

President U Thein Sein sends message of congratulations to Chinese President

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March—His Excellency U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Mr. Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China, on his election as the President of the People's Republic of China at 12th National People's Congress of China today.

MNA

New Zealand will help Myanmar to carry out reforms



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein taking part in discussions at the Governmental Residence in Auckland in New Zealand.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March—President U Thein Sein left here by Myanmar Airways Special Flight yesterday evening to pay goodwill visits to New

Zealand and the Australian Commonwealth and arrived at Changi International Airport at 7.15 pm.

The President was welcomed at the Airport

by Myanmar Ambassador U Tin Oo Lwin and embassy staff. From there, the President arrived in Auckland of New Zealand today via Singapore

and was welcomed at the International Airport by Myanmar Ambassador to New Zealand U Min Thein and head of Diplomatic Department of New Zealand

Hon. Maurice Williamson. Then, the President arrived in Langham Hotel in Auckland.

The President was welcomed by Governor-General of New Zealand Sr Jerry Mateparae at the Governmental Residence in Auckland along with Maori Cultural Group.

Both sides held discussions on Myanmar's political and economic reform processes, New Zealand's cooperation in Myanmar's reforms, investments of New Zealand's companies in the sectors of education and livestock, technical assistance and cooperation in human resource development.

The Governor-General reaffirmed that New Zealand would fully extend a helping hand in Myanmar's reform processes and stand as a friendly nation whatever governments take office in New Zealand.

The President said that exchange of visits between New Zealand and Myanmar

are the milestone in the history of the two countries' relations. He expressed special thanks for New Zealand's support for the removal of economic sanctions against Myanmar and using official name Myanmar instead of Burma. Myanmar would promote relations between the two countries the peoples, he added.

In the evening, Myanmar delegation attended a dinner hosted by the Governor-General at Governmental Residence.

Also present at the dinner together with the President were Union Election Commission Chairman U Tin Aye, Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy, Air) Gen Hla Htay Win, Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Tin Naing Thein, U Ohn Myint, U Khin Yi, Dr Mya Aye, Dr Myint Aung, Dr Kan Zaw, Dr Ko Ko Oo and deputy ministers. The Governor-General was accompanied by high-ranking officials.

MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham affirms Myanmar's commitment to achieve ACMECS objectives

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham addressed the opening of 5th ACMECS Summit at Don Chan Palace Hotel in Vientiane, Laos yesterday.

The summit was also attended by Prime Minister of Cambodia Samdech Hun Sen, Laotian Prime Minister Mr Thongsing Thammavong, Thai Prime Minister Ms Yingluck Shinawatra, Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Nguyen Tan Dung, ASEAN Secretary-General Mr Le Luong Minh.

The Laotian Prime Minister gave an opening speech. The Vice-President called the summit a

gathering to revitalize the efforts for implementation of objectives of Bagan Declaration and other declarations. He believed that the summit would accelerate the momentum of ongoing programmes. Each of eight sectors that the ACMECS are cooperating in—trade and investment, agriculture, industry and energy, transportation, tourism, human resources development, public health and environmental conservation—has seen certain progress, said the Vice-President.

“The success of ACMECS for certain would facilitate to narrowing

development gap among ASEAN nations in line with objectives of Initiative for ASEAN Integration”, said the Vice-President. The Vice-President affirmed Myanmar's commitment to join hands with fellow members to realize the action plans of ACMECS.

The Thai PM, the Vietnamese PM, and the ASEAN Secretary-General also delivered speeches on the occasion.—MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham attends the opening of 5th ACMECS Summit at Don Chan Palace Hotel in Vientiane, Laos.—MNA



India-Myanmar Business Seminar in Sittway of Rakhine State



NAY PYI TAW, 14 March — Jointly-organized by Rakhine State Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, India-Myanmar Business Seminar was held at Royal Sittwe Resort in Sittway on 7 March.

Rakhin State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin and Charge d' Affaires ai of Indian Embassy in

Myanmar Mr. Sailas Thangal spoke on the occasion. Next, Chairman of Rakhine State Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Shwe Tun Aung, Minister of State of Mizoram for PHE, Tourism Industry, Geology and Mining Mr. S Hiato and Indian Chambers of Commerce ICC Young Leaders Forum Chairman & NICCO Group Director Mr. Siddhant Kaul gave talks on attractive prospects in trade

and market opportunities and promotion of bilateral trade. Then an official of ICC spoke words of thanks.

MNA

Talks on treatment for liver disease, liver graft given in Nay Pyi Taw Zabuthiri Hospital



press meet. We had a full and frank discussion with the head of the township traffic police corps, paying attention to the traffic rules and the present situation in the township", a local journalist said. It is learnt that the press meet lasted two hours. — Kyemon

Frank discussion between Pakokku Traffic Police, local media persons

PAKOKKU, 14 March — There has been an atmosphere of mutual respects and friendly relations between departments concerned and media persons at the press meets as now is the days of transparency. The former welcomes the latter with respect and makes press release frequently.

On 5 March evening, traffic police members

led by Inspector Aung Naing Moe of Pakokku Township Traffic Police Corps held talks on traffic rules enforcement measures with local-journalists in the township.

"The press meet was held in the compound of the residence of Dr Thet Lwin, chairman of Magway Region Journalist Association. All media men in the township attended the

Pyinmana Township gets new tarred road, bailey bridge

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March —The opening ceremonies of tarred road and bailey bridge were held on Khayay Street in Bawgawady ward of Pyinmana Township, here, on 10 March.

Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council Col Myint Aung Than, Pyinmana Township Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Hmat Gyi and Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee member U Kyaw Myint formally opened the new

Khayay tarred road and strolled along the new street.

At the opening ceremony of a bailey bridge on Khayay street in the ward, member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Kan Chun, Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee member U Myo Aung and Deputy Superintending Engineer U Maung Maung Nyunt formally opened the new bridge.

The newly-opened 5350-foot and 12-foot

Khayay tarred road is used to be an earth road before upgrading it at the cost of K 93.5 million. A bailey bridge across Ngalaik creek was also built on the new road. The 100-foot and 12-foot Bailey bridge cost K 33.5 million. Thanks to emergence of new road and new bridge, ward dwellers will be able to go to Ahaya Thukha market and downtown Pyinmana smoothly.

MNA

Yangon Region sees more road casualties in February

YANGON, 14 March — Despite the fact that there has been a decrease in car crash of passenger buses running on the roads in Yangon Region, cases of overturned cars and the injured have increased according to the facts and figures of All-Bus Line Control Committee, it is learnt.

There were 23 car crashes and three overturned car cases, leaving 10 dead and 53

injured in road accidents and casualties in February 2012. In February 2013, 18 traffic accidents claimed 10 lives and hurt 99. Despite a drop in traffic accidents, there has been a significant rise in the number of people who had got injury. During the period from 16 to 28 February, there were 10 cases of car accident—six cases were due to reckless driving, two excessive speed, one human error and one vehicle maintenance

problem.

In the month of February this year, passenger buses of the lines under All-Bus Line Control Committee (Downtown) were involved in four cases, Thanmyathu bus-line in one, All-Bus Line Control Committee (East District) in two, All-Bus Line Control Committee (South District) in eight, Shwe Yangon in one and All-Bus Line Control Committee (Highway) in one.—Kyemon

Haul of stimulant tablets seized on Muse-Mandalay road

HSIPAW, 14 March — Members of Lashio Anti-narcotics special squad who are carrying out crackdown on trafficking of illicit drugs seized a haul of stimulant tablets worth nearly K 176 million at a

place on Muse-Mandalay road at about 1 pm on 5 March.

While conducting a search of a saloon bound for Mandalay from Muse driven by Phone Maung Maung Oo they discovered and seized 44 packs each containing 2000 stimulant

tablets from Soe Soe Than, a passenger on board the saloon. The number of the seized stimulant tablets was 88000 (7.92 kilos).

Lashio Police Station No (2) filed a lawsuit against Soe Soe Than, 42, of Kyaukse Township.

Kyemon

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March — Under the constant learning programme of Nay Pyi Taw Zabuthiri Hospital and Parkway Hospitals Singapore, a specialists team of Parkway Hospitals Singapore led by Senior Marketing Manager Mr. Steven Mok and Specialist Dr Vincent Lai gave talks on advancements of medicine, especially advanced treatment for liver disease and liver transplantation,

at the meeting hall of the hospital, here, on 9 March.

In the afternoon, Dr Vincent Lai of Parkway Hospitals Singapore performed medical treatment to patients who are receiving health care at Zabuthiri Hospital. Under the programme, plans are underway to organize more seminars at Nay Pyi Taw Zabuthiri Hospital with the participation of specialists from Singapore.—Kyemon

Myanmar watermelon price goes up in export market

MANDALAY, 14 March — Farmlands in Kyaukse, Tada U, Myingyan, Amara-pura and Singaing Townships are home to thriving watermelon plantations. There are over 800000-acres there where watermelons are

grown well. One acre can produce 2000 watermelons.

The locally-grown watermelons are transported to fruit brokerages in Myitnge and Paleik. The watermelons with high quality are sent to the neighbouring country

through fruit brokerages starting from 105th-Mile camp. Thanks to rising price of watermelon starting from early March, brokers in Mandalay are fetching good price for watermelons.

Kyemon



WORLD

Obama nominates new envoy to Libya

WASHINGTON, 14 March —US President Barack Obama on Wednesday nominated Deborah Jones to be the new Ambassador to Libya replacing Christopher Stevens who was killed by militants last year.

Jones, a career foreign service officer, was the American Ambassador to Kuwait from 2008 to 2011. She also served in the United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia, Iraq, Argentina and Syria. She is now a scholar at the Middle East Institute, a

think tank in Washington DC. Her nomination has to be approved by the Senate.

Stevens was killed on 11 September last year when the US consulate in Benghazi, Libya came under attack. The incident became a hot-button issue in the 2012 presidential campaign when the Republicans criticized the Obama administration for offering conflicting accounts—first as one ensuing from anti-America protests, and then as an “act of terror.”—Xinhua



Deborah Jones

Syria's President Bashar al-Assad (R) meets Iran's Supreme National Security Council Secretary Saeed Jalili in Damascus on 3 Feb, 2013, in this handout photograph released by Syria's national news agency SANA.

REUTERS



Iran steps up weapons lifeline to Syria's Assad

UNITED NATIONS, 14 March—Iran has significantly stepped up military support to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in recent months, solidifying its position alongside Russia as the government's lifeline in an increasingly

sectarian civil war, Western diplomats said. Iranian weapons continue to pour into Syria from Iraq but also increasingly along other routes, including via Turkey and Lebanon, in violation of a UN arms embargo on Iran, Western officials told Reuters on condition of anonymity. Iraqi and Turkish officials denied the allegations.

Iran's acceleration of support for Assad suggests the Syrian war is entering a new phase in which Iran may be trying to end the battlefield stalemate by redoubling its commitment to Assad and offering Syria's increasingly isolated government a crucial lifeline, the envoys said. It

also highlights the growing sectarian nature of the conflict, diplomats say, with Iranian arms flowing to the Shi'ite militant group Hezbollah. That group is increasingly active on the ground in Syria in support of Assad's forces, envoys say. The Syrian conflict started out two years ago as a pro-democracy movement. Some 70,000 people have been killed and more than 1 million refugees have fled the violence.

A Western intelligence report seen by Reuters in September said Iran was using civilian aircraft to fly military personnel and large quantities of weapons across Iraqi airspace to aid Assad.—Reuters

Russia says international commission's Syria report biased

MOSCOW, 14 March—The latest report of the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria was neither objective nor balanced, the Russian Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday. “The experts

(of the commission) cite difficulties to collect evidence of the victims as they were unable to enter the country. However, they did not use many other possibilities,” the deputy head of the ministry's information

and Press department, Maria Zakharova, said in an online comment. Citing a conference held in Geneva on 7 March, at which many victims of the Syrian violence testified, Zakharova said: “Hundreds

of witnesses are ready to arrive for testimonies against the (Syrian) rebels. Still the commission is reluctant to include this information in its reports.” She added that the commission's experts also refused to define the bombings conducted by the rebels as “terror attacks.”

Xinhua

US plans to let spy agencies scour Americans' finances

NEW YORK, 14 March—The Obama administration is drawing up plans to give all US spy agencies full access to a massive database that contains financial data on American citizens and others who bank in the country, according to a Treasury Department document seen by Reuters.

The proposed plan represents a major step by US intelligence agencies to spot and track down terrorist networks and crime syndicates by bringing together financial databanks, criminal records and military intelligence.

The plan, which legal experts say is permissible under US law, is none-

theless likely to trigger intense criticism from privacy advocates.

Financial institutions that operate in the United States are required by law to file reports of “suspi-

cious customer activity,” such as large money transfers or unusually structured bank accounts, to Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN).—Reuters



The lobby of the CIA Headquarters Building in McLean, Virginia, on 14 Aug, 2008.—REUTERS

Afghan security vacuum feared along “gateway to Kabul”

MAIDAN SHAHR, (Afghanistan) 14 March —The Afghan policeman manning a checkpoint glances at the snow-covered mountains that are home to Taliban fighters and predicts what would happen if elite US forces leave Wardak Province, seen as the gateway to the capital of Kabul. “The Taliban will take over in one day,” Mohammad Jamil says. “They are nearby.” Ever since President Hamid Karzai announced late last month that US forces would be barred from the strategic province because of alleged abuses against civilians, Afghan forces who will be left to provide security without them have grown more anxious by the day.

Wardak, just a 40-minute drive from Kabul,

scope of US operations after the pull-out.

“It's special forces who go usually on the front lines and fight with Taleban,” said a second Afghan policeman, Mir Hussain. “If we make them leave this province than there won't be anybody to fight them. It's obvious that as soon as they leave our province the Taleban will return to power here.” Strategically located astride the Western approach to Kabul, Wardak is ideally placed for the insurgents who control nearby mountain villages to use as a staging ground for suicide operations into the city, home to nearly 5 million people and dozens of diplomatic missions.

Militants already carry out ambushes, shooting attacks and suicide bombings



An Afghan policeman keeps watch at a checkpoint in Maidan, Wardak Province, on 12 March, 2013.—REUTERS

is a prime example of what could happen in other parts of Afghanistan as the United States winds down an increasingly unpopular war, now in its 12th year. US special forces are expected to play a major role after most NATO combat troops withdraw by the end of 2014, and Karzai's decision could complicate negotiations between the United States and Afghanistan over the

on American and Afghan forces there. Fears that the departures of US special forces will embolden the insurgents are heightened by the arrival of spring, which traditionally marks the start of Afghanistan's “fighting season” as the snow melts. Earlier this week, two US soldiers, reported to be special forces, were killed in an attack in the province.

Reuters

US extends waivers on Iran sanctions to 11 countries

WASHINGTON, 14 March —The United States extended 180-day waivers on Iran sanctions to Japan and 10 European Union nations in exchange for their cutting purchases of the OPEC nation's crude oil, Secretary of State John Kerry said on Wednesday. “Today's determination is another example of the international community's commitment to convince Iran to meet its international obligations,” Kerry said in a statement. The sanctions aim to choke off funding for Teheran's nuclear programme, which the West suspects is trying to develop weapons, by slashing Iran's



Malta-flagged Iranian crude oil supertanker “Delvar” is seen anchored off Singapore on 1 March, 2012.—REUTERS

crude exports. Iran says its nuclear programme is for civilian purposes.

Renewal of the waivers, known as exceptions, means that banks in the 11 countries have been given a third consecutive 180-day reprieve from the threat of being cut off from the US financial

system under the sanctions. The move was expected as Japan, the world's third largest oil consumer, slashed its imports from Iran last year by 40 percent to about 190,000 barrels per day, even as its total oil imports rose 2.7 percent.

The EU implemented a full embargo on Iranian crude and petroleum products on 1 July. The 10 EU countries that were granted the renewals on Wednesday are Belgium, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain and the United Kingdom.

Reuters

First Canadian takes command of International Space Station

CAPE CANAVERAL, 14 March—Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield took the helm of the *International Space Station* on Wednesday, only the second time in the outpost's 12-year history that command has been turned over to someone who is not American or Russian. "It's a huge honour and a privilege for me, but also for all the people at the Canadian Space Agency and for my entire country," Hadfield, 53, said during a change of command ceremony aboard the station broadcast on NASA Television.

"Thank you very much for giving me the keys to the family car," Hadfield told outgoing station commander Kevin Ford, who is due to depart on Thursday along with Russian cosmonauts Oleg Novitskiy and Evgeny Tarelkin. "We're going to put some miles on it, but we'll bring it back in good shape," Hadfield said. Ford, Novitskiy and Tarelkin have been aboard



Taking advantage of a weightless environment onboard the Earth-orbiting International Space Station, Expedition 34 Flight Engineer Chris Hadfield of the Canadian Space Agency juggles some tomatoes, which he probably considers to be among the more delicious components of a recent "package" that arrived from Earth, in this Handout photo courtesy of NASA, taken on 3 March, 2013. —REUTERS

the station, a \$100 billion research laboratory that flies about 250 miles above Earth, since October.

Command of the station, a project of 15 nations that has been permanently staffed since November 2000, normally rotates between primary partners United States and Russia. But in May 2009, Belgian

astronaut Frank De Winne became the first station commander from the European Space Agency.

Hadfield, a veteran of two space shuttle missions, is the station's first Canadian commander.

Hadfield will be part of a three-man skeleton crew until NASA astronaut Chris Cassidy and cosmonauts

Pavel Vinogradov and Alexander Misurkin arrive later this month. Hadfield, astronaut Thomas Marshburn and cosmonaut Roman Romanenko have been aboard the station since 21 December. They are due to return to Earth on 13 May.

Among Hadfield's first duties as commander is overseeing the packing and release of the visiting Space Exploration Technologies' Dragon cargo capsule. The capsule, making a second resupply run for NASA, is due to depart the station on 25 March.

Hadfield has taken to Twitter to share his experiences in orbit with short messages and pictures dispatched several times a day. His followers now number more than 512,000.

"My heartfelt congratulations to Commander Hadfield and his family on what is an important milestone for all Canadians," Canada's Industry Minister Christian Paradis said in a statement.—Reuters

US jury finds Nintendo liable for patent infringement

NEW YORK, 14 March—A federal jury in New York on Wednesday found that video game company Nintendo Co infringed an inventor's 3-D display technology patent with its handheld 3DS videogame system. The jury awarded the inventor, Seiji Tomita, \$30.2 million in compensatory damages.

The patent relates to technology that Tomita developed for providing 3-D images without the need for 3-D glasses.

In opening arguments last month, Tomita's attorney, Joe Diamante, told the jury in US District Court in Manhattan that Nintendo used technology that Tomita developed for its 3DS. Tomita is a former longtime Sony Corp employee.

But Scott Lindvall, a defence attorney for the Super Mario Bros franchise creator, argued that the 3DS doesn't use key aspects of Tomita's patent. Lindvall also said a 2003 meeting

with Nintendo officials that Tomita cited in his argument was merely one of several the company held with vendors selling 3-D display technology.

Tomita, 58, sued Nintendo and its US unit in 2011 for patent infringement. To-



The logo of Nintendo Co is pictured outside the company headquarters building in Kyoto, western Japan on 7 Jan, 2013. —REUTERS

Tomita was not present in the courtroom on Wednesday.

"We are thankful to the jurors for their diligence and hard work," Diamante said in an e-mail after the verdict. "It has been a honour to represent Mr Tomita and to protect his invention."—Reuters

Google's Android chief Andy Rubin steps down

SAN FRANCISCO, 14 March—Andy Rubin, the architect of Android, the world's top-selling mobile operating system, has decided to step down as Google Inc combines mobile software divisions under one roof, the company said on Wednesday.

Google appointed Sundar Pichai, the executive overseeing its Chrome web browser and applications like Google Drive and Gmail, to take over Rubin's responsibilities, hinting at how the company with the dominant Internet search engine intends to address the rise of mobile devices.

In a blog post, Larry Page, Google's chief executive and co-founder, credited Rubin for evangelizing Android several years ago and building it into a free, open-source platform that runs on nearly three-quarters of the world's smartphones and is

used by the world's largest handset manufacturers, from Samsung Electronics Co Ltd to HTC Corp.

"Having exceeded even the crazy ambitious goals we dreamed of for Android — and with a really strong leadership team in place — Andy's decided it's time to hand over the reins and start a new chapter at Google," Page wrote. "Andy, more moonshots please!"

The merger of the Chrome and Android divisions helps resolve a longstanding tension in the Mountain View, California-based company's corporate strategy, and reflects a convergence of mobile and desktop software.

When Google poured resources into launching the Chrome web browser five years ago, the company laid out a vision of the Internet and an ecosystem of Google

apps based on the Web. But the Android operating system, acquired by Google in 2005, has also been a runaway success, enabling third-party handset makers like Samsung to overtake Apple Inc while also spawning a massive economy of third-party apps that are only loosely affiliated with Google.

Under Pichai's direction, Google has released several netbook computers using the Chrome operating system. Last month, when Pichai unveiled the Chromebook Pixel, the first Chrome-based laptop with a touch-screen interface, analysts noted that Chrome and Android appeared to be on converging paths.

"You had this Chrome OS and this Android Group that were building in many overlapping products," said Michael Gartenberg, an analyst at Gartner.—Reuters

Mars had the right stuff for life, scientists find

CAPE CANAVERAL, 14 March—Seven months after NASA's rover *Curiosity* landed on Mars to assess if the planet most like Earth had the ingredients for life, scientists have their answer: Yes.

Analysis of powdered



A set of images compares rocks seen by NASA's Opportunity rover and Curiosity rover at two different parts of Mars, in this NASA handout photo. On the left is "Wopmay" rock, in Endurance Crater, Meridiani Planum, as studied by the Opportunity rover.—REUTERS

samples drilled out from inside an ancient and once water-soaked rock at the rover's Gale Crater landing site show clays, sulfates and other minerals that are all key to life, scientists told reporters at NASA headquarters in Washington and on a conference call on Tuesday.

The water that once flowed through the area, known as Yellowknife Bay, was likely drinkable, said Curiosity's lead scientist John Grotzinger, who is with the California Institute of Technology.

The analysis stopped

short of a confirmation of organics, which are key to most Earth-like life. But with 17 months left in the rover's primary mission, scientists said they expect to delve further into that question. Science operations currently are suspended

occur," Grotzinger said.

The \$2.5 billion, nuclear-powered *Curiosity* rover landed inside the giant Gale Crater impact basin, located near the Martian equator, on 6 August for a two-year mission.

Scientists were drawn

ed because of a computer glitch, which is expected to be resolved this week.

"If there was organic material there, it could have been preserved," said David Blake, principal investigator for Curiosity's Chemistry and Mineralogy, or CheMin, experiment.

A lack of organics, however, would not rule out the Yellowknife Bay site as suitable for life, scientists added.

"You don't have to have carbon present in a geological environment that's habitable in order to have microbial metabolism

to the area because of a three-mile (5-km) mountain of sediment, called Mount Sharp, rising from the crater floor. But shortly after the rover's landing, the team decided to first explore the Yellowknife Bay area, located in the opposite direction from Mount Sharp.

Observations from Mars orbiters showed three different types of terrain coming together in Yellowknife Bay, plus a low elevation, all hints that water could have once flowed and pooled on the surface.

Reuters



Sundar Pichai, senior vice president of Google Chrome, speaks during Google I/O Conference at Moscone Centre in San Francisco, California on 28 June, 2012. —REUTERS

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Dow at record again, ends higher for ninth day

NEW YORK, 14 March—Stocks edged up on Wednesday, with the Dow rising for the ninth straight session to another record, buoyed by surprisingly strong retail sales that suggested the economy is gaining momentum.

The Dow Jones industrial average's nine-day winning streak is the longest consecutive run since November 1996.

But trading volume was light. Moves have been muted in recent days as investors consolidate positions after a strong run-up in the first three months of the year. Still, weakness in stocks has been met

with buying, which helped propel the market's advance.

The broader S&P 500 is within striking distance of its all-time closing high of 1,565.15 and about 1 percent away from all-time intraday high of 1,576.09 - both set in 2007.

"I think we will soon see the S&P at all-time high levels. I don't think the market has topped yet, and there is still strength to move the market higher," said Ari Wald, technical strategist at C&Co/PrinceRidge in New York.

"Will we see a correction of 10 percent or so soon? Not imminently.

China's fixed asset investment in railways up 25.7 pct

BEIJING, 14 March—Fixed asset investment in China's railways rose 25.7 percent year on year to 37.63 billion yuan (about six billion US dollars) in the first two months of the year, according to the railways authority.

The growth marked a substantial dip from the 70.9-percent rise seen in January.

During the January-February period, railways infrastructure investment rose 20.9 percent to 25.14 billion yuan, slowing from the 62.3-percent growth in the first month of the year, a Ministry of Railways (MOR) statement said.

In 2013, China plans 650 billion yuan of fixed asset investment for the sector.

On Thursday, China's National People's Congress, the Chinese parliament, adopted a cabinet reshuffle plan, which included the dismantling of the MOR into administrative and commercial arms in a bid to reduce bureaucracy.

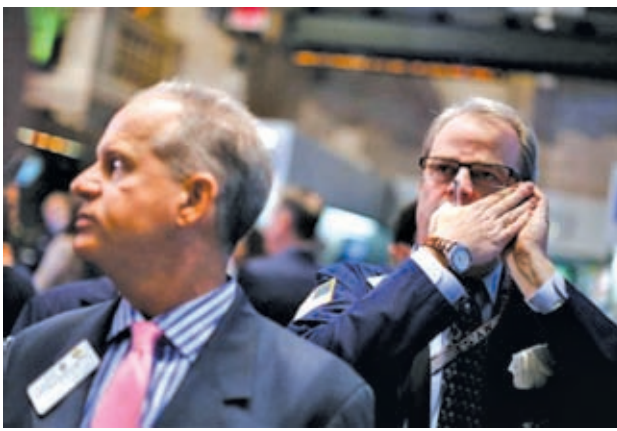
After the restructuring, the proposed State

Railways Administration will be supervised by the Ministry of Transport and perform the administrative functions of the defunct MOR. The planned China railway corporation will run commercial businesses which are currently controlled by the MOR.

While the move is widely applauded by the public, the ministry's massive debts incurred amid the country's construction boom in recent years have stirred market concerns.

According to official data, the ministry's debt-to-asset ratio climbed to 61.81 percent at the end of September 2012. Its total assets were 4.3 trillion yuan (685.3 billion US dollars) and its debts amounted to 2.66 trillion yuan at that time.

In response to public doubts, Railways Minister Sheng Guangzu promised to properly solve the debts owed by the MOR, for business purposes and for public welfare as well, while hoping private capital and foreign funds could actively participate in the projects of the new company.—Reuters



Traders work on the floor at the New York Stock Exchange, on 13 March, 2013.—REUTERS

We have not seen a divergence of behaviour yet where participants become more selective on which stocks to buy."

International Business Machine (IBM.N) and Boeing Co (BA.N) were the Dow's top two gainers.

IBM shot up 0.7 percent to \$212.06. Boeing also jumped 0.7 percent - to \$84.75 at the close. The Dow Jones industrial average (DJI) gained 5.22 points, or 0.04 percent, to 14,455.28, another record closing high.—Reuters

Aspirin may lower melanoma risk

WASHINGTON, 14 March—A new study in the United States has found that women who take aspirin have a reduced risk of developing melanoma, and that the longer they take it, the lower the risk.

The findings suggest that aspirin's anti-inflammatory effects may help protect against this type of skin cancer. The study was published early online on Monday in *CANCER*, a peer-reviewed journal of the American Cancer Society.

In the Women's Health Initiative, researchers observed US women aged 50 to 79 for an average of 12 years and noted which individuals developed cancer. At the beginning of the study, the women were asked which medications they took, what they ate, and what activities they performed.

When Jean Tang of Stanford University School of Medicine and her colleagues analyzed available data from 59,806 Caucasian women in the study, they found that women who took more aspirin were less

likely to develop melanoma skin cancer during the 12 years of follow-up. Overall, women who used aspirin had a 21-percent lower risk of melanoma relative to non-users. Each incremental increase in duration of aspirin use (less than one year of use, one to four years of use, and five or more years of use) was associated with an 11-percent lower risk of melanoma. Thus, women who used aspirin for five or more years had a 30-percent lower melanoma risk than women who did not use aspirin.

The researchers controlled for differences in pigmentation, tanning practices, sunscreen use, and other factors that may affect skin cancer risk.

"Aspirin works by reducing inflammation and this may be why using aspirin may lower your risk of developing melanoma," said Tang. She noted that the findings support the design of a clinical trial to directly test whether aspirin can be taken to prevent melanoma.

Reuters

Tapeworm genome points way to better drug treatments

LONDON, 14 March—Scientists have for the first time mapped the genomes of tapeworms, shedding light on the evolution of one of humankind's oldest parasites and revealing new possibilities for drug treatments.

DNA analysis of the tapeworms suggests that a number of existing medicines for cancer, viruses and other diseases may be able to fight serious illness caused by their larvae, which can spread through the body causing damaging cysts.

Identifying drugs already approved for other uses should save both time and money, said lead researcher Matthew Berriman of the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute in Cambridge, eastern England.

"Having existing drugs will act as a chemical starting-point for drug companies, cutting many years off development times."

That may encourage drug makers, even though devastating tapeworm infections, like echinococcosis and cysticercosis, occur mainly in less developed tropical countries where there is little commercial incentive for drug development.

Larval tapeworms can exist in the body for decades before eventually causing a range of debilitating illnesses and, in some cases, death. Cysts caused by the parasites proliferate throughout the body like cancer, triggering complications such as blindness and epilepsy.

Recorded by the Ancient Greeks, tapeworms were among the first known parasites of humans. Yet finding an effective cure has proved elusive.

Tapeworm cysts are

treated by chemotherapy or surgery but side effects are a problem, so new approaches are badly needed.

"These are very grotesque, almost medieval, diseases," Berriman said.

By analyzing DNA from four tapeworm species, the team from the Sanger Institute — where much of the human genome was sequenced more than a decade ago — found weak spots in the animals' genes that drugs should be able to exploit.



Researcher Magdalena Zarowiecki with tapeworm samples at the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute in Cambridge.—REUTERS

Tapeworms have evolved to become increasingly reliant on scavenging from their hosts. The most active genes in the parasites are central to this scavenging process and disrupting their ability to work offers new options for treatment.

Existing drugs which might disrupt the genes include medicines already used for fighting cancer and viral infections, as well as some drugs that work on the central nervous system, Berriman and colleagues reported in the journal *Nature*.—Reuters

Researchers identify seven genetic risk factors associated with common eye disorder

WASHINGTON, 14 March—An international group of investigators has identified seven new genetic regions associated with age-related macular degeneration (AMD), a common cause of blindness in older individuals. The findings, reported online this week in *Nature Genetics*, could point to new biological pathways and therapeutic

targets for AMD.

The AMD Gene Consortium, a network of 18 research groups supported by the US National Eye Institute, also confirmed 12 other genetic loci identified in previous studies. The study represents the most comprehensive genome-wide analysis of genetic variations associated with AMD. The consortium's efforts have now explained

up to 65 percent of the genetics of AMD, said Jonathan Haines, director of the Vanderbilt Centre for Human Genetics Research.

In addition to genetic causes, which may account for about half of all cases of AMD, risk factors include age, smoking, high blood pressure, obesity and diet.

"We're getting closer and closer to understanding

the full list of risk factors for AMD," said Haines, one of the lead authors of the study and principal investigator of the coordinating centre for the consortium.

AMD is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that kills photoreceptor cells in the macula—the region of the retina responsible for sharp, detailed central vision.

Reuters



Zhou Xiaochuan, Governor of the People's Bank of China, the central bank, leaves after a Press conference in Beijing on 13 March, 2013.—KYODO NEWS

WORLD

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) observes a moment of silence during a tribute to the memory of late Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, at the UN headquarters in New York, on 13 March, 2013. —XINHUA



UN officials pay tribute to Chavez

UNITED NATIONS, 14 March — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Wednesday praised late Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez as “one of those leaders who made a difference in his country, the region and the world.” Addressing a General Assembly plenary meeting held here to pay tribute to the memory of the late President of Venezuela, Ban said, “Basing himself on an eminently Latin American vision, President Chavez

provided decisive impetus for new efforts towards regional integration.”

Perhaps most notably, the UN chief said, Chavez ensured that Venezuela provided crucial assistance to Haiti following the devastating earthquake of 2010. “He always reminded the region of the historic debt that it owed to Haiti, the first republic to gain independence in Latin America and the Caribbean.” Ban also recognized Chavez’s contribution to the peace

talks in Colombia between the government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), as well as the “solidarity” he showed toward other nations in the hemisphere. “As the process of regional integration progresses, the key role that President Chavez has had in promoting the unity of the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean will be present in everyone’s minds,” said the Secretary-General.

Xinhua

Syrian troops and rebels open new battlefront near Damascus

AMMAN, 14 March — Heavy fighting erupted in an area between Damascus and the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights on Wednesday in what could be a new battlefront between Syrian troops and rebels, opposition sources said. Rebel fighters attacked an army barracks manned by elite Republican Guards and the Fourth Mechanised Division, headed by President Bashar al-Assad’s brother Maher, in Khan Sheih, 6 km (4 miles) from the outskirts of Damascus, civilian activists and an opposition military source said.

Clashes intensified three days after Sunni Muslim rebels overran a missile squadron in the area, killing 30 soldiers, mostly from

Assad’s minority Alawite sect, the sources said. The region also hosts a Palestinian refugee camp. An opposition campaigner in the nearby town of Jedeidet said troops stationed in hills overlooking Khan Sheih were attacking the area with multiple rocket launchers to try to dislodge rebels surrounding the barracks.

“I counted up to 20 explosions a minute on Khan Sheih,” the activist, who uses the pseudonym of Abdo, told *Reuters* by phone. A rebel commander in contact with the fighters said a force of some 1,000 insurgents had moved into Khan Sheih, which is 25 km from the Golan Heights, captured by Israel in 1967.

Reuters



Residents try to extinguish a fire following shelling by forces loyal to Syria’s President Bashar al-Assad, according to the Free Syrian Army, in Jobar area in Damascus on 13 March, 2013.—REUTERS

As cyber threats build against US, CEOs ask for “light touch”

WASHINGTON, 14 March — Corporate leaders from the defence, technology, energy and banking industries told President Barack Obama on Wednesday they agreed cyber attacks were a top security threat but that they were looking for a “light touch” from the government in response to the risk. Obama and his top security advisers met with chief executives from 13 companies in the White House Situation Room to talk about how the government and private sector could improve cyber security, including the need for legislation. The White House has elevated the issue after efforts to improve US cyber defences through new laws failed in Congress last year.

“I think we all agreed — and that included the administration and the president — that we want a light a government touch

on this as possible,” Honeywell International’s David Cote told CNBC after the meeting. “Flexibility is important, because this is the kind of threat that changes very quickly,” he said. The meeting came a day after US intelligence leaders said for the first time that cyber attacks and cyber espionage had supplanted terrorism as the top security threat fac-

ing the United States. Obama signed an executive order last month to encourage information-sharing, which most business leaders welcome, and voluntary security standards, which have been a point of contention.

But the executive action is not as strong as law and Obama has urged Congress to try again on legislation.—*Reuters*



President Barack Obama speaks about the sequester after a meeting with congressional leaders at the White House in Washington on 1 March, 2013.

REUTERS

EU summit to focus on growth, jobs



BRUSSELS, 14 March — European Union (EU) leaders are scheduled to meet in Brussels on Thursday and Friday to iron out measures to promote growth and create jobs in Europe which is still mired in the debt cri-

sis. Despite “consistent and courageous” efforts taken at European and national levels, “we have yet to tackle the most immediate fears and concerns of many of our citizens,” European Commission President Jose

Manuel Barroso said on Wednesday, referring to weak growth and high jobless rate.

Speaking to the European Parliament, Barroso said “there is justified disappointment about the slow recovery of the real economy,” and “unemployment figures are unprecedented and simply unacceptable.” The eurozone economy registered the sharpest decline over four years in the last quarter last year, while the single currency area recorded a jobless rate of 11.9 percent this January, the highest level since the EU statistics office started to re-

lease such figures in 1995.

Barroso lamented that “implementation of the Compact for Growth and Jobs is too low and too slow,” saying that “there has not yet been enough commitment to address social obligations. We have to be sensible to social needs.” According to the draft conclusions prepared by the President of the European Council for the Summit, EU leaders would discuss measures to better utilize the “Single Market,” “a key driver for growth and jobs.” The EU might also consider easing the regulatory burden on small businesses.

Xinhua

S African telecommunication giant plans retrenchments

CAPE TOWN, 14 March — South Africa’s telecommunication giant Telkom is planning retrenchments as part of its restructuring operation as a result of poor performance, it was revealed on Wednesday.

The news prompted a strong reaction from the Communication Workers Union (CWU) which said it “is disturbed and appalled by Telkom’s intention to retrench workers”.

CWU President Cecil Mokgantshe said they were “extremely disappointed that the company has decided to take this decision without consulting the union”.

“And we are also aware that the company is forcing the workers to take voluntary severance packages and early retirement and if they don’t do that they will retrench them.” “Even if Telkom can use a different concept or wording like voluntary severance packages or early retirement, it means retrenchment which as CWU we will find it difficult to agree with the company’s intention,” the union said.

The CWU vowed to stop any form of retrenchment of its members. “Even if the company can threaten or bully our members we will fight the com-

pany until the last drop of our blood.

We urge all our members not to take these voluntary severance packages and early retirement.” The CWU said it is intending to mobilize all Telkom workers in defiance of the company. Steps to be taken will include a general strike, the CWU said.

Telkom announced earlier this week that management and bargaining unit staff will be afforded the opportunity of applying for voluntary severance (VSPs) and early retirement packages (VERPs) from 15 March, 2013 until 31 August, 2013.—*Reuters*

Poland seeks 1.6 b dollar via privatization 2013

WARSAW, 14 March — Polish Deputy Treasury Minister Rafal Baniak on Wednesday said the ministry was aiming to obtain PLN 5 billion (about 1.6 billion US dollars) through privatization of companies wholly or partly owned by the state.

According to local media reports, Baniak told the Senate’s National Economy Committee that the treasury has already signed 15 contracts for the sale of equity this year, with most of the receipts generated through the stock exchange.—*Xinhua*

NATIONAL

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham attends meeting between ACMECS leaders, businessmen



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham attends the dialogue between ACMECS leaders and business sector at Don Chan Palace in Vientiane, Laos.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham addressed the dialogue between

ACMECS leaders and Business Sector at Don Chan Palace in Vientiane, Laos yesterday.

Next, President of Lao Federation of Trade Unions Chairman of ACMECS Business Council Mr

Kissana Vongsay presented the declaration and future work plans of ACMECS Businessmen Meeting.

He expressed Myanmar support to the cooperation with ACMECS.

Myanmar has made democratic reforms effectively in last two years and all political parties are participating in the reform process as necessary laws have been amended to be able to bring stability in the political arena, he added.

The government has granted amnesty to prisoners, relaxed restrictions on media and allowed to establish unions, he said.

The hardest part of the reform process is to improve the economic sector, he said.

If east-west economic corridors and south-west corridor of the ACMECS are successfully implemented, not only ACMECS-member countries and but also ASEAN countries can penetrate markets of India and China, he said.

Trade and investment sector is a mechanism for the development and

Myanmar has encouraged the free trade, smooth trade, trade exhibition and knowledge on trade with the aim of booming trade and promoting trade with ACMECS member countries, ASEAN countries and other partners, he said.

Regarding tourism, Myanmar has many tourist attractions including the Khakaborazi snow-capped mountain, the only one snow-capped mountain in the South-East Asia.

Special economic zones and sea ports are being constructed in Dawei, Kyaukphyu and Thilawa and Kyaukphyu sea port would be a transit trade centre thorough which goods can be transported to south-west part of China, he said.

Those who would make investment in Myanmar would also enjoy benefits from the sea port, he added.

The Thai PM, the Vietnamese PM and the ASEAN Secretary-General also spoke on the occasion.

MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham visits Yangon International Airport

YANGON, 14 March—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham called for the hustle and bustle of Nay Pyi Taw Airport during his visit to the Yangon International Airport here this evening.

The Vice-President heard reports on progress of civil aviation in Myanmar, 18 annexes with international civil aviation federations, numbers of international airways that fly past through and land

in Myanmar, numbers of airport arrivals, air traffic control techniques, domestic flight services, State-owned, national businessmen-owned and joint venture airways presented by Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung.

The Vice-President called on them to improve the capacity of Yangon, Mandalay, and Hanthawady international airports and give priority to crating jobs

for local people in so doing.

Yangon International Airport at present caters for seven domestic airways and 22 international airways along with chartered flight. It saw over 1 million domestic traveler arrivals and nearly 2 million foreign tourist arrivals in 2012.

MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham inspects functions of Yangon International Airport.

MNA



Myanmar, Germany to promote parliamentary relations

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March—Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein and chairmen of Amyotha Hluttaw Committee held discussions with a delegation led by Partner Dr Dieter Wlokewitz and Partner/CEO Tobias Flessenkemper Elbarlament

based in Berlin of Germany, at Amyotha Hluttaw Affairs Hall, here, this evening.

The meeting focused on promoting relations between the parliaments of both countries and capacity building of Myanmar parliamentary staff.

MNA

Natural resources management seminar held

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March—Under the cooperation programme between Energy Ministry and Norwegian Developing Cooperation, a seminar on natural resources management was held at

the ministry this morning.

Union Minister for Energy U Than Htay addressed the seminar. The two sides exchanged experiences in oil and gas management field.

MNA

Easing of exports and imports and followed-up measures briefed

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March—The Ministry of Commerce yesterday held a briefing on easing of exports and imports and follow-up measures at its office here yesterday.

It was attended by 17 media men, entrepreneurs and employee representatives, totaling 85. Since November, 2012, the Ministry of Commerce has formed a mobile team that controls illegal exports and imports for the incident of

illegal trade were rampant in the country. As of 1 March, easing of exports and imports will be activated. As part of easements to light, 152 export items and 166 import items, totally 318 have been allowed to run without being licensed with the help of relevant ministries. Besides, plans are underway to implement an e-Licensing system. Entrepreneurs need to follow economic ethic in applying for a license.

MNA

Public Service Broadcasting with new version on 1 April

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March—Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) has served the public since the British colonial era. Now it has turned 67. As now is the time when the country enters new era and new system, MRTV will be reconstituted itself as Public Service Broadcasting (PSB) with

new version.

As of 1 April, joint radio broadcasting of Nay Pyi Taw Myanmar Athan and Padaukmyay radio channels will be from 5.30 am to 11.30 pm daily through (MW) 711 KHz and MRTV will broadcast its programmes from 6 am to 11 pm daily.

MNA

NATIONAL

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham meets Vietnamese PM, Thai PM

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 15 March, 2013

Nomophobia

Mobile phone is an essential tool for our daily life. Mobile phone becomes popular in our country. Getting married or starting a new job has long been recognised as sources of great stress. But it seems they are now matched by a new, peculiarly 21st century affliction—the fear of being out of mobile phone contact. Millions apparently suffer from “no mobile phobia” which has been given the name nomophobia.

People have become so dependent on their mobile that discovering it is out of charge or simply misplacing it sends stress levels soaring. Keeping in touch with friends or family is the main reason why they are so wedded to their mobile. According to research, one in ten said they needed to be contactable at all times because of their jobs, while 9 per cent said that having their phone switched off made them anxious.

Experts say nomophobia could affect up to 53 per cent of mobile phone users, with 48 per cent of women and 58 per cent of men questioned admitting to experiencing feelings of anxiety when they run out of battery or credit, lose their phone or have no network coverage. Major drivers of nomophobia include boredom, loneliness, and insecurity.

Researchers advise those keen to avoid nomophobia to keep their credit topped up, carry a charger at all times, give family and friends an alternative contact number and carry a prepaid phone card to make emergency calls if your mobile is broken, lost or stolen. We could also try to liberate ourselves from the shackles of our mobile just by simply switching it off.



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham shakes hands with Prime Minister of Vietnam Mr Nguyen Tan Dung.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and Prime Minister of Vietnam Mr Nguyen Tan Dung vowed to foster the existing bond, expanding the regional economic cooperation and promoting bilateral cooperation in agriculture, livestock, forestry, trade and investment, communication, transport, banking,

mining and energy sectors as the two met at Don Chan Palace Hotel in Vientiane yesterday. The Vice-President suggested more investment from Vietnamese of Laos businessmen in Myanmar.

The Vice-President also met Thai Prime Minister Ms Yingluck Shinawatra at the same venue in the afternoon. The two agreed to make

strenuous joint efforts for implementing Dawei Special Economic Zone which has received much attraction in the region. The two also showed their commitments to strengthen the bilateral ties.

The Vice-President met personnel of Myanmar

diplomatic mission in Laos and their families in Vientiane yesterday evening and had a dinner together with them at Mercure Hotel.

The Vice-President and party arrived back Yangon via Bangkok this evening.

MNA



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham shaking hands with Thai Prime Minister Ms Yingluck Shinawatra.—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker meets Special Envoy on Asian Affairs of PRC



Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint shakes hands with Mr Wang Yingfan, Special Envoy on Asian Affairs of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint received a delegation led by Mr Wang Yingfan, Special Envoy on Asian Affairs of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall, here, this evening.

The Speaker expressed special thanks for China's help for peace-making process in Kachin State. They cordially discussed

cooperation for promoting comprehensive strategic relations between Myanmar and China, socio-economic development of Kachin people and local peace-making process.

It was also attended by Amyotha Hluttaw Committee chairmen U Aung Tun, U Thein Win, Professor Dr Mya Oo, Dr Myint Kyi, U Aung Nyein and Col Maung Maung Htoo, officials from Hluttaw Office and Chinese Embassy.

MNA

Myanmar, Germany to promote cultural cooperation

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March—At the invitation of the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Federal Republic of Germany, Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu paid a visit to Germany from 3 to 9 March. The Union Minister and party visited libraries and museums in

Berlin. On 7 March, the Myanmar delegation held talks with Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Ms Cornelia Peiper, at the Foreign Affairs Ministry of Germany on basic facts for signing of a MoU on cultural cooperation between the two countries and opening of a cultural

development office on Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road in Yangon, owned by the Ministry of Culture. Later, the Union Minister viewed a gold palm-leave sent by King Alaung Min Tayar Gyi U Aung Zeya in Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz library of Hanover.

MNA

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March—The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr. Yang Houlan as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Mr. Yang Houlan was born in May 1956. He graduated with a Master's Degree. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China in 1982 and served in various capacities at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and at the Embassies of the People's Republic of China in Tanzania, Indonesia, Malaysia, Korea and Afghanistan. Since 2011, he has been serving as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal.

Mr. Yang Houlan is married and has one daughter.

MNA

Correction

Please read “Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre” instead of “Asian Disaster Risk Management Centre” in the news and at the title “SWRR Ministry, Asian Disaster Risk Management Centre sign deal” on page 8 of this daily issued on 6-3-2013.—NLM

NATIONAL

Farmland registration process gathering pace: Dy A & I Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March—U Thaug Han of Yinmabin Constituency asked about farmland registration plans for issuance of farmland operation permit under farmland laws and bylaws at Pyithu Hluttaw today.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Khin Zaw measures would be taken under the supervision of respective farmland management committees to issue permit and the central



U Thaug Han of Yinmabin Constituency taking part in discussion.

MNA

constant coordination with the respective committees.

The deputy minister quoted the 12 March data saying 6.89 millions of farmland operation application forms had been distributed to



Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Khin Zaw responds to questions.

MNA

and billboards erected to help farmers understand about farmland registration process and educating would be continued through newspapers, radio and television, added the deputy minister.

The questioner U

Thaug Han said: “I was satisfied with the deputy minister’s reply. There have never been as many rights from farmers as in the new farmland law. But farmland registration is the key to make sure farmers enjoy those rights.”

The 2012 population and household census bill, sent by the Amyotha Hluttaw with approval, was approved. The session continues tomorrow.

MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw adopts motions to inspect super structures suffered from Nov-2012 quake, to upgrade navigational aids at airports

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March—Amyotha Hluttaw today adopted the proposal urging the government to evaluate impacts of the November 11 and 13 earthquakes whether the quake can cause loss of lives and property and to inspect the dams and reservoirs on the Ayeyawady River and on the Sagaing crust.

U Myo Myint of Mandalay Region Constituency No. 6 seconded the motion proposed by U Khin Maung Yi of Ayeyawady Region Constituency No. 6, calling on the government for forming expertise teams to inspect the dams, reservoirs, bridges across rivers, power plants, pipe lines and the new including which were rushed to complete in time at the reason of development and the ones which are currently under construction as he considered that the 6.8 Richter Scale earthquake

jolted in November last year could pose a threat to the safety of the infrastructures near its epicenter.

He also stressed the need for enacting the Building



U Nyan Linn from Ayeyawady Constituency partaking in discussion.—MNA

Code in Myanmar.

U Nyan Linn of Ayeyawady Region Constituency No. 3 also seconded the motion, warning that there would be huge loss of property

and lives in case of a strong earthquake though the previous strong earthquakes did not cause huge damages due to lack of super structures in the past.



Deputy Minister for Transport U Han Sein participating in discussions.—MNA

Deputy Minister for Transport U Han Sein also seconded the motion and suggested that an expertise team should be formed with experts from Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation,

Ministry of Construction and Ministry of Transport to inspect the super structures.

Regarding the motion on upgrading the navigational aids,



U Myo Myint from Mandalay Constituency No. 6 making discussions.—MNA

emergency rescue teams and fire engines at airports put forward by U Nyunt Tin of Yangon Region Constituency No.2, five representatives discussed it.

U Myint Tun of Bago

Region Constituency No. 10 seconded the motion, urging the government to draw short-term and long-term plans to upgrade navigational aids and promote of the capacity of the rescue teams and firemen.

U Aung Chit Lwin of Sagaing Region Constituency No.11 also urged the government to adopt the motion saying that the lives of local and foreigners are incomparably valuable than the cost for modern navigational aids.

Deputy Minister for Transport U Han Sein also seconded the motion and explained that the Department of Civil Aviation had been spending the 40 per cent of the income on extension of runways and upgrading navigational aids.

Besides, the department was also providing rescue and fire fighting to airports in case of emergency situation in accordance with the aircraft rescue and fire

fighting categories.

Four representatives discussed and seconded motion on urging the government to allow local people to work in lands which are included in the reserve and protective forest reserves designated by the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry tabled by U Saw Taw Pa Le of Kayin State Constituency No. 7.

U Win Tun, Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry, asked the Hluttaw to consider the motion as a record as the ministry has been coordinating with ministries concerned to allow the farmers who are working on the land in the reserve areas on various reasons to work on the land legally for their livelihood by April.

The Hluttaw decided to put the motion to a record.

NLM

Myanmar Writers’ Association issues statement on Printing and Publishing Bill

YANGON, 14 March—The CEC members of Myanmar Writers’ Association met this afternoon and issued a statement. The statement is as follows:

The Statement of Myanmar Writers’ Association on Printing and Publishing Bill (1/2013)

1. Members of Myanmar Writers’ Association have always indulged in literature and maintain mutual reliance with printers and publishers.
2. The Printing and Publishing Bill publicized in 27-2-2013 issue of dailies for public knowledge is found to be more flexible for printers and publishers than such existing laws as 1962 Printers and Publishers Registration Act and 1931 The Press (Emergency Powers) Act.
3. We, the central executive committee of Myanmar Writers’ Association, have put forward recommendations regarding the points we consider need amendment. We have nothing to object as to the other points.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives Chinese guests



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann receives Mr Wang Yingfan, Foreign Ministry’s special envoy on Asian Affairs of the People’s Republic of China.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March—Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe

Mann received a delegation led by Mr Wang Yingfan, Foreign Ministry’s special

envoy on Asian Affairs of the People’s Republic of China, at Zabuthiri hall of

Hluttaw building, here, this afternoon.

At the call, they exchanged views on local peace-making processes in Myanmar, further cementing relationships and mutual cooperation between Myanmar and China.

Present on the occasion together with the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker were Committee Chairmen U Thein Zaw, Thura U Aung Ko and U Hla Myint Oo, and officials of the Hluttaw Office. The Chinese delegation was accompanied by officials of the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar.

MNA

WCS President calls on Union Environmental Conservation and Forestry Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March—President and CEO of Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Dr Cristian Tomas Sampar and party

Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun at the ministry here this evening.

Three lakes dredged for local consumption, agricultural purpose



MEIKTILA, 14 March—Three lakes are being dredged in Kywekan Village of Meiktila Township in Mandalay Region on a self-reliant basis for development

of rural region.

“We would like to dredge the silted lakes for the local people. Indeed, the people relied on the lakes for drinking water

between Myanmar and WCS on conserving wildlife and flora and fauna in Myanmar, discussing the future plans.

MNA

consumption. The local authorities allowed K 2.4 on dredging the lake with K 500,000 contributions by the village,” said Deputy Head of Township Administration Department U Myo Thaik Tun.

Kywekan Village is constituted with over 1500 people of 250 households from 225 houses. The village is far from the town. Thanks to the lakes, water can be supplied to over 30 acres of farmlands.

“The local people are pleased with the project,” said Village Administrator U Khin Maung Shein.

On completion, three lakes will facilitate local people with sufficient drinking water so they have to maintain the durability of the lakes.—*Myanma Alinn*

Buddha Pujaniya of Shwethahlaung reclining Buddha image held in Mogaung

MOGAUNG, 14 March—A ceremony to open Buddha Pujaniya of Pylon Chantha Reclining Buddha Image was held at the archway of the pagoda in Zaygon Market of Mogaung in Kachin State on 5 March afternoon.

At first, Township Administrator U Tin Swe Myint, Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Aung Moe Naing,

Chairman of the organizing committee U Myo Win and members of the pagoda board of trustees formally opened the ceremony.

The ceremony was also attended by departmental personnel, members of Township Women’s Affairs Organization, the chairperson of Maternal and Child Welfare Association and members, village adminis-

trators, traditional cultural troupes and local people.

At the Buddha Pujaniya, there were festivities, sale rooms and performance of theatrical dramas for the local people from 5 to 12 March.

Myanma Alinn

Fish auction building fire in Pathein

PATHEIN, 14 March—A fire broke out at the building of Fish and Prawn Auction Market on Strand Road in Ward 7 of Pathein of Ayeyawady Region at 1 pm on 2 March.

Fire Sgt Maung Maung Tin and party of Pathein Township Fire Services Department put out the fire with the use of fire

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

Tour guide course concludes in Mandalay

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March—Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Tin Shwe made an inspection tour of Upper Myanmar branch and Restaurant (Beverages) Branch of Myanma Hotels and Tourism Services, Transport Branch, Myanma Tourism Service (Mandalay Branch) and Mandalay Swan Hotel in Aungmyethazan Township on 7 March.

On 10 March morning, the deputy minister delivered an address at the concluding ceremony of the tour guide course No 1/2013 at Zaygyo Hotel of Mandalay. He presented certificates to trainees. It was attended by 103 trainees.

While in Mandalay, he met the chairman of Myanmar Hoteliers Association (Mandalay Zone) and

executives, entrepreneurs, the chairman of Myanmar Transport Entrepreneurs Association (Mandalay Zone) and executive and explained functions of the ministry.

Later, the deputy minister visited the counter of Myanmar Tourism Service at Mandalay International Airport in TadaU.

MNA

Assistance provided for convenience of passengers at Myoma Market



NAY PYI TAW, 14 March—Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee

has fenced Myoma Market with two gates for convenience of passengers.

The market administrator said, “Chain links were used in fencing the market on the southern part and eastern part. Security personnel have been assigned duty at the market. Any car is not allowed at the car park,

except the allowed ones,” he continued.

The officials concerned provide necessary assistance for convenience of passengers. Therefore, motorcycle taxies and vehicle taxies are to abide by prescribed rules and regulations for convenience of the passengers.

Myanma Alinn

Self-reliant library put into service in Kyauktaw

KYAUKTAW, 14 March—The literary talks was given in conjunction with the opening of self-reliant Lawun Gaday library in Pauklay South Village in Kyauktaw Township on 6 March.

Writers Mahuya (Kyauktaw), Aung Soe (Kyauktaw), Byalakhain, Htet Myet Nwe (Kyauktaw), Bagyi Kyaw (Sittway) and Thu Myat (Mahaangmye) gave talks on raising reading habit and advantages of

reading.

It was attended by villagers, students and enthusiasts near and far.

Townelder U Aye Maung, Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Aye Mya Thein and Librarian U Maung Tha Zan formally opened the library.

Next, the head of Township IPRD handed over books and publications to the library through the librarian.—*Myanma Alinn*

Dancing contest for pre-primary students presented

YANGON, 14 March—With the aim of developing physical and moral knowledge of the children at Pre-Primary School level, Yangon Region Social Welfare Department organized the inter-pre-primary school dancing contest at the hall of University of Nursing (Yangon) on Bogyoke Aung San Street, here, on 6 February morning, attended by Head of Yangon Region Social Welfare Department U Tint Zaw Moe.

A total of 308 children from 29 pre-primary schools in the region participated in the contest showing off their

skills.

After the contest, Yangon Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Myint Thein and officials of Social Welfare Department presented gifts and certificates to the children.—*Myanma Alinn*



Head of Yangon Region Social Welfare Department U Tint Zaw Moe formally opens dancing contest of pre-primary students of Yangon Region.

REGIONAL

Xi elected Chinese president, chairman of PRC Central Military Commission

BEIJING, 14 March — Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, was elected president of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and chairman of the PRC Central Military Commission (CMC) on Thursday. The plenary meeting of the first session of the 12th National People's Congress (NPC) also elected Zhang Dejiang chairman of the NPC Standing Committee. Li Yuanchao was elected vice-president of the PRC.

Elected to vice chairpersons of the NPC Standing Committee were Li Jianguo, Wang Shengjun,

Chen Changzhi, Yan Junqi, Wang Chen, Shen Yueyue, Ji Bingxuan, Zhang Ping, Qiangba Puncog, Arken Imirbaki, Wan Exiang, Zhang Baowen and Chen Zhu. The post of Secretary-General of the NPC Standing Committee went to Wang Chen (concurrent). Also elected were 161 members of the 12th NPC Standing Committee.

According to the rules of election and appointment adopted at the NPC session, the elections of chairman, vice-chairpersons and Secretary-General of the 12th NPC Standing Committee, president and vice-president of the PRC, and

chairman of the CMC are non-competitive.

And the elections of the NPC Standing Committee members are competitive. This time, 161 members were elected out of 174 candidates, bringing the 7-percent margin in the previous election five years ago to 8 percent. Also at the meeting, NPC deputies adopted a massive cabinet restructuring and streamlining plan which aimed to reduce bureaucracy and make the government more efficient.

Xinhua



Xi Jinping greets deputies at the fourth plenary meeting of the first session of the 12th National People's Congress (NPC) in Beijing, capital of China, on 14 March, 2013.—XINHUA



A netizen surnamed Wang posted a photo of baby-shaped pears on Sina Weibo on 11 March, 2013, sparking an online debate about the vivid human-like fruit she bought at Sam's Club in Beijing's Yizhuang area.—XINHUA

Japan lower house approves BOJ nominees, upper house votes on Friday

TOKYO, 14 March—Japan's lower house of parliament approved Haruhiko Kuroda as the next Governor of the Bank of Japan on Thursday, heralding a shift to more aggressive monetary easing aimed at ending nearly 20 years of deflation. The lower house also approved government nominees Kikuo Iwata and Hiroshi Nakaso to serve as the BOJ's two deputy governors. Passage was guaranteed in the lower house, where Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) has a majority.

The LDP lacks a majority in the upper house, but the government's nominations are expected to be passed by

that chamber on Friday with support from opposition parties. Approval in both houses of parliament is necessary for the nominees to take control of the central bank after its current leadership steps down on 19 March. Kuroda, 68, and Iwata, 70, spoke at confirmation hearings in favour of buying government debt with longer durations to expand the BOJ's balance sheet and boost inflation expectations. Nakaso, 59, also supported increased asset purchases to meet Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's ambitious target of 2 percent inflation. The BOJ has agreed to buy assets or make loans totaling 101 trillion yen (\$1.1 trillion) by the end of this

year, part of which includes buying government bonds with a maturity of up to three years.

Expectations are growing that Kuroda will move quickly to extend the duration of Japanese government bonds that the central bank buys at the next scheduled meeting on 3-4 April. Abe picked the three nominees to fulfill his pledge to overhaul monetary policy and shake off persistent deflation, a symptom of years of stop-start growth. Kuroda is a career bureaucrat from Japan's finance ministry and will leave his position as president of the Asian Development Bank to lead the BOJ.

Iwata is an academic



The Japanese government's nominee for Bank of Japan (BOJ) governor Haruhiko Kuroda attends a hearings session at the upper house of the parliament in Tokyo on 11 March, 2013.—REUTERS

who has studied inflation targeting and shares Kuroda's view that the BOJ needs to increase debt purchases to reach 2 percent inflation in two years.—Reuters

Japan eyes sending officials to attend new pope's inauguration

TOKYO, 14 March—The Japanese government said on Thursday it plans to dispatch officials to attend the inauguration ceremony for Pope Francis I, following the election of Jorge Mario Bergoglio as new leader of the Roman Catholic Church. "We extend a sincere welcome," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters.

"We hope we will be able to further favourable relations with the Vatican."

The top government spokesman also said Tokyo "definitely wants to send appropriate persons" to the inauguration Mass, scheduled for Tuesday. He added the government has yet to determine whether it will dispatch a Cabinet minister.

Kyodo News

Malaysian national arrested for overstaying

KOILANDY (Ker), 14 March—A Malaysian national has been arrested here for overstaying in the country, police said today.

28-year-old Latif Bin Abdul Jameen was arrested under the Foreigners Registration Act and was pro-

duced before a local court which remanded him in judicial custody yesterday.

Jameen had been staying in the country for the last six months and studying in an institution, police said. Koilandy is in Kerala's Kozhikode District.—PTI

Chief justice to lead Nepal's interim government to elections

KATHMANDU, 14 March —Nepal's chief justice will take over as the head of an interim unity government on Thursday, the country's main political parties said, a move aimed at ending a political deadlock in a nation still recovering from a decade of civil war. Khil Raj

Regmi will replace Maoist Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai and head the new administration until a national election is held, the parties said. The appointment is expected to end a stalemate which has left the Himalayan republic without a parliament for nearly

a year. It increases the chances of an early election in June to choose an assembly to complete the drafting of Nepal's first constitution after the abolition of the 239-year-old monarchy in 2008.

"The country is now headed to elections. The uneasy political period is over," said Ram Chandra Paudel, a senior leader of the centrist opposition Nepali Congress party. The appointment of Regmi, the chief justice of the Supreme Court, is seen as a compromise solution worked out by the country's feuding political parties, who were unable to agree on a political candidate for the job. The opposition had demanded that Bhattarai, a former Maoist rebel leader, quit in favor of a caretaker government to oversee delayed elections.—Reuters



Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai (4th L) with the leader of four major political parties sign an agreement to form a government led by chief justice Khilraj Regmi in Kathmandu on 13 March, 2013.—REUTERS

DGP to conduct inquiry into suicide attack on CRPF camp



Srinagar, 14 March —Jammu and Kashmir government has asked State Director General of Police Ashok Prasad to conduct a detailed inquiry into the suicide attack on a CRPF camp and killing of a youth in alleged firing by security forces on yesterday.

"The DGP, who is camping in Srinagar, will be making a detailed inquiry into the happenings," an official spokesman said after a high-level meeting chaired by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah late last night.—PTI

Pak police detain child 'bombers'

ISLAMABAD, 14 March —Pakistani police today claimed they had arrested 11 children, some as young as 10, who were allegedly being used by Baloch mili-

itants for "subversive activities" like planting bombs in Quetta.

The children were detained during a raid conducted late last night but the

seven men who had lured them managed to escape, Quetta police chief Mir Zubair Mahmood told a news conference.

PTI

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV MERKUR BRIDGE VOY NO (032)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERKUR BRIDGE VOY NO (032) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-3.2013 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 MOL (S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV TOPAZ ACE VOY NO (1)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TOPAZ ACE VOY NO (1) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-3.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: FORTUNE SHIPPING & AGENCY PTE LTD

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV ER TURKU VOY NO (013)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ER TURKU VOY NO (013) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-3.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: M/S HAN JIN SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV HAN XIN VOY NO (12203)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HAN XIN VOY NO (12203) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.3.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: M/S SHANGHAI HENGXIN SHIPPING CO LTD

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

ENGAGEMENT

It is hereby announced that

Mr. JORGE FONG

Software Developer

for the City of New York (DOITT)

son of Mr. BENJAMIN FONG CHEN & Mrs. MEKEN CHI HOM

of No. 2146, 71st Street, Brooklyn NY-11204, USA

AND

AYE THANDAR (a) JULIA KYI

B.A (History)

Chinese Language Teacher

daughter of U MAUNG AYE & DAW LAY NWE

of No. 66/D, Strand Road, Ahlone Township, Yangon

were duly engaged on **6th March 2013** at Western Park Restaurant before parents of both families, elders, relatives and friends.

Parents of both families and

Mr. Jorge Fong+Aye Thandar (a) Julia Kyi

Offices of three Greek MPs targeted with makeshift bombs

ATHENS, 14 March — The political offices of three members of Greece's parliament were targeted with small makeshift bombs in the northern Greece city of Thessaloniki on Tuesday evening.

The attacks against the offices of Deputy Environment Minister Stavros Kalafatis and two other deputies of the ruling conservative party occurred at about the same time and caused only material damages, according to local authorities. The explosive devices were made with gas canisters, as in several

attacks by Greek guerilla groups which have targeted politicians and businesses for years, causing casualties in some cases.

Extremists have linked recent attacks with the acute debt crisis which has hit Greece since 2009, blasting the political and financial system. "Terrorism acts do not daunt the government. In democracy decisions are taken by people through elections and parliamentarians, not masked bombers," government spokesman Simos Kedikoglou commented.

Xinhua

Suspected H1N1 flu kills five in Libya

TRIPOLI, 14 March — Five deaths have been confirmed among the 29 suspected cases of influenza A (H1N1) virus infections in Libya, Health Minister Noor Eddin Dughman told a Press conference on Tuesday.

According to the health ministry, four deaths were reported in the eastern city of Darnah and the other in

Zawya city, some 50 km west of Tripoli. And patients from 10 other suspected cases have been hospitalized in Tripoli. Mohamed Bu Ghalya, director of Libya's communicable diseases centre, told Xinhua that symptoms of the infections include severe acute respiratory illness with fever, and some patients even fell into a coma.

All medical institutions in Libya are geared for the epidemic and patients will receive prompt medical treatment before results of laboratory tests come out, said Ghalya. The H1N1 virus, which caused a global pandemic in 2009 and 2010, has now transformed into a seasonal flu virus, a "hybrid" of a number of swine and avian flu viruses.—Xinhua



Photo taken on 12 March, 2013 shows the crowd in the subway in Paris, capital of France. According to Meteo France, the country's weather agency, two departments were put under red alert and 27 others including Paris and suburbs under orange alert on predicted heavy snowfall till Wednesday morning. XINHUA

Russian forces kill seven suspected militants in Caucasus

MOSCOW, 14 March — Russian security forces killed seven suspected militants in the restive North Caucasus Province of Kabardino-Balkaria on Tuesday, the Interfax news agency reported.

Three suspected militants were killed when security forces fired on two cars whose drivers did not respond to demands to show identification documents,

Interfax cited unidentified law enforcement officials as saying.

Separately, the agency also quoted Russia's federal anti-terrorist committee as saying four more alleged militants, suspected of illegal arms sales, were killed in the same province on Tuesday and another eight people were arrested.

The reports made no mention of any casualties

among security forces. Police could not immediately be reached for comment and the Interfax account of the violence could not be independently confirmed.

Deadly exchanges of gunfire between police and suspected militants are common at road checkpoints and elsewhere in Russia's North Caucasus, a string of provinces hit by an Islamist insurgency root-

ed in two separatist wars in Chechnya. Kabardino-Balkaria, west of Chechnya, is mostly Muslim but has a sizable Christian minority.

President Vladimir Putin's 13 years in power have been marred by violence in the North Caucasus, and attacks by the insurgents elsewhere, and he has called repeatedly for ethnic and religious peace during a new term that started last May.

The region is in the spotlight before the 2014 Winter Olympics Russia will host in the Black Sea resort of Sochi at the western end of the Caucasus mountain range.—Reuters

Ammonia leak at ice plant, ten fall sick

DIAMOND HARBOUR (WB), 14 March — At least 10 persons fell sick due to ammonia gas leak from an ice factory at Mandir bazar in South 24 Parganas Dis-

trict this evening, police said. Police said two fire tenders were at work to plug the leak which was preceded by a fire in the ice plant at Polerhaat area.

Some of those who fell sick were taken to Diamond Harbour hospital while others were being treated at different nearby nursing homes, they said—PTI

People visit the 2013 international air traffic control exhibition on 12 March, 2013. The three-day event with exhibitors from 116 countries and regions demonstrates all kinds of the latest air traffic technic and equipments. XINHUA



ENTERTAINMENT

Hollywood cyber scandal: this website posts celebrities' financial details

LOS ANGELES, 14 March—Authorities and celebrities were grappling on Monday with how to respond to a website that posted what appears to be private financial information about top government officials and stars such as Jay-Z and Mel Gibson.

Los Angeles police said they were investigating how the Social Security number, address and a credit report of the police chief ended up on the site.

The site also posted the same information about FBI Director Robert Mueller; the bureau said it was aware of the site but declined to say whether it was investigating.

The site also targeted stars such as Beyonce, Ashton Kutcher, Kim Kardashian and Paris Hilton. Info posted about Vice President Joe Biden and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton did not include credit reports but included addresses and other sensitive information.

Social

Security numbers posted on Gibson, Jay-Z and others matched records in public databases.

The site, which bears an Internet suffix originally assigned to the Soviet Union, expanded throughout the day Monday to add entries on Britney Spears, former vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin and others.

It did not state how the information was obtained or why the 11 people targeted on the site were selected, describing the records only as "secret files." A Twitter profile linked to the site and created after its existence was first reported by celebrity website TMZ included an anti-police message in Russian.

Several of the purported credit reports appear to have been generated last week.

Representatives for each person targeted either declined to

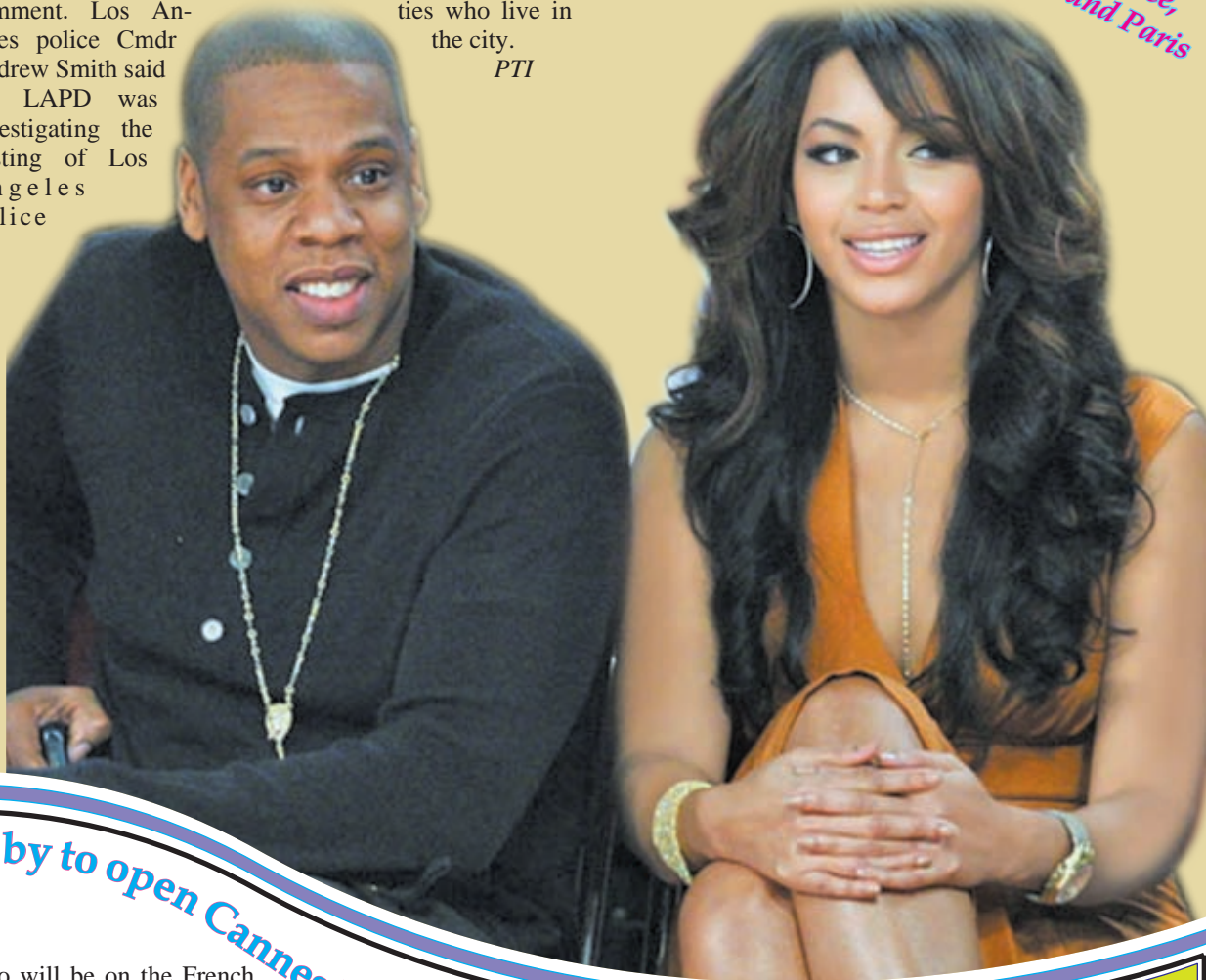
comment on the accuracy of the information that was posted, or they did not return messages seeking

comment. Los Angeles police Cmdr Andrew Smith said the LAPD was investigating the posting of Los Angeles Police

Chief Charlie Beck's information and would also investigate the posting of info on any celebrities who live in the city.

PTI

The site targeted stars such as Beyonce, Ashton Kutcher, Kim Kardashian and Paris Hilton.



Amitabh Bachchan's The Great Gatsby to open Cannes Film Festival

Amitabh Bachchan shares screen space with Leonardo DiCaprio and Tobey Maguire in The Great Gatsby.

NEW DELHI, 14 March—Stargazers now have a double whammy to look forward to when the Cannes Film Festival begins this year in May. Aishwarya Rai, who has never missed a Cannes appearance since 2000, will be in the company of father-in-law Amitabh Bachchan

who will be on the French Riviera as part of the team of The Great Gatsby which will open the festival.

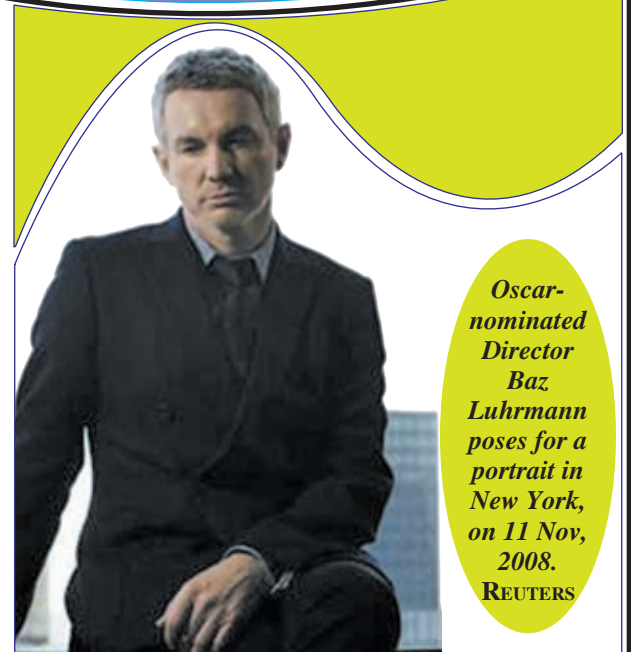
Amitabh Bachchan posted on Facebook: FB 145 — Baz Luhrmann informs me that The Great Gatsby has been officially selected for the opening film for Cannes film festival on 15th May .. all very excited ! And the premier of the film in New York on May 1st as told to me ... but yet to be confirmed .. So travel coming up for these occasions.

Mr Bachchan will be joined by director Baz Luhrmann, co-star Leonardo Di Caprio and rapper Jay-Z as the curtain goes

up on this edition of the Cannes festival. The film will also release in theatres across France on the same day.

Mr Bachchan, 70, makes his Hollywood debut in Moulin Rouge director Luhrmann's film adaptation of F Scott Fitzgerald's Jazz-era novel, set against the backdrop of high society in 1920s America and featuring the rich and mysterious Jay Gatsby as the central figure.

PTI



Oscar-nominated Director Baz Luhrmann poses for a portrait in New York, on 11 Nov, 2008. REUTERS

New Mickey Mouse cartoons coming to Disney Channel

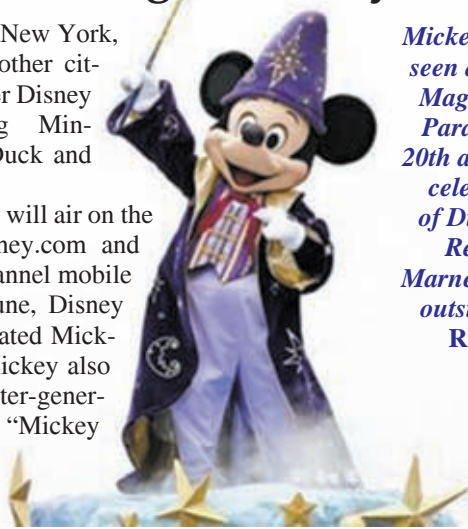
NEW YORK, 14 March— New Mickey Mouse cartoons will come to TV this summer when the Disney Channel premieres a series of short cartoons featuring the comic antics of the 85-year-old children's character with contemporary touches.

The 19 cartoons, each a couple minutes long, are being produced with 2D animation to pay homage to the artistry of Walt Disney and his animators in the 1920s and 1930s, Walt Disney Co said in a statement on Tuesday.

Mickey will appear in modern settings, such as riding a motorcycle through Paris.

He also will visit New York, Beijing, Venice and other cities and encounter other Disney characters, including Minnie Mouse, Donald Duck and Goofy.

The new cartoons will air on the Disney Channel, disney.com and the Watch Disney Channel mobile app starting on 28 June, Disney said. Walt Disney created Mickey Mouse in 1928. Mickey also appears in the computer-generated animated series "Mickey Mouse Clubhouse" on the Disney Channel.—Reuters



Mickey Mouse is seen during the Magic Disney Parade at the 20th anniversary celebrations of Disneyland Resort in Marne-la-Vallee, outside Paris. REUTERS

Teenaged Olympic athlete Douglas to publish second memoir

NEW YORK, 14 March—Olympic gold medallist Gabrielle Douglas, not yet 18, will publish her second memoir next month, publisher Zondervan said on Tuesday. Douglas, 17, a gold medal winner at the 2012 Summer Olympics in individual all-around gymnastics competition, will publish "Raising the Bar", a follow-up to her 2012 best-selling memoir "Grace, Gold & Glory: My Leap of Faith", on April 30,

the publishers said in a release. Zondervan is a division of HarperCollins that specializes in Christian-oriented books. The book will offer a behind-the-scenes look into Douglas' life, including colour photos, personal stories and details on the athlete's present-day life - from walking red carpets and appearing on TV shows such as "The Vampire Diaries" while also making time for friends, family and training.—Reuters

SPORTS

Chelsea versus Man United FA Cup replay to be played on 1 April

LONDON, 14 March— Holders Chelsea and Manchester United will replay their FA Cup quarter-final at Stamford Bridge on 1 April, the Football Association said in a statement on Wednesday.

The match, on the Easter Monday holiday, will kick off at 12.30 local.

Chelsea came from two goals down to draw 2-2 with the Premier League leaders at Old Trafford last Sunday. The winners will play Manchester City in the

semi-finals.

The replay has imposed a busy schedule on the West Londoners, who said a league match scheduled at Southampton on 31 March would now be played on 30 March instead.

The European champions are also still in the Europa League and have a last 16 second leg at home against Steaua Bucharest on Thursday that could lead to a quarter-final first leg on 4 April.

Reuters



Chelsea's Fernando Torres (C) puts a bib on during a training session at Cobham in Surrey southern England on 13 March, 2013.—REUTERS

Bayern book last eight spot despite 2-0 defeat by Arsenal

MUNICH, 14 March— Lacklustre Bayern Munich advanced to the Champions League quarter-finals on Wednesday despite losing 2-0 to Arsenal in Munich to book their ticket on the away goals rule.

Olivier Giroud netted in the third minute to give the Gunners early hope after their 3-1 first leg defeat last month as they tried to become only the third team ever to advance in the knockout stage after losing the first leg at home.

Laurent Koscielny set up a nervous finale when he headed in their second goal five minutes from time but Arsenal failed to grab a third that would have sent them through.

Arsenal's exit means that there will be no Champions League quarter-finalist from England for the first time since the 1995/96 season although the Gunners returned with their pride restored after becoming the first English team to win away against Bayern since Norwich City in the 1993/94 season.

Despite a string of key absences, including forward Lukas Podolski and Jack Wilshere, Arsenal shot

out of the blocks and made good on their promise of an early goal when Theo Walcott cut into the box and slid the ball across for Frenchman Giroud to ram the ball into the net after three minutes.

Bayern kept their cool and gradually took control of the game, helped by Arsenal's sloppy passing, and had a chance of their own with Luiz Gustavo firing over the bar from just outside the box after 10 minutes.—Reuters



Laurent Koscielny of Arsenal and Bayern Munich's Mario Mandzukic (R) compete for the ball during their Champions League round of 16 second leg match in Munich on 13 March, 2013.—REUTERS

United look for return to form against Reading

LONDON, 14 March— Eliminated from the Champions League and almost knocked out of the FA Cup, Manchester United return to the relatively calmer waters of the Premier League when they host relegation-threatened and managerless Reading on Saturday.

United, who have won 14 of their last 16 league games, are 12 points clear of second-placed champions Manchester City and can take another step towards an unprecedented 20th title while pushing Reading closer to the drop.

The visitors, who sacked manager Brian McDermott on Monday and are set to be in the hands of youth academy coach Eamonn Dolan on Saturday, have never won at Old Trafford and have only ever beaten Manchester United once - in an FA Cup match in 1927.



Reading's manager Brian McDermott (L) rubs his face as he watches from the touchline during their FA Cup soccer match against Manchester United at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England, on 18 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

Reading have lost twice to United this season, 4-3 at home in the league and 2-1 away in the FA Cup and whoever takes over from McDermott, with ex-Swindon Town boss Paolo Di Canio the favourite, has a huge task on his hands to keep them up.

McDermott, who took Reading up last season and was named manager of the month for January, was sacked after his side lost a fourth successive league game to Aston Villa last weekend.

Di Canio, who was at the match, told British me-

dia this week: "I believe I am at a stage now where I am a Premier League or Championship (second tier) manager and want to go to an ambitious club with a winning mentality."

Reading will certainly need that to stay up as they are four points adrift of safety in 19th place with nine matches to play, level on 23 points with bottom side Queens Park Rangers who have improved their chances of late.

QPR will be looking for a third win in a row when they visit 17th-placed strugglers Villa also on Saturday.

Wigan Athletic, who surprisingly reached the FA Cup semi-finals for the first time when they won 3-0 at Everton on Saturday, are the other side in the drop zone and need a win at home to Newcastle United on Sunday.—Reuters

Red Bull will set pace at Albert Park, says Alonso

MELBOURNE, 14 March— Red Bull kept their cards close to their chest in winter testing and it would be a surprise if the Formula One champions were not setting the pace at the season-opening Australian Grand Prix, according to Ferrari's Fernando Alonso.

"I'm not sure about McLaren but Red Bull 100 percent they didn't push the limit of the car because they have this advantage of the last three years that they have a very dominant car, and they feel comfortable," the Spaniard told reporters at the team's Melbourne launch on Thursday.

"They feel optimistic and they will use the full potential in the race when arrives the time."

Red Bull finished winter testing in Spain with lit-

tle fanfare, with reigning champion Sebastian Vettel, the only driver among the leading five teams not to have topped the end-of-day timesheets, suggesting they had not ticked all the boxes.

While Alonso expected Red Bull to have maintained their edge, he was thrilled with Ferrari's new F138 car, describing it after testing as "200 times better" than its predecessor.

"It will be a surprise if Red Bull is not in front of everybody after the advantage they had last year, but I am also confident, and I am optimistic that we have reduced this gap a lot," added Alonso, dressed in a pair of jeans and a team shirt.

"So, maybe we are not the fastest, but we are not 1.5 seconds behind as we were last year."



Ferrari's Formula One driver Fernando Alonso of Spain drives during a training session at Circuit de Catalunya racetrack in Montmelo, near Barcelona on 1 March, 2013.—REUTERS

Alonso, who won championships with Renault in 2005 and 2006, finished second behind triple world champion Vettel last year despite his F2012 car being plagued by mechanical problems for much of the season.

It was the second time he had finished runner-up to the German in three years and Alonso said it was time

to change the equation in his fourth season with Ferrari.

Key to that would be a podium spot in the season-opener at Albert Park circuit, said the Spaniard, who has grim memories of last year's race when he finished fifth after starting 12th on the grid courtesy of a spin onto the gravel during qualifying.—Reuters

Federer battles into last eight at Indian Wells

INDIAN WELLS, (California), 14 March— Defending champion Roger Federer rode his luck to battle past fellow Swiss Stanislas Wawrinka a 6-3, 6-7, 7-5 and reach the quarter-finals of the BNP Paribas Open on Wednesday.

Federer, a four-times champion at Indian Wells, appeared to be in cruise control when serving for the match at 5-4 in the second set but was broken to love before his opponent went on to clinch the tiebreak 7-4.

The players traded early breaks of serve in the third set before Federer sealed the

win by again breaking Wawrinka in the 12th game when his Davis Cup partner netted a forehand.

"I definitely got a bit lucky here tonight," Federer said courtside after coming out on top of a fluctuating contest lasting two hours 20 minutes. "But I'm very happy to come

through against Stan, who is a very good friend of mine."

Federer, who improved his record against Wawrinka to 13-1, will next face either twice champion Rafa Nadal of Spain or Latvian qualifier Ernests Gulbis, who play later in the day. In other matches,



Roger Federer

sixth-seeded Czech Tomas Berdych eased past Frenchman Richard

Gasquet 6-1, 7-5 while eight-seeded Jo-Wilfried Tsonga came from a set down to beat Canada's Milos Raonic 4-6, 7-5, 6-4. In a showdown between two power servers, Raonic blasted down 12 aces to Tsonga's seven but the Canadian made a double fault when serving at 30-40 for the contest to end in just under two hours.

Earlier, big-serving South African Kevin Anderson became the first player to reach the last eight, and his second ATP Masters 1000 quarter-final, with a 6-3, 1-6, 6-4 victory over Frenchman Gilles Simon.—Reuters

GENERAL

China's robot sector witnesses increasing demand

BEIJING, 14 March—The robot market in China is showing promising signs as workers get replaced due to soaring labour costs, according to Thursday's *China Securities Journal*.

The country's industrial robot sector has climbed about 30 percent in the past five years. However, the number of industrial robots is about 10 percent of that in Japan and about 25 percent of Germany, indicating huge market space, according to

Ping An Securities market analysis.

The situation is reminiscent of Japan in the 1980s, when its robot sector climbed nearly 50 percent in ten years due to hiking labour costs, Ping An said, forecasting the Chinese robot sector to gain 30 percent in the next three years.

A total of 22,577 robots were sold in China in 2011, up 50.7 percent from 2010, and the country is now the market with the quickest

growth of robots, according to Sinolink Securities.

The domestic robot market is dominated by producers from Japan, Europe and the United States, while Chinese companies only take less than 10 percent of the total, according to Dongxing Securities.

The country's robot producers may gradually win about 30 percent of domestic market, according to China Galaxy Securities.

Xinhua

Plane crash kills ten in northern Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 14 March—Ten people were killed when their single-engine plane crashed in the small town of Almeirim, in northern Brazil, local authorities said on Wednesday. The plane disappeared from the radar screens late Tuesday, but the debris was not found until Wednesday morning because the crash site is in a densely forested region. There were no survivors, authorities said.

The plane, a single-engine Embraer 821-Caraja, took off from Belem, Para state's capital, and crashed only 20 kilometres away from the city's Monte Dourado airport. The names of the victims were not disclosed.

The plane, which belonged to air charter company Fretax, was transporting nine employees of engineering company Cesbe to the Santo Antonio do Jari hydroelectric power

plant, which is being building in neighbouring Amapa state.

The cause of the accident remains unknown and will be investigated by aviation authorities. Both Fretax and Cesbe released statements regretting the incident and saying they are providing assistance to the victims' families. Fretax said the pilot had been in good health and the plane's inspections were up to date.—Xinhua

Eight-year-old boy marries 61-year-old woman



BEIJING, 14 March—An eight-year-old schoolboy has married a 61-year-old woman because the ghost of his dead ancestor told him to. Sanele Masilela tied the knot with Helen Shabangu, who is already married and a mother-of-five. The boy, from Tshwane, South Africa, said he had been told by his dead ancestors to wed and his family, fearing divine retribution, forked out for a wedding. They paid £500 for the bride and a further £1,000 for the big day, which was

organized in just two months.

Dressed in a bow tie and tiny silver suit, little Sanele, the youngest of five children, exchanged rings in front of 100 guests and even puckered up for a kiss.

It's already shocked the community but the family has defended the ceremony, saying it was just a ritual and not legally binding. Sanele's 46-year-old mum, Patience Masilela said: 'This is the first time this has happened in the family.' Sanele is named after his grandfather,

who was never had a white wedding before he died so asked Sanele to get married. He chose Helen because he loves her.' By doing this we made the ancestors happy. If we hadn't done what my son had asked then something bad would have happened in the family.

'I didn't have a problem with it because I know it's what the ancestors wanted and it would make them happy.' The widow, who works at a recycling centre, added: 'I would say that this is not wrong.' Sanele was fine and he was happy about the ceremony and it was what he wanted. He was happy to get married and very excited.' Sanele and his bride did not sign a marriage certificate and do not have to live together. Both have gone back to their normal lives. Sanele today said he hoped he would have a proper wedding to a woman his

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL
(15-3-13 09:30 am ~ 16-3-13 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * Vanishing Treasure of Myanmar
- * The Pindaya Natural Cave
- * Music
- * National Herbal Park (Part-I)
- * News
- * Sail with SMEs in the Life's Sea
- * People's Voice (Pedestrian)
- * News
- * "Great Shwedagon" (Episode-4) The Historic Bell on the Platform of Shwedagon Pagoda
- * About Yangon Art Solo Show
- * News
- * US-Myanmar Trade and Investment Relations: the path Forward
- * Commax Products Launching Ceremony
- * News
- * The Beauty in the North of Myanmar
- * Sall with SMEs in the Life's Sea
- * People's Voice
- * News
- * "Insight Myanmar" Prisons Department (Part-1)
- * Myanmar Movies "The Spouse And The Lover"

Myanmar TV
(15-3-2013, Friday)

7:00 am	1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw	Education (TV Lectures) First Year (Chemistry)
7:25 am	2. Health Programme	4:50 pm 16. Musical Programme
7:30 am	3. Morning News	5:00 pm 17. Myanmar Language
7:40 am	4. International News	5:10 pm 18. Documentary
7:50 am	5. Nice & Sweet Song	5:25 pm 19. India Drama Series
8:00 am	6. Traditional Game	6:00 pm 20. Evening News
8:05 am	7. Teleplay (Agri)	6:15 pm 21. Weather Report
8:15 am	8. The Mirror Images of The Musical Oldies	6:20 pm 22. Amazing World
8:25 am	9. Teleplay (Health)	6:50 pm 23. TV Drama Series
8:50 am	10. Musical Programme	7:00 pm 24. News
4:00 pm	11. Opening Song	7:10 pm 25. TV Drama Series
4:05 pm	12. Song For Upholding National Spirt	8:00 26. News
4:15 pm	13. Song of National Races	27. People Talks
4:20 pm	14. Song of Yester Years	28. International News
4:35 pm	15. University Of Distance	29. Weather Report
		30. Documentary
		31. Auroa Music Band
		10:00 pm 32. News
		33. Teleplay

Courier wants attitude change on US Davis Cup team

NEW YORK, 14 March—US Davis Cup captain Jim Courier would like to see an attitude change in his singles players when the Americans take on Serbia and world number one Novak Djokovic in a quarter-finals tie next month in Boise, Idaho.

Courier said on Wednesday he expected to use the same team that beat Brazil 3-2 in their first-round tie, and wanted John Isner and Sam Querrey to show more "street-fighting" spirit in the April 5-7 matches at the Taco Bell Arena.

The US captain, a fiery competitor during his playing days, feels Isner and Querrey both have a tendency to show negative body language when things are not going their way.

"I don't love that in any player, let alone players that play

for the United States. I'm more of a believer of faking it if you're not feeling good than showing someone that you're down," Courier said during a conference call.

"I know everyone's different. You can't expect everyone to just immediately snap-to when you ask them to put up a little bit more of a street-fighter front."

"But I'd like our guys to be more street fighters on our team. I like them to walk around with their chests out. Sam and John can absolutely bulldoze almost any player on tour if they're playing well.

Besides attitude, Courier hopes the altitude can be another element in favour of the US, underdogs against 2010 Davis Cup champions Serbia who are led by Djokovic, who won this year's Australian Open for his sixth grand slam title.—Reuters



US team captain Jim Courier attends the Davis Cup quarter-final tennis match at the Monaco Country Club in Roquebrune Cap Martin on 7 April, 2012.—REUTERS

Maduro says "very difficult" to preserve Chavez's body

CARACAS, 14 March—Venezuelan Acting President Nicolas Maduro on Wednesday admitted that it would be "very difficult" to embalm the body of late President Hugo Chavez due to technical reasons.

Maduro said scientists

from Russia and Germany had arrived in the country for the embalming process, but the preservation was expected "to be quite difficult" because technical preparations should have started earlier than before.

Chavez's body has

been kept in the chapel of Military Academy for a week, following the official announcement of his death on 5 March.

Maduro said on March 7 that the body of the political leader would be embalmed and displayed in

a glass case of Revolution Museum so that "people can see forever," a decision made "out of love" and raised by military chiefs and some foreign leaders who attended Chavez's funeral last Friday.

Xinhua

Vice-President Dr. Sai Mauk Kham congratulates Chinese Vice President

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March—His Excellency Dr. Sai Mauk Kham, Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Mr. Li Yuanchao, Vice President of the People’s Republic of China, on his election as the Vice President of the People’s Republic of China at 12th National People’s Congress of China today.—MNA

Vice-President U Nyan Tun congratulates Chinese Vice President

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March—His Excellency U Nyan Tun, Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Mr. Li Yuanchao, Vice President of the People’s Republic of China, on his election as the Vice President of the People’s Republic of China at 12th National People’s Congress of China today.—MNA

Myanmar will take concrete steps for successful holding 6th ACMECS Summit: Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham



Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham attends the 5th ACMECS Summit at Grand Ballroom of Don Chan Palace Hotel in Vientiane of LPDR.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham attended the 5th ACMECS Summit at Grand Ballroom of Don Chan Palace Hotel in Vientiane of the LPDR yesterday morning.

First, Laotian Prime Minister Mr. Thongsing Thammavong, chairman of the Summit, made an opening address. In his speech, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk

Kham shared his belief that ongoing tasks would be able to pick up momentum through coordination and ACMECS nations saw progress in eight sectors. Regarding transport

cooperation sector, he pledged for implementation of economic corridors among member countries. He stressed the need for private sector to realize the action plan and called

for further cooperation with development partner countries to be able to fulfill the requirements of projects, technological and capital needs. He confirmed Myanmar will host the 6th ACMECS Summit.

Then Thai and Vietnamese Prime Ministers and the ASEAN Secretary-General delivered addresses.

At the summit, leaders adopted the Vientiane Declaration and ACMECS action programme for the 2013-2015 period the Declaration and approved the designated venue where the 6th ACMECS is going to be held.

In his address for the coming 6th ACMECS that Myanmar will hold, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham said that the 5th ACMECS summit could review cooperation process among five ACMECS countries approved at the previous summit and approve work programme for 2013-2015. Myanmar would take concrete steps for the success of holding the 6th ACMECS summit. He urged

the member countries to join hands in it.

The Summit came to end with concluding remarks by the Laotian Prime Minister.

At the 5th Summit, leaders reaffirmed their commitment to implementing the targets of the Bagan Declaration for the sake of good neighbourliness, peace, stability and sustainable development in the region.

Moreover, the Summit reviewed the implementation of the Phnom Penh Declaration and the 2010-2012 action programme and leaders appreciated cooperation fields such as trade and investment, transport, agriculture, industry and energy, healthcare, tourism and human resource development.

At the Summit, participants vowed to double the efforts of member countries individually and collectively for the sake of ACMECS nations and their people.

MNA

Japanese special envoy affirms commitment to end armed conflict in Myanmar

YANGON, 14 March—Special Envoy of the Japanese Government to National Reconciliation in Myanmar Chairman of Nippon Foundation Mr Yokei Sasakawa promised to cooperate with Myanmar government to end the armed conflict that Myanmar has experienced for over 60 years.

The special envoy reaffirmed the Japanese government’s commitment to help Myanmar bring about national reconciliation in

a press conference at Inya Lake Hotel here yesterday evening.

The Japanese government has also planned to give assistance in hardware development of Myanmar, said the special envoy who has been here to supervise provision of humanitarian supplies to Kachin State.

He also invited suggestions from the journalists regarding the humanitarian assistance for ethnic people in Myanmar.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March—U Nyan Tun, Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr Wang Yingfan, Special Envoy of the Foreign Ministry on Asian Affairs of the People’s Republic of China at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, this afternoon.

Present at the call together with the Vice-President were Deputy Minister at the President Office U Aung Thein and

departmental officials. Mr Wang Yingfan was accompanied by Charge d’ Affaires ai Mr Lu Zhi of Chinese Embassy and officials.

They discussed further cementing relationships between Myanmar and China, China’s assistance to peace-making processes in Myanmar, prevalence of peace and stability in the border common and development of socio-economic status of the peoples.—MNA

Vice-President U Nyan Tun receives Special Envoy on Asian Affairs of PRC

Vice-President U Nyan Tun shaking hands with Mr Wang Yingfan, Special Envoy of the Foreign Ministry on Asian Affairs of PRC.

MNA

