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President U Thein Sein vows to cooperate with Finland in environmental conservation, resources mapping

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March—President U Thein Sein visited Vuosaari Port in Helsinki of Finland yesterday.

Director of the port Mr Jukka Kallio briefed the President on the history of the port, environmental conservation and establishment of Business Park near the port.

The construction of the port started in January 2003 was completed in November, 2008. West Harbour and North Harbour of the port were demolished in urbanization project.

The President said Myanmar is planning three deep sea ports and expressed his willingness to cooperate with Finland in freight handling and environmental conservation.

The President also visited Geological Survey of Finland where Director-General Professor Mr Elias Ekdahl elaborated on the background history,

green mining and Finland's compilation of the map of natural resources. Finland is helping 40 countries draw their natural resources map.

The President said that Myanmar has no systematic map of natural resources despite rich mineral resources and vowed to cooperate with Finland in the field.

The director-general conducted the President round the geological booth and hosted a lunch to the President and party.

The President also met families of Myanmar national races including Kayan, Chin, Bamar, Mon and Rakhine at the government guest house in Helsinki in the evening and posed for a documentary photo with them.

In speaking to the Myanmar families, the President called for their homecoming and cooperation in the country's bid for development, saying the job opportunities would be



President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo together with families of Myanmar embassy in Helsinki.—MNA

President U Thein Sein visits Geological Survey of Finland.—MNA

raised as Myanmar becomes a more vibrant economy.

The Myanmar nationals raised the questions on political, economic and social conditions in Myanmar which were answered by the President.

The President also visited Temppeleaukio Temple in Helsinki.

He also met Suomen Kuvalehti Weekly's Ms Katri Merikallio at the government guest house in the evening.—MNA

Meeting on energy development held

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March—"The Ministry of Energy is aiming at energy and electric sectors development. Today's meeting is to focus on adopting priority works from short- and long-term plans for energy development," said Energy Development Committee Chairman Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay at the committee's 1st coordination meeting at the ministry, here, yesterday.

The meeting was attended by committee members deputy ministers and directors-general from the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, the Ministry of Electric Power,

the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Industry, the Ministry of Mines and the Ministry of Science and Technology, officials of respective ministries, Myanmar Engineering Society and Myanma Renewable Energy Association and experts.

Those present discussed forming of renewable energy committee, seeking ways for wider use of lamp and panel by the people, exploring oil and gas to fulfill the electricity demand of the State and implementing heavy hydropower plants and seeking sector-wise cooperation from respective ministries.

MNA



PSM Governing Body on study tour of media industry in Philippines

YANGON, 3 March—Chairman of Public Service Newspaper Governing Body U Ye Tint, in company with members U Tin Kha and U

Kyaw Zaw Naing left here for Philippines to observe the media industry there from 4 to 9 March.

MNA

Significant night temperatures (3-3-2013)

Chauk	42°C
Bawlakhe	42°C
Taungdingyi	41°C

Woman died in hospital after accidentally swallowing herbicide powder

THONGWA, 3 March — A 24-year-old woman died in Yangon General Hospital on 13 February after she accidentally swallowed a few amount of herbicide powder while she tore a packet of herbicide powder with her teeth four days ago.

The victim was identified as Ma Thet Thet Wai of Azatwa village in Thongwa Township.

She accidentally swallowed the herbicide powder while tearing the packet with her teeth on 9 February with the aim of

spraying the plants in the field.

She was taken to Yangon General Hospital as a drink of water made her vomit at Thongwa Hospital where she was sent to first after the accident happened to her.

Kyemon

Derailment happens to Dawei-Yangon express down-train in Kyaikto Township



THATON, 3 March — A derailment happened to Dawei-Yangon express down-train No (176) at a place between mile post Nos (93/11) and (93/16) near

Mokkamu village in Kyaikto Township of Mon State at about 4.30 am yesterday. When the left wheel of a first class coach of the train left the track, the first class coach

and the last coach of the train overturned left side.

Official concerned rushed there and carried out necessary measures to resume the train service. There was no injury in the train derailment, it is learnt.

Kyemon

Oil well fire hurts one worker in Padaukpin oilfield in Thayet Township

THAYET, 3 March — A fire broke out at an oil drilling field of Shwe Yarhi company in Padaukpin Region of Thayet Township of Magway Region at about 2.15 pm on 17 February.

The fire started in an oil well No (5) while drawing crude oil from the well. Worker Kyaw Hla, 35,

of Nyaungdon village of Pakokku Township suffered injuries to both his hands and chest in the fire.

The victim is being given medical treatment at Pyay Hospital after he was transferred from Thayet District People's Hospital due to his serious injuries.

Kyemon



Cash donation for six-storey Sangha Hospital in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March — The second cash donation ceremony for construction of the six-storey Sangha Hospital which was mainly financed by Shwe Family Foundation was held on the ground floor of the building on Bo Tauk Htain street in Mingala ward of Pyinmana in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 26 February. It was attended by members of Sangha led by Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Kavisara of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Mahawithudayama Zaykon monastery, Union Minister at the President Office Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area U Thein Nyunt, Deputy Minister for

Grocery fire in Tachilek

TACHILEK, 3 March — A fire broke out at a grocery store which was being kept open at a house on Bogyoke street in Hsansiard ward of Tachilek at about 10.30 pm on 26 February. The fire started from the overheated live wire of electric board in the store. A shower of sparks from the board had set fire to other materials and swept through the grocery, destroying groceries worth K 30000.

Fire crew accompanied by three fire engines and one water bowser put out the fire in cooperation with local people at about 10.40 pm.

U Hsai Sam, the grocer, was charged with the negligence of fire by Tachilek police station.

Kyemon

Surf plunges from the bridge, killing pregnant woman

MEIKTILA, 3 March — A car accident happened to a Surf driving at breakneck speed at Ngwarsarngote bridge on Yangon-Mandalay Highway in Meiktila Township at about 11 pm on 26 February, causing one pregnant woman dead.

The Surf driven by Aung Myo Han, 21, of Shwechi ward in Pyinmana Township came off the road and plunged headlong to the ground from the 30 feet high bridge after hitting the

railing of the bridge.

Ma Pyae Phyo Wai, 24, wife of the driver had got serious injury and she was pronounced dead on the way to Meiktila Hospital. The victim was heavily pregnant in the time of accident.

Police Inspector Min Lwin and police members of Thigon Police Station rushed there and gave necessary assistance. Thigon Police Station filed a lawsuit against driver Aung Myo Han. — *Kyemon*



Man killed in hit-and-run accident on Kyaikwaing Pagoda Street in Yangon

YANGON, 3 March — A man who was carrying out sanitation work on the right side of Kyaikwaing Pagoda road in Mayangon Township was knocked down by a vehicle driving from east to west. He was killed on the spot at about 1.30 am on 23 February.

accepted cash donations of wellwishers.

At the today's cash donation ceremony, 52 wellwishers donated K207.19 million for construction of the Sangha hospital.

MNA

The fatal accident occurred in front of Kanbawza Bank near Ye Yan Aung bus-stop on Kyaikwaing Pagoda road in ward-3 of the township. The investigation is ongoing to identify the name of hit-and-run driver by Mayangon police station that opened the case.

Before the tragic accident happened to Myo Min, 36, he was giving a helping hand in the sanitation task of his wife Tin Mar Oo, a temporary staff of YCDC, as his wife was ill. — *Kyemon*

WORLD

Netanyahu gets 14 more days to form new Israeli government



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (L) and Israeli President Shimon Peres attend a brief ceremony at the president's residence in Jerusalem on 2 March, 2013.—REUTERS

JERUSALEM, 3 March—Israeli President Shimon Peres on Saturday gave Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu an additional 14 days to try to form a new government after he was unable to complete the task during an initial 28-day period.

Talks with potential partners have been

deadlocked since elections on 22 January and if he is unable to form a government by 16 March a new poll could be called—a delay that also puts into question a planned visit by US President Barack Obama.

Netanyahu's Likud-Beitenu won 31 of the Knesset's 120 seats—an

eroded lead that forced him to cast a wide net for partners while juggling their disparate demands.

During the 28-day period, Netanyahu managed to forge a pact only with the party of former foreign minister, Tzipi Livni, whose six-member faction "The Movement" has given him 37 seats, way short of the minimum 61 needed to confirm a new coalition.

In a brief statement following his meeting with Peres on Saturday night, Netanyahu hinted that at least one potential coalition partner refused to sit alongside others.

Netanyahu has faced demands from the parties that placed second and fourth, Yesh Atid (There is a Future) and Bayit Yehudi (Jewish Home), to slash mass exemptions from military conscription and cut welfare stipends to

ultra-Orthodox Jews.

In coalition talks on Friday with Bayit Yehudi, Netanyahu's chief negotiator said the right-wing party was unwilling to sit alongside ultra-Orthodox parties but Bayit Yehudi officials denied this.

Although he did not name Bayit Yehudi or Yesh Atid as the reason for his inability to form a coalition, Netanyahu said some parties were boycotting others.

"In these past four weeks I tried to form the broadest possible government ... I think the public is prepared to accept (demands by other partners) but the main reason that I have not managed to complete the task by today is ... because there is a boycott of a certain sector," he said.

Reuters

Mexico's ruling party opens door to tax, energy changes

MEXICO CITY, 3 March—Mexico's ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party on Saturday paved the way for possible tax hikes and an overhaul of state oil giant Pemex as it seeks to spur growth in Latin America's second-biggest economy. PRI delegates from across Mexico voted to change the party's platform during a congress in Mexico City, lifting a ban on imposing value-added tax (VAT) on food and medicines and giving it scope to open up Pemex to more private capital.

President Enrique Pena

Nieto wanted the changes so he has more room to manoeuvre on boosting Mexico's low tax take and revamping its flagging oil industry.

PRI Congressman Javier Trevino said the changes would allow Mexico to modernize its tax system and energy sector, and give it a chance to devote more resources to helping the poor.

"This is a good signal," he said.

The centrist PRI lacks a majority in Congress, and is likely to face months of tough negotiation before



Mexico's President Enrique Pena Nieto looks on during Flag Day celebrations at Campo Marte in Mexico City on 24 Feb, 2013. REUTERS

it can lay out detailed plans on tax and energy reform. Those measures are expected to be presented in the second half of this year.

No party has had a majority in Congress since 1997, hindering efforts to enact major change on tax and energy law.

But Pena Nieto surprised many critics when he unveiled a broad pact with the main opposition

parties to work together on economic reform shortly after he took office in December.

PRI financial experts are looking at ways of raising the Mexican tax take—currently the lowest in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development as a proportion of gross domestic product—by up to six points of GDP.

Reuters

Egypt needs to fix economy, strike IMF deal

CAIRO, 3 March—US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Saturday it is vital that Egypt revive its economy and that the country's fractious political parties reach agreement on painful economic reforms to secure an IMF loan.

The country's foreign currency reserves have dived to little more than a third of levels before the 2011 revolution and the budget deficit is soaring as a sliding Egyptian pound pushes up the cost of state subsidies for imported fuel and food. "It is paramount, essential, urgent that the Egyptian economy get stronger, that it gets back on its feet," Kerry told Egyptian and US business executives in

Cairo. "It's clear to us that the IMF arrangement needs to be reached." The government of President Mohamed Mursi said on Thursday it would invite an IMF team to reopen talks on a \$4.8 billion loan that was agreed last November but put on hold at Cairo's request during street violence the following month. Two years after the overthrow of Hosni Mubarak, the most populous Arab nation is deeply divided with many opposition parties promising to boycott parliamentary elections due to be held in four stages between April and June.

With an IMF deal likely to involve painful measures, Kerry called for consensus



US Secretary of State John Kerry (L) poses for a photograph with Arab League Secretary General Nabil El-Arabi after their meeting in Cairo on 2 March, 2013.—REUTERS

on tackling the problems.

"We do believe that in this moment of serious economic challenge that it's important for the Egyptian people to come together

around the economic choices and to find some common ground," he said after meeting Foreign Minister Mohamed Kamel Amr.

Reuters

Italy's Grillo lists conditions for backing a government

ROME, 3 March—The 5-Star Movement that emerged as Italy's largest party after a deadlocked election might support a government if it changed electoral law, cut politicians' expenses and set a two-term limit for parliamentarians, its leader has told a magazine.

Parties have been wrangling over how to form a government as neither 5-Star, the centre-left group led by

the old system down, not because we would enjoy doing so but because the system is rotten."

In a blog posted on his website, Grillo said his party would not give a vote of confidence to any government but would only consider backing individual laws.

A majority of parliamentarians must back confidence votes—which are called regularly in Italy's parliament as a way



Italian PD (Democratic Party) leader Pier Luigi Bersani leaves at the end of a news conference in Rome on 26 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

Democratic Party (PD) leader Pier Luigi Bersani nor the centre-right group led by People of Freedom (PDL) party head Silvio Berlusconi won full control of parliament in this week's vote. "If Bersani's PD and Berlusconi's PDL suggest an immediate change in the electoral law, cancellation of election expenses reimbursement, and a maximum of two terms for any deputies—we would of course support such a government immediately," comic Beppe Grillo told German magazine *Focus* in an interview published on Saturday.

"But they won't do that. They are just bluffing to win time," Grillo added.

"If we get into parliament we would bring

of speeding through laws - in order for a government to keep its mandate.

In a statement on Saturday, Italian President Giorgio Napolitano urged parties to be realistic and not to categorically rule out making agreements with each other. "We all have a duty to safeguard the public interest and the international image of the country," he said.

Napolitano, whose term ends in May and whose successor must be appointed by parliament, has ruled out a return to the polls. On Friday Bersani said he would present a programme based around a limited number of points, many of them in line with Grillo's platform, and seek the support of parliament.—Reuters

Indian Navy exercises in Arabian Sea

NEW DELHI, 3 March—The Indian Navy has carried out a major exercise in the Arabian Sea over the last 30 days, during which it has honed its combat skills as well as its operational strategy, local media reported on Sunday.

More than 50 warships, including the stealth frigates and nuclear-powered submarine *INS Chakra*, from the Indian Navy's eastern fleet and the western fleet, took part in the exercise, along with 75 fighter jets and

choppers, *The Times of India* newspaper reported, quoting officials as saying.

The exercise, codenamed Tropex, also witnessed the Indian Navy practice operational concepts like maritime manoeuvre from the sea in a bid to show its readiness in case of a swift and high-tempo conflict in the future, the report said.

Elements from the Indian Air Force and the para-military Coast Guard also participated in the exercise, it said.

Xinhua

US commercial cargo capsule launched to space station



In this photo released by NASA, a Space Exploration Technologies, or Space X, Falcon 9 rocket lifts off from Space Launch Complex 40 on Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida at 10:10 am EST, on 1 March 2013, carrying a Dragon capsule filled with cargo bound for the International Space Station.—XINHUA

WASHINGTON, 3 March—An unmanned rocket carrying the *Dragon* cargo capsule blasted off on Friday morning to deliver the second commercial shipment to the *International Space Station* (ISS).

A *Falcon 9* rocket with the *Dragon* capsule, built by the private spaceflight company SpaceX, lifted off

from the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida at 10:10 am EDT (1410 GMT), NASA TV shows.

This is the second of 12 contracted flights by SpaceX to resupply the space station and marks the third trip by a *Dragon* to the station, following a successful demonstration mission in May and the first

resupply mission in October.

The capsule is packed with about 1,200 pounds of supplies for the ISS six-man crew, including frozen mouse stem cells, 640 seeds of mouse-ear cress, a small flowering weed used in research, and tasty treats for the station crew picked from the orchard of a SpaceX employee's father.

The capsule is due to arrive at the space station on early Saturday and be captured by astronauts using the outpost's robotic arm and parked at an open docking port. It will spend more than three weeks at the station before departing and parachuting into the Pacific with a full load of medical specimens, fish, plants and old equipment.

Dragon is the only space station cargo craft designed to safely return to Earth, a critical capability that was lost when NASA's space shuttle fleet was retired in 2011. The Russian *Soyuz* spacecraft that ferry crews to and from the space station can only carry a few hundred pounds of small items back to Earth. All other station vehicles — unmanned Russian Progress supply ships and European and Japanese cargo craft — burn up during re-entry. Before *Dragon*'s liftoff, flights to the space station have always been a government-only affair. Until their retirement, US space shuttles carried most of the gear and many of the astronauts to the orbiting outpost.—Xinhua

Microsoft's Yammer adds translation functions

BARCELONA, 3 March—Microsoft said on Thursday its Yammer social network for internal corporate communications would add message translation capabilities to help firms with multilingual operations.

"Removing language as a barrier to cross-company collaboration can be a competitive game changer for multinational organizations. It opens a world of possibilities," said Adam Pisoni, Yammer's co-founder who is now a Microsoft executive.

"This is another ex-

last June it was buying the startup for \$1.2 billion, to bring enterprise social networking to Microsoft's Office division.

Yammer was launched in San Francisco in 2008 and enables companies to make private networks that let employees communicate Twitter-style while keeping exchanges away from public viewing.

At the time of the announcement, Yammer had more than five million users, including workers at 85 percent of the Fortune 500



ample of Yammer's accelerated innovation following the Microsoft acquisition we're able to use Microsoft Translator to quickly deliver additional value to customers."

Microsoft announced

PTI

Yahoo to shut down seven products, including Blackberry app

SAN FRANCISCO, 3 March—Yahoo Inc is shutting down seven products, including its mobile app for Blackberry smartphones, as new Chief Executive Marissa Mayer takes a page from Google Inc's play book by eliminating unsuccessful products en-masse.

The product shutdowns, which Yahoo announced on its official company blog on Friday, are part of what the company said are regular efforts to evaluate and review its product line-up.

"The most critical question we ask is whether

the experience is truly a daily habit that still resonates for all of you today," wrote Jay Rossiter, Yahoo's executive vice president of Platforms.

The announcement represents Yahoo's second group shutdown of products since Mayer, a former Google executive, became CEO of the struggling Web portal in July.

So-called "spring cleaning" announcements, in which multiple products are shut down, have become a regular feature at Google in recent years.

Reuters



A Yahoo! sign sits out front of their headquarters in Sunnyvale, California on 1 Feb, 2008.—REUTERS

Judge cuts Apple award versus Samsung, sets new damages trial

SAN FRANCISCO, 3 March—Apple Inc had a major setback in its mobile patents battle with Samsung Electronics on Friday, as a federal judge slashed a \$1.05 billion jury award by more than 40 percent and set a new trial to determine damages.

Apple won the award last year against Samsung in what was the biggest and highest-profile of a number of legal trials around the world, centred on the use and alleged abuse of patents in a highly competitive mobile market.

The iPhone maker convinced the jury that the Korean company, which in 2012 overtook Apple as the global smartphone leader, had infringed on its iPhone and iPad patents.

"We are pleased that the court decided to strike



The Apple logo hangs in a glass enclosure above the 5th Ave Apple Store in New York, on 20 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS

\$450,514,650 from the jury's award," the Korean company said in a statement. "Samsung

intends to seek further review as to the remaining award." Apple declined to comment.

Astronomers in Chile detect birth of planet

SANTIAGO, 3 March—The European Southern Observatory (ESO) in Chile said on Friday it has detected what appears to be the birth of a giant planet in a galaxy fairly close to the Earth.

In a Press release, the agency said the fledgling formation consisted of a thick disc of dust and gas around a young star, some 335 light years from our planet.

According to ESO scientists, the discovery marks

the first time that researchers have been able to detect the formation of a planet, and the find could greatly improve understanding of how planets come into being.

An international team of researchers studying the disc of dust and gas around the star was surprised to find a planet in the making, which they believe may grow into a "gas giant similar to Jupiter."

"So far, planet forma-

tion has mostly been a topic tackled by computer simulations," said Sascha Quanz, a Swiss scientist who headed the research team.

"If our discovery is indeed a forming planet, then for the first time scientists will be able to study the planet formation process and the interaction of a forming planet and its natal environment empirically at a very early stage," he added.

Xinhua

Friday's ruling by Judge Lucy Koh of the US District Court Northern District of California in San Jose means the two mobile electronics companies may once again square off in a California court to decide how much of the \$450.5 million struck from the damages, associated with 14 Samsung products, should stand. Koh said the jury had incorrectly calculated part of the damages and that a new trial was needed to determine the actual, final dollar amount. That could end up less than or more than the original \$450.5 million set by the jury.—Reuters

BUSINESS & HEALTH

FDA staff say calcitonin salmon cancer risk appears plausible

WASHINGTON, 3 March —Staff reviewers for the US Food and Drug Administration said that a potential increased risk of cancer with drugs containing calcitonin salmon appears plausible.

In briefing documents released on Friday, the reviewers said the risk raises concerns about the overall risk versus benefit of calcitonin products to treat osteoporosis in postmenopausal women.

Calcitonin products include Novartis AG's Miacalcin injection and nasal spray and Unigene Laboratories Inc's nasal spray. Privately held Upsher Smith Laboratories Inc distributes Unigene's product in the United States. Generic calcitonin products are also available.

Calcitonin salmon is a man-made version of the hormone calcitonin that is found in salmon.

The reviewers said significant questions remain about calcitonin salmon's effectiveness in reducing fractures in the treatment of postmenopausal osteoporosis. An advisory panel to the FDA is scheduled to discuss the products on



The corporate logo of the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is shown in Silver Spring, Maryland.—REUTERS

5 March and will make a recommendation to the agency on whether to allow the continued marketing of these products for that use. Last July European regulators recommended that long-term use of calcitonin be curtailed after a review found evidence of a small increased risk of cancer with long-term use of the drugs.

They recommended that they should only be authorized for short-term use in Paget's disease, a bone disorder; for acute bone loss due to sudden immobilization; and for excess calcium in the blood caused by cancer. They ruled that the benefits of calcitonin-

containing medicines did not outweigh their risks in the treatment of osteoporosis and that they should no longer be used for this condition. Unigene officials declined to comment on the FDA staff review as they do not distribute a calcitonin product in the United States.

Upsher Smith officials were not immediately available for comment. Novartis said in a statement that it "places the highest priority on patient safety and the appropriate use of its medicines and is looking forward to the opportunity to engage in the discussion at the upcoming meeting."

Reuters

Germany discovers toxin in animal fodder

BERLIN, 3 March—German authorities said on Friday they had found high levels of a toxin in animal fodder that was produced from maize imported from Serbia, but played down a possible risk to human health.

The discovery of aflatoxin in the shipment coincided with increased concerns over food industry safety amid Europe's horse meat scandal and this week's news that Germany is investigating possible large-scale fraud by organic

egg producers.

Authorities in the northern German state of Lower Saxony, a major agricultural hub, said they had halted some 35,000 tonnes of the contaminated shipment at the port of Brake or in warehouses. But a further 10,000 tonnes had already been distributed to more than 3,500 farms in several states. The feed was meant for pigs, cattle and poultry, it said.

The main threat to human health from any breaching of permissible

toxin levels would stem from milk produced by dairy cows but the Lower Saxony farm ministry said stringent quality control levels meant any risk was "improbable".

Aflatoxin, produced by a fungus, is highly carcinogenic. A spokesman for the federal government in Berlin told a news briefing that Germany had informed other European Union governments and the European Commission of the discovery, in line with EU health and safety rules.

Serbian authorities denied that the original shipment could have contained impermissibly high levels of aflatoxin.

"Our exports adhere to those (international and EU) norms as there is a double control, by both exporters and importers," said Vukosav Sakovic, head of the Serbian association of wheat producers and exporters.

"The probability that they purchased something bad is almost impossible... Out of a total 350,000 tonnes of corn exported in 2012, nothing was sent back and we dealt with some bad batches here in Serbia," he added.—Reuters



Residents of the Beijing First Social Welfare Institution-affiliated nursing home play mahjong, a traditional Chinese game, during their recreational time in the facility in Beijing on 1 March, 2013. The nursing home is one of the prestigious care centre for the elderly in China and accommodates about 1,000 seniors. China's elderly population will hit 360 million by 2030, from about 200 million in 2013.—REUTERS

UBS lays off 35 senior bankers in the Americas



The logo of Swiss bank UBS is seen at their offices in New York on 19 Dec, 2012. REUTERS

NEW YORK, 3 March—UBS AG (UBSN.VX) (UBSN) cut roughly a third of its Americas investment banking and capital markets group this week, including 35 senior managing directors, three sources close to the matter said. A UBS spokeswoman confirmed the layoffs of the managing directors, which occurred in the corporate client solutions group, composed of investment banking, equity capital markets and leverage finance teams.

As part of the cuts in the US and Canada, more than a dozen people in the San Francisco technology group were laid off, and the Swiss bank shut its Los Angeles office, one of the sources said.

A handful of senior level bankers that remained in the Los Angeles office were transferred to San Francisco, the spokeswoman said.

UBS announced in October 2012 it was planning to cut 10,000 employees or 15 percent of the bank's workforce. It also said it would wind down its fixed income division. Those layoffs were on top of another 3,500 cuts the bank announced in the prior year, mostly in its investment banking division.

The staff cuts come amid a series of problems that have plagued the Swiss bank, including a \$2.3 billion trading loss caused by a rogue trader and fines related to potential LIBOR manipulation.—Reuters

US general's Australian outburst could undermine F-35 programme

SYDNEY, 3 March—An outburst in Australia this week by the Pentagon's chief buyer for the costly F-35 Joint Strike Fighter risks undermining the programme at home and abroad, US defence officials and industry experts say.

At an Australian air show, Lieutenant General Christopher Bogdan accused

the plane's manufacturer, Lockheed Martin Corp (LMT.N) and engine maker Pratt & Whitney, a unit of United Technologies Corp (UTX.N), of trying to "squeeze every nickel" out of the US government for the planes.

Bogdan, who took over the \$396 billion programme in December, told reporters

it's not his job to be a "cheerleader for the F-35." But for some in the industry, the words stung.

"Airing dirty laundry in front of a key customer who's on the fence about buying more competing aircraft, is a very dangerous game," said aerospace analyst Richard Aboulafia of the Teal Group.

are greedy... he could inspire politicians to cut funding as a form of punishment, which would raise unit costs and inspire them to cut funding again. It's the classic death spiral," Aboulafia said.

A similar dynamic undercut an Air Force's plan in the 1990s to buy 750 F-22 fighter jets from

Toyota gains in February US auto sales, while Nissan, Honda sag

NEW YORK, 3 March—Toyota Motor Corp registered a steady gain from a year earlier in February sales of new cars in the United States, while Honda Motor Co and Nissan Motor Co posted drops, figures from US research firm Autodata Corp showed on Friday.

The US market saw overall sales climb 3.7 percent to 1,192,249 units, the strongest result for the month of February since 2007, owing to the gradual pace of recovery of the economy. The total translates into an annualized 15.38 million cars after seasonal adjustments, up 90,000 from the previous month and staying above the 15 million threshold for the

fourth consecutive month, a result that marks a solid recovery by the US market.

The "Big Three" US automakers all reported solid increases. General Motors Co was the top seller with a 7.2 percent rise to 224,314 cars, on the back of strong sales of large models such as pickups.

The second biggest seller was Ford Motor Co It posted a 9.3 percent rise to 195,310. Toyota came in third with a 4.3 percent rise to 166,377. Chrysler LLC followed with 135,713 cars, up 4.2 percent. Ranked fifth, Honda marked 107,987 units in sales, down 2 percent. Nissan, in the sixth position, lost 6.6 percent to 99,636 units.

Kyodo News



Workers can be seen on the moving line and forward fuselage assembly areas for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter at Lockheed Martin Corp's factory located in Fort Worth, Texas.—REUTERS

He said Australia is already considering plans to buy more Boeing (BA.N) F/A-18 Super Hornets, which could wind up reducing its planned purchase of 100 F-35 fighter jets. "By implying that the contractors

Lockheed, raising the unit cost and leaving the Air Force with just 183 planes in the end. The cost of each F-35 jet has already risen in recent years as Washington delayed orders until later in the decade.—Reuters

WORLD

One Chinese tourist killed in traffic accident in Egypt's Aswan

CAIRO, 3 March — A mini-bus overturned on Saturday morning on the highway from Egypt's Aswan to tourist attraction Abu Simbel, killing one Chinese tourist and leaving another 13 people on board injured — among them three Chinese nationals, a Chinese Embassy official confirmed to *Xinhua*. “The accident happened at around 6:30 local time (Saturday) (0430 GMT), around 50 km away from Abu Simbel,” said Zhang Baoqi, director of consular affairs at the Chinese Embassy in Cairo.

The four Chinese tourists were all initially injured, but one, in critical condition, later died in hos-

pital, Zhang said.

Local media reported that all the rest 13 were not seriously injured.

Meanwhile, Colonel Salah Eddin Mohamed, head of Abu Simbel Tourist Police Station, told *Xinhua* that “The tourist who was killed in the car overturn was a 24-year-old Chinese man.” The dying was received in complete coma while excessively bleeding, and was admitted to the intensive care unit at Abu Simbel International Hospital but “stopped breathing at 9:00 am (0700 GMT),” said Mohamed.

The exact reason of the accident is not immediately known, yet initial investiga-

tion shows no criminal suspicion behind it.

“The car is a tourist microbus that belongs to al-Tawfik Tourist Company,” Mohamed added.

The accident came a few days after nine tourists from China's Hong Kong were killed in a hot balloon explosion in Egypt's southern Province of Luxor on Tuesday, which in all claimed 19 lives and injured two. Egypt has already been struggling to bring back foreign tourists after two years of repetitive political demonstrations, which usually turned violent in the end and has created continuous social instability.—*Xinhua*



Counselor Samir Abu al-Maaty (C), chairman of Egypt's Higher Election Commission, speaks to the media during a Press conference in Cairo, on 2 March, 2013. Egypt's parliamentary elections will start registration on 9 March and last through 16 March, Counselor Samir Abu al-Maaty, chairman of Egypt's Higher Election Commission, said at a Press conference on Saturday.

XINHUA

NATO says its troops shot dead two Afghan boys

KABUL, 3 March — NATO said on Saturday its forces had accidentally shot dead two Afghan boys, in the latest of a series of reports of civilian deaths at the hands of international troops. The shooting in the southern Province of Uruzgan could further strain the relationship between the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and Afghan President Hamid Karzai, who has demanded US special forces leave another province over allegations of torture.

The two boys were shot dead when they were mistaken for insurgents during an operation in northwest Uruzgan on 28 February, ISAF commander, US General Joseph Dunford, said in

a statement.

“I offer my personal apology and condolences to the family of the boys who were killed,” Dunford said.

“The boys were killed when Coalition forces fired at what they thought were insurgent forces,” he said, adding that a team of Afghan and ISAF investigators visited the village on Saturday and met local leaders. The area, Lowar-e-Dowahom, was often patrolled by international troops, a spokesman for provincial governor Amir Mohammad Akhundzada said.

“They saw two young children who were apparently listening to a radio and they shot them — it is not yet clear why,” the spokesman said.—*Reuters*

Over 22,600 observers to monitor Kenya's elections

NAIROBI, 3 March — Kenya's electoral body said on Saturday it has registered 22,600 both local and international observers to monitor on Monday general elections in the East African nation.

The Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) chairman Issack Hassan told journalists in Nairobi that that 20,000 domestic and 2,600 international observers from Kenya, East Africa Community, Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), COMESA, the Africa Union, EU and the Carter Centre have all been accredited.

“About four former

African Heads of State and about five chairpersons of the electoral commission Africa who will be heading international observe missions are among those accredited,” Hassan told journalists in Nairobi.

Kenya's 4 March vote will be one of the most closely watched in Africa after anxious campaign that has divided the nation and raised fears of a repeat of the bloodshed that followed disputed 2007 elections.

However, the security agencies, judiciary and the electoral body have all expressed their readiness to handle the polls which will be held for the first time

Greece faces bailout review, plays down public sector job losses

ATHENS, 3 March — Officials from the European Union and the International Monetary Fund return to



Greece's Finance Minister Yannīs Stournaras leaves the Prime Minister's office in Athens on 7 Dec, 2012.

REUTERS

Athens on Sunday to assess Greece's performance under a bailout plan as the government plays down the prospect of public sector job cuts.

The heads of the “troika” mission from the EU, IMF and the European Central Bank will meet

sector.

International lenders unlocked aid in December after Greece's coalition government adopted austerity measures to bring the bailout plan back on track, with Athens aiming for a primary budget surplus this year for the first time since 2002.

Greece's euro zone partners and the IMF have urged strict adherence to the plan to shore up public finances, a line echoed by the head of the Euro Working Group of senior officials who prepare decisions of euro zone finance ministers.

“All that was agreed in the bailout plan must be implemented. These reforms were agreed to make the Greek economy stronger, flexible and more competitive,” Euro Working Group

chief Thomas Wieser told Greek newspaper *Realnews*.

In its sixth year of recession, Greece has agreed to shrink its public sector by 150,000 by 2015 to cut its wage bill, mainly through attrition: hiring one new person for every 10 who retire.

Athens wants to avoid public sector layoffs with unemployment already at a record 27 percent and likely to rise as the economy is projected to shrink 4.5 percent this year.

But the government must transfer 25,000 employees to a so-called mobility scheme by the end of this year, where workers will earn reduced pay for a year and may face layoffs if vacant spots are not found in the broader public sector.

Reuters

Syrian army, rebel clashes bring conflict to Iraq doorstep

RABIA, 3 March — Clashes between the Syrian army and rebels at a border post brought the civil war close to neighbouring Iraq, where troops fired warning shots into the air, residents, officials and a *Reuters* reporter said.

Insurgents seized control of half of the northeastern Syrian town of Yaarabiya, including a border post with Iraq, in a battle with forces loyal to President Bashar al-Assad on Friday and early Saturday, the pro-opposition Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a monitoring group, said on Saturday.

The fighting on Iraq's doorstep shows how Syr-

ia's near-two-year conflict could spill over its borders, threatening to drag in neighbouring countries and further destabilise the region.

Iraqi troops on the other side of the border from Yaarabiya fired warning shots, residents, local officials and a *Reuters* reporter said.—*Reuters*



Smoke rises after what the photographer said were missiles fired by a Syrian Air Force fighter jet loyal to President Bashar al-Assad at the Syrian town of Yaarabiya, near the main border between Syria and Iraq on 2 March, 2013.—REUTERS

LOCAL NEWS

Mandalay draws renovation of ancient religious buildings

MANDALAY, 3 March—A ceremony to seek Ovada from venerable Sayadaws for renovation of damaged Pitakat chamber, Thudhamma rest houses and Pathana ordination halls. Tampawady U Win Maung also supplicated on history of the buildings and small scales of the buildings in detail.

State Ovadaçariya Shwegyin Sangharaja Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Sayadaw Bhaddanta Agghiya, State Ovadaçariya Myataungtaik

Shwewawin Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Sasanabhivamsa and Salingyi Sayadaw Bhaddanta Addiççavamsa gave words of advice.

Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint supplicated on plans for renovation of the buildings.

Wellwisher U Kyaw Win also made supplications on the purpose of renovating the damaged buildings.

Later, U Kyaw Win and Daw Myint Myint Than and family of Mann Myay Razar Co Ltd offered meals to the venerable Sayadaws.

Myanma Alinn

India-Myanmar Cottage Arts Show in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 3 March— With the aim of exchanging culture of Myanmar and India and developing trade between the two countries, the India-Myanmar Cottage Arts Show was held in front of the National Theatre in Aungmyethazan Township of Mandalay from 20 to 24 February, attended by Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint.

On arrival at the show, Chief Minister U Ye Myint, accompanied by Mandalay Region Minister for Development Affairs Mayor U Aung Moung, Region Minister for Finance and Revenue U Phone Zaw Han and

officials, was welcomed by the Indian Consul-General and Managing Director Mr W Nilamani Singh of Cottage Arts.

Officials concerned

conducted the Mandalay Region Chief Minister and party round 20 booths of India's arts and 10 of Myanmar's at the show.

Myanma Alinn



Chief Minister U Ye Myint views works of Cottage Arts Show.

Mandalay University of Dental Medicine confers degrees



MANDALAY, 3 March— graduates attended the convocation.

The rector conferred diplomas to 10 students and degrees to 117 dentists at the 10th convocation ceremony.

The university has turned out 863 dentists and and general dental diploma to 16 students.

Myanma Alinn

Knowledge about crime reduction shared to people



YANGON, 3 March—In Yangon Region, a systematic plan has drawn for reduction of crimes at district and township levels.

The talks on crime reduction was given in front of No. 20 on Sangyoung Street in North Sangyoung Ward of Sangyoung Township of Yangon West District on 21 February.

It was attended by local people, students and local authorities, policemen and members of crime surveillance squads. Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Aung Thein gave talks on crime reductions and shared crime knowledge to the local people.

Myanma Alinn

Union Cup Games Dates and Venues for Sports Events

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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 4 March, 2013

Summer hazards

Temperatures of some of the towns in Myanmar reach 41 degrees Celsius even at the very start of March. So, this summer could be rather hot especially for the people of central Myanmar.

Accordingly, there must be a whole new set of precautions to take that we don't have to think about in the rainy season and cold season. Normally, sunlight can be beneficial to our health (think vitamin D!), but repeated or severe sunburns can cause both immediate and long-term health problems. The sun's rays are strongest between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., but our sunburn risk isn't limited to those hours, especially in summer times.

So, we must avoid too much overexposure and stay indoors as possible as we can and wear light clothes especially during the hours. We also need umbrella or at least a cap when going outdoors. When temperatures are high, people can experience serious health problems such as cramps, exhaustion and heat stroke. If working outdoors is an absolute necessity, drink plenty of liquids and take frequent rest breaks.

Parents leaving their children in the car while running errands is another problem that's common during the summer. Parents may be gone for only minutes, but a car with the windows up on a hot day can become an oven. And it's important to know that the soaring heat inside a car gets even more stifling as the humidity rises.

Insects are another pesky and potentially dangerous problem this time of year. The bacteria that cause food poisoning thrive at moderate temperatures, so it's vital when eating outdoor that we keep hot food hot and cold food cold.

So, we must make sure we are ready for everything the season can throw at us and keep sprains, stings, and other outdoor dangers from spoiling our summertime funs.

Ball-pens donated to Manaw Ahla Band

YANGON, 3 March—A ceremony to donate 10000 ball-pens to Manaw Ahla Band was held at the meeting hall of Kyaikkasan Grounds in Tamway Township of Yangon Region on 27 February. Daw L Khun Yi explained the functions of the band. Wellwisher U San

Myint-Daw Win Min Than and family (Salient Trading Co Ltd) donated 10000 Stabilo ball-pens worth K 1 million to the band.

Daw K Ja Nu explained the plan to send the ball-pens to locals of Kachin and Shan states and spoke words of thanks.—*Myanma Alinn*

International Conference on Computer Applications held

YANGON, 3 March—The 11th International Conference on Computer Applications 2013, organized by Yangon University of Computer Studies under the Ministry of Science and Technology was held at Sedona Hotel, here, on 26 and 27 February.

With the aim of ensuring

transfer of ICT technology at home and abroad, the paper-reading session was held with presentation of over 100 papers.

The paper-reading session focused on invitation talk section, paper presentation section and joint workshop section.

Myanma Alinn

ARTICLE

Eco and cultural tourist attraction site
Sacred Hpo Wun Taung hill range Part I

Among many eco and cultural touristically attractive sites in Myanmar, sacred Hpo Wun Taung hill range is prominent and wellknown.

The Chindwin, the largest and longest tributary of the principal river of Myanmar, the Ayeyawady, is noted for its strange natural environment with unique physical features in its valleys and on its banks. Hpo Wun Taung hill range, a series of rocky low hills rising abruptly from the surrounding flat lands lies in the lower Chindwin, about 12 miles to the north of Salingyi, a small ancient town on the west bank of the Chindwin, and about 16 miles to the north west of a thriving trading town named "Mon-ywa" on the east bank.

Rugged and isolated the range stands in the middle of a vast plain sparsely covered with bushes, shrubs and trees of Disideous forest. The range is composed of two series of hills — the higher serie runs from east to west for nearly half of the entire range. A narrow valley divides it from the lower serie which runs north-west to south-east, with many rocky hills. It is at these hills of the lower range that natural and man-made caves and temples are found. The sacred Hpo Wun Taung hill is referred to this section of the entire range. The hills do not rise higher than 300 feet. They are more like plateaus of irregular shape between 230 and 240 feet above the sea level. Geologists say that they are sandstone hills. Due to perhaps the occurrence of natural phenomena like earthquake volcanic eruption, or cataclysm, boulders of rock of any size are found strewn on and the sides of the hills, creating wild, rugged and desolate sceneries.

Quarries of old and modern times are found where blocks of stone of required size are excavated to fashion into household objects like mortar and pestle, plates and pots,

circular dies for grinding sandal and Thanakha bark for facial make-up paste, containers for grain, water storage and cattle trough, etc. Skilled sculptors design Buddha and deva-natimages and other votive objects. They are also employed in rock cut architecture and sculpture.

The past history of "Hpo Wun Taung hill range" is shrouded with nat-spirit legends, as in the case of other similarly noted hills in the country. "Hpo Wun Shin-ma" (Mistress of Hpo Wun Taung Range) or Saga Meidaw (Miss Champac Flower) is the lady nat-spirit popularly revered as the demi-goddess of the Range. Her statues are found enshrined on the hill range, much revered and venerated by local people and believers in the country.

Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja
Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

But there was another female nat-spirit who arrived on these hills long before Saga Meidaw appeared. She was one Ma Hnin Cho, daughter of a very wealthy man of Yeyzagyo town. She and her brother Maung Po Dan inherited all properties and treasures of their father. They lived together happily for some years until a great storm broke out destroying their house and killing both of them. The two became nat-spirits due to their violent death, guarding their properties and treasures which they later divided between them. Ma Hnin Cho got the lion's share and she moved with them to a hill in Hpo Wun Taung hill range. That hill came to be known after her name. Ma Hnin Cho was the unrivalled nat-spirit of Hpo Wun Taung Range until another lady appeared there.

Thuseikta, the wife of Sakka Deva, King of the Celestial Kingdom of Tavatimsa, died and her spirit descended to Earth and entered a bud of a champac flower tree that was growing on Ma Hnin cho's hill. Sakka Deva sent a magic wand to the hermit Thuzata of that hill to guard the bud. The hermit handed the wand over to a necromancer alchemist

Zawgyi to take care of the bud. The Zawgyi turned a big rock into a bull to guard the bud in his absence when he had to go into the forest to gather fruits for his master hermit.

The hunter Lodabaka who was supplying deer meat to king Thurabhala of Kawthandi kingdom saw the big champac bud, with a female child in it. When the child grew up into a beautiful lady she would become a queen. So the hunter thought of presenting the bud with the child in it, to the king. But in his attempt to pluck the bud the rock bull changed at him and he had to run for his life. The matter was reported to the king. With his armed forces the king marched to the hill, but they were repulsed by Zawgyi and his rock bull. Reinforcements of the king's tributary lords,

Princes of Alakappa and Amyint were summoned to the spot and they surrounded the hill, which thenceforth came to be called "Bo waing Taung" [the hill surrounded by armed forces.] But later the name corrupted to "Hpo Wun Taung". This time again, the Zawgyi and his rock Bull defeated them.

The hermit told Zawgyi that King Thuabhala was an evil man. When the female child was born from the Champac bud and a growing up a maiden, she should not be married to evil king.

It was Pyu Min, the noble king of Bagan, who was worthy of her hand. So she should be married to Pyu Min. A pretty maiden came out of the Champac bud. She was named Saga Meidaw [Lady Champac Flower]. When Pyu Min of Bagan heard of what the hermit said to Zawgyi he was very much delighted. He marched with his armed forces to Hpo Wun Taung range.

His brother Crown Prince "Pyone Min" joined him at the place which later came to be called "Minsu" [the place of royal assembly]. When they reached Hpo Wun Taung Range, a fierce battle was ensued between Pyu Min and Thurabhala in which

the latter was defeated. The former carried Saga Meidaw as his deserving bride to Bagan and made her queen. Thurabhala did not give up hope. He sent Mi Kho, the witch of Hpo Wun Taung Range to Bagan to bring Saga Meidaw back to the hill. Mi Kho served under the queen and with her magical power charmed her back to the hill.

Ma Hnin cho the guardian Spirit pitied Saga Meidaw. So she transformed her into a nat spirit. When the two brothers Pyu Min and Pyone Min arrived on the sence with a large retinue to rescue the queen, they found the dead body of queen Saga Meidaw. For days they mourned over the dead body whereupon Saga Meidaw's apparition appeared to tell them what had happened. Her body was cremated with pomp and honour. A temple was built as a memorial to her. Ma Hnin cho the guardian spirit showed the brothers her treasures of 500 bullock cart load and she told them that she wanted to dedicate them for the construction of a monastery for the next Buddha Meteya and that after that dedication she would depart from the spirit world. Pyu Min thus buried all her treasures in the caves and dedicated them to the future Buddha. He and his brother Pyone Min made five Buddha Images in these caves on the Nat Taung hill. They poured libation water and shared their merits of religious deeds with Saga Meidaw, Ma Hnin cho and all sentient beings. Ma Hnin cho, the guardian spirit after exclaiming her appreciation of the religious deeds, was released from the guarding duty over her treasures and she departed from the spirit world. Now Saga Meidaw was the only spirit mistress of the hill.

The King's retinue also sculpted many Buddha images in the rock caves. These images are said to have numbered 444,444 in total! Some of them still survive today but in poor condition. Pyu Min abandoned Bagan and founded a new capital "Hantha Nagara" which is

(See page 9)

NATIONAL

Union Education Minister calls for valuing teaching profession

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March—Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye visited Wunpyae Village Basic Education Middle School (Branch) in Myinmu Township, Sagaing Region today.

He inspected progress in construction of a new school building measuring 120x30 feet and met school board of trustees, parent-teacher association, the township education officer, school heads and teachers there.

In meeting with rector-in-charge, faculty heads and staff of Sagaing University, he urged them to inculcate students with democratic attitude. He also called on them to instill altruistic spirit to students.—MNA

Union Minister inspects tissue cultivation



Union Minister U Win Tun visits tissue cultivation plantations of Great Wall International Co Ltd in Chanmyathazi Township in Mandalay Region.

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March—Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun yesterday visited tissue cultivation plantations of Great Wall International

Co Ltd in Chanmyathazi Township in Mandalay Region. The Union Minister called for distribution of the genetically modified Eucalyptus at reasonable

price. The Union Minister also visited Ethanol factory of Honda Myanmar Company in Amarapura Township.

MNA

MNA

Union Auditor-General back home

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March — Auditor-General of the Union U Thein Htaik arrived back in Yangon by air yesterday after attending the International Standards of Supreme Audit Institution (ISSAI) Implementation Initiative 3i Management Workshop held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia from 27

February to 1 March. The workshop held at Hotel Cambodiana in Phnom Penh was attended by auditors-general from 20 countries in Asia and 3i management was discussed there.

Myanmar Supreme Audit Implementation Initiative International

Standards of Supreme Audit Institution was also under discussion at the workshop.

U Kyaw Win, auditor-general of Mandalay Region, and Dr Aung Thu Soe, assistant director of the Office of Auditor-General of the Union also arrived back on the same flight.

MNA



Chairman U Ye Tint, members U Tin Kha and U Kyaw Zaw Naing of PSM Governing Body seen at Yangon International Airport before their departure for Philippines. (News on Page 1)—MNA

HAN Golf Masters to open summer course

YANGON, 3 March—HAN Golf Masters Academy plans to conduct basic golfing and refresher course at Myanmar golf training course in Mayangon

Township on 11-17 March. Veteran coaches U Chan Han and U Ko Ko Lay and other assistant coaches of the academy will provide the training.

The fee is K 50,000 per head and anyone may dial 01-651797, 092037671 and 0949102009 for more details.

NLM

Yangon Lawmakers provide Chinese course

YANGON, 3 March—Lawmakers of Yagon Region Hluttaw provided a free-of-charge Chinese language training to 30 trainees.

The course concluding ceremony was held today. The course lasts three months. MPs U Aye Thein, U

Mya Thein and U Myo Min Aung of Yangon Region Hluttaw were instructors of the course.

NLM

Eco and cultural tourist attraction site...

(from page 8)

the present Hanlingyi in Shwebo District. In the Upper Burma Gazetteer compiled by Scott and Hardiman, Sir George Scott, a researcher and writer on Myanmar history, archaeology, antiquity and culture, gave the detailed account of the legends just described in this article, which he learnt from local monks and old folks.

There is an entirely different legend told in "Hpo Wun Taung Thamaing" compiled by a Myanmar historian named U Chit of National School in Monywa. He claimed that his thamaing (history) was based upon old palm leaf manuscripts. According to it, Bandawa, the king

of Hanlingyi was invited by King Anawrahta of Bagan to assist him in the construction of Shwezigone Pagoda at his capital. Bandawa with many followers floated down the River Ayeyawady for Bagan. At the junction of the Ayeyawady and the Chindwin tributary, above Pakokkhu town, the king saw a pleasant hill range in the west. He made enquiry about that hill but received no information. After he met with Anawrahta and assisted in religious works, King Bandawa returned to Hanlingyi and sent his minister Binya Bala to gather information about the hill range. The Minister, after collecting from local monks and folks all knowledges about the

hill range submitted a full report to the King. The King was religiously inspired to develop the hill range for Buddha Sasana.

He, his chief queen and the royal family marched with a large retinue to Hpo Wun Taung hill range making over night stops at temporary palaces built along the land route they took to reach the east bank of the Chindwin River. From there they crossed the Chindwin River in boats, and since then the place where they crossed the river has been known as "Hley ku" [crossing by boats] which is now part of present day Monywa town. When they reached Hpo Wun Taung Range they made a sojourn at Minsu. Five hundred Buddhist monks the king brought with him assembled and began founding Buddha Sasana there. Encircling

the hill the monks chanted Paritta Sutta and preached the Dhamma to the local folks, while the king, the queen, royal family and retinue built temples, monasteries and sculpted Buddha Images in the rock caves, totaling 444,648 in number. The King held annual festival in Tabaung (March). One local wealthy merchant named U Shwe Ba was appointed by the King as royal agent to take care of maintaining religious monuments and images, building new ones, making religious offerings, holding annual festivals, and managing the affairs of the hill. Before the King and royal entourage left the hill, the King built Lun Zedi (လှိုင်ဇေတီ) on the hill meaning a religious monument of his longing to revisit the hill. U Shwe Ba also developed another hill for Buddha Sasana. This hill came to be

called Shwe Ba Taung hill.

King Bandawa was commonly known as Pyi Min Pyone Min not because he was a Pyu descent or King of the Pyus, but because of his super natural power he possessed. When he looked out [Pyu means to look out] from his palace rain came down and when smiled (Pyone means smile) rain stopped, so says the legend.

There is another interpretation of the name of this range. "Hpo Wun Taung" was the hill range where alchemists of old days had their workshops [agiyat hpo htoe] where they experimented to make mercury compound ball [philosopher's stone] to convert all base metals to gold, or to concoct panacea to cure all diseases, or to make elixir of life longevity or to gain super natural charms. Hpo Wun Taung

[Alchemists' workshop hill] corrupts to Hpo Wun Taung.

Magaphala is Pali word meaning the way to reach the stages leading to Nivirna, the final goal of Buddhism. Forest monks meditate in the natural caves to attain magaphala. So Hpo Wun Taung means the hill where forest monks meditate in natural caves. This is another version of its name.

The above described legends are the favorite stories in Myanmar traditional performing arts. They are reenacted in drama and puppet shows. In pre-war days there was a lengthy silent film entitled "Shwe Saga Meidaw" with dialogues in letter and musical and song accompaniment. It was a hit.

End of Part I

Recovery effort ends for Florida man presumed dead in sinkhole

SEFFNER, 3 March—Florida rescue workers have ended their efforts to recover the body of a man who disappeared into a sinkhole that swallowed his bedroom while he slept and will demolish the suburban Tampa home due to its dangerous conditions, an official said on Saturday.

Jeff Bush, a 36-year-old landscaper, is presumed dead after disappearing into the sinkhole that opened suddenly beneath his room on Thursday night. Five other people in the house were getting ready for bed when they heard a loud crash and Jeff screaming.

His brother had to be rescued after jumping into

the hole and furiously digging in an effort to find him.

Authorities used listening devices and cameras at the scene of the 30-foot (9-meter) wide hole in the ground but detected no signs of life.

"There's nothing compatible with life in this situation," said Hillsborough County Fire Rescue spokeswoman Jessica Damico. "There's no way of possible survival."

She said demolition of the home would begin early on Sunday.

"Our data has come back, and there is absolutely no way we can do any kind of recovery without endangering lives of work-



Hillsborough County Sheriff's deputies secure the scene surrounding a home where a sinkhole opened up and swallowed a man in Seffner, Florida, on 1 March, 2013.

REUTERS

ers," she said.

Jeff Bush's brother, 35-year-old Jeremy Bush, feared earlier on Saturday that his brother was lost forever. A small memorial of balloons and flowers for Jeff Bush had formed

near the home on Saturday morning.

"I thank the Lord for not taking my daughter and the rest of my family," said Jeremy, who worked with his brother in landscaping.

Reuters

Lebanon arrests 54 kidnapping suspects

BEIRUT, 3 March—Lebanon's Interior Minister Marwan Charbel revealed on Friday that security forces have arrested 54 people involved in dozens of kidnapping cases, but scores remained on the run.

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

So far, 54 suspects have been arrested while 87 others are still on the run in more than 39 cases of abductions, the minister told reporters.

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

Xinhua

Turkish captives to be released by Kurdish rebels

ISTANBUL, 3 March—Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) rebels are planning to release a group of captured Turkish officials within the next 10 days as part of a broader peace deal, the state-run *Anatolia Agency* reported on Saturday.

The PKK has been fighting Turkey's central

government since 1984 and is negotiating with the authorities to try to end a conflict that has claimed some 40,000 lives.

Anatolia quoted a Turkish politician, Gultan Kisanak, as telling a news conference in Arbil, northern Iraq: "I hope these (public) officials will reunite

said his soldiers had killed another al-Qaeda commander, Adelhamid Abou Zeid, among 40 militants who died in an operation in the same area as Saturday's assault—Mali's Adrar des Ifoghas mountains near the Algerian border.

France—which has used jet strikes against the militants' mountain hideouts—has declined to confirm the killing of either Abou Zeid or Belmokhtar.

In Washington, an Obama administration said the White House could not confirm the killing of Belmokhtar.

Analysts said the death of two of al-Qaeda's most feared commanders in the Sahara desert would mark a significant blow to Mali's Islamist rebellion. "Both men have extensive knowledge of northern Mali and parts of the broader Sahel and deep social and other connections in northern Mali, and the death of both in such a short amount of time will likely have an impact on militant operations," said Andrew Lebovich, a Dakar-based analyst who follows al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM).

Anne Giudicelli, managing director of security consultancy Terrorisc, said the al-Qaeda commanders' deaths - if confirmed - would temporarily disrupt the Islamist rebel network but would also raise concern over the fate of seven French hostages believed to be held by Islamists in northern Mali.—Reuters

with their families soon." It said Kisanak, co-chair of Turkey's pro-Kurdish Peace and Democracy Party, delivered a letter from jailed PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan who has been negotiating the outlines of a peace deal with the Turkish government since last October.

Kisanak handed the letter to Murat Karayilan, the de facto leader of the PKK. Turkish media reports over the past week have said that the PKK would release some 16 captured officials soon, in a first move towards peace.

Reuters

Chadian soldiers kill Algeria hostage mastermind in Mali

N'DJAMENA, 3 March—Chadian soldiers in Mali have killed Mokhtar Belmokhtar, the al-Qaeda commander who masterminded a bloody hostage-taking at an Algerian gas plant in January, Chad's military said on Saturday.

The death of one of the world's most wanted jihadists would be a major blow to al-Qaeda in the region and to rebels already forced to flee towns they had seized in northern Mali by an offensive by French and African troops.

"On Saturday, 2 March, at noon, Chadian armed forces operating in northern Mali completely destroyed a terrorist base. The toll included several dead terrorists, including their leader Mokhtar Belmokhtar," Chad's armed forces said in a statement read on national television.

On Friday, Chad's president, Idriss Deby,

China's 8-pct growth likely in next 2 decades

BEIJING, 3 March—Former World Bank chief economist Justin Yifu Lin reaffirmed his assertion that China can maintain an 8-percent annual growth for another 20 years.

Lin said he was not talking big, as China's economy has great potentials in capitalizing on the late-mover advantages.

"Should such advantages as a late mover be fully capitalized on, China might continue to maintain an 8-percent annual growth for 20 more years," Lin, a professor with Peking University, said in a speech on China's economic outlook and challenges on Friday.

Lin said a sound government financial status, a large number of pro-

grammes with high return on investment, high civilian bank deposits and foreign exchange reserves are beneficial to the economic growth in short terms.

He however pointed out that China is still facing multiple challenges such as urban-rural gap, income gap, backwardness in social development, resource-environment conflicts, unbalanced foreign trade, overheated investment, education, technological and creative capability, corruption, as well as legal and political mechanisms.

"Whether China could maintain continuous economic growth relies on if these challenges could be addressed," Lin said.

Xinhua



An Egyptian man captures two locusts in Al-Moqattam District of Cairo, on 2 March, 2013. Reports from Egyptian agriculture ministry said that the locusts pass through Egypt during their migration from northeast Sudan to Saudi Arabia, reaffirming Egypt is just "a transfer station" for them.—XINHUA

UN Security Council sets stage for lifting Somalia arms embargo

UNITED NATIONS, 3 March—The UN Security Council is considering lifting an arms embargo on Somalia's government for one year so it can beef up its army to combat Islamist fighters, according to a draft resolution that is due to be voted on Wednesday.

The Somalia government has asked for the arms embargo to be lifted and the United States has been pushing the council to agree, but Britain and France have been wary of removing the ban in a country already awash with weapons, diplomats say.

The draft resolution, drawn up by Britain and obtained by Reuters, appears to propose a compromise: lifting the arms embargo for one year but keeping restrictions in place on heavy weapons such as surface to air missiles, howitzers and cannons.

The draft resolution says the arms embargo shall not apply to the deliveries of other "weapons or military equipment or the provision of advice, assistance or training, intended solely for the development of the security forces of the federal government of Somalia and to provide security for the Somali people." It says that these weapons and equipment "may not be resold to, transferred to, or made available for use by, any individual or entity not in the service of the security forces of the federal government of Somalia."

The 15-member council imposed the arms embargo in 1992 to cut the flow of arms to feuding warlords, who a year earlier ousted dictator Mohamed Siad Barre and plunged Somalia into civil war. Somalia held its first national vote since 1991 last year to elect a president and

prime minister.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon earlier this month suggested the Security Council consider lifting the arms embargo to help rebuild Somalia's forces and consolidate military gains against al-Qaeda-linked al-Shabaab militants.

But some council members are concerned about the security risks involved with removing the arms embargo and one council diplomat said the proposed move "sends shivers down the spine." The Security Council's Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea, an independent panel that reports on compliance with UN sanctions, have warned that the Islamist militants in Somalia are receiving weapons from distribution networks linked to Yemen and Iran, diplomats have told Reuters.

Reuters



Passengers wait to enter their train at the rail station of Yinchuan, capital of northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, on 2 March, 2013.—XINHUA

REGIONAL

Seven killed in car crash in Thailand

BANGKOK, 3 March — Seven people in a passenger van were killed when it crashed into a road sign in eastern Chon Buri Province on Saturday, *Bangkok Post* online reported.

Police said the passenger van was running between Bangkok and eastern Rayong Province. The vehicle was carrying a driver and nine passengers.

The accident occurred at about 8:20 am on Saturday in Chon Buri's Bang Lamung District.

Witnesses told police that the vehicle was travelling at high speed. It lost control, ran into the road sign and fell into a ditch.

The compressed natural gas (CNG)-fuelled van quickly caught fire.

Among the seven fatalities were five women and two men.

Two woman passengers and the driver were injured and taken to hospital.

The police suspected that the driver had dozed off while driving.

Xinhua



The preparatory meeting for the first session of the 12th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) is held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, on 2 March, 2013.

XINHUA

Massive blaze hits New Zealand's Auckland

WELLINGTON, 3 March — Four buildings were on fire and several people unaccounted for in a massive blaze that was tearing through properties in central Auckland on Saturday night.

More than 60 firefight-

ers were battling the fire that's threatening neighbouring properties on West End Road in Westmere, Radio New Zealand reported.

A fire service spokesperson, Jaron Phillips, said there were unconfirmed reports of people inside the

burning houses, but they don't know how many or which buildings they may be inside. Phillips said a van parked near the properties was also on fire and has been rocked by several explosions since firefighters arrived.—*Xinhua*

Five policemen killed in Malaysia's Sabah amid standoff

KUALA LUMPUR, 3 March — At least 5 policemen were killed in an ambush in Malaysia's Sabah state as gunmen were spotted outside the village where standoff continues between security forces and Sulu gunmen, police said on Sunday.

Police Inspector General Ismail Omar told a Press conference that a police team

was sent to a village of east coast town of Semporna after reports said an armed group was spotted there.

The team was ambushed on arrival, at least five policemen and two gunmen were killed during the shootout.

"I have ordered police present in the area, and the situation is under control," Ismail said. Earlier reports

put the death toll at two.

Ismail told media that police were hunting down at least 10 intruders who believed to have infiltrated two villages in Kunak areas, located between Semporna and Lahad Datu where some 180 Royal Army of the Sulu Sultanate, have holed up in a village of Tanduo for three weeks.—*Xinhua*



Fire fighters and people gather outside a mobile market in southern Pakistani port city of Karachi on 2 March, 2013. At least 25 shops were burnt as the mobile market caught fire due to unknown reason, local media reported.

XINHUA

Bullet train derails in Japan's Akita, no one injured

TOKYO, 3 March — A bullet train derailed on the Akita Shinkansen Line on Saturday afternoon in Japan's northern Prefecture of Akita and no one was injured, local media reported.

The accident took place at around 4:05 pm local time with about 130

passengers on board when the first carriage of the six-car train derailed, Japan's *Kyodo News Agency* quoted the train's operator as saying.

The derail also led to suspension of all services on the Akita Shinkansen Line connecting Akita and Morioka, Iwate Prefecture,

according to the East Japan Railway Company.

The Japanese transport authorities said they would send officials to investigate the accident, which may be caused by bad weather as heavy snow warning has been issued in the area.

Xinhua

Death toll rises to 12 in N China mine fire

SHIJIAZHUANG, 3 March — The death toll from a coal mine fire in north China rose to 12 after one of the two missing miners was confirmed dead, local government said on Sunday.

All the 12 died due to carbon monoxide poisoning after a forcing fan caught fire under the Aijiagou coal mine in Huailai County, Hebei Province.

Rescuers are still

searching for the last missing miner.

The accident occurred at 8 pm on Thursday when 13 workers were doing maintenance work in the mine.—*Xinhua*

Five militants killed in eastern Afghan drone strike

KUNAR, 3 March — Up to five militants were killed on Saturday in a drone strike carried out by the NATO-led coalition forces in eastern Afghan Province of Kunar, the provincial governor said. "Unmanned plane with the coalition forces launched an attack against a militants' hide-out in Jeriin area of Ghazi Abad District at around 8 am local time on Saturday, killing five militants," Governor Seyyd Fazlullah Wahidi told *Xinhua*.

Meantime, local residents said that two local Taliban leaders named Dust Mohammad and

Akhtar Mohammad were among the dead in the Province 180 km east of Kabul.

On the other hand, the Taliban militant group fighting the Afghan and some 100,000 NATO-led forces confirmed the deaths.

A Taliban purported spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, told local media via cell phone from undisclosed location that two Taliban members were killed and four wounded in the attack.

The Taliban has been waging an insurgency since its regime was toppled by a US-led invasion in late 2001.—*Xinhua*



Job seekers read employment information at a job fair in Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province, on 2 March, 2013. More than 20,000 job opportunities were offered at the job fair.—*XINHUA*

Armed men kill 10 people in Pakistan's Karachi

ISLAMABAD, 3 March — At least ten people were killed in separate incidents of violence and target killings in Pakistan's southern port city of Karachi since early Saturday, local media reported.

Urdu TV channel Dunya reported that the recent spate of armed assault started at about 5:30 am (local time) when some unknown assailants gunned down a seminary teacher in Shah Faisal colony area of the city.

Police, in the wee hours of morning, recov-

ered a body from Gulshan-e-Iqbal area of the city. The identity of the deceased has not been determined yet, but police investigators said that the body carried eminent marks of torture.

Later, in the morning, some unknown gunmen opened fire in Orangi Town area of the city, killing two people right on the spot and injuring two others. The injured people were shifted to hospital where one of them breathed his last.

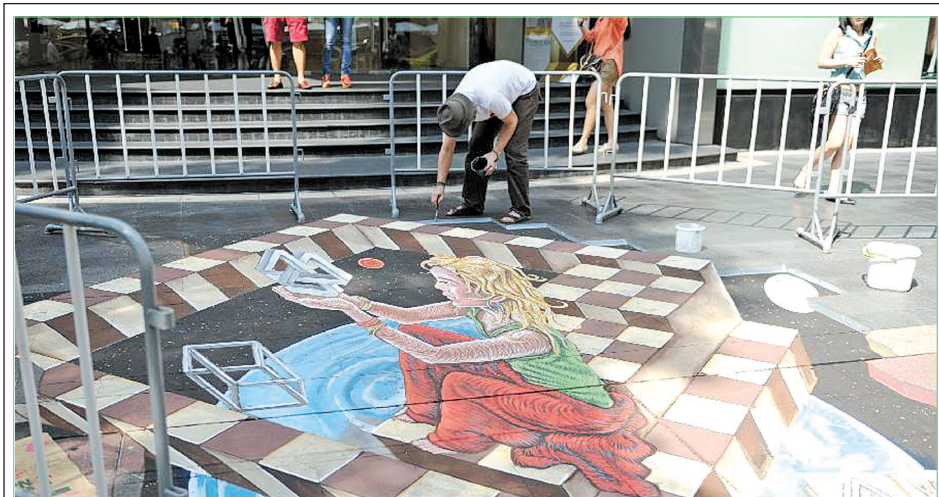
The assailants fled the scene following the attack,

and police is yet clueless about their whereabouts.

In another incident, two dacoits and a passerby woman were killed during the exchange of firing between the dacoits and the residents in Sakhi Hassan area of the city, senior superintendent Karachi police Asif Ijaz said.

Separately, two people were gunned down in Moach Goth area of the city by unknown militants. Identities of both the deceased and assailants are not known yet.

Xinhua



An artist draws on the ground in Bangkok, Thailand, on 2 March, 2013. One local artist and 19 others from over the world feast the eyes of Thai people with their 3D and 4D street paintings during the Living Arts Festival held in Bangkok.—*XINHUA*

TRADE MARK CAUTION

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For Kabushiki Kaisha PFU (PFU LIMITED)

Dated: 4 March, 2013.



Designer Guo Pei (L) introduces a Chinese-style wedding dress at her store in No 22 Waitan in Shanghai, east China, on 2 March, 2013. A wedding dress show was held by Guo Pei, the owner of the flagship store "Chinese Bride" and also a prominent designer who has created ceremonial dresses for both the CCTV Spring Festival Gala and the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

XINHUA

Ministry makes public handling of exam paper leakage

BEIJING, 3 March—The Ministry of Education (MOE) has made public its handling of an exam paper leakage scandal, a ministry official said on Saturday.

The MOE launched investigations soon after the leakage of exam paper during the national postgraduate exam in January, 2012. It disclosed investigation results in May and transferred the results to police, the official said.

Investigations found that Zhou Wensheng, an official with Xiangtan Education Examinations Authority, stole the postgradu-

ate exam papers from a confidential room in Xiangtan City in central China's Hunan Province and traded them for profit.

The ministry also made public on 27 February the penalties handed out to the involved suspects in the first instance trial.

Zhou Wensheng was sentenced to six years in prison, and his accomplices were handed out imprisonment sentences from nine months to five years, according to the ministry. They were sentenced on charge of illegally obtaining state secrets.—Xinhua



Madhuri Dixit

Madhuri Dixit serious about doing comedy films

MUMBAI, 3 March —After winning hearts of millions of fans with her emotion-filled acting and dancing skills, Madhuri Dixit now wants to show her funny side on screen.

The popular Bollywood actor, who currently has two films in her kitty, says she is open to doing all kinds of roles and does not want to restrict herself to certain characters.—PTI

More Nepalis want to learn Chinese

KATHMANDU, 3 March —When Asmita Khadka, 30, a lady journalist from Nepal, crossed the Himalayan mountain, the first barrier to reach China last year, she had to hurdle yet another barrier, this time created by language.

Khadka visited people from different walks of life, ranging from peasants and wage earners to political leaders and civil servants.

She wanted to talk with them as freely as she used to do with her peer groups and friends back home. However, this was not possible as she had a poor grasp of

the Chinese language.

"I felt suffocated since I could not communicate properly and get closer to the people because of my poor knowledge of Chinese language," she told Xinhua, while attending the inaugural session of the Chinese language workshop held on Saturday in Kathmandu.

"It is a better idea to lower the number of interpreters when a Chinese and a Nepali are talking," said Nepal's Chief Secretary Lilamani Poudel, the chief guest of the programme.

"The knowledge of Chinese language has be-

come very essential these days. It is far more necessary for journalists, as their role is important in taking our bilateral relations to a new height," he said. Deputy Chargé D'affaires of Chinese Embassy in Nepal, Wang Lixin, lauded the initiative by concerned groups to teach the Chinese language to the locals, saying that the Chinese language has been very crucial for Nepalis who intend to further their studies in China as well as for career advancement. "This training is a forum through which you can contribute

towards strengthening our two countries' cordial relations," she said. The Confucius Institute at Kathmandu University is organizing the three-month language training course that will begin on Monday. Classes will be thrice a week, while teachers of the Institute will train the Nepali journalists.

"We have Confucius Institutes in 83 US universities. In Nepal, we have been able to open up 10 units so far and the media component is the 10th one," said Prof Zhang Shubin, the institute's director in Nepal.—Xinhua

Will Dreamliner drama affect industry self-inspection?

SAN FRANCISCO/SEATTLE/PARIS, 3 March —Eight years ago, US regulators substantially increased their dependence on the aircraft industry to help keep flying safe.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said it would no longer directly manage routine inspection of design and manufacturing. Instead, it would focus on overseeing a self-policing programme executed by the manufacturers themselves through more than 3,000 of their employees assigned to review safety on behalf of the FAA.

These so-called designees had existed for decades, but the FAA had vetted and controlled them. Under the new system, companies chose and managed them, to the point where the FAA even had trouble rejecting those they felt were unsuitable for the job, according to one government watchdog. As the drama of the overheating lithium-ion batteries on the Boeing 787 Dreamliner unfolds, that relationship is coming under intense scrutiny.

No evidence has surfaced that the designee system is responsible for the battery problem that has prompted regulators to tem-

porarily ban the plane from the skies. The story has raised the question, however, whether the regulator hands over too much power to the industry. "This is an occupation with a built-in conflict of interest," said Gordon Mandell, a retired FAA certification engineer.

With Boeing doing

modern carbon-composite jet has been grounded around the world for six weeks as the National Transportation Safety Board leads an investigation into two battery incidents, joined by the FAA. Both agencies are also looking into the 787 certification process.



Boeing 787 Dreamliner airframe is tugged out for take-off departure from Paine Field in Everett, Washington in this 27 Sept, 2011 file photo, for delivery to the 787's first customer, All Nippon Airways (ANA) of Japan.

REUTERS

about 95 percent of its own inspections, adds Mary Schiavo, former Department of Transportation inspector general, "it's kind of do-it-yourself." The situation was not unique to Boeing, she said. "There are places around the world that saw an FAA inspector once, maybe five years ago, and that's it."

Boeing's new ultra-

"We need to understand what tests were done and who was certifying those tests, and again how they were verified — not just by Boeing, but by the regulator as well," NTSB Chairman Deborah Hersman said on 8 February, referring to the battery and other key parts made in a long, global supply chain.—Reuters

Peruvian president says free trade accord with EU to advance ties

LIMA, 3 March—The free trade agreement between Peru and the European Union (EU) will help promote bilateral ties, Peruvian President Ollanta Humala said on Friday.

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

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

"We have the capacity, through this multilateral accord, to improve our national industry and have access to this significant market, which last year became Peru's main source of direct foreign investments," said Humala. In 2012, the EU overtook China to become Peru's largest trade partner. Two-way trade amounted to 12.9 billion US dollars with Lima in trade surplus.

XINHUA



Farmers lay down agricultural film for spring sowing in the farmland in Jianzhen City of east China's Fujian Province, on 1 March, 2013.

XINHUA

ENTERTAINMENT

Is there a cold war brewing between Katrina Kaif, Priyanka Chopra?



Katrina Kaif reportedly left without meeting Priyanka Chopra on sets of Shootout At Wadala.—PTI

MUMBAI, 3 March—The non-stop catfights between leading ladies in Bollywood has been as old as 100 years of Indian cinema. Time and again we have heard about top actresses

not getting along with each other. So Katrina Kaif and Priyanka Chopra's cold war on the sets of Sanjay Gupta's upcoming sequel Shootout At Wadala did not come as a surprise.

A source says, "Priyanka Chopra was shooting for a special item song at stage number three in the Film City studios for Gupta's film. Around lunchtime, the entire set came to a stand still when they learnt that Katrina Kaif had come to the sets."

However Katrina apparently refused to come inside and instead went to choreographer Ahmed Khan's van where director Siddharth Anand joined them. The source adds, "The trio had a two hour meeting for the songs of Siddharth's Bang Bang. However neither Katrina, nor Priyanka bothered to go and greet each other."

PTI

Why Salman Khan vs Ranbir Kapoor may be an epic box office battle

MUMBAI, 3 March—After missing the Eid deadline, Salman Khan is now looking at releasing his upcoming film Mental (directed by brother Sohail Khan) on 2 October. The Gandhi Jayanti holiday is followed by the weekend which he feels will help the film.

By doing so, Salman will be taking on Abhinav Kashyap's film with Ranbir Kapoor which also releases on the same date. To stir your memory Salman and his brother Arbaaz Khan had severe differences with Abhinav Kashyap when he dropped out of Dabangg 2. Moreover Ranbir is dating Salman's ex-girlfriend Katrina Kaif. A source says, "This



If Salman releases his film Mental on 2 October, he will take on Abhinav Kashyap's Besharam that releases on the same day.—PTI

time around Salman's film has gone on the floors without any fanfare. Even the cast is being kept under wraps. The shoot has just started in

Dubai and although the entire trade expected the film to be wrapped up and released on Eid (8 July), the fact is that Salman is not eyeing Eid

this time.

The source added, "Salman intends to kill two birds with one stone, as it is well known that Salman and Abhinav can't see eye to eye after Abhinav decided to leave Dabangg 2 in spite of the success of Dabangg. Salman also wants to take on Ranbir now and is not bothered by the fact that his arch enemy Shah Rukh Khan's Chennai Express might release on Eid." The source further said, "In the past Salman's God Tussi Great Ho clashed with Ranbir's Bachna Ae Haseeno and Salman was down that time. He does not forget these things easily and now is his time to strike back."—PTI

Savita was really good: Sridevi praises her female cab driver



Sridevi poses with a female driver from Sakha Cabs.—PTI

NEW DELHI, 3 March—Bollywood actress Sridevi was driven to Design One, a fund-raising exhibition she inaugurated, by a female taxi driver in the capital on Wednesday (27 Feb, 2013). The actress was driven

to the venue in a cab chauffeured by a female driver from Sakha Cabs, which aims to provide safe transport for women in New Delhi. The actress, whose reel character Shashi empowered herself by mak-

ing laddoos and learning English in comeback film English Vinglish, was all praises for the cause and the experience.

"Like the first time how I worked with a woman director in English Vinglish, I travelled with a woman taxi driver. It was quite exciting and thrilled," Sridevi said.

Talking about her driver, the actress said, "Her name is Savita and she was really good."

Sridevi felt that it's exciting times for women in the country as there is work being done to empower them. "Things are changing now and that's the reason I'm here," she said. Sahachari Foundation, which organized the exhibition, donated a car to Sakha Cabs for Women.—PTI

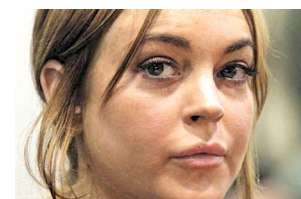
Judge refuses to dismiss Lindsay Lohan car crash charges

LOS ANGELES, 3 March—A Los Angeles judge refused on Friday to dismiss the reckless driving and obstruction case against actress Lindsay Lohan and said the "Mean Girls" star would stand trial later this month in connection with her 2012 car crash. Lohan, 26, was charged with reckless driving, lying to police and obstructing police—all misdemeanors—after her Porsche luxury sports car smashed into a truck on 8 June, 2012, in Santa Monica, California.

The actress, who has been in out of trouble since 2007 and had her probation revoked for a 2011 theft in which she pleaded no contest, told police she was not driving the car at the time of

the accident. She has pleaded not guilty to the charges.

At a brief hearing on Friday, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge James Dabney rejected defence lawyer Mark Heller's argument that Lohan was unlawfully questioned by police following the 2012 car crash.



Actress Lindsay Lohan attends a probation violation hearing at Airport Branch Courthouse in Los Angeles, California in this file photo taken on 30 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

The judge also refused Heller's request that Lohan's trial be pushed back to the first week of April. Lohan, who was not present at the hearing, will stand trial as scheduled on 18 March, Dabney ruled.

The actress faces three months to a year in jail on each misdemeanor charge if convicted, though a prison sentence is seen as unlikely in the case. Lohan also could go to jail if she is found to have violated the terms of her probation.

Earlier this week Heller told reporters that Lohan had started a new round of psychotherapy and wanted to give inspirational speeches to school kids in a bid to turn her life around.—Reuters

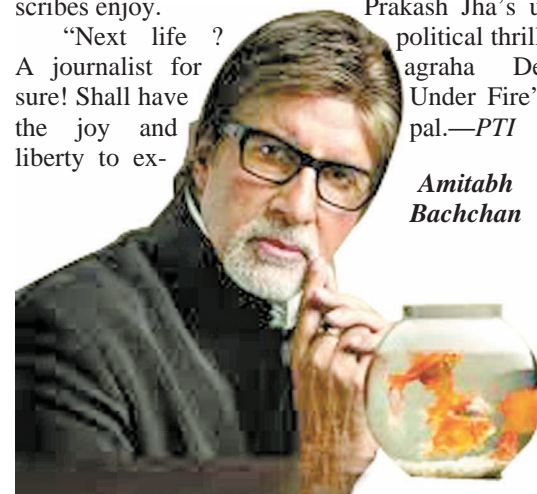
Amitabh Bachchan wants to be journalist in his next life

BHOPAL, 3 March—Bollywood mega star Amitabh Bachchan has said that he wants to be a journalist in his next life for the freedom of expression that scribes enjoy.

"Next life? A journalist for sure! Shall have the joy and liberty to ex-

press and speak out, without fear of any repercussions," Bachchan posted on Twitter.

The 70-year-old actor is currently shooting Prakash Jha's upcoming political thriller 'Satyagraha Democracy Under Fire' in Bhopal.—PTI



Amitabh Bachchan

Miss International visits Saga school with Peter, Paul & Mary member

SAGA, 3 March—Ikumi Yoshimatsu, the 2012 Miss International winner, has visited the elementary school she used to go to in Saga

Prefecture along with Peter Yarrow of musical trio Peter, Paul & Mary as part of a goodwill mission she has been undertaking to foster

friendship among children around the world.

Yoshimatsu, 25, told around 820 students at Tosu-Kita Elementary School on Thursday, "It's important to respect each other. Let's make the world a place of peace."

Yarrow, the 74-year-old American folk singer known for his anti-war songs, said peace does not mean no war but that everyone should have a gentle state of mind.

Students at the Japanese school also reached out to students at Norwood Junior High school in Sacramento, California, via Skype. Japanese and US students sang "Puff," one of PPM's songs, and posed questions to each other about their daily lives.

Kyodo News



Ikumi Yoshimatsu (R), the 2012 Miss International winner, and Peter Yarrow of musical trio Peter, Paul & Mary, sing with children at Tosu-Kita Elementary School in Tosu, Saga Prefecture, on 28 Feb, 2013.

KYODO NEWS

SPORTS



Demba Ba(C) of Chelsea shoots the ball during the Barclays Premier League match between Chelsea and West Bromwich Albion at Stamford Bridge in London, on 2 March, 2013. Chelsea won 1-0.—XINHUA

Imperious Djokovic seals another Dubai title

DUBAI, 3 March—Novak Djokovic extended his winning streak to 18 matches to claim a fourth Dubai Championships in five years on Saturday, underlining his status as the world's best player after beating Tomas Berdych 7-5, 6-3 in the final. The Serb is unbeaten since October, did not drop a set in Dubai and he has now won all 13 matches against top-10 opponents since Andy Murray defeated him in last year's US Open final.

That run includes claiming a third straight Australian Open crown and his latest Dubai triumph now takes him to 36 singles titles. "To prevail again, to be the last man standing ... it was never going to be an easy final—Tomas is a fantastic player and it could have gone either way," Djokovic said in a courtside interview. Ultimately, the 25-year-old won because he took his chances, converting three break points



Novak Djokovic of Serbia (L) poses with the trophy next to Tomas Berdych of Czech Republic after their men's singles final match during the ATP Dubai Tennis Championships, on 2 March, 2013.—REUTERS

out of four, while Berdych only managed to make one of his five count. Yet it was the Czech who started the stronger, belying a 12-1 losing record against Djokovic as the world number six dropped only four points in his opening three services games.

Berdych, who saved three match points before beating Roger Federer in Friday's semis, also made

the first break of the final, bypassing an onrushing Djokovic with a running lob winner into the corner for a 3-2 lead. The crowd, stunned their hero had faltered, bellowed Djokovic's name and the six-times grand slam champion responded with a change of tactics, retreating to the baseline as he dug in against the Berdych onslaught. Djokovic looked anguished

after a cross-court backhand drifted long, his shoulders drooping to reveal just what a struggle he had in putting any pressure on Berdych.

But that image proved illusory and the Czech, who was initially so at ease on serve, wilted under the power, precision and variety of his opponent's ground strokes.

Berdych missed an easy volley from mid-court that would have delivered a 5-3 lead and then repeated the blunder moments later to give Djokovic a break back for 4-4. "I was giving him too much time to control the points—that resulted with a break down," Djokovic told reporters.

"I fight and believe I can come back—that's something that can eventually decide the winner in these kinds of matches, just hanging in there, waiting for your chance and then going for it."

Reuters

Englishman Westwood feeling at home in Florida

PALM BEACH GARDENS, (Florida), 3 March—You won't catch Englishman Lee Westwood slipping into a Transatlantic drawl just yet but the 39-year-old from Nottinghamshire is already starting to feel at home in his new base in Florida. "The quality of life and the ease of life. Nothing is a problem really and playing on this tour, you are spoilt really," Westwood told reporters after his even-par 70 left him two shots off the Honda Classic lead heading into Sunday's final round.

Last week, Westwood officially moved into his home by the Old Palm golf club, just two miles from this week's tournament and a very different environment to his home town of Worksop, 20 miles from Sheffield. The world num-

ber nine is therefore enjoying a version of home support at the PGA National in Palm Beach Gardens, where he will aim to unseat American joint leaders Luke Guthrie and Michael Thompson. "When I walk on 17 and they say I'm from Palm Beach Gardens, a bigger cheer goes up than when it's from Worksop, for sure," joked Westwood.



Lee Westwood of Britain hits his tee shot on the 3rd hole during the third round of play in the Honda Classic PGA golf tournament in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida on 2 March, 2013.—REUTERS

"But I've got a lot of support in the States as it is, but probably even more so now that I've moved here," he said. It took a while for Westwood to make the move away from his roots. Unlike Luke Donald and Graeme McDowell, Westwood didn't play college golf in the United States and long resisted the temptation to follow many Brit-

ish and Irish golfers and set up his main base in the golfer's paradise of Florida. Instead, his non-tournament time was spent in Worksop, where the weather wasn't always conducive to practice and the different green speeds forced him to adapt when coming to tour events.

"I was just getting frustrated with the weather in the winters in England, not being able to work as hard as I would like and coming out at the start of the year really rusty," he said. "I wanted to come and live in the sunshine." Having spent years on the PGA Tour, Westwood is no stranger to the States, and he is familiar with the sporting scene in the country - watching the NBA, the NFL and making sure to correct football to soccer when talking to American reporters.—Reuters

Spurs' Parker to miss a month with sprained ankle

SALVO, 3 March—San Antonio Spurs leading scorer Tony Parker will be out for around four weeks with a left ankle sprain, the National Basketball Association team said on Saturday.

The loss of the All-Star guard from France could be a big setback for the Spurs, who enjoy the best record in the NBA with a 46-14 mark.

Parker injured the ankle in the third quarter of Friday's win over the Sacramento Kings. An examination confirmed the sprain.

He has averaged 21.0 points and 7.6 assists, both team highs, in starting 56 games this season and recently played in his fifth NBA All-Star game.—Reuters



San Antonio Spurs' Tony Parker (R), of France, and Tim Duncan share a laugh against the Los Angeles Clippers during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles on 21 Feb, 2013. REUTERS

Wang Beixing wins again at speedskating World Cup

BERLIN, 3 March—Winter Olympic medalist Wang Beixing of China won her second 500 metres race in as many days at the speedskating World Cup on Saturday. Wang, bronze medalist in 500m at Vancouver Olympics, clocked 38.15 seconds to beat Russia's Olga Fatkulina.

Winter Olympic medalist Wang Beixing of China

na by 0.06 seconds. Dutch skater Thijsje Oenema was two thousandths of a second behind Fatkulina in third.

Olympic champion Lee Sang-hwa skipped the Erfurt meet but retains the lead in the standings with 800 points, followed by Germany's Jenny Wolf on 611 and American Heather Richardson on 530. The women's 1,500m saw the Netherlands made a clean sweep as Ireen Wust lift the win in one minute 55.61

seconds, followed by Diane Valkenburg (1:58.32) and Marrit Leenstra (1:58.38).



In the men's event, Dutchman Jan Smeeckens claimed his

Suhr sets indoor pole vault world record

RALEIGH, 3 March—Olympic champion Jenn Suhr lit up the US indoor athletics championships on Saturday by leaping 5.02 metres to set a new women's pole vault world record. The 31-year-old American's stunning vault in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on the first attempt at the height, eclipsed the previous indoor mark of 5.01m set by Russian great Yelena Isinbayeva in 2012.

"I was in a groove tonight," Suhr told reporters. "I knew some big things could happen, I just need to be healthy and come down the runway. I'm glad that I got 5 metres out of the way, (with the) 5.02, because it is a mental barrier." Suhr made three attempts at 5.07m to

surpass Isinbayeva's outdoor world record of 5.06m but the Russian's mark remained intact at the end of the thrilling event. Until her unsuccessful bid for 5.07m, Suhr had not missed a single attempt in the rarefied air of New Mexico, clearing her first height at 4.65m, and again at 4.70m and 4.75m. She soared over the bar at 4.80m and upped the ante to 4.90m, smashing her previous indoor best of 4.88m before her record-breaking vault.—Reuters



Olympic champion Jenn Suhr

GENERAL

Soccer must do more to fight racism says Task Force boss

EDINBURGH, 3 March — Soccer has failed to respond to victims of racism on or off the pitch for far too long and needs to change its attitudes now, Jeffrey Webb, the chairman of FIFA's new Anti-Racism and Discrimination Task Force said on Saturday. Webb, the president of the CONCACAF confederation of countries in north and central America and the Caribbean, has been appointed by FIFA president Sepp Blatter to review the way the sport handles racist incidents, which have dramatically increased in recent years. He also said he wanted to meet players from England's Premier League to

discuss their experiences of racism in an attempt to forge new strategies to deal with the problem.

Asked if he would like to meet John Terry, Anton Ferdinand, Luis Suarez and Patrice Evra, who were all involved in racist incidents last season in England, Webb replied he would like to meet players involved in both sides of the problem. "We've been talking for a long time in football and I don't really think that we've supported the players. I don't think we've necessarily put the right sanctions in place to support them," he told reporters. "It's a travesty that it comes to that. We as

FIFA and the governing bodies have to make sure that players like Kevin Prince-Boateng and all the players around the world have the same rights and opportunities." AC Milan's Boateng led his team mates off the pitch in protest after being racially abused by fans of fourth-division Italian club Pro Patria during a friendly in January.

The Task Force will begin its initial work after a FIFA executive committee later this month which will decide its composition and it will make its preliminary report to the FIFA Congress in Mauritius in May.

Reuters

Real Madrid win second classic in five days

MADRID, 3 March — Real Madrid took their second victory, a 2-1 win, over eternal rivals, FC Barcelona in just five days on Saturday afternoon in the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium. Although the

game had appeared as if it was to be slightly decaffeinated following Real Madrid's 3-1 win over Barca in the Copa del Rey on Tuesday night and ahead of their Champions League clash away to Manchester

United next Tuesday, the game picked up after a slow first half and ended up with a late deciding goal and controversy as Barcelona were denied what looked like a clear penalty in injury time.

With his side out of the battle for the league title and with a huge game on Tuesday night, Madrid coach Jose Mourinho rested key players for the match with even Cristiano Ronaldo on the subs' bench.

However, he was still able to count on players such as Kaka, Karim Benzema and youngster Alvaro Morata, who had an impressive game. It was his cross to Benzema after just six minutes which led to scoring from close range.

Xinhua



Real Madrid's Luka Modric (L) tries to stop Barcelona's Lionel Messi during their Spanish first division soccer match at Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on 2 March, 2013.—XINHUA

Iditarod race starts with songs, blessings and hopes of victory

ANCHORAGE, (Alaska), 3 March—Dogs barked and spectators cheered as 66 mushers and their teams in the 1,000-mile Iditarod race set out from downtown Anchorage on Saturday after religious blessings, singing and glad-handing with fans. The 11-mile (17-kilometre) first leg ends at a wooded park in the southeast part of the city, in the ceremonial launch of the 41st annual Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.

Timed racing will not start until Sunday when the mushers reach Willow, a small community about 80 miles north of Anchorage. The competition will eventually see them glide

into Nome, a city on the coast of the Bering Sea. On Saturday mushers mingled with fans in Alaska's largest city and reflected

on the long road ahead. Fans serenaded Jamaican musher Newton Marshall, who turned 30 on Saturday, with "Happy Birthday."



Allen Moore's team charges out of the starting gate on 4th Avenue during the ceremonial start to the Iditarod dog sled race in downtown Anchorage, Alaska on 2 March, 2013.—REUTERS

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL
(4-3-13 09:30 am ~ 5-3-13 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * Knowledge Bank
- * US-Myanmar Trade and Investment Relation
- * News
- * Record Album
- * News
- * "A Place of Great Devotion" Pa O Region
- * News
- * Ever Green Taunggyi
- * FIFA delivers Standalone Territory to Myanmar through Sky Net
- * News
- * Art Field
- * Good Prospects for Future Economic Experts
- * News
- * Culture Stage
- * First Myanmar Health Expo 2013
- * News
- * "Read to enrich Your Mind with Knowledge" The Magic of Thinking Big by Kyi Shun
- * News
- * A worth studying site for ancient Myanmar Heritages
- * Myanmar Movies "Miss Arrogant"

Myanmar TV
(4-3-2013, Monday)

7:00 am	1. Paritta By Venerable MinGun Sayadaw	5:30 pm	12. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
7:25 am	2. Health Programme	6:00 pm	13. Evening News
7:30 am	3. Morning News	6:15 pm	14. Weather Report
7:40 am	4. International News	6:20 pm	15. Teleplay (Sea Games)
8:00 am	5. Documentary	6:50 pm	16. TV Drama Series
8:15 am	6. Cute Little Dancers	7:00 pm	17. News
8:20 am	7. Musical Programme	7:10 pm	18. TV Drama Series
8:40 am	8. Documentary	8:00	19. News
2:50 pm	9. Union Cup Games (Live Broadcast) (Football-Men, Semi-final) (Nay Pyi Taw Vs Mandalay)	7:00 pm	20. People Talks
4:50 pm	10. Musical Programme	7:10 pm	21. International News
5:00 pm	11. 2013 University Entrance Examination (Maths)	8:00	22. Weather Report
		10:00 pm	23. Cartoon Series
			24. Centanry of A One Soe Myint (Composer)
			25. Documentary
			26. News
			27. India Drama Series

McDowell urges McIlroy to concentrate on swing not equipment

PALM BEACH GARDENS, (Florida), 3 March—Rory McIlroy should not let the pressure of his switch to Nike clubs distract him and focus instead on resolving his swing troubles, fellow-Northern Irishman Graeme McDowell said after the world number one withdrew from the Honda Classic.

McIlroy, who quit after eight holes of the second

round on Friday, caused some confusion by initially telling reporters he was in a "bad place mentally" before later issuing a statement blaming a sore wisdom tooth for his early departure

by the move. Former world number one Nick Faldo labeled McIlroy's switch "dangerous" and the Northern Irishman has faced frequent questions about whether he has



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

REUTERS

after playing his first eight holes seven over-par.

Since the twice major winner switched clubs from Titleist to Nike in January, in a deal reported to be worth as much as \$250 million over 10 years, there has been speculation about whether he would be badly affected

been able to adjust to the new clubs. "I'm sure the guy has a lot on his mind. When you start trying to prove things to other people and you stop playing for yourself it is a very dangerous place to be," McDowell told Irishgolfdesk.com.

Reuters

Democratic reform could not be delayed nor reversed as it picks up momentum: President U Thein Sein



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein meets press at Presidential Residence in Helsinki in Finland. MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March—President U Thein Sein met Finnish President Mr Sauli Niinisto at Presidential Residence in Helsinki in Finland on 1 March afternoon and the two presidents then met the press.

The Finnish President supported the democratization efforts of Myanmar, expressing pleasure for the ongoing dialogues between Nay Pyi Taw and ethnic armed groups. He spoke in favour of ongoing reforms and human rights campaigns the Myanmar government is undertaking, revealing prepared contribution of Euro 6.5 million for development undertakings in Myanmar between 2014 and 2016. He also vowed to have economic sanctions against Myanmar eased. He

said the discussions with the Myanmar President also covered private B2B transactions and offered technical help in mining in particular. He also pledged to strengthen the connections and hoped to cooperate further in the future.

The President thanked the Finnish counterpart, the Finnish government and the people for making his visit a reality. He noted that the diplomatic ties between Finland and Myanmar would turn 60. Different political system and other factors cooled down the relations in the past 20 years. There are a wide range of opportunities to rekindle the ties as Myanmar is in transition towards democracy which Finland is also practicing. He again thanked the Finnish President for promising

to support Myanmar's democratic reforms. The government is developing democracy in Myanmar and initiating political, economic and social reforms in accord with the desires of the people, he added. The democratic reform could not be delayed nor reversed as it picks up momentum and the government has vowed to continue it, he explained. There are both successes and challenges in reforming Myanmar, he said.

The President said that reform process would be translated into success thanks to understanding and cooperation of international community. More efforts would be made for the development of nation.

The President called for cooperation of Finland as a partner country in Myanmar's bid for development. He also invited Finnish companies to invest in Myanmar where there are many potentials for doing businesses in cooperation with Myanmar entrepreneurs. The President invited the Finnish President to come and visit Myanmar.

Next, the President and Finnish President answered the queries raised by media men.

Regarding the question about his view on Myanmar reform process, the President replied that it is required to resume diplomatic ties between Myanmar and Finland after relations were strained for many years. The President expressed his hope for promotion of democracy, human rights and the Rule of Law. It is needed to strive for reaching a truce with national races armed forces.

As regards the question on his expectations from his visit, the Myanmar President answered that the diplomatic ties would turn 60 and would be rekindled. Myanmar is initiating a series of sweeping political and economic reforms in a short period of time to develop democracy. He said he visits Finland because he believes Finland would support Myanmar's democratic transition.

Regarding the question what are pledges of the Finnish President as the Norwegian Prime Minister pledged to support Myanmar's development, the Finnish President offered Euro 6.5 million aids to Myanmar, Finland has strong ICT industry, and Myanmar has rekindled relations with EU, the Finnish President answered that Finland would provide aids for sector-wise development of Myanmar as of 2014. He underlined that Myanmar needs many assistances for industrial development. The Finnish Foreign Minister led the economic delegate formed with reps from 20 companies who visited Myanmar in the previous year. There is no problem in EU-Myanmar engagement, he added, saying he hoped for better relations.

In response to the question about when the absolute power will be transferred to civilian government in Myanmar and whether there would be changes (in the political landscape) in 2015 general elections, the President answered that the role of the armed forces cannot be omitted in Myanmar because of the significant part it has

Objectives of the 68th Anniversary

Armed Forces Day 2013

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

taken along the course of country's history. The Armed Forces is intended to play a part in building the country although its main responsibility is to protect the nation. The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services is appointed by the President. The 25 percent military representation in the parliament at present is

due to the unique historical background of the country. Nonetheless, the ratio will be reduced gradually. It is difficult to answer whether the incumbent government will run for the next term. It all depends on situation of the country, the parliament and the public opinion that time.

MNA

Untimely rainfall warning

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March—According to the observations at 12:30 hrs MST today, under the influence of moving from easterly wave, rain or thundershowers are likely to be scattered in Taninthayi Region, eastern

Shan, Southern Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States, isolated in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions and Northern Shan State within next four days (from 4th to 7th March, 2013).

NLM

Earthquake news

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March — A moderate earthquake of magnitude 5.5 Richter Scale with its epicenter outside Myanmar (Yunnan, China) about 350 miles northeast of

Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at 12 hrs 13 min 22 sec MST today, announced by Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

MNA

Get flight knowledge at People's Park and Square

An XY-AD 7, F27 (Fokker) passenger airplane will be on show in next month at the People's Park and People's Square in Yangon in order that the general public gets knowledge about the flights.

It is Myanmar Airways' flight and arrived in Myanmar on 22 October, 1978. It has operated

52,867 times. It stopped its operation as of 25 August, 2010. It will be put at the place where "War Vessel Mayu" is placed in the People's Park and People's Square.

"Engineers from Myanmar Airways are installing it daily. And YCDC provides necessary assistance," said an official from Parks and playgrounds

**Htet Khaing
(Sangyoung)**

Department of Yangon City Development Committee.

A few people in Myanmar have taken flights. People can study it only with park admission fees. No extra fee would not be collected.

Kyemon: 28-2-2013

Trs: MT

