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Singaporean President and wife to pay state visit to Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March—At the invitation of His Excellency U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, His Excellency Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam, President of the Republic of Singapore and wife Mrs. Mary Tan will pay a state visit to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in the near future.

MNA

Tatmadaw's national politics is to safeguard country

NAY PYI TAW, 27 March—"Tatmadaw always safeguards the country while protecting the country from the outbreaks of racial and political conflicts. It is Tatmadaw's national politics," said Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Thayay Sithu Min Aung Hlaing, at the military parade of 68th Anniversary Armed Forces Day today.

It was attended by Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Tin Aye, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Thayay Sithu Hla Htay Win, Union Ministers, Hluttaw Affairs Committee Chairmen, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Zeya Kyaw Htin Thura Thet Swe, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Maj-Gen Zeya Kyaw Htin Khin Aung Myint, senior military officers from the Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office, Chairman of the Leading Committee for holding the 68th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Thiripyanchi Yar Pyae, the Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander, members of Myanmar War Veterans Organization, military attaches from Foreign Embassies in Myanmar, senior police officers from Myanma Police Force, officers from Fire Services Department and Red Cross Brigade, faculty members and students of University Training Corps, reporters from local and foreign media, artists and guests.

Wife of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Daw Than Than Nwe, wife of the Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) Daw Mar Mar Wai and wives of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-

***Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Thayay Sithu Min Aung Hlaing taking salute of parade columns.*—MNA**

Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, garlands a member of parade columns.

MNA

Chief (Air), senior military officers of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office and the Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander garlanded six parade columns led by Parade Commander Brig-Gen Aye Win.

Aung San, Anawrahta, Kyansittha, Bayintnaung, Aungzeya and Hsinbyushin took the designated positions and saluted the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Service. After taking the salutes the Senior General inspected the parade columns.

Next, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services delivered an address. He highlighted the interrelationship between the Tatmadaw and the nation since the time of independence struggle. "Just as the Tatmadaw safeguards the nation from all kinds of threat, it also performs its role in the national politics in accordance with the people's desire when nation faces with ethnic conflicts or political struggles", he said.

He quoted the constitution saying that the Tatmadaw's main responsibility is to safeguard and protect the three main national causes—non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty—and the constitution, calling for taking lessons from the past.

He also spoke of the desperate need of peace and tranquility to help achieve the national development, quoting a saying, "Will the nation develop only when peace, stability, unity and well discipline are formed." He stressed the need of sincerity, trustworthiness and genuine goodwill towards people to unite the nation.

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LOCAL NEWS

Mobile library arrives in Haka

HAKA, 27 March — Aimed at fostering reading habit among the people, improving socioeconomic status by reading, widening horizons of ward dwellers and villagers and creating an environment in which books and periodicals are within reach of local people, Haka Township Information and Public Relations Department organized a wall poster and photo show and a mobile library where publications were on display at Myothit ward administrator's office in Haka on 22 March.

For students who are enjoying summer holiday and local people who are interested in reading, opening of mobile libraries at wards and villages and organizing talks and posters and photo shows are being undertaken for enabling them to accumulate their knowledge by reading.— *Kyemon*

Confiscation of smuggled luxurious vehicles in Mon State

MAWLAMYINE, 27 March — Under the directive of Mon State government to seize luxurious vehicles that failed to pay customs duty, confiscation of smuggled luxurious cars are being carried out in ten townships of Mon State under the supervision of state/district police commanders.

During the period from 12 October 2012 to 21 March 2013, police arrested 80 people and seized 117 vehicles including 36 ownerless ones worth over K 200 million smuggled from a neighbouring country into Mon State.

Those who owned smuggled vehicles have been charged with violation of import/export law.

During the period from 1 January to 21 March 2013, 45 including 14 ownerless vehicles were confiscated.

The smuggled vehicles violated traffic rules and involved in road accidents while they were on the roads in Mawlamyine and other townships with fake number plates.

Further action will be taken against smuggling of luxurious vehicles from the neighboring country into the state under various ways and means, keeping a watchful eye on it.

Kyemon

Anti-human trafficking activity in Bago Region

BAGO, 27 March — Under the supervision of Vice-Chairman of Bago Region anti-human trafficking committee Bago Region Police Commander Police Col Mya Win, region/district/township anti-human trafficking committees and Bago Region Maternal and Child Welfare Association jointly-organized a mini-concert in the compound of highway bus terminal near Shwemawdaw Pagoda in Bago on 23 March.

Vocalist R Zarni and singers sung songs to the accompaniment of Lazy Club Band and police members led by Police Major Ye Win Aung distributed educative pamphlets to an audience of over 5000. — *Kyemon*

Union Minister stresses more breeding of dairy cattle

NAY PYI TAW, 27 March —Union Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint met with local breeders who farm dairy cattle on a managerial scale at Aung Thukha village-tract in Nay Pyi Taw Pobbathiri Township on 25 March.

The Union minister explained plans to provide necessary assistance to dairy cattle farms by the ministry for development of livestock breeding sector. He called for more breeding of dairy cattle as milk is an essential bone nutrient to reduce osteoporosis that afflicts both young and old people so that more milk will be produced to feed them. He elaborated a plan that will help local breeders to keep pig and chicken apart from cow. — *MNA*

Construction of new shipyard in Dagon Township in progress

YANGON, 27 March — Deputy Minister for Transport U Han Sein visited construction site of Dagon Shipyard in Dagon Myothit on 25 March.

The deputy minister oversaw arrival of staffs at housing relocated from Ahlon Shipyard to Dagon Shipyard and arrangements being made for their final move, installation of power line and relocation of staff from shipyard's office, workshops and factories to the new place, construction of roads, dockyards and jetties and progress in building of 300-ton multi-purpose use KaLaTan ship No (3) and No (4). — *MNA*

Motorcyclist killed in collision with bullock-cart in Kawlin Township

SAGAING, 27 March — A motorcyclist was killed in the collision with a bullock-cart while trying to overtake a truck ahead of his bike near Panntin village, three-mile west of Kawlin Township of Sagaing Region, on Kawlin-Okkan road at 9.30 pm on 20 March.

A collision between the cart driven by U Ku, 58, of Pantin village of Kawlin Township and the motorbike driven by Ko Ko Lwin, 40, of Myoma Myotkon ward in Kawlin happened while the cart was swerving into the right path of the road to avoid the truck and the motorcyclist was trying to go past the tuck ahead of his bike. The head-on collision left the motorcyclist wounded seriously and the victim was pronounced dead due to severe injuries.

Kawlin Township police station filed a lawsuit against cart driver U Ku who took a drive on the wrong path.

Kyemon

Husband set alight after wife poured petrol on him

PATHEIN, 27 March — A man was treated in the hospital for burns after he was set on fire by his wife while he fell asleep at about 9.30 pm on 21 March.

Lin Aung (a) Maung Lay, 25, of Jaingle village in Shwethaungyan Township suffered severe burns on his back and lower part of the body as his wife, Moe Moe, had poured petrol on his back and set fire to him while he fell asleep. Then she ran away. As he shouted for help when he was awakened by the flames on his back and lower part of the body, villagers and the administrator rushed there and rescued him. Then he was taken to the hospital in Gwa.

Kyemon

Replacement of wooden sleepers with concrete one satisfies rail users

YANGON, 27 March — To bring further safety and convenience to regular rail users, Myanmar Railways is carrying out the replacement of worn wooden sleepers with concrete ones.

The substitution works are being undertaken in many places along the railroad. On 23 March, workers substituted wooden sleepers with concrete ones at Pagoda Street railway station near Shwedagon Pagoda.

As rail travel has become a preferred mode of transport of globetrotters, it is very pleased to see Myanmar Railways' effort for ensuring safety and convenience of train users, local and foreign travelers alike.

Kyemon

WORLD

UN's Ban recommends African troops in Mali become peacekeepers

UNITED NATIONS, 27 March—An African force currently in Mali should be converted into a UN peacekeeping operation and a separate combat force should be created to confront Islamist threats, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon recommended to the Security Council on Tuesday. The UN-backed African force in Mali is due to take over from France when it starts withdrawing its 4,000 troops from the country in late April.

In a report to the 15-member Security Council, Ban recommended that the African force, known as AFISMA, become a UN peacekeeping force of some 11,200 troops and 1,440 police — once major combat ends. To tackle Islamist extremists directly, Ban recommended that a so-called parallel force be created, which would work in close coordination with the UN mission.

Diplomats have said France is likely to provide troops for the smaller parallel force, which could be based in Mali or elsewhere in the West Africa region.

"Given the anticipated level and nature of the residual threat, there would be a fundamental requirement for a parallel force to operate in Mali alongside the UN mission in order to conduct major combat and counter-terrorism operations," Ban wrote. The parallel force would not have a formal UN mandate, though it would be operating with the informal blessing of the Security Council.

Reuters

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon addresses participants during the signing ceremony of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Great Lakes, at the African Union Headquarters in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa on 24 Feb, 2013. REUTERS

Rescuers work at the scene of a train derailment accident in the Hongshandian section of the Loudi-Shaoyang Railway in Shuangfeng County of Loudi, central China's Hunan Province, in the early hours of 17 March, 2013. REUTERS

EU in "denial" that sick economy costs lives, health experts say

LONDON, 27 March—Europe's financial crisis is costing lives, with suicides and infectious diseases on the rise, yet politicians are not addressing the problem, health experts said on Wednesday.

Deep budget cuts and growing unemployment are tipping more people into depression, and falling incomes mean fewer people can see their doctors or afford to buy medicines.

The result has been a reversal since 2007 of a long-term decline in suicide rates, coupled with worrying outbreaks of diseases including HIV — and even malaria — in Greece, according to an major analysis of European health in *The Lancet* journal.

Countering these threats requires strong social protection schemes, researchers argue. But the austerity measures imposed after a string of crises in southern Europe — most recently in Cyprus — has shredded such safety nets.

"There is a clear problem of denial of the health effects of the crisis, even though they are very apparent," said lead researcher Martin McKee of the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, a group backed by the World Health Organization.

"The European Commission has a treaty obligation to look at the health effect of all of its policies but has not produced any impact assessment on the health effects of the austerity measures imposed by the troika."

Reuters

Swedish scientist to head UN Syria chemical weapons probe

UNITED NATIONS, 27 March—UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has named Swedish scientist Ake Sellstrom to head the UN investigation into allegations that chemical weapons were used in Syria, Ban's spokesman said on Tuesday.

"He is an accomplished scientist with a solid background in disarmament and international security," UN spokesman Martin Nesirky said.

It was not immediately clear who else would be on his team. Russia said on Monday that Russian and Chinese experts should be part of the investigation, but Moscow's UN Ambassador Vitaly Churkin said Russia would "most likely not" be represented.

Sellstrom was a chief inspector for UNSCOM, the UN inspection team that investigated and dismantled Iraq's biological and chemical weapons programmes in the 1990s. Sellstrom also worked with UNMOVIC, the UN group that returned to Iraq in 2002 and found no solid evidence Baghdad had revived its banned arms programmes before the 2003 US-led invasion. Nesirky said the investigation would be technical and not a criminal investigation, looking at whether chemical weapons were used and not at who may have used them.

Reuters

Looters, gunmen roam Central African Republic capital after coup

BANGUI, 27 March—Looters and gunmen roamed the streets of Central African Republic's capital Bangui on Tuesday as rebels and regional peacekeepers struggled to restore order two days after a coup plunged the mineral-rich country into chaos.

The ousting of President Francois Bozize and the political turmoil around it has raised fears of a humanitarian crisis in the former French colony — and embarrassed regional power South Africa which had sent troops to defend the government.

About 5,000 Seleka rebel fighters poured into the capital on Sunday, brushing aside a 400-strong South African force which attempted to block their path. At least 13 South African soldiers were killed and 27 wounded.

Rebel leader and self-proclaimed President Michel Djotodia — who had accused Bozize of breaking past peace accords — on Monday asked regional peacekeepers stationed in the country to help him restore order.

Having run out of supplies during the rebel takeover, hungry residents flocked to markets on Tuesday. But sporadic gunfire rang out across the sprawling riverside capital, home to 600,000 people. Water returned but power was down for a fourth day running.

Fighters for the Seleka rebel alliance stand guard in front of the Presidential Palace in Bangui, Central African Republic, on 25 March, 2013. —REUTERS

A senior officer from the roughly 1,000-strong five-nation regional force FOMAC, which has been patrolling in an effort to stop the looting, said the situation was gradually improving. But many inhabitants said they were desperate.

"We have the impression that Central African Republic is a forgotten nation," said Yves Ganazohi, a resident of Bangui's Miskin neighbourhood, as shots rang out. "We appeal to the international community to help us now."

Reuters

Obama to take road trip in push for gun control amid divided Congress

WASHINGTON, 27 March—US President Barack Obama is planning a road trip to drum up public support for new gun laws, but passage of a weapons measure is far from certain amid a bitterly divided Congress.

Obama's trip comes more than three months after the Newtown, Conn,school massacre that killed 20 children ages six and seven and sparked a public outcry to stop such violence from occurring again. "Obama is hitting the road on gun control because he understands he needs public pressure on Congress," said Darrell M West, Vice President and Director of governance studies at the Brookings Institution. "There are many entrenched interests who oppose gun restrictions, so he needs to arouse the general public that favours action in order to get legislators to pass legislation," West said.

Indeed, the Republican-led House is unlikely to pass any legislation it deems unfair to gun owners, such as banning assault weapons or putting limits on the size of bullet magazines.

Action in the Senate is also not a sure thing: Politico reported on Tuesday that Sens Ted Cruz, Mike Lee and Rand Paul threatened to filibuster legislation on gun control. That's according to a letter they plan to deliver to the office of Harry Reid, the Senate majority leader. Some critics have blasted the president for being in what they consider perpetual campaign mode and seeming to snub Republicans at a time of bitter partisan rivalry.

Reuters

Bersani goes deep into talks in last-ditch attempt to form gov't

ROME, 27 March—Centre-left head Pier Luigi Bersani on Tuesday went through a series of political meetings, but experts were pessimist over his chances to form a working government and have predicted that Italy will have to opt for a broad coalition.

Following talks with business groups and party representatives, the leader of the Democratic Party (PD) reached no deals with the former Premier Silvio Berlusconi's centre-right People of Freedom (PdL) which has offered support in return for PdL Secretary Angelino Alfano to be Deputy Premier.

Alfano said after the meeting that the positions of the two coalitions appeared very "distant," and if they remained far apart over the next 48 hours, there would be "the need for the country to vote again."

Bersani was facing an uphill task after he pledged that he will succeed in improving the chances of crisis-hit Italy and obtained an exploratory mandate by President Giorgio Napolitano last week. He is set to present his progress report with a government "in the fullness of its powers" on Thursday.

His coalition came first in the February election yet failed to obtain a solid majority in the new parliament that resulted in being divided among three mutually incompatible political forces, with none strong enough to rule alone.

Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

SpaceX Dragon capsule returns from International Space Station

The SpaceX Dragon lands into the Pacific Ocean on 26 March, 2013. —Reuters

Cape Canaveral, (Florida) 27 March — A Space Exploration Technologies' *Dragon* cargo capsule splashed down in the Pacific Ocean on Tuesday, bringing back science experiments and gear from the *International Space Station.*

The spacecraft left the orbital outpost at 6:56 am ET, and parachuted into the ocean about 225 miles west of Mexico's Baja California at 12:34 pm ET.

"Recovery ship just heard the sonic booms from *Dragon* re-entry and has data transmission lock," Elon Musk, founder and chief executive of the privately held company known as SpaceX, wrote on Twitter just before splashdown.

A minute later, recovery ship personnel reported seeing *Dragon's* parachutes, Musk said.

"Recovery ship has secured *Dragon,*" Musk wrote. "Cargo looks A-OK." The ship will take the capsule to the Port of Los Angeles, near the company's Hawthorne, California, headquarters, a journey expected to take about 30 hours. *Dragon's* return began 252 miles above Earth when astronauts aboard the station used a robotic crane to pluck the capsule from its berthing port and set it into orbit.

SpaceX flight controllers then stepped in and remotely commanded *Dragon* to fire its steering thrusters and begin the 5.5-hour journey home.

"It looks beautiful from here," station flight engineer Thomas Marshburn radioed to Mission Control in Houston as the capsule flew away.

"Sad to see the *Dragon* go. Performed her job beautifully, heading back to her lair. Wish her all the best for the splashdown today," Marshburn said. The *Dragon* cargo ship reached the station on 3 March with more than 2,300 pounds (1,043 kg) of science equipment, spare parts, food and supplies. It was the second of 12 planned cargo runs for NASA under a $1.6 billion contract. A second freighter, built and operated by Orbital Sciences Corp, is expected to debut this year.

The US space agency hired both firms to fill the gap left by the retirement of its space shuttle fleet in 2011.—*Reuters*

Deadline for Hon Hai to invest in Sharp lapses with no deal

Tokyo, 27 March— The deadline for Hon Hai Precision Industry Co to buy a stake in Sharp Corp lapsed on Tuesday without any deal, ending an agreement forged last year that would have made the Taiwanese firm the No1 shareholder in the Japanese TV maker.

Talks for Hon Hai to purchase as much as a 9.9 percent stake stalled after Sharp balked at its demand for a degree of management control Hon Hai also sought to lower the $708 million price tag after Sharp's shares slumped in the wake of losses that prompted a bailout from its banks last year.

Those banks, which include Mizuho Financial Group Inc and Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group Inc, had not been expecting a revised deal with Hon Hai, sources told *Reuters* last month. As talks with Hon Hai unraveled, Sharp concluded smaller investment deals with Samsung Electronics Co Ltd and Qualcomm Inc. It may also have to find other ways to raise money to repay a $2.1 billion convertible bond due in September.

Sources at Sharp and its banks, as well as analysts, have told *Reuters* that they expect the Japanese liquid crystal display pioneer will resort to equity financing to make up any shortfall in funding after it adds up available cashflow and gains from asset and stake sales.

Possible asset disposals before September include the sale of its TV assembly plant in China to Lenovo Group Ltd and the sale of its Mexico factory to Hon Hai. Sharp remains tied to Hon Hai through their joint ownership of the world's most advanced LCD plant in Sakai, western Japan. The two companies are also cooperating in smartphones in the Chinese market.

Reuters

A man looks around Sharp's TV sets at an electronic shop in Tokyo on 1 Feb, 2013.—Reuters

T-Mobile USA to sell iPhone starting 12 April

New York, 27 March— T-Mobile USA said on Tuesday it will start selling Apple Inc's iPhone on 12 April, making it the last of the big national US operators to sell the popular smartphone.

The No 4 US mobile provider, which plans to merge with smaller rival MetroPCS Communications, is launching the iPhone after it eliminated this week device subsidies and two-year service contracts favoured by its bigger rivals.

T-Mobile, a unit of Deutsche Telekom AG, hopes its new approach will differentiate it from bigger rivals that already sell the iPhone: Sprint Nextel, AT&T Inc and Verizon Wireless, a venture of Verizon Communications and Vodafone Group Plc.

The company, which has long struggled with customer defections, hopes to attract cost-conscious consumers through an aggressive marketing campaign that focuses on its lack of service contracts and clearly outlines their monthly cost to own such devices as the iPhone.

US operators have traditionally subsidized phones in exchange for tying customers into contracts but do not disclose how much of their monthly fee cover the device, a practice that T-Mobile USA criticized as lacking transparency. "The industry's broken," T-Mobile USA Chief Executive John Legere said at a Press event to announce the iPhone launch and service plans, which he had promised late last year.

In particular, T-Mobile USA is taking aim at No 2 US operator AT&T because the two companies use the same network technology, making it easier for consumers to bring their AT&T phone to T-Mobile's network.

A sign of the new iPhone 5 is seen at the entrance of an Apple Store in the financial district of Pudong in Shanghai on 14 Dec, 2012. —Reuters

Legere estimated that T-Mobile customers would pay about $1,000 less over two years than they would for comparable services at AT&T, and T-Mobile's website directly compares its pricing to AT&T's service fees. T-Mobile will offer the iPhone 5, Apple's latest model, for an upfront payment of $99.99 followed by 24 monthly payments of $20. Its bigger rivals charge $200 upfront to customers who sign a two-year contract. Reticle Research analyst Ross Rubin said it was still unclear whether consumers have as much disdain for contracts as T-Mobile hopes. But he said consumers will likely find the lower upfront cost for phones attractive and that the addition of the iPhone should help T-Mobile retain customers.—*Reuters*

Wal-Mart steps up its online game with help from stores

San Bruno, 27 March —Wal-Mart Stores Inc is ramping up plans to combine its physical stores with online technology, testing the use of lockers to hold goods ordered on the Internet until shoppers pick them up, as the world's largest retailer tries to catch up with e-commerce leader Amazon.com Inc.

While Wal-Mart is the leading retailer overall with $466.1 billion in annual sales, it trails Amazon and a handful of other retailers when it comes to selling goods online.

Amazon had $61 billion in sales last year.

Wal-Mart is on track to surpass $9 billion in annual online sales this year, Neil Ashe, chief executive of its e-commerce unit, said on Tuesday.

Until recently, Wal-Mart has not broken out its online sales, and prefers to look at overall sales and the growing trend of shoppers ordering online and picking up in its thousands of stores.—*Reuters*

Two people walk outside a Wal-Mart store in Mexico City on 11 Jan, 2013. Reuters

Wells Fargo says cyber attack disrupting website

Los Angeles, 27 March—Wells Fargo & Co on Tuesday said its online banking website was experiencing an unusually high volume of traffic that it believes stems from a denial-of-service cyber attack.

"The vast majority of customers are not impacted and customer information remains safe," said Bridget Braxton, a spokeswoman for the fourth-largest US bank by assets. Customers who have trouble should try logging in again because the disruption is usually intermittent, she said.

The logo for Wells Fargo bank is pictured in downtown Los Angeles, California on 17 July, 2012. Reuters

Since September, a hacker activist group called the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Cyber Fighters has said it was launching denial of service attacks against major US banks. These attacks can disrupt service by deluging websites with high traffic.

In a posting on Tuesday on pastebin.com, the group listed Wells Fargo as one of the banks "being chosen as a target." In December, Wells customers had trouble accessing the website for four days.

In its annual report filing last month, Wells said it had not experienced any "material losses" related to cyber attacks but that enhancing its protections remained a priority.

Reuters

BUSINESS & HEALTH

WPP India unit sacks employees after sexist Ford ads

The Ford logo is seen on a vehicle at Ford car plant in Craiova, 230km (143 miles) west of Bucharest, on 29 Oct, 2012. —Reuters

Mumbai, 27 March—An Indian unit of advertising group WPP (WPP.L) has sacked employees over a series of ads, including one showing women tied up in the trunk of a Ford (F.N) driven by ex-Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi.

The ads were published days after India approved a tougher new law to punish sex crimes, following the fatal gang rape of a student in December. That attack sparked unprecedented protests over the treatment of women in the country.

The ads, uploaded on an industry website, were created by individuals within JWT India, a unit of WPP, the world's biggest advertising group.

"We deeply regret the publishing of posters that were distasteful and contrary to the standards of professionalism and decency at JWT," a company statement said.

"These were never intended for paid publication, were never requested by our Ford client and should never have been created, let alone uploaded to the Internet.

"These posters were created by individuals within the agency and did not go through the normal review and oversight process.

"After a thorough internal review, we have taken appropriate disciplinary action with those involved, which included the exit of employees at JWT," it said.

Ford India also issued a statement expressing regret over the incident, but did not comment on whether it was taking any action against the agency.

One of the ads shows Berlusconi, charged in Italy with paying for sex with a minor, sitting in the front seat of a Ford Figo hatchback flashing a victory sign, with a trio of half-dressed women bound and gagged in the trunk.—*Reuters*

Global shares, crude oil rise in wake of US data

New York, 27 March—Global equity markets and crude oil rose on Tuesday after housing and manufacturing data added to evidence of an improving US economy and helped offset investor concerns about the Cyprus bailout.

Wall Street advanced on separate reports that showed demand for long-lasting US manufactured goods surged in February while US single-family home prices started the year with the biggest annual increase since June 2006.

But the Conference Board, an industry group, reported that consumer confidence tumbled in March as Americans turned more pessimistic about short-term economic prospects, adding a note of caution to a market still skittish over Cyprus.

The S&P 500 surged in a late-day rally to close at its highest peak since this year's rally has attempted to break through the all-time closing high set in October 2007. The benchmark index closed 1.38 points below the record.

Michael Sheldon, chief market strategist at RDM Financial in Westport, Connecticut, said investors needed to see further improvement in the economy for equities to move higher.

The euro edged higher against the US dollar but remained near four-month lows as concerns lingered over implications of the rescue plan for Cyprus, and whether it would shape any future plans for other euro zone economies requiring bailouts.

The single currency remains vulnerable to concern investors may shun euro zone assets or withdraw money from banks in other debt-plagued countries like Spain and Italy.

"There's uncertainty in Europe as for what is the blueprint when (economies) need to be rescued," said Sheldon. "The market trend continues to be higher, but investors are gun-shy in light of recent gains."

Reuters

A worker shelters from the rain as he passes the London Stock Exchange in the City of London at lunchtime on 1 Oct, 2008. —Reuters

Emerging powers China, Brazil move towards non-dollar trade

A man walks past a floral display announcing the 5th BRICS Summit in Durban, on 25 March, 2013. Reuters

Durban, 27 March—China and Brazil agreed on Tuesday to swap up to the equivalent of $30 billion in each other's currencies if need be so that their fast-growing commercial ties will not suffer if a new banking crisis causes dollar trade finance to dry up.

The three-year agreement, signed before the start of a BRICS nations summit in Durban, South Africa, marked a step by the two largest economies in the emerging powers group to change global trade flows long dominated by the United States and Europe.

Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa represent together a fifth of global GDP but have struggled to convert their economic weight into political clout in the international arena.

"Our interest is not to establish new relations with China, but to expand relations to be used in the case of turbulence in financial markets," Brazilian Central Bank Governor Alexandre Tombini told reporters after the signing.

Brazilian Economy Minister Guido Mantega described the deal, called a bilateral currency swap accord, as "a sort of umbrella agreement" but he did not spell out what specific areas or categories of trade would be affected.

Brazil's vast mineral resources and agricultural products have helped fuel China's industrial growth and feed its people while the returns have helped bring a new era of prosperity to the Latin American giant.

Bilateral trade totalled around $75 billion last year. Of Brazil's $41.2 billion exports to China, iron ore accounted for 34 percent, while soy and soy products made up 29 percent and crude oil 12 percent.

Electronics, machinery and manufactured goods figured heavily in Brazil's $34.2 billion of imports from China.

Brazilian officials have said they hope to have the trade and currency deal operating in the second half of 2013.

Mantega said it would act as a buffer against turbulence in international financial markets dominated by the US dollar.

"If there were shocks to the global financial market, with credit running short, we'd have credit from our biggest international partner, so there would be no interruption of trade," he said.

Reuters

Factory and housing data supports growth picture

Washington, 27 March—Orders for long-lasting US-made goods surged last month and home prices posted their biggest year-on-year gain in six and a half years in January, the latest signs the US economy regained momentum early in the first quarter.

The upbeat picture was dimmed somewhat by other data on Tuesday showing a sharp drop in consumer confidence as Americans worried about the impact of tighter fiscal policy, particularly$85 billion in government budget cuts known as the "sequester."

"The economy continues to expand in the first quarter, but we do have a drag from the sequester," Gus Faucher, senior economist at PNC Financial Services Group in Pittsburgh, said.

Durable goods orders jumped 5.7 percent in February as demand for transportation equipment rebounded, the Commerce Department said. The rise in orders reversed January's 3.8 percent plunge and handily beat economists' expectations.

While orders for non-defence capital goods excluding aircraft, a closely watched proxy for business spending plans, posted their largest decline since July, the drop in demand in this so-called core capital followed a big jump in January, and economists were largely unfazed.

Reuters

A view of the jet assembly line at a Cessna manufacturing plant in Wichita, Kansas on 12 March, 2013. —Reuters

Seven to eight mln people infected with Chagas disease

Geneva, 27 March—About seven to eight million people worldwide are estimated to be infected with Chagas disease, a potentially life-threatening illness caused by the protozoan parasite, Trypanosoma cruzi, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Tuesday.

The cost of treatment for the disease remains substantial. In Colombia alone, the annual cost of medical care for all patients with the disease has been estimated to be about 267 million US dollars, according to the WHO.

WHO said it was to increase networking at the global level and reinforce regional and national capacities, including strengthening world epidemiological surveillance and information systems and promoting the identification of diagnostic tests for screening and diagnosis of infections, etc.

Chagas disease is named after Carlos Ribeiro Justiniano Chagas, a Brazilian doctor who first discovered the disease in 1909.

It was once entirely confined to the region of the Americas, principally Latin America, but it has now spread to other continents, mainly due to population mobility between Latin America and the rest of the world. It is curable if treatment is initiated soon after infection. Blood screening is vital to prevent infection through transfusion and organ transplantation, according to the WHO.—*Xinhua*

WORLD

Taleban suicide bombers kill five Afghan police as Kerry visits Kabul

JALALABAD, 27 March— Taleban suicide bombers killed at least five policemen in Afghanistan's restive east on Tuesday, officials said, in a three-hour attack that coincided with a visit to the country by US Secretary of State John Kerry.

The pre-dawn attack on a police compound in Jalalabad, eastern Afghanistan's largest city, came as the country braces for the beginning of the spring fighting season in the 11th year of the war. One attacker detonated an explosive-laden car at the entrance of the Afghan National Police compound in a bid to let other attackers inside, provincial police chief Amin Sharif said. "Three suicide bombers triggered their explosive vests and five were shot dead," he told *Reuters*, adding that five policemen were killed and four wounded. Amin said the attackers were armed with rocket-propelled grenades and light machineguns, sparking a three-hour battle with Afghan security forces. Six civilians were wounded.

Kerry was in Kabul to discuss transfer of security to the Afghan forces, as most US-led NATO combat troops prepare to leave by the end of next year.

Taleban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed responsibility for the attack in a text message.—*Reuters*

NATO and Afghan troops arrive at the site of a suicide attack in Jalalabad on 26 March, 2013. REUTERS

Election clerks go through the re-tallying for votes after the Kenya Supreme Court issued an order in the ongoing Presidential poll petition in Kenya's capital Nairobi on 26 March, 2013.—REUTERS

Kenya to hear petition challenging Kenyatta's vote win

NAIROBI, 27 March— Kenya's Supreme Court hears a petition on Wednesday challenging the victory by Uhuru Kenyatta in this month's presidential election, a case that will test Kenyan democracy five years after a disputed vote ignited tribal violence.

Peaceful voting on 4 March went a long way to restoring Kenya's reputation as one of Africa's more stable democracies, reinforced when losing candidate Raila Odinga took his challenge to court rather than letting it play out on the streets.

But the final test will come on Saturday, the deadline for the court to announce its ruling after petition hearings on Wednesday and Thursday. That is when the court will decide whether to uphold Kenyatta's win or order another vote.

Western diplomats, whose nations are big donors to Kenya, see little chance of another spasm of violence, partly because Kenyans now have more confidence that the reformed judiciary will adjudicate fairly. But the US Embassy has still warned its citizens in Kenya about possible unrest this weekend.

Both candidates have promised to accept the outcome and many Kenyans insist there will be no repeat of the bloodshed that followed the 2007 vote which left more than 1,200 dead.

"We are alive to the competing expectations the Kenyan people have placed before this court," Chief Justice Willy Mutunga, a well-respected lawyer appointed to the post in 2011, said when he opened two days of pre-trial hearings on Monday.

Odinga alleged "rampant illegality" in the first-round vote. Kenyatta, son of Kenya's founding president who is charged by International Criminal Court with crimes against humanity over post-election violence five years ago, said voting was fair.

"The Supreme Court is open in order to enable the public to be witnesses to how the wheels of justice turn," Mutunga said, referring to television cameras covering the hearings with live broadcasts. "In the end, you must trust us to do our job."—*Reuters*

Two smugglers injured as gas cylinder explodes in Gaza tunnel

RAMALLAH, 27 March — A cooking gas cylinder exploded in an underground tunnel while being smuggled to the Gaza Strip from Egypt, injuring two Palestinian smugglers seriously, a medical spokesperson said on Tuesday.

The two were in their 30s, said Ashraf Al-Qedra, spokesperson for the ministry of health in Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip.

They sustained serious burns and were taken to hospital.

In a separate incident, another smuggler suffered fracture to his pelvis after falling into the shaft of a tunnel beneath Gaza's southern border with Egypt.

When Israel imposed an economic blockade in Gaza in 2007, the tunnels served as the lifeline for the coastal enclave.

The dependence on tunnels started to decrease when Israel began a gradual ease of restrictions following its attack on a Gaza-bound Turkish aid flotilla in 2010. In Egypt, media accuses Hamas of using the tunnels to send militants to North Sinai.

Locally, people say that Hamas refuses to shut down tunnels to keep gaining profits for its treasury out of taxes.

Xinhua

In snub to Assad, opposition takes Syria's Arab summit seat

DOHA, 27 March— To applause from Arab heads of state, a foe of Bashar al-Assad took Syria's vacant seat at an Arab summit on Tuesday, deepening the president's diplomatic isolation and diverting attention from rifts among his opponents.

Speaking at an annual gathering of Arab leaders in the Gulf state of Qatar, Moaz Alkhatib said he had asked US Secretary of State John Kerry for American forces to help defend rebel-controlled northern parts of Syria with Patriot surface-to-air missiles now based in Turkey. NATO swiftly rebuffed the idea.

"It was a historic meeting," said Syrian opposition spokesman Yaser Tabbara. "It's a first step towards acquiring full legal legitimacy."

The 22-nation League lent its support to giving military aid to Syrian rebels. A summit communiqué offered some of its toughest language yet against Assad, affirming member states had a right to offer assistance "including military, to support the steadfastness of the Syrian people and the Free Army".

The Syrian opposition flag is seen in front of the seat of the Syrian delegation at the opening the Arab League summit in Doha on 26 March, 2013.
REUTERS

Alkhatib said the United States, which has given non-military aid to Syrian rebels, should play a bigger role in helping end the two-year-old conflict in Syria, blaming Assad's government for what he called its refusal to solve the crisis.

"I have asked Mr Kerry to extend the umbrella of the Patriot missiles to cover the Syrian north and he promised to study the subject," he said, referring to NATO Patriot missile batteries sent to Turkey last year to protect Turkish airspace.—*Reuters*

Train-tractor collision kills one, wounds three in Arkansas, US

HOUSTON, 27 March— One person was killed and three others injured after a train crashed into a tractor in the US state of Arkansas on Tuesday, officials said.

The driver of the tractor was killed in the accident on Tuesday morning in the Waldenburg area in northeast Arkansas, according to local TV station KAIT. Three people on the train were taken to a hospital with minor injuries. The collision occurred at a road crossing that does not have railroad signals, police said.—*Xinhua*

Kenya allays fears of spread of dengue fever

NAIROBI, 27 March— The Kenyan government said on Tuesday there was no cause for alarm following an outbreak of dengue viral disease in the East African nation's costal region in the past two days.

Public health Director in the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation Dr Shahnaz Sheriff confirmed that two cases have tested positive but assured the country that health experts have been deployed to tackle the spread of fever to more regions.

"There is no cause for alarm. Everything has been contained to curb the spread of the viral. Only two cases tested positive from the results which have so far been carried out by health experts," Sheriff told *Xinhua* by telephone.

His remark's come as eight people with symptoms of dengue fever have been admitted to a hospital in the coastal city of Mombasa. The coast regional director of Public Health and Sanitation said the blood samples from eight patients admitted at the Mombasa Hospital have been flown to South Africa for further analysis.

Mombasa is the East African nation's second biggest city and is popular with tourists both locally and internationally. The health officials have assured the public that the situation is under control.

Sheriff said the blood specimen taken from two patients who had been hosptialised tested positive for dengue fever after laboratory analysis conducted at the Center of Communicable Disease Control (CDC) in Nairobi.—*Xinhua*

Deputy Education Minister meets British guests

NAY PYI TAW, 27 March—Deputy Minister for Education Dr Myo Myint received Chairman of Supreme People's Assembly in Britain, the Rt Hon Lord Alton of Liverpool Lord David Patrick Alton and Conservative Party's Human Rights Commission Deputy Chairman Mr. Benedict Richard Victor Rogers and party at the ministry, here, at 2 pm on 25 March.

They held discussion on reforms in education, human rights lesson for middle and high school students and academic matters of open universities, assessment for comprehensive education sector, drawing of educational law, opening of teachership training course, English language proficiency course vocational training course and sending of voluntary university students.—*MNA*

***Deputy Minister Dr Myo Myint receives British guests at Ministry of Education.*—MNA**

Merit shared for three-storey building in Chanayethazan Township

MANDALAY, 27 March—The merit-sharing ceremony for handing over of Byamaso Pyinnadana three-storey building was held in the compound of Byamaso Social Service Association established by Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tikkha of South Salin Monastery on 62nd Street between 32nd and 34th streets in Chanayethazan Township on 8 March morning.

At first, wellwisher family offered alms and robes to Waso Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Agghiya and members of the Sangha.

Wellwisher U Thant-Daw Chit Chit (Myint Myint Khin Htoemont) family that cost K 206 million formally opened the building.

The newly-opened building has three stories—the library on the ground floor, the tailoring course on the first floor and the teaching class for matriculation repeater students on the second floor.

Myanma Alinn

Overturned express bus claims four lives

LOIKAW, 27 March—A Kandayawady-Shan express bus plying Loikaw-Aungpan route overturned at the downhill road of Nawngwoe Hill in Pinlaung Township of Shan State (South) on 14 March afternoon.

The bus driven by U Chit San Maung of Yenigan Village of Mahtawkhu Village-tract in Loikaw Township plunged into the drain off the downhill road of the township on Loikaw-Aungpan Road.

Among 33 passengers including the driver and bus conductor, four passengers were dead and 25 others wounded. The injured were rushed to Loikaw and Pinlaung Hospitals.

Myanma Alinn

Workshop on social development held on Sagaing Hill

SAGAING, 27 March—The Workshop on Social Development was held at IBEC of Sagaing Hill Education Centre in Sagaing on 9 March morning.

Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of the IBEC made a speech. In the two day session of the workshop, Miss Allison, Mr Ewan Cambell, Dr Tin Maung Than and Dr Zaw Oo, adviser to the President, gave talks to the attendees.

Later, they shared knowledge and held discussions.

Myanma Alinn

Winners awarded in essay, extempore talks contests

MANDALAY, 27 March—Mandalay Region Education Department and United Pacific Co Ltd jointly organized the Essay and Extempore Talks Contests depicting nine-title Sayadaw at the City Hall No 1 in Chanayethazan Township on 5 March.

Deputy Director U Aung Saw of the Region Education Department made a speech. Daw Aye Mi San of United Pacific Co Ltd explained the purpose of the contest.

Officials presented prizes to winners in the contest at region and district levels, high and middle school levels.

Deputy Director U Aung Saw gave K 200,000 to outstanding prize winner eighth standard student Ma Khaing Hsu Wai of Aungmyethazan Basic Education Middle School No 11 and Director U Zaw Win Tun of United Pacific Co Ltd K 200,000 to ninth standard student Ma Theint Nanda Soe of PyinOoLwin BEHS No 1.

Students from four districts participated in the contests.

Myanma Alinn

Forest fire breaks out near Nyana Theikdi Stadium

NAY PYI TAW, 27 March—A fire broke out at the forest near the Nyana Theikdi stadium in Zabuthiri Township on 17 March.

Fire Brigade members from the Hluttaw and Presidential Palace in addition to those of No 5 and No 6 fire stations participated in fighting of fire with the use of fire engines under the supervision of Assistant Director U Kyin Thein of Fire Services Department.

The fire was put out at 12.50 pm.—*Myanma Alinn*

Plan to cover sports village, stadium with thick foliage before SEA Games

NAY PYI TAW, 27 March—Nay Pyi Taw Forest Department of the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry is striving for greening stadium and sports village for the XXVII SEA Games.

Staff and workers are making preparations for growing trees at the venues. They will grow 83700 shade trees on 16 blocks. Before rainy season, they will plant 16000 saplings. They have grown 8100 saplings up to 12 March.

Myanma Alinn

Workshop on Myanmar and Leadership of ASEAN held

NAY PYI TAW, 27 March—In support of the Myanmar's chairmanship of ASEAN in 2014, a workshop on Myanmar and the Leadership of ASEAN was convened at Zabuthiri Hotel, here, on 25 March with an opening address by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw.

Also present on the occasion were the senior officials and the ambassadors of Brunei Darussalam, Kingdom of Cambodia and Republic of Indonesia, the Deputy Secretary-General for Political Security Community Department and officials of the ministries under the ASEAN Political Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Pillars.

Resources persons and participants discussed and exchanged views on current status of the ASEAN Community building, the role and responsibilities of the ASEAN Chair, sharing of best practices and lessons learned from previous Chairs, tentative targets and priority areas of Myanmar during her chairmanship, preparations for ASEAN Summits and related meetings, the role of ASEAN Secretariat in assisting the ASEAN Chair, and the capacity building needs of Myanmar to support the ASEAN chairmanship.

The workshop was jointly organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ASEAN Secretariat and the ASEAN-United States Technical Assistance and Training Facility (ASEAN-US TATF).

MNA

The New Light of Myanmar

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 28 March, 2013

Maintain cultural diversity and authenticity

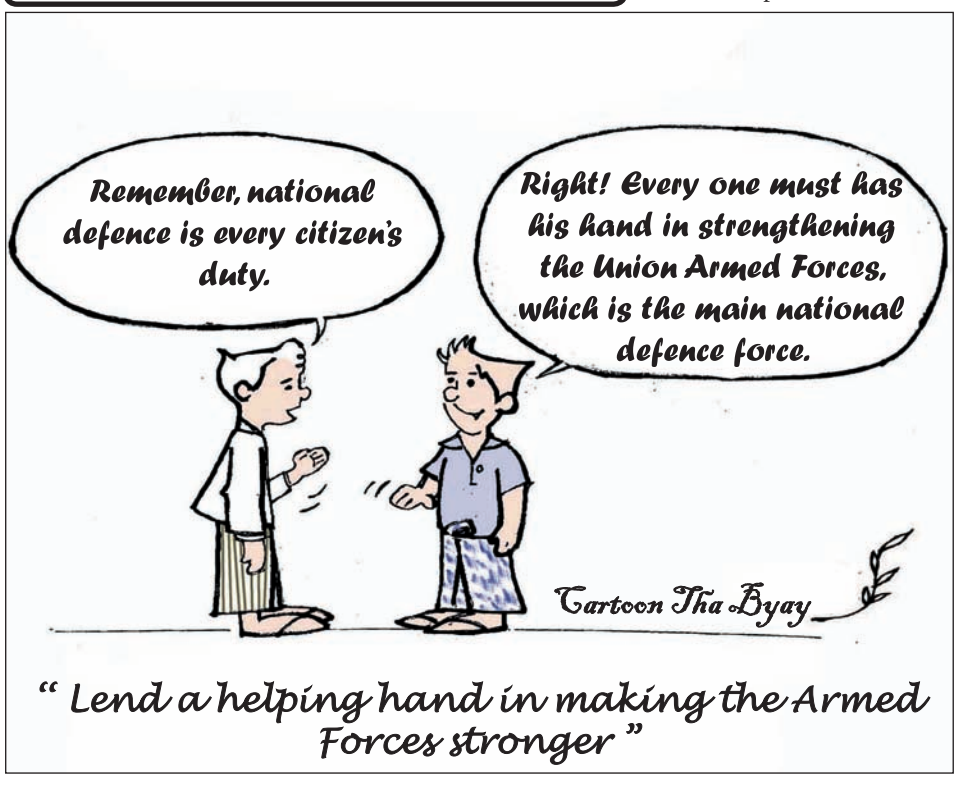
As Myanmar has high hopes for an emerging and fast growing destination in South East Asia, steps are to be taken to ensure that visitors within and abroad understand the social norms when visiting cultural heritage sites, interpretation at cultural heritage sites is provided in local and international languages and local guides value the living culture of ethnic groups.

Furthermore, dos and don'ts for tourists need to be made public to ensure that tourists visit Myanmar responsibly. For example, it is considered disrespectful when tourists take photos of woman taking a shower, displaying physical closeness in public places is frowned upon in Myanmar, pointing something with your feet means disrespect, when visiting Akha villages tourists should know not to take photos of pregnant women, calling with your finger up means calling for a challenge, use of drugs is against the law, prostitution is illegal.

With this end in view, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism are taking every possible step in cooperation with relevant organizations such as the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Immigration and Population, Region/State Governments, Myanmar Tourism Federation, Tour Guide Association, tour operators, media and guide book compilers.

As the country is now experiencing rapid growth in tourism demand, achievement is assured in the short run and tourism will continue to grow rapidly. But, the people should be wary of the possibility of a monolinguistic world that poses a grave threat to the linguistic identity, for some dialects are in danger of dying out.

Since typical Myanmar character is friendly, helpful, kind, polite and trustworthy, maintaining cultural diversity and authenticity is undoubtedly necessary. And only then, will it be possible to preserve national identity and encourage the development of cultural heritage and living culture.



NATIONAL

"Kyelsin Mawgun" movie artists honoured

NAY PYI TAW, 27 March—A ceremony to honour the artists of "Kyelsin Mawgun" movie in honour of the 68th Anniversary Armed Forces Day took place at the hall of Parade Ground in Nay Pyi Taw this morning.

Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Thayay Sithu Hla Htay Win delivered an opening speech.

Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thiri Pyanchi Khin Zaw Oo and Director of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare Maj-Gen Zeya Kyaw Htin Than Soe presented certificates of honours and gifts to film director Bagyi Soe Moe and the artistes.

The film director spoke words of thank. It was attended by Lt-Gen Thirir Pyanchi Myint Soe of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office, Lt-Gen Thiri Pyanchi Aung Than Htut, Lt-Gen Thiri Pyanchi Thet Naing Win and senior military officers and artistes.—*MNA*

***Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win presents certificate of honour to film director Bagyi Soe Moe.*—MNA**

***Daw Than Than Nwe, wife of the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, garlands a member of parade columns.*—MNA**

Tatmadaw's national politics ...

(from page 1)

He affirmed that the Tatmadwmen will not commit any kind of war atrocities and genocide has never been in the history of Tatmadaw. He made clear "action is taken as duties not for the sake of hatred on any of the national races, but for taking appropriate measures against those who take up against the government."

He called for building strong, powerful, modernized and patriotic armed forces, saying that the country will continue to practice free, active, non-aligned foreign policy and the peaceful co-existence principle attaching importance to regional stability and peace.

The Commander-in-Chief took the salutes of six parade columns, combat helicopters and planes and left the parade ground. Then, the celebration came to an end at 8.30 am.

MNA

Relief aids, cash donated to victims in Meiktila

NAY PYI TAW, 27 March— While Meiktila is returning to normality, relief aid from all parts of the country have flowed into relief camps.

Traffic police have stepped up the traffic rules enforcement as the roads in the town are packed with the trucks loaded with relief aid, vehicles and motorcycles, bicycles and pedestrians.

Relief aid is accepted by Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Phone Swe and officials concerned at the temporary centre to accept the relief aid established at the guest house of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications.

The relief aid which has been accepted from yesterday afternoon to this afternoon are dry noodles, assorted biscuits, coffee mix, water bottles, medicines, rice, edible oil, clothes, tea leaves and fried beans.

World Food Programme supplied 1000 bags of rice, 150 bags of gram, 4164 bottles of edible oil, 28 bags of salt and 46 bags of nutrition powder and Save the Children 8916 packs of dried noodles, 12030 water bottles to the victims.

The total cash donations from yesterday morning to this afternoon amounted to K 11,489,000.

MNA

Mandalay Region Chief Minister meets Hluttaw representatives, religious leaders, townselders in Meiktila

NAY PYI TAW, 27 March—Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint met Hluttaw representatives, religious leaders, townselders from Meiktila and representatives from relief camps at Meiktila District General Administration Department this evening.

It was attended by Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Phone Swe, Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw and Region Hluttaw representatives, members of Region government and departmental officials.

The Chief Minister elaborated on unrests and violence in Meiktila, relief and rehabilitation, security measures, accommodation of victims and cooperation of Meiktila people.

After that, those present gave advice. He urged those present to make collaboration for returning to normal in Meiktila.

MNA

Ambassador U Zaw Tun presents his credentials to Hungarian President

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March—U Zaw Tun, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Hungary, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr János Áder, President of the Republic of Hungary, on 18 March 2013, in Budapest.—*MNA*

Dignitaries at the parade to mark 68th Anniversary Armed Forces Day.

MNA

Armoured tanks take part in parade.

MNA

Missile carriers marching at the parade.—MNA

Violence, unrests occur in Okpo, Nattalin, Thegon and Zigon Townships of Bago Region

Security measures put in place

Some suspects detained, under interrogation

NAY PYI TAW, 27 March—Rioters destroyed religious buildings, shops and houses in Okpo, Nattalin, Thegon and Zigon Townships of Bago Region. security measures are being taken there to be able to avoid recurrence of unrests and some suspects were detained and they are under interrogation.

Bago Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs and party dispersed the mobs who were damaging religious building, shops and some houses in Okpo Township on 26 March afternoon.

As a mob destroyed religious building, shops and houses starting from 26 March evening in Nattalin Township, security members, district police commander and police members broke up the mob. A total of eight houses, 12 shops and one religious building were damaged in the incident. A curfew has been imposed in Nattalin Township since 5 pm today.

Likewise, a crowd of people attacked a religious building with the use of catapults at Innma village-tract in Thegon Township on 27 March morning. So police members of Thegon police station dispersed the group of people. Thanks to security measures, no more attacks occurred.

As houses and religious building were under mobs attacks on 27 March morning in Zigon Township, security members broke up the mobs. The incident left 14 houses and one religious building damaged. In connection with the incident in Zigon Township where a curfew has been put in place starting from 4 pm today, 10 suspects were detained and they were under interrogation.

Curfews have also been imposed in Gyobingauk, Okpo, Minhla, Zigon and Nattalin Townships in order to avoid recurrence of violence and unrests in Bago Region and security measures are being taken to restore peace and stability by security members and members of Myanmar Police Force in cooperation with local people. The entire people are urged to join hands with the government on the basis of the awareness of consciousness in order to prevent the spread of conflicts.

MNA

Separated families reunite in Meiktila

NAY PYI TAW, 27 March—Some separated families reunited this morning after the communal violence had separated them in Meiktila.

The reunion of the 74 separated households took place at Meiktila Education College Basic Education High School and No. 5 Basic Education High School (Shante) under the arrangement of the Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Ministry and security forces.

Currently, 7845 sufferers are taking shelter at five relief camps in Meiktila while 1303 victims are taking shelter at 10 monasteries.

MNA

Slight earthquake hits outside Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 27 March—A moderate earthquake of magnitude 6.0 Richter Scale with its epicenter outside Myanmar (Taiwan Region), about 1680 miles east-northeast of Kaba Aye seismological observatory was recorded at 8 hrs 38 min 49 sec M.S.T this morning, the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology announced.

MNA

WORLD

Germans doubt Merkel's vow on saving deposits

BERLIN, 27 March—A majority of Germans doubt Chancellor Angela Merkel's guarantee that their savings accounts are safe, an opinion poll published by *Stern* magazine and RTL TV showed on Tuesday, six months before the federal election.

In a country highly sensitive to fears of having savings wiped out, the poll found that 54 percent of Germans are now concerned about their deposits and only 41 percent believe Merkel's guarantee that their holdings are safe.

The poll of 2,504 eligible voters was taken from 18 March to 22 March, soon after Cyprus reached an initial bailout deal — that its parliament then overwhelmingly rejected — in which it would have imposed a levy on all bank depositors.

Cyprus and its international lenders have since agreed on a bailout plan that includes forcing only wealthier depositors to contribute, but the mere prospect of ordinary depositors being hit too in an emergency has alarmed many.

"The chancellor has so far reigned supreme in the euro zone crisis," *Stern* wrote. "Now her reputation as the 'Iron Chancellor' is suffering for the first time — 54 percent don't trust her promise anymore that their savings deposits are safe."

Germans tend to react strongly to any signs that their savings might be at risk. Many Germans lost much of their savings after World War Two in a 1948 currency reform, and they also saw their savings wiped out by hyper-inflation in the early 1920s.—*Reuters*

German Chancellor Angela Merkel (L) and Bavarian Social Minister Christine Haderthauer speak to media after visiting a several generations house (Mehrgenerationenhaus) "Dorflinde'' in Langenfeld in Bavaria, on 25 March, 2013.—REUTERS

Abducted Israeli, Norwegian tourists freed in Egypt

CAIRO, 27 March—An Israeli man and a Norwegian woman who were kidnapped on Friday in Egypt's governorate of South Sinai have been freed, a local security source told *Xinhua* on Tuesday.

The release came after two days of negotiations between the security authorities and the kidnappers under the mediation of tribal elders, the source said.

The freed hostages, both in good conditions, are going back to their home countries on separate ways —the Israeli man through the port of Taba adjacent to Israel and the Norwegian woman heading for Cairo for a flight home.

The security authorities confirmed that the kidnappers had been pressing for the release of their jailed family members in exchange for freeing the hostages, who were held by them in a cave area in central Sinai.

The two were abducted by armed tribesman when they were travelling on Taba-Dahb highway of South Sinai four days ago.

"Armed tribesmen intercepted the tourists' car and then forced the two tourists and their driver into their truck," but the driver was released shortly, sources told *Xinhua* after the Friday kidnapping.

Kidnapping of tourists in Sinai by Bedouins repeated lately, but almost all of them were released without casualties with the help of tribe leaders.

Xinhua

Photo taken on 26 March, 2013, shows the freed Norwegian tourist in Egypt's governorate of South Sinai. An Israeli man and a Norwegian woman who were kidnapped on Friday in South Sinai have been freed, a local security source told Xinhua on Tuesday.—XINHUA

Two soldiers killed in attack on army checkpoint in S Yemen

ADEN, 27 March—Three secessionists attacked an army checkpoint in Yemen's southern Province of al-Dhalea on Tuesday, killing at least two soldiers, a police source and some local residents told *Xinhua*.

The pro-secession gunmen attacked a key checkpoint in a eastern suburb of al-Dhalea Province and tried to take control of it, killing at least two soldiers at the scene, the source said on condition of anonymity.

Also, some local residents told *Xinhua* that the attackers, riding two motorbikes, threw two grenades toward the soldiers at the checkpoint and then fled.

Army reinforcements were later deployed around the military site, according to witnesses.

Last week, Yemeni President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi started a national dialogue to end the country's prolonged political crisis.

The talks aimed to end separatist movement in the south in order to preserve unity, draft a new constitution and pave the way for the parliamentary and presidential elections set for February 2014.

However, leaders of the separatist Southern Movement refused to join the talks, insisting that the government troops should withdraw from the south.

Xinhua

Venezuelan acting president touts technology transfer with China

CARACAS, 27 March—Acting President Nicolas Maduro on Tuesday touted the technology transfer between China and Venezuela during a visit to a Chinese-owned appliance complex.

Thanks to the efforts of late President Hugo Chavez and support and cooperation from China, the Haier industrial complex in Ocumare del Tuy, central Milanda state, was constructed, Maduro said.

There are more than 3 million Haier appliances in Venezuelan homes, including such products as televisions, refrigerators and air conditioners, he said.

The Haier complex has the capacity to produce 815,000 appliances annually, said Industry Minister Ricardo Menendez.

Noting the technology transfer and training of the Venezuelan workers at the Haier complex, Maduro said that 68 Venezuelans already have been trained in China's Haier Group.

"We love China, the Chinese people and we deeply respect the leadership of the People's Republic of China," he said.

Haier Group, a Chinese multinational consumer electronics and home appliances company, began production in Venezuela last September with a manufacturing plant and a research and technological innovation center which covers 32 hectares.—*Xinhua*

Turkish president underlines importance of PKK disarmament

ANKARA, 27 March—Turkish President Abdullah Gul stressed on Tuesday that the disarmament of the Kurdish Workers' Party, or PKK, is of vital importance for the peace of his country.

At a Press conference held with visiting Cameroonian President Paul Biya, Gul underlined that the disarmament on part of the PKK is crucial for brotherhood, peace and tranquility in Turkey.

Gul's remarks came after a recent call by PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan upon his followers to lay down weapons and withdraw from Turkey.

Earlier Tuesday, Gul and Biya signed a raft of agreements in tourism, diplomacy, defence and energy as part of their efforts to strengthen ties.

The PKK, listed as a terrorist organization by Turkey, the United States and the European Union, took up arms in 1984 in an attempt to create an ethnic homeland in southeastern Turkey. Since then, over 35,000 people have been killed in conflicts involving the group.—*Reuters*

Visitors view a Ferrari roadster during the Press preview of the 34th Bangkok International Motor Show in Bangkok, Thailand, on 26 March, 2013. The 34th Bangkok International Motor Show will be held from 27 March to 7 April.—XINHUA

Some healthcare costs may rise when "Obamacare" implemented

WASHINGTON, 27 March—President Barack Obama's top healthcare adviser acknowledged on Tuesday that costs could rise in the individual health insurance market, particularly for men and younger people, because of the landmark 2010 healthcare restructuring due to take effect next year.

US Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said definitive data on costs will not be available until later this year when private health plans become authorized to sell federally subsidized coverage on new state-based online marketplaces, known as exchanges.

"Everything is speculation. I think there's likely to be some shifting in the markets," she told reporters at the White House.

The law, also known as "Obamacare," eliminates discriminatory market practices that have imposed higher rates on women and people with medical conditions. It also limits how much insurers can charge older people. But while the changes are expected to lower costs for women, older beneficiaries and the sick, men and younger, healthier people will likely see higher rates as insurers try to hedge against continued risks.

"Women are going to see some lower costs, some men are going to see some higher costs. It's sort of a one to one shift ... some of the older customers may see a slight decline, and some of the younger ones are going to see a slight increase." Insurance premiums could rise for some with individual plans, she said, as Obama's Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act enhances the level of coverage and either eliminates or reduces the rate of price discrimination against people who are older, female or have preexisting medical conditions.

"These folks will be moving into a really fully insured product for the first time, so there may be a higher cost associated with getting into that market," Sebelius said.

But those who qualify for federal subsidies through state healthcare exchanges would still get a better deal, she said.

Her remarks coincide with growing uneasiness about possible cost increases among lawmakers and executives in the $2.8 trillion US healthcare industry.

Reuters

REGIONAL

Moderate quake strikes off East Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia

JAKARTA, 27 March—An earthquake measuring 5.6 on the Richter scale struck off East Nusa Tenggara of Indonesia earlier on Wednesday, the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency reported here.

The USGS said the quake was at 5.5 magnitude.

The quake struck at 00:23 a.m. Jakarta Time on Wednesday (1723 GMT) with epicentre at 25 km Timur Laut Sumbawa Timur of East Nusa Tenggara and with depth at 50 km under land, an official of the agency told *Xinhua* by phone.

Indonesia sits on a vulnerable quake-hit zone and is called " the Pacific Ring of Fire."—*Xinhua*

Mainline vessel of AME (Asia-Mediterranean Express) service "MV Zim China" arrives at the International Container Transhipment Terminal (ICTT) at Kochi, India, on 26 March, 2013. MV Zim China is the first transhipment mainline vessel to arrive at ICTT.
XINHUA

Japan unveils new antisubmarine patrol planes

TOKYO, 27 March—Japan's Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF) received the first two of a fleet of next generation *P-1* antisubmarine patrol aircraft on Tuesday, with the planes scheduled to be deployed at Atsugi Air Base in Kanagawa Prefecture later this month, local media reported.

The official delivery ceremony held earlier in the day in Gifu Prefecture, central Japan, heralds the beginning of the JMSDF's plans to acquire seven of the high-tech planes to be deployed by March 2014 and a total of 70 *P-1s* in the long-run, officials said.

The *P-1*s, designed by Kawasaki Heavy Industries Ltd in cooperation with the Defence Ministry, will replace the current over 80 aging *P-3 Orion* patrol planes used by the JMSDF.

The new planes will undergo two years of operation flight testing, before being fully deployed on patrol duties, officials said.

The *P-1* development started in 2001 and planed to finish in March 2012. The process was delayed for one year due to cracks found in its wings and bodies.

Xinhua

Indonesian President urges speeding up efforts to achieve MDGs target

JAKARTA, 27 March — Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono on Tuesday requested all shareholders to accelerate the efforts to achieve MDGs goals within the time ahead of the deadline in 2015, local Press reported.

President Yudhoyono made the statement in his speech at the opening of MDGs award ceremony in Bali. "Let's use the rest of this (about) three years left as good as possible to speed up and strengthen the achievement of the targets. Please do not make the efforts become slower because of the talks on frame works post 2015 has kicked off," he was quoted by *investor daily* as saying.

President Yudhoyono pushed all the shareholders to set up a better coordination mechanism to achieve the eight targets of MDGs.

The MDGs target comprised the efforts to achieve people welfare, including in the sector of education, health of mother and child, prevention of contagious disease. —*Xinhua*

A visitor looks at dresses made of bamboo fiber during the China International Clothing & Accessories Fair (CHIC) in Beijing, capital of China, on 26 March, 2013. Over 1,000 clothing brands from 18 countries and regions took part in the four-day event which kicked off on Tuesday.
XINHUA

Terrorism claims 49,000 lives in Pakistan since 9/11

ISLAMABAD, 27 March — Pakistan's security agencies have told the country's top court that terrorism has claimed 49, 000 people, including 15,000 security personnel since the 9/11 attacks in the United States.

A report prepared by the security agencies was presented in the Supreme Court on Tuesday. It revealed that suicide attacks in the militants-infested tribal regions killed over 9,000 people and security men over the past five years.

The report which was tabled before the apex court by lawyer of the premier intelligence of Pakistan also disclosed that 3,000 militants were also killed and 1,228 were injured in military operations in the tribal regions in five years.

A total of 235 suicide attacks, 9,257 rocket attacks and 4,256 bomb attacks were carried out in the tribal regions and northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province in five years. Over 200 member of the pro-government peace committees also lost lives in the attacks by militants, who also attacked over 1, 000 schools in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The highest number of casualties occurred in 2009, the report said.

The armed forces were deployed in the tribal regions in aid of civil power as civilian structure including the local police was unable to handle the challenge and threat on the vast territories of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The militants had threatened security of the state and challenged the writ of the government.

The document said that as many as 1,479 soldiers were killed and 5,745 others were injured from 2008 to 2013. The report said that those died include 675 men of the paramilitary Frontier Corps while 1,978 others were injured. A total of 1,717 policemen lost their lives in five years.

The number of civilians killed in the five years stood at 5,152 with 5,678 others injured, it said.

Giving the details of target killings, the report revealed that some 243 people were killed and 275 others were injured in the last three years. It disclosed that 1,030 schools and colleges were destroyed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa from 2009 to 2013.—*Xinhua*

An archer dressed in a traditional Javanese costume competes in a traditional archery match in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, on 26 March, 2013. The event was held in commemoration of the birthday of Sri Sultan Hamengkubuwono X, the current monarch of the historic Yogyakarta Sultanate in Indonesia.—XINHUA

Australian police cracks down air mail drug importation

CANBERRA, 27 March —Australian law enforcement agencies have completed a blitz on drug importation via the international mail system, arresting 20 people and seizing 18.1 kg of illicit drugs, the Australian Federal Police said in a statement on Tuesday.

Some 21 varieties of drugs worth 8.2 million Australian dollars (8.52 million US dollars) were found concealed in cushions, a handbag, prints, a jade dragon, cosmetic brushes, birthday cards and other letters and parcels in the operation between federal and state police along with Customs officers in recent weeks. Officers executed 38 search warrants across Australia with more than 127,000 dollars in cash seized, the agencies said.

Among those arrested are a Victorian man facing charges for allegedly importing 1.36 kg of ice. Customs and Border Protection Regional Director, Graham Krisohos, said that Customs and Border Protection and its partner agencies will continue to target drug importation via the mail system.

Xinhua

Japan, India vow to promote bilateral ties

TOKYO, 27 March—Japan and India on Tuesday agreed to promote the two nations' strategic and global partnership, especially in economic and security areas.

Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida told a Press conference here that Japan and India are strategic and global partners sharing democratic values and strategic interests, and the mutually complementary development with India is of "vital importance" to Japan's national interests.

After talks with visiting Indian Foreign Minister Salman Khurshid, Kishida said that the two sides agreed to enhance bilateral political dialogues such as the Japan-India "two plus two" dialogue at the vice-minister level and a Japan-India-US trilateral dialogue.

The two countries also agreed to promote cooperation to ensure maritime safety and security through joint drills and Japan-India maritime affairs dialogue, he said.

Japan also unveiled a 220-billion-yen loan (about 2.33 billion US dollars) to India for infrastructure construction and a 71- billion-yen loan (about 753.17 million dollars) for the subway project in Inidia's economic hub of Mumbai.

Khurshid appreciated Japan's economic assistance to his country and emphasized that both nations look forward to further strengthening and expanding their strategic and global partnership.

He said bilateral security cooperation is significant and the two countries will expand cooperation in the Asian-Pacific region.

The two nations will also discuss cooperation on nuclear energy for civilian use, while Japan will also invite 1,200 Indian youths to visit Japan.

Khurshid arrived in Japan on Tuesday for a three-day visit and is expected to meet with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Wednesday.—*Xinhua*

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REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
National Community Driven Development Project
IDA Grant H814-MM
Assignment Title: Technical Assistance for Mainstreaming Gender Aspects
Reference No.: C-5

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the National Community Driven Development Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for the hiring of consulting services. The Project is being implemented by the Department of Rural Development (DRD). DRD is hiring a gender consultant who will support it in mainstreaming gender aspects into the project. Specifically, the consultant is expected to assist DRD in the following services ("Services"):

a. Design gender awareness training and manual with modules appropriate to the different project stakeholders, namely DRD, the Department of Social Welfare, the township aid management sub-committees, the village tract forums, community facilitators and village volunteers, and the CDD Gender Network. The Department of Social Welfare has already developed a gender awareness training module. The consultant will adapt the existing module to the project;
b. Develop a training plan for undertaking the training sessions;
c. Provide gender training for the project at all levels. The consultant will cooperate with the union level technical assistance for organizing the training sessions;
d. Provide inputs on gender reporting, monitoring and tracking regarding the project's gender related indicators.
e. Assist DRD in preparing half-yearly progress report on the status of gender mainstreaming in the project, and prepare an annual report on lessons learned from project implementation;
f. Assist DRD in organizing an annual workshop for the CDD Gender Network to share experience and lessons learned;
g. Provide support to DRD for the organization of a "development marketplace" on gender; and
h. Undertake other activities to enhance gender equality under the project as may be required by DRD.

The Department of Rural Development invites eligible consulting firms and NGOs ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information as detail and complete as possible demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The following qualifications are required:

1. Experience in developing appropriate gender training, conducting gender analysis, undertaking gender awareness training, and mainstreaming gender aspects in development projects for at least 5 years
2. Previous work experience in Myanmar, knowledge of the local socio-economic context and involvement in community development projects in Myanmar
3. Availability of staff with relevant work experience who are all fluent in Myanmar language so as to be able to undertake high-quality training and work with all relevant project stakeholders.

The assignment period will be for five years. An annual renewal of the contract will be subject to the satisfactory performance of the consultant as assessed by DRD.
The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers [January 2011] ("Consultant Guidelines"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
Consultants may associate with other NGOs/firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications.
A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Selection based on Consultants' Qualification (CQS) method set out in the Consultant Guidelines.
Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours from 09:00 to 16:00. Expressions of Interest must be delivered in written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, fax, or email) by April 8, 2013.

Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Border Affairs
Attn: U Myint Oo, Deputy Director General
Chairperson of the Procurement Committee
National Community Driven Development Project
Department of Rural Development
Ministry of Border Affairs
Office Number 14
Nay Pyi Taw
Myanmar
Fax: +95-67-409413
Email to all these email addresses: myint.oo.dda@gmail.com; kzaw.dda@gmail.com; naing.7.koko@gmail.com.

Bank Holiday

All Banks will be closed on 1st April (Monday) 2013, Bank Holiday Under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar

INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

1. Open Tender are invited by Myanma Posts and Telecommunications for lease of Extended C-Band Bandwidth (80 MHz) for the existing services (Ipstar System) of Domestic Satellite System and (10 MHz) of standard C-Band Bandwidth for the existing VSAT services of Domestic Satellite System which will be paid in foreign Currency.
2. Tender closing date is (11.4.2013) (16:30 Hr) and tender documents are available at the Head Office Building of Overseas Communications Department, Kabaraye Pagoda Road, near 8 miles junction, Mayangone Township, during office hours.
3. Please get price quotation when we call you the day for Price Bargaining.
4. For the further details, please call 01-650118 during office hours.

Myanma Posts and Telecommunications

***Cast member Tilda Swinton attends a news conference for the film "Moonrise Kingdom'', by Director Wes Anderson, in competition at the 65th Cannes Film Festival, on 16 May, 2012.*—REUTERS**

Actress Tilda Swinton sleeps in glass box for NY museum performance

NEW YORK, 27 March— Visitors to the Museum of Modern Art in New York had the chance to see an unusual performance on Saturday: Oscar-winning actress Tilda Swinton sleeping in a glass box. For a performance piece call "The Maybe," Swinton wore a light blue shirt, dark blue pants and shoes while lying on white bedding with eyeglasses beside her.

"Living artist, glass, steel, mattress, pillow, linen, water, and spectacles," a description card said.

First performed in London in 1995, the performance piece will be repeated periodically throughout this year, museum spokeswoman Margaret Doyle said. "The nature of the concept is that it not be announced in advance, nor publicized by the museum," Doyle said. Swinton, 52, won an Oscar for best supporting actress in the 2007 film "Michael Clayton." Other credits include the title role in "Julia," "Burn After Reading" and "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button."

Reuters

Musical "Book of Mormon" opens in London to mixed reviews

LONDON, 27 March— The controversial Tony Awards-winning musical "The Book of Mormon" opened in London to mixed reviews on Friday in its debut outside the United States. The musical, by the creators of the animated TV comedy "South Park", is an expletive-filled satire of two Mormon missionaries from Salt Lake City sent to Africa to win converts.

Writers Trey Parker and Matt Stone have the Mormons confront a thuggish one-eyed warlord terrorising terminally ill villagers in Uganda in a world where AIDS is dominant and female circumcision rife. The show, by Parker and Stone in collaboration with "Avenue Q" co-creator Robert Lopez, opened on Broadway in March 2011 to wide acclaim and won nine Tony Awards, Broadway's highest honours.

The musical opened in London's West End Theatre district on Thursday after a month of previews with a host of celebrities in attendance, including "Homeland" actor Damian Lewis and actress Kate Winslet with husband Ned RocknRoll.

Aggressive promotion, with billboards across London, and limited ticket sales helped create a buzz about the show at a time when theatres are using various schemes to fill seats and draw in new audiences. Tickets to evening performances are sold out until June with a new batch of tickets released on Friday. The show's promoters are also holding a daily lottery which hands out 20 tickets.

Figures from the Society of London Theatre showed they earned 530 million pounds in 2012, a marginal rise on 2011, when attendance nudged up to 14 million.

Musicals dominated the West End last year with attendance of 8 million, a fall of 3 percent on 2011.

"The Book of Mormon", starring American actors Gavin Creel and Jared Gertner as the two mis-matched missionaries, received a mixed reception from London critics.

Theatre critic Henry Hitchings from London's *Evening Standard newspaper* said some theatregoers were bound to find the show puerile or offensive.

"Yet this is an affectionate portrait of culture clash and friendship, which parodies several classic musicals," he wrote, giving the show a four out of five-star rating.—*Reuters*

***Actor Andrew Rannells performs a scene from 'Book of Mormon during the American Theatre Wing's 65th annual Tony Awards ceremony in New York, on 21 June, 2011.*—REUTERS**

SPORTS

Ibrahimovic's Champions League ban cut so free to play

*Paris Saint-Germain's Zlatan Ibrahimovic celebrates after scoring a goal against Nancy during their French Ligue 1 soccer match at the Parc des Princes Stadium in Paris on 9 March, 2013.—*Reuters

Geneva, 27 March— Paris St Germain striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic will be free to face former club Barcelona in the Champions League next week after his two-match suspension was halved on appeal, UEFA said in a statement on Tuesday.

The volatile Swede was sent off in the last 16 first leg match with Valencia after lunging at full back Andres Guardado with his studs up in PSG's 2-1 victory in Spain. He served the first match of the ban in the second leg. PSG host the first leg of their quarter-final tie on 2 April with the return in Barcelona on 10 April.—*Reuters*

Forlan dropped as Uruguay reshuffle team to face Chile

Uruguay's Diego Forlan attends a training session at Khalifa stadium in Doha on 5 Feb, 2013. Reuters

Santiago, 27 March — Diego Forlan, Golden Ball winner as the 2010 World Cup's best player, has been dropped for Uruguay's critical qualifier away to Chile on Tuesday.

Top Serie A scorer Edinson Cavani, a substitute in Uruguay's disappointing 1-1 draw at home to Paraguay on Friday, was named instead by coach Oscar Tabarez on Monday to partner Luis Suarez up front.

"We need to improve a lot in what the team does when they take possession of the ball," Tabarez told a news conference in Santiago following Uruguay's last practice on Chilean soil.

To this end, Tabarez picked Gaston Ramirez in place of Cristian Rodriguez to add ball possession and creativity in midfield.

Suarez scored all four goals when Uruguay were in better form and crushed Chile 4-0 in Montevideo in November 2011.

The South American champions have struggled for goals in their last five qualifiers, scoring only three and taking just two points.

They are not noted for their generosity at the back but have shipped 13 goals in five matches and 19 in 10 overall, the worst defence along with Chile and Bolivia. "We've committed a lot of defensive errors that cost us points. A performance often is related to results (and) a positive result is what can change everything at the moment," said Tabarez. "We need points urgently because we are among several teams fighting for the fourth and fifth place," Tabarez said.

Reuters

Supporter on the pitch cost Russia victory, says Capello

Russia football team manager Fabio Capello

London, 27 March—A fan who ran on to the pitch in the closing minutes of Russia's friendly with Brazil on Monday caused his players to lose concentration and concede a last-minute goal that cost them victory, according to Russia coach Fabio Capello.

Russia were just minutes away from their first win against the five-time world champions in their fifth meeting against them since the end of the Soviet era, but allowed Fred to score with a tap-in in the 90th minute to give Brazil a 1-1 draw in front of 35,000 fans at Stamford Bridge.

Although upset about the fan, who was quickly bundled away by stewards, Capello said he was happy with the result. "I am happy with the way we played, we showed a lot of team spirit," the Italian told a packed media room. "My only disappointment is that after a supporter came on the pitch my players lost their concentration and against Brazil you cannot lose your concentration." Earlier another supporter had run on the pitch and was also quickly bundled away by security, but when Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari was told what Capello had said, he replied with a story of his own.

"When I was a coach in Portugal we were playing against Estonia and a very beautiful girl came on the pitch topless, everyone was looking at her — even me. At the time the game was 0-0, and we ended up winning it 2-0.—*Reuters*

Azerbaijan's Mahir Shukurov (L) fights for the ball with Portugal's Fabio Coentrao during their 2014 World Cup qualifying soccer match at the Tofig Bahramov Stadium in Baku on 26 March, 2013. Reuters

Portugal revive World Cup hopes with 2-0 win in Azerbaijan

Baku, 27 March — Under-pressure Portugal shrugged off the absence of Cristiano Ronaldo by securing a 2-0 victory over 10-man Azerbaijan in a World Cup Group F qualifier in Baku thanks to goals from Bruno Alves and Hugo Almeida on Tuesday.

The win means Portugal, who have not missed a major international tournament since the 1998 World Cup in France, moved onto 11 points from six matches.

The result also puts an end to a five-game winless streak which Portugal had failed to break last Friday when they stumbled to 3-3 draw in Israel.

Ronaldo, watching in the stands because of a suspension picked up in Tel Aviv, saw Azerbaijan's defensive heroics fall apart after forward Rauf Aliyev was sent off for a second yellow card early into the second half.

Portugal took advantage soon after when Bruno Alves, who scored the opener in Israel, sprinted towards a Joao Moutinho corner and towered above the Azeri defence to head in after 63 minutes.

Substitute Hugo Almeida then finished off Azerbaijan with an easy header in the box from a Fabio Coentrao cross with 10 minutes to go.

Reuters

Sharapova powers on in search of elusive Miami win

Key Biscayne, (Florida), 27 March— Maria Sharapova powered her way past another opponent at the Sony Open in Miami on Monday as the Russian world number two remains on target to finally claim a tournament that has brought her plenty of heartbreak.

The third seed shrugged off the challenge of Klara Zakopalova, easing to a 6-2, 6-2 victory over the Czech to advance to the quarter-finals and inch closer making it fifth time lucky in Florida.

Sharapova was beaten in the last two finals after also falling in the tournament decider in 2005 and 2006, and her determination to go one better this year was evident against Zakopalova, who was helpless in the face of the Russian's power.

Earlier, top seed Serena Williams stared defeat in the face before mounting an exciting comeback to overcome Slovakia's Dominika Cibulkova.

Williams trailed by a set and 4-1 before she reeled off the next five games and ultimately took the match 2-6, 6-4, 6-2.

"This particular time I just thought to myself, 'I've been down worse. It's nothing new. Just keep fighting," Williams told reporters.

"I never give up. It doesn't matter whether it's in life or on the tennis court, I keep fighting. That's what I kept doing today."

Reuters

*Russia's Maria Sharapova returns a shot to the Czech Republic's Klara Zakopalova in their women's singles fourth round match at the Sony Open tennis tournament in Key Biscayne, Florida on 25 March, 2013.—*Reuters

GENERAL

Webber and Vettel partnership doomed, says Briatore

KUALA LUMPUR, 27 March—Feuding team mates Mark Webber and Sebastian Vettel will not stay together at Formula One champions Red Bull after this season, according to Italian Flavio Briatore.

Briatore, the former Renault team boss who has been part of Webber's management throughout his grand prix career, told Italy's RAI radio that he had spoken to the Australian by telephone on Monday after the Malaysian Grand Prix.

He said Webber was still furious with triple world champion Vettel winning at Sepang after ignoring team orders and overtaking him in the closing laps.

"I don't think the relationship can be sewn together again," added Briatore.

Asked if he expected one of the two to leave the team at the end of 2013, the Italian replied: "For sure. Last year already there were problems."

Red Bull Formula One driver Sebastian Vettel (R) of Germany and team mate Mark Webber of Australia stand on the winnerss podium after the Malaysian F1 Grand Prix at Sepang International Circuit on 24 March, 2013. —REUTERS

Webber, who will be 37 this year, is out of contract at the end of the season while Vettel is tied to Red Bull until at least the end of 2014.

He and Vettel have had several flare-ups since the start of their pairing in 2009, including a collision at the 2010 Turkish Grand Prix that cost Webber a victory and sent the German out of the race.

Webber has long maintained that the team favours Vettel, despite their insistence that the two have equal status.

Briatore said Malaysia had showed that Vettel was in charge at Red Bull, rather than team principal Christian Horner.

Webber's father Alan calmed speculation that his son could stay away from the third round of the championship in China on 14 April.—*Reuters*

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(28-3-13 09:30 am ~ 29-3-13 09:30 am) MST

* News
* Conversation with Kevim Machenzie
* News
* SHURE Introduces New Features for better Entertainment Industry
* Wearing Earrings
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* Let's strive for Revitalization of one Asia's Famous University
* Rendezvous for Fine Arts Lovers
* News
* Single Market...Common Standard
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* Myanmar Academy of Arts & Science Education in Germany
* News
* Culture Stage
* Teak-tissue Culture
* News
* Wearing Earrings
* Let's strive for Revitalization of one Asia's Famous University
* News
* Electroni City (Solo Art Exhibition)
* Myanmar Movies "Never Say Goodbye"

Myanmar TV

(28-3-2013, Thursday)

7:00 am
1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

7:25 am
2. To Be Healthy Exercise

7:30 pm
3. Morining News

7:40 pm
4. International News

7:50 pm
5. People Talk

8:05 pm
6. Dance of National Races

8:15 pm
7. Documentary

8:25 pm
8. Dance Variety

8:35 pm
9. Musical Programme

8:40 pm
10. Road to SEA Games (Yachting-2)

4:00 pm
11. Opening Song

4:05 pm
12. Songs For Upholding National Spirit

4:10 pm
13. Musical Programme

4:20 pm
14. Cute Little Dancer

4:25 pm
15. University Of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - First Year (Law)

4:50 pm
16. Mynamar Traditional Performing Arts Competition

5:00 pm
17. Teleplay (Traffic)

5:15 pm
18. Science & Environment

5:20 pm
19. Documentary

5:25 pm
20. India Dramma Series

5:50 pm
21. People Talk

6:00 pm
22. Evening News

6:15 pm
23. Weather Report

7:00 pm
24. News

7:10 pm
25. TV Drama Series

8:00 pm
26. News
27. International News
28. Weather Report
29. CLEVER
30. Nostalgia to Myanma Cultural Arts

10:00 pm
31. News
32. TV Drama Series

Food production in danger in Madagascar due to locust plague

ROME, 27 March— The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on Monday warned that an ongoing severe locust plague in Madagascar was threatening the country's next cropping seasons and the food security of more than half the country's population.

FAO said on its official website that more than 22 million dollars was needed for emergency funding in Madagascar by June to start fighting the plague, adding that a three-year strategy should be set, which requires an additional 19 million dollars.

"Failure to respond now will lead to massive food aid requirements later on," said Dominique Burgeon, Director of the FAO Emergency and Rehabilitation Division. FAO estimates that about two-thirds of Madagascar will be affected by the locust plague by September 2013 if no action is taken.

The plague now threatens 60 percent of Madagascar's rice production, which is the main staple in the island country in the Indian Ocean, where 80 percent of the population lives on less than a dollar per day.

In the poorest southern regions, where the plague started, around 70 percent of households are food insecure. According to the FAO, the emergency funding has to arrive in time to allow FAO, together with the Madagascan Ministry of Agriculture, to launch a full-scale spraying campaign in the country.—*Xinhua*

Tourists take photos of cherry blossoms in the Alishan Scenic Area in Chiayi, southeast China's Taiwan, on 26 March, 2013.
XINHUA

Serbia seeks permanent solution for Kosovo

BELGRADE, 27 March— Serbian President Tomislav Nikolic on Tuesday said his country was negotiating with the hope of reaching a permanent solution with Kosovo, reported Radio Television Serbia (RTS).

"Serbia needs and offers full cooperation with EULEX" to achieve a lasting solution, said Nikolic after meeting with Bernd Borchardt, head of the EULEX mission in Kosovo.

Borchardt said he had made his first official visit to Belgrade since assuming the position at the helm of EULEX in February to ensure "better cooperation" with Serbia. He noted EULEX remained "neutral" with respect to Kosovo as it worked toward the establishment of an orderly society in Kosovo. EULEX focuses on maintaining freedom of movement, security and cracking down on organized crime in Kosovo, according to Borchardt.

Serbia steadfastly refuses to recognize Kosovo's unilateral declaration of independence in 2008 and insists Kosovo is part of its territory. Most leading European countries and the United States have exchanged diplomats with Pristina.

Xinhua

A staff member adjusts an oil price indicator at a gas station in Yinchuan, capital of northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, on 27 March, 2013. China cut the retail prices of gasoline by 310 yuan (49.43 US dollars) per tonne and diesel by 300 yuan per tonne starting on Wednesday. The National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) also announced a new pricing system which will adjust the prices of oil products every 10 working days to better reflect changes in the global oil market.—XINHUA

Over 100 vehicles involved in traffic accident in Austria

VIENNA, 27 March— Thirty trucks and 70 cars were involved in a traffic accident in Lower Austria on the Western motorway, Austria's second longest motorway, local fire brigade said on Tuesday.

One people died and several injured in the multiple motor collision, happening along a distance of two kilometres on the motorway, which is said to result from both the icy road conditions and the violation of traffic rules.

One bus was also involved in the accident but no passengers was injured.

"A possible reason for the collision are the icy road conditions," said the spokesman of the local fire brigade. Snowy weather has led to 70 road accidents in Austria since this Monday morning.—*Xinhua*

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The New Light of Myanmar

Thursday, 28 March, 2013

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Thayay Sithu Min Aung Hlaing inspects Military columns of the 68th Anniversary Armed Forces Day.

(News on page 1)

MNA

Defence Services Commander-in-Chief hosts dinner to mark 68th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Thayay Sithu Min Aung Hlaing at the reception to mark Armed Forces Day.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 27 March—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Thayay Sithu Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla hosted a reception and dinner at the open hall outside Zeyar Thiri Beikman to mark the 68th Anniversary Armed Forces Day. The dinner was attended by Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Tin Aye, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Thiri Pyanchi Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, chairpersons of Hluttaw affairs committees, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Thayay Sithu Hla Htay Win and wife, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and wife, Commander-in-Chief (Air) and wife, senior military officers from the Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office and their wives, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command and deputy ministers, the parade commander of the 68th Armed Forces Day, military attaches, faculties and students from university training corps, artistes and guests. Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Thayay Sithu Min Aung Hlaing cordially greeted those present.

During the dinner, the Myawaddy Music Band of the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Warfare entertained the dignitaries with songs.

After the dinner, the music band and artistes from mobile public relations troops performed cultural dances.

MNA

Prize winning companies awarded in 68th Anniversary Armed Forces parade

Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win presents third model company award to Tatmadaw (Air) company.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 27 March— Parade companies that won prizes in the 68th Armed Forces Day parade were awarded at the new parade ground, here, this morning. Chairman of the Leading Committee for Observance of the 68th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Thiri Pyanchi Yar Pyae presented parade prizes to companies representing the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the Office of Chief of Air Defence, the Directorate of Artillery Force, the Directorate of Armoured Force, Myanmar Red Cross Society, Myanmar Fire Brigade and Myanmar Police Force, the best flag bearer company award and the best military band award to those of Bayintnaung Column.

Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thiri Pyanchi Khin Zaw Oo gave second prizes to the respective winning companies. Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Thayay Sithu Hla Htay Win presented first, second and third model company awards to respective companies.—*MNA*

Cash and kind donated for riot sufferers

NAY PYI TAW, 27 March—Wellwishers donated cash and kind for victims taking shelter at relief camps in Meiktila this morning.

Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint accepted the donations which include K 5 million, clothes, rice, energy drinks and drinking water.

MNA