 million for the company.

"Apple acquires smaller technology companies from time to time, and we generally



Customers gather outside an Apple store before the release of iPhone 5 in Munich on early 21 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS

Global telecoms giant ZTE sees gold in Chinese roots

HONG KONG, 26 March—China's ZTE Corp, which helped bring the telephone to millions of homes during the Deng Xiaoping era, is counting on a new generation of tech-savvy smartphone users to drive

at least \$7.5 billion of 4G network projects and elevate its sagging fortunes.

Shenzhen-listed ZTE, founded in the mid-1980s, clinched its first major overseas contract in Bangladesh in the mid-1990s. Since then, it has been aggressively expanding overseas and challenging telecoms equipment manufacturers such as Ericsson and Alcatel-Lucent in emerging markets from Asia to Africa.

But years of rapid overseas investment and chasing global market share at the expense of profitability are finally taking their toll on the world's No 5 producer of telecoms gear. ZTE is now returning to its Chinese roots, eyeing 4G network contracts from domestic mobile operators China Mobile Ltd, China Unicom Ltd and China Telecom Corp Ltd.

"The China market is like a gold mine as telecom operators are cash-rich," David Dai Shu, a spokesman for ZTE, told Reuters. "It is a top priority for us by country."

China's three mobile operators plan to spend a combined 345 billion yuan (\$56 billion) this year on network expansion. That includes investment in 4G, which promises rapid data downloads for millions of mobile users holding Apple Inc's iPhones or Samsung Electronics' Galaxy phones.

Hong Kong-listed China Mobile, the world's top carrier with 715 million subscribers, is forking out 41.7 billion yuan from its total spending of 190.2 billion yuan for this year to build 200,000 4G base stations covering more than

100 cities. The Chinese government is expected to issue 4G licenses later this year. Smaller rival China Unicom said on 21 March it planned to spend 5 billion to 10 billion yuan annually on 4G once it gets a license. China Telecom has yet to announce its 4G investment.

ZTE, which has flagged three profit warnings in the past year and is poised to post its first-ever annual loss for 2012, is likely to grab the bulk of contracts along with its cross-town rival Huawei Technologies Co Ltd due to its state-backed status, analysts said.—Reuters



ZTE company logos are seen at an international software and information services exhibition in Nanjing, Jiangsu province on 6 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS

Yahoo acquires mobile news start-up Summly



The headquarters of Yahoo Inc is pictured in Sunnyvale, California. Yahoo Inc has snapped up mobile news aggregator Summly, the companies said on their websites on Monday.—REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO, 26 March—Yahoo Inc has snapped up mobile news aggregator Summly, the companies said on their websites on Monday.

Summly, founded by 17-year-old Nick D'Aloisio, sorts news by topics in quick bites for smartphones. The

start-up works closely with News Corp and is backed by Chinese investor Li Ka-Shing and angel investors including the actor Ashton Kutcher and the artist and designer Yoko Ono.

The Summly app will be removed from the Apple Inc store and will

be integrated into Yahoo's mobile initiatives.

Terms of the deal were not disclosed. Yahoo has acquired several small mobile and web start-up companies since former Google executive Marissa Mayer became chief executive last year.

Reuters

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Overseas investors eye Chinese property

BEIJING, 26 March—China may see an increase in property transactions involving international investors in 2013, fueled by the economic recovery and the rosy outlook of China's commercial properties, industry experts said.

"On one hand, a number of deals are in the pipeline after lots of negotiations were conducted last year. On the other hand, the top management of international real estate funds are also under pressure because few deals were concluded last year," said Andy Zhang, managing director of Cushman & Wakefield China. Shanghai's office and retail property sectors will see significant increases in large-scale deals this year, supported by investors' strong interest in commercial real estate, according to a research report from international property consultant Knight Frank.

China, and Shanghai in particular, are still a focus for multinational companies mulling expansion and new business opportunities so demand for commercial and residential property will

remain buoyant, according to Regina Yang, director of research for Knight Frank Shanghai. Average Grade A office rents in Shanghai have dropped 1.5 percent quarter-on-quarter by 9.1 yuan (\$1.46) per square metre per day, decreasing for the first time since the third quarter of 2009.

However, owing to limited new supply, the average vacancy rate of

China's slowing economic growth, retailers' confidence in the market is intact and they continue to open new stores in Shanghai.

Ground-floor rents in core retail areas have reached 54.7 yuan per sq m per day, an increase of 1.7 percent quarter-on-quarter and 11.6 percent year-on-year.

MGPA, a private equity real estate investment advisory company managing

A office building called j-Tower in Shanghai for 263.5 million yuan (\$41.8 million).

The deal was concluded by MGPA Asia Fund III which focuses on real estate investments throughout the Asia-Pacific region and features equity commitments of \$3.9 billion. Its portfolio in China includes a 50 percent interest in Galleria Chengdu, a high quality retail mall in Chengdu. "This is a good opportunity to buy a quality commercial property in Shanghai. We anticipate strong leasing interest from both domestic and foreign firms looking for quality and convenience," said John Saunders, chief executive officer of Asia, MGPA.

j-Tower marks the second deal in China for MGPA Asia Fund III following the acquisition of a retail mall in Chengdu in 2011. "China continues to be an important focus for MGPA and we look favourably on investment in retail/commercial properties in tier one and tier two cities," said Saunders.

Xinhua



Shanghai's office and retail property sectors will see significant increases in large-scale deals this year, supported by investors' strong interest in commercial real estate, according to a research report from international property consultant Knight Frank.—XINHUA

Shanghai's Grade A offices remained at 5.1 percent.

Despite the overseas economic turmoil and

assets in Europe and Asia, announced that it has successfully acquired a newly completed Grade

TNT Express cuts 6 percent of jobs to face future alone

AMSTERDAM, 26 March—Dutch package delivery firm TNT Express (TNTE. AS) said on Monday it will cut 4,000 jobs and focus on Europe after a failed \$7 billion takeover by United Parcel Service (UPS.N).

TNT Express, facing overcapacity and rapidly eroding prices in Europe, had focused on a strategy in which UPS would help it cope with difficult markets. It will now have to face the future alone.

The cuts, which equate to 6 percent of its workforce, are aimed at saving 220 million euros (\$286 million)

by 2015, and will result in a restructuring charge of 150 million euros, it said.

Roughly two-thirds of the job cuts will be in Europe,

where economic conditions are tough and TNT Express generates the bulk of sales, said interim chief executive Bernard Bot. About 4.6



The head office of TNT is seen in Hoofddorp, the Netherlands.—REUTERS

S Korea to launch credit recovery fund for debtors

SEOUL, 26 March—South Korea planned to launch credit recovery fund for debtors this week amid concerns that massive household debts may cripple consumer spending and economic recovery, the financial regulator said on Monday. Kookmin Hangbok Giguem, or national happy fund in English, worth 1.5 trillion won (1.35 billion US dollars) will be set up on Friday to help household defaulters restore credit through debt restructuring such as write-offs and the lengthening of debt repayment, according to the Financial Services

Commission (FSC).

People with debts overdue more than six months of less than 100 million won (10,000 US dollars) can apply to the fund for debt restructuring. Borrowers of high-rate loan from non-bank institutions can transfer their loans to those of interest rate of around 10 percent.

The credit repair fund will buy debts in delinquency with the seed money of around 800 billion won that will be raised through borrowing and subordinated bond issuance. About 500 billion won will be transferred to the fund from

the existing, state-run fund for debt restructuring.

The remaining 700 billion won, which will be used to transform high-rate loans to low-rate ones, can be offset by the reimbursement of delinquent debts and the profits of guarantee commission. The number of around 210,000 with overdue debts, which account for 16 percent of the total delinquent debtors, was estimated to benefit from the credit recovery fund, the regulator said. The planned fund was feared to entice debtors to delay repayment with the intention of benefiting from debt write-offs.—Xinhua

billion, or 63 percent, of 7.3 billion euros in 2012 revenue came from Europe, the Middle East and Africa. If the restructuring is successful, TNT Express will have an adjusted operating income margin of around 8 percent and sales growth of roughly 2 percent by 2015, it said. That forecast assumes a return to a normal economic climate in crisis-hit Europe, Bot said, where markets remain highly uncertain. "The business we have is the business we have, in terms of its geographic scope, and that's where we are going to focus, improve, and try to get the best possible margins," Bot told journalists.

"But yes, we also have to accept that we are a cyclical stock and are to some extent dependent on the economic development," Bot, who will soon be replaced by Tex Gunning and will return to his job of chief financial officer, said TNT Express's management is focused on moving ahead as an independent company after the unsuccessful bid by UPS. UPS's bid for TNT Express was blocked by the European Union Commission in January due to concerns it would have too dominant a market position. TNT Express said it did not expect offers from other rivals and is not a break-up target.—Reuters



Signage is pictured on the company headquarters of GlaxoSmithKline in west London on 21 July, 2008. REUTERS

FDA delays approval of GSK bird flu vaccine

LONDON, 26 March—Regulators have delayed approval of an H5N1 bird flu vaccine from Glaxo-SmithKline, designed to be used in a pandemic.

A spokesman for Britain's biggest drugmaker said the delay was not related to recent controversy over links between a similar flu vaccine made by the company and narcolepsy.

Rather, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) decided it needed more time to assess the product "due to an administrative matter that has recently been rectified", GSK said in a statement on Monday. "GSK and the FDA are actively working together to complete the review in a timely manner," it added.

There is growing evidence of a link between GSK's earlier H1N1 flu vaccine, Pandemrix, and an increase in narcolepsy cases among children who received it in Europe—a fact which has raised questions as

to whether the FDA should approve the similar H5N1 product.

Both vaccines contain AS03, a new adjuvant, or booster, that turbo-charges the body's immune response to a vaccine.

A 14-member panel of advisers to the FDA voted unanimously in November to recommend the H5N1 vaccine to protect against bird flu. The panel considered early studies from Europe showing an increase in the number of narcolepsy cases but concluded that the potential benefit of the vaccine outweighed the risk.

Since then, however, new data, including study results from Britain, suggest the scale and strength of the narcolepsy link to Pandemrix during the 2009-10 H1N1 swine flu pandemic could be greater than first thought. Officials at the FDA were not immediately available to comment on the case.

Reuters

BlackBerry shares slide on Goldman downgrade



A new BlackBerry Z10 smartphone is displayed at a store in New York, on 22 March, 2013. REUTERS

TORONTO, 26 March—BlackBerry stock fell nearly 4 percent on Monday after Goldman Sachs cut its rating, citing a disappointing US launch for the smartphone maker's new touchscreen device that went on sale in the United States on Friday.

"Our retail checks at over 20 store locations since 22 March, including at AT&T, Best Buy, and RadioShack, revealed a surprising lack of marketing support and poor positioning of the product," Goldman Sachs analyst Simona Jankowski

said in a note to clients on Monday. Jankowski also said advertising of the product launch was limited. "As a result, despite the product itself being relatively well received by sales associates and online reviews, sell-through at most locations was less than 10 per day," said Jankowski. The brokerage firm cut its rating on shares of BlackBerry to "neutral" from "buy." BlackBerry shares were down 3.9 percent at \$14.33 in trading before the morning bell in the United States.—Reuters

WORLD

Five killed, 13 injured in Iraqi violence

BAGHDAD, 26 March—Four people were killed and 13 others wounded in separate attacks in Iraq on Monday, while an al-Qaeda militant leader was shot dead in a raid, the police said.

In Iraq's eastern Province of Diyala, two policemen were killed when a roadside bomb struck a joint police-army patrol in the western part of the provincial capital city of Baquba, some 65 km northeast of Iraq's capital Baghdad, a provincial police source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

Five policemen and three soldiers, including an officer, were wounded by the blast, the source said.

In a separate incident, a paramilitary member of local Awakening Council group was killed and three others wounded when gunmen, believed to be affiliated to al-Qaeda network in Iraq, attacked their checkpoint at a village some 35 km northeast of Baquba, the source said.

The Awakening Council group, also known as Sons of Iraq, consists of armed

groups, including some powerful anti-US Sunni insurgent groups, who turned their rifles against al-Qaeda after the latter exercised indiscriminate killings against both Shiite and Sunni communities.

Also in the province, an Iraqi army and police force shot dead Abu Jihad, a suspected al-Qaeda leader, when they raided his safe house at the village of Makheisah, some 30 km northeast of Baquba, the source said.

Abu Jihad is believed to have been involved in many attacks against Iraqi military patrols in Diyala Province, he added.

In addition, two soldiers were wounded when gunmen attacked their checkpoint in the same village, he said. In Salahudin Province, a policeman was killed when a sticky bomb attached to his car detonated while he was driving in north of the provincial capital city of Tikrit, some 170 km north of Baghdad, a provincial police source anonymously told *Xinhua*.—*Xinhua*

Jordan closes main border crossing with Syria

AMMAN, 26 March—Jordan closed its main border crossing with Syria on Monday after two days of fighting there between Syrian troops and rebel fighters, Jordan's information minister said.

Border traders said passengers were turned back at the Jordanian border crossing of Jaber and prevented from entering in the first such closure of the crossing since the revolt against President Bashar al-Assad's rule started two years ago.

"The border post is effectively closed because there have been clashes since yesterday and they are continuing," minister Samih Maaytah told *Reuters*.

ters.

The crossing is a thoroughfare for passengers and was transit route before the Syria conflict for hundreds of trucks daily carrying goods to Turkey from the Gulf and vice versa.

Situated near the Jordanian border, Syria's southern Deraa Province is a vital battleground. Rebels in the last month have stepped up fighting for control of the border area and Deraa town after gaining territory in the countryside and capturing several army bases. They have also overrun several towns near the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, fuelling tensions in the sensitive military zone.—*Reuters*



A Jordanian soldier stands guard in his tank at the Jordan-Syrian border near Mafraq, on 18 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

EU suspends most Zimbabwe sanctions after referendum



Zimbabwean election officials count ballot papers after the close of voting on a referendum in Harare, on 16 March, 2013.—REUTERS

BRUSSELS, 26 March—The European Union suspended most sanctions on Zimbabwe on Monday after the country's voters approved a new constitution limiting presidential powers and paving the way for an election.

The move is the most far-reaching step so far in the European Union's strategy of easing sanctions to encourage political and economic reform in the southern

African country. Zimbabwe has been governed by an uneasy coalition since President Robert Mugabe and Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai were forced into a power-sharing deal after a disputed 2008 vote.

"The EU ... has today agreed to immediately suspend the application of measures against 81 individuals and eight entities," EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton said in a statement.

US urges EU action to overcome Iran sanctions court appeals

BRUSSELS, 26 March—The United States is concerned Iranian appeals to European courts could loosen sanctions against Teheran, said a State Department official on Monday who urged the EU to urgently find a way to allow judges to examine secret intelligence evidence.

Europe's General Court told EU governments in January to lift asset freezes against Bank Mellat and Bank Saderat, two of more than a dozen Iranian banks which the European Union says are helping finance Teheran's nuclear programme. Both the European Union and the United States view sanctions against the Iranian banking sector as a crucial component of economic pressure designed to force Teheran to scale back the nuclear work, which they suspect has covert military goals. Iran denies it seeks a nuclear weapons capability and says its work is for medical research and generating electricity. The court argued the EU has failed to provide sufficient evidence the banks are involved in financing the nuclear programme, potentially eroding Europe's sanctions efforts.

Israel restores tax transfers to Palestinian Authority

JERUSALEM, 26 March—Israel said on Monday it would restart regular monthly tax transfers to the Palestinian Authority, restoring vital funding days after President Barack Obama called for confidence-building steps towards peace.

The decision followed the announcement by the United States on Friday that it would deliver \$500 million in annual aid to the Palestinians, almost half of which had been withheld by the Congress in response to the Palestinians' bid for statehood

at the United Nations. The American and Israeli pledges come on the heels of Obama's three-day visit to the region last week when he called for a resumption of peace talks that have been stalled since 2010 and the creation of a viable Palestinian state.

Israel began withholding the transfers — about \$100 million in tax revenues it collects each month on behalf of the Authority — in November after President Mahmoud Abbas succeeded in gaining de facto UN recognition of Palestinian statehood.—*Reuters*

Ten people, including Mugabe, and two companies, including state-run diamond mining company the Zimbabwe Mining Development Corporation (ZMDC), remain on the sanctions list, restricted by asset freezes and travel bans, an EU source said.

A number of "key decision makers" would remain under EU sanctions until peaceful, transparent and credible elections had been held, Ashton said.

Zimbabwe is expected to hold presidential and parliamentary elections in the second half of the year in what will be seen as a showdown between political rivals Mugabe and Tsvangirai.

Britain, the former colonial power which has regularly clashed with Mugabe, said EU sanctions remained in place on a small core of people around the president.

"That small group includes those who we believe ultimately carry the most

responsibility for ensuring elections are free of violence and intimidation," British Foreign Secretary William Hague said in a statement.

The European Union first imposed sanctions on Zimbabwe in 2002, in protest against human rights abuses and violations of democracy under Mugabe's rule.

Rugare Gumbo, a spokesman for Mugabe's ZANU-PF party, said it was "completely unacceptable" for the European Union to only partially lift sanctions.

"We want them unconditionally removed. There is no reason why some should be removed from the list while some remain. There is nothing we have done to deserve these illegal sanctions anyway," he said in Harare.

In a referendum on 16 March, nearly 95 percent of voters approved a new constitution that limits presidential terms and strengthens the powers of the cabinet and parliament.—*Reuters*

People walk past a branch of Iran's Bank Mellat in Istanbul on 18 Aug, 2010. REUTERS



judges because that could compromise intelligence sources. The US official said the US had discussed the issue with European governments and institutions, and urged them to explore regulatory solutions that would allow, for example, for judges

es to review information in a secure way.

"We hope that the European Union is looking at its regulation to see if there are any changes it can make to make these (sanctions) regulations more robust when challenged in court," he said.

Reuters

UN urges better security, services to help displaced in Sudan's Darfur

NYALA, (Sudan), 26 March—A UN official on Monday called for improved security and services to help speed up the voluntary return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to their homes in Sudan's Darfur region.

Mohammed Younis, deputy chief of UN-African Union Mission in Darfur, told a conference here on IDPs and refugees that poor security and lack of services hamper the efforts of the

Sudanese government and its partners to accelerate the return of the internally displaced to their homes.

He acknowledged that there used to be a voluntary return, but said that the worsening security forced many to return to camps.

Those present at the conference included Sudanese government officials, diplomats, representatives of donors and IDPs and refugees.

Xinhua

NATIONAL

Fifth Shwekyar robe-offering and consecration ceremony held in Nay Pyi Taw Uppatasanti Pagoda



Union Minister at President Office U Thein Nyunt offer Shwekyar robe to Maha Manimaya Jade Buddha Image.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March— The fifth Shwekyar robe-offering and consecration ceremony of four Maha Manimaya Jade Buddha Images which are kept in the cave and Sutaungpyae Buddha Image kept at the building of the north-east corner of Uppatasanti Pagoda was held at the cave of the pagoda, here, this morning.

The ceremony was attended by members of the Sangha led by State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Chairman Sayadaw of Mandalay Bhamo Monastery Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga

Maha Suddhamajotika Dr Bhaddanta Kum-arabhivamsa, Union Minister at the President Office Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Nay Pyi Taw Mayor U Thein Nyunt, Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Hsan Hsint, the Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, Deputy Ministers, Deputy Attorney-General and departmental heads, members of religious associations and guests.

First, Union ministers and officials offered Shwekyar robes, alms, fruits and water to four Jade Buddha Images and Sutaungpyae Buddha

Image.

Next, the ceremony to consecrate the Buddha images followed.

Then the congregation received the Nine Precepts administered by the Sayadaw and members of the Sangha recited parittas.

Union ministers and party presented provisions to members of the Sangha.

Afterwards, SSMNC Secretary Sayadaw of Chaukhtatgyi Pagoda Monastery Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Khemindasami delivered a sermon and those present shared the merits gained.— MNA

Pagodas in Nay Pyi Taw packed with devotees on Fullmoon Day of Tabaung

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—As today is Fullmoon day of Tabaung, the pagodas in Nay Pyi Taw where Buddha Pujaniya are being held were packed with devotees.

The fifth golden robe offering and Buddha consecration ceremony took place at Uppatasanti Pagoda this morning. In the evening,

religious associations from the ministries offered alms, fruits, flowers and water to the pagoda.

The 140th anniversary of Buddha Pujaniya of Sutaungpyae Lawka-marazein pagoda was held at the pagoda in Pynmana Township. Wellwishers donated rice to Sayadaws and nuns, and offered fruits,

alms, flowers, water and light to the pagoda.

Similarly, Datusaya (Datpaungsu) Pagoda and Maha Muni Image in Zabuthiri Township, Historic Paya Koesu Pagoda, Kokhangyi Pagoda and Hlaekhwintung Pagoda in Pynmana are also packed with devotees and pilgrims.

MNA

Yangon religious edifices crowded with devotees



The Shwedagon Pagoda crowded with devotees on the Fullmoon Day of Tabaung.—MNA

YANGON, 26 March— The pagodas, stupas and monasteries in Yangon were crowded with devotees and pilgrims today.

The 2601 Anniversary of Buddha Pujaniya of the Shwedagon Pagoda ssas held on a grand scale starting from 6th waxing to Fullmoon day of Tabaung for 10 days. Wellwishers offered alms, flowers, water, light and dawn alms to the pagoda in the morning. The pagoda board of trustees and wellwishers then sahred the

merit gained.

The 56th Anniversary of Buddha Pujaniya and rice offering ceremony of Shwephonepawint Pagoda took place at the pagoda this morning. The pagoda board of trustees donated alms, fruits and snacks to the pagoda and offered rice to the Sayadaws and nuns. Similar ceremony was organized by the pagoda board of trustees at historic Aparazita Santawshin Kyaukwine Pagoda.

Botataung Pagoda, Sule Pagoda, Swetawmyat Pagoda, Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Pagoda, Maha

Wizaya Pagoda, Kohtutgyi, Chaukhtutgyi, Ngahtutgyi Pagodas, Kyaukkasan Pagoda, Lawka Chantha Abayalabamuni Image, South Okkalapa Pagoda, Maelamu Pagoda, Kyaukkalo, Kyaukkale, Thanlyin Kyaukkhauk Pagoda, Padagyi and pagodas and stupas in Yangon Region were also packed with devotees today.

As Buddha Pujaniya, Sand Pagodas and Myat Buddha Tawwin Ahkartaw days were being celebrated across the nation today, the pagodas, monasteries and stupas were packed with devotees and pilgrims.—MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Soe visits relief camps in Meiktila

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—Lt-Gen Myint Soe from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) this morning visited relief camps in Meiktila.

Lt-Gen Myint Soe together with Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint observed health care services being given by Tatmadaw mobile medical team and medical team of the Ministry of Health at No 3 BEHS relief camp in Meiktila and comforted the victims.

They also donated offertories to Sasana Waiponla Monastery Sayadaw and provided relief aid to the victims. Lt-Gen Myint Soe viewed the health care services being given by



Tatmadaw mobile medical team to the victims at relief camp in the monastery.

MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Soe comforts victims at relief camp in Meiktila.—MNA

Myanmar youth golf team leaves for Thailand

YANGON, 26 March—A Myanmar youth golf team comprising 18 golfers led by Vice-President U Min Thein of Myanmar Golf Federation and Joint General Secretary U Myo Tun left here on 24 March for Thailand to take part in the 12th True Visions International Junior Golf Championship 2013 to be held in Bangkok from 26 to 29 March.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by responsible persons of the federation and

their relatives. Myanmar golf team has always participated in the international golf tournament which is held annually. Ye Htet Aung stood first in the individual event and Myanmar is ranked third in the team event of the previous year's golf tournament.

With the aim of achieving success in golf sports in upcoming XXVII SEA Games that Myanmar will host in 2013, Myanmar golfers are taking part in international events.—NLM

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 27 March, 2013

Foster equal rights for each and every citizen

The government is striving for the flourishing of democratic practices that recognize human rights, empower citizens through participatory processes, strengthening the rule of law and improving access to justice and information, creating an environment for civil society to contribute to policy formulation, budgetary processes and delivery of services at the grassroots level.

While taking reform measures, all issues must be based on people-centered development approach. In making plans, it is required to collect information in accordance with the objective conditions and plans are to be implemented with perfect coordination.

As the government knows well that political reforms are essential to put economic reforms in place, its efforts are evident ensuring participation of all the citizens in political process. Meanwhile, it is exerting continued efforts to foster equal rights for each and every citizen to work as well as job opportunities, instituting economic reforms.

It places special emphasis on rural development and poverty reduction for socio-economic development of rural people, the majority of population. With regard to production, employment and increasing income, focus is to be placed on improvement of public health care service delivery directly beneficial to people, social security, access to electricity, and better communication service.

In building up the nation into a developed one, success could not be achieved by the government alone. Mass participation is needed. As the government is committed to the flourishing of democracy and overcoming challenges ahead in the march towards its goal, all the citizens are to step up support to it solidifying their position as reliable ones.

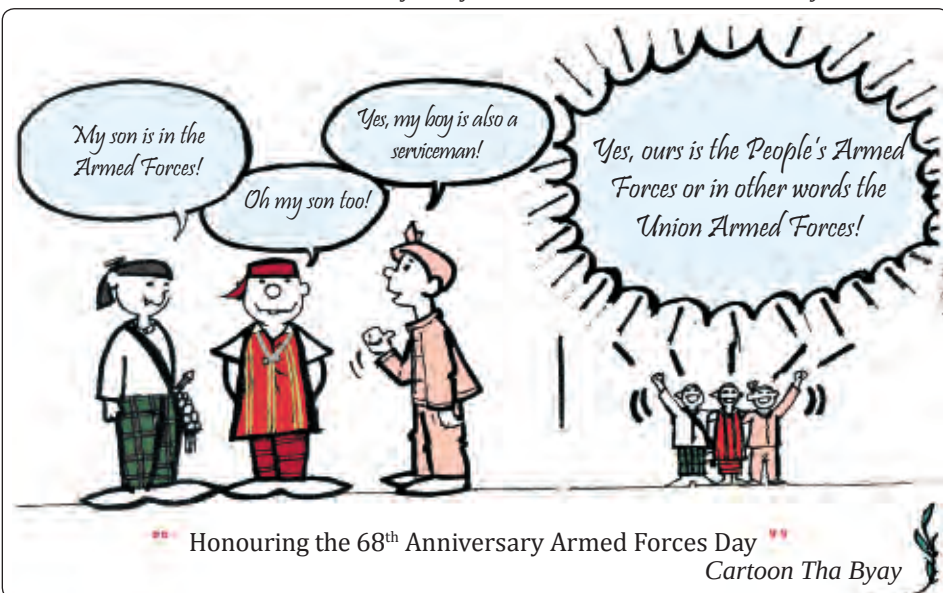
MMA (Buddhist Association) holds AGM

YANGON, 26 March—The Buddhist Association of Myanmar Medical Association (Yangon Region) held the annual general meeting for 2012-2013 at the B hall of MMA on 17 March.

Vice-Chairperson Prof Daw Ohn Kyi made a speech. General Secretary Dr Khin Oo Myint read the annual report. Joint Treasurer Dr Daw Kyi May Thein read the

financial statement. Those present participated in the discussions.

Myanma Alinn

Honouring the 68th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

Cartoon Tha Byay

NATIONAL

President U Thein Sein offers religious titles to recipient ...



President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win donate offertories to a Sayadaw.—MNA

(from page 1) presented Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadhara title, Thiha Thudhamma Manijotadhara title, Thudhamma Manijotadhara, Maha Saddhamma

Jotikadhaja and Saddhamma Jotikadhaja titles to the recipient persons.

Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, Daw Khin Aye Myint, Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Daw Than Than Nwe and Dr Daw

Myint Htay offered religious titles to the title recipient laypersons.

Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Hsan Hsint supplicated on religious affairs.

After that, President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, Vice-President U Nyan Tun and wife Daw Khin Aye Myint, Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Mya Thein, UEC Chairman U Tin Aye and wife Daw Kyi Kyi Ohn, Union ministers, deputy minister and their wives, departmental heads and local people offered rice and alms to members of the Sangha.—MNA



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham presents Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru title to a Sayadaw.—MNA

Vice-President U Nyan Tun presents Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika title to a Sayadaw.

MNA



NATIONAL



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon offer provisions to a Sayadaw.

MNA



Vice-President U Nyan Tun and wife Daw Khin Aye Myint offer alms to a Sayadaw.

MNA



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham presents title to U Chit Sein of Daingwunkwin in Mawlamyine.

MNA



Vice-President U Nyan Tun presents title to Col Tin Hlaing (Retd) of Ward-1 in Mayangon Township.—MNA

**Religious
titles offered
to members of
the Sangha,
laypersons for
contributing
to flourishing
of Sasana**



Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, wife of Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, presents title to a nun.—MNA



Daw Khin Aye Myint, wife of Vice-President U Nyan Tun, presents title to a nun.—MNA

Union Transport Minister holds talks with Minister-President of Government of Flanders of Belgium and party

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—Minister-President Mr. Kris Peeters of the Government of Flanders of Belgium and party paid a call on Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung at the ministry, here, yesterday morning.

At the call, they

held discussions on implementation of comprehensive water management project for Ayeyawady River in cooperation with SBE Co from Belgium, water conservation by building low dams along Ayeyawady River, works being carried

out by feasibility study group starting from 1 March after MoU was signed to generate hydropower, implementation of wind power as Myanmar has abundant vacant lands along its coast, field study for environmental impact to be made by Belgian and Myanmar experts, construction of low dams that will be beneficial for generating hydropower and conservation of Myanmar's weather pattern, water course, fisheries and agrobusiness and improvement in water resources and transport sector in Ayeyawady River.—MNA

MEP arranges to supply power mainly to people

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March — Ministry of Electric Power and Ministry of Energy worked together to supply power sufficiently to the people during the matriculation examination period from March 1 to 22.

To produce more power during the period, Ministry of Electric Power also ran two turbines from Kyunchaung plant, each turbine from Shwetaung, Myanaung and Mawlamyine plants and by suspending supply to industries while running regular power plants.

Ministry of Electric Power's hydro power plants which have efficiently produced power since the end of rainy season and the ministry is also working to run the newly-imported natural gas-fired generators in Yangon to be able to supply power to the people from 5 pm to 5 am daily.

The ministry will work together with the Ministry of Energy to run turbines from Kyunchaung, Shwetaung, Myanaung and Mawlamyine plants in May to supply power mainly to the people.—MNA

Gyobingauk, Okpo, Minhla townships placed under curfew

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—Gyobingauk township and municipal area of Gyobingauk in Bago Region have been placed under curfew as mobs destroyed houses, shops and religious buildings around 11.30 pm yesterday harming the rule of law.

To prevent the conflicts and riots, the local authority declared a dusk-to-dawn curfew at 3 pm today, banning gathering, public speaking, marching, instigating, protesting and rioting in the municipal area of the town.

Similarly, six wards in Okpo and 54 village-tracts

in Okpo Township have been placed under curfew after mobs destroyed houses, shops and religious buildings around 9.45 pm on 24 March. Latpanyaykyaw Village-tract, Tartway and Sitkwin Villages in Minhla Township have also been placed under curfew and it was declared at 4 pm today.

The Information Team of the Government has urged the people to avoid acts of violence and religious extremism that could disrupt the reform process and development tasks being carried out by the government with added momentum.—MNA

Cash donated to free clinic

SHWEDO, 26 March—Directors U Myint Aung, Captain Myint Oo (Rtd) and U Aung Kyaw Lin of Pyay Shwedo All-round Development Public Co Ltd donated K 1 million to Parahita Myitta Kyeisin Free Clinic in Ward 1 of Shwedo

on 16 March.

In-charge of the clinic U Khin Shwe accepted the cash donation.

The clinic was opened in 2011 for needy persons. So far, it has provided health care services to over 2600 patients.—Myanma Alinn

Cultural cooperation between Myanmar-US discussed



Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu meets with Mr. John Guy, Florence and Herbert Living Curator (South and Southeast Asian) of the Arts of Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu held a cordial discussion with Mr. John Guy, Florence and Herbert Living Curator

(South and Southeast Asian) of the Arts of Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, at the ministry, here, yesterday afternoon.

The meeting focused on bilateral cooperation in culture between Myanmar and the US, display of

Buddological objects emerged from 1st to 9th centuries in Myanmar at the expo of Metropolitan Museum to be held in 2014, as well as potentials for cultural cooperation to be implemented in the near future.—MNA

Five suspects detained in connection with Okpo violence

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—Myanmar Police Force detained five suspects who got involved in the violence in Othekon village in Okpo Township of Bago Region.

At night of 24 March in Othekon Village-tract of Okpo Township, officials concerned cracked down the violence caused by a group of persons who threw stones at religious buildings,

shops and houses with the use of catapults. The five suspects were taken into custody at Minhla police station yesterday afternoon. Security measures are being taken in order to prevent the spread of violence in other places including Okpo Township and Minhla Township. Actions will be taken against the detainees for the sake of the Rule of Law.—MNA

Meiktila under tight security

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—As a drive to relieve the anxiety of local people triggered by violence and unrests occurred a few days ago in Meiktila, security members and Tatmadawmen in cooperation with duty-conscious local people were on patrol at night from 8 pm to 4 am yesterday.

Security members and

Tatmadawmen totaling 300 conducted patrols in Meiktila, dividing the town into two, eastern part and western part.

Although situations in the town of Meiktila have returned to normal, a State of Emergency is still imposed in order to avoid the recurrence of unrest and violence.

MNA

Wellwishers donate cash and kind to victims in Meiktila, carry out sanitation task

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—Thanks to security personnel, Tatmadawmen and people who discharge security duty day and night, the local people in Meiktila can do their regular works without any anxiety.

The authorities manage convenience of shelters and foods for over 7000 victims accommodated at five relief camps in Meiktila and over 3000 at 16 monasteries.

Wellwishers, personnel of companies, organizations and political parties donated cash and kind for the victims and carried out sanitation tasks at the relief camps.

Vice-Chairman of Union Solidarity and Development Party Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Htay Oo and party comforted the victims at the relief camp of Meiktila Basic Education

High School No. 1 and those at Wandawpyae Monastery after providing relief items.

USDP members carried out sanitation tasks at the relief camp opened at Meiktila District Gymnasium.

From yesterday afternoon to this afternoon, Peace Myanmar Group and Grand Wynn Co. Ltd donated 3000 packets of instant noodle, 2000 bottles of drinking water, 816 packets of snacks, 16 bales of clothes, Paunglaung (2) Myitta Phyu Association 2340 packets of instant noodle, 648 packets of drinking water, 15 bags of rice, 30 viss of edible oil and nine bales of clothes, Kanbalu Social Association of Sagaing Region 690 packets of instant noodle, 1110 bottles of drinking

water, three bags of rice, 11 bales of clothes, 357 cups and 240 soap boxes, U Min Aung (Thiri Mingala Ward of Meiktila) 1032 bottles of drinking water, 486 bottles of soft drink and one bale of clothes, Hluttaw representatives, wellwishers and members of the Sangha of Taungtha Township K 1,110,000, 180 packets of instant noodle, six bags of rice, 20 viss of edible oil and 50 viss of jaggery, Ministry of Industry 1800 bottles of drinking water and three bales of clothes, U Shwe Kyi, U Aung Htwe families 500 kits of medicines, the assistant director of Irrigation Department K 699,000, eight bales of clothes, 500 spoons and 750 plates, USDP 20000 packets of snacks, 800 bags of rice, 2200 viss of edible oil and

200 kits of medicines, Save the Children 9060 packets of instant noodle and 5568 bottles of drinking water to the donation centre opened at Communication Staff Quarter in Meiktila.

On 23 and 24 March, Region Hluttaw representative U Tin Oo of Pyawbwe Township donated K 1 million, Thaw Tar Win Construction Co K 200,000, Daw Nilar Win of Aung San Ward of Meiktila K 100,000 and Kyinlon Myanmar Co Ltd K 4,050,000.

The donations of wellwishers from 23 March morning to date amounted to K 11,289,000.

Wellwishers donate cash and kind to the donation centre as well as provide relief items to victims at the relief camps in person.

MNA

REGIONAL



Chinese President Xi Jinping (front, L) and his wife Peng Liyuan (back, L) are welcomed by South African Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Maite Nkoana-Mashabane (back, R) and Minister of Public Enterprises Malusi Gigaba (front, R) at the Tambo International Airport of Johannesburg, South Africa, on 25 March, 2013. Xi arrived in South Africa on Monday for a state visit to promote bilateral ties and for a summit of the BRICS countries.—XINHUA

Six killed in factory fire in southern India

NEW DELHI, 26 March—At least six people were charred to death in a deadly fire which broke out at a factory on the outskirts of the southern Indian state of Karnataka's capital Bengaluru on Monday, a senior police official said.

"The fire initially broke out at a neighbouring timber yard and subsequently

spread to the car seat production factory early this morning when some of the workers were sleeping and thus trapped inside. We have recovered six charred bodies," he said, on condition of anonymity.

Local TV channels reported that some 10 fire tenders took several hours to bring the blaze under

control. A probe has been ordered to ascertain the cause of the fire, the official added.

Fires in Indian factories are common because of lack of enforcement of safety regulations. Last year, major fire at a fireworks factory in neighbouring state of Tamil Nadu claimed the lives of 38 workers.—Xinhua

Singapore's building authority to introduce Eurocodes

SINGAPORE, 26 March—Singapore's Building and Construction Authority is going to introduce the Eurocodes as city state's building codes starting from 1 April, the authority said on Monday.

The authority will allow building professionals to submit structural plans of

a building using either the Eurocodes or the British standards over the first two years from 1 April, so that the industry can move to the new codes smoothly.

The Eurocodes are a set of standards primarily used by building professionals for the structural design of buildings and civil engineer-

ing works. The new codes is part of the efforts to raise the standards of the local industry and the standards of structural building design, the authority said.

The current codes, which are based on the British standards, will be withdrawn from use on 1 April, 2015.—Xinhua

Indonesian army ready to assist police in investigating prison attack

JAKARTA, 26 March—Indonesian Army Chief of Staff General Pramono Edhie Wibowo said on Monday that the army was ready to help police in investigating the attacks on Sunday in prison in Yogyakarta that killed four prisoners.

Pramono Edhie

Wibowo made the statement following rumours that the perpetrators of the attack are well-trained persons, which hints a speculation that they might be militants or those from military.

"We are ready to help. Should the police ask for (personal) to help, we must

provide (the personal) with any number requested," he said at the State Palace.

Local army chief in Yogyakarta has checked over possible implication of his personal and claimed that there was no evidence showing his personals' involvement in the attack.

Seventeen unidentified

gunmen attacked Cebongan prison in Sleman of Yogyakarta on Saturday, killing four prisoners and injuring eight prison officers.

The attackers fired their guns to the air when they entered the prisons at 1:30 am local time, according to local Metro television.

Xinhua

S Korea's candidate for WTO head named honorary ambassador

SEOUL, 26 March—Bark Tae-ho, South Korea's candidate to succeed Pascal Lamy as head of the World Trade Organization (WTO), was appointed as honorary ambassador for economic and trade affairs, the Foreign Ministry said on Monday.

The former South Korean trade minister over the past 14 months was named as the honorary ambassador with a one-year tenure to support his campaign activities for the director-general of the WTO, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—Xinhua

New Zealand government hopes for police action on quake building collapse

WELLINGTON, 26 March—A New Zealand government minister said on Tuesday that he hopes the police will take action against engineers responsible for the collapsed building that killed most of the victims of the 2011 earthquake in Christchurch.

Building and Construction Minister Maurice Williamson told Radio New Zealand that the country's two top engineering bodies had said they were powerless to act against engineers responsible for design and construction deficiencies in the Canterbury Television (CTV) building.

The six-storey building collapsed and caught fire in the 22 February quake, killing 115 people, including 64 Asian students studying at an English language school.

"If you had 115 people die in an aircraft ... or

you had 115 people die in a medical misadventure in a hospital the public would be clamoring for somebody to be brought to answer," Williamson told Radio New Zealand. The only option remaining was a police prosecution, as he did not have powers under any legislation to pursue the matter, he said.

Earlier this month, Police National Headquarters had said it was still engaged in complex technical assessments of documents from the Canterbury Earthquakes Royal Commission of Inquiry and the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment, said the report.

Williamson said legislation might be needed to enable sanctions in future cases.

The commission's report released in December last year detailed how the CTV building, which was designed in 1986 and com-

pleted around 1988, had a "design that was deficient in a number of important respects" and should never have been issued with a construction permit because it failed to comply with Christchurch City Council regulations.

The commission also found the building was never properly structurally assessed after being damaged in strong earthquakes on 4 September and 26 December, 2010, despite being inspected by three building officials.

Seventeen students from the Chinese mainland, 28 from Japan, two from South Korea, 10 from the Philippines, one from Taipei and six from Thailand were among those incinerated or crushed in the building, an inquest heard in August last year. The 6.3-magnitude quake on 22 Feb, 2011, killed 185 people in total.

Xinhua



Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen (R, front) shakes hands with Chinese Ambassador to Cambodia Pan Guangxue during the ground-breaking ceremony of the Cambodia-China Friendship Bridge in Koh Thom district of Kandal Province, Cambodia, on 25 March, 2013. Cambodia on Monday broke ground for the construction of the 7th Cambodia-China Friendship Bridge across Tonle Bassac River in Koh Thom district in order to ease traffic jams and to accelerate the country's economic development.

XINHUA

Militants storm Afghan police facility in E Province, nine killed

JALALABAD, (Afghanistan), 26 March—At least nine people including three policemen were killed and eight were wounded on Tuesday morning in explosions and ensuing firing in a police facility in Jalalabad, the capital city of eastern Afghan province of Nangarhar, police said.

"Based on initial information, up to six militants armed with suicide vests and weapons launch an attack against Fast-Reaction Police Force compound in Jalalabad city at around 4:30 am local time and the firing is ended as we spoke," a police source in the city told Xinhua anonymously.

The killed included three policemen and six

militants, he said, adding six civilians and two policemen were wounded in the early morning attack in the province 160 km east of Kabul. The attack took place while the US Secretary of State John Kerry is visiting the country.

Afghan security forces sealed off the scene shortly after the attack. The blasts caused a plume of grey smoke to rise above the scene. Police and the rescue team reached the site following the attack was reported and all the injured people were rushed to nearby hospital, the source said.

No group claimed responsibility for the attacks, but Taleban suspects routinely claim responsibility for such attacks.—Xinhua



Local residents gather at the site of a bus accident at Idukki District of India's southern state Kerala, on 25 March, 2013. A school bus carrying students from Sarabhai Institute of Science and Technology fell into a deep ditch on Monday.—XINHUA

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Ministry of Information

News and Periodicals Enterprise

Invitation for Expression of Interest for Production of The New Light of Myanmar Daily

1. The Request for Expression of Interest is invited to create joint venture with local and foreign entrepreneurs in order that The New Light of Myanmar Daily published in English version by the News and Periodicals Enterprise be transformed into a standard newspaper.
2. In submitting the Expression of Interest:
 - a. The following facts are to be included in the submission of local entrepreneurs:
 - i. Name of entrepreneur/company, and number of National Scrutiny Card
 - ii. Curriculum Vitae of entrepreneur and brief background history of company
 - iii. Documents of the company and financial statement
 - iv. Bank Statement for the past two years approved by Certified Public Accountant
 - v. List of members of current Board of Directors
 - vi. Volume of maximum investment
 - vii. Volume of desired profit
 - viii. Documents to be submitted exclusively
 - b. The following facts are to be included in the submission of foreign entrepreneurs:
 - i. Name of entrepreneur/company, and Passport No.
 - ii. Curriculum Vitae of entrepreneur and brief background history of company
 - iii. Documents relating to the foreign company
 - iv. Financial Statement
 - v. List of members of the current Board of Directors
 - vi. Volume of maximum investment
 - vii. Volume of desired profit
 - viii. Documents to be submitted exclusively
3. Local and foreign entrepreneurs who will submit the Expression of Interest are to send their submissions to Building No. 7, News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information, Nay Pyi Taw not later than (25-4-2013). For further information, please contact phone numbers: 01-201192, 067-412123 and 067-412128.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (543)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (543) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.3.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Three injured asylum seekers flown to Australia's capital for treatment

SYDNEY, 26 March—Three injured asylum seekers have been flown to Western Australia's capital Perth for treatment, local media reported on Tuesday.

The three including a young boy, a pregnant woman and a 36-year-old man were injured when the

Saudi Arabia arrests 1,949 infiltrators in last 48 hours

RIYADH, 26 March—A total of 1,949 infiltrators were arrested in Saudi Arabia's border city of Asir in the past 48 hours, the *Saudi Press Agency* reported on Monday.

The arrest is part of a round-the-clock campaign to track the movements of infiltrators. The Saudi border guards announced early this month that 338,637 infiltrators were arrested in the last year.—Xinhua

fishing boat carrying 95 people capsized off Australia's Christmas Island on Monday morning. The Royal Flying Doctor Service retrieved the patients late on Monday and arrived in Perth on Tuesday morning, according to the *Australian Associated Press* (AAP). —Xinhua



Visitors look at liquor products displayed during a liquor expo of the 14th Western China International Fair (WCIF) in Luzhou, southwest China's Sichuan Province, on 25 March, 2013. More than 300 liquor producers attended the event, which was inaugurated on Monday in Luzhou.—XINHUA

International agribusiness fair begins in Cuba

HAVANA, 26 March—China was among 10 countries in attendance on Monday as the 16th International Agroindustrial Food Fair started on Monday in Havana.

The seven-day Fiagrop 2013 features growers, breeders, entrepreneurs, suppliers, veterinarians and other industry representatives from China, Germany, Canada, Spain, Venezuela and other nations.

Among the exhibitors is Jiang Su Hongze, a company founded in 1999 in Nanjing, China, that specializes in pesticides, fungicides, herbicides and other products.

Other firms included Mexico's VETMEX, Panama's Empacadora de Piñas, Germany's Bayer and Luibing, Spain's SL Gonio/Onduladze and Grupo UGAO, and Cuban companies Tabacuba and Tecnoazucar.

The fair aims to help Cuba boost its food output and reduce its reliance on imports, organizer Adolfo Aroche said.

Cuba imports about 80 percent of its food at a cost of about 2 billion US dollars a year.

Yadira Ramirez, event director for the Agricultural Trade Company of the Ministry of Agriculture, said that for the first time, the Chamber of Commerce of Cuba was promoting business rounds among participants.

Monday's fair agenda included conferences on biosecurity and new diseases threatening poultry.

Some 50 Cuban and foreign companies are on hand in four pavilions to showcase their equipment and technology.—Xinhua

Former electricity regulator leads nat'l energy watchdog

BEIJING, 26 March—Wu Xinxiong, former chairman of China's State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERC), has taken the reins of the National Energy Administration (NEA), according to the NEA.

Wu was also named a deputy director of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), the country's top economic planner, according to a resume posted on the NEA website late Monday night.

Born in eastern Jiangsu Province in October

1949, Wu served as governor of Jiangxi, also an eastern province, for over four years before assuming his post as SERC chairman in June 2011, the resume shows.

The website did not mention whether Wu's predecessor Liu Tienan has been assigned to any new posts. Born in October 1954, Liu has served as a deputy director of the NDRC since 2008 and, according to the NDRC website, he remains on the commission's list of deputy directors.

China will restructure

the NEA to streamline the administrative and regulatory systems of the energy sector, according to a cabinet reshuffle plan adopted by the Chinese parliament earlier this month.

The new NEA will incorporate the functions of the SERC, which is to be dissolved, and remain under the jurisdiction of the NDRC. Its main responsibilities will include drafting and implementing energy development strategies, plans and policies, advising on energy system reform and regulating the sector.—Xinhua

Liu Peiwen (R) from Beijing Foreign Studies University competes in the final competition of the 4th Cross-Strait Interpreting Contest in Taipei, southeast China's Taiwan, on 25 March, 2013. The final competition of the interpreting contest was held here on Monday, with the participation of 18 competitors from both China Mainland and Taipei.—XINHUA



ENTERTAINMENT



SRK, whose team Kolkata Knight Riders won the IPL series last year is apparently thrilled to perform at the opening ceremony. Katrina too is also set to give a sizzling performance.
PTI

Shah Rukh Khan, Katrina Kaif, Pitbull: IPL's opening acts

NEW DELHI, 26 March—Superstar Shah Rukh Khan and international rapper Pitbull are all set to give a power packed performance at the Indian Premier League (IPL) opening ceremony on 2 April, 2013 in Kolkata.

Actress Katrina Kaif will also give a sizzling performance at the ceremony marking the beginning of the sixth season of the IPL series, which opens on 3 April,

2013.(Read: Katrina is unfazed about competition with SRK)

Shah Rukh Khan owns the Kolkata Knight Riders team in partnership with actress Juhi Chawla. The team won the last edition of the IPL. He is thrilled to perform at the ceremony. (Read: Farah Khan hopes SRK does her IPL signature moves) “SRK loves the city of joy and he is already very excited to perform there.
PTI

Actress Kristen Stewart arrives at the 2013 Kids Choice Awards in Los Angeles, California on 23 March, 2013.
REUTERS



Kristen Stewart, One Direction win twice at Kids Choice Awards

LOS ANGELES, 26 March—Green slime spewed furiously at the Kids Choice Awards on Saturday, where “Twilight Saga” star Kristen Stewart and British boy band One Direction won two awards apiece.

Stewart, 22, escaped the slime but plunged her hands into the green goo, saying she “felt like I have finally found my kindergartner self,” as she accepted trophies for movie actress and favourite female butt kicker.

Organizers said more than 350 million votes were cast online in more than 20 categories, spanning film, television, books, music and sport for the stunt-filled annual award show on youth channel Nickelodeon.

Hosted by “Transformers” actor Josh Duhamel, who is married to singer Fergie, the show in Los Angeles featured performances by Pitbull and Christina Aguilera, as well as Ke\$ha.

Johnny Depp and Katy Perry accepted orange blimp-shaped trophies for favourite female singer and movie actor respectively and both stars had words of wisdom for the audience of kids and young teens.

“This is such a cool award ... stay safe, stay in school, don’t do drugs,” Perry told them. Depp said he was “truly honoured and humbled. Thank you for what you are, which is the future.”

Selena Gomez, 20, the ex-girlfriend of pop star Justin Bieber, took the female TV actress award for her Disney Channel series “Wizards of Waverly Place,” even though the show came to an end more than a year ago.

Bieber, who is on tour in Europe, was voted favourite male singer and was among several stars who did not make it to accept their award in person.

No-shows included One Direction, who are also on tour and who won for favourite music group and song for “What Makes You Beautiful,” “X Factor” judge Simon Cowell (favourite villain),

and Ross Lynch, 17, who was named favourite TV actor for Disney Channel’s pop star series “Austin & Ally.”

Sandra Bullock, Neil Patrick Harris, Duhamel, Pitbull, Nick Cannon, Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson and dozens of audience members got covered in slime gushing out from water cannons, presenter’s podiums, ceilings, and even the tail of a fake gymnastic horse.

Other awards went to Nickelodeon’s “Victorious” for top TV show, “The Hunger Games” for favourite movie, “Wreck-It Ralph” for top animated movie, and race car driver Danica Patrick and basketball player LeBron James for top athletes.

The Kids Choice Awards will be broadcast around the world in more than 25 languages, Nickelodeon said.

Reuters

Actor Heath Ledger arrives at the premiere of the film “Candy” in New York November 6, 2006.



T-shirt evokes late actor Heath Ledger as laidback skateboarder

SYDNEY, 26 March — Five years after the death of renowned Australian actor Heath Ledger, friends and family have joined to pay tribute to the man known to the world as the evil Joker with a t-shirt honouring him as a laidback skateboarder with a touch of the daredevil.

Ledger died at the age of 28 from an accidental overdose in January, 2008. He was subsequently awarded a posthumous Oscar for his portrayal of the Joker in the Batman blockbuster “The Dark Knight”.

The t-shirt features a photograph of a faintly smiling Ledger posing with a skateboard by the Los Angeles River. It was taken in 2004, the year he was filming the hit “Brokeback Mountain.” “Heath loved skateboarding and wanted to do a shoot he enjoyed”, said Ben Watts, the older brother of actress Naomi Watts and a New York-based photographer.—Reuters

SPORTS

Fred rescues draw for Brazil against Russia

LONDON, 26 March—Fred scored a last-minute equaliser to give World Cup hosts Brazil a 1-1 draw against Russia in a football friendly on Monday as the South Americans remained winless since the return of coach Luiz Felipe Scolari.

Victor Fayzulin put Russia ahead in the 73rd minute at London's Stamford Bridge, netting at the third attempt after the Brazil defence had cleared three shots off the line.

Brazil, who struggled to create chances despite enjoying plenty of possession, levelled when Marcelo got free on the left and his low cross was tapped in by Fred who scored for the

third game running.

Five-times world champions Brazil have yet to win since Scolari was re-appointed, losing to England last month before drawing 2-2 with Italy last Thursday.

Russia, frustrated by the postponement of their World Cup qualifier against Northern Ireland because of heavy snow in Belfast on Friday, started brightly.

Fabio Capello's team, unbeaten in their previous seven games, had the better of the opening exchanges when only good goalkeeper by Julio Cesar and a timely interception from Hernandes stopped them from going ahead.

Brazil were quick to

respond with Kaka and Oscar, playing at his club's home ground, at the heart of some promising counter-attacks. However, Brazil

did not particularly trouble goalkeeper Vladimir Gabulov and Russia came closest to breaking the deadlock when a swift counter-attack

ended with Fayzulin firing into the side netting after a quick breakaway.

Kaka, seeking to establish a permanent place in the side after an absence of nearly two years following

the 2010 World Cup, did his chances no harm with an encouraging performance that included one superb passing exchange with Oscar and Neymar early in the second half. Fayzulin put Russia ahead in the 73rd minute after Thiago Silva and Julio Cesar had blocked shots on the line.

Brazil appeared to be heading for a demoralising defeat until Hulk released Marcelo and his cross was fired in from closed range by Fred.

Reuters

Fred of Brazil (R) and Roman Shirokov of Russia fight for the ball during their friendly international soccer match at Stamford Bridge in London, on 25 March, 2013. —REUTERS



England not in soggy Montenegro for a draw says Hodgson

PODGORICA, 26 March—England have not travelled to Montenegro to play for a draw in their World Cup qualifier on Tuesday, said manager Roy Hodgson.

The former World Cup winners are two points behind Montenegro in Group H having played half of the fixtures with Ukraine and Poland a further six points adrift with a game in hand.

Hodgson said his side would not set up defensively against Montenegro despite

fears over the state of the pitch following a downpour and the possibility of being five points behind the tiny Adriatic nation and starting second place in the face. "We don't play for draws



England manager Roy Hodgson attends their 2014 World Cup qualifying soccer match against San Marino at the Serravalle Stadium in San Marino on 22 March, 2013. —REUTERS

McLaren see glimmerings of hope

LONDON, 26 March—A joke in Formula One a week ago was that Lewis Hamilton had acquired a dog while Jenson Button was driving one.

If Button's McLaren is still a long way from being the fastest car on the track, the 2009 world champion put an end to some of the snickering when he took

the lead—in a motor racing sense—in Sunday's Malaysian Grand Prix.

On paper, little may appear to have changed: Hamilton finished third for his first podium as a Mercedes driver while former team mate Button retired after a calamitous pitstop that robbed him of the chance of solid points.

and we haven't played for any draws yet," Hodgson told a news conference on Monday.

"We certainly won't be playing for a draw tomorrow and we have enough attacking qualities in the team and we'll be trying to use those qualities.

"We're here to play and I'm convinced we'll play well."

Hodgson, who took over in May last year, just ahead of Euro 2012, laughed off Montenegro coach Branko Brnovic's comments earlier on Monday that England were already making excuses for a possible defeat.

Reuters

WBC covers salary for players sidelined 30 days or more

SARASOTA, (Florida), 26 March—Major League Baseball (MLB) teams that lose players for a significant time due to injuries at the World Baseball Classic will be compensated by the tournament, an MLB spokesman said on Monday. The WBC has insurance covering the salaries of MLB players who subsequently miss at least 30 days of the regular season, the spokesman said.

New York Yankees first baseman Mark Teixeira, due to earn \$22.5 million this season, was expected to miss between eight and 10

weeks with a partially torn tendon in his right wrist incurred while taking batting practice for the US team.

Los Angeles Dodgers shortstop Hanley Ramirez,

final against Puerto Rico. The Toronto Blue Jays on Monday announced that third baseman Brett Lawrie would begin the season on the disabled list



Baseballs and a catcher's mitt lie on the grass before a MLB spring training baseball game between the Boston Red Sox and Baltimore Orioles in Sarasota, Florida, on 25 March, 2013. —REUTERS

owed \$15.5 million in 2013, was expected to miss about eight weeks with a torn ligament in his right thumb he suffered playing for Dominican Republic in the

due after a rib injury playing for Canada. Any injured players who are taken off the disabled list within 30 days would not be compensated.

Reuters

Barca coach Vilanova to return to Spain this week

BARCELONA, 26 March—Barcelona coach Tito Vilanova will return to Spain this week after two months of cancer treatment in New York, the La Liga club said on Monday.

"Tito Vilanova will this week leave the city of skyscrapers to return to the Catalan capital," Barca said in

a statement on their website (www.fcbarcelona.es). The club did not say whether he would be well enough to return to work.

The 44-year-old former Barca player needed a second round of surgery in December following an initial operation to remove a tumour from his saliva glands in November 2011. His assistant Jordi Roura took charge while he relocated to New York for a course of chemotherapy and radiotherapy.

Barca stuttered in Vilanova's absence and they were eliminated from the King's Cup and beaten in La Liga by arch-rivals Real Madrid.

Reuters

Barcelona's coach Tito Vilanova listens to a question during a news conference at Joan Gamper training camp, near Barcelona, on 4 Dec, 2012. —REUTERS



McLaren Formula One driver Jenson Button of Britain drives during the Malaysian F1 Grand Prix at Sepang International Circuit outside Kuala Lumpur, on 24 March, 2013. —REUTERS

However his Mexican team mate Sergio Perez took his first points for the team in ninth place and the car's performance was enough to give Button cause for hope.

"It's easy to say I could have been on the podium...I'm sure a lot of people would disagree with me but I think we had a chance to fight with the Mercedes," he told reporters afterwards.

"I think at worst it would have been fifth and we could have pushed the Mercedes. It's a good improvement from the last race. Only a week ago we never would have thought we'd be fighting for fifth, let alone a little bit better," he added.

"The positives are that we are improving and I can see that we will be even more competitive in

China."

Button was ninth in the Australian season-opener when McLaren were shown to be struggling with a car that marked a departure from last year's race winner rather than being a simple evolution.

There was more embarrassment when it emerged that an impressive lap time set in the opening pre-season test at Jerez might have been due to a suspension part being fitted the wrong way round, lowering the ride height to a level unsustainable in race conditions.

The evidence from the Malaysian weekend was that a corner might have been turned.

"As a team we haven't had to (turn a corner) but the car has had to and I think we've made some good improvements," said Button.—Reuters

GENERAL

Woods heads to Masters basking in renewed success

ORLANDO, 26 March — Tiger Woods's renewed success has him back on top of the world rankings but questions thrown at him after Monday's triumph at Bay Hill were about something he has not done for a long time, win the Masters.

While all signs point to Woods being close to his best after years of struggling with injuries, personal strife and a tedious swing overhaul, his comeback will not be complete in many minds, including his own, until he snaps a drought in the majors that dates back to the 2008 US Open. Woods's 77th PGA Tour victory moved him within five of Sam Snead's career record but it is another mark, Jack Nicklaus's 18 majors, that has been the 37-year-old American's 'Holy Grail' since he burst onto the professional golf scene. With 14 major titles on his resume, Woods will get a chance to add to his total and confirm his comeback



Tiger Woods of the US reacts after just missing a long putt on the 18th green as he won the Arnold Palmer Invitational PGA golf tournament in Orlando, Florida on 25 March, 2013.—REUTERS

is complete at next month's Masters at Augusta National, where he has four wins but none since 2005. Asked what Monday's Arnold Palmer Invitational victory at Bay Hill, his final competitive tune-up before Augusta, meant to him Woods had a brief answer: "more media interviews."

Woods has collected three wins in five starts this season, the earliest he has captured three titles in a season since 2008, making him

the clear favourite going into the Masters.

But success in his final Masters tune-up has never translated into victory at the year's first major. Three-times Woods has won his final event before the Masters (2000, 2003, 2008) and each time failed to reach the Augusta winner's circle.

Still, few will be betting against Woods slipping into a fifth green jacket next month.—Reuters

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(27-3-13 09:30 am ~ 28-3-13 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * The Backbone of Construction Industry
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- * Music
- * 68th Anniversary Armed Forces Day
- * News
- * Have Internet Cafes Dwindled Away?
- * The Advertisements that make City ugly
- * Mythun (Counterpart of Cattle)
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- * Paintings decorated with Pencil's waste materials
- * Myanmar Movies "Dancer and Drummer"

Myanmar TV

(27-3-2013, Wednesday)

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 6:00 am | 4:50 pm |
| 1. Live Broadcast of 68 th Tatmadaw Day Parade | 8. ASEAN Programmes |
| 8:45 am | 5:15 pm |
| 2. Songs in honour of (68 th) Anniversary Armed Forces Day | 9. Sing & Enjoy |
| 4:05 pm | 6:00 pm |
| 3 Songs For Upholding National Spirit | 10. Evening News |
| 4:10 pm | 6:15 pm |
| 4. Cultural Dances | 11. Weather Report |
| 4:20 pm | 7:00 pm |
| 5. University Of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Third Year (Oriental) | 12. News |
| 4:35 pm | 7:10 pm |
| 6. Classical Song | 13. Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than |
| 4:40 pm | 7:30 pm |
| 7. Songs in honour of (68 th) Anniversary Armed Forces Day | 14. Alinka Wut Yi Music Troupe |
| | 8:00 pm |
| | 15. News |
| | 16. People Talks |
| | 17. International News |
| | 18. Weather Report |
| | 19. Road to SEA Games (Yachting-2) |
| | 20. TV Drama Series |
| | 10:00 pm |
| | 21. News |
| | 22. Myanmar Movie |

Japan seeks trading talks worldwide to relieve economic woes

TOKYO, 26 March— Japan and the European Union on Monday agreed to launch Free Trade Agreement (FTA) talks, the third major trading talks that the world's third economy engaged in, to stimulate its exports so as to revitalize the country's sluggish economy.

The decision was made during telephone talks between Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and European Council President Herman Van Rompuy, who postponed his visit to Japan due to the financial crisis in Cyprus. In an effort to create a trading bloc that covers about one third of world's gross domestic product, the two sides agreed to start the

free trade talks as early as April with targets of reducing tariffs and liberalizing trade and investment.

Japan will mainly focus on tariffs that the 27-country bloc imposes on the country's automobiles and electronic productions, while the EU will ask Japan to lift non-tariff barriers on food and medicine and in the field of public-sector procurement of goods and services.

Visiting European Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht estimated that it would take three to four years for the two sides to conclude the FTA talks, local media reported.

Japanese business leaders on Monday also called

for the swift conclusion of the Japan-EU FTA talks.

"We yearn for the conclusion of an economic partnership agreement between Japan and the European Union as soon as possible," Hiromasa Yonekura, chairman of the Japan Business Federation, or Keidanren, was quoted by Japan's Kyodo News as saying at a luncheon meeting with leaders of European companies. Abe, also the leader of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party, vowed to win upper house election to be held in summer and the victory is believed to hinge on the performances of "Abenomics" that aims to revitalize Japan's export-reliant economy.—Xinhua



A visitor views flowers and plants during the Macy's Flower Show 2013 at Macy's Herald Square Broadway Plaza in New York City, on 25 March, 2013. Drenched in spectacular palette of colours, this year's show evokes the inspiring architecture and vibrant spirit of south Asia. "The Painted Garden" show will last until 7 April.

XINHUA

British banks' profits wiped out on past mistakes

LONDON, 26 March— Britain's major banks' increased profits last year were wiped out by a mixture of regulatory fines and customer redress provisions, said a report by KPMG released on Monday.

KPMG said Britain's major banks recorded a 45-percent rise in core profits in 2012 to a combined sum of 31.5 billion pounds

(about 48 billion US dollars), but the increase was wiped out by a mixture of regulatory fines, customer redress provisions and the accounting consequences of improved creditworthiness.

KPMG listed two main factors for the improvement in core performance from the banks, namely better credit performance and stronger investment banking

results. Bill Michael, EMA Head of Financial Services at KPMG, said: "Banks had a better performance year in 2012 but their improved core profits were eaten up by fines and other exceptional items, leaving them down on 2011."

"In terms of their reputations, 2012 was a dire year. This is why it is so important for them to address cultural

and ethical perceptions and issues. Restoring customer trust is critical," he said.

He said British banks had strengthened their balance sheets and made strides to bolster their capital, adding that "they are becoming better able to carry out their essential function of providing support to businesses and promoting economic growth."—Xinhua



Tourists visit Ap Chau Island for a weekend vacation in south China's Hong Kong, on 24 March, 2013.

XINHUA

Vice-President U Nyan Tun attends prize awarding of Nay Pyi Taw Invitational Pencak Silat Event

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—Patron of Leading Committee for Holding 27th SEA Games Vice-President U Nyan Tun attended the final match of 2013 Nay Pyi Taw Invitational Pencak Silat and prize awarding ceremony at Training Camp No 1, here, this morning.

It was also attended by Chairman of Leading Committee for Hosting XXVII SEA Games Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan, Union ministers, deputy ministers, President of Myanmar Martial Arts Federation U Aung Zaw Naing, athletes, guests and enthusiasts.

The president of

MMAF presented gifts to Vice-President U Nyan Tun and Union Minister U Tint Hsan. Union Minister U Tint Hsan, Union ministers and the MMAF president awarded the prize winners and Vice-President U Nyan Tun cordially greeted athletes.

The athletes from Myanmar (a), Myanmar (b), Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia participated in the invitational event. Myanmar (a) stood second with six gold, seven silver, six bronze medals followed by Myanmar (b) that secured four gold, one silver, three bronze medals in the event.—MNA



Vice-President U Nyan Tun greets athletes at 2013

Nay Pyi Taw Invitational Pencak

Silat Event.—MNA

Cash and relief items donated to victims of Meiktila



The donation of cash and relief items for victims in Meiktila in progress.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—A ceremony to donate cash and relief items to victims at relief camps in Meiktila of Mandalay Region was held at the meeting hall of communication staff quarter in Meiktila this morning.

Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Htay Oo explained purpose of the donation.

Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint accepted 800 bags of rice, 220 bags of gram, 200 viss of eligible oil and 20000 packets of snack worth

K 4.14 million donated by USDP and wellwishers and K 1.1 million and green tea and packets of bean worth K 5 million by disciples of Sayadaw Bhaddanta Paññateja of Natsintaya Monastery of Thanlyin.

The Chief Minister accepted 300 pieces of male sarongs, 300 pieces of female sarongs, 300 Sport shirts and 1800 bottles of purified drinking water worth K 1.8 million donated by Ministry of Industry.

After that, Lt-Gen Myint Soe from Office of Commander-in-Chief

(Army) accepted K 3 million for Tatmadawmen donated by members of USDP and wellwishers.

Then, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Phone Swe accepted K 1.1 million and six bags of rice, five boxes of jaggery and 20 viss of eligible oil donated by Taungtha Township Sangha Nayaka Committee, Hluttaw Representatives, members of USDP and townselders.

The Mandalay Region Chief Minister spoke words of thanks.

MNA

Myanmar, Belgium to cooperate in livestock breeding sector

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—Union Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint and Minister-President Mr. Kris Peeters of the Government of Flanders of Belgium and party

visited Myaseinyaung Milk Processing Plant at 500-acre integrated farming in Pobbathiri Township yesterday noon. They observed milk frozen storage manufactured by PACKO Co of Belgium,

small-scale milk processing plant and milch cow farm in the integrated farming. The Union Minister pledged to purchase 100 Belgium-made small-scale milk processing plants.—MNA

Victims of violence provided with medical care in Meiktila

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March— Medical care is still provided to victims at the relief camps in Meiktila. Medical staff are treating the victims of violence with hygienic food and carrying out environmental conservation against infectious diseases, sanitation work and

systematic waste cleaning.

Together with Medical Superintendent Dr Maung Win of Mandalay General Hospital and officials concerned of the Health Department, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint this morning comforted the victims of

violence at No.1 Basic Education High School, No. 3 BEHS, Meiktila District Gymnasium, Sasana Weponla Monastery, Pahtamakyaw Dhamma Cariya Taikthit and Thamankon Monastery of Meiktila.

MNA



Photo shows Tatmadawmen giving health care service to a victim in Meiktila.—MNA