

Good literature will sweep away “poisonous” contents, says Union Information Minister

YANGON, 9 March—Publishing of good books will ward off “poisonous” contents in literature, Union Information Minister U Aung Kyi said at the seventh Tun Foundation literary award 2012 presentation ceremony at Myanmar Banks Association Building here this afternoon.

He said the foundation shares the same vision.

“When the entire world is in the dark, the literature always gives a ray of hope,” said the minister in his opening speech at the annually held ceremony.

He said older generations were influenced by nationalistic writings of the authors of 19th century.

Chairman of Tun Foundation Bank Patron of Tun Foundation Literary Award Scrutiny Committee U Thein Tun extended greetings before committee chairman Sithu Dr Thaw



Kaung and vice-chairman Dr U Khin Aye (Maung Khin Min-Danubyu) briefed on selection of awards.

The Union Minister presented Lifetime Literary Award to Dr Aung Myat Kyaw Sein who collected the honour on behalf of his father Dr Kyaw Sein and

award in cultural genre to U Myint Kyi.

Officials and committee members then presented awards to winners.

U Thein Tun presented gifts to U Myint Kywe (Maung Kywe) on behalf of the scrutiny panel.

MNA

Union Minister U Aung Kyi presents awards to Dr Aung Myat Kyaw Sein, on behalf of Lifetime Achievement Literary Award Winner Dr Kyaw Sein.

MNA

President U Thein Sein to pay State Visits to New Zealand, Commonwealth of Australia

NAY PYI TAW, 10 March—At the invitation of His Excellency The Rt Hon. John Key, Prime Minister of New Zealand and Her Excellency Ms. Quentin Bryce, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will pay State Visits to New Zealand and the Commonwealth of Australia in the near future.—MNA

Union Border Affairs Minister meets UNHCR SEA Coordinator, British Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 9 March—Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win received UNHCR South East Asian Coordinator Mr James Lynch and British Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Andrew Richard Heyn separately at his office here yesterday.

The discussions focused on progress of projects being jointly implemented by UNHCR and the Ministry and future plans.

Also present at the calls were the deputy minister, directors-general and personnel.

MNA

Yangon mayor inspects constructions of overpass

YANGON, 9 March—Yangon Region Development Affairs Minister Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint this morning inspected the construction site of two overpasses on Bayintnaung Road in Mayangon Township.

The mayor also

inspected clearing of rubbish and silt at Aung Theikdi drainage in Mayangon Township, road expansion on Inya Road and construction of Hledan Overpass in Kamayut Township.

The construction of Hledan overpass has

been completed about 90 percent. The mayor viewed construction of car parking at the University of Foreign Languages on University Avenue in Kamayut Township and construction of Shwegondine Overpass in Bahan Township.

MNA

Myanmar-China cooperation in Buddhism, cultural and social programmes

NAY PYI TAW, 9 March—Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Hsan Hsint and Chinese delegation from State Religious Affairs Bureau led by Ven Shi Chaung Zaung of China Buddha Tooth Relic Temple

discussed matters related to Buddhism, cultural and social programmes at Myat Mingala Hotel in Zabuthiri Township here this morning.

Present at the meeting were Director-General U Khine Aung, Head of

Office U Myint Oo and Deputy Director-General U Zarni Win of Religious Affairs Ministry, deputy directors from the Chinese bureau Mr Zhang Lin, Ven Sun Lian Cheng and Mr Wang Li.

MNA

Chin State to be promoted as tourist site

Measures are being taken to develop tourism in Chin State after it saw a surge in number of foreign tourists last year, said the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

Following the political and economic reforms, the number of foreign tourists to Myanmar has increased, said the Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung on his tour of Chin State to help develop tourism there.

The Union minister added over one million foreign tourists visited Myanmar in 2013 and

the number is going to rise in 2013. The Hotels and Tourism Ministry is planning to expand the tourist routes and Chin State is among them to be built as a tourist site. Required courses will be conducted in Chin State, helping to start the untapped new business model of tourism there for its economic growth.

Chin State stands at an altitude of over 5000 feet and is a picturesque place with mountains and eucalyptus forests. Especially, Reed Lake is the landmark of Chin State. The better transportation has increased

in number of visitors to Chin State.

Plans to improve the hospitality will help develop the smokeless industry there.

It is expected that up to two million international tourists will come and visit Myanmar yearly in coming years. Through Myanmar used to receive Asian tourists most in the past, it now sees more and more visitors from Western Europe.

Myanma Alinn: 7-3-2013

Trs:TKK

Byline: Maung Nwe Thit
Photo: Kyaw Thu Win



Photo shows spectacular Haka, capital of Chin State.

LOCAL NEWS

More arrivals of local pilgrims, foreign visitors pushes sales of Shinmataung Thanatkhar in Pakokku

PAKOKKU, 9 March — Thanks to increased local pilgrims and foreign visitors in open season and smooth transportation, there has been a boom in Thanatkhar market of Pakokku.

Thanatkhar logs, sellers are doing a brisk trade. A Thanatkhar tree is priced from K 30000 to K 50000. The Thanatkhar plants are being grown on a commercial scale in villages and monasteries in Pakokku region.

“Mix and double cropping can be made in Thanatkhar plantations.

When the price of Thanatkhar is going up, thefts of the plants are frequent. So guards are needed to protect them,” a Thanatkhar grower said. Apart from the compound of U Marga monastery in Pakokku, northern part of Myoma market is crowded with Thanatkhar vendors.

Kyemon



More than 200-year-old tree in Kyaunggon Township



KYAUNGGON, 9 March — A 200-year-old tree still stands at Kwinwaysu village of Kyaunggon Township of Ayeyawady Region.

has been till now, providing shade for every one and serving as a pavilion for donation ceremonies of the village. It is learnt that there is also another nearly 200 years old tree in the village.

Kyemon

Theinzayat market performs fire drill

THEINZAYAT, 9 March — Aiming at developing an awareness of what to take preventive measures against the possible danger of fire and how to do in an emergency if there is a fire in markets in Kyaikto

Township, a fire drill was performed in Theinzayat market on 5 March.

Under the supervision of Kyaikto Township DAC Executive Officer U Saw Shwe and Head of Kyaikto Township Fire Services

Department U Tin Htwe, fire crews and auxiliary fire brigade members accompanied by one fire truck took part in the fire drill in cooperation with local people. After the fire practice, firemen demonstrated how to use fire equipment in fighting against the fire.—Kyemon

Vehicle found abandoned after car crash in Kalay



KALAY, 9 March — A vehicle crashed into the back side of the foundation of a Statue of Maha Bandoola that stands at the junction in Kalay on 4 March, causing steel railings and pavement damaged.

Although the hit-and-run driver is still at large, police members found out a Land Cruiser Prado which is believed to have hit the foundation of the statue. Now actions are being taken to expose the suspect.

Kyemon

Nyaungshwe prepares to take census on trial basis

NYAUNGSHWE, 9 March — A meeting between officials of UNFPA and the census-taking committee took place at the office of Immigration and National Registration Department of Nyaungshwe Township

on 28 February. The meeting discussed matters of taking census on a trial basis in Khaungdaing village-tract in Nyaungshwe Township.

First, Head of Nyaungshwe Township

INRD U Win Tin and committee members explained preparations for taking census and Mr. Yamming Lin of UNFPA gave suggestions on the needs to take census

Kyemon

Zeelun BEHS in Myitkyina gets new building

NAY PYI TAW, 9 March — The opening of new school building (Swetaw Hall) for Zeelun Basic Education High School took place at the school in Myitkyina on 5 March. The new school building was constructed with the contributions of K

48 million by the State and K 28 million by wellwishers.

Kachin State Social Affairs Minister Daw Bauk Ja, Kachin State Education Officer U Kyaw Aye and a local formally opened the new school building.

Then Kachin State Chief Minister U La John Ngan Hsai unveiled the signboard of the newly-opened school building.

Next, officials presented certificates of honour to wellwishers who made cash donations for construction of the new school building.

MNA

House fire in Gangaw Township

GANGAW, 9 March — A fire broke out at the house of Daw Nyo Sann in PoU village of Gangaw Township at about 2.30 pm on 5 March.

The fire started from the kitchen where shower of sparks from the stove had set fire to the wall and swept through the whole house. The fire destroyed two

houses, leaving eight people homeless.

Fire crews accompanied by two fire trucks of Gangaw Fire Services Department and one water bowser from Myanmar Timber Enterprise in Gangaw rushed to the scene and put out the fire at about 2.50 pm.

Kyemon

Agreement on relocation of truck termini to Pyigy Mingala container yard reaches

MANDALAY, 9 March — As an agreement on relocation of truck termini in downtown Mandalay to Pyigy Mingala container yard has been reached, all truck termini are going to move to the new place by the end of February.

An agreement to rent a room at the monthly rental charge of K 150,000 was reached. The advisory board of Mandalay City Development Committee coordinated the matter despite the fact the MCDC has planned to rent the room

at the monthly rental charge of K 300,000 and to sell a room for K 70 million. The reason of relocation to Pyigy Mingala container yard was to reduce traffic volume around Kywesekan bus terminal.

Kyemon



WORLD

Senegal worried about risk of militants entering from Mali



French President Francois Hollande (R), his Senegalese counterpart Macky Sall and Finance Minister Pierre Moscovici (L) arrive at the International Solidarity and Development meeting in Paris, on 1 March, 2013. — REUTERS

CAMBRIDGE, 9 March — Senegal is stepping up monitoring of its borders and mounting a public education campaign in an effort to ensure that Islamist militants from neighbouring Mali do not disrupt life in the West African nation, Senegalese President Macky Sall said on Friday. Senegal, one of Afri-

ca's most peaceful countries, is keen to remain insulated from violence in northern Mali, where a French military offensive has reclaimed most of the territory seized by militants nearly a year ago.

"There is a risk of sleeper cells as everywhere else. If you will, the map of

terrorist presence is a global map," Sall, who has been in power almost a year, said in an interview at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. "Senegal being a neighbouring country to Mali, it of course pays very close attention to these developments," said Sall, who noted that Dakar was focused on preventing militants from crossing into Senegal and dissuading Senegalese residents from working with any who did.

Senegal has contributed several hundred troops to an African force deployed to Mali, and Islamist rebels have threatened to strike back at any country that supports that mission. France launched a ground and air operation on 11 January to break the rebels' hold on the northern two-thirds of Mali, saying the militants posed a risk to the security of West Africa and Europe.—Reuters

Maduro sworn in as Venezuela's acting president

CARACAS, 9 March — Venezuelan Vice President Nicolas Maduro was officially sworn in on Friday as the country's acting President, following the death of President Hugo Chavez on Tuesday. In the special session of the National Assembly, Maduro took an oath of office at the legislative palace as acting president.

"I swear in the name of our children, of our farmers, swear in the name of absolute loyalty to commander Hugo Chavez. We will enforce the Bolivarian Constitution. I swear," he said. Afterwards, National Assembly Speaker Diosdado Cabello Cabello conferred the presidential band and necklace of Simon Bolivar, the symbol of the presidency, to Maduro. The participants sang the national

anthem and offer congratulations to him. "Pardon our sorrow and our tears, but this band belongs to Hugo Chavez, the presidency corresponds to Hugo Chavez," Maduro said while sobbing.

The acting president arrived only minutes earlier before the ceremony, accompanied by government ministers, amid chanting supporters. Cabello said swearing in a president in charge after the death of Chavez is "mandatory and is constitutional," refuting opposition leader Henrique Capriles, who condemned the Supreme Court's ruling to allow Maduro to be sworn in as acting president and run for president without leaving his office as a constitutional fraud. Capriles lost to Chavez in last year's presidential elec-



Image provided by the Presidency of Venezuela shows the President of the National Assembly, Diosdado Cabello (front R), swears in Venezuelan Vice President Nicolas Maduro (front L) as acting president, in Caracas, capital of Venezuela, on 8 March, 2013. XINHUA

tion.

"While the country is mourning, the Supreme Court issues a judgment with political content, constitutional fraud, and I think it is important that the world knows these abuses," Capriles told a press conference. But the court argued that its verdict was made based on Article 233 of the Constitution, saying, "The

executive vice president becomes acting president and ceases his previous post." "The electoral organization can admit the acting president to participate in the presidential election," the verdict added. "During the electoral process of electing the president, the acting president is not obliged to withdraw from the post."

MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia arrests 50, releases more pictures of dead militants in Sabah standoff

LAHAD DATU, 9 March — Malaysian police on Friday arrested at least 50 people and released more pictures of dead militants as security forces continued to hunt down the remaining Filipino intruders in a deadly standoff in Malaysia's Sabah state.

Police chief Ismail Omar said at least 50 people, including women, have been detained in Sabah under the Security Offences Act a new law that has been

used to arrest suspected terrorists for alleged links to the militants. He told a Press conference that security forces are continuing to mop up the remaining militants in enforced security areas, and showed media the photos of militants shot dead by the security forces and their seized weapons.

Defence minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi had two days ago released photos of 13 dead bodies believed to be of the militants. Malay-

sian forces and the Filipino militants have been fighting for a week in an intense standoff that left at least 60 people dead, including eight Malaysian policemen. The militants had come in a group of more than 180 who arrived in the east coastal town of Lahad Datu in Sabah from southern Philippines on 9 February to claim territorial rights to the land.

They were followers of a self-proclaimed Sulu Sul-

tan Jamalul Kiram III who insisted Sabah belongs to his sultanate.

The Filipino government has asked Malaysia to ensure "humane treatment" of the Filipinos detained on Friday and that the Philippine humanitarian team be given full access to the detainees. Malaysian armed forces chief Zulkifeli Mohd Zin said the Sulu militants showed no signs of surrender.

MNA/Xinhua

Obama to address energy in Illinois trip after meeting leaders

WASHINGTON, 9 March — President Barack Obama spoke about his second-term goals for the booming energy sector at a private meeting with some energy executives on Thursday, and will speak more on the issue at an Illinois event next week, the White House said on Friday. The private meeting came ahead of a trip planned for 15 March to the Argonne National Laboratory outside of Chicago that will focus on energy, White House spokesman Josh Earnest told reporters.

On Thursday, Obama met with top executives from oil and gas producer Anadarko Petroleum Corp, renewable power producer NextEra, power producer Sempra, and shipping giant FedEx Corp, one of the world's biggest fuel consumers. Obama discussed the role of natural gas and

opportunities for renewable energy, and his interest in public-private partnerships to reach energy and climate goals, Earnest said.

More than a dozen people were at the meeting, which also included executives from Southwest Gas, energy data firm Opower,

wind turbine parts-maker Winergy, as well as several academics and advisers. Obama has said addressing climate change is among his priorities for his second term, and often speaks about how the boom in US energy production has helped the country's economy.—Reuters

US President Barack Obama walks on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington before departing to visit wounded military personnel at the Walter Reed National Military Centre in Bethesda, Maryland, on 5 March, 2013. REUTERS



Suicide bomber kills nine Afghans during Hagel visit

KABUL, 9 March — A suicide bomber blew himself up at a Defence Ministry gate in Kabul on Saturday killing nine civilians during a visit to Afghanistan by US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel, underlining the insurgent threat as NATO troops prepare to leave.

Hagel was nowhere near the explosion, said a spokesman for Afghanistan's NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). A US Defence official said Hagel was in a safe location at an ISAF facility.

An Afghan Defence Ministry official said at least nine people, all civilians, were killed. Fourteen people were wounded in the attack, carried out by an insurgent on a bicycle.

Roads around the ministry building, which is near the presidential palace, were closed as emergency officials cleared the area of debris and washed blood

from the street. A wall surrounding the ministry was pockmarked with shrapnel.

The Afghan Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack and said the ministry was the target. They said in a statement the attack "is a kind of message" for Hagel.

The blast underscored the security challenges facing Afghanistan as US-led NATO forces prepare to leave the country by the end of 2014.

Hagel, who arrived in Afghanistan on Friday for his first trip abroad as defence secretary, was moved from a briefing room at a NATO base to a more secure location after the blast, a US official said.

The explosion was audible during a briefing for reporters travelling with Hagel. After the blast, the defence secretary flew to Bagram Air Base near Kabul for closed-door meetings with commanders.

MNA / Reuters



US Secretary of Defence Chuck Hagel (R) is greeted by US Ambassador to Afghanistan James Cunningham (C) and General Joseph Dunford, Commander of the International Security Force (L), upon Hagel's arrival in Kabul, Afghanistan, on 8 March, 2013.—REUTERS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Russian scientists may have found new life under Antarctic ice



A man stands near drilling apparatus at the Vostok research camp in Antarctica in this on 13 Jan, 2006 handout photograph.—REUTERS

Moscow, 9 March—Russian scientists believe they have discovered new life forms sealed off for millions of years in a subglacial lake deep under the Antarctic ice, the RIA news agency reported on Thursday.

After more than a decade of stop-and-go drilling, Russia pierced through Antarctica's frozen crust last year and took back samples of water from a vast lake that has lain untouched for at least 14 million year.

Scientists say the icy darkness of Lake Vostok, under some 12,139 feet of ice, may provide a glimpse of the planet before the Ice Age and clues to life on other planets.

"After excluding all known contaminants, bacterial DNA was found that does not match any known species in world databases," Sergei Bulat of the St Petersburg Nuclear Physics Institute told RIA.

"If it (the bacteria) had been found on Mars, then

without a doubt we would have said there is life on Mars—but this is DNA from Earth," he said. "We are calling this life form unidentified or unclassified."

Scientists from the United States and Britain are close on Moscow's heels to probe what life may exist in one of the most extreme environments on Earth.

This year, a US expedition said they had seen living cells under a microscope in field samples taken from the shallower subglacial Lake Whillans, but more study is needed to determine what kinds of bacteria they are and how they live.

A British effort to reach a third body, Lake Ellsworth, was called off in December because of problems drilling.

What life is found in the icy depths may provide the best answer yet to whether life can exist in the extreme conditions on Mars or Jupiter's moon Europa.

Reuters

Hon Hai won't invest in Sharp by 26 March deadline

TOKYO, 9 March—Hon Hai Precision Industry Co Ltd will not invest in Sharp Corp by a 26 March deadline after the two firms failed to revise an earlier agreement, although the Taiwanese company has not ruled out an investment altogether, a newspaper said.

had stalled after Sharp balked at its demand that it be given a degree of management control.

Hon Hai also sought to lower the \$708 million price tag after Sharp's stock slumped in the wake of losses that prompted a bailout from its banks last year.



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

Hon Hai Chairman Terry Gou met Sharp's bankers to inform them no deal would be struck this month but he would look at the merits of an investment after the struggling Japanese display maker unveils a new business plan in the near future, the Asahi newspaper reported without saying where it got the information.

Talks for Hon Hai to buy as much as a 9.9 percent stake

Sharp's banks, which include Mizuho Financial Group Inc and Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group Inc, had not been expecting a revised deal, sources told Reuters last month.

Sharp spokeswoman Miyuki Nakayama and a spokesman for Hon Hai both said the two companies would continue to negotiate until the deadline.

Reuters

Facebook tries to stay hip with jazzier News Feed

MENLO PARK, 9 March—Facebook doesn't want to be dismissed as an Internet has-been before its social network even enters its adolescence.

In an effort to remain hip, it is infusing the focal point of its website with a more dynamic look and additional controls designed to empower its 1 billion users to sort streams of photos and other material into more organized sections that appeal to their personal interests.

The changes unveiled on Thursday are an attempt to address complaints that Facebook's hub—the News Feed—is degenerating into a jumble of monotonous musings and disjointed pictures.

This has come as users' social circles have widened from a few dozen people to an unwieldy assortment of friends, family, businesses, celebrities, co-workers and fleeting acquaintances.

That evolution requires

a more nuanced approach than the computer-generated algorithms that Facebook has been relying on to pick out the most relevant content to display in each user's News Feed.

The growing popularity of smartphones and tablet computers equipped with high-quality cameras also is turning the News Feed into a more visual gallery, another shift that Facebook is tackling by carving out more space to display photos

and video. Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg hopes the makeover turns the News Feed into something like a newspaper tailored to fit the particular interests of each user on every visit to the website.

"This gives people more power to dig deeper into the topics they care about," Zuckerberg said while discussing the makeover at Facebook's Menlo Park, Calif, headquarters.

PTI



Facebook doesn't want to be dismissed as an Internet has-been before its social network even enters its adolescence.—PTI

Study shows fatty acids could lead to flu drug

WASHINGTON, 9 March—A compound derived from fats found in fish oils prevents death in influenza-virus-infected mice, even at advanced stages of disease, according to a study published on Thursday in the journal *Cell*.

Flu viruses are a major cause of death and sickness around the world, and antiviral drugs currently do not protect the most seriously ill patients. The study offers a promising strategy for the treatment of patients with severe influenza virus infections.

Currently available antiviral drugs inhibit influenza virus replication, but they are not typically effective when given to

patients as little as two days after infection. In an attempt to discover more effective drug targets for influenza, scientists have recently identified several genes and molecules that are



crucial for influenza virus replication. However, until now it was not known whether naturally occurring lipids, such as those derived from omega-3 polyunsaturated

fatty acids (PUFAs) found in fish oils, might also be involved in influenza virus infections. To answer this question, researchers at Akita University in Japan screened

for PUFA-derived lipids in influenza-virus-infected human lung cells. When they treated infected cells with these lipids, they found that protectin D1 (PD1) was the

most effective at inhibiting the replication of viruses, including H5N1.

In addition, low levels of PD1 in the lungs of influenza-virus-infected mice were associated with severe infection and highly pathogenic viruses, such as H5N1.

Treatment with PD1 in combination with an approved antiviral drug improved the survival of influenza-virus-infected mice and prevented death, even when given two days after infection. "Our findings suggest that PD1 could serve as a biomarker as well as a much needed antiviral drug for severe and lethal influenza virus infections," the researchers said.—Xinhua

BlackBerry encouraged by early sales of Z10, the first BlackBerry 10 smartphone

WATERLOO, 9 March—BlackBerry has gotten its new touchscreen mobile device on store shelves in more than 20 countries and is very encouraged by the traction that the smartphone is gaining, Chief Executive Thorsten Heins said on Thursday.

The company's Z10, the first in a line of smartphones powered by the new BlackBerry 10 operating system, is on sale in the UK, Canada,

Germany, Indonesia, India, the United Arab Emirates and South Africa, among other countries. Launches in other countries are coming soon, said Heins. "The feedback is very encouraging," Heins said at the Communitex Tech Leadership Conference in the company's hometown of Kitchener-Waterloo. "What has been a real surprise for us is that BlackBerry 10 as a platform and product is attracting users that are currently on other platforms."

"We are just five weeks into this. We have just one product out in 21 countries, so it is early indications, but we are encouraged by what we see and hear from our carrier partners," he told an audience of leaders of local technology start-ups.

Heins declined to give figures on Z10 sales, as the company is in a quiet period ahead of the 28 March release of its fourth-quarter results.

He said the high-end Z10 had surpassed BlackBerry's

expectations in emerging markets like India, where cheaper entry-level devices are typically popular.

"I was surprised when we launched in India how well the Z10, which is a high-end device, sold," said Heins. "We shipped into the channel product that we thought would have been good for at least five days and I got an emergency call from our manager in India, saying that they were sold out in two days,"—Reuters

BUSINESS & HEALTH



Processed meats linked to premature death

LONDON, 9 March—Sausages, hams, bacon and other processed meats are said to be linked to an increased risk of dying young, European researchers reported on Wednesday.

British journal *BMC Medicine* reported that a study with half a million participants from 10 European countries revealed links between processed meat and cardiovascular disease and cancer as chemicals used in the preservation of meat may damage health.

In nearly 13 years when participants were followed, researchers found that the risk of dying from any cause was 44 percent greater

for high processed meat consumers, and rates of premature death rose with the quantity of processed meat eaten.

Researchers pointed out that high processed meat consumption led to a 72-percent higher risk of dying from heart disease, and an 11-percent higher risk of dying from cancer.

“Overall, we estimate that 3 percent of premature deaths each year could be prevented if people ate less than 20 grams of processed meat per day,” said Sabine Rohrmann from the University of Zurich in Switzerland, who lead the research.—*Xinhua*

BofA looks to play catch-up in Asia corporate banking

HONG KONG, 9 March—Bank of America Corp (BAC.N) will seek more lending and cash management business with companies in Asia and elsewhere outside its US home turf, Chief Executive Brian Moynihan said, an area ripe for expansion where it lags its big rivals.

That could mean vying for market share with more entrenched global banks such as Citigroup Inc (C.N) and HSBC Holdings Plc (HSBA.L) in fast-growing regions like Asia, where Fortune 500 companies and big local corporations demand a full spectrum of banking services from hedging to foreign exchange to cash management.

“Inside the US we’re number one in cash management revenues, but outside it, against some of our competitors, we’re less than we want to be,” Moynihan said in an interview with *Reuters* on Friday. “We might get 70 percent of our revenues from a company inside the US, when only 50 percent of their revenues are made there, so we’re missing opportunities,” he said.

The US-based lender won’t be jostling with competitors, however, for securities business in China,



Bank of America Corp (BAC.N).

where most big names in global banking have been eagerly setting up joint ventures.

“It’s not sensible to have a minority stake with no path to control,” said Matthew Koder, Bank of America’s Asia Pacific president. Foreign banks in China are only allowed to offer investment banking services through an onshore partner.

“Right now, everyone’s losing money in China,” Koder said. When Bank of America, the second-largest US lender, announced its fourth-quarter results in January, the improvements in mortgage lending and problem home loan figures showed the bank is finally moving past its disastrous 2008

Thailand struggles to curb high teen pregnancy rate

BANGKOK, 9 March—When Mallika told her parents she was pregnant at 17, they pulled her out of school and ordered her to marry the baby’s father. But the marriage didn’t happen and the one-time aspiring singer now cares for her baby girl alone.

“I love her, but at the time I hid in shame,” said Mallika, now 23 and a vendor of cheap, made-in-China clothing at a weekend market in Thailand’s capital, Bangkok.

“The boy’s family

China’s economy shows signs of recovery

BEIJING, 9 March—China’s economy has shown clear signs of recovery since the fourth quarter of 2012 and is developing as planned, a senior economic planning official said on Friday.

Shi Zihai, head of the policy research office under the National Development and Reform Commission, said the country’s consumption, investment and exports all

wanted to pay me to shut up and stay away from them. We were both children ourselves,” she added, sitting in her dilapidated apartment overlooking a highway on the outskirts of Bangkok.

Mallika’s situation is, sadly, far from unusual. Thailand’s teenage pregnancy rate is the highest in Southeast Asia after neighbouring Laos, according to the Bureau of Reproductive Health at the Thai Public Health Ministry.

In fact, even though the overall birthrate is dropping,

saw faster growth in the fourth quarter last year.

The three economic driving forces are rebounding and other economic indicators, including the purchasing managers’ index and cargo throughput at ports, are also recovering, Shi said. China’s economy is improving at all levels, he said.

Xinhua

teen births are on the rise. Out of every 1,000 live births, 54 are from teen mothers aged 15-19—higher than in the United States and ten times higher than Singapore’s teen pregnancy rate.

What’s more, it’s rising fast. The number of live births by Thai teenage mothers aged 15-18 increased 43 percent between 2000 and 2011, a Thai annual public health report shows.

Though there are many factors responsible, health experts put weight on cultural mores that make

frank discussion of the issue difficult, whether in an official context or a personal one. This is complicated by gender issues. “Women are told to protect their virginity but Thai men who have multiple sexual encounters are seen as cool,” said Visa Benjamano, a commissioner at the Thai National Human Rights Council (NHRC). “If men sleep around, their image is not at stake whereas a woman’s image is. Women are generally more afraid to discuss their sexual health needs in public.”—*Reuters*



An unnamed 18-year-old teenager, who is eight months pregnant, rests outside her room at the Association for the Promotion of the Status of Women in Bangkok on 7 March, 2013.—*REUTERS*

US childhood obesity fight sees some success

WASHINGTON, 9 March—US companies and other groups that have made attempts to reverse the nation’s rising childhood obesity rate are starting to see results as more American kids exercise and have better access to healthy foods, they said on Thursday.

More than 1,700 US cities have promoted exercise to get nearly 3 million more kids moving in the last year, according to a report by the Partnership for a Healthier America, a nonprofit that works to get private companies and organizations to pledge specific action to fight the weight epidemic.

Still, if left unchecked, about half of all Americans will be obese by 2030, according to the group, whose partners range from Darden Restaurants Inc and Walmart Stores Inc to the

YMCA and the US Olympic Committee.

Some health advocates welcomed the findings but said more effort was still needed, including government action.

Already, one in three US youth are obese and another third are overweight. Experts are worried because heavier children are more likely to remain overweight as adults, and suffer a higher incidence of diabetes, heart disease and

other conditions.

“We’re seeing pockets of progress toward reversing the childhood obesity epidemic,” said Dr Risa Lavizzo-Mourey of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

“For progress to reach every corner of our country, we must redouble our efforts: parents, schools, nonprofit organizations, government at all levels, and the private sector.”

Reuters



US first lady Michelle Obama plays flag football with children during her “Let’s Move” campaign to fight childhood obesity in New Orleans.—*REUTERS*

Rupiah on trend of appreciation

JAKARTA, 9 March—The Indonesian central bank Deputy Governor Halim Alamsyah said on Friday that rupiah has been on a trend of strengthening against the US dollar as the country trade deficit gap is relatively low.

The Deputy Governor said that the rupiah has shown a trend of appreciation and the appreciation is expected to continue as he

forecasts exports to rise in the second half of this year.

Halim said that rupiah appreciated by 0.31 percent to 9,680 against 1 US dollar at present from the position at the beginning of this year.

Improving global economy which may increase demand of commodity exports is expected to narrow Indonesian trade deficit gap, he said. Indonesian trade

deficit narrowed to 170 million US dollar in January from 1.5 billion US dollar in October as Indonesian exports increased, according to the national statistic bureau. The central bank on Thursday kept its benchmark interest rate at record low 5.75 percent for the 13th months.

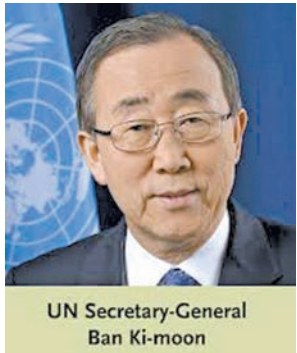
As for inflation, he said at the central bank office, “the

central bank will take steps to bring the inflation figure back into the range of target (of central bank) which is tolerable for our economy.”

The statistic bureau announced on Saturday that annual inflation in February accelerated faster to 5.31 percent from 4.57 percent in January due to foods and electricity prices increases.

Xinhua

UN chief hails new border agreements between Sudan, South Sudan



UN Secretary-General
Ban Ki-moon

UNITED NATIONS, 9 March—UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Friday welcomed the agreement signed by Sudan and South Sudan, which aims to strengthen border security and lead to the permanent resolution of outstanding issues between the two countries. The signed

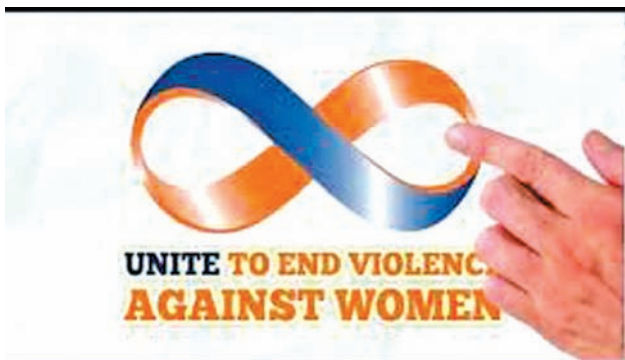
agreement concerns “the establishment of a safe demilitarized border zone, the deployment of a joint border verification and monitoring mechanism and the activation of agreed security-related mechanisms as of 10 March 2013,” said a statement released by Ban’s spokesperson.

Sudan and South Sudan on Friday signed the agreement in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, for translation into action of the security agreements reached on 27 September last year, which is a key framework agreement for cooperation on security, the common border and economic relations. In Friday’s statement, Ban

said there should be “no further conditions” in the way of immediate implementation of the 27 September agreements, including the agreement on oil. “The UN chief also reiterated the UN’s readiness to “support the operations of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism and assist the parties in the implementation of these agreements,” the statement said. The peace between the two countries has been threatened by armed clashes along their common border and outstanding post-independence issues that have yet to be resolved, notably the status of the oil-rich area of Abyei.

Xinhua

UN hails govt pledges to end violence against women



UNITED NATIONS, 9 March—Michelle Bachelet, Executive Director of UN Women, said on Friday that fifty governments have signed pledges to stop violence against women. These governments have “pledged actions to end violence against women and girls, and guarantee access to critical services and justice,” she said. Bachelet made the remarks at a UN event marking the Interna-

tional Women’s Day held on the sidelines of the 57th Conference on the Status of Women (CSW).

“Together we must keep the promise so women and girls can, one day, in this century, live free of fear and violence,” said Bachelet. “There can be no peace, no progress, no equality without women’s full and equal rights and participation.” The pledges are part of an initiative called COMMIT by UN

Women which was launched last November urging governments to instill more robust legislative framework to protect women. “UN Women applauds these commitments but we must do even more,” noted Bachelet. If we act with courage, conviction and commitment, we can change violence against women from being the most pervasive violation of human rights to being a rare occurrence that is considered unacceptable and no longer tolerated,” she said.

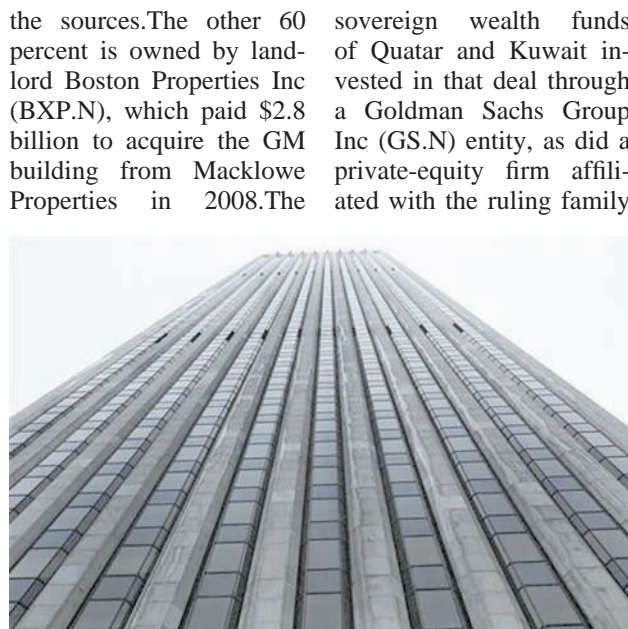
The current situation of violence against women is staggering. Seven in ten women around the world will be beaten, raped, abused or mutilated in their lifetime, often within intimate relationships, according to the UN Women statistics.

Reuters

Chinese parties in talks for stake in NYC’s GM building

NEW YORK, 9 March—A group of Chinese investors including Zhang Xin, the Chief Executive of commercial real estate developer Soho China Ltd (0410.HK), are in talks to buy a 40 percent stake in the iconic General Motors building in Manhattan, two sources familiar with the matter said. The deal would value the GM building at \$3.4 billion, the sources said, making the 50-story office building on Fifth Avenue near Central Park the most valuable office building in the United States.

The sellers are a group of Middle Eastern investors that own 40 percent of the building, said one of



The General Motors building is seen in New York on 8 March, 2013. -- Reuters

the sources. The other 60 percent is owned by landlord Boston Properties Inc (BXP.N), which paid \$2.8 billion to acquire the GM building from Macklowe Properties in 2008. The

sovereign wealth funds of Qatar and Kuwait invested in that deal through a Goldman Sachs Group Inc (GS.N) entity, as did a private-equity firm affiliated with the ruling family

Renzi big beneficiary of Italy vote, tops poll for premier



Italian PD (Democratic Party) leader Pierluigi Bersani (L) waves next to mayor of Florence Matteo Renzi during a political rally in Florence on 1 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS

ROME, 9 March—The big winner in Italy’s election was populist leader Beppe Grillo, but young Florence mayor Matteo Renzi is emerging as a less obvious beneficiary of a huge protest vote that threatens to destroy the old political system. Renzi, a telegenic, 38-year-old American-style politician who toured Italy in a campaign van before Grillo did the same in his campaign, is the opposite of colourless center-left leader Pier Luigi

Bersani, the election’s biggest loser. Whereas Bersani’s oratory can leave an audience yawning, Renzi is an electric, fast-talking and articulate performer who paces the stage in his shirt sleeves pushing just the right buttons to whip up a crowd.

He has already demonstrated an acid wit in poking fun at Grillo, a shaggy-haired comedian more than 20 years his senior who mobilized public rage against Italy’s discredited politi-

cians to make his party Italy’s biggest in the vote. Bersani’s drab campaign threw away a 10-point opinion poll lead to just scrape victory in the lower house of parliament ahead of Silvio Berlusconi’s center-right, but fall short of controlling the Senate—essential for government. No other party has a majority either.

Now Renzi is waiting for his moment as Bersani fights for survival, desperately trying to reach an agreement with Grillo that will allow him to form a minority government with backing from the anti-establishment 5-Star Movement. With Grillo pouring insults on Bersani at every opportunity, the 61-year-old centre left leader looks to have only a tiny chance of success, despite near unanimous backing from his Democratic Party (PD) leadership this week. The market-friendly Renzi challenged Bersani in party primaries back in November, threatening to “scrap” Italy’s old leadership.

Reuters

China’s new president to attend BRICS leaders’ summit in S Africa

BEIJING, 9 March — China’s new president will attend the fifth summit of BRICS countries’ leaders in South Africa, Foreign



Foreign Minister Yang
Jiechi

Minister Yang Jiechi said here on Saturday. The visit by the new president will give impetus to strengthening partnership among the BRICS countries, improving the BRICS mechanism, and boosting the cooperation between BRICS nations and countries in Africa and other regions, Yang told a Press conference.

“The BRICS mechanism has become an important force in countering the international financial crisis, driving world economic growth, improving the governance of the global economy, and promoting democracy in international

relations,” Yang said at the Press conference held on the sidelines of the annual parliamentary session, which is set to elect new state leadership including the president. South Africa is to host the BRICS summit in Durban on 26-27 March. BRICS is an economic bloc representing five of the world’s leading emerging economies, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. BRICS member countries represent about 43 percent of the world population and approximately one fifth of the global gross domestic product. —Xinhua

of Dubai.

Zhang has shown more interest in US properties than other big Chinese investors, who have generally avoided direct purchases of US real estate even as other foreign buyers have been active. She is investing in the GM building with her own personal wealth, not Soho China’s funds, one source said. Zhang’s family acquired a 49 percent stake in Park Avenue Plaza in 2011 for nearly \$600 million and was also part of a group that acquired Sony Corp’s (6758.T) U.S. headquarters in New York, the Wall Street Journal reported.

Reuters



Naval ships from various countries are seen during the AMAN-13 exercise in the Arabian Sea, on 7 March, 2013. Naval ships from 14 countries, including China, the United States, Britain and Pakistan, joined a five-day naval drill in the Arabian Sea from 4 March, involving 24 ships, 25 helicopters, and special forces.

XINHUA

LOCAL NEWS

Papers on lacquerware read

NYAUNGU, 9 March—Bagan Lacquerware College organized the paper-reading session on lacquerware at the college in NyaungU Township of Mandalay Region on 27 February.

Director-General U Kyaw Ngwe of Small Scale Industries Department of Cooperatives Ministry gave a speech.

Lecturer U Khin Maung Cho, Lacquerware expert Daw Maw Maw Aung, Ko Soe (Artist), U Aung Myint (NyaungU), Daw Swe Swe Myint (Tutor) and Daw Ei Ei Han (Staff Officer) read the papers concerning lacquerware and replied to queries raised by those present.

Also present at the

paper-reading session were Mandalay Region Hluttaw representative U Htay Lwin, Deputy Director-General U Thaung Naing of Cooperative Department, departmental officials, Principal of the college U Win Zaw Soe, Deputy Principal Daw Aye Ma and faculty members, and students.

Myanma Alinn

Microfinance provided to cooperative society members

MANDALAY, 9 March—A ceremony of presenting microfinance was held at Cetana Shin Micro-credit Cooperative Society in Nyaunggwe Ward of Aungmyethazan Township of Mandalay Region on 3 March morning.

Staff Officer U Kyaw Hsan Lin of Township Cooperative Society and Chairman of Cooperative Syndicate U Kyin Sein made speeches. Next, Head of the department U Nyunt Swe and Secretary fo the



syndicate U Aung Thura explained disbursement of microfinance.

The chairman of the

syndicate provided K 1 million to 25 members of the association.

Myanma Alinn

Plan underway to build highway bus terminal in Sagaing

SAGAING, 9 March—A coordination meeting on construction of bus stops and highway bus terminal was held at the hall of Township Development Affairs Committee in Sagaing on 1 March.

The terminal will be built in Parami Ward of Sagaing.

Deputy Commissioner U Myint Wai of Sagaing District General Administration Department made a speech. Executive Officer U Myo Thein of Township Development Affairs Committee explained plans to construct the terminal by Sagaing Township Development Affairs Committee and

Yemon Construction.

U Aung Kyaw Hsan of Yemon Construction reported on construction for the bus terminal.

Chairman of Township All-round Development Committee U Zaw Win and Construction Engineer U Myo Myint (Rtd) participated in the discussions.

The terminal will be built with two two-storey RC 35 feet by 12 feet buildings comprising 10 apartments. A total of 24 shops will be sold at K 35 million each. One car park will include at the terminal to accommodate 32 vehicles small and large.

Myanma Alinn

Fire breaks out in Baukthauk Village of Sagaing Tsp

SAGAING, 9 March—A fire broke out at the house of U Aung Kyi in Baukthauk Village of Sataung Station, 32 miles of Sagaing, starting from kitchen fire at 4.30 am on 4 March.

The fire reduced three two-storey buildings, seven houses, 10 sheds, nine cow sheds, seven kitchens, furniture and kitchen utensils into ash.

The head of Township Fire Services Department and fire fighters put out the fire with the use of two fire engines and one supporting vehicle at 6.30 am.

The fire left 108 people homeless of 19 households from 20 houses. Sataung Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against the outbreak of fire.

Myanma Alinn

Traditional Medicine University turns out graduates

MANDALAY, 9 March—Traditional Medicine University (Mandalay) held the seventh convocation ceremony at its convocation hall on 3 March.

Rector Professor Dr

Than Maung conferred MMTM (Master of Myanmar Traditional Medicine) degree on six graduates and BMTM on 102 graduates.

The university has turned out six MMTMs and 1023 BMTMs so far.

Myanma Alinn

Globetrotters' convoy arrives in Nyaungshwe

NYAUNGSHWE, 9 March—A tourist convoy managed by Journeys Nature and Culture Exploration and Germany-based the Sea Bridge Motarhome arrived in Nyaungshwe on 2 March afternoon.

“Most of vehicles in the convoy are Mercedes with 30 male foreigners and 24 female foreigners, totalling 54. On 21 February, they entered Tamu of Myanmar via Moreh of India. They then proceeded to Kalay, Monywa, Pakokku, Bagan and Mandalay route on 1 March. After that, they visited Nyaungshwe via Kalay



on 2 March. On 3 March, they go sightseeing in Inlay.

At present, the convoy is accommodated at the sports ground in Nyaungshwe,” said General Manager U Tin Win of Journeys.

The convoy of globetrotters has observed traditions and customs of Germany, Russia, Turkey, Iran, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh and India.

Myanma Alinn

Scout training course commences in PyinOoLwin

PYINOOLOWIN, 9 March—The scout youth organizational course, organized by No. 2 Basic Education Department of Ministry of Education, was opened at No. 1 Basic Education High School in PyinOoLwin on 26

February.

Mandalay Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Hlaing spoke on the occasion.

Mandalay Region Education Officer Director

U Soe Myint Tun explained tasks to form scout organizations.

Altogether 100 trainees attended the seven days course.

Myanma Alinn

Ayadaw Township uses solar for rural electricity supply



AYADAW, 9 March—Phokkon Village is constituted with 320 houses in Monywa District of Sagaing Region. The local people are engaged in agricultural tasks.

The village is located eight miles to Ayadaw so it is difficult to install power lines.

The people used electricity in limited time.

At present, Sagaing Region is undertaking rural development and poverty alleviation to supply electricity to the rural people by spending its own fund.

A plan is being implemented to install solar panels at each villages of Ayadaw, Kani and Myinmu Townships of 38 townships in the region.

At first, Township Administrator U Sein Htay and departmental officials handed 320 sets of solar panel, over 12-volt battery, three five-watt bulbs and inverter to each houses of Phokkon Village and 23 lamp-posts to village administrator U Maung Soe on 15 February evening.

Solar panel and related equipment for each house were worth over K 70,000.

Myanma Alinn

Fire wood, stoves distributed

NYAUNGU, 9 March—Dry Zone Greening Department carried out budding on 200 acres of land in Dahatsee protected public forest in 2012-2013 fiscal year and produced 29.23 tons of fire wood.

On 24 February, the department distributed fire wood to local people of Dahatkan and Ngapaing

villages.

The distribution ceremony was held at the main station of natural forest conservation, attended by Director U Min Thein Myint of Dry Zone Greening Department and officials, Township Administrator U Phyo Zaw Nyein, local people, totalling 135.

Myanma Alinn



A 33-trainee delegation led by General Secretary Dr Sein Win of Myanmar Printers and Publishers Association seen at Yangon International Airport on 3 March before their departure for Thailand to attend Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University in Thailand.—MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 10 March, 2013

Safety of innocent civilians

Spending two years straight in translating the nation into the one that has achieved international recognition as well as trust of own people for his reform processes, President U Thein Sein, during his tour of five EU countries, made a vow that internecine strife that the country has faced since gaining her independence must stop through political dialogue at the negotiating table. So his bold move to the peace surged to hopes for a lasting peace of all citizens including landmine sufferers and those who are at risk of stepping on anti-personnel mines in the areas believed to be silent from gunfire.

Only successful political dialogue could not only bring trust among all stakeholders but also help start mine action in the mine-ridden areas, allaying fears of civilians. According to the report of Landmine Monitor, landmine casualties in Myanmar have reached 3242 during the period from 1999 to 2011. A recent news report indicates that Myanmar has ranked the third highest number of mine victims globally. So long as the internal armed conflict exists, no one is safe from mine risk in the mine-affected areas. Despite seeing a lower level of incidence of new mine use as of mid-2012, there arises an urgent need to take priority over landmine clearance for the sake of innocent people.

Whatever controversial views on the use of landmines are held no one can deny that they can remain risky many years after a conflict ended, threatening to claim lives of civilians living on the landmine-contaminated soil. The onus is on all of users to take this issue into serious consideration on the humanitarian ground for the desperate plight of the civilians whose livelihood depends on the farmlands and forests. From now on, a comprehensive plan should be laid down to end the use of landmines and to start the removal of landmines and rehabilitation of mine survivors in the affected areas. So an agreement is required for all active users to cease the use of mines in unison.

Being members of civilized world, all active users are to abandon mine use according to both humanitarianism and religion, ensuring innocent civilians full safety and creating a safe place for them to some extent. Moreover, much attention is to be given to landmine clearance as soon as possible in the areas where peace was restored.

Myanmar, Bangladesh planning direct flights

NAY PYI TAW, 9 March— Myanmar and Bangladeshi top government officials met in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon to discuss direct flights between the two countries.

Union Commerce Minister U Win Myint and his Bangladeshi counterpart Mr Ghulam Mohammed Quader met at the former's

office. The meeting also focused on border trade, Myanmar's salt export, business partnerships of direct flights and running of coastal vessels.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Commerce Minister Dr Pwint Hsan, departmental heads and officials.

MNA

Eco and Cultural touristic attraction Sacred Hpo Wun Taung Hill range Part II

Besides its wealth of legends and extraordinary tales, Hpo Wun Taung Hill range possesses an abundance of rock-cut sculptures in the forms of caves, tunnels, shrines, temples, pagodas, images, statues, figures with decorative visual arts, belonging to different centuries and historic periods of the past and also of the present. Undoubtedly it is an archaeological site of the country but no digging has ever been thought of or attempted there since the first visit of Mr Charles Duroiselle, the superintendent of the Epigraphic Office, Burma [Myanmar]. Earlier in 1912, Mr J.P. Hardiman, I.C.S Deputy Commissioner, settlement officer wrote a four-page account of "Po Wun Daung" hill in Burma Gazetteer, Lower Chindwin District Vol A, which he compiled. He did not say that the place was the site for archaeological digging, but he only described the hills and its legends, inspiring the reader to visit and preserve it. Mr Duroiselle's visit resulted in the publication of his 13-page learned article that appeared in the annual Report 1914-1915 of the Archaeological Survey of India. The Article was entitled "The Rock-cut Temples of Po Win Daung" illustrated with 6 large plates of black and white photographs.

Mr Duroiselle points out the unique features of the rock-cut temples of "Po Win Daung" by comparison with other rock caves in the country such as those in the Shan State, those around Hpa-an in Kayin State and those around Mawlamyine in Mon State which are natural caves in large lime stone rocks excavated by the action of the sea or rain torrents or drips at no very remote geological period and those at Bagan [e.g. Kyaukku Umin] etc, and those at Mrauk U in Rakhine State.

The caves at "Po Win Daung" are hollowed out places of worship, not for residence. They are man-made rock-cut temples extending over a period of about a thousand years from the 9th or 10th to the 20th century. It would take at least a week to make a cursory study of these rock-cut architectures, sculptures and all visual arts adorning them, at "Po Win Daung" and other neighbouring rock hills. No inventory has been attempted yet and the visitor, after his tour of these hills, would be obliged to believe the legendary figures of 444,444 caves, shrines, temples, pagodas, images and statues which were created in the time of the first developer of these rocky ranges—King

Buddha images dedicated by King Bandava, five are prominent, landmarking the five great events of his life – (1) Thet Taw Shey Buddha Image [Life longevity Buddha] to commemorate the long life of the king, (2) Thet Taw Ya Buddha Image [Revival of life] to commemorate the revival of the chief queen after a long unconsciousness, (3) Hsu Taung Pyi Buddha Image [Answering prayers Buddha Image] to commemorate that all royal prayers were answered. (4) Ta Taung Pyi Buddha Image [wish-fulfilling Buddha Image] to commemorate the fulfillment of all royal wishes, and (5) Taung Daing Pyi Buddha Image

jewelleries and treasures. The stone bull comes to life to charge at thieves or robbers who dare to take the hidden treasures. Some local legends say that figures of an elephant, a goat and a bull were made to watch over the queen's dedicated treasures. There is a finely sculpted figure of Matali deva at this hill. He was recording in his register parabeike [folding papers] the good and bad deeds of humans.

Eight ogres cave is 46 feet long, 9 feet high outside. Inside, it measures 43 feet long and 11 feet 9 inches broad. It has 6 entrances, with 6 doors, each measuring 6 feet by 2 feet 6 inches. A long alters hewn at the back of the cave is nearly 7 feet broad on which is a reclining Buddha Image of 34 feet 8 inches long. There are 8 statues attending on the Buddha Image, of which 6 on the left, judging by their styles and dresses, belong to the 16th or the 17th centuries.

The most strikingly artistic rock-cut architecture at Hpo Wun Taung is "Myint Mo Taung" the legendary Mt. Meru of Buddhist cosmography. This mount is said to be at the centre of the Universe, with seven ranges of mountains and seven seas encircling it, and four continents at four cardinal directions namely (1) Pubbavideha, the Eastern Continent, (2) Apragoyana, the Western Continent (3) Dekhina, the Northern Continent and (4) Jabudipa, the Southern Continent. On the summit of Mt. Meru are six celestial kingdoms of which that of Indra or Sakka Deva or Thunder God is Tusita. This design of Buddhist cosmography is presented in detail in this rock-cut Mt. Meru. Sulamani Pagoda in which the hair of the Bodhisatha, Prince Sidhatha was enshrined, and all deities, mythical creatures, naga serpents, garudas, kumbhandas, yakshas, keinnari, keinara [human headed birds] etc, etc with floral motifs were hewn and sculpted out of the living rock.

(See page 9)

Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja Sibu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

Bandava or Pyu Min Pyone Min. If later additions are included in the list, the total would be astronomical!

Three categories of rock-cut architecture

For a general study, these caves may be broadly classified into three categories – (1) small shallow caves, dug a few feet into the face of a living rock. They have only one entrance each, usually square or imperfect round, each measuring 7 feet to 12 feet, or 13 feet high and 5 feet to 6 feet deep. Images of seated Buddha were hewn on the altars or temples' niches that were also hewn. (2) Medium size caves- a sort of narrow gallery, each 15 to 70 feet long and 10 to 25 feet high and 6 to 11 feet deep. The long altar occupies two third or three quarters of the space within. There are 5 to 16 entrances to each cave with teak wood doors elaborately carved. (3) Large size caves, cut deep into the heart of the rocks. They are in fact rock temples. Ornamentations of sculpture, carvings, and frescoes are amazing.

By old method of chiselling with locally made iron tools, the local sculptors have been creating these beautiful votive objects since days of yore. Among countless

[Giving all royal needs that were asked Buddha Image] which pilgrims believe, are still potent to give these boons to the worshippers.

Wingaba cave is a large cave. Like a maze, many small aisles shoot off from the main corridor. Beams of light, passing through the doorways, falling on the statues and images inside sharply contrast the darkness of inside. Paintings on the ceilings and walls are scenes of the Buddha's birth stories and the renunciation of his mundane life by Prince Sidhartha to become a forest recluse. Lotus blooms and floral designs adorn the cave in bright colours.

Natho Taung or the hill of the Bull has the white washed figure of a bull with a large hump. The legend has it that the chief queen of King Bandava, inspired by a religious fervour, dedicated all her jewelleries and treasures for the building of a monastery for Arimithaya, the up-coming Buddha. At the water-pouring ceremony, a sudden darkness befell and all her dedicated jewelleries and treasures disappeared because the deities took them to keep in their treasure trove. The figure of a bull was made out of a monolithic, consecrated and ordered to watch over the dedicated

NATIONAL

Union Minister calls for expansion of milch cow breeding

NAYPYITAW, 9 March— Union Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint called for nationwide school milk programmes.

The Union minister meeting departmental personnel, officials from Myanmar Livestock Federation and businessmen at Mandalay Region

Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department yesterday called for establishment of public corporations and increased cooperation between MLF and businessmen for meat and fish sector development.

He also urged the businessmen to cooperate with the department for

expansion of milch cows farming. School Milk Programme will be launched in Mandalay beginning June in 2013-2014 FY and carried out for three consecutive years in cooperation with the Education Ministry, according to the Union minister.—MNA

Mandalay Stadium, gymnasium in progress

MANDALAY, 9 March—Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint inspected progress of Mandalay Stadium and Gymnasium Project near Football Academy on 73rd Street in Chanmyathazi Township on 3 March.

The stadium can accommodate 30000 spectators.

Managing Director U Win Pe Than and Project Engineer U Tun Tun Win of Max Myanmar Group of Companies reported on progress of construction

tasks and future tasks.

The Chief Minister gave instructions on progress drainage system, supply of water, worksite safety, and timely completion of construction tasks to meet set standard and attended to the need.—Myanma Alinn



Pyithu Hluttaw National Race Affairs and Internal Peace Making Committee Chairman meets Indian guests

NAYPYITAW, 9 March— On behalf of Pyithu Hluttaw speaker, Pyithu Hluttaw National Race Affairs and Internal Peace Making Committee Chairman U Thein Zaw met a delegation led by Director-General Ambassador R.K Bhatia of Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) from New Delhi-based Think Tank at

Pyithu Hluttaw Committee I-1 Hall of Hluttaw Complex, here, on 7 March. Both sides discussed matters related to cooperation in strengthening amity between the two countries and internal peace making process.

It was attended by Secretary of National Race Affairs and Internal Peace Making Committee Daw

Dwe Bu, Members U Oo Yel, U Khin Maung Htay, U Sai Aung Kyi, Pyithu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Members Dr Taik San, U Khin Maung Soe, U Tin Win, U Htin Zaw, U Aung Myint Tun and officials from the Hluttaw Office.

MNA

Talks on latest liver treatments given



NAYPYITAW, 9 March— Under the continuing medical education programme between Nay Pyi Taw Zabuthiri Specialist Hospital and Parkway Hospitals Singapore, liver

specialists of Parkway Hospitals Singapore gave talks on latest liver treatments, at Nay Pyi Taw Zabuthiri Specialist Hospital, here this morning. Specialists and

doctors from hospitals in Nay Pyi Taw, Zabuthiri Specialist Hospital and Myanmar Medical Association (Pinyinman Branch) participated in the discussion.—MNA

Eco and Cultural touristic attraction.....

(from page 8)

One of the oldest shrines on Hpo Wun Taung is the Kunzidaing Temple. Sometimes it is called Kosint Taing [Nine steps]. The rock into which this temple was hewn is 60 feet high. Five doorways of square arches separated by four pillars of rock admit you into the Temple. Each door is 3 feet wide and 11 feet 6 inches high. Each pillar is 6 feet 3 inches thick and 4 feet 4 inches wide.

Pillars are plain. But there are guardian deities "Dvarapalas" at the pillars. The Temple is 36 feet long, 25 feet wide and 18 feet high. Inside the Temple, to support the heavy weight of rock above, two columns were hewn. They are octagonal without base and capital, gradually they taper to the top, each is 15 feet 6 inches tall. They are painted with vermilion and adorned with gold floral designs.

The altar inside was hewn, measuring 6 feet

8 inches long and 6 feet 5 inches wide with three seated Buddha Images hewn from the rock. The mural paintings on the walls serve as a beautiful backdrop. Their styles suggest that they belong to the past 100 or 150 years. There are niches in the walls on the east and west sides, in which were hewn sitting Buddha Images of each 5 feet 5 inches to 2 feet 7 inches high.

Queen's Cave: There is a long cave dedicated by the chief queen of King Bandava, hewn out of a big rock. Inside it on a stone altar is a reclining Buddha Image hewn out of the same rock. The thick teakwood doors were carved with elaborate figures of devas, Indra, and Brahma.

The extraordinary ingenuity of these door leaves was that they produced melodious voices of cranes and karaweik birds on opening and closing them. Today these doors are seen no more, perhaps they are in the show cases

of some museums abroad.

Shwe Ba Taung Hill:

Shwe Ba Taung is a separate hill range about three quarter of a mile distance from Hpo Wun Taung Range. Named after U Shwe Ba who was appointed by King Bandava as superintendent of royal religious works on Hpo Wun Taung Range. Being a wealthy and influential man of the locality and inspired by the religious deeds of his master, the king, he developed this hill range as a place of worship and religious meditation. Many caves, temples, shrines and Buddha Images were hewn out of the rocks of the hill range. Today, several later additions honeycomb this rocky range and they belong to the last two centuries- the 19th and the 20th. They have names of their donors, their ranks, occupations, addresses, and the expenditures entailed which are either hewn in the rock, carved, stuccoed or inked in the paintings of their respective dedications. They vary from individual to family, pilgrim party, from laity to clergy. Some were royal descendants, some land owners, some merchants,

traders, brokers, some government servicemen, some monk sayadaws, some farmers, peasants and craftsmen. Here is a wealth of data for researchers to work on the economic, social and cultural life of Myanmar of the time.

Ingyin Taung Hill:

On the way to Yinmabin, there lies Ingyin Taung hill, another rocky hill range where there are rock-cut sculptures in the hollowed out caves. Their styles of architecture, sculpture and wall and ceiling frescoes are the same as those of Hpo Wun Taung. Their dates began at the turn of the 19th century. Nevertheless the hill itself is another virgin field for research.

Nat Spirits and Monkeys:

The description of Hpo Wun Taung Hill range would be incomplete if nat spirits and monkeys are left out. The only relevant nat spirits of Hpo Wun Taung Hill Range are the original brother and sister guardian spirits of the Treasure Trove, Maung Po Lan and Ma Hnin Cho and later Saga Meidaw or Hpo Wun Shinma [The Lady Hpo Wun Taung]

whose figures are found riding astride a tiger. But today nat figures from the Pantheon of 37 nat spirits are also found in their respective shrines almost everywhere on the hill range. Due to believers in nat spirits among the visitors, nat spirit mediums mostly women are making a good earning with their nat spirit idols and shrines, especially at the festival times.

Regarding wild monkeys on the hill range, they are the descendants of the original dwellers. Their faces are pink. They are wild living among shady and leafy trees like banyan and jack fruit trees.

They can survive on fruits and nuts that grow wild and plentiful on the range. Unlike their counterparts at Mt. Popa, these four legged animals at Hpo Wun Taung hill range behave well especially to the pilgrims and tourists who always bring or buy at the local stalls food and fruits to feed them.

But local monks and nuns inform the plight of these creatures in times of extreme summer, drought and scarcity of natural food.

But now thanks to the development in programmes implemented, water tanks, roads, communication and transportation have emerged and improved, Hpo Wun Taung hill range and the neighbouring rocky ranges are no longer desolate and deserted as they used to be in the past.

Today Hpo Wun Taung hill range and its associate hill ranges have become not only places of Buddhist pilgrimage but also one of the centres of tourist attraction because of their ecological and cultural heritages. Every year quite a number of photographic books on Hpo Wun Taung in English, French and Spanish appear on the book stalls at the world airports. But no serious academic study has ever been made regarding these sacred hill ranges.

Archaeologists and art historians across the world who have visited Hpo Wun Taung have been clamouring for the inclusion of these rock-cut caves in the World Cultural Heritage List.

Concluded

US agents tracked bin Laden son-in-law for years before arrest

WASHINGTON, 9 March — US investigators tracked Suleiman Abu Ghaith, a son-in-law of Osama bin Laden, for about 10 years before he was detained in Jordan and brought by the FBI to New York City in the past few days, US officials familiar with the investigation said. An FBI agent and a New York police detective together spent more than a decade investigating Abu Ghaith, not only for his role as a spokesman for al Qaeda after the 11 September, 2001, attacks on New York and Washington but for activities they believed he was involved in before 2001, said one official.

On Friday, Abu Ghaith pleaded not guilty in Manhattan federal court to conspiring to kill Ameri-

cans, becoming one of the highest-ranking al-Qaeda figures to face trial in the United States for crimes connected to the 11 September attacks. He was captured on 28 February and brought secretly to the United States on 1 March, prosecutors said in court. Law enforcement sources say he was detained in Jordan by local authorities and the FBI after was believed to have been expelled from Turkey. But it was in Iran where Abu Ghaith is believed to have spent most of the past decade, having taken refuge there following 11 Sept, 2001, with a group of other associates of bin Laden, the al-Qaeda leader killed by US forces in Pakistan in 2011.

Current and former US

officials said that group, known to US investigators as the al-Qaeda "Management Council," was kept more or less under control by the Iranian government, which viewed it with suspicion. Along with Abu Ghaith, members of the group included Saif al Adel, one of al-Qaeda's top military commanders, and Saad bin Laden, one of bin Laden's sons. A former US official said that in late 2002 and early 2003, CIA officers held secret discussions in Europe with Iranian officials regarding the possible expulsion to Saudi Arabia or another country of Abu Ghaith and fellow al Qaeda operatives in Iran.

At the time, the United States had information indicating the al-Qaeda figures



An artist sketch shows Suleiman Abu Ghaith, a militant who appeared in videos as a spokesman for al Qaeda after the 11 Sept, 2001 attacks, appears before Judge Lewis Kaplan at the US District Court in Manhattan on 8 March, 2013. —REUTERS

in Iran might be in contact with militants in Saudi Arabia who posed potential threats to Saudi interests. But the secret discussions fell apart when Iran suggested that, in return for its expulsion of the al Qaeda operatives, the United States

should crack down on the Mujaheddin-e-Khalq, an Iranian exile group that until recently was the target of US and European sanctions for its alleged involvement in violence, the former official said.

Reuters

Health department provides free cancer tests for Tibetan women

LHASA, 9 March — Free cancer tests for women will be offered in 13 counties in the Tibet Autonomous Region in 2013, the local health department said on Friday. The free test campaign is being launched by the regional government's Department of Health and the Tibetan Women's Federation.

Tibetan women in six counties aged between 35 and 64 have received free tests for cervical cancer and breast cancer after the campaign started in 2009. "The number of counties will increase to 13 after more counties in the capital city Lhasa and the prefectures of Shannan, Xigaze, Nyingchi and Qamdo join the campaign," the health department said.

"If a woman is diagnosed with cancer by a county hospital, she will be sent to Tibet Hospital in Lhasa for treatment, as well as receive 10,000 yuan (1,608 US dollars) to cover her medical fees from the Tibetan Women's Federation," said Lhamo, a health department staffer.

Statistics indicate that more than 51,000 Tibetan women have benefited from the campaign thus far. The equipment and staff needed to conduct the tests in counties that have recently joined the campaign will be in place before 25 March.—Xinhua

Nearly 10,000 Cambodians die of smoking annually

PHNOM PENH, 9 March — Nearly 10,000 people died of smoking every year in Cambodia, Dr Mom Kong, Executive Director of Cambodia Movement for Health (CMH), said on Thursday.

Speaking in a consultative workshop on tobacco smoke at the Ministry of Social Affairs, he said that it was estimated that Cambodian smokers spent about 99 million US dollars a year for buying cigarettes and tobacco.

Also, he said the expense on medical treatment

for cancer patients caused by tobacco is much higher than that of tobacco expense.

"According to a preliminary study by the kingdom's Khmer Soviet Friendship Hospital, the cancer treatment for a cancer patient cost about 10,000 US dollars," he said. Tobacco is seriously harmful to the health of smokers and other people when their smoke drifts around, other people breathe it in, he said.

Ith Samheng, Minister of Social Affairs, said accord-

ing the study by the National Institute of Statistics, 80 percent of Cambodian children and 75 percent of woman are living in houses that have at least one family member as smoker.

The country has the population of about 14.5 million. Of the number, 7.5 million people are adults. According to a National Adult Tobacco Survey 2011, some 1.4 million adult Cambodians smoke cigarettes and other 550,000 people use smokeless tobacco (betel quid).

Xinhua

US urges Iran to help with locating missing FBI agent

WASHINGTON, 9 March — The US government on Friday pressed Iran for help to locate a former agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) who went missing six years ago in the Islamic country.

In a statement on the sixth anniversary of the disappearance of the agent, Robert Levinson, the White House said that finding Levinson "remains a high priority for the United States, and we will continue to do all that we can to bring him home safely to his friends and family."

"The Iranian government previously offered assistance in locating Levinson and we look forward to receiving this assistance, even as we disagree on other key issues," the statement said.

In order to find Levinson, who went missing during a business trip to Iran's Kish Island on 9 March, 2007, the FBI offered a 1-million-US-

dollar reward last year for information leading to his safe return."

This year, we again reaffirm our commitment to bringing him home to those who love him," the White House added.

US Secretary of State John Kerry also issued a statement on the disappearance of Levinson, a father to seven children and a grandfather of two.

"The United States continues to welcome the assistance of our international partners in this investigation and calls on the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to uphold its offer to help find Mr Levinson and return him safely to his family," Kerry said.

The top US diplomat said that he met with Levinson's wife and son on Friday "to reiterate that the US government remains committed to locating Mr. Levinson and reuniting him safely with his family."

The United States and Iran have been facing off over Tehran's nuclear program, which Washington regards as an attempt to make nuclear weapons despite Iran's repeated claim of the peaceful nature of its nuclear initiative.

The Obama administration, which has imposed crippling economic sanctions against Iran, refuses to exclude the use of force to prevent Teheran from acquiring a nuclear bomb.

Xinhua



A pedestrian walks amid snow at Queens borough in New York, the United States, on 8 March, 2013. A late winter snowstorm hit New York on Wednesday.

XINHUA

Three of five Austrians want strong man as leader

VIENNA, 9 March — Three out of five Austrians want a "strong man" to lead the country and two out of five think things were not all bad under Adolf Hitler, according to a survey released on Friday. Timed to coincide with the 75th anniversary next week of Austria's annexation by Nazi Germany, the Market Institute poll for newspaper *Der Standard* found 61 percent of respondents, mostly the elderly — liked the idea of a strong man as leader.

That was more than in previous polls. One in 2008 found just a fifth of Austrians could imagine having "a strong leader who does not have to worry about a parliament or elections", the paper said. Many Austrians wanted a union, or Anschluss, with Germany in 1938, but several maintained for decades afterwards that their country was Hitler's first victim despite the cheering crowds that greeted the Nazi leader.

Reuters

Syrian refugees look on burnt tents at Zattari Syrian refugee camp near the city of Mafraq, Syria, on 8 March, 2013. A heavy fire broke out on a large number of tents at Zattari Syrian refugee camp on Friday.

XINHUA



REGIONAL



China Marine Surveillance ship Haijian 83 sets off from Sanya harbour of south China's Hainan Province, on 8 March, 2013. XINHUA

China unveils plan to help small firms

BEIJING, 9 March—China on Friday unveiled a detailed plan to support the country's small and micro-sized enterprises as they still face many challenges.

The plan was made to implement a guideline released in April 2012 by the State Council, or China's Cabinet, to support the healthy growth of those companies, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) said in the plan posted on its website. Small and micro-sized companies have faced great operating pressures, rising costs and financing difficulties since 2012, according to the plan.

It aims to promote the growth quality and effi-

ciency of those enterprises by providing better public services, further improving financing services and alleviating their operating burdens. The country will support more than 500 financing guaranteeing firms to help small enterprises get financing this year, the plan said.

China will also provide training for 500,000 company management personnel and 1,000 business leaders, according to the plan. Small and micro-sized firms serve as a significant channel for creating jobs, a major platform for entrepreneurship and an important force of scientific innovation, the State Council said.—Xinhua



Gold jewels are exhibited during the 30th Hong Kong International Jewellery Show in Hong Kong, south China, on 8 March, 2013. The five-day show attracted more than 3,300 jewellery exhibitors from 49 countries and regions.—XINHUA

Pak PM for stern action against all militant groups

ISLAMABAD, 9 March—Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf has called for "stern action" against all banned militant groups, saying attacks like the recent bombing of a Shia neighbourhood in Karachi were aimed at weakening Pakistan's social fabric.

"Directions have been issued for carrying out stern action against all the banned outfits without any discrimination not only by me but by the President as well," he said in his opening remarks at a meeting of his cabinet.

PTI

Nine people killed in boat fire off South Korean waters

SEOUL, 9 March—Nine people died and one people is missing when a fishing boat was on fire off waters in Gunsan city of South Korea, the *Yonhap News Agency* reported on Saturday citing the relevant authorities.

According to the police, the fire started at about 5:20 am on the 20-ton fishing boat, 24 kilometres of Gunsan city in west South Korea. Eleven fishing boat members were forced to jump into the sea. Among the total of 20 boat members, 10 have been rescued. The police are still searching for the missing one.

The authorities have yet to identify the cause of the accident and whether the sailors were alive or dead.—Xinhua

One missing, several injured in collision accident in Singapore's offshore area

SINGAPORE, 9 March—A collision accident involving a local ferry and an Indonesian-registered coaster craft happened on early Saturday morning, leaving one person missing and several injured after the coaster craft sunk in the West Keppel Fairway. Search and rescue operations for the missing man is underway.

The ferry named *Sea Hawk* was proceeding from Singapore's Pasir Panjang Ferry Terminal to Pulau

Bukom, carrying 200 passengers when the incident happened.

The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) said there are eight passengers suffered injuries, which all was sent to the hospital right now.

On the other hand, five crew members onboard have been rescued however one person was reported missing in the smaller sunk coaster craft, Budi Jasa 18. "MPA is currently coordinating the search and

China says cyber space needs rules and cooperation, not war

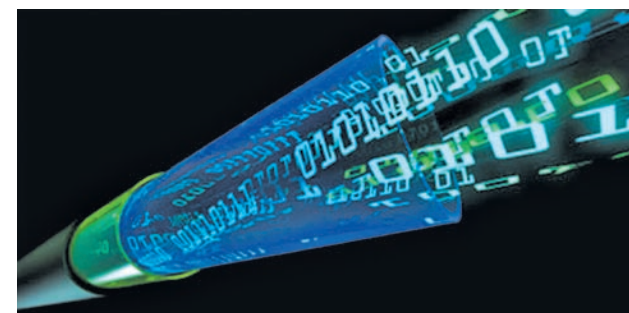
BEIJING, 9 March — Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi on Saturday said "cyber space needs rules and cooperation, not war," while citing that China is vulnerable to cyber attacks and suffers such attacks most. Yang made the remarks at a Press conference on the sidelines of the annual session of the National People's Congress, China's top legislature."The international community is closely interconnected on the Internet, therefore cyber space needs rules and cooperation, not war," the foreign minister said."We oppose to turn cyber space into another battlefield, or capitalize on virtual reality to interfere in other countries' internal affairs," Yang said.

China always advocates a peaceful, secure, open and cooperative cyber space, supports relevant international rules under the framework of the

United Nations, and proposes concrete initiatives, Yang said."We hope irresponsible rebuke or criticism (against China) would end," he said. Yang was commenting on western media reports saying that their computer networks were under Cyber-attacks originated from China and backed by government or military. Late last month, US cyber security firm Mandiant released a report which alleged that a secret Chinese military unit in Shanghai was behind years of cyber attacks against US companies.

The report was fol-

lowed by a wave of Western media criticism of hacking by China. "Those reports may have caught eyes of many people, but actually they are built on shaky ground," Yang said. "What is black is black, and what is white stays white. anyone who try to fabricate or piece together a sensational story to serve political motive will not be able to black the name of others or whitewash themselves," he added. He said Chinese government opposes hacker-attack activities and laws have been promulgated to explicitly prohibit and fight such activities.—Xinhua



Fin Min mulling recruitment of more women cops

NEW DELHI, 9 March—Against the backdrop of increase in crime against women, the Finance Ministry is considering a Home Ministry proposal to recruit more women personnel for Delhi Police.

Finance Minister P Chidambaram said it was part of efforts to do more for women as he rejected suggestions that the government's initiatives to ensure empowerment of the fair sex was merely "tokenism".—PTI

Pakistan supply routes open, but move gear slowly into Afghanistan

WASHINGTON, 9 March — It is the least expensive way to get food and fuel to US troops in Afghanistan. But eight months after Pakistan reopened its ground supply routes for the NATO war effort, hardly any new cargo has taken that path into the landlocked country. Instead, supplies have been moving almost entirely along far more expensive routes, one of several factors that have prompted senior Pentagon officials to warn that Afghan war costs are higher than projected at a time of increasingly tight budgets.

In what was hailed as diplomatic breakthrough, the United States and Pa-

kistan agreed to reopen the supply lines last July after Washington issued a reluctant apology for an air attack that killed 24 Pakistani soldiers along the Afghan border in November 2011. But restoring the Pakistani supply routes to full service after a seven-month closure has taken time. The United States has cleared upward of 5,000 of the 7,000 pieces of backlogged cargo in the supply routes.

But data from the US Military's Transportation Command show that only 40 containers of new cargo have moved across Pakistani ground routes since July. At the same time, about 28,000 20-foot con-

tainers came through alternate pathways, known as the Northern Distribution Network, into Afghanistan from July 2012 through last month. General William

Fraser, head of Transcom, said the situation was improving. After months of working to clear a backlog of supplies and deal with procedural issues, cargo movement on the Pakistani



supply lines has improved and officials are ready to use them more heavily, he said. "It's all moving in the right direction," Fraser told *Reuters*. "Now we've just got to up the rate."—Reuters

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

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



The USS Blue Ridge (LCC-19) docks in Manila, the Philippines, on 7 March, 2013. The USS Blue Ridge, flagship for the Commander of the US Navy's 7th Fleet, started a four-day goodwill visit to Manila on Thursday.—XINHUA

Iran's leader says next round of nuclear talks with P5+1 to be "test for West's sincerity"

TEHERAN, 9 March — Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Thursday the next round of talks between the world powers and the Islamic republic over the latter's nuclear programme will be a test for the West's sincerity, semi-official *Fars news agency* reported.

Khamenei said that the P5+1 group (the five permanent UN Security Council members plus Germany) represented only minor and unimportant changes in their position during the recent talks with Teheran in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

In Almaty, the Western countries did not do something important, rather, they admitted a small part of the Iranian nation's rights, said Khamenei without elaboration.

The two-day talks be-

tween Iran and the P5+1 group over Iran's disputed nuclear programme concluded on 27 February in Almaty and both sides agreed to meet in expert-level in Istanbul, Turkey on 17 to 18 March, followed by another high-ranking meeting in Almaty again on 5 April.

On Thursday, Khamenei also said the enemies are angry at the Iranian nation's "wonderful breakthroughs" over the past years, adding that the country's problems will certainly be solved and there are numerous signs of hope.

He described nuclear issue as one of the challenges that the Islamic establishment is facing, stressing that "Of course the challenge has not been harmful to us and it will never be."

Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (330)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (330) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.3.2013 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

EU to join effort with Vietnam to push FTA talks

HANOI, 9 March — The European Union (EU) will join efforts with Vietnam to soon complete the EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations, said EU Trade Commissioner Karel de Gucht in Vietnam's capital Hanoi on Thursday.

Karel de Gucht made the statement when meeting with Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung ahead of the 19th ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) Retreat and the 12th AEM-EU Consultations to be held in Hanoi on Friday.

The EU is looking for-

ward to further cooperation with Vietnam and other ASEAN member countries, said Commissioner de Gucht. Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung, for his part, affirmed that Vietnam wishes to strengthen the bilateral trade relations with EU.

The prime minister believed that with the joint effort and political will, the EU-Vietnam FTA negotiations could be completed at the end of this year.

Vietnam and EU established diplomatic ties in 1990.—Xinhua

Los Angeles interested in 2024 Olympic bid



The Los Angeles downtown skyline is pictured on 22 Aug, 2011.—REUTERS

NEW YORK, 9 March — The mayor of Los Angeles has notified the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) that the city is interested in bidding to host the 2024 Olympic Games.

Los Angeles has hosted the Games twice before, in 1932 and 1984, and Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa told the USOC the city was keen to try for a third time.

"On behalf of the City of Los Angeles, I am pleased to confirm our enthusiastic interest in bidding to host the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games," Villaraigosa wrote in a letter to the USOC.

"We are proud of our

city's sports heritage and tradition, and we stand ready to work with you to bring the Olympic Games back to the United States."

The US has not hosted the Summer Olympics since 1996 and did not even apply for the 2020 Games after Chicago was overlooked for the 2016 edition.

The USOC had long been at odds with the International Olympic Committee, which votes to decide where the Games will be held, over broadcast revenues, but the organizations resolved their differences last year.

Although the USOC has yet to formally an-



An adult tusker was killed by a speeding train at Damanpur under Buxa Tiger Reserve, West Bengal, India, on 5 March, 2013.—XINHUA

Chicago agricultural commodities rise on strong export

CHICAGO, 9 March — Chicago agricultural commodity futures were traded higher on Thursday, as a weaker US dollar and better than expected export sales provided support to the trading.

The most active corn contract for May delivery rose 2.75 cents, or 0.4 percent, to close at 6.9125 dollars per bushel. May wheat rose 11.75 cents, or 1.72 percent, to settle at 6.955 dollars per bushel. May soybeans rose 7.5 cents, or 0.51 percent, to close at 14.735 dollars per bushel.

According to Chicago Mercantile Exchange

(CME), May corn traded both sides of the unchanged and export sales data was negative to corn market direction after net weekly export sales came in at -49,800 tonnes for the current marketing year and 206,460 for a total of 156,600 tonnes.

Wheat markets traded higher after better than expected export sales data trigger profit taking ahead of the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) report.

Xinhua

Uganda, China enjoy robust relation in ICT sector

ADDIS ABABA, 9 March — The relation between Uganda and China, especially in the information and communication sector, is robust, said Thembo Nyombi, Ugandan ICT State Minister, on Thursday.

Attending the meeting of Africa multi-stakeholder internet governance in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Nyobi told Xinhua that Uganda has very strong relation with China in the ICT sector which the State Minister said is growing rapidly in Uganda, significantly contributing to his country's economy.

He revealed that the ICT sector is contributing to the economy in terms of tax revenue by putting quite a number of people in the formal sector called "taxnet." According to the State Minister, the sector is mainly private sector driven and the government is trying to put in place strategic investment plan in the coming 10 years just to fill gaps where the private sector has not been able to reach.—Xinhua

Reuters

ENTERTAINMENT

Former Spice Girl Emma Bunton named Celebrity Mum Of The Year

LONDON, 9 March — Former Spice Girl Emma Bunton has been named Celebrity Mother Of The Year in Britain, just days after her ex-bandmate Melanie Chisholm landed the same prize.

Melanie Chisholm, who has a young daughter, picked up the Tesco Celebrity Mum Of The Year

honour at a ceremony in London recently and now Emma Bunton is being appreciated for her parenting skills.

Emma Bunton, who has two sons, Beau and Tate, with her partner Jade Jones, has uploaded a picture of herself holding the trophy on Twitter.

The picture caption

reads, “Yahoo I won Foxy Bingo’s Celeb Mum of the Year 2013! Thank you so much everyone who voted! Here’s me and my new trophy.”

PTI



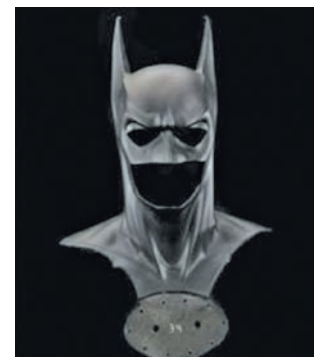
Emma Bunton, who has two sons, Beau and Tate, with her partner Jade Jones, has uploaded a picture of herself holding the trophy on Twitter.—PTI

Batman mask, Superman cape donated to Smithsonian by Warner Bros

LOS ANGELES, 9 March — Batman’s mask, Superman’s cape and Catwoman’s suit will be taking up permanent residence at the Smithsonian museum after being donated by Warner Bros. Pictures, the US national museum said on Friday. The iconic Batman mask and cowl worn by George Clooney in the 1997 “Batman & Robin” film was one of more than 30 movie items presented by Warner Bros. Chairman Barry Meyer to the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History in Washington, DC.

The movie items donated were from 13 films by the Hollywood studio between 1942 and 2005.

Reuters



The Batman mask and cowl from the 1995 film “Batman Forever” is pictured in this undated publicity photograph released to Reuters on 8 March, 2013.—REUTERS

Jim Carrey, Steve Carell bring “Burt Wonderstone” magic to SXSW



Comedian Jim Carrey speaks before presenting an award during the second annual 2012 Comedy Awards in New York City on 28 April, 2012.—REUTERS

AUSTIN, 9 March — Comedians Jim Carrey and Steve Carell brought a touch of magic to the opening day of the South by Southwest Festival in Austin, Texas on Friday, with the premiere of their new film “The Incredible Burt Wonderstone.” “Burt Wonderstone,” out in

US theaters on 15 March, tells the tale of childhood friends Burt (Carell) and Anton (Steve Buscemi) who bond over their love of magic, growing up to become a world-famous magician duo.

They soon find their skills and friendship tested

in a constantly evolving world of magic and entertainment, as audiences demand something new with the arrival of edgy illusionist Steve Gray (Carrey). Carrey, decked out in a red jacket and silver shoes on Friday’s red carpet, told Reuters that despite playing a magician, he resented magic. “I’ve always had this weird relationship with magic. I think it’s fascinating and yet it annoys me because I can’t figure it out,” Carrey said. The funnyman was joined by co-stars Carell and Olivia Wilde, who wore a striped navy and white dress and signed autographs for fans lined up.

The world premiere marked the opening of the film portion of the SXSW Festival, where creative types from all over the world converge in the Texas capital to swap ideas about film, music and technology.—Reuters

Elisabeth Hasselbeck to leave ABC talk show “The View”

LOS ANGELES, 9 March — Television commentator Elisabeth Hasselbeck will not return to daytime television talk show “The View” once its current season ends in August, according to multiple US media reports on Friday.



Elisabeth Hasselbeck attends the Milly by Michelle Smith Fall/Winter 2011 collection show during New York Fashion Week on 16 Feb, 2011.

REUTERS

US Weekly magazine first reported that Hasselbeck was leaving the show. An unnamed source told the magazine’s website that she did not attract enough viewers and that her contract would not be renewed. Deadline.com and the Hollywood Reporter also reported Hasselbeck’s departure, citing unnamed sources. ABC released a statement saying only that Hasselbeck “is a valued member of ‘The View’ and has a long-term contract.”

Her agent did not return calls for comment on the reports. Hasselbeck, 35, joined the long-running women-oriented talk show in 2003 and is an outspoken conservative, often clashing with former co-host and liberal Rosie O’Donnell. Co-host Joy Behar, who has been with the program since its debut in 1997, said on Thursday that she would leave the show after the season.—Reuters

Star Wars creator George Lucas imagines San Francisco museum

SAN FRANCISCO, 9 March — Filmmaker George Lucas, the creator of “Star Wars,” has submitted a bid to build a “storytelling museum” in San Francisco to share his vast collection of contemporary paintings, illustrations and digital art.

Lucas has offered to construct the Lucas Cultural Arts Museum on federal land, run it and stock it with hundreds of millions of dollars worth of art by the likes of Norman Rockwell and Maxfield Parrish. “What he finds most fascinating in these artists is their ability to capture an emotion and tell an entire story in one image,” Lucas spokesman David Perry told Reuters. Lucas’ proposal was one of 16 bids to create a cultural institution in a former com-



Filmmaker and Chairman of the Board of Lucasfilm Ltd George Lucas waits to do a television interview at the Milken Institute Global Conference in Beverly Hills, California on 30 April, 2012.—REUTERS

missary at the San Francisco Presidio, a 1,500-acre national park within the city created after the US Army left the post in 1994.

Other proposals received last week by the Presidio Trust include a New

Deal museum, a colour museum, a global observatory, a center for the study of cities, an environmental centre, a sustainability institute, an innovation centre and a centre for the history of the Golden Gate Bridge.

“We all know that George Lucas is a creative genius, and we’re very pleased that he’s one of the contenders,” said Craig Middleton, Executive Director of the Presidio Trust. He said the trust would examine the proposals and solicit public comment until April, when it would whittle down the competition and hold public hearings on the top bidders.

Lucas, 68, built the Letterman Digital Arts Center as the Presidio’s first permanent business. The arts center is the combined home of Industrial Light & Magic, LucasArts and Lucasfilm’s marketing, online, and licensing units. Lucas sold Lucasfilm Ltd, his film-making venture founded in 1971, to The Walt Disney Co for \$4.05 billion in 2012.—Reuters

Jennifer Aniston, Justin Theroux planning to wed in Hawaii?



The couple have already looked at several options in the tropical state.—PTI

LOS ANGELES, 9 March — Actress Jennifer Aniston will reportedly tie the knot with fiancé Justin Theroux in Hawaii in a few weeks. The couple have already looked at several options in the tropical state, reported Ace Showbiz.

“They both love the is-

land and the idea of a laid back Hawaii wedding in the sunshine,” a source said. The couple reportedly have decided to exchange their vows in Hawaii because of Aniston’s concern about media exposure like what she had while being married to Brad Pitt.—PTI

Sharapova and Kuznetsova win at Indian Wells



Former champion Maria Sharapova

INDIAN WELLS, (California), 9 March—Former champion Maria Sharapova cruised into the third round of the BNP Paribas Open with a ruthless 6-2,

6-1 demolition of Italy's Francesca Schiavone on Friday. Despite tricky court conditions on a chilly and blustery afternoon at the California desert venue, the Russian delivered a superb display of deep, accurate groundstrokes to seal victory in just over an hour. Second-seeded Sharapova, champion here in 2006, broke Schiavone's serve three times in each set and will next face Carla Suarez Navarro, a 6-1, 6-1 winner over fellow Spaniard Silvia Soler Espinosa.

Svetlana Kuznetsova also advanced to the third round, recovering from a poor start after discarding her long tights to upset 18th-seeded Serb Jelena Jankovic

0-6, 6-2, 7-5. "I was pretty bad in the first set, but I managed to change it," Kuznetsova, a losing finalist here in 2007 and 2008, told reporters. "So I'm pretty happy with it, but I have to change the start." The Russian, who was sidelined by a right knee injury for six months last year after losing in the first round of Wimbledon, did not blame her tights for her slow start but said she felt much more comfortable without them.

"Even though I tried to play in long tight pants in the first set, I cannot," the 27-year-old smiled. "I can practice in them without a problem, but when I have matches I always start to lose and I have to take them



Svetlana Kuznetsova

off. "They are very tight, so they were kind of pushing my stomach and I was not so much comfortable. It was not bothering me like so much, but after I took them off I was feeling a little bit looser. It's a little bit funny."—Reuters

Ducks sign captain Getzlaf to eight-year extension

TORONTO, 9 March—The Anaheim Ducks and captain Ryan Getzlaf agreed to an eight-year contract extension on Friday, taking the bruising forward off the market ahead of next month's trade deadline. Financial terms of the deal were not disclosed by the Ducks but local media reports said it was worth \$66 million.

Getzlaf, who leads Anaheim this season with 27 points, was set to become an unrestricted free agent in the offseason, sparking speculation that the Ducks might try to move the two-time All-Star before the 3 April trade deadline.

"We are very happy to have Ryan committed to this franchise long-term," Ducks General Manager Bob Murray said on the team's website. "He has often expressed his interest to stay in Anaheim for his entire career, a goal we share."



Anaheim Ducks' Ryan Getzlaf (L) celebrates his goal against the Chicago Blackhawks with teammate Corey Perry during the second period of their NHL hockey game in Chicago, on 12 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

Selected 19th overall in the 2003 NHL Draft by the Ducks, Getzlaf has spent his entire career in Anaheim, leading the franchise to its first and only Stanley Cup in 2007 when he set a team post-season scoring record with 17 points.

Over eight NHL sea-

sons and 534 career games, Getzlaf ranks third on Anaheim's all-time scoring list with 146 goals and 499 points. He was also a member of Canada's gold medal-winning team at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics where he finished second in team scoring with seven points.—Reuters

Top seed Lee closer to third All England title

BIRMINGHAM, 9 March—Malaysian ace player Lee Chong Wei secured his position in last four on Friday, one more step closer to his third All England Open title. With progression of the championships, Lee was regaining his dominance. His 21-17, 21-19 victory over seventh seed Tien Minh Nguyen only took him 34 minutes.

Lee grabbed the lead from the first shot, maneuvering the shuttle to different corners and earning points with forceful smashes and kills at the

net. Although he made a few mistakes which allowed his rival to save four match points, he managed to finish the match with a jump smash. However, he was dissatisfied with his own performance. "I still couldn't fully control the tempo," Lee said. "I made some simple mistakes, but I must forget about it and move on." Currently his biggest opponent could be Chinese shuttler Chen Long, who edged out Indian Kashyap Parupalli 21-16 and 21-10.

Xinhua

Figure skating: Davis and White put tantrums on ice



Senior Dance gold medalists Meryl Davis and Charlie White

LONDON, 9 March—No one would have blamed American ice dancers

Meryl Davis and Charlie White if they had thrown a hissy fit and yelled at the top of their lungs that they had been robbed of the 2012 world title. After all it was a tactic that worked well for Yevgeny Plushenko. Having picked up silver following a wobbly free skate at the 2010 Vancouver Games, the raging Russian went about declaring he was "the true Olympic champion" and promptly received a telegram from then Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin declaring "your silver is worth gold."

Yet petulant tantrums are not what Davis and

Female policymaker among ideas to reform scandal-hit judo

TOKYO, 9 March—An advisory panel formed in the wake of a recent abuse scandal in judo is set to put forward proposals for reforming the governing body for Japan's national sport, including naming a female policymaker for the first time, panel members said on Friday.

The idea of putting a first-ever female member on the executive board of the All Japan Judo Federation is part of recommendations the panel has come up with after 15 national team mem-

bers accused their coach of physical and verbal abuse.

The third-party committee is scheduled to submit Tuesday the proposals to the AJJF, which will discuss them at an executive board meeting on 18 March.—Kyodo News



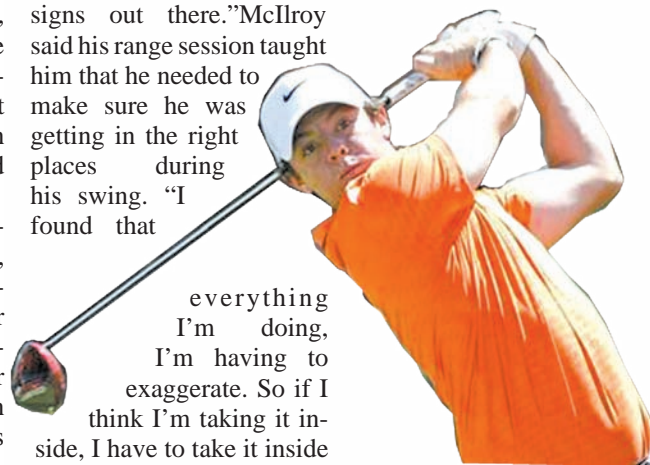
McIlroy encouraged by first under-par round of 2013

MIAMI, 9 March—Rory McIlroy remains well down the leaderboard but the Northern Irishman's swing troubles seem to have eased with his first under-par round of 2013 at the WGC-Cadillac Championship on Friday. While the 23-year-old was struggling to put his swing back in place during Thursday's opening round, McIlroy was solid off the tee with Friday's three-under 69, despite being let down by some misses with his irons and errors on and around the greens.

But the fluent and confident swing off the tee, which had alarmingly disappeared during his poor start to the year, made a welcome re-appearance. After hitting just three fairways in his first round, McIlroy was on target for eight of 14 fairways as he made six birdies in glorious sunshine on Friday. "I had a really good range session last night and

felt like I hit the ball quite a lot better, definitely not the way I know I can hit it but it was better," said McIlroy, who was tied for 32nd and 11 shots off the lead.

"I saw a lot of positives. I hit a really good six iron into the eighth hole and hit a great three wood off the 10th. I saw a lot of good signs out there." McIlroy said his range session taught him that he needed to make sure he was getting in the right places during his swing. "I found that



Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy tees off on the first hole during second round play in the 2013 WGC-Cadillac Championship PGA golf tournament in Doral, Florida on 8 March, 2013.—REUTERS

everything I'm doing, I'm having to exaggerate. So if I think I'm taking it inside, I have to take it inside

more. If I'm thinking about coming over the top more, I need to come over the top more," he said. "Everything needs to be exaggerated at the minute and that's why my rehearsals have been so much this way," he added, referring to his pre-shot routine.—Reuters

White want to be known for, even if they have every right to feel aggrieved because instead of chasing a hat-trick of world titles in London, Ontario next week, they will be aiming for a second. "I don't know we could have pulled off Plushenko's attitude," Davis told Reuters in a telephone interview before dissolving into laughter. "It seems to work for him." White added: "(Making a fuss) goes against what Meryl and I are as people. We are very competitive people but at the end of the day if we can sit down and look each other in the eye

and say we did everything that we could, we're going to be happy and we're not going to feel the need to belittle anyone or disagree publicly with anyone."

Every man, woman and squealing child sitting inside Nice's Acropolis Arena last March had thought the Americans eclipsed their friends, rivals, training partners and Olympic champions Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir to win their second successive world title after the Canadians produced a routine which even they described as being littered with "bobbles" and "stumbles."—Reuters

GENERAL

Photo shows thriving dark-eyed susan plantation on the farmland of U Khin Maung and family in Kyungale Village of Hlegu Township on 5 March. KYEMON



Woods in charge at Doral after classy 65

MIAMI, 9 March — Looking fully in charge of his game, Tiger Woods fired an outstanding seven-under-par 65 to open up a two-shot lead over Graeme McDowell after the second round



Tiger Woods of the US reacts after his birdie on the 13th hole during second round play in the WGC-Cadillac Championship in Doral, Florida on 8 March, 2013.—REUTERS

of the WGC-Cadillac Championship on Friday.

Woods has 17 birdies from his opening 36 holes for the first time in a PGA Tour event, helped by some outstanding work on the greens on the Blue Monster course at Doral.

“It felt like I finally got into a feeling where I needed to have it,” said the world number two of his round. Woods stands at 13-under for the tournament with Northern Ireland’s McDowell two strokes back in second place after a bogey-free 65 in good scoring conditions.

McDowell has not made a bogey in his 36 holes so far and, unlike his compatriot and world number one Rory McIlroy, looks very much at ease with his game. McIlroy, however, will take heart from a much more solid

display on Friday, his three-under 69 contained six birdies but was slightly spoiled by three-putting for a bogey on the 18th.

The world number one looked far more comfortable from the tee in particular but paid the price for some sloppy work on and around the greens.

Tied in 32nd place and at two-under for the tournament, McIlroy is 11 shots off the lead but will take some comfort after breaking 70 for the first time this year.

“It’s about the ball striking and it’s getting there. Days like today are very pleasing because it shows that I’m going in the right direction,” he said.

Reuters

Kvitova overcomes serving woes to win at Indian Wells

INDIAN WELLS, 9 March — Former Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova survived 10 double faults and an erratic second set to beat Olga Govortsova of Belarus 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 in the second round of the BNP Paribas Open on Friday. The big-serving Czech, seeded fifth in the elite WTA event at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden, sealed victory after a marathon encounter lasting two hours and 21 minutes when a Govortsova forehand sailed wide.



Petra Kvitova

Kvitova, who clinched her 10th WTA singles title in Dubai last month, will next face Ukrainian Lesia Tsurenko, a 6-1, 3-6, 6-1 winner over Kazakhstan’s Yaroslava Shvedova earlier in the day. In mainly overcast and blustery conditions at the California desert venue, the opening set went with serve until world number seven Kvitova was surprisingly broken in the fifth game, after double-faulting, to trail 2-3. However, the pony-tailed Czech immediately broke back, then steadily

took control before clinching the set in 49 minutes with a rasping forehand service return as the Belarusian lost serve for a second time.

Govortsova, ranked 67th, took advantage of Kvitova’s serving troubles in the second set, breaking her opponent in the third and ninth games to level the match.

But the left-handed Czech, who claimed her first grand slam crown at Wimbledon in 2011, recovered form in the third, breaking Govortsova’s serve in the seventh and ninth games to wrap up the win.

Reuters

MIAMI, 9 March — United States goalkeeper Tim Howard looks set to miss crucial World Cup qualifiers against Costa Rica and Mexico later this month after his English club Everton said he had two fractured bones in his back. Howard sustained the injury against Oldham Athletic in the FA Cup fifth round replay ten days ago and Everton manager David Moyes said he would be out for several weeks.

“He has broken two bones in his back. We don’t think he will be out for the season,” Moyes told the team’s official website. “We are not sure how long Tim will be out for because, obviously with a goalkeeper, he has to dive around and hit the ground. “I have let him go away for



Everton’s goalkeeper Tim Howard reacts during the English Premier League soccer match against Manchester United at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England on 10 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

a few days. It might be that, if everything goes well, he misses next week’s game as well and then because of the international break he might be close after the rest because that would be four weeks.”

US coach Juergen

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

- (10-3-13 09:30 am ~ 11-3-13 09:30 am) MST
- * News
 - * Fresher Welcome of Shan Literary and Culture Committee
 - * World Economic Forum on East ASIA Media Briefing
 - * News
 - * Evergreen Classical Music (Part-8)
 - * Marketable Fruits
 - * Sustainable Development of Kandaw Gyi Lake and Inya Lake
 - * Downtown Evening and Good Old Things
 - * Be Cautious for Safety
 - * Equality for a Better Future
 - * MI People’s Celebrities “Chit Thu Wai”
 - * Healthy Dragon Fruit for Beneficial Investment
 - * Atuladhipati Mahamunisacca Ko Htat Kyee Pagoda
 - * Sustainable Development of Kandaw Gyi Lake and Inya Lake
 - * Downtown Evening and Good Old Things
 - * Be Cautious for Safety
 - * Indigenous Fish Culture in the Ponds between Paddy Fields
 - * Myanmar Movies “Glass Marble”

Myanmar TV

- (10-3-2013, Saturday)
- | | | | |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------|----------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 7:00 am | 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw | 4:20 pm | 16. Dance of National Races |
| 7:25 am | 2. To Be Healthy Exercise | 4:30 pm | 17. 2013 University Entrance Examination (History) |
| 7:30 am | 3. Morning News | 5:00 pm | 18. Songs For Upholding National Spirit |
| 7:40 am | 4. International News | 5:05 pm | 19. Road to 27th SEA Games (Badminton) |
| 8:00 am | 5. SEA Games (Go for Gold) (Billard) | 5:15 pm | 20. Sing & Enjoy |
| 8:20 am | 6. (38) Phyar Mingalars | 6:00 pm | 21. Evening News |
| 8:45 am | 7. Musical Programme | 6:15 pm | 22. Weather Report |
| 8:50 am | 8. Teleplay (Traffic) | 6:20 pm | 23. Cartoon Series |
| 11:00 am | 9. Martial Song | 7:00 pm | 24. News |
| 11:20 am | 10. Round Up Of The Week’s TV local News | 7:10 pm | 25. TV Drama Series |
| 11:35 am | 11. Myanmar Video Feature | 8:00 | 26. News |
| 1:20 pm | 12. Documentary | 8:00 | 27. International News |
| 1:45 pm | 13. Choice of Vocalist | 8:00 | 28. Weather Report |
| 4:00 pm | 14. Opening Song | 8:00 | 29. Tamnyethnar Takwetsar |
| 4:05 pm | 15. Musical Programme | 10:00 pm | 30. TV Drama Series |
| | | 10:00 pm | 31. News |
| | | | 32. New Melody |

Keeper Howard set to miss US World Cup qualifiers



Everton’s goalkeeper Tim Howard reacts during the English Premier League soccer match against Manchester United at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England on 10 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

lost their opening game in the final qualifying round in the CONCACAF region to Honduras. Three of the six remaining nations will qualify automatically for the World Cup finals in Brazil in 2014.

Moyes said his goalkeeper only needed time to rest for the injury to become less painful. “He has two fractures, but they are not bones that are supporting anything,” he said. “It is off the spine. They are not weight-bearing.

It just needs a bit of healing time.” It is not like a pure fracture where you need to wait to look at it. It is a question of whether he can cope with the pain. The bones will heal themselves but it’s not good.”—Reuters

Djokovic feels close to his stunning 2011 form

INDIAN WELLS, (California), 9 March — Oozing confidence after making a sizzling 13-0 start to the year, Novak Djokovic looks every inch the same player who reigned supreme in the men’s game during his astonishingly successful 2011 season. Though the Serbian world number one was reluctant to make any predictions about how his

2013 campaign may pan out, he sounded an ominous warning to his rivals on Friday while talking about his sensational early form.

“It feels the same (as it did in 2011) ... the way I started the year,” Djokovic told reporters at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden, where he will play his opening match of the BNP Paribas Open in the second round



Novak Djokovic

on Sunday. “I have great memories from 2011. That was by far my most successful year in the career. But it’s very early still to say what’s going to happen, so I don’t want to predict

anything. “My mindset will stay the same, and that is to enjoy the moment, to be in the moment, to try to do my best in the present, take it step by step and then see how far I can go.” In 2011, Djokovic won a career-best 10 ATP titles, including three grand slam crowns, after reaching 11 finals en route to a stunning 70-6 match record.—Reuters

Joint Operating Agreement between MOGE and GIS inked

NAY PYI TAW, 9 March—A ceremony to sign Joint Operating Agreement between Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) under the Ministry of Energy and Global Integrated Service Limited (GIS), took place at the Ministry of Energy, here, yesterday evening.

Officials from both sides signed the documents. The agreement aims at increasing oil production in the Letpanto oilfield by way of ultra short radius horizontal drilling method.

It was attended by Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay, Union Minister for Mines Dr Myint Aung, Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Zeyar Aung, Union Attorney-



Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay speaking at ceremony to sign Joint Operating Agreement between MOGE and GIS Ltd.

MNA

General Dr Tun Shin, Deputy Ministers for Energy U Htin Aung and U Aung Htoo, Deputy Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo and officials from GIS Ltd and departmental officials.

MNA

Objectives of the 68th Anniversary

Armed Forces Day 2013

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

Significant night temperatures

(9-3-2013)

Hsinbyugyun	41°C
Chauk	42°C

Weather forecast for Second 10 days of March 2013

Bay of Bengal Condition

Weather will be partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Rainy Day

Rainy days are expected about 2 to 4 days in Bago, Yangon, Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Shan, Kayin and Mon States, weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing and Ayeyawady Regions, Chin and Kayah States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

States.

Day Temperature

Day temperature will be about March average temperature in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Shan, Kayin and Mon States and above March average temperature in the remaining Regions and States.

Fog Condition

Fog days are expected in the morning about 4 to 6 days in Upper Sagaing and Mandalay Regions, Kachin, Chin, Shan and Rakhine States and 3 days in the remaining Regions and States.—NLM

Mitsubishi brand four 1250 KVA diesel generators arrive in Yangon

YANGON, 9 March—Chief Engineer U Nyo Win of Yangon City Electricity Supply Board supervised the loading of Mitsubishi brand four 1250 KVA diesel generators and its related materials imported from Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Co Ltd of Japan to the vehicles at Asia World Port on Strand Road in Ahlon Township on 7 March.

Out of four generators, two generators were transported to Mandalay Region and one generator each to Magway and An of Rakhine State.

MNA



Mawtaung region: A border exit in Taninthayi Region

Nyunt Wai Maung (Fisheries)

Instability disrupted the transportation sector



of the region in the past. Now the region sees peace and tranquility, with the result that measures are going to be taken for better economic opportunities and higher living standard of local people and the region will be easily accessible from Myeik. With regional peace and stability, it can be witnessed that the region sees better public transport.

The Taninthayi Region Chief Minister and party visited Mawtaung border trade camp last month. In his speech given at the meeting hall of the

camp, the Taninthayi Region Chief Minister said that border trade points would be kept open soon in Mawtaung. Poor transportation and security matter had made the departments concerned difficult to run administrative mechanism smoothly in the past. Border trade could bring unprecedented progress to the region with peace and stability. Thanks to the arrival of tourists, tourism sector would develop soon. Border trade camp would be opened as soon as the green light was given by the Union government,

he added. He called on departments concerned to make collaborative efforts in regional development tasks, stressing to make necessary preparation to ensure the possible increase in export of marine products.

Mawtaung region is on the track to development thanks to its location having advantage of transporting goods to and from Ayeyawady Region as well as in the region. With peace and stability, tourism sector will develop in Mawtaung.

Kyemon: 4-3-2013

Trs: YM