

# The New Light of Myanmar

THE MOST RELIABLE NEWSPAPER AROUND YOU

Volume XX, Number 323

12<sup>th</sup> Waning of Tabodwe 1374 ME

Saturday, 9 March, 2013

## People extend hero's welcome to President U Thein Sein on return from Europe trip



*President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein being warmly welcomed back by people at Yangon International Airport.*  
MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 8 March—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein arrived back here by special aircraft at 8:45 pm today

after paying goodwill visits to the European countries—Norway, Finland, Austria, Belgium and Italy.

President U Thein Sein and party were welcomed

back by Union Minister at the President Office U Aung Min, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Shein, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint

Swe, Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Hsan Oo, Charges d' affaires ai and officials from Thailand, France, Norway, Italy and EU

member countries at Yangon International Airport.

The national race girls presented the bouquet to the President at the airport lounge and political party members, artistes from Myanmar Motion Picture Organization, officials of Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and affiliated associations, factory workers and company staff, social organization members and people holding placards and waving miniature State flags

welcomed the President along the route to airport and the President cordially greeted them.

Together with the President, delegation members Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win, Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin and U Soe Thane, Deputy Ministers U Thant Kyaw, U Ye Htut, Dr Daw Thet Thet Zin, Dr Daw Thein Thein Htay and departmental heads arrived back on the same flight.

MNA

## Cash and kind donated for quake sufferers

NAY PYI TAW, 8 March—Donations in the form of cash, foodstuffs and clothes have been made for quake victims in Mandalay Region and Sagaing Region at Relief and Resettlement Department (Head Office) of the Ministry

of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

Asia World Co Ltd contributed K 200 million and Ko Tun Min-Ma Htay Htay Win K 50,000 for victims on 6 March.

MNA



*People waiting to welcome President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein at Yangon International Airport.—MNA*



## Judges, judicial officials take oath in Rakhine State



SITTWAY, 8 March — An oath-taking ceremony of judges and judicial officials in Rakhine State took place at

the meeting hall of Rakhine State High Court on 4 March. Rakhine State Chief Justice U Kyauk spoke on the occasion.

Next, 20 judges and five judicial officials took oath before the chief justice.

Then the chief justice briefed those present about experience and instructions of the fourth work coordination meeting between the Supreme Court and Region/State High Courts and district courts.

*Kyemon*

## Solar panels help farmers grow seasonal crops in Taungdwingyi Township

SAGAING, 8 March — Measures are being taken to tap underground water with the use of pumps run by solar power for agricultural purpose in Jokekon Village on the bank of Yanpal creek, south of Vishu old city in Taungdwingyi Township of Magway Region.

On 3 March, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Khin Zaw accompanied by officials arrived in the village where

he attended to the needs of local people.

According to a local, a solar power-run pump produces underground water from 6000 to 9000 gallons of water per hour, saving cost of fuel consumption. That's why, solar panels are of great benefit to farmers in grow crops the whole year round, greening Vishu region which is used to be affected by drought, supplying

adequate drinking water to local people and their cattle and availability of electricity.—*Kyemon*

## One of two crash victims killed in collision with car

DAWEI, 8 March — A crash involved one vehicle and two motorbikes occurred in front of Dawei Education College on Arzani Road in

Shan Lay.

U Aung San, 65, one of two crash victims, was pronounced dead on the spot at the scene of the road



Dawei at about 8.45 am on 4 March.

A HIACE SUPER CUSTOM driven by U Kyaw Shein was in collision with two motorbikes driven by U Aung San and Banyar (a)

accident. Banyar (a) Shan Lay was admitted to Dawei Hospital due to serious injuries he had suffered in the accident. Dawei Police Station opened a case about the crash. — *Kyemon*

## Fire breaks out at No. 3 Steel Plant



YANGON, 8 March — A fire broke out at No (3) Steel Plant of Myanma Economic Corporation at Ywama of Insein Township, here, at about 10.30 am on 6 March.

The fire started at stockpiles of overage vehicles for destruction in the plant. Fire fighters accompanied by 53 fire trucks and six administrative vehicles managed to bring the fire under control and put out the fire at about 12.15 pm. No injuries were reported in the fire. Yangon Region Security Affairs Minister Col Tin Win and officials of Fire Services Department made close supervision at the scene of the fire. — *Kyemon*

## Torrential downpour with hailstones collapses houses, uproots trees in Kyondoe

KYONDOE, 8 March — Such was the suddenness of torrential downpour with hailstones that houses were destroyed and one woman wounded in Kyondoe of Kawkareik District in Kayin State at about 6 pm on 3 March.

The downpour battered

the town, bringing high wind and hailstones that tore off the roofs and collapsed eight houses in ward-2 and three houses in ward-3. No death was reported but Daw Mya, 56, of ward-2 injured and she was taken to Kyondoe People's Hospital.



Heavy rain and high wind cut electric lines, uprooted trees and lampposts and toppled houses, leaving 53 people homeless.

Local battalions, Myanmar Police Force, officials of township development department, ward administrators and townsenders provided necessary assistance to the displaced households and performed clearing the debris.

Officials of Kayin State government presented K 100,000, one bag of rice, clothing, and household goods each to the displaced households. Supply of electricity resumed after reinstallation of power lines.

*Kyemon*

## Roundtable discussion on curbing crimes in Mawlamyine

NAYPYITAW, 8 March — Organized by Mawlamyine Township Police Station, a roundtable discussion on curbing crimes took place with the participation of police officers, ward administrators and townsenders at Myoma Police Station in Mawlamyine on 27 February.

First, Head of Mawlamyine Township Police Force Police Captain Myo Thant spoke on the

occasion.

Next, Police Inspector Hsan Win of Myoma Police Station stressed the need of the commitment of ward administrators and local people in the fight against gambling, drug abuse and human trafficking crimes, and in the drive for the arrest of culprits.

Then the police officers answered the queries raised by those present.

*MNA*

## Kitchen fire in Sagaing Township



SAGAING, 8 March — A kitchen fire broke out at the house of U Aung Kyi in Baukthauk Village in Hsartaung station, 32-mile from Sagaing, at about 4.30 am on 4 March.

The fire started from the stove on which the pot of rice was cooking. A shower of sparks from the stove left when he was worshipping had set fire to the bamboo

wall and the fire swept through the whole house. Twenty houses and nine cowsheds were reduced to ashes in the fire.

Under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner U Myint Wai and Sagaing District Police Commander Police Lt-Col Tint Lwin, fire crews put out the fire at about 6.30 am.

*Kyemon*



## WORLD

## States with strict gun laws found to have fewer shooting deaths

BOSTON, 8 March—States that have more laws restricting gun ownership have lower rates of death from shootings, both suicides and homicides, a study by researchers at Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard University found.

States with the most laws on gun ownership, including Massachusetts and New Jersey, have 42 percent lower rates of death from guns than those with the least restrictions, including Utah and

Oklahoma, according to the study, published on Wednesday in the online edition of *JAMA Internal Medicine*.

The study was released as a Senate committee approved new gun-control measures backed by President Barack Obama to crack down on illegal trafficking in firearms in the wake of the December massacre at a Connecticut elementary school.

Based on data from 2007 through 2010, the study looked at the



Recently-seized handguns are displayed at the Boston police headquarters in Boston, Massachusetts on 7 Dec, 2005.—REUTERS

relationship between the number of restrictions states placed on gun ownership—from background checks on gun buyers to bans

on military-style assault weapons—and the number of gun-related homicides and suicides reported.

Reuters

## Obama's shift to schmooze offensive reflects political reality



US President Barack Obama speaks before he signs the Violence Against Women Act while at the Department of Interior in Washington, on 7 March, 2013.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 8 March—President Barack Obama's abrupt shift to a schmooze offensive—dining and visiting with Republican lawmakers—reflects a need for some resolution in the budget wars so he can move on

to other priorities like gun control and immigration that could define his second term.

A drop in his approval ratings in recent weeks and a new round of media questions about his scant socializing with members

of Congress have also likely put pressure on Obama to start talking to his political foes.

"He has a limited amount of time to tackle the items on his agenda, like immigration, increasing the minimum wage and gun control," said Nancy-Ann DeParle, who recently stepped down as deputy White House chief of staff and is now a Brookings Institution guest scholar.

"He can't waste time on a protracted battle over the budget and sequester," said DeParle. "That should be left to the Congress to figure out."

With another budget deadline looming, he needs to get a deal completed so he can seek legislative approval of other items on his second-term agenda.

Reuters

## Philippine FS talks with UN chief on abducted Filipino peacekeepers

MANILA, 8 March—Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario conveyed the country's "deep concern" over the abduction by Syrian gunmen of 21 Filipino peacekeepers in Golan Heights during a phone talk with United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon on Thursday.

"The secretary and secretary-general are working for the expeditious release of the Filipino peacekeepers," Foreign Affairs spokesman Raul Hernandez said at a news briefing Thursday.

The Philippine government strongly condemned the illegal detention of the Filipinos, calling it a "gross violation of international law." All Filipino peacekeepers, who were seized by gunmen on

Wednesday in Al-Jamla, are reported to be unharmed and that UN-led negotiations are underway to secure their safe release, Hernandez said.

There is no monetary demand from the hostage takers in exchange for the release of the hostages, he

said. "The UN peacekeeping force is working together with our force there and also negotiating with the other side for the expeditious release. We are trying to exhaust all possible avenues," Hernandez said.

Xinhua



Indian United Nations peacekeepers stand at the gate to a UN base near the Kuneitra border crossing between Israel and Syria, in the Israeli occupied Golan Heights on 7 March, 2013.—REUTERS

## Putin to attend discussions on light industry

ST PETERSBURG, 8 March—Russian President Vladimir Putin arrived in the northwestern city of Vologda on Thursday to attend discussions on the local textile industry.

Vologda is home to Vologda Textiles, Russia's largest supplier of linen fabrics, both domestically and internationally.

Since its entry into the World Trade Organization in January, Russia has made its light industry a priority for development in an effort

to diversify its economy, which depends heavily on the oil and gas sectors.

Russian Minister of Industry Denis Manturov has announced new measures aimed at helping firms like Vologda Textiles compete in global markets.

During his visit to Vologda Textiles, Putin congratulated workers on their recent successes at home and abroad and pledged his government's renewed support.

Xinhua

## Europe should go extra mile for Ireland, Portugal

DUBLIN, 8 March—Europe should do all it can to assist Portugal and Ireland's return to financial markets, not limiting its help to just extending loans under their EU/IMF bailouts, International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde said.

"I would be cautious not to limit it to an extension," she said in an interview with the *Irish Times* newspaper on Thursday, a day ahead of an official visit to the country—her first mission to a bailed-out euro zone state.

She also said policy-makers should guard against complacency after the global economy came close to collapse last year, given the risk of a relapse.

Ireland and Portugal, which have both stuck closely to the economically painful terms set out by their international lenders, have in return asked for the bailout loans to be extended.

European Union finance ministers sought advice on Tuesday on how to help the countries demonstrate the success of their bailout programmes by returning to



Netherlands' Finance Minister and Eurogroup Chairman Jeroen Dijsselbloem (L), with International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Christine Lagarde and Belgium's Finance Minister Steven Vanackere (R) attend a euro zone finance ministers meeting at the European Union Council in Brussels on 4 March, 2013.—REUTERS

international debt markets.

Referring to those deliberations, Lagarde added: "I think it has really been refined yesterday during the discussions as an adjustment that might include very much an extension of the maturities but is not limited only to the extension of maturities."

Referring to Ireland, she said "any avenue" should be explored that supported the country's return to economic growth and self-sufficiency.

Lagarde arrives in Ireland on Friday to meet with authorities aiming for a successful exit from the bailout programme at the end of the year.

The newspaper quoted her as saying that there was not much more that could be done on interest rates but that "financial people can think of lots of things". Pushing out Ireland's bailout repayments to the end of the term was one option.—Reuters

## 17 of 18 largest banks in US pass Fed stress test

WASHINGTON, 8 March—US Federal Reserve on Thursday announced that 17 of the 18 largest banks passed the latest round of stress test, evidence that most US big banks have enough capital buffers to withstand a deep economic recession.

"The nation's largest bank holding companies have continued to improve their ability to withstand an extremely adverse hypothetical economic scenario and are collectively in a much stronger capital position than before the financial crisis," the central bank

said in a statement releasing results of the bank stress tests.

Banks participated in this round of stress test included Citigroup, JPMorgan Chase, Morgan Stanley and Wells Fargo.

Government-controlled Ally Financial Inc., the former financial arm of General Motors, was the only bank to fail the annual stress test, as its Tier 1 common capital ratio, a measure of financial strength, fell below the required 5 percent in the test.

Under the most severe scenario of the test, US

unemployment rate will reach 12.1 percent, stock values will shed more than 50 percent, and the housing prices will plummet more than 20 percent.

"The stress tests are a tool to gauge the resiliency of the financial sector," US Fed Governor Daniel Tarullo said.

"Significant increases in both the quality and quantity of bank capital during the past four years help ensure that banks can continue to lend to consumers and businesses, even in times of economic difficulty," Tarullo said.

Xinhua



## Angry Birds for iPhone, iPad goes free, adds 15 new levels

NEW DELHI, 8 March— Angry Birds, the popular game that started it all for Rovio, is now available for free on iPhone and iPad. This is the first time that the original game is being offered for free since the launch of the game in 2009. Angry Birds app for iPhone usually costs \$0.99 while the Angry Birds HD app on iPad goes for \$2.99. Moreover, this app has also got an update that added 15 new Bad Piggies levels for gamers to master.

Appsfire was first to spot the free listing and shared that the game may become Apple's next Free App of the Week. Some believe that this move is triggered by the that Rovio has now fallen out of the top 80 highest grossing iPhone apps for the first time since May 2010.

At the moment, it is not clear whether this is a promotional deal offered by Rovio or permanent move by the company.

Angry Birds Toons,



which is an animated cartoon series based on Angry Birds franchise will be premiering on the weekend of 16 and 17 March 2013. This all-new animated series set on Piggy Island and will feature short animation episodes that will be aired every week. The episodes promise to take viewers on the latest adventures of the furious avian flock and the

egg-thirsty swine.

Apart from the Angry Birds, Rovio had also launched a gaming app dubbed Amazing Alex in July 2012. This game too had claimed the number one spot as a paid iPhone app in the App Store within 8 hours of its debut. The Finnish gaming studio is now gearing up to launch a new game in association with

DreamWorks Animation called The Croods. The Croods is expected to reach iOS and Android on March 14th. It is also the name of an upcoming 3D animated movie from DreamWorks Animation, SKG which is set to release on 22 March 2013. It narrates the story of the world's first caveman family that sets out on a road trip adventure.—PTI

## China to launch quantum experiment satellite in 2016

BEIJING, 8 March— China has initiated to launch a satellite for quantum information and technology experiments in 2016, a leading quantum physicist said here on Thursday.

Prof Pan Jianwei said, "We hope to establish a quantum communication network from Beijing to Vienna."

"Such a plan is impossible without international collaborations," Pan said at a Press conference on the sidelines of the annual session of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, China's top political advisory

body.

The field of quantum communication, the science of transmitting quantum states from one place to another, has caught global attention in recent years owing to the discovery of quantum cryptography, which is described as a way of creating "unbreakable" messages. A member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Prof Pan of the University of Science and Technology of China led a frontier research team to conduct a 30-40 km quantum communication test on the Great Wall in 2005.

Xinhua

## Samsung loses latest Apple patent suit in UK



Visitors are seen in front of the Samsung stand during the Mobile World Congress at Barcelona, on 27 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

LONDON, 8 March— Apple won a patent infringement lawsuit on Thursday in an English court, which exonerates the iPhone maker from charges it unlawfully used Samsung technology.

Samsung had argued that three individual patents relating to processing and transmitting data on 3G mobile networks had been infringed, but the court found all three claims invalid.

This is the latest case in a global barrage of claims and counterclaims between the two companies, which

between them account for one in every two smartphones sold worldwide.

Samsung said it was disappointed by the court's decision. "Upon a thorough review of the judgment we will decide whether to file an appeal," a spokeswoman said.

Apple declined to comment. The Korean company won a bittersweet legal victory over its California-based rival last summer when another British judge ruled its Galaxy tablet should not be blocked from sale in Britain.—Reuters

## China to further regulate stem cell clinical experiments

BEIJING, 8 March— China will further regulate stem cell clinical experiments to protect the interests of providers and testees, according to draft rules by medical watchdogs.

The Ministry of Health (MOH) and the State Food and Drug Administration (SFDA) jointly publicized the draft rules on Thursday to solicit public opinions.

All clinical experiments on stem cells are subject to ethical review, said the regulations.

Researchers must submit relevant materials surrounding stem cell products, selection criteria and detailed consent forms of providers and testees, safety evaluation reports, research plans, and resumes of main participating researchers to the ethical board for review.

Only top-level hospitals certified by the SFDA as eligible for carrying out drug clinical tests can apply to be stem cell clinical experiment bases. Also according to the rules, during the first three phases of stem cell clinical experiments, testees should not be charged. Medical institutions that violate the rules will lose their qualification and face penalties.—Xinhua

## Regulators end probe of big five EU telecoms firms over standards

BRUSSELS, 8 March— EU antitrust regulators said on Thursday they were closing a preliminary investigation into Europe's biggest telecoms firms

over development of new technology standards for mobile services.

The European Commission, which acts as competition watchdog for

the 27-country European Union, said it was satisfied that the operators had handed standardization work over to the GSMA mobile industry grouping and other sector-wide associations.

It had been worried that work by five major operators — Vodafone, France Telecom, Telecom Italia, Deutsche Telekom and Telefonica—risked shutting out competitors and harming consumers.

"The Commission welcomes this transfer, which allows more stakeholder participation. It is a positive step that reduces the risk of standard setting work affecting competition negatively," the Commission said in a statement.

Reuters



A man walks past the logo of Deutsche Telekom AG that is reflected on glass at their headquarters, in this file photo taken in Bonn on 5 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

## New Chinese fossil discovery named Luanchuan Man

ZHENGZHOU, 8 March— Chinese paleoanthropologists have given the name Luanchuan Man to Homo erectus fossil specimens discovered in central China's Henan Province.

The fossilized teeth of an early human were recently discovered at the Sunjiadong excavation site in Luanchuan County in the city of Luoyang.

Researchers from the Henan Provincial Bureau of Cultural Relics said on Thursday that the teeth came from the skull of a deceased

minor.

The extinct Homo erectus species is believed to have lived around 2 million to 200,000 years ago.

Li Zhiyang, a member of an archaeological research team in Henan, said experts believe the stratum of the Sunjiadong site belongs to the middle Pleistocene period, or the same period as Peking Man, an example of Homo erectus that was discovered in the Zhoukoudian cave system near Beijing in the early 20th century.

Xinhua

## India 2012 tablets shipments top 3.11 million; Samsung, Micromax, Apple top vendors

MUMBAI, 8 March— Tablets seem to be the new love interest for the Indian consumer. As per a report of Cyber Media Research (CMR) in the Calendar year 2012, a whopping 3.11 million units of tablets



were shipped in India. Furthermore, 1.09 million

of these tablets were shipped in the fourth quarter (October to December) of 2012.

According to CME report, Samsung is the leader in the tablet category with 25.1 percent share for the CY 2012. At second spot is Micromax with 14.3 percent market share. Apple with 9.1 percent market share was at the third spot.

Talking about the growth in the Indian tablet market, Faisal Kawoosa, Lead Telecoms Analyst, CMR said, "The year 2012

and particularly the last two quarters (3Q 2012 and 4Q 2012) were significant for the India tablets market. We have seen the market for these devices grow substantially in 2012, particularly in the second half which made up for over 70 percent of the total sales." To this Tarun Pathak, Telecoms Analyst, CMR added, "Samsung has been able to maintain the lead in the market only because of the first-mover advantage with the Galaxy Note and the Galaxy Note II."—PTI



BUSINESS & HEALTH

## Fight tobacco marketing, boost vaccinations to curb cancer, says report



A youth holds a cigarette while waiting for a train in Jakarta. REUTERS

LONDON, 8 March—Fighting the tobacco industry's tactics in the world's poorest countries and ensuring the best vaccines get to those most in need are key to cutting the number of cancer deaths worldwide, according to a report by specialists in the disease.

Experts reporting from a meeting of cancer organizations across the world said smoking and other forms of tobacco use are the main drivers of a growing global burden of cancer.

They urged governments to put citizens' health above the financial gains they reap from the tobacco business.

"The number of people diagnosed with cancer across the world is increasing. But there are clear actions

that all countries can take which will go a long way to reducing both the numbers diagnosed from cancer and deaths from the disease," said Harpal Kumar of the charity Cancer Research UK in a report published by the journal *Science Translational Medicine* on Wednesday.

Kumar, who worked with Harold Varmus of the US National Cancer Institute and others, said those actions included higher taxes on tobacco products, ensuring health workers set an example by not smoking, deglamourizing the habit and protecting poor countries from increased marketing efforts by the industry.

Some 12.7 million people are diagnosed with

cancer every year worldwide and cancer now accounts for more than 15 percent of annual deaths globally.

Smoking is known to cause lung cancer—one of the most deadly forms of the disease—and also increases the of many other types including head and neck cancers, cancers of the bladder and kidneys, and breast, pancreas and colon cancer.

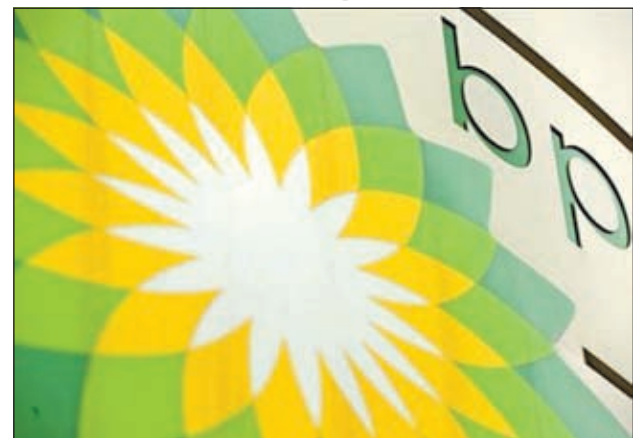
Wednesday's report also said more needs to be done to ensure access and uptake of cancer-preventing immunizations—like the HPV vaccine against cervical cancer—is as high as it can be.—Reuters

## BP faces escalating spill payouts after court ruling

LONDON, 8 March—BP (BP.L) must keep paying certain types of oil spill compensation in much larger amounts and to more parties than it was expecting, according to a court ruling this week, which could add billions of dollars to its final bill.

The 5 March ruling, made by the New Orleans court where it is battling to keep a lid on other fines and penalties, was outlined in BP's annual report.

It widens the gulf between the company and those ranged against it inside and outside the court. BP said it would appeal.—Reuters



A British Petroleum (BP) sign is seen at a petrol station in south London on 29 July, 2008.—REUTERS

## Fourth-quarter productivity weakest in four years

WASHINGTON, 8 March—Nonfarm productivity fell at its fastest pace in four years in the fourth quarter, but the decline was likely to be temporary as economic growth is expected to pick up after stalling in late 2012.

Productivity fell at a 1.9 percent annual rate, the weakest pace since the fourth quarter of 2008, the Labour Department said on Thursday.

A month ago it estimated that productivity, which measures hourly output per worker, fell at a 2 percent pace.

It had increased at a 3.1 percent rate in the third

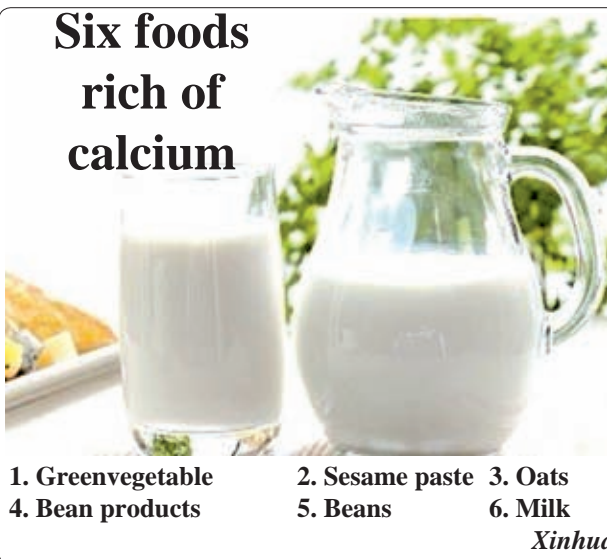
quarter. Economists polled by Reuters had expected the decline productivity to be revised to a 1.6 percent rate.

The drop largely reflects a surge in hiring while output continued to expand at a slower pace.

The economy added about 600,000 jobs the fourth quarter, but gross domestic product only grew at a 0.1 percent rate. Growth is expected to accelerate in the first quarter, although the pace is not expected to be above 2 percent as the economy adjusts to tighter fiscal policy.

Reuters

## Six foods rich of calcium



1. Green vegetable
  2. Sesame paste
  3. Oats
  4. Bean products
  5. Beans
  6. Milk
- Xinhua

## Jobless claims unexpectedly fall, signal labour market gains

WASHINGTON, 8 March—The number of Americans filing new claims for unemployment benefits unexpectedly fell last week, suggesting a pick-up in the labour market recovery.

Initial claims for state

The four-week moving average for new claims, a better measure of labour market trends, also fell 7,000 to 348,750—the lowest level since March 2008—pointing to some firming in underlying labour market conditions.

up from January's 157,000 count. That would just be enough to hold the jobless rate steady at 7.9 percent.

Economists say job gains of at least 250,000 per month over a sustained period are needed to significantly dent the ranks of the unemployed. Job growth averaged 200,000 in the last three months.

While layoffs have subsided, companies are not in a hurry to step up hiring as domestic demand remains lackluster.

Claims remain tucked in the low end of a 330,000 to 375,000 range for this year.

"The slow, steady improvement in claims is a good reflection of a better business environment," said Joseph Trevisani, chief market strategist at Worldwidemarkets in Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey. "It has taken the jobless numbers a very long time to get to the point where historically managers begin to hire." A third report showed planned layoffs at US companies rose for the second month in a row in February as the financial sector cut the most employees in over a year.—Reuters



A job seeker (R) meets with a prospective employer at a career fair in New York City, on 24 Oct, 2012.—REUTERS

unemployment benefits fell 7,000 to a seasonally adjusted 340,000, declining for a second straight week, the Labour Department said on Thursday.

The prior week's claims figure was revised to show 3,000 more applications received than previously reported.

Economists polled by Reuters had expected first-time applications to rise to 355,000.

A Labour Department analyst said no states had been estimated and there were no special factors influencing the report.

The data has no bearing on February's employment report, due on Friday, as it falls outside the survey period.

According to a Reuters survey of economists, employers probably added 160,000 jobs to their payrolls last month, a small pick-up

SINGAPORE, 8 March—Thai Beverage, the winner of the recent takeover tussle for Singapore-based Fraser and Neave, is going to replace IHH Healthcare, the Malaysia-based hospital operator, to be one of the 30 Straits Times Index (STI) constituents, the Singapore Exchange said on Thursday.

Effected from 18 March, the change was followed by the conclusion of the half-yearly review of the FTSE

ST Index Series by Singapore Press Holdings, Singapore Exchange and FTSE Group. The next review is scheduled for 6 June.

By replacing Neptune Orient Lines, IHH Healthcare joined the STI from last September not long after its a dual market debut in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur last July.

Thai Beverage is controlled by Thai tycoon Charoen Sirivadhanabhakdi,



A worker welds a support at Santa Clara Stadium, the future home of the NFL's San Francisco 49'ers, in Santa Clara, California on 6 March, 2013. The stadium is scheduled to open in time for the 2014 NFL season.

REUTERS

## Thai Beverage to become component stock of Straits Times Index

who has recently been in the news since his battle with Heineken in controlling Asia Pacific Breweries and then the takeover tussle for Fraser and Neave.

The bourse added that the STI reserve list, comprising the five highest ranking non-constituents of the STI by market capitalization, will be Hutchison Port Holdings Trust, Keppel Land, Ascendas Real Estate Investment Trust, UOL Group

and Capita Commercial Trust. They will replace any constituents that become ineligible before the next review.

The STI is widely followed by investors as the benchmark for the Singapore market and is used as the basis of a range of financial products including Exchange Traded Funds, futures, warrants and other derivatives.

Xinhua



## WORLD

## Bin Laden son-in-law detained overseas, brought to New York

WASHINGTON/NEW YORK 8 March—US prosecutors unsealed an indictment against a son-in-law of Osama bin Laden on Thursday that charged him with conspiracy to kill Americans, after US government sources said he was arrested overseas and brought to New York.

Suleiman Abu Ghaith, a militant who appeared in videos representing al-Qaeda after the 11 September attacks in 2001, had initially been picked up in Turkey and was brought to the United States in an operation led by Jordanian authorities and the FBI, the sources said.

The Turkish government deported him to Jordan, the sources said, where local authorities and the FBI took custody of him. He was brought to the United States in the last few days, a law enforcement source said. US officials including Attorney General Eric Holder announced the in-

dictment on Thursday, saying he would be arraigned on Friday at US District Court in lower Manhattan, only blocks from the site of the World Trade Centre, which was destroyed in the 11 September attacks.

Abu Ghaith becomes one of the highest-ranking al-Qaeda figures to be brought to the United States for civilian trial. When Holder previously announced plans to try defendants in the 11 September attacks in the same courthouse, he was forced to back down by public opposition, and the trials were moved to the US military base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

New York police were less concerned Abu Ghaith's case would present a security problem than they were about the trials of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and four others charged with plotting the attacks, a law enforcement source said.

"It's not the same. It doesn't rise to that level," said the source, who is familiar with the department's views and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The indictment accused Abu Ghaith of acting in a conspiracy that "would and did murder United States nationals anywhere in the world," listing actions before and after 11 September, 2001.

"Among other things, Abu Ghaith urged others to swear allegiance to bin Laden, spoke on behalf of and in support of al-Qaeda's mission, and warned that attacks similar to those of 11 September, 2001 would continue," the indictment said. It cited a May 2001 gathering at a house in Kandahar, Afghanistan, alleging Abu Ghaith urged guests to swear allegiance to bin Laden, and it says bin Laden summoned Abu Ghaith on the evening of 11 September, requesting his assistance.—Reuters

## France to secure Mali before handing over mission



Soldiers listen to France's Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian (not pictured) speak at a French military encampment at a Malian air base in Gao on 7 March, 2013.—REUTERS

GAO, 8 March—France will only hand over to African troops in Mali when security is restored, French Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian told his forces during a surprise visit to the rugged north of the country where they are battling Islamist rebels. Reviewing the ranks of French soldiers in the dusty Adrar des Ifoghas mountains, Le Drian paid homage to the courage of troops engaged in fierce fire-fights with al Qaeda militants in the

desolate desert region near the Algerian border.

An eight-week, French-led offensive has broken the control of al Qaeda-linked Islamists over the northern two-thirds of the impoverished landlocked nation, though pockets of resistance remain in the desert and mountains. "Our mission is to liberate Mali, strengthen the country, and to assure sovereignty," Le Drian said in Gao, the main town in northern Mali, shortly after he vis-

ited troops in the mountains. "The security of Mali, and the security of our country, go together," he said. France launched a ground and air operation on 11 January, saying the Islamist rebels' hold of Mali's north posed a risk to the security of West Africa and Europe. Having halted a push southward by Islamist rebels, French forces have driven militants out of major towns and, alongside hundreds of Chadian soldiers, are now seeking to clear rebels from cave redoubts in the Adrar des Ifoghas.

"We are in the last phase, the most decisive phase," Le Drian said. "This phase entails some very violent combat. When the liberation of the whole country is complete, then we will hand over responsibility to African forces." President Francois Hollande said on Wednesday that France would start to draw down its forces in Mali from April, a month later than previously forecast.

Reuters

Israeli reserve soldiers take position during a drill at a military zone near Kibbutz Revivim in southern Israel on 7 March, 2013.

REUTERS



REVIVIM, 8 March—Wary of a spill over from the conflict in Syria, Israel is preparing to take on the Hezbollah militia that it suspects is getting advanced weapons from a distracted Damascus.

The Jewish state believes the Lebanese Shi'ite guerrillas also stand ready to

## Israel warns of Lebanon pain in next war with Hezbollah

retaliate if it carries out long-threatened strikes on the nuclear sites of Iran, another

Hezbollah patron. Hezzbollah fought Israel's far more advanced forces to a standstill when they last came to blows, in 2006, and rained more than 4,000 rockets on northern Israel. A UN-monitored ceasefire has largely held since.

But a senior Israeli of-

ficer from the Lebanese front said on Thursday that tensions in Syria "had the potential to spill over and trigger a confrontation" with Hezbollah. "We want to preserve the quiet, and we want the other side to know that if they take a step that necessitates we exact a price, they will pay dearly," the officer, who declined to be named, told foreign reporters while overseeing a simulated, regiment-strength battle with Hezbollah in a desert army base.

Israel is on the verge of being drawn in to the two-year Syrian insurgency.

About 20 UN peacekeepers were detained in Syria near the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights on Wednesday by fighters linked to the

mainly Sunni Muslim armed opposition groups fighting to topple President Bashar al-Assad, who follows the Alawite faith derived from Shi'ite Islam. Israeli UN Ambassador Ron Prosor has also written to the 15-member UN Security Council to complain about shells from Syria landing in Israel, warning it "cannot be expected to stand idle as the lives of its citizens are being put at risk".

Iran's nuclear ambitions could also prove to be a flashpoint. Widely believed to have the Middle East's only nuclear arsenal, Israel has threatened force to deny its arch-foe the means of making a bomb should international diplomatic alternatives fail.—Reuters

## IKEA stops selling sausages in Russia after horsemeat found

MOSCOW, 8 March—Swedish retailer IKEA has stopped selling sausages in its 14 Russian stores after tests showed that sausages from its local supplier contained horsemeat, the company said on Thursday.

The world's No 1 furniture retailer, known also for the restaurants at its huge out-of-town stores, said that the tests confirmed the presence of horsemeat in sausages produced by meat processing company Remit.



People walk alongside an IKEA outlet in Prague, on 25 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS

Remit was not available for comment.

Last month IKEA withdrew IKEA-branded wiener sausages produced by Familjen Dalfgard from stores in a number of Euro-

pean countries and stopped nearly all sales of the same supplier's meatballs across the region.

Those withdrawals did not affect meatballs in Russia and IKEA said on Thurs-

day that tests revealed no horsemeat in meatballs being supplied to IKEA's Russian stores by local producer PIT-Product, which is owned by Finnish group Atria.

A European scandal erupted in January when tests in Ireland revealed that some beef products also contained horsemeat, triggering recalls of ready meals in several countries and damaging confidence in Europe's vast and complex food industry.

Reuters

## Victim from Brazil nightclub fire dies, 16 still hospitalized

SAO PAULO, 8 March—A young woman died on Thursday from injuries sustained during a 27 January fire at the Kiss nightclub in southern Brazil, bringing

toms for late-onset pneumonia often appear gradually but can be fatal.

The US government shipped cyanide-treatment kits to Brazil to help vic-

tim, but cautioned the medicine would not deal with other toxins they inhaled while trying to flee the party through a single exit in the wealthy university town of Santa Maria.



People inspect the Boate Kiss nightclub in the southern city of Santa Maria, 187 miles (301 km) west of the state capital Porto Alegre in this handout released by the Policia Civil (Civil Police) on 29 Jan, 2013.

REUTERS

the death toll from the college town tragedy to 241, Brazil's health ministry said. Driele Pedrosa Lucas, 23, was the last victim on a respirator in Rio Grande do Sul state, but 16 people remain hospitalized after inhaling toxic fumes when a band member's flare ignited soundproofing foam in the ceiling and set the club ablaze.

Authorities warned in February that some survivors could have to return to the hospital because symp-

The tragedy has spurred much soul searching in Brazil, which is trying to tighten regulations and its relaxed enforcement of rules before hosting the World Cup football tournament in 2014 and the Olympic Games in 2016.

Reuters



## NATIONAL

## Joint Statement

## On the occasion of the visit to the Italian Republic of H.E U Thein Sein President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

H.E U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, paid an official visit to Italy on 6-7 March 2013. President U Thein Sein was warmly welcomed by the President of the Republic of Italy Giorgio Napolitano and by the President of the Council of Ministers Mario Monti. The Leaders of the two countries had very friendly and constructive discussions, reflecting the growing relations between Italy and Myanmar. Building upon the successful outcome of Foreign Minister Giulio Terzi's visit to Nay Pyi Taw (April, 2012) and of the talks between President U Thein Sein and Prime Minister Monti in Vientiane (November, 2012), this visit to Italy, the first ever paid by the Head of State of Myanmar, marked a fundamental milestone in the relations between the two countries.

The Parties exchanged views on the bilateral relations and on regional and international issues of mutual interest. They agreed to further explore the vast potential of bilateral partnership, particularly in the economic sector.

Italy has followed with the utmost interest and deep appreciation the historic changes in Myanmar over the last years at the initiative of President U Thein Sein and his Government. In particular, Italy has always been supportive of the wide-ranging reforms in the field of democratisation and rule of law as well as the promotion and protection of human, social and labour rights. Italy is therefore ready to actively support the sustained efforts for advancing those reforms under President U Thein Sein's guidance, the Government's action and the Parliament's contribution. Italy has acknowledge that unprecedented remarkable progresses have been achieved so far in the field of national reconciliation. In this regard it encouraged Myanmar to continue to address the situation in Rakhine State also through improving the status of local populations, the conflict in ethnic areas, in particular with the Kachin, and the release of the remaining prisoners of conscience. The Parties recognized the need to continue inclusive participation in the political process.

The Parties underlined the importance of constructive engagement by Myanmar's regional partners, also within ASEAN, so as to contribute to long lasting solutions to the political and economic challenges of the country.

Italy expressed the hope of a positive outcome of the undergoing review process of the EU sanction towards Myanmar. The Parties expressed support to the aspiration of Myanmar to benefit from trade facilitation on the basis of the EU GSP regime. President U Thein Sein expressed appreciation for the balanced and forthcoming stance coherently held by Italy within the EU regarding Myanmar.

The Parties took stock of the good level of dialogue and cooperation between the respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs and stressed the importance of strengthening mutual understanding and bilateral cooperation.

The Parties expressed the interest of developing closer relations between the competent Authorities in other sectors, including cultural heritage, university and research.

They also expressed the interest in exchanging parliamentary visits, aimed at sharing experiences and best practices in the field of law-making process.

The Parties emphasized the need to strengthen a political and legal framework conducive to increasing the economic relations between Myanmar and Italy. They

reaffirmed their commitment to encourage more economic interaction in both public and private sectors. They agreed to develop a business-friendly environment to further increase trade and investment for the mutual benefits of both countries and people.

They agreed that the key economic and financial reforms undertaken by Myanmar and the commitment for further measures are significantly contributing to the re-engagement of Myanmar with multilateral financial institutions.

The Parties acknowledged the great potential for expanding bilateral economic cooperation, trade and investment, as well as cooperation in the field of SMEs, infrastructure, energy, machinery and safeguard of cultural heritage are some of the most relevant areas for the enhancement of the economic and business activities between the two countries.

Taking into account complementarily between their economics, the parties agreed to strengthen the bilateral economic relations and to encourage cooperation between the business communities, including sectorial visits, missions and country presentations, as well as joint initiatives by respective State Agencies for trade and investment promotion. In this framework, President U Thein Sein expressed the hope that the incoming government leaders of Italy may visit Myanmar in the near future, possibly accompanied by representatives of the business community. He also offered to contribute to organize a Myanmar country presentation in Italy. Both activities will promote exchanges and business meetings between the two sides.

Italy recognized the progress of the legal framework for business activities in Myanmar by the adoption of the Foreign Investment Law and its implementing regulations, aimed at defining a level playing field for foreign companies willing to operate in the country. President U Thein Sein expressed deep appreciation for the Italian support to the drafting of the said regulations.

Having regard to the promotion of responsible business conduct, according to relevant benchmarks and criteria defined at multilateral level, the Parties recalled the importance of their joint efforts to create a framework conducive to the adoption by the investors, from the start, of business behaviors that lead to sustainable local development and social progress.

The Parties agreed to step up bilateral and multi-bilateral development cooperation, with an aim to support Myanmar development strategic and the implementation of the Framework for Economic and Social Reforms, with a particular emphasis on capacity-building. Cooperation shall take into account jointly agreed priority sectors, such as rural development, the promotion of micro-small and medium sized enterprises, the preservation of cultural heritage, health, education, environmental protection, good gover. Bilateral cooperation, environmental protection, good governance.

Bilateral cooperation shall foster also cooperation between Local Governments, Universities and NGOs.

Jointly agreed projects will be funded through grants, debt-swap and soft loans, in line with the respective rules and procedures.

The Debt Cancellation and Restructuring Agreement in furtherance of the Paris club agreed minutes, as well as

the Debt Swap Agreement, that were both signed today, lay the basis for increasing development cooperation activities, also paving the way for soft loan funding in favour of jointly agreed projects.

The parties will also seek to conclude an Agreement for the avoidance of double taxation with respect to taxes on income and the prevention of fiscal evasion.

Myanmar and Italy shared the views that energy activities present vast untapped potential to be fully exploited, also through the expertise, know how and technological skills of Italian oil and gas companies.

The parties highly valued the importance of cultural relations, respect for local traditions and for the protection of human rights and religious freedom. They affirmed the determination to cooperate to these aims also in the relevant multilateral organizations and fora. In this regard, the parties took note of the proposal submitted by the Italian Authorities for a bilateral agreement on cultural, scientific and technological cooperation and expressed their determination to seek an early conclusion of such agreement.

Italy confirmed its intention to also intensify the cooperation with Myanmar in the field of cultural heritage by contributing to Experts' Meeting on "Heritage, Tourism and Urban Living" aimed at focusing on topics covering cultural heritage policy, economic and social development and urban planning.

Acknowledging the prominent role played by Prime Minister Monti to improve the economic situation in Italy and in the Euro area, President U Thein Sein expressed his confidence in the sustained efforts by Italy to strengthen the reforms and improve the governance of the Euro area. He also noted that Myanmar may become a promising hub for Italian business, thanks to its growth prospects, domestic market potential and intra-regional trade which could prove beneficial for Italy as well.

President U Thein Sein underlined Myanmar's readiness to engages a reliable partner of the EU in Asia, namely within ASEAN whose chairmanship Myanmar will hold in 2014, ASEM and other multilateral fora in the region.

Italy and Myanmar recognized the strategic value of ASEAN's goal to become an economic community in 2015. The emerging ASEAN community features very interesting opportunities not only for ASEAN member States but also for Italy and the European Union. Italy underlined Myanmar's contribution to ASEAN's competitiveness through connectively and deepened integration with the global economy. Italy's interest to exploit the opportunities offered by ASEAN economic integration and to engage more with the region, as one of the most dynamic for the global economy, was also stressed.

The two parties underlined the ever growing relevance of ASEAN-EU relations, as contacts and links at all levels become more frequent and significant. They welcomed the prospect of negotiating a Myanmar-EU Investment Agreement and expressed their commitment to work together towards a strengthened ASEAN-EU partnership, in particular during their respective chairmanships of the two organizations in 2014.

Rome, 6 March 2013

## Talks on India's Look East Policy given

NAY PYI TAW, Union of Myanmar and 8 March—The talk on the Asia Foundation of the "India's Look East Policy" United States of America jointly conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with its headquarters in San Francisco was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Yangon) at 9 am today, with the opening remarks delivered by U Myint Lwin, Deputy Director-General for Training, Research and Foreign Languages Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

On the occasion, the strategic studies programme director from Observer Research Foundation, Dr C. Raja Mohan delivered talk on "India's Look East Policy".

Also present on the occasion were officials

from Yangon Region Government, invitees from Governmental Organizations, members of Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS), representatives from Myanmar-India

Friendship Association and representatives from Foreign Embassies in Yangon, professors and students from invited Universities as well as trainees of the Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills (30/2013).

MNA



## Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets Speaker of the Danish Parliament and party

### PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 9 March, 2013

## Myanmar, new face to foreign visitors

With the gradual opening-up and dramatic changes in her political landscape, Myanmar has been back on the list of tourist destination, attracting more foreign tourists both from Asian and western countries. More than 1 million foreign tourists visited Myanmar in 2012 and over 1.5 million foreign visitors are expected in 2013.

It is not because Myanmar has few things to explore and experience that she receives a lot fewer visitors than all of her neighbours, but because it still lacks certain infrastructure, especially hotel accommodation to cope with mass tourism. There is room for improvement in hotel market which is expected to grow rapidly along with an exponential increase in travel in the late 2013 and throughout 2014 when Myanmar hosts XXVII SEA Games and ASEAN Summit and related meetings.

There is a famous saying in business world—customer is the king. But, “customer service” is of something what we have paid almost no attention for ages here in Myanmar. This is because of the lack of choices for customers. Now is the time we need to put special focus on quality of service as high standards of customer service will promote the level of customer satisfaction and this would in turn help develop the service industry.

Most of the potential tourists to Myanmar will be the new faces. This means first impressions would count much in their decision to come and visit Myanmar next time. There are reported cases of mugging of foreign tourists in Bagan, the mystical archaeological showcase in central Myanmar and some other places. This if continues would threaten the national image and damage the tourism industry that is starting to develop. It should be borne in mind that negative publicity travels faster and reaches more people than positive stories.

All in all, we Myanmar people are honest, simple, hospitable, kind and generous by nature and all we need perhaps is to make these characteristics known to others. This should not be what we take pride in and the brand image of Myanmar.

## Consultation Workshop on Development of Guideline on Recovery Planning held

NAY PYI TAW, 8 March—The Consultation Workshop on the Development of Guideline on Recovery Planning sponsored by the Relief and Resettlement Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and UN agencies was held at the Hotel Amara in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone here this morning.

Director of Relief and Resettlement Department

U Aung Khaing made an opening speech, and Senior Project Manager Mr Sudhir Kumur of Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre shared experience on recovery guidelines.

This was followed by a general round of discussions.

Afterwards, representatives of the respective working groups presented challenges and gaps needed to be remedial,



Speaker of Danish Parliament Mr. Mogens Lykketoft extends greetings at the luncheon hosted by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 8 March—Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann received a delegation led by Speaker of the Danish Parliament Mr. Mogens Lykketoft at Zabuthiri Hall of Hluttaw Complex, here, this noon.

Also present at the call were Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker UNanda Kyaw Swa, Committee Chairpersons Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, U Soe Tha, U Maung Maung Thein, U Hla Myint Oo and U Htay Myint, committee secretaries and committee members and officials of the Hluttaw Office. The Danish Parliament speaker was accompanied by high ranking officials, Danish Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Mikael H. WINTHER and officials from the Danish embassy.

At the call, the Pyithu Hluttaw speaker said that parliament and parliamentarians extended a warm welcome to the goodwill delegation, Myanmar parliamentarians led by him visited Danish parliament and he was

good practices to be adopted, lessons learnt for further development and international practices for building back better and safer lives on recovery planning from their point of views.

The meeting came to an end with the conclusion remarks by Director-General of the Relief and Resettlement.—NLM

pleased to meet the goodwill delegation again. He underscored that the role the parliament plays in democracy is crucial, adding although the parliament is made up of different parties and national races it is engaged in the interest of the State and the people setting aside partisan, racism, dogmatism and ism.

He added that it is putting in the fore human rights and democracy in amending and enacting laws. The Danish parliament speaker also disclosed that he was pleased to pay a visit amidst reform process in Myanmar. Not only foreign countries but also Denmark is interested in political achievements and changes in Myanmar, he said. He also pointed out the importance of freedom of expression and freedom of press in realizing democracy. The Danish speaker pledged to strengthen friendship and cooperation between the two parliaments of Denmark and Myanmar.

Then, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and the Danish parliament speaker and party had documentary photo taken together.

After the meeting, the Danish parliament speaker and wife and party were hosted a luncheon at mess hall of the Hluttaw complex by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann. It was attended by wife of Pyithu Hluttaw speaker Daw Khin Lay Thet, Amyotha Hluttaw



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann shaking hands with Administrator Mr Rajeev Janardan Shah of USAID.—MNA

Speaker U Khin Aung Myint and wife Daw Khin Pyone, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa and wife, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Mya Nyein, Pyithu Hluttaw committee chairpersons and secretaries, committee members and officials from the Hluttaw Office.

First, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann extended greetings and visiting Danish parliament speaker spoke words of thanks before having a luncheon together.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann also received Administrator Mr. Rajeev Janardan Shah of United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and party at the same venue at 2:45 pm today. At the call, they cordially discussed amity and cooperation between the two parliaments of Myanmar-US, reducing poverty in Myanmar and cooperation in agriculture, livestock breeding, education and health sectors.

MNA



NATIONAL

# University of Fisheries Sciences to be established: Dy Livestock and Fisheries Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 8 March—Sixth regular session of First Pyithu Hluttaw continued for its 24<sup>th</sup> day session today.

With regard to the question of U Sein Win of Maubin Constituency on behalf of U Khin Maung Win of Lanmadaw Township Constituency on if there is any plan to open Fisheries University, Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Khin Maung Aye replied that plans are under way to open Fisheries University or University of Fisheries Sciences under National Comprehensive Development Plan (NCDP)

and National Projects in cooperation with partner donor countries.

Regarding the question of U Khaing Maung Yi of Ahlon Constituency on if there is any plan to transmit Hluttaw news on free TV channel, Deputy Minister for Information U Paik Htway said that Sky Net has started transmitting delay Hluttaw channel as of 4-7-2012. Myanma Radio and Television will extend its channels to four free-to-air channels as of 2013-2014 financial year after digital system has been installed. Among them, one Hluttaw channel will be in operation by November this year.

Deputy Minister for Agricultural and Irrigation U Ohn Than replied the question of U Kyaw Myint of Myanaung Constituency on if the government has a plan to help the poor farmers. He said that farming and land reclamation would be allowed in line with Farm Land Laws, Rules and Regulations and Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Lands Management Laws and Regulations prescribed by respective Region/State governments.



**Deputy Livestock and Fisheries Minister U Khin Maung Aye replies to question.**

MNA

## MP calls for free health care service for the poor

NAY PYI TAW, 8 March—Six lawmakers discussed the proposal of U Phone Myint Aung of Yangon Region Constituency No (3) urging the Union government to arrange as necessary to elect ten-household representatives under law at Amyotha Hluttaw session today.

U Paw Lyang Lwin of Chin State Constituency No (9) called the ward/village administrators the basic executive organs for welfare of grass-root people, calling for holding election of ten-household representatives in compliance with laws, bylaws and regulations.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint made complaints regarding the wrongdoings can be sent to relevant region/state government and the Home



**Dr Htay Win of Ayeyawady Region Constituency No (5) submits a proposal.**

MNA

Affairs Ministry which will take actions against such misuse of power.

The proposal was put to vote and “No” vote outnumbered the “Yes”, rejecting the proposal.

Dr Htay Win of Ayeyawady Region



**President U Thein Sein being welcomed back by local people and social organization members at Yangon International Airport. (News on page 1)—MNA**



Regarding the question of U Khun Maung Thaug of Pinloun Constituency on behalf of U Win Ko of Hsihseng Constituency

on eradication of poppy growing, alternative development and employment programme,

**On behalf of U Sein Win of Maubin Constituency, U Khin Maung Win of Lanmadaw Constituency raises a question.—MNA**

Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than replied that measures are being taken for creation of job opportunity

and local food sufficiency.

With respect to the question of U Tin Maung Oo of Shwepyitha Constituency on employment programme for unemployed graduated youths, Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Daw Khin San Yi replied that special emphasis is being placed on quality education rather than quantity. Plans are under way to open more vocational training courses and schools for human resource development.

Hluttaw was informed about the Bill amending the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Law and the Bill amending the National Food Law, sent back by Amyotha Hluttaw with its approval. U Kyaw Naing Htay of Indaw Constituency submitted the proposal on the Bill amending the Unlawful Association Act (India Act XIV, 1908). The Bill revoking State Crops Marketing Board Act was approved.

NLM

## Myanmar, Hong Kong discuss trade promotion

NAY PYI TAW, 8 March—Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun met a high-level delegation led by Executive Director Mr. Fred Lam of Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) at MICC, here, this morning.

In meeting with them, the Union Minister clarified realization of democracy practice in Myanmar and implementation of market economic system. The Union Minister also invited them to cordially discuss for promotion of trade and investment sectors in Myanmar. The delegation

members raised questions for their knowledge and the Union Minister and Deputy Director-General Daw Cho Cho Win of Directorate of Investment and Companies Administration made clarifications. Present at the meeting were Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Dr Lin Aung, Deputy Commerce Minister Dr Pwint Hsan, Central Bank of Myanmar Governor U Than Nyein, Myanmar Investment Commission Member Daw Mya Thuzar, officials and 175 entrepreneurs of HKTDC.

MNA

## Summer English course opened

MYITKYINA, 8 March—The Summer English Course was opened at Myemyint Basic Education High School in Myitkyina on 4 March.

Course in-charge Daw

Myat Thin Lwin explained matters related to the course.

Fourth standard to matriculation students may attend the course free of charge.—Myanma Alinn



**U Paw Lyang Lwin of Chin State Constituency No (9) takes part in discussion.**

MNA

Constituency No(5) proposed the Union government to provide free medical service to the poor as part of poverty alleviation scheme amidst the increasing number of health projects in country. U Nyunt Hlaing of Ayeyawady Region Constituency No



**Deputy Home Affairs Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint making clarification.**

MNA

(4) said, “The poor face a great deal of difficulties in receiving medical treatment and sometimes, financial difficulties have unnecessarily led to loss of lives. So the Health Ministry should deliver free health care service to the poor.”—MNA



## INTERVIEW

# Opinions of citizens on President U Thein Sein's fruitful goodwill visits to European countries

President U Thein Sein after paying goodwill visits to Norway, Finland, Austria, Belgium and Italy, arrived back Yangon this morning.

The President's soaring success in diplomatic front, economic front and political front has been pride for Myanmar citizens. The President's efforts could bring Myanmar which maintained poor diplomatic relations with western countries for scores of decades back on world stage and revitalize Myanmar's export market and reach debt settlement agreement with debtors and attract influx of international aids and foreign investment, setting an example to global



**U Kaung Myint Htut**  
of Myanmar National Congress.

nations with peaceful and subtle democratization.

People from all walks of life welcome back the President on his return from Europe trip, honoring his efforts and achievements during his tour.

Newscrew from Myanmar News Agency (MNA) asked the opinions of people about gains from the President's visit to EU countries and prospects. We asked about why they welcomed the President, what they think the President's trip contribute to their business and whether they welcomed the President on their own accord.

**U Kyaw Myat Moe** (General Secretary) Myanmar Restaurateurs' Association

"We, Myanmar Restaurateurs' Association, are pleased with the changes and thus we are here to welcome the President.

Thanks to the efforts of President, we (Myanmar) gain growing attention from other countries. As a result, we have seen significant increase in number of foreign tourists to us. So, we also get the benefits as restaurateur.

We're here on our accord. 130 employees from 11 restaurants are here to welcome the President".

**U Thein Zaw Oo** (Assistant

Operation Manager) Myanmar Restaurateurs' Association

"We're pleased and all the others here can be found smiling being here.

I'm much appreciated with the President's efforts. I think there would be more opportunities for the youth".

**Daw Khin Mar San** (Deputy General Manager) Wooden products manufacturing

"I'm very pleased to see the President putting heart and soul into political and economic reforms across the nation.

We (employees of the factory) take pride in the President because of the tangible results. I am so glad for the unprecedented changes.

I believe our nation would see growth thanks to the leading role of the President and collaborative efforts of his cabinet".

**Phyo Ko Ko** (student)

"I think there would be more opportunities for the youth and more progress thanks to the President".

**Kyaw Zin Win** (student, Shwebo University)



**U Kyaw Yin Hlaing**  
(Myanmar Peace Centre)

"We've seen changes along with more job opportunities. The wages also have increased".

**U Aung Thein** (CEC member) Myanmar Oil Dealers' Association

"I'm here on my own volition to welcome the President. We need try harder as our economy is weaker than others. We need to have more people in employment. In my view, we could create more jobs in short time if we cooperated with foreign countries".

**U Win Aung** (UMFCCI President)

I am very pleased with President's efforts for the interests of the country and the people. It is expected that massive foreign investments are likely to flow into the country.

**U Kyaw Yin Hlaing** (Programme Director of Myanmar Peace Center)

The reason why these

countries invited the President is that they want to show their support for Myanmar's reforms. During his visits, they made commitment that will be beneficial to the country. It is said that his tours has achieved successes than expected. They invited the President because they want to show that the world countries need a president like him. This news is known from the embassies since they invited him. There are so many countries that had made reforms like Myanmar. Not only US President Mr Obama but also European leaders said that those countries should take an example of President U Thein Sein's government.

**U Soe Myint** (CEC member of Union of Myanmar Travels Association)

Being a man from tourism industry, I always watched President's tours. Austrian guests frequently visited Myanmar. It is seen that they show more interests in Myanmar when we gave message about President's tour to Austria. European tourists are talking about Myanmar. It is believed that thanks to President's tours, more visitors are likely to flow into the country. It is witnessed that Myanmar receives more tourists.

**U Than Myint Oo** (Peace Center)

I think that President's tour has achieved considerable success. But I don't know



**Actress Htet Htet Moe Oo.**

details. It is a historic trip to five European countries. In the past, Myanmar's Presidents had never paid a visit to Norway and Finland. The Western countries see President's efforts for economic and political reforms as a special one. They never welcomed Myanmar's President. His visit would bring about lots of benefits and opportunities. More investments are likely to flow into the country. It is expected that European countries would lift sanctions against Myanmar. Dating

By  
Myanmar News  
Agency



**President of UMFCCI**  
**U Win Aung.**

back to the last two years, the country sees a lot of reforms. Especially, it can be said that Myanmar's relations with other countries have significantly improved.

It is a historic trip. We can expect the removal of sanctions as well as more assistance from the western countries. More importantly, investments, technological and educational assistance from these five countries can be expected. Educational assistance is very important for our country's development.

**Daw Khine Khine Nwe** (Myanmar Garment Manufacturers' Association)

I am asked why I welcome the President. I would like to answer it simply. The reason is to express my thanks to the President. I would like to say thank you on behalf of the entire people including garment factory workers and members of UMFCCI. I have a feeling it is totally different from the previous one. Whenever I am abroad and I introduce myself as a Myanmar, the people gather around me. This feeling makes me flying in the air. I receive a sign of recognition from others, but not before. I recognize the President is tirelessly working and his strenuous efforts for the country and I am very appreciated it. Those from garment factories are also here. They are from the garment training school in Ayeyawady Region. They are graduates and we are conducting sewing course and management course for them. I specially invited them to enjoy the feeling I have had. My answer for the question of how much of benefit to the national economy from the President's trip is special

## NATIONAL

## Secretary-General's Message on International Women's Day 8 March 2013

As we commemorate International Women's Day, we must look back on a year of shocking crimes of violence against women and girls and ask ourselves how to usher in a better future.

One young woman was gang-raped to death. Another committed suicide out of a sense of shame that should have attached to the perpetrators. Young teens were shot at close range for daring to seek an education.

These atrocities, which rightly sparked global outrage, were part of a much larger problem that pervades virtually every society and every realm of life.

Look around at the women you are with. Think of those you cherish in your families and your communities. And understand that there is a statistical likelihood that many of them have suffered violence in their lifetime. Even more have comforted a sister or friend, sharing their grief and anger following an attack.

This year on International Women's Day, we convert our outrage into action. We declare that we will prosecute crimes against women – and never allow women to be subjected to punishments for the abuses they have suffered. We renew our pledge to combat this global health menace wherever it may lurk – in homes and businesses, in war zones and placid countries, and in the minds of people who allow violence to continue.

We also make a special promise to women in conflict situations, where sexual violence too often becomes a tool of war aimed at humiliating the enemy by destroying their dignity.

To those women we say: the United Nations stands with you. As Secretary-General, I insist that the welfare of all victims of sexual violence in conflict must be at the forefront of our activities. And I instruct my senior advisors to make our response to sexual violence a priority in all of our peace-making, peacekeeping and peacebuilding activities.

The United Nations system is advancing our UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign, which is based on the simple but powerful premise that all women and girls have a fundamental human right to live free of violence.

This week in New York, at the Commission on the Status of Women, the world is holding the largest-ever UN assembly on ending violence against women. We will make the most of this gathering – and we keep pressing for progress long after it concludes.

I welcome the many governments, groups and individuals who have contributed to this campaign. I urge everyone to join our effort. Whether you lend your funds to a cause or your voice to an outcry, you can be part of our global push to end this injustice and provide women and girls with the security, safety and freedom they deserve.

UNIC/YANGON

one. We did not receive tax preference from the EU countries over a long period of time. We heard that not only tax preference but also tax exemption would be granted. I believe that the president's visit was a boost in this case. The better Myanmar sees trading, the more benefit she will.

**U Kaung Myint Htut** (Myanmar National Congress)

I understand that we all politicians are make it to do our bit while the President and his cabinet members are striving for the country in order to stand tall among the world nations. We pay more attention to be better and stronger.

We focus to work harder. Lifting of sanction by western countries is a

perquisite for economic growth of the country. So the onus is on all of those who know this point to try hard. I would like to ask the entire people to participate in the drive led by the Pre-sident.

**Htet Htet Moe Oo** (actress)

I wanted to welcome the President since the first time. I am here with my heartfelt thanks to welcome the President. I am very appreciated for his effort in the interest of the nation. There will be gradual development.

It is impossible to see progress at once. I am glad to see the gradual development. I believe that there will be peace and prosperity for the country. I am pleased to see unprecedented progress in all sectors including communications and transportation.



## REGIONAL

## Australia to take further action to eliminate modern slavery

CANBERRA, 8 March — Australian government will implement its new measures aimed at cracking down on slavery and people smuggling, Prime Minister Julia Gillard said on Friday, the International Women's Day. According to a statement from her, as people celebrate International Women's Day, Australian government will ensure that its procurement rules and practices assist in identifying and stamping out slavery.

Slavery and people-trafficking are crimes that affect almost every nation on earth — as either source, transit or destination countries. And it is not a phenomenon to which Australia is immune. "I'm proud to announce a new whole-of-government strategy to reinforce ethical behaviour in procurement so that no firm providing goods or services to the Commonwealth is tainted by slavery or people-trafficking anywhere in the supply chain," Gillard said.

She pointed out about 16 million women worldwide have been enslaved and trafficked over the past decade, and it is imperative governments work to restore people's freedom. Although there is no evidence that is currently happening, she said, there is a risk of it becoming an issue as the global economy becomes more integrated.—Xinhua

## Pakistani PM to pay personal visit to India on Saturday

ISLAMABAD, 8 March — Pakistani Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf will pay a personal visit to India on Saturday, the Foreign Ministry said on Thursday.

Foreign Ministry spokesman, Moazzam Khan said that the prime minister will visit the shrine of Muslim saint 'Ajmer Sharif.'

Responding to questions at weekly press briefing the spokesman said that no talks are yet scheduled



Members of the 12th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) listen at the third plenary meeting of the first session of the 12th CPPCC National Committee at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, on 8 March, 2013.

XINHUA

## Developing landlocked nations discuss achievements, hurdles in Laos

VIENTIANE, 8 March— The Euro-Asian final regional review of Almaty Programme for Action, which focuses on development issues for Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), concluded here on Thursday in Laos' capital of Vientiane.

The meeting closed with the issuing of the Vientiane Consensus, a document with identified achievements, hurdles and future goals for the LLDC group. There are 31 Landlocked Developing Countries, including Laos, one of the least developed nations in South East Asia.

The group found that since the Almaty Programme was adopted in 1993, progress had been made in the sectors of health, education, social development and transport infrastructure. The consensus

also stated, however, that further progress needed to be made in improving trade access, sustainable and even development.

The meeting observed that the policies of the LLDCs need to be oriented towards stimulating productive investment, building technological capacities and strengthening linkages within and across sectors and between different enterprises.

The meeting found the need for LLDCs to address vulnerabilities to external shocks, including rising and volatile food and fuel prices and economic and financial downturns, creating favourable market access, promoting employment intensive growth, and diversifying the export base.

In looking forward to future developments, the

with Indian leadership.

Sources say that the prime minister will be accompanied by his family members during the day-long visit to the shrine at Rajasthan state. President Asif Ali Zardari also visited the shrine last year. However, the Indian prime minister had invited him for a luncheon as there had been substantial increase in relations.

Mr Ashraf's visit comes

following escalation along the Line of Control (LoC), which divides the two countries in the disputed Kashmir region. Both sides accused each other of the 2003 ceasefire violation. Cross-border clashes has killed four Pakistani soldiers and two Indian troops since January.

Asked to comment on Indian prime minister's remarks that Pakistan was not doing enough against ter-

## Singapore not prepared to allow dual citizenship, deputy PM says

SINGAPORE, 8 March — Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean said on Thursday that the city state is not prepared to allow dual citizenship, as it would not strengthen the nation.

"Singapore is a small and young nation. It is all the more important that we are clear that our citizens have a long-term commitment to building a future together here," Teo said in the parliament in response to a question raised by a law-

maker. Nominated member of parliament Eugene Tan, a scholar, asked if the country should keep an open mind with regards to dual citizenship, given the increasing number of international marriages.

Teo said that foreigners are granted citizenship only if they are committed to making Singapore their home in the long term. They should be prepared to give up their foreign nationality, he said.

"Allowing Singapo-

reans to retain or acquire a second citizenship is unlikely to enhance that commitment but could dilute it," he said. Singapore, a city state of ethnic diversity, has a total population of 5.31 million as of 2012, including 3.29 million citizens and 0.53 million permanent residents, or foreigners granted permanent long-term residency in Singapore. The rest are foreigners working, living or receiving education in Singapore.—Xinhua



Passengers queue to leave the platform at the Tianjin Railway Station in Tianjin, north China, on 6 March, 2013. China's 40-day travel period covering the Spring Festival ended 7 March with a record high of 3.42 billion trips being made by using public transport, according to the Ministry of Transport. The country's railways saw a total of 240 million trips, up from about 220 million in the same period last year, the railways authority said.—XINHUA

## Preparatory meeting for 19th ASEAN Economic Ministers Retreat opens in Hanoi

HANOI, 8 March — The preparatory meeting of the senior economic officials' meeting (Pre-SEOM) opened in Vietnam's capital Hanoi on Thursday ahead of the 19th ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) Retreat to be held on Friday.

At the meeting, participants discussed the implementation of the roadmap of building the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) by 2015, proposed solutions to facilitate the process of establishing the AEC, set priorities on spending more resources on the implementation and promotion of the trade, services and investment commitments.

The delegation also

discussed the proposals of major ASEAN economic cooperation initiatives in 2013, reviewed documents for the AEM Retreat including protocol on amendment of a number of ASEAN economic agreements on trade.

ASEAN is one of the leading key partners for trade and investment in Vietnam. ASEAN is the 3rd largest export market for Vietnamese goods and the second goods provider for Vietnamese enterprises. Trade turnover between Vietnam and the ASEAN countries reached over 38 billion US dollars in 2012, according to Vietnam's Ministry of Industry and Trade.—Xinhua

## 18 injured, 150 houses gutted in fire in Mumbai

NEW DELHI, 8 March — More than 18 people were injured and 150 hutments gutted in a fire which broke out at a slum in Mumbai on Thursday, a senior police officer said.

"The fire broke out

in the wee hours in Shastrinagar slum. Though no one has been killed, some 18 people were injured and have been admitted to local hospitals. More than 150 houses in the slum were destroyed," he said, on condi-

tion of anonymity.

Firemen took over four hours to douse the flames, he said, adding that a probe has been ordered. Mumbai houses a number of slums though it is the country's financial capital.—Xinhua



A group of cattle pass a downtown street at Kuningan in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 7 March, 2013. Government is planning to develop cattle centres to accommodate the hundreds of thousands of cows in Indonesia, with an aim to maintain national beef prices.

XINHUA



## ADVERTISEMENT &amp; GENERAL

**Expression of Interest**

UNDP Myanmar invites interested Companies/Individual Consultants to apply for the following:

**Interpreter/Translator (Myanmar to English/English to Myanmar)** for the update of the UNDP Myanmar roster/pool of qualified interpreters/translators  
Companies/Individual Consultants may apply for any of the following services:

- Translation (Myanmar to English/English to Myanmar)
- Interpretation, both consecutive and simultaneous (Myanmar to English/English to Myanmar)

**Qualifications**

- University degree holder (Master Degree in relevant field preferable)
- Minimum two (2) years of experience with a proven track record
- Knowledge in any of the following area of study for specialized translation work:
  - Economics
  - Governance and Law
  - Agriculture and other livelihoods
  - Environment, biodiversity and climate change
  - Disaster Risk Reduction
  - Gender
  - Human Rights
  - Health
  - Development
- Experience in translating UN documents (policy/programme documents) is an advantage
- Familiar with word processing software is an asset

**Submission Details**  
Interested Companies/Individual Consultants who wish to register to the UNDP Myanmar translator/interpreter roster/pool, should send an application attaching CV(s) and a signed P11 listing qualifications, interpretation and/or translation experience and complete contact information including telephone number, facsimile number and e-mail address, and a financial proposal (fees charged) to e-mail address: [ye.htut.thein@undp.org](mailto:ye.htut.thein@undp.org).  
P-11 can be downloaded from <http://www.mm.undp.org/Myanmar-Vacancies.html>  
Companies must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochure, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Companies/Individual Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.  
The closing date for this EOI is Friday 15 March 2013  
Further information may be obtained at: Procurement Unit, United Nations Development Programme, No.6, Natmauk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon, Myanmar, Tel: 95-1-542911 Ext. 158 (Ye Htut Thein) and Ext. 166 (Peter ThaTaw Lay).



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV SEA DRAGON VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA DRAGON VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.3.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W (1) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: SANG THAI SHIPPING CO LTD.**  
Phone No: 256924/256914

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV FRISIA LAHN VOY NO (024)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FRISIA LAHN VOY NO (024) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.3.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S ORINET OVERSEAS  
CONTAINER LINES**  
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**Take Fire Preventive  
Measures**

## Yukiya Amano gets second term as IAEA chief

VIENNA, 8 March—The International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) board of governors on Wednesday approved a new four-year term for the agency's Director General Yukiya Amano, diplomats said.

The 65-year-old Japanese diplomat will start his second term in December following approvals from all IAEA members in September. Normally, Director General approved by the board of governors would be approved unanimously.

In Amano's second term, Iran's nuclear issue is expected to be his greatest challenge, after he and his team have failed to make any substantial breakthrough over the so called "structured approach" to resolving the outstanding issues on the possible military dimensions of Iran's disputed nuclear programme.

Western countries fear Iran is enriching uranium to develop the capacity to build nuclear weapons.

Xinhua

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV SPRING SKY VOY NO (22)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SPRING SKY VOY NO (22) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.3.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (4) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: EASTERN CAR LINER S'PORE  
PTE LTD.**

Phone No: 256924/256914

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV MATTYS VOY NO (1310)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MATTYS VOY NO (1310) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.3.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: CHINA SHIPPING (MALAYSIA)  
AGENCY SDN BHD**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

## Ministry of Information

### Invitation to open tender to purchase FM Transmitters for Myanma Radio and Television

1. Open tenders are invited to purchase FM Transmitters to be installed at 13 retransmission stations of Myanma Radio and Television of Ministry of Information.

(A) FM Transmitters & Accessories  
Harris ( USA ) 13 Lots

2. Open tender forms may be drawn from Myanma Radio and Television, Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon) from 9:30 am to 16:30 pm during the office days as of 9-3-2013.

3. Open tender forms are to be submitted in the presence of the Tender board members at Myanma Radio and Television, Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon) from 9:30 am to 16:30 pm on 18-3-2013. Overdue tender forms will not be considered.

4. The open tender forms disciplines and detailed information are available at the following address.

5. Verification of purchasing items' quality and price will be held at Office No.7, Ministry of Information, Nay Pyi Taw at 9:00 am on 22-3-2013.

Purchasing Committee  
Myanma Radio and Television  
Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon)  
Ministry of Information  
Ph: 067-79410, 067- 79135

**You get the best out of  
others when you give  
the best yourself**

## Jordanian king invites Turkish entrepreneurs' investment

ANKARA, 8 March — Visiting Jordanian King Abdullah II on Wednesday invited Turkish entrepreneurs to invest in his country as annual trade between the two countries reached 870 million US dollars in 2012.

King Abdullah, who is paying a two-day official visit to Turkey, made this invitation during the Turkish-Jordanian Economic Cooperation Meeting organized by the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) in the Turkish capital of Ankara.

"Jordan is very eager to develop bilateral relations with Turkey," said King Abdullah, adding that "I would like our Turkish friends to come to Jordan in order to take advantage of investment opportunities."

Rifat Hisarcikliglu, the TOBB chairman, praised political and economic reforms in Jordan, saying that TOBB was impressed with King Abdullah's vision.

"We (Turkey and Jordan) increased our trade volume by 50 percent through the free trade agreement signed in 2009 and entering into force in 2011," said Hisarcikliglu, adding "We will not stop there. We have set a target of 2 billion US dollars in bilateral trade in the near future."

Xinhua

## US paint warehouse explosions injure three

CHICAGO, 8 March—Explosions at a paint manufacturing warehouse in northwest suburban Cary of Chicago on Wednesday injured three people, *Chicago Tribune* reported.

Two explosions in the afternoon ripped off the front of the brick structure and left a small hole at the rear of the building. Three workers at the warehouse were taken to hospitals for treatment.

Xinhua



ENTERTAINMENT



**Anoushka Shankar to feature in UN ‘One Women’ song**

WASHINGTON, 8 March —Sitar player Anoushka Shankar, daughter of legendary Pandit Ravi Shankar, is among the 25 artists from 20 countries, to feature in “One Woman” song of the United Nations to celebrate women worldwide. A musical celebration of women worldwide, the song is to be released tomorrow on the occasion of the International Women’s Day.—PTI

**James Franco lightens up for role in ‘Oz the Great and Powerful’**



Actor James Franco poses for photographers at the European premier of *Oz: The Great and Powerful* in London on 28 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

LONDON, 8 March— Actor James Franco, lauded for his serious roles and forays into art, was almost too earnest to land the lead in the big screen 3D adventure film “Oz the Great and Powerful,” which opens on Friday ahead of the summer blockbuster season. Filmmaker Sam Raimi, who directed Franco in the “Spider-Man” trilogy from 2002 to 2007, said he initially considered other heavyweight actors such as Johnny Depp and Robert Downey Jr for the lead role in Disney’s big-budget unofficial prequel to the 1939 classic “The Wizard of Oz.” Both Depp and Downey have already spearheaded two juggernaut Disney blockbuster franchises, with Depp as raucous Captain Jack Sparrow in “Pirates of the Caribbean” and Downey as the main character in “Iron Man.” Franco has not carried a blockbuster film alone, but Raimi told Reuters the 34-year-old actor’s maturation would enable him to do so in “Oz,” in which he plays the charming, morally dubious circus magician who cons others on and off stage.—Reuters

**Actress Demi Moore asks for alimony from Ashton Kutcher**

LOS ANGELES, 8 March —Actress Demi Moore is seeking alimony from estranged husband Ashton Kutcher, according to divorce documents filed in a Los Angeles court on Thursday. Kutcher, the star of CBS television comedy “Two and a Half Men,” filed for divorce from the “GI Jane” actress in December 2012 after more than a year of separation. Requesting financial support from Kutcher, 35, is an unusual move for Moore, 50, who was one of the top female earners in Hollywood during the 1990s. Her court filing did not specify

an amount sought. Kutcher and Moore both cited irreconcilable differences in their divorce papers filed in Los Angeles Superior Court. In Kutcher’s filing, the actor said he would not seek spousal support but would not deny support to Moore. *Forbes* magazine has estimated Kutcher earned \$24 million from May 2011 to May 2012, making him the highest-paid TV actor. Representatives for Moore and Kutcher did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Moore began dating Kutcher a few years af-

ter her split from actor-husband Bruce Willis, when Kutcher was a young star on the TV sitcom “That ‘70s Show.” Their relationship became tabloid fodder due to their 16-year age gap, and the couple married in September 2005 in Los Angeles.

Reuters



Demi Moore

**Ford, Fisher, Hamill in talks for new ‘Star Wars’**

LOS ANGELES, 8 March — “Star Wars” original cast members Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher and Mark Hamill are in talks to join the next installment of the science-fiction franchise, a person with knowledge of plans for the new film told Reuters on

films, declined to comment. Reuters was unable to reach representatives for Hamill, who played Luke Skywalker from 1977 to 1983. Fisher, who played Princess Leia in the first “Star Wars” trilogy, got the rumor mills buzzing

the upcoming film. Disney bought George Lucas’ Lucasfilm company in October 2012 for \$4.05 billion, and announced three new installments of the widely popular “Star Wars” franchise, which has grossed more than \$4.4 billion at the global box office.

Fans of the franchise have been eager to know whether any of the original cast members would be back.

*Bloomberg Businessweek* on Thursday first reported in an interview with Lucas that the trio were in negotiations to join the new film.

Lucasfilm spokeswoman Lynn Hale was unable to confirm whether all three stars would be returning for “Star Wars: Episode VII.” The new film will be helmed by “Star Trek” director JJ Abrams, and will be written by Oscar-winning screenwriter Michael Arndt.

Reuters



US actor Harrison Ford.

Thursday. The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said lawyers had the contracts for all three actors and that an announcement would be made soon. Representatives for Ford, who played Han Solo in the first three

this week after saying she would reprise her role in the new film, due in theaters in 2015, in an interview with US magazine *Palm Beach Illustrated*. Fisher’s spokeswoman, Carol Marshall, would not comment to Reuters on Fisher’s involvement in

**Justin Bieber ‘getting better’ after collapsing at London gig**

LOS ANGELES, 8 March —Canadian teen pop star Justin Bieber tweeted that he was “getting better” after collapsing on stage from shortness of breath during a performance in London and being rushed to the hospital on Thursday. Bieber’s spokeswoman, Melissa Victor, told Reuters that the singer had fainted on stage at his concert at London’s O2 arena and had been taken

backstage where he took a 20 minute break and was given oxygen by doctors. Bieber, 19, returned to the stage after the break and his representatives said he was OK. Victor said the “Boyfriend” singer ignored doctors orders and returned to the O2 Arena stage to finish the performance. The singer tweeted to his 35 million Twitter followers following the incident, “thanks for everyone pulling

me thru tonight. best fans in the world. figuring out what happened. thanks for the love.” His manager, Scooter Braun, told audiences at the arena after the singer’s collapse that Bieber was “very light of breath, the whole show he has been complaining,” in amateur videos posted on the Internet. Bieber had not been suffering from any health issues prior to the show, the spokeswoman added.

Fans quickly began circulating the hashtag “#justintakeabreak” on Twitter after news of his collapse spread on the social network. This is not the first time Bieber has collapsed on stage during a performance. He previously suffered a concussion during a concert in Paris last June after falling into a glass wall. Bieber’s London leg of his sold out “Believe” world tour hasn’t been without its problems. On Tuesday, the first of his four nights at London’s O2 Arena, Bieber angered fans by turning up on stage nearly two hours late, blaming technical issues for his delayed performance.

Reuters



Canadian teen pop star Justin Bieber.



## SPORTS

## Woods in share of Doral lead, McIlroy struggles



Skaters perform during the celebration for the countdown of 1 year to go until the first Paralympic Winter Games in the history of the country in Moscow, Russia, on 7 March, 2013. The Games will be held in Sochi on 7-16 March, 2014.—XINHUA

MIAMI, 8 March—Looking confident and in control, Tiger Woods shot an impressive six-under-par 66 for a share of the lead in the first round of the WGC-Cadillac Championship as world number one Rory McIlroy struggled again on Thursday. Woods was perched atop the leaderboard with Sweden's Freddie Jacobson, Spain's Sergio Garcia, Northern Ireland's Graeme McDowell and American Bubba Watson, the defending Masters champion. Phil Mickelson was one of four players a stroke behind the leaders as the elite field took advantage of easy scoring conditions.

The Blue Monster course at Doral was once considered a beast but has become a toothless resort course over the years, tamed by equipment changes as players deal comfort-



Tiger Woods of the US hits from the 12th fairway during first round play in the 2013 WGC-Cadillac Championship PGA golf tournament in Doral, Florida on 7 March, 2013.—REUTERS

ably with the lengths. Owner Donald Trump has ordered the bulldozers in after this tournament to begin a massive rebuilding project, which is aimed at making the course far more challenging.

On Thursday, though, bathed in sunshine with little wind and temperatures relatively cool for South Florida, the course offered a generous farewell party with only 16 players shooting over-par.

The world's top three players—McIlroy, Woods and England's Luke Donald—were grouped together, providing a fascinating opportunity to compare their games with the US Masters just over a month away. Woods's nine birdies were his best tally since the opening round of the BMW Championship last September, while McIlroy shot a one-over 73 after racking up six bogeys. Woods has won this tournament on six occasions at various venues, including most recently in 2007 at Doral where he also won the Ford Open twice. Starting on the tenth hole, the 14-times major winner followed two birdies with bogeys at the 13th and 14th holes before quickly bouncing back by picking up shots at the 16th and 18th. "It was certainly a day that could have been a little bit lower," said Woods.—Reuters

## Corinthians lifted from 60-day closed door matches

SAO PAULO, 8 March—Defending Copa Libertadores champion Corinthians will be lifted from the 60-day sanction of playing matches behind closed door, the club said on Thursday.

Corinthians was not allowed to play in front of its fans at home matches after the South American football confederation imposed the punishment to the Brazilian club after the death of a 14-year-old Bolivian boy in a Copa Libertadores match against San Jose.

Corinthians said the confederation decided it will keep the club's supporters from attending away matches for the next 18 months, but dismissed the 60-day suspension for home matches. The club was fined 200,000 US dollars.



Corinthians had to play against Millionarios of Colombia in an empty stadium late last month. Kevin Beltaran Espada was killed after being hit by a flare allegedly set off by someone in the Corinthians fan section in the match.—Xinhua

## Turkey's Ilyasova riding high in expanded role with Bucks

LOS ANGELES, 8 March—Milwaukee Bucks forward Ersan Ilyasova is a tantalizing talent whose confidence can fade quicker than his jump shot, though a recent dose of self-belief has him firing

in both departments. On some nights, the 6-foot-10 (2.08m) Ilyasova resembles a Turkish Dirk Nowitzki, with his high-arching jumper appearing as endless as his potential. There are also



Milwaukee Bucks forward Ersan Ilyasova loses the ball as he drives to the basket against the Toronto Raptors during the second half of their NBA basketball game in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on 2 March, 2013.—REUTERS

stretches, as evidenced early in the 2012-13 National Basketball Association (NBA) season, when the 25-year-old Turk looks unsure and out of place; a big man who prefers the perimeter to the paint, an international player trying to secure his place with the Bucks.

But with a new head coach and a new outlook, Ilyasova feels that those dark days are long behind him. "The season started slow for me, there were ups and downs," Ilyasova, who has come on strong lately and is averaging 12.1 points and 6.5 rebounds, told Reuters on Wednesday while in Los Angeles for a game against the Clippers. "We've changed the culture and I'm feeling confident and trying to build on that. I'm looking forward to playing much better."—Reuters

## Peru summons 15 players overseas for match against Chile

LIMA, 8 March—Peru on Thursday called up 15 players from abroad for a World Cup soccer qualifier against Chile. The players are goalkeeper Raul Fernandez (FC Dallas, United States), defenders Alberto Rodriguez (Rio Ave FC, Portugal), Carlos Zambrano (Eintracht Frankfurt, Germany), Yoshimar Yotun (CR Vasco da Gama, Brazil) and Luis Advincola (TSG 1899 Hoffenheim, Germany).

Midfielders Rinaldo

Cruzado (Newell's Old Boys, Argentina), Juan Vargas (Genoa CFC, Italy), Luis Ramirez (Ponte Petra, Brazil), Alvaro Ampuero (Parma FC, Italy) and Juan Marino (Queretaro FC, Mexico) were also called up. The list also includes forwards Andre Carrillo (Sporting Clube, Portugal), Paolo Hurtado (FC Pacos de Ferreira, Portugal), Jefferson Farfan (FC Schalke 04, Germany), Claudio Pizarro (FC Bayern Munich, Germany) and Paolo



Guerrero (Sport Club Corinthians Paulista, Brazil).

Coach Sergio Markarian from Uruguay said the overseas players will practice with the local league's players.—Xinhua

## Nadal set for his first hardcourt test on comeback



Rafael Nadal of Spain hits the ball during a practice session at the BNP Paribas Open ATP tennis tournament in Indian Wells, California, on 7 March, 2013.—REUTERS

INDIAN WELLS, (California), 8 March—Buoyant after a successful tournament run on clay in recent weeks, Rafa Nadal knows he will face the toughest test of his injury comeback at the BNP Paribas Open starting on Thursday. Following a shock second-round exit at Wimbledon last year, the Spanish left-hander was sidelined for seven months by a left knee injury and he now returns to the hard courts of Indian Wells, a surface where his all-action, fist-pumping game has always been most vulnerable. "I am just here to try my best," world number five Nadal told reporters after practicing on one of the outside courts at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden. "We will see how the knee answers on hard."

"It seems that the results on clay were positive, especially because the knee was feeling better and better every week, especially

the last week. Now I am going to try here on hard." Nadal returned to the ATP circuit last month in South America where he competed in three relatively minor claycourt events, winning two of them after reaching all three finals. He was especially pleased with his performance at the Mexican Open in Acapulco where he clinched the title after sweeping aside three-times defending champion David Ferrer 6-0, 6-2 in little over an hour on Sunday. "I played much, much, much better than what I thought and in Acapulco I played a fantastic tournament," Nadal smiled.

"And in the final at Acapulco, forget about if I was seven months away from tennis, I played much, much better than a lot of finals when I am competing at 100 percent. I played one of my best matches probably ever on clay in the final."

Reuters



GENERAL

### Adidas sees role for Reebok despite writedown



Adidas running shoes with test marks are pictured at the Adidas innovation laboratory in Herzogenaurach on 7 May, 2012.—REUTERS

LONDON, 8 March—Adidas is to stick with its troubled Reebok business even though the German sportswear group had to make a 265 million euro (\$344.5 million) writedown on the brand at the end of last year. Adidas, which bought Reebok in 2005 for \$3.8 billion to try

to close the gap with market leader Nike, last year had to cut its 2015 sales target for the brand by a third after two quarters of declining sales.

But the group believes Reebok has a future alongside the Adidas own-name brand and the TaylorMade golf unit.

### Federer says biological passports good news

INDIAN WELLS, (California), 8 March —Roger Federer applauded Thursday's announcement that tennis will introduce biological passports for players and urged the sport to make the ATP Tour "as clean as it possibly can be" with a broad approach. Earlier in the day, the International Tennis Federation (ITF) also said it would increase the number of blood tests done each year under its anti-doping programme in the wake of several high-profile cases in other sports. "That's good news," 17-times grand slam winner Federer said at the BNP Paribas Open. "I think tennis has done a good job of trying everything to be as clean as possible but we are

entering a new era. Everything is becoming more professional with more money involved."

"We just need to make sure from our side that we are doing everything we can and for that reason we need the players to engage in this process. We have to do everything to ensure our tour is as clean as it possibly can be." Federer and many of his peers have been prominent in calling for tennis to up anti-doping measures, especially following the admission in January by seven-times Tour de France champion Lance Armstrong that he doped throughout his cycling career. "The cycling issue has been around for quite some time but what

"We are sticking with Reebok," Chief Executive Herbert Hainer told reporters on Thursday. The company also said margin improvements would drive up profits this year as it sold more in emerging markets and drove down costs as a proportion of turnover.

Adidas shares rose 5 percent, hitting an all-time high as markets took a shine to the stronger margins and a 35 percent dividend hike. Shares in local rival Puma, majority owned by France's PPR, added 1 percent, while German blue chip stocks traded at their highest level in five years. Last year was a bumper year for sports, with the Olympics in London and the European soccer championships taking place the same summer in Poland and Ukraine.—Reuters



Roger Federer

surfaced this year obviously was super extreme," Federer said. "And that really gets you thinking that we just have to make sure that we do everything we possibly can."

According to figures on the ITF website (www.itftennis.com), the governing body carried out only 21 out-of-competition blood tests in the professional game in 2011.

Reuters

### Cote d'Ivoire women organization urges gender equality law

ABIDJAN, 8 March—Just a day before the celebration of the International Women's Day, a women organization in Cote d'Ivoire pleaded for the adoption of a law on gender equality at all decision making levels in the West African country.

"Cote d'Ivoire should seek to progressively promote equality between men and women," Madeleine Bley Miandiga, the chairperson of the Network of Women in Cote d'Ivoire's Political Parties (REFEPCI), said in a statement issued on Thursday.

She said women should be involved in efforts to correct the current imbalance that exists between them and men, by joining the government in an acceptable representation through normative reforms with the most important being the law on gender equality.

Xinhua

### Former Iditarod champion first to reach Alaska race's midpoint

ANCHORAGE, (Alaska), 8 March—A four-time champion of Alaska's Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race was first to reach the halfway point at a one-time gold mining settlement for which the wilderness trail is named, before quickly losing his nominal lead to another musher, race officials said on Thursday. Lance Mackey, the only musher to win the 1,000-



Defending Iditarod Champion Lance Mackey runs his team up the starting chute of the official start of Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race in Willow, Alaska, on 6 March, 2011.—REUTERS

switch from the Western Conference to an expanded 16-team Eastern Conference, while the Winnipeg Jets would move from the East to a reduced 14-team Western Conference.

Both conferences would each have two divisions, instead of the current three. The top three teams from each division would qualify for the postseason along with four wild-card teams, two from each conference. "Our next step will be to bring the proposed plan for realignment to the NHL Board of Governors for its consideration," NHL Deputy Commissioner Bill Daly said in a separate statement.

Reuters

TORONTO, 8 March—The National Hockey League's (NHL) proposal to realign the existing competition and introduce wild-card playoffs has been given the approval of the players' union. The NHL recently unveiled plans to reorganize the league, including switching teams from conferences, reducing the number of divisions and adding wild-card system. The NHL Players' Association, which was involved in a bitter labour dispute with the league that delayed the start of the current season, said it supported the plans on the condition they would review it in 2015.

"After discussions with the Executive Board, the



Detroit Red Wings players celebrate with teammate Niklas Kronwall (2nd R) after he scored the game winning goal against Edmonton Oilers goalie Nikolai Khabibulin during the third period of their NHL hockey game in Detroit, Michigan on 9 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

NHLPA has given consent to realignment, to be re-evaluated following the 2014-15 season," NHLPA Executive Director Don

Fehr said in a statement on Thursday. Under the realignment plan, the Detroit Red Wings and Columbus Blue Jackets would

mile Iditarod four times in a row, drove his dog team on Wednesday night into the interior Alaska ghost town of Iditarod. His prize for being first to Iditarod is \$3,000 in gold nuggets, officials said.

The race, which has grown from an obscure contest many considered a one-time lark into a world-famous, big-money sports extravaganza, began in Anchorage on Saturday and will finish in the Bering Sea town of Nome. Winners in recent years have reached Nome in about nine days. In Iditarod, Mackey was joined by four other mushers—fellow four-time champions Jeff King and

Martin Buser, and race veterans Sonny Lindner and Aaron Burmeister. All rested their teams at the checkpoint on Thursday afternoon. But Buser later departed, snatching the lead from Mackey, who won the race in 2007 through 2010. Other teams could also overtake him as Mackey has yet to take a 24-hour rest that is required of all Iditarod competitors.

Buser has already taken that day-long mandatory layover, as have Burmeister and other top contenders who were on their way to Iditarod on Thursday, including 2012 runner-up Aliy Zirkle and 2004 winner Mitch Seavey.—Reuters

### Myanmar TV

(9-3-2013, Saturday)

<b>7:00 am</b>	1. Paritta By Venerable MinGun Sayadaw	<b>4:15 pm</b>	16. Musical Programme
<b>7:25 am</b>	2. Health Programme	<b>4:25 pm</b>	17. 2013 University Entrance Examination (Biology)
<b>7:30 am</b>	3. Morning News	<b>4:50 pm</b>	18. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
<b>7:40 am</b>	4. International News	<b>5:00 pm</b>	19. Teleplay (Health)
<b>7:45 am</b>	5. People Talks	<b>5:35 pm</b>	20. Beautiful ASEAN
<b>8:05 am</b>	6. Documentary	<b>6:00 pm</b>	21. Evening News
<b>8:15 am</b>	7. Sea Game (Teleplay)	<b>6:15 pm</b>	22. Weather Report
<b>8:35 am</b>	8. Poem Garden	<b>6:20 pm</b>	23. Celebrity and Dinner
<b>11:25 am</b>	9. Game For Children	<b>7:00 pm</b>	24. News
<b>11:50 am</b>	10. Round Up Of The Week's TV local News	<b>7:10 pm</b>	25. TV Drama Series
<b>1:10 pm</b>	11. Teleplay (Lawkaniti)	<b>8:00</b>	26. News
<b>2:05 pm</b>	12. Song of National Races	<b>8:00</b>	27. International News
<b>2:15 pm</b>	13. Song Programme	<b>8:00</b>	28. Weather Report
<b>4:00 pm</b>	14. Opening Song	<b>10:00 pm</b>	29. Myanmar Series
<b>4:05 pm</b>	15. Culture Dances	<b>10:00 pm</b>	30. TV Drama Series
			31. News
			32. Gitadagale Phwintbaohn



**Vice-President U Nyan Tun receives Administrator of USAID delegation**

NAY PYI TAW, 8 March—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Nyan Tun received a delegation led by Dr Rajeev Janardan Shah, Administrator of US Agency for International Development-USAID at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 10 am today.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Zin Yaw, Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Daw Khin San Yi, the director-general of the President Office and officials.

The USAID delegation

was accompanied by US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Derek Mitchell.

They cordially discussed matters related to cooperation programmes between Myanmar and US, cooperation with social organizations in Myanmar, control of HIV, AIDS in the health sector, health care services for children and women and reduction of mortality rate, development of research works and higher education in linking universities in the education sector, plans for humanitarian aid, and investment of US companies for reform and development of agriculture sector of Myanmar.—MNA



*Vice-President U Nyan Tun poses for documentary photo with Dr Rajeev Janardan Shah, Administrator of US Agency for International Development-USAID and party.—MNA*

**Union Education Minister meets scouts**

NAY PYI TAW, 8 March—Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye met scouts from No.1 Basic Education High School of PynOoLwin and No. 16 BEHS of Mandalay at the ministry this morning.

The Union Minister called scouts as neutral

persons with altruistic attitude and urged them to set example to their peers serving the interests of own school, village and people.

Deputy Ministers U Aye Kyu and Dr Ba Shwe also gave instructions to the scouts.

MNA

**International Women's Day celebrated**

NAY PYI TAW, 8 March—International Women's Day was celebrated at the meeting hall of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, here, this morning, with an address by Patron of MWF

and Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association wife of the President Daw Khin Khin Win.

The ceremony was attended by wives of the Vice-presidents Daw Nan Shwe Hmon and Daw Khin

Aye Myint, committee chairpersons of the hluttaws, Union ministers, patrons of MWF and MMCWA, ambassadors, resident reps of UN agencies, reps of NGOs at home and abroad and invited guests.

UN Resident Representative Mr. Ashhol Nigam read out the message sent by the UN secretary-general. Daw Khin Khin Win and party viewed round booths and photos on activities displaying at the meeting hall.

MNA

**Building a Lasting EU-Myanmar Partnership****JOINT STATEMENT**

On 5 March 2013, the President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy, the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, and the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, U Thein Sein, agreed that, in light of the historic changes in Myanmar, they will work in partnership:

- To make Myanmar into a modern democracy. To ensure that the best international standards are met, the EU will work closely with Myanmar's three branches of the state, as well as with the Election Commission. The three Presidents welcomed the wish of the EU Parliament and the Myanmar Hluttaws to strengthen their cooperation.
- To achieve a lasting peace. Without peace there can be neither democracy nor prosperity in Myanmar. The Government is committed to inclusive negotiations for a lasting political settlement. These should address long standing differences to achieve sustainable peace. The EU will continue to support the Government's efforts for peace and the Myanmar Peace Centre.
- To promote human rights and the rule of law for all people living in Myanmar. The Government has taken steps to secure freedom of expression, assembly and association. The release of prisoners has opened a new chapter in Myanmar political life. The review mechanism established by the government - which includes members of the opposition and former prisoners - will ensure that remaining cases are dealt with in a spirit of openness and reconciliation. The EU and Myanmar will establish dialogue and cooperation in this field to help Myanmar fulfill its

commitments. The EU will support the efforts of the Myanmar Government to build an independent, impartial and efficient judiciary.

- To work with Myanmar as an active and respected member of the international community. In this respect Myanmar's readiness to accede to international Human rights agreements and to the Additional Protocol to IAEA's Comprehensive safeguards agreements is particularly important.
- To create an EU-Myanmar partnership in trade and investment. The foundations of growth and prosperity for all Myanmar citizens will be laid through economic reforms implementing the Government's vision of people-centred economic and social development, a market economy and a level playing field for business. These reforms have already been initiated. In support of this comprehensive reform process, the EU has launched the process to reinstate as early as possible unhindered access to the EU market including preferential treatment under GSP/EBA. As a next step the EU and Myanmar will explore the feasibility of a bilateral Investment Agreement to increase investment flows. Both sides will promote best practices in Corporate Social Responsibility and responsible investment. Both sides have also agreed to take concrete steps to promote and deepen business partnerships and economic cooperation.—
- To work together on preparedness, response and resilience to emergencies, by building up a professional and effective response system.
- To build a development partnership. In line with the



Nay Pyi Taw Accord and the Government's Action Plan and commitment to poverty reduction, the EU is for its part committed to maintaining its increased assistance for national development priorities. The EU will assist the Myanmar Government in its efforts to build a more prosperous future. The EU will continue supporting Myanmar's development through its cooperation programs. In parallel, both sides commit to establishing a comprehensive policy dialogue on sustainable development.

- To bring our societies closer, through academic exchanges, media contacts, tourism and cultural cooperation. The Government of Myanmar is committed to protecting Myanmar's cultural heritage and to that end will consider offering a suitable building in Yangon's heritage conservation zone for establishment of a Europe House. Myanmar is committed to sustainable tourism for the benefit of the people of Myanmar, their traditions and culture. Myanmar also welcomes cooperation with the EU in the domain of national heritage preservation and reconstruction.
- To maintain the momentum of the partnership and to turn these commitments into reality, both sides will establish a joint Task Force. It will meet in Myanmar in November to assess progress and develop further cooperation in the future.

Brussels  
5 March 2013.