

## President U Thein Sein sends messages of felicitations to President, Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Karolos PAPOULIAS, President of the Hellenic Republic and His Excellency Mr. Antonios SAMARAS, Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic, on the occasion of the National Day of the Hellenic Republic, which falls on 25 March 2013.

MNA

## President Office offers a day meal to SSMNC Sayadaws

NAY PYI TAW, 24 March—The President Office offered day meals to members of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Tipitakadara Tipitakakovida Sayadaws and Religious title recipients in 2013 today.

President U Thein Sein attended the ceremony at Sasana Beikman of Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw.

Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Mya Thein, Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye, Deputy Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa and wife Dr Daw Myint Htay, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief

deputy ministers, and departmental heads.

Chairman of SSMNC Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhamo Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa delivered a sermon.

The President donated offertories to the Bhamo Sayadaw.

State Ovacariya



President U Thein Sein donates alms to a Sayadaw at the ceremony to offer day meal to member Sayadaws of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee.—MNA



President U Thein Sein, Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun and party offer day meal to Sayadaws of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee member Sayadaws.—MNA

Also present on the occasion were Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, Vice-President U Nyan Tun and wife Daw Khin Aye Myint, Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, Daw Kyu Kyu Hla wife of Commander-in-Chief of

(Army) General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win, Union ministers, the Union auditor-general, the chairman of Union Civil Service Board, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command,

Sayadaw Abbot of Pyinmana's Maha Visutarama Zaygon Monastery Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Kavisara led the congregation to share merits gained.

The President and party then offered a day meal to Sayadaws.—MNA

## Bill to be drafted for protection of women against violence

NAY PYI TAW, 24 March—A inception workshop on drafting bill on preventing violence against women took place at Thingaha Hotel here yesterday. It was attended by Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Social Development Committee U Maung Maung Swe and Hluttaw representatives, President of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Daw Mya Mya, President of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Dr Daw Mon Mon Aung, departmental personnel and members of Gender Equality Network (GEN).

The Social Welfare Department, according to its director-general, would compile record on violence against women on a national scale in cooperation with the GEN. The department in coordination with GEN is formulating protective law for women against violence observing the similar laws from ASEAN countries and Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and Australia, added the director-general.

The workshop concluded today.

MNA

## MWAF organizes talks on women and cultural sector and legal affairs sector

NAY PYI TAW, 24 March—Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation organized talks on women and cultural sector and legal affairs at Thiri Yadana Hall, here, on 22 March. It was attended by Patrons of MWAF Daw

Ni Ni Win, Daw Kyin Khaing, Daw Mya Theingi and Daw Wai Wai Tha, CEC members, patrons, chairpersons, secretaries and members of WAOs from ministries and Union level organizations.

President of MWAF Daw Mya Mya made an opening speech and social and cultural working group leader Dr Daw Khin Swe Myint and Responsible Persons gave talks on women and cultural sector and legal knowledge. The patrons of MWAF presented gifts to those who shared their knowledge to those present.

MNA

## Police expose motorbike theft in Kyondoe

KYONDOE, 24 March — Police members exposed a theft of motorbike and arrested a thief while performing routine checks at the harbour in Seikkan ward-2 of Kyondoe in Kawkareik district in Kayin State at about 5 pm on 18

March.

A combined force led by police members made a check on Hsan Oo, 17, of Wadaw ward-5 as they noticed a suspicious motorbike together with him. The investigation revealed that the owner of

the suspicious bike is U Htein Win of Haungthayaw street in ward-2 of Kyondoe and the bike was stolen at a funeral service of a monk in Kamarite village last week. So police arrested Hsan Oo and filed a lawsuit against him. — *Kyemon*

## Mandalay District sees more property loss in fires in 2012

MONYWA, 24 March — The amount of property loss in the fires occurred in Mandalay district in the year 2012 was more than K 100 million based on statistics. There is no casualty in the fires in the previous year, but fires in 2012 claimed two lives in February and December separately and caused 509 people homeless.

Negligence was a major cause of fire followed by careless use of electricity. So measures—making routine checks at each and every flat and house in downtown and suburbs and setting up of posters—are being taken to heighten the awareness of the possible danger of fire from the use of electricity.

Moreover, 50 vehicles are reserved for seven townships in Mandalay to be used in time emergency when fuel fire broke out

and natural disaster hit and a rescue team comprising 350 members was formed and given necessary training.

*Kyemon*

## Candle fire in Kyaukpadaung Township

KYAUKPADAUNG, 24 March — A fire broke out at the house of U Phyo (a) Pyae Phyo Aung, 32, in Pway Kyit village, 12 miles from Kyaukpadaung of Mandalay Region at about 8.30 pm on 20 March.

The fire started from a candle lit on the shrine that had set other materials on fire in the village. The fire swept through the whole house and spread a cow shed and the next house.

Two houses and one cow shed were burnt down to ground in the fire, but there is no loss of lives and cattle.

*Kyemon*

## Foggy condition causes delay in departure of Dala-Pansodan cross-river ferry service

YANGON, 24 March — Head of Tabinshwehti ferry service U Tint Lwin said that dense fog made the Dala-Pansodan ferry crossing difficult to operate the shuttle service as the Yangon river was shrouded in heavy mist on 23 March.

“Shortly after Kyansittha ferry departed at 5 am from Dala to Pansodan, the thick mist laid in the river.

The mist curdled to a fog that reduced visibility to three feet. A blanket of

fog covered in the river. The foggy condition brought the harbour to a standstill and passengers faced a delay of more than two hours”, he continued.

A passenger who used a motorized boat to cross the river said that the view was obscured by fog.

They could see only about 10 feet ahead in the foggy river. It took nearly 30 minutes to reach the other bank. He paid K 3000 for a ride on that day, he added.—*Kyemon*

MANDALAY, 24 March — Rural Region Development Department is taking measures to supply adequate drinking water in villages which are scorching in high summer in the dry zone in cooperation with Japanese International Cooperation Agency.

## Village lakes run dry in Yamethin Township



YAMETHIN, 24 March — As the region has had a low rainfall and suffered drought later, lakes in Yamethin Township have run dry. Among lakes in downtown

area, Kyeeni lake on which local people rely to supply water to their farmlands dried up except middle spot of the lake. Likewise, Meeyahtar and Khansitkon

lakes also ran dry by drought. Moreover, villagers are in trouble to provide water to their cattle as there is no water in the village lakes.

*Kyemon*

## Taikkyi farmers observes implementation of mechanized farming in Thanlyin Township

YANGON, 24 March — Under the arrangement of Agriculture Mechanization

Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, farmers from

Taikkyi Township observed mechanized farming being implemented with the use of heavy machinery at the farmlands of Daw Zin Mar Kyaw in Nyaunthonbin village-tract of Thanlyin Township yesterday.

Head of Yangon South District department U Thein Zaw explained implementation of mechanized farming and answered the queries raised by visiting farmers.

Farmers are very keen to implement mechanized farming in their township, it is learnt.

*Kyemon*

## Rural water supply task working on all cylinders



On their inspection tour of Dagama village in Kyaukpadaung Township, Kannigy, Yaynegyi, Hsinlu-aing and Magyisauk villages in NyaungU Township in Mandalay Region for ensuring adequate supply of drinking water, officials concerned and engineers of the department provided necessary assistance to underground water tapping and inspected lakes and water works.

With the cash contribution of JICA, the department will carry out digging of 87 tubewells in the dry zone that includes Magway, Sagaing and Mandalay Regions under the five-year plan. During the 2012-2013 fiscal year, construction of 11 tubewells in Magway Region and nine in Mandalay Region Plans will be implemented starting from coming October.

*Kyemon*

## Road accident hurts four riders in Natogyi Township

NATOGYI, 24 March — A road accident occurred near Htanzin village in Natogyi Township on 19 March.

A head-on collision between a motorbike driven by Htet Wai Yan, 15, and Min Thu, 25, of East Pechat village and a motorbike

driven by Maung Tun, 45, and his son Chit Phyo, 4, while trying to overtake a vehicle ahead, causing all riders wounded.

Natogyi police station filed a lawsuit against motorcyclists.

*Kyemon*

## Passengers hurt in overturned car accident in Myawady

MYAWADY, 24 March — A vehicle carrying passengers skidded out of control and overturned near a bridge on Asia expressway in Myaynigon ghetto in ward-4 of Myawady Township at about 2 pm on 18 March, causing 19 passengers—11 men and eight women—wounded. The injured have been hospitalized at Myawady hospital. The incident was due to excessive speed.

Driver Bo Bo (a) Bo Bo Aung, 29, was caught together with the vehicle by police at about 25 minutes later. Myawady police station filed a lawsuit against the driver for reckless driving.

*Kyemon*



## WORLD

## Syria rebels seize southern base, border area

BEIRUT, 24 March—Rebels seized an air defence base near Syria's strategic southern international highway on Saturday, activists said, bolstering access to supply routes to the capital Damascus. The rebels on Saturday also seized several military sites along the Jordanian-Syrian border, according to the British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which has a network of informants across the country.

The developments give fighters control of about 25 km (15.5 miles) of frontier adjacent to the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, the Observatory said, and could fuel tensions in the sensitive military zone.

Syria's southern provinces bordering Jordan and Israel have become an increasingly significant battleground as the capital comes into play, with



**Free Syrian Army fighters carry their weapons as they sit in attention during the declaration of the formation of Al-Liwaa Brigade in Binnish in Idlib Province on 21 March, 2013.—REUTERS**

President Bashar al-Assad's forces and his loyalist militias hitting back hard to prevent rebel advances.

At the air base in Deraa Province, which borders Jordan, the Observatory said the brigade's commander was among those killed.

"Fighters from the Nusra Front, Yarmouk Martyrs Brigade, and other battalions seized control

of the 38th division air defence base, near the town of Saida on the Damascus-Amman highway, after 16 days of fierce clashes," the Observatory said.

The Nusra Front is an Islamist militant group suspected of links to al-Qaeda and blacklisted by the United States as a "terrorist group". Its forces, which include foreign fighters, have come

to increasing prominence in the revolt. Videos published by opposition activists showed cheering fighters driving tanks around the base and loading boxes of ammunition onto flatbed trucks. The rebels also said in the videos they had freed dozens of prisoners held at the base.

A video uploaded by the Observatory showed what it said was the body of base commander General Mahmoud Darwish lying in a pool of blood in a bathroom.

Other activist videos showed the corpses of soldiers in camouflage fatigues scattered in the grass outside the base, shot in the head. It was not immediately possible to verify the pictures or opposition reports. The Syrian government has severely restricted access to Syria for foreign journalists and international aid groups.—Reuters

## Police confirm second Canadian linked to Algeria gas plant attack

TORONTO, 24 March—Canadian police said on Saturday that they had identified a second Canadian among the dead suspects in a January attack and hostage-taking at an Algerian gas plant.

Around 70 people died when Algerian troops stormed the Tigantourine desert gas plant near the town of In Amenas and ended the siege. Algerian Prime Minister Abdelmalek Sellal said at the time that a Canadian gunman had coordinated the operation.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police were dispatched to Algeria to investigate. A spokesman for Canada's national police force said in an e-mail on Saturday that a

second Canadian had been identified from the remains of the alleged attackers.

"Our investigation into this matter continues and no further information will be given at this time," the spokesman said.

US intelligence officials had said in January that signs that Canadian citizens were involved in the attack by Islamist militants were of great concern to American authorities.

The possibility that Canadian citizens were involved in the attack on the facility in the Algerian desert raised concerns among security officials about a worrying nexus between North America and North African militants.

Reuters



**A general view of damage caused by a siege by Islamist militants earlier this month at the Tigantourine Gas Plant in In Amenas, 1600 km (994 miles) southeast of Algiers, on 31 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS**

## Kiev under state of emergency due to heavy snowfall

KIEV, 24 March—Ukrainian capital Kiev on Saturday declared a state of emergency due to a heavy snowfall, which caused cancellation and delays in expressway, air and railway traffic.

The city was hit by about 50 cm or 40 million tons of snow on Friday, more than it usually

receives per month during this season, the Kiev City Administration said. Ukrainian International Boryspil Airport is out of work, as snow and ice are still being cleared from the airport's runways.

The country's railway company "Ukrzaliznytsya" said train traffic was also affected by the snowfall in northern and central regions' destination. The snowfall has forced the closure of some grocery stores in Kiev and other big cities in northern Ukraine.

Over 2,000 trucks were trapped in snow near Kiev and some 3,000 cars in seven regions in the northeast of the country were affected by the snowstorm.

The local meteorological station said the cold weather and snowfall, which have driven temperatures down by 10 degrees Celsius, will likely last until Monday.

Xinhua

## France dispatches troops to safeguard Central African Republic airport

PARIS, 24 March—France has sent its troops into Central African Republic to safeguard the airport of Bangui after rebels entered the northern suburbs of the African country's capital, media reports said on Saturday.

According to earlier reports, the Seleka rebel coalition on Saturday afternoon entered the northern suburbs of Bangui, the capital of Central African Republic, Xinhua's staff at the scene reported.

South African troops in Bangui for the military training of local soldiers were quickly retreating to the Presidential Palace in the city, where power supply was cut off hours ago.

Meanwhile, France has called for an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council on the crisis in the former French colony.

The country of 5 million population has been gripped by instability and poverty since its independence from France in 1960.—Xinhua

## US, Afghanistan reach agreement on prison transfer

WASHINGTON, 24 March—The United States agreed on Saturday to transfer to Afghan control a prison that houses insurgents and other dangerous inmates adjacent to Bagram airfield, the Pentagon said.

The agreement, reached after a week of intensified negotiations between US and Afghan officials, calls for the formal transfer to take place on Monday and includes assurances that inmates who

pose a danger to Afghans and international forces will continue to be detained under Afghan law.

Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel spoke with Afghan President Hamid Karzai by telephone about the Parwan Detention Facility, a point of increasing friction between the two countries.

"The secretary welcomed President Karzai's commitment that the transfer will be carried out in a way that assures the safety of the Afghan people and coalition forces by keeping dangerous individuals detained in a secure and humane manner in accordance with Afghan law," Pentagon spokesman George Little said in a statement.

The United States last year agreed to hand over responsibility for most of the

more than 3,000 detainees at the prison to Afghanistan and held a transfer ceremony in September. But US soldiers remained at the prison and controlled the area around it.

A formal ceremony transferring the last prisoners to Afghan custody collapsed at the last minute two weeks ago when General Joseph Dunford, the US Head of International Forces in Afghanistan, called it off because Karzai rejected part of the transfer deal.

The collapse provoked an angry response from Karzai and embarrassed both sides as Hagel was starting his first official visit to the country as defence secretary.

Hagel pushed for intensified negotiations over the past to resolve the outstanding areas of disagreement.

Reuters

## Rio police forcibly evict indigenous group near World Cup stadium

RIO DE JANEIRO, 24 March—Police on Friday forcibly evicted a group of indigenous people from a building in Rio de Janeiro to give way to the 2014 FIFA World Cup, it is reported.

The building, a deserted museum, had been occupied by an Indian tribe for more than six years. Last October, the Rio state government decided to demolish it and use the site as a car park for the nearby Maracana Stadium where

the final match of the World Cup would be held.

Earlier this week, the government obtained a court order to evict the tribe. Some tribesmen left the premises but others refused as negotiations for their exit started early Friday.

The event had a sudden twist at noon when the police barged in and fired rubber bullets and tear gas. Several people were injured and several activists were detained.

Rio state representative Marcelo Freixo, who was present at the site, criticized the police's brutal handling of the situation. The tribe's public defender, Daniel Macedo, said the tribe was about to leave the museum site peacefully when the police stormed. "I will analyze the footage and I may sue the police," he said. Friday's forced removal of the indigenous tribe was not the only confrontation between Rio authorities

and local residents over the 2014 soccer World Cup and the 2016 Olympics.

Entire neighbourhoods have been relocated to make room for highway links between the Olympic Games venues. Locals accuse the authorities of removing them from their homes arbitrarily and sometimes violently.

The United Nations has criticized Brazilian authorities for forcible evictions.—Xinhua

## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

## Zhejiang University team creates world's lightest material

BEIJING, 24 March—Chinese scientists say they have developed the world's lightest material, which they expect to play an important role in tackling pollution.

With a density of just 0.16 milligrams per cubic centimetre, a sixth that of air, graphene aerogel—which is also known as carbon aerogel—has been developed by Professor Gao Chao from Zhejiang University in Hangzhou. He said the most significant qualities of the new material are its ease of manufacture, and its strong oil-absorption.

The material is derived from a gel, with the liquid component replaced by a

gas. It appears in solid state with extremely low density.

“Carbon aerogel is expected to play an important role in pollution control such as oil spill control, water purification and even air purification,” said Gao, whose research paper on the material was first published online in the academic publication *Advanced Materials* on 18 February, and in the research highlights column of *Nature* magazine. In addition to being used in pollution control, carbon aerogel is expected to become an ideal material for energy storage insulation, as a catalytic carrier, and in sound absorption.



A Zhejiang scientist displays the world's lightest material, which has a density of only 0.16 mg/cubic centimetre, one-sixth that of air.—XINHUA

For years, scientists around the world have been looking for ways to produce the lightest known material.

In 2011, HRL Labora-

tory, the University of California Irvine, and California Institute of Technology cooperated in developing nickel aerogel

with a density of 0.9 mg/cubic cm, the record lightest material at that time. The aerogel developed by Gao and his research team was produced using freeze-dried solutions, which removed the moisture from carbon nanotubes and graphemes but which retained their integrity, creating what is now believed to be the world's lightest material. “Carbon aerogel is similar to a carbon sponge in structure. When an aerogel the size of a mug is put on slender setaria grass, its blades do not bend,” Gao said. Despite its fragile appearance, carbon aerogel also has excellent elasticity and bounces back when compressed. It is also one of the most oil-absorbent

materials.

Current oil-absorbent products usually absorb organic solvent about 10 times their own weight—the newly developed carbon aerogel can absorb up to 900 times its own weight. Aerogel can also absorb organics quickly: 1 gram of aerogel can absorb 68.8 grams of organics per second, making it ideal for treating oil spills at sea. The freeze-drying approach makes the aerogel production process more convenient for mass production and application, said Gao, adding the research team is conducting further research on its absorption performance, as well as other applications.

Xinhua

## Microsoft did not violate Google patent

WASHINGTON, 24 March—Microsoft Corp did not violate a patent owned by Google subsidiary Motorola Mobility when it made its popular Xbox, an administrative law judge at the International Trade Commission said in a preliminary decision issued on Friday.

A final ITC decision in the case is due in July.

The fight over the Xbox video game console is related to the larger smartphone patent war between Apple, Microsoft and the mobile phone makers who use Google's Android software, including its subsidiary Motorola Mobility.

Motorola Mobility accused Microsoft of infringing five patents when it filed its complaint in 2010.

Four have been dropped.

One patent remains, according to the ITC docket for the case. That patent allows devices to communicate wirelessly over short distances.

If the ITC finds that a company infringes upon a patent, the infringing product can be barred from importation into the United States. “We are pleased with the administrative law judge's finding that Microsoft did not violate Motorola's patent and are confident that this determination will be affirmed by the commission,” said David Howard, corporate vice president and deputy general counsel, Microsoft, in an emailed statement.

Google said it was disappointed.

“We are disappointed with today's determination and look forward to the full commission's review,” said spokesman Matt Kallman in an emailed statement.

Tech companies have spent billions of dollars to buy patent portfolios that they can use defensively or offensively, and still more money litigating the cases

a preliminary decision that Microsoft infringed four patents and did not infringe on a fifth.

But instead of deciding the case, as is usual, in June 2012, the trade panel sent the case back to the judge for reconsideration.

In January, following an antitrust settlement with federal regulators,



## Beijing buses to offer Wi-Fi

BEIJING, 24 March—More than 10,000 buses in Beijing will offer Wi-Fi service by the end of 2013, *Beijing Morning Post* reported on Friday.

The service followed a deal signed in April last year between China Mobile and Beijing Bus Transportation Group, which operates Beijing's bus system and will provide coverage on all routes within the Fourth

Ring Road.

More than 1,800 buses have wireless Internet access so far, allowing passengers with Wi-Fi enabled devices to connect to the Internet through China Mobile's network.

Beijing has the broadest Wi-Fi coverage on buses in the country.

China Mobile will offer 20-hours a month free before 30 June.—Xinhua

## EU regulator monitors Apple iPad and iPhone distribution

BRUSSELS, 24 March—The European Union is looking into potential antitrust violations involving the distribution of Apple Inc's iPhones and iPads, after receiving what sources said were informal complaints from telecoms operators. The complaints involve handset subsidies and marketing that the world's most valuable technology corporation sign-off with operators that carry its smartphones and tablets, and also includes subsidies that carriers pay to Apple, one of the three sources told *Reuters* on Friday.

The source insisted on anonymity because contracts with carriers are business secrets. “Apple insists on a certain level of subsidies and marketing for the iPhone,” said the source, who declined to identify the companies that had approached the Commission.

US and European operators pay hefty subsidies to smartphone makers including Apple, offering customers an attractive discount on devices in exchange for tying them into lucrative two-year wireless contracts. Historically, Apple has been able to command higher fees for its devices because of its market dominance. It also

tended to tightly regulate launch prices for its devices, while rival handset makers with less market share tended to defer to operators on pricing announcements.

Since 2012, however, Samsung Electronics unseated Apple as the world's most-used smartphone brand, which industry experts say will erode the US corporations' ability to negotiate the best subsidies

and marketing support.

US regulators are unlikely to launch their own investigation into Apple's industry practices because of a different regulatory approach, and also recognition that the company's own market clout is diminishing.

“They're one failure to innovate away, or one innovation by somebody else away, from being in a very different spot,” said a US telecom industry lobbyist close to both carriers and device manufacturers, but who asked not to be named due to a lack of authorization to speak to the media. “Apple is an important, powerful and innovative company but I don't think they've got the kind of market power that maybe some in Europe are alleging where it would rise to the level of running afoul of the antitrust laws,” the person said.—*Reuters*



A customer holds up an Apple iPhone 5 as he poses for a photo during an exclusive sale by Belgian operator Mobistar in Brussels on 28 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS



The Microsoft logo is seen at their offices in Bucharest on 20 March, 2013.—REUTERS

around the world.

The long-running Xbox case has seen many twists and turns since it was filed in late 2010.

In April 2012, ITC Judge David Shaw said in

Google asked a trade panel to drop two patents from the complaint because they were essential to a standard. These types of patents ensure interoperability and get special treatment.—*Reuters*

## Better forecasting to help limit weather damage

BEIJING, 24 March—China has built an integrated weather monitoring system that provides better information about potential weather disasters, the country's meteorological authority said on Saturday.

On the 53rd World Meteorological Day, Zheng Guoguang, Director of the National Meteorological Centre (NMC), said China has set up an all-round system to monitor and forecast weather disasters.

A total 419 ground observation stations, 87

aerological stations and seven Fengyun weather satellites will provide weather information for nearly 100 countries and regions to help cut down damage caused by adverse weather, Zheng said. In the past five years, economic losses caused by weather disasters dropped from 1.22 percent to 0.6 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP), with the overall death toll decreasing by 2,000 from the previous five-year period, according to NMC data.—*Xinhua*

## BUSINESS &amp; HEALTH

## Fitch places Britain on Rating Watch Negative

LONDON, 24 March—International credit rating agency Fitch on Friday placed the Britain's "AAA" sovereign credit rating on Rating Watch Negative (RWN), indicating a heightened probability of a downgrade in the near term.

"The RWN reflects the latest economic and fiscal forecasts published by the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) that indicate that UK government debt will peak later and at a

higher level than previously expected by Fitch," the agency said in a statement.

According to the latest economic and fiscal outlook report released by OBR earlier this week, British general government gross debt (GGGD) and public sector net debt are forecast to peak in 2016-17 at 100.8 percent and 85.6 percent of GDP and only begin to decline in 2017-18.

Fitch has previously stated that GGGD failing to

stabilize below 100 percent of GDP and on a firm downward path towards 90 percent over the medium term would likely result in a downgrade of Britain's sovereign ratings.

When delivering a speech on 2013 budget in the House of Commons on Wednesday, Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne slashed the country's economic growth forecast from 1.2 percent to 0.6 percent.

Fitch expects to complete its review of the debt-ridden country's sovereign ratings by the end of April. Moody's Investor Service kicked Britain out of the triple-A sovereign credit rating club last month.

Xinhua

## Bosch says to end solar business

BERLIN, 24 March—German engineering and technology giant Bosch announced on Friday that it would end its solar business, as it had failed to gain competitive position due to "global overcapacity."

Bosch said in a statement that it had decided to cease the manufacture of crystalline photovoltaics products, such as ingots, wafer, cells, and modules at beginning of 2014. Module plant in Venissieux, France would be sold. Plans to construct a manufacturing facility in Malaysia would also be ended. Bosch will also sell its shares in Aleo Solar AG.

"All development and marketing activities are likewise to be ended," said the company, adding that global overcapacity had become huge in the past years and made nearly the entire industry sustain heavy losses.

"Despite extensive

## Too much salt eating linked to millions of heart-related deaths worldwide

WASHINGTON, 24 March—Eating too much salt contributed to 2.3 million deaths from heart attacks, strokes and other heart-related diseases throughout the world in 2010, representing 15 percent of all deaths due to these causes, according to a research finding presented on Thursday at the American Heart Association's scientific sessions. The researchers analyzed 247 surveys of adult sodium intake, stratified by age, gender, region and country between 1990 and 2010 as part of the 2010 Global Burden of Diseases Study, an international collaborative study by 488 scientists from 303 institutions in 50 countries around the world.



Next, they determined how the amount of sodium people were consuming was affecting their risk of cardiovascular disease, by performing a meta-analysis of 107 randomized, prospective trials that measured how sodium affects blood pressure, and a meta-analysis of how these differences in blood pressure relate to the risk of developing cardiovascular disease.

Cardiovascular disease includes all diseases of the heart and blood vessels, including stroke. The researchers estimate that consuming too much sodium

led to 2.3 million heart-related deaths worldwide in 2010. Nearly 1 million of these deaths—40 percent of the total—were premature, occurring in people 69 years of age and younger. Sixty percent of the deaths occurred in men and 40 percent were in women. Heart attacks caused 42 percent of the deaths and strokes 41 percent. The remainder resulted from other types of cardiovascular disease. Eighty-four percent of these deaths due to eating too much sodium were in low and middle-income countries, rather than high-income countries.—Xinhua



Fitch places Britain on Rating Watch Negative

## Existing bailout tool box enough for Cyprus: Citigroup chief economist

NEW YORK, 24 March—The existing bailout tool box is enough to rescue Cyprus if it can come up with a decent plan acceptable to international lenders, said Willem Buiter, chief economist of Citigroup, at the Council on Foreign Relations on Friday.

Buiter said Cyprus accounts for 2 percent of the GDP of euro area, therefore the risk is manageable.

However, he noted, the only channel of systemic stress for the risk is through contagion and there would be fear of break-up and of other countries leaving the euro area, especially when they are larger countries.

According to Buiter, contagion is reality but the question is how severe and how it could be handled. "Until we have the OMT (Outright Monetary Transactions), I was very concerned about it, because clearly if market cuts off a nation's banks and sovereign from funding, you can easily get self-fulfilling exit of fear equilibrium outcome," he added. Despite the risks, the chief economist was "optimistic" that the existing tool kit is enough in terms of the ammunition and the willingness to fire it, although there are still "some question marks".

Xinhua

## US ready to levy steep duties on drawn stainless steel sinks from China

WASHINGTON, 24 March—The US International Trade Commission (USITC) on Thursday decided that the domestic industry was materially injured by imported drawn stainless steel sinks from China, thus allowing Washington to impose punitive duties on these products.

The ruling, another move by Washington that smacks of trade protectionism against

China, was backed by all six commissioners of the federal bipartisan trade panel. It cleared the way for the US Commerce Department to issue antidumping and countervailing duty orders on imports of drawn stainless steel sinks from China.

The Commerce Department alleged in 20 February that Chinese producers and exporters sold drawn stainless steel

sinks in the US market at dumping margins ranging from 27.14 percent to 76.53 percent, and those products from China also received countervailable subsidies of 4.8 percent to 12.26 percent.

The latest USITC decision concluded the probe that commenced on 1 March, 2012, in response to a petition filed by Illinois-based Elkay Manufacturing Company.

Imports of drawn

measures to reduce manufacturing cost over the past year, we were unable to offset the drop in prices, which was as much as 40 percent," said Stefan Hartung, chairman of the Bosch Solar Energy AG supervisory board.

In the statement, Bosch announced that it would maintain its thin-film technology development centre in Brandenburg State. Alignment of the unit, however, has not been decided yet. Last year, Bosch suffered a loss of around 1 billion euros (1.29 billion US dollars) in its solar energy division, which currently employs some 3,000 people.

Bosch is not the only company which has failed to retain a competitive position in the solar industry. In October last year, another German giant Siemens also decided to quit the industry because of lasting losses of its solar units.

Xinhua

stainless sinks from China were valued at an estimated 118 million US dollars in 2011, according to the US government.

The Chinese Ministry of Commerce has repeatedly urged the United States to abide by its commitment against protectionism and work together with China and other members of the international community to maintain a free, open and just international trade environment.—Xinhua

## Best foods for healthy hair



1. Almond
2. Beans
3. Oranges and tangerines
4. Green vegetables

Xinhua

## China to clean up grassroots medical institutions

BEIJING, 24 March—Health authorities have vowed to conduct a thorough clean-up and rectification of grassroots medical institutions in order to ensure quality and safety.

The institutions include county-level hospitals, community health centres, infirmaries and clinics, according to a statement released by the National Health and Family Planning Commission (NHFPC) on Friday.

The campaign will involve screening and double-checking registration, approval and management in grassroots medical institutions, the statement said, adding that related information will be stored in an electronic archive.

Substandard institutions will have to suspend services and possibly have their licenses revoked.

The campaign will also focus on the regulation of antibiotic and hormone use, as well as the management of key units in grassroots hospitals, such as surgery and dialysis rooms, according to the statement.

The NHFPC and State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine (SATCM) also ordered health departments, as well as TCM regulators at all levels, to improve health care systems and services nationwide. The campaign began on Friday and will last until the end of the year, the statement said.—Xinhua

## Obama plays tourist in Petra at end of Middle East trip

PETRA, (Jordan) 24 March—President Barack Obama marvelled at the sights of Jordan's ancient city of Petra on Saturday as he wrapped up a four-day Middle East tour by setting aside weighty diplomatic matters and playing tourist for a day.

The visit's main concrete achievement was Obama's brokering of a rapprochement between Israel and Turkey. But the tour resulted in little more than symbolic gestures toward peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians.

Before heading to Petra, Obama used a stop in Jordan to ratchet up criticism of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, stopping short of promising military aid to Syrian rebels in a two-year-old civil war that has claimed 70,000 lives.

US officials privately voiced satisfaction with

the results of the first foreign trip of Obama's second term, but aides had set expectations so low that it was not hard to proclaim it a mission accomplished.

In full sightseeing mode, Obama flew by helicopter to Petra for a two-hour walking tour of the restored ruins of a city more than 2,000 years old some of which is carved into sandstone cliffs. Ordinary tourists had been cleared out for the president's visit, and guards with assault weapons followed his every step. "This is pretty spectacular," Obama, wearing sunglasses, khaki trousers and a dark jacket, said as he craned his neck to look up at the Treasury, a towering rose-red façade cut into a cliff. "It's amazing."

Jordan's King Abdullah was on hand at Amman Airport on Saturday to send Obama on his way home to



President Barack Obama stops to look at the Treasury as he takes a walking tour of the ancient historic and archaeological site of Petra on 23 March, 2013.

REUTERS

Washington.

The US President arrived there on Friday after an unexpected diplomatic triumph in Israel, where he announced a breakthrough in relations between Israel and Turkey after a telephone conversation between the countries' prime ministers. Israeli Premier Benjamin Netanyahu apologized on behalf of his country for the killing of nine Turkish citizens in a 2010 naval raid on a Gaza-bound flotilla, and the two feuding US allies

agreed to normalize ties.

The 30-minute call was made in trailer near the runway at Tel Aviv airport, where Obama and Netanyahu huddled before the president boarded Air Force One.

The rapprochement could help Washington marshal regional efforts to contain spillover from the Syrian civil war and ease Israel's diplomatic isolation in the Middle East as it faces challenges posed by Iran's nuclear programme.

Reuters

## Pakistan Taliban threaten to send Musharraf to "hell" when he returns

ISLAMABAD, 24 March—Pakistan's Taliban have threatened to dispatch suicide bombers and snipers to kill former President Pervez Musharraf when he returns home from exile on Sunday to contest elections.

In a Taliban video obtained by Reuters, Adnan Rasheed, who took part in a previous attempt to assassinate Musharraf, warned: "The mujahideen of Islam have prepared a special squad to send Musharraf to hell. There are suicide bombers, snipers, a special assault unit and a close combat team."

Musharraf angered the Taliban and other groups by joining the US war on terror following the 11 September attacks and by later launching a major crackdown on militancy in Pakistan.

He is due to return home on Sunday after

nearly four years of self-imposed exile in Dubai and London, in time to take part in parliamentary elections on 11 May.

Musharraf seized power in a 1999 coup and resigned in 2008 when his allies lost a vote and a new government threatened him with impeachment. He left the country a year later.

The former army general faces the possibility of arrest on charges that he failed to provide adequate security for former prime minister Benazir Bhutto before her assassination in 2007, and in relation to other cases.

But his most immediate concern may be the Taliban, who are seeking revenge for his crackdown on militants fighting to topple the US-backed government and impose their austere version of Islam.

Reuters



A security man stands guard at the entrance of former President Pervez Musharraf's campaign office, decorated with posters in Karachi on 21 March, 2013.

REUTERS

## Northern Irish police defuse car bomb near G8 venue

BELFAST, 24 March—Northern Irish police defused a bomb in a car on Saturday close to where G8 leaders will meet at a summit in June and said that the device was likely to have been intended for a police station nearby.

Army bomb disposal experts defused the device after a security operation that lasted almost 36 hours in the county Fermanagh town of Enniskillen. The Group of Eight leaders meet just outside the town

in three months' time.

A senior Northern Irish officer said police believed the bomb was en route to a police station in a town nearby and would have killed or injured people if it had not been intercepted.

"Once again our community has been disrupted and the lives of residents put at risk by an element intent on causing loss of life and disruption," District Commander Pauline Shields said in a statement.

"The people responsi-

ble for this have no regard for the lives of anyone in our community. It is fortunate that no-one was killed or seriously injured as a result of this reckless act."

A 1998 peace deal largely ended more than three decades of violence in the British-controlled province between mainly Catholic Irish nationalists seeking union with Ireland and predominantly Protestant unionists who want to remain part of the United Kingdom. However militant national-

ists, who include former operatives who split from the Irish Republican Army (IRA) after it declared a ceasefire, still stage sporadic gun and bomb attacks and have targeted security forces in particular.

An attempt to fire mortar bombs at a police station was foiled earlier this month in what would have been the first attack of its kind in the United Kingdom since the peace deal ended the IRA's campaign of violence.—Reuters

## Egypt balloon flights to resume after deadly crash

CAIRO, 24 March—Egypt will allow again hot air balloon flights which were halted in February when 19 people were killed in a crash near the ancient town of Luxor, state media said on Saturday.

Mostly Asian and European tourists were killed in the crash after a balloon caught fire following a mid-air gas explosion near the Valley of the Kings and pharaonic temples popular with travellers.

Tour operators would be allowed again to conduct hot air balloon flights from 1 April, Civil Aviation Minister Wael al-Maadawi told state news agency MENA.

He said authorities had improved safety rules and

would enforce more maintenance controls at balloon flight operators.

Hot air ballooning is popular with tourists, who are a mainstay of the Egyptian economy, although

visitor numbers have fallen sharply since a 2011 uprising that toppled President Hosni Mubarak. Two years of political instability have kept many foreign tourists away.—Reuters



A night watchman stands guard near the wreckage of a hot air balloon that crashed in Luxor on 26 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

## Severe US storm brings heavy snow, baseball-sized hail

CHICAGO, 24 March—A major early spring storm brought heavy snow, severe thunderstorms and floods as it moved east across the United States on Saturday, closing highways, forcing flight cancellations and causing a pileup involving dozens of vehicles.

The weather system forced the cancellations of more than 100 flights in and out of Denver International Airport on Saturday and blowing and drifting snow closed several roads in Colorado, including Interstate 70 in both directions east of Denver to the Kansas state line.

"Travel on the eastern plains is strongly discouraged," said Mindy Crane,

spokeswoman for the Colorado Department of Transportation. "It is snowing half an inch an hour with sustained winds of 25 miles an hour with gusts up to 40 miles an hour."

A chain-reaction crash involving some 50 vehicles and at least four tractor-trailers shut down Interstate 25 about 30 miles north of Denver for several hours on Saturday, the Colorado State Patrol said in a statement. A tanker involved in the accident burst into flames. Several injured people were taken to the hospital but no fatalities were reported, police said.

Kyle Fredin, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service, said some

counties in far eastern Colorado had seen a foot of snow by mid-afternoon.

Snowfall accumulations in the Denver metropolitan area could top 10 inches, with higher amounts in the foothills west of the city, he said.

The snow was expected to move east to Kansas City, St Louis, Indianapolis and Columbus, Ohio, over the next 24 hours, before moving into the mid-Atlantic states, Kines said.

Rough weather also was forecast in the Gulf Coast region from Florida to eastern Texas throughout Saturday, with large hail, damaging winds and possible tornadoes, Kines said.

Reuters

## WORLD

## One injured in train derailment in US state of Arkansas

HOUSTON, 24 March—One person was injured and 25 railcars ran off the tracks on Saturday when a train derailed in the US state of Arkansas, officials said.

The accident occurred near McRae in White County, when a train with 56 cars was passing three stopped locomotives on a parallel track, said Union Pacific railroad spokeswoman Raquel Espinoza, quoted by newspaper *The Houston Chronicle*.

An engineer inside one of the stopped locomotives was injured when the locomotive of the moving train hit the stationary vehicle, said Espinoza.

The injured engineer was taken to a hospital with unknown condition.

The train was hauling mainly auto parts and no hazardous material was involved, according to the report.

*Xinhua*



People drag a sledge during celebration of Maslenitsa, a festival originated from Orthodox Church that marks the end of winter, at a custom museum on the outskirts of Minsk, capital of Belarus, on 23 March, 2013.

*XINHUA*

## Long-detained Australian veteran released by kidnapper

MANILA, 24 March—Richard Warren Rodwell, the retired Australian soldier who was kidnapped in the restive Southern Philippines in December 2011, was finally released by the rebel group of Abu Sayyaf early Saturday, a military commander said.

Major General Ricardo Rainier Cruz, commander of the Army's 1st Infantry Division, said in a phone interview that Mr Rodwell is fine, based on information that reached him from lower units.

Cruz said Rodwell was released at around 1:30 am at the Fisheries Centre of



School children and their parents plant mangrove trees to mark the World Water Day in the Natural Park Angke in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 23 March, 2013. The World Water Day falls on 22 March.—XINHUA

## Cyprus seeks 11th-hour deal to avert collapse

NICOSIA, 24 March—Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades flies to Brussels on Sunday to seek an 11th-hour reprieve from financial meltdown, with a bailout from the European Union and the island's place in Europe's single currency bloc hanging in the balance.

Facing a Monday deadline to avert a collapse of the Cypriot banking system, talks in Nicosia to seal a bailout from the EU and International Monetary Fund broke up late

on Saturday without result. "Negotiations are at a very delicate phase," the Cypriot government said in a statement. "The situation is very difficult and the deadlines are very tight," it said. Anastasiades will arrive in Brussels in the mid-morning to continue the talks, it said.

The tone of the statement differed sharply from earlier expressions of cautious optimism during days of intense negotiations between Cypriot leaders and officials from the island's "troika" of lenders, the EU, IMF and European Central Bank. Its outsized banking sector crippled by exposure to crisis-hit Greece, the EU

says the east Mediterranean island must raise 5.8 billion euros (\$7.5 billion) on its own before it can receive a 10 billion euro bailout.

Without a deal on Monday, the ECB says it will sever emergency funds to Cypriot banks, spelling certain collapse and potentially pushing the country out of the euro zone.

Conservative leader Anastasiades, barely a month in the job and wrestling with Cyprus' worst crisis since a 1974 invasion by Turkish forces split the island in two, is expected to meet heads of the EU, the European Central Bank and IMF.

*Xinhua*

## Canada looks to Asia in bid to boost economy

VANCOUVER, 24 March—Canadian Finance Minister Jim Flaherty called for stronger ties with China on Friday as his country enters a period of austere fiscal prudence in an effort to balance its federal budget by 2015.

"Not only China, but all the emerging economies of Asia," Flaherty said following a Vancouver Board of Trade meeting.

"The emerging economies are where the growth is in the world economy. The European economies, for the most part, are in a recession. The American economy is struggling. Our economy is growing modestly, but the emerging economies continue to grow significantly."

In his 2013 budget speech on Thursday, Flaherty said Canada's deficit in the fiscal year ending 31 March is projected at 25.9 billion Canadian dollars (25.3 billion US dollars). He said the ruling Conservatives

will curb spending and pay down public debt by 2015 so as to be "in good shape the next time we have some kind of financial crisis."

Canada emerged from the 2008 global economic downturn in the strongest fiscal position among G-7 nations, largely on the strength of demand for its natural resources, a stable banking sector and strong household and government spending among others.

Flaherty, who will be in Hong Kong on Monday as part of a weeklong trip to Asia that will also include Thailand to boost trade and investment, said controlling spending and balancing budgets helped to keep taxes low.

"All of this adds to the fiscal and economic credibility of Canada, of the government of Canada, but also businesses in Canada around the world. The Canadian brand is very strong," he said.—Xinhua

## US senate passes first government budget in four years

WASHINGTON, 24 March—The US Senate early Saturday voted to pass its first annual budget for the federal government in four years, but the symbolic bill has slim chance to pass the Republican-led House of Representatives.

By a vote of 50 to 49, the upper chamber of the US Congress passed the federal government's 2014 fiscal year budget plan starting on 1 October. The Senate failed to pass an annual budget for the federal government since 2009, evidence of the fierce fiscal

wrangling between Democrats and Republicans.

The bill called for 975 billion US dollars in more tax revenue and another 975 billion dollars in government spending cuts in the coming decade.

The House on Thursday also approved its 2014 fiscal year budget blueprint for the federal government. The budget plan failed to pass the Democratic-controlled Senate, as it called for significantly reducing income tax rates and repealing the Obama healthcare law.—Xinhua



A weekend trunk market is held by a local auto club at Beibin Road in Chongqing, southwest China's municipality, on 23 March, 2013.—XINHUA

## Exploratory peace talks to be held in Jordan

RAMALLAH, 24 March—A well-informed Palestinian source unveiled on Saturday that a new round of exploratory peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians will be held soon in Jordan.

The source, which spoke on condition of anonymity, told *Xinhua* that there are preparations for exploratory talks between the two sides and that these talks will be sponsored by both the United States and Jordan.

Earlier on Saturday, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas held talks in Jordan with US Secretary of State John Kerry.

"Both Abbas and Kerry asserted the necessity of resuming peace talks and holding meetings to bridge the gap and break the ice in the peace process," said the source.

According to the source, Kerry told Abbas that he will present a clear written document to the Israeli side on security and border issues.

"President Abbas insisted there has to be a clear

understanding of the border issue, and if (Israel) recognizes the borders of 1967, then the direct peace talks between the two sides will be immediately resumed," said the source.

As for Israeli settlement activities, the source said "the Americans proposed to keep settlement construction in the settlements that in the future will be annexed to Israel, which represents 5 percent of the West Bank."

The source added that the Americans proposed a freeze of settlement construction in the settlements that will be annexed in any future agreement to the territories of the Palestinian state.

The Palestinians have insisted that Israel must halt settlement construction before resuming peace talks. The source revealed that the Palestinian side had asked that the freeze of settlement construction should be applied to all Palestinian territories occupied by Israel in 1967, including East Jerusalem.

*Xinhua*

# PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 25 March, 2013

## To lift people out of poverty

We are thankful for the relaxation of sanctions and the increase in development cooperation of the countries that were once unfriendly to us. On the other hand, we should not become an aid-dependent country as we have abundant supply of natural resources. We need to learn how to harness these natural resources in the interest of all our people in the most effective way, while creating the level playing field that will allow entrepreneurship to thrive and businesses, especially small and medium businesses to grow well.

In fact, our country needs international assistance and cooperation during this transition period especially in healthcare, education and livelihoods of the people and in building the infrastructure to make our economy gain more growth. As the government has adopted people-centred policy, it is aiming to help the poorest and the most vulnerable.

So, a great deal of attention has been given to place in the forefront the plight of the ordinary persons in Myanmar, who are unskilled and uneducated. For example, we must give priority to help the persons living without electricity or running water, and without accesses to good public health care and villagers with only a small plot of land or no land, often in debt and with little means to feed their family, and the ones travelling to neighbouring countries in search of work, living there for a long time to earn enough income for families back home.

Accordingly the most important thing for the country is to seek best means to help these ordinary people, and to lift a very large number of people in Myanmar out of poverty, and make it possible for them to enjoy a better life.

So, international assistance and effective aid management will be the important part of the answer to this challenge.

## Union FM felicitates Hellenic FM

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March—U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Dimitrios AVRAMOPOULOS, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic, on the occasion of the National Day of the Hellenic Republic, which falls on 25 March 2013.—MNA

## Riot leaves 55 houses in ashes in Ywadan Village, Yamethin

NAY PYI TAW, 24 March—Ywadan Village in Yamethin Township of Mandalay Region saw a riot around 8 pm on 23 March, with a religious building and 55 houses burnt down. The fire was put out around 10 pm and the mob also dispersed.

Fire engines from Yamethin and Pyawbwe

Fire Brigades rushed to the scene and extinguished the fire as the authorities concerned tightened the security measures there.

MNA

*Meiktila dwellers seen at downtown that returns to normalcy.*

MNA

## NATIONAL

### Deputy Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker and party leave for Indonesia

YANGON, 24 March — At the invitation of Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, a Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Mya Nyein today left here for the Republic

of Indonesia to attend Asia-Pacific Regional Parliamentarians and CSO Forum on MDG Acceleration and the Post-2015 Development Agenda to be held at Bali of Indonesia on 25-26 March. They were seen off

at Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Sein Tin Win and Deputy Speaker U Tin Aung and officials of Hluttaw Office.

The Myanmar delegation led by the Amyotha Hluttaw deputy

speaker is consisted of Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw Women and Children Affairs Committee Dr Mya Oo and member of Pyithu Hluttaw Social Development Committee U Sai Myint Aye.

MNA

### UNSG's special advisor on Myanmar holds discussion with persons from religious organizations



*The discussion between UN Secretary-General's special advisor on Myanmar Mr. Vijay Nambiar and persons from religious organizations in progress.—MNA*

NAY PYI TAW, 24 March—UN Secretary-General's special advisor on Myanmar Mr. Vijay Nambiar held discussion with persons from religious organizations at Tawwin Nan Restaurant in Meiktila, here, this morning.

It was attended by Union Ministers U Aung Min and U Khin Yi, Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Myint Soe of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Deputy Ministers

Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint, Dr Maung Maung Htay, U Aye Kyu and U Phone Swe, Mandalay Region ministers, departmental officials, Sayadaw Dhammaduta Dr Ashin Çhekinda, Sayadaw Virasu and Sayadaws, personnel from Christianity and Islam religious organizations and victims.

Before the discussion, Union Minister at the President Office U Aung Min made clarification on control of violence in Meiktila by the

government.

First, Special Envoy Mr. Vijay Nambiar expressed his sympathy for victims who lost their homes and property in the violence. He recognized the authority concerned who effectively took action against the riot and underscored the importance of unity to avoid the violence by two communities. He was pleased to see Union government, region government and parliamentarians who

settled the problem, he added. He urged those present to go ahead to get harmonious development.

The persons from religious organizations, victim representatives and townsenders participated in discussions on rehabilitations for victims. Then, UN Special Envoy Mr. Vijay Nambiar, region chief minister, union ministers, deputy ministers and personnel from religious organizations had a documentary photo taken together.—MNA

### Meiktila returns to normalcy, Tatmadawmen clear debris

NAY PYI TAW, 24 March—As officials concerned made local people fully safeguarded, Meiktila which was imposed State of Emergency on 22 March due to unrests

starting from 20 March restored peace and stability and returned to normalcy, seeing regular transactions of local people.

While the region was calm in terms of security

situation, security members and Tatmadawmen of 10 local battalions are clearing wreckages of fire-hit houses and debris on the streets in cooperation with staff of Meiktila Township

Development Affairs Department. In Meiktila, five makeshift relief camps are being kept open with 9644 victims who are being provided with food and health care by officials.

Aung Myin Thu group of companies, Aden company, members of Sangha from Mandalay and "88" group, Mandalay Region government office, Sky Net, Yamethin District General Administration Department and wellwishers donated rice, edible oil, salt, packets of snacks and instant noodles, drinking water and medicines and cash to the victims in relief camps yesterday and today.

MNA





LOCAL NEWS

**Platform extended at Myathalun Pagoda in Magway**



MAGWAY, 24 March— Under the auspices of Ovadaçariya Sayadaws, the extension of 180 square feet platform to the western part of Myathalun Pagoda was carried out and it cost K 200 million. The extension of the platform was completed on 31 May 2009.

Moreover, Maha Wizayayanthi and Maha

Atulayanthi prayer halls were moved back to the walls for extension of the platforms. High Tech Concrete Technology Co Ltd was assigned duty to extend the buildings.

The ground breaking ceremony was held on 7 October 2011 and the stake driving ceremony on 12 October 2011. The

new building for Maha Atulayanthi prayer hall which is 108 feet long and 30 feet wide was completed on 30 April 2012. Maha Wizayayanthi prayer hall which is 72 feet long and 45 feet wide was completed on 31 July 2012.

At present, the wider platform of the pagoda attracts greater number of tourists at home and abroad for convenient accommodation.—*Myanma Alinn*

**Uniforms provided to fire brigade members**

HOMALIN, 24 March—A ceremony to honour members of Fire Services Department of Homalin and Auxiliary Fire Brigade was held in conjunction with the uniform presentation at Myoma gymnasium in Homalin on 15 March afternoon.

At the ceremony, Township Administrator U Tint Lwin thanked three FSD members, nine Auxiliary Fire Brigade members, close supervisor Lt-Col Nanda Htwe,

backhoe owner U Nge and two drivers for their participation in fighting fire at Namtaw Village on 17 March and presented certificates of honour and gifts to them.

Then, the Township Administrator presented 60 sets of uniforms to fire brigade members and 40 sets of uniforms to Red Cross members and the commander of Township Police Force K 200,000 to officials.

*Myanma Alinn*

**MWAF provides cash assistance to eye patients**

MONYWA, 24 March— Under the arrangement of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, a ceremony to donate cash to the fund for providing free eye care to patients from Sagaing Region was held at the hall of Monywa General Hospital on 17 March afternoon, with an address by President of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Daw Mya Mya.

President of the federation Daw Mya Mya and officials, Patron of Region WAO Daw Wai Wai Khaing and officials and departmental personnel donated cash to the fund through officials who returned certificates of honour.

Sagaing Region Minister for Social Affairs

Dr Myint Thein made a speech.

Next, the president and party put glasses on the patients who have already received eye surgical

operations and presented cash assistance to them.

At the ceremony, the donations amounted to K 5.5 million.

*Myanma Alinn*



**Objectives of the 68<sup>th</sup> 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

**Yangon Mega Expo 2013 on 30 March**

YANGON, 24 March— The Yangon Mega Expo 2013 including Building Materials, Electronics, Automobile or Job Fair will be held on a grand scale at Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindhamma Road in Mayangon Township of Yangon from 30 March to 2 April.

It will be organized by Dagon Exhibitions Limited.

The expo will showcase home decorations,

construction materials, modern furniture, sanitation and kitchen equipment, quality paints, industrial materials, electronic equipment, mobile phones, computer and accessories, banking services, car showrooms, car parts at the respective booths to be displayed by entrepreneurs at home and abroad.

Gifts will be presented to 300 visitors who took

registration through online on a first come, first served basis.

HeartofArtPerformance & Art Creation Group of Film Director Maung Tin Oo will present the new faces contest 2013 to the visitors and customers. Prizes will be awarded to the winners for K 1 million as the first prize, K 700,000 as the second prize and K 500,000 as the third prize.—*Myanma Alinn*

**First-aid Course, Basic Health Course wrap up**

PUTAO, 24 March—The First-aid Course and Basic Health Course concluded at the hall of Kharaborazi National Park in Pannandin Sub-Township of Nagmon Township in Putao District of Kachin State on 3 March.

On the occasion, Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department U Htein Lin made a speech and gave

talks on library and reading habit and environmental conservation.

Region In-charge of the Wildlife Conservation U Than Zaw gave lectures on health development of the locals.

The one-week training courses were jointly organized by Environment and Wildlife Conservation Department and Nagmon Township Health Department.

Officials presented prizes to outstanding trainees and donated medicines worth K 600,000 to 34 trainees.

*Myanma Alinn*



Internal Revenue Department handed over five per cent income tax for second and third quarters of 2012-2013 fiscal year in Pyu Township on 9 February. Head of Township IRD U Kyaw Hlaing presents K 2,794,208 to Township Development Affairs Committee Executive Officer U Aung Myint Htay.—*MYANMA ALINN*

**Staff quarter blazed in Myaing Hay Wun Park**

YANGON, 24 March—A fire broke out at the staff quarter of Parks and Playgrounds Department of Yangon City Development Committee in the compound of Myaing Hay Wun Park at 8<sup>th</sup>-Mile Junction in Ward 5 of Mayangon Township in Yangon Region at 00.10 am on 17 March.

The fire started from the kitchen of U Myint Thuang, son of U Sein Maung, at the staff quarter.

A total of 65 members of Fire Services Department,

70 Auxiliary Fire Brigade members and 35 Red Cross Brigade members together with local people put out the fire with the use of 25 fire engines, three management vehicles, two fire extinguishing machines and two supporting vehicles at 00.35 am.

The fire left 20 people homeless and caused loss and damages worth K 980,000.

Mayangon Police Station opened a file of lawsuit for the outbreak of fire.

*Myanma Alinn*

## Two die skydiving in Florida, said to be from Iceland

NEW YORK, 24 March — Two skydivers from Iceland, one an instructor and the other a student, were killed in a skydiving jump on Saturday, Florida media reported.

The two men were part of a group of 22 skydivers who jumped from a plane in Zephyrhills, about 30 miles northeast of Tampa, according to the *Tampa Tribune* newspaper.

When only 20 of those who jumped returned, authorities launched a search and found the bodies of the two men a few hours later, Florida media said.

The two men were from Iceland, according to Skydive City, which planned the jump, the *Tribune* reported.

Their identities were not released. A spokesman for the Pasco County, Florida Sheriff's Office could not be reached for comment.—*Reuters*

## Egyptian villagers kill mental patient mistaken for thief

CAIRO, 24 March—A group of villagers killed a mental patient mistaken for a thief on Saturday in northern Egypt, state-run news agency *MENA* reported. Residents of a village near Zagazig town in Sharqiya, about 65 km north of the capital Cairo, chased the man, who they believed was stealing a

car, until he jumped into a canal.

The villagers pulled him out, killed him and mutilated his body. An investigation later revealed the man was a mental patient on his way to get his monthly medications at a local hospital.

Violent acts have become common throughout

economies, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, and the 5th BRICS summit is scheduled to be held in Durban on Tuesday.

It will be the first time for South Africa to host the BRICS summit since it officially became a membership of the group on 24 Dec, 2010.

“More than 3000 law enforcement officials representing various security forces across the country have been in place,” said the official. “They will serve with dignity, pride and restraint.” The government official made sure that

Photo taken on 22 March shows the scene of Durbuy, a Belgian city located on the Ardennes plateau, eastern Belgium. With an area of 156.61 square kilometres and about 10,000 inhabitants, Durbuy is known as one of the smallest cities in the world. Because of its geographical location and defensive function, Durbuy was elevated to the rank of city in 1331. —XINHUA



## S African gov't announces over 3000 security people to guard BRICS summit

JOHANNESBURG, 24 March — Several thousands security people have been on alert for the upcoming 5th BRICS summit, the South African police announced on Saturday.

“South Africa is ready to host the BRICS summit with a collaborative integrative security plan,” said South Africa's National Police Commissioner Riah Phiyega as she was addressing the security issues at the BRICS summit in the southern port city of Durban.

BRICS is an acronym for the grouping of the world's leading emerging

the summit will be held in a safe environment, saying “we are going to have a safe and secure event.”

“We have a good reputation as world leaders of successfully hosting events of this magnitude,” said she.—*Xinhua*

## New round of hailstorms affect 838,000 people

BEIJING, 24 March—A new round of hails and storms hitting central and south China on Friday had killed one and affected some 838,000 people as of 8:pm Saturday, according to the Ministry of Civil Affairs.

Figures released late on Saturday by the ministry show that 42 cities and counties in the municipality of Chongqing and the Provinces of Jiangxi, Hubei, Hunan and Guizhou have been ravaged by the extreme weather, leaving at least 150,000 people in urgent need of resettlement and basic living aids.

The storm has toppled more than 1,000 houses and damaged another 138,000 ones in the above-mentioned areas. It also damaged 43,200 hectares of crops, of which 6,800 hectares were destroyed.

The direct economic loss caused by the weather was currently estimated at 590 million yuan (94 million US dollars).

Local authorities in Hunan revealed earlier that three people died during hailstorms between Tuesday and Friday, and a strong hailstorm on Wednesday resulted in nine deaths in a city in south China's Guangdong Province.

—*Xinhua*

## 11 inmates escape Greek prison, two guards injured: official statement

ATHENS, 24 March—Eleven inmates escaped a prison in central Greece during exchange of fire with guards in Friday night, which has left two prison guards injured, one of them in serious condition, Greek authorities announced on Saturday.

Following a count down of prisoners at Trikalas's complex after the standoff with the passengers of two trucks who attacked the prison's entrance with automatic weapons, police discovered that eleven foreign nationals, convicted for robberies, were missing.

According to an official announcement by the Justice Ministry in Athens, no weapons were discov-

ered inside the prison.

As a manhunt is under way since the early hours of Saturday, according to yet unconfirmed local media reports, at least two inmates have been tracked down and arrested.

Friday's incident is the latest prison break attempt in a month in Greece. On 24 February, a notorious Greek gang boss who serves life imprisonment failed to escape from the same prison with helicopter and was injured by gunfire.

Last weekend, another notorious convict in Greece, Albanian national Alket Rizaj, held prison guards as hostages for several hours before surrendering to police.

—*Xinhua*



Visitors pose for photos with models of vegetables during the 1st Agriculture Carnival at the Strawberry Expo Park in Changping District, Beijing, capital of China, on 23 March, 2013. Opened on Saturday, the carnival will continue till 12 May, highlighting the latest agricultural science, technologies and creative agricultural projects.—XINHUA

## Sudan's army mistakenly kills four in North Darfur bombardment

KHARTOUM, 24 March — Four people have been killed on Friday after a Sudanese army plane mistakenly bombed a village in North Darfur State, local media reported on Saturday.

“Four people, including a child, a woman and two members of the people's defence forces, were killed on Friday after a plane, belonging to the Sudanese army, mistakenly bombed Um Ajaja village, west of Maleet area in North Darfur State,” *Khartoum Al-Sahafa* daily reported.

The paper quoted Yassir Ahmadai, a representative of Maleet area in the Sudanese parliament, as saying that there was no presence of rebels in the bombed area and that the authorities have also

confirmed that.

The bombardment of the village might have come as a result of inaccurate information, Ahmadai said.

On 21 Feb, two people were killed and a number of others injured when the Sudanese Air Force mistakenly bombed Draibalreeh area in South Darfur State.

The Sudanese army is fighting rebel groups in the Darfur region under the Revolutionary Front, which brings together the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM)/northern sector, the Darfur rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA)/Abdul-Wahid Mohamed Nur faction and the SLA/Minni Minawi faction.—*Xinhua*



A firefighter walks beside the burning cardboard warehouse in Ecatepec of Mexico State, Mexico, on 23 March, 2013. The fire has already been controlled and prevented from spreading to other residential area near the site, according to Ecatepec's municipal President Paul Bedolla.

—XINHUA

## REGIONAL

## Daughter of late King Sihanouk officially leads royalist party to contest in July's polls

PHNOM PENH, 24 March—Princess Norodom Arun Rasmey, the youngest daughter of Cambodia's late King Father Norodom Sihanouk, was formally elected on Saturday the president of the royalist party Funcinpec and the candidate for the post of prime minister if the party wins the general election on 28 July.

The Princess, who is currently Cambodian ambassador to Malaysia, was officially endorsed by the party's congress attended by about 4,000 members at its headquarters in Russei Keo District on the outskirts of Phnom Penh.

The party's former Executive President Nhik Bun Chhay was elected as the party's secretary general.

Funcinpec is currently in the coalition government with the Cambodian People's Party (CPP) of Prime Minister Hun Sen. "It's a big obligation for me. As the party's president, I will try all my best to unite royalists, Sihanoukists in order to build a prosperous society for Cambodian people," Princess Arun Rasmey told the congress, adding that under her leadership, the party's stance would be "neutral" with all political parties in the country and other countries.



Princess Norodom Arun Rasmey, the youngest daughter of Cambodia's late King Father Norodom Sihanouk, attends the congress of royalist party Funcinpec, which is held at its headquarters in Russei Keo District on the outskirts of Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 23 March, 2013.—XINHUA

She said she would lead the party by sticking to the political guidelines of late King Father Norodom Sihanouk. "King Father Sihanouk's wishes are: to seek full independence for the

nation and to defend territorial integrity; to maintain peace and national unification and reconciliation; and to encourage people to join together to develop the nation," she said.—Xinhua

## Philippines leading probe on stuck

### USS Guardian off Sulu Sea

MANILA, 24 March—The Philippine government is leading the investigation into the grounded Navy ship of the United States in Tubataha reef off Sulu Sea, a senior government official insisted on Saturday.

Deputy Presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte made the statement contrary to the accusation of some people that the United States is the one leading the probe on the stuck *USS Guardian* in the world her-

itage site.

"Apparently, the Maritime Casualty Investigation Team that is being led by the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) is conducting an independent investigation on the grounding of the *USS Guardian*," she said in an interview over a state-run radio station.

She clarified that the invitation to Filipino officials by the United States to visit the Joint US Military Assistance Group (JUSMAG) headquarters in Ja-

pan was just part of the ongoing investigation, adding that the PCG-led investigation team is separate from the US probe.

Dismantling operations have been ongoing to remove the US minesweeper, which has been stranded in the reef since it ran aground on 17 January while enroute to its next port call in the Philippines. Authorities were hoping to complete the extrication of the vessel by April.

Xinhua

## Suicide attack on army check post kills five in NW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 24 March—At least five soldiers were killed in a suicide attack on an army check post in Pakistan's northwest tribal area of North Waziristan on Saturday night, said an Army statement.

Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), the mouthpiece of Pakistan army, said in a brief statement that a suicide bomber

rammed his explosive-laden vehicle into an army check post in Miran Shah, capital town of North Waziristan, on Saturday night.

The check post was completely destroyed in the attack, said the statement, adding five troops were killed in the blast.

The statement failed to give further details.

Some local media

reports said that the attack killed six people and wounded 18 others.

No group has taken the credit for the attack.

Bordering east Afghanistan, North Waziristan is one of the seven tribal areas in northwest Pakistan, which is believed to be one of the havens for militants of various groups.

Xinhua



A student experiences a radiation sensor on the open day at China Meteorological Administration in Beijing, capital of China, on 23 March, 2013, the World Meteorological Day. XINHUA

## Vietnam launches Earth Hour 2013

HANOI, 24 March—Many cities and provinces across Vietnam, including capital Hanoi, central Da Nang and southern Ho Chi Minh City, joined in the world's Earth Hour 2013 by turning off unnecessary electrical devices for one hour, from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm local time on Saturday.

A campaign for the Earth Hour 2013 had been launched across Vietnam with the slogan, "You and I Together We Act", which attracted hundreds of thousands of volunteers and people from all walks of life, and regardless of age.

In Hanoi, a grand Earth Hour ceremony "Switch off the light" was held on Saturday evening at the August Revolution Square, with participation of hundreds of people, including Vice Chairman of Hanoi People's Committee Nguyen Van Suu, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade (MIT) Le Duong Quang, and other officials from relevant agencies and local residents. Artistic performances were held before and during the Earth Hour.—Xinhua

## Nestle recalls one kind of Kit Kat Chunky bars in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 24 March—Nestle Singapore said it is recalling Kit Kat Chunky Peanut Butter chocolate bar here after seven customers in UK found a piece of plastic in the product, *Straits Times* daily said on Saturday.

According to the company's statement, there are

## Chinese President attends ceremony to launch CPC congress memorial project

MOSCOW, 24 March—Chinese President Xi Jinping attended here on Saturday a ceremony marking the start of the construction of a memorial dedicated to the 6th national congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) that was held in Moscow in 1928.

While addressing the ceremony, Xi, also the general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, appreciated the support from Russian President Vladimir Putin and other Russian leaders for the project.

Eighty five years ago, for the future of China and the Chinese nation, more than 140 CPC delegates from all parts of China risked their lives and came to Moscow to hold the Party congress with the help of the Russian people and some international organizations, Xi said.

That meeting has played a key role in Party building and its development, as well as in the cause of the liberation of Chinese people and China's revolution, he said, adding that it is the only Party congress held overseas in the CPC's history. The Chinese President said the site of the congress is an important symbol of the profound friendship between the peo-

ples of the two countries.

The CPC, the Chinese government and the Chinese people highly value that particular period of history, and also treasure the history of mutual support between the two peoples, he added.

The establishment of the memorial is to remember the history, carry forward the traditional China-Russia friendship, and promote the two nations' friendship for the future generations, he added.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Olga Golodets, who also attended the ceremony, said that the project has reflected the mutual understanding between the Russians and the Chinese, and their friendship, adding that he believed it would become another symbol of bilateral friendship.

Back in 1928, during a time of "white terror" in China, then CPC central committee decided to convene the 6th Party congress in Moscow.

During his visit to Russia three years ago, Xi, who was Chinese vice president at that time, proposed to build the memorial while meeting with then Russian Prime Minister Putin, who strongly supported the idea.

Xinhua



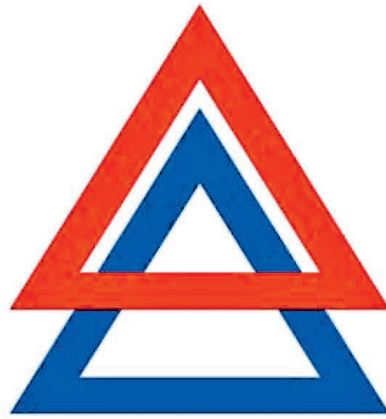
Photo taken on 23 March, 2013 shows a view of destroyed villages after a tornado swept through the Brahmanbaria district, some 109 km east of the capital Dhaka, Bangladesh. The death toll caused by a devastating tornado in eastern Bangladesh rose to 20 on Saturday, a local TV channel reported.—XINHUA

totally four Kit Kat Chunky special varieties bars, including 48g size bars in Peanut Butter, Hazelnut, Chocolate Fudge and Caramel flavours, as well as the Kit Kat Chunky Collection Giant Egg recalled in UK, Germany, Switzerland, Malta, Austria, Singapore, Philippines and Canada.

Among all these recalled products, only the peanut butter Kit Kat Chunky bars are sold here, while the affected products were predominantly sold in UK.

Nestle Singapore added the recall is a precautionary measure.

Xinhua



## **KBZ BANK**

**KBZ BANK LTD. is pleased to inform all that**

**we have successfully opened**

**Thingangyun (2), Yadana Road Branch**

**Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region**

**as 101<sup>st</sup> branch to date-effective 25.3.2013**

**All honored persons are kindly requested to come and enjoy our cordial banking services at our newest branch.**

**KBZ Bank: The Strength of Myanmar**

**Contact Address:**

**Thingangyun (2), Yadana Road Branch**

**No.(2/3/4), Yadana Road, 14/Bawamyint Quarter**

**Malikha Housing, Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region.**

**Phone: (01) 8551456/ 57/ 58/ 59/ 60/ 61**

**Fax: (01) 8551462/ 63/ 64/ 65**

**[www.kbzbank.com](http://www.kbzbank.com)**

ADVERTISEMENT & ENTERTAINMENT

TRADEMARK CAUTION

ViiV Healthcare UK Limited of 980 Great West Road, Brentford, Middlesex, TW8 9GS, England is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following trademark:

**3TC**

(Reg. No. IV/4766/1996)  
(Reg. No. IV/1088/2013)

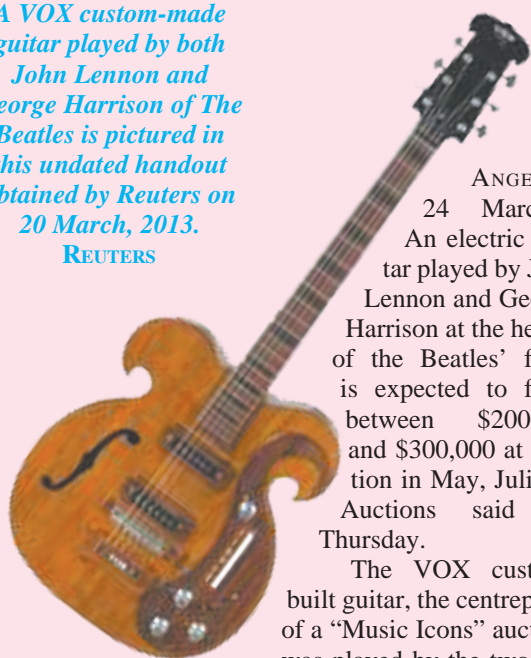
used in respect of -  
"Pharmaceutical preparations and substances"

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use or any other infringement whatsoever of this trademark will be dealt with according to law.

Htain Lin Oo LL.B Advocate  
MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM  
E-mail: mtpip@mptmail.net.mm  
Tel: 376318 G.P.O Box: 666  
Yangon. 25 March 2013

A VOX custom-made guitar played by both John Lennon and George Harrison of The Beatles is pictured in this undated handout obtained by Reuters on 20 March, 2013.

REUTERS



LOS ANGELES, 24 March—

An electric guitar played by John Lennon and George Harrison at the height of the Beatles' fame is expected to fetch between \$200,000 and \$300,000 at auction in May, Julien's Auctions said on Thursday.

The VOX custom-built guitar, the centrepiece of a "Music Icons" auction, was played by the two late pop stars during the British

Guitar once played by Beatles' Lennon and Harrison up for auction

band's "Magical Mystery Tour" period.

Harrison used it to practice the 1967 song "I Am the Walrus," while Lennon played the guitar the same year while recording a video session for "Hello, Goodbye." Both songs were included on the "Magical Mystery Tour" album.

Beverly Hills-based Julien's Auctions said the guitar was given as a gift in 1967 to Yanni "Magic Alex" Mardas, the electronics engineer for the band's Apple Records label.

Martin Nolan, executive Director of Julien's

Auctions, called the guitar "one of the most historical pieces of music memorabilia" ever offered by the auction house.

Other Beatles items for sale at the 18 May auction in New York include a copy of the band's 1963 debut album "Please Please Me," signed by all four band members and which has an estimated price of between \$30,000 and \$50,000. A copy of Lennon's whimsical 1964 book of stories and drawings "In His Own Write" — also signed by the band — could fetch up to \$30,000.

Costumes, personal

effects and memorabilia from Elvis Presley, Michael Jackson, The Grateful Dead, David Bowie and 1970s teen heartthrob David Cassidy are also up for sale.

The VOX guitar will go on display from 16 April to 5 May at the Museum of Style Icons in Newbridge, Ireland, ahead of the New York auction.

Lennon was shot dead in New York in 1980, and Harrison died of lung cancer in Los Angeles in 2001, leaving Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr as the surviving members of the Fab Four.—Reuters

Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Ministry of Information

News and Periodicals Enterprise

Invitation for Expression of Interest for Production of The New Light of Myanmar Daily

1. The Request for Expression of Interest is invited to create joint venture with local and foreign entrepreneurs in order that The New Light of Myanmar Daily published in English version by the News and Periodicals Enterprise be transformed into a standard newspaper.
2. In submitting the Expression of Interest:
  - a. The following facts are to be included in the submission of local entrepreneurs:
    - i. Name of entrepreneur/company, and number of National Scrutiny Card
    - ii. Curriculum Vitae of entrepreneur and brief background history of company
    - iii. Documents of the company and financial statement
    - iv. Bank Statement for the past two years approved by Certified Public Accountant
    - v. List of members of current Board of Directors
    - vi. Volume of maximum investment
    - vii. Volume of desired profit
    - viii. Documents to be submitted exclusively
  - b. The following facts are to be included in the submission of foreign entrepreneurs:
    - i. Name of entrepreneur/company, and Passport No.
    - ii. Curriculum Vitae of entrepreneur and brief background history of company
    - iii. Documents relating to the foreign company
    - iv. Financial Statement
    - v. List of members of the current Board of Directors
    - vi. Volume of maximum investment
    - vii. Volume of desired profit
    - viii. Documents to be submitted exclusively
3. Local and foreign entrepreneurs who will submit the Expression of Interest are to send their submissions to Building No. 7, News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information, Nay Pyi Taw not later than (25-4-2013). For further information, please contact phone numbers: 01-201192, 067-412123 and 067-412128.

Richa Chadha on her special connection with acting guru Barry John

MUMBAI, 24 March— Back when she was a 14-year-old, Richa Chadha wanted to meet acting guru Barry John because "he had trained Shah Rukh Khan."

Finally, he took her on as a student and all those years of working hard under his tutelage culminated in Richa's brush with Bollywood.

Says Richa, "When I was 14, I wanted to learn acting. I had heard he was SRK's mentor."

The actress last met her coach along with Mira Nair at the premiere of Salaam Bombay.

A source says, "She meets up with her mentor whenever it is possible. Richa is also a part of Mira

Nair's The Reluctant Fundamentalist, whose trailer and poster released at the same event."—PTI



Richa Chadha was trained in acting under the guidance of Barry John. PTI

Kate Winslet joins upcoming young adult film "Divergent"

LOS ANGELES, 24 March—British Oscar-winning actress Kate Winslet has been cast in upcoming young adult film "Divergent," boosting the profile of the latest adaptation from a best-selling novel to the big screen. Film studio Summit Entertainment said on Thursday that Winslet, 37, will play the cold and unlikeable Jeanine Matthews in the film set in a dystopian future.

"Divergent," based on the first of a trilogy of novels by Veronica Roth, is set in a society that is divided into five factions that define how a person lives their life.

The Abnegation people are selfless while the Erudite devote themselves to a

lifelong pursuit of knowledge. Winslet will play the leader of the Erudite, Sum-mit said in a statement.

The studio previously

announced the casting of rising star Shailene Woodley, 21, and British newcomer Theo James, 28.

Reuters



Actress Kate Winslet arrives on the red carpet for the screening of the movie 'The Reader' of the 59th Berlinale film festival in Berlin, on 6 Feb, 2009.—REUTERS

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

## SPORTS

## Woods takes charge to close in on eighth Bay Hill win

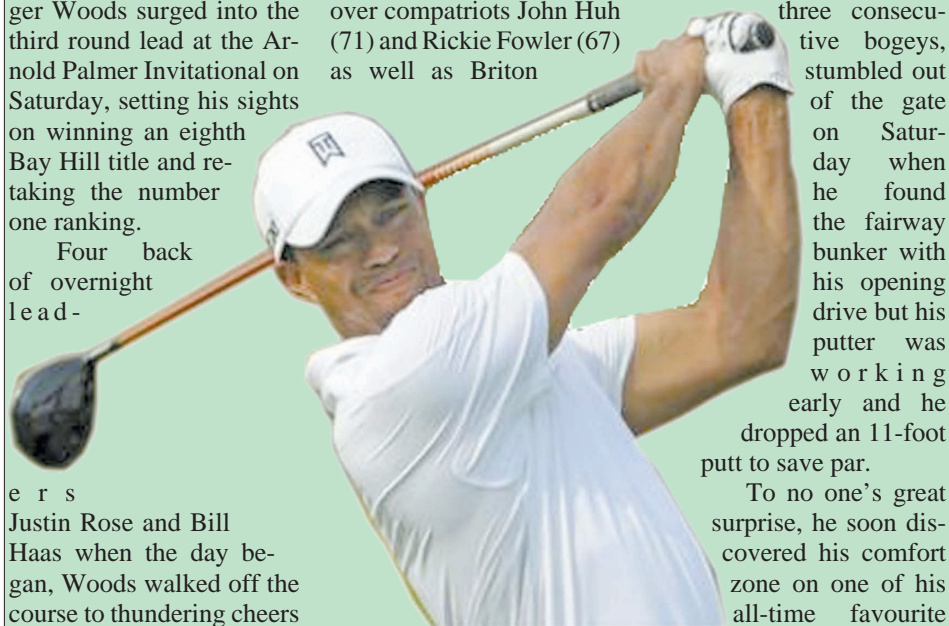
ORLANDO, (Florida) 24 March—Looking like his old imposing self, Tiger Woods surged into the third round lead at the Arnold Palmer Invitational on Saturday, setting his sights on winning an eighth Bay Hill title and re-taking the number one ranking.

Four back of overnight lead-

ers

Justin Rose and Bill Haas when the day began, Woods walked off the course to thundering cheers

*Tiger Woods watches his tee shot on the 16th hole during third round play in the Arnold Palmer Invitational PGA golf tournament in Orlando, Florida on 23 March, 2013.—REUTERS*



and in full command after returning a brilliant six-under 66 for a two-shot lead over compatriots John Huh (71) and Rickie Fowler (67) as well as Briton

Rose (72). Woods, who had a disastrous end to his second round on Friday with three consecutive bogeys, stumbled out of the gate on Saturday when he found the fairway bunker with his opening drive but his putter was working early and he dropped an 11-foot putt to save par.

To no one's great surprise, he soon discovered his comfort zone on one of his all-time favourite

layouts, mixing an eagle and five birdies with a single bogey.

Seven-times, including last year, Woods has triumphed at "Arnie's Place" and one more victory on Sunday would match Sam Snead's PGA Tour record for most wins in a single event.

It would also see him reclaim top spot in the world rankings from Rory McIlroy. "Generally our schedules are such that once we figure out what golf courses we like, we tend to play them," Woods told reporters.

"That's been the case with my scheduling and look at few events over the course of my career I've played well on and this is one of them."

Reuters

## Vettel secures pole at rain-hit Sepang

SEPANG, (Malaysia) 24 March—Red Bull's Formula One world champion Sebastian Vettel made the most of a well-timed change of tires in a rainy qualifying session to seize pole position for the Malaysian Grand Prix on Saturday.

Vettel will be joined on the front row for the second round of the season by Ferrari's Felipe Massa, with the Brazilian outqualifying his Spanish team mate Fernando Alonso for the fourth race in succession.

Alonso, last year's winner in Malaysia and second in the Australian season-opener last weekend, will start in third place.

Lewis Hamilton will complete the second row in his Mercedes with Red Bull's Mark Webber disappointed to be fifth after getting his timing wrong

in the final session. "If you start in the front, you always want to finish there as well," Vettel told reporters after his 38th career pole and second of the season.

"It will be a long race and it's difficult to know the true pace. We con-

firmed what we saw in Melbourne. I'm happy with the balance of the car."

Vettel's raw pace in Australia was negated by excessive tire wear in the race and after finishing third there, the German adopted a cautious approach in the



*Red Bull Formula One driver Sebastian Vettel of Germany, flanked by Ferrari Formula One drivers Felipe Massa of Brazil (L) and Fernando Alonso of Spain, pose after the qualifying session for the Malaysian F1 Grand Prix at Sepang International Circuit outside Kuala Lumpur, on 23 March, 2013.—REUTERS*

first two rounds of qualifying on Saturday.

"It was one of those qualifying sessions you just want to survive," said team principal Christian Horner after the rain had caught some others out. "Q1 (the first phase) was a bit close for comfort."

The first drops fell in the second phase but the Red Bull's speed shone through once the 10 cars in the final round were all fitted with intermediate tires as a downpour soaked half of the Sepang Circuit.

Vettel opted to change his intermediates early in the final phase and, after lapping more than a second ahead of early pace-setter Hamilton, his time was far too competitive for the two Ferraris to better as the checkered flag was waved.

Reuters

## Djokovic wins in Miami, while Azarenka withdraws

MIAMI, 24 March—Novak Djokovic and Maria Sharapova both survived unscathed but the Sony Open lost two other grand slam champions on Friday when Victoria Azarenka and Juan Martin Del Potro exited the Miami tournament.

Azarenka withdrew from her opening match because of an ankle in-



*Serbia's Novak Djokovic gestures just after match point, having defeated Lukas Rosol of the Czech Republic in their men's singles second round match at the Sony Open tennis tournament in Key Biscayne, Florida on 22 March, 2013.—REUTERS*

jury she suffered playing at Indian Wells last week.

"I'm very disappointed ... But I have to take my health into consideration," said Azarenka, who won the Australian Open in January but has struggled with injuries since.

"I tried everything I could but couldn't make it. It's an unfortunate part of our job."

Azarenka's withdrawal proved an un-

expected bonus for American teenager Lauren Davis, who failed to qualify for the tournament.

She was given a 'lucky loser' pass into the event when Azarenka pulled out then saved three match points in defeating Madison Keys 6-1, 5-7, 7-6.

"I just hoped and I wished and I prayed that I would get in," said Davis. "I was just so happy. I didn't care if I won or lost. I just was so grateful for the opportunity to play."

Former US Open champion Del Potro last week, suffered a surprise 7-6, 6-1 loss to Germany's Tobias Kamke.

The towering Argen-

tine had two set points in the opening set but lost his way just a week after making the men's final at Indian Wells.

"He didn't play obviously his best tennis," said Kamke. "But still I think I did a good job and pretty satisfied with that."

There were no other major casualties amongst the top seeds, with Djokovic and Sharapova both winning in straight sets.

Sharapova romped to a 6-2, 6-0 win over Canada's Eugenie Bouchard while Djokovic, playing in the late night match, cruised to a 6-1, 6-0 victory over Lukas Rosol.

Reuters

## Mourinho could return to Inter or Chelsea

ROME, 24 March—Real Madrid Manager Jose Mourinho on Saturday hinted that next season he could come back



to

coach Inter or Chelsea.

Mourinho is under pressure in Spain despite his side have reached the Champions League quarterfinals, as his team continues to trail behind Barcelona in La Liga.

"I have an adventurous spirit and do not know what will happen next season,"

he said. "It's not easy to choose a new destination after working in England, Portugal, Italy and Spain. Maybe I could return to somewhere I've already been. Watch out for surprises."

Mourinho has been linked with potential returns to Inter and Chelsea, although the Nerazzurri would be more likely considering he was fired by Roman Abramovich.

The self-claimed Special One won the Treble with the Nerazzurri in 2010 before walking away to take on the Real Madrid challenge.

Xinhua

## Klinsmann gets the right response from battling US

DENVER, (Colorado) 24 March—After a week surprisingly dominated by talk of rifts and lack of player confidence in coach Juergen Klinsmann, the United States gave a characteristically battling display to beat Costa Rica 1-0 in driving snow.

There was nothing to learn about Klinsmann's tactics, about the nuances of team formation in Friday's game which, in many other circumstances, may have been halted due to the snow-covered field.

Arguably, Klinsmann's biggest mistake when taking over the US team in 2011 was to over-promise with talk of a new era of more

tains.

As forward Herculez Gomez put it after the game: "Good teams find ways to win games, and that's what we did. We grinded out a result because it wasn't very hard to see that conditions were pretty bad and it was pretty difficult to play actual soccer but we found a way."

It was, as Klinsmann put it "a snow fight" but it is hard to imagine that a squad with real morale problems and a lack of faith in their coach would fight in such aggressive fashion as the US did.

For goalkeeper Brad Guzan, who kept a clean sheet deputizing for injured



*Brad Guzan (R) of the US blocks a shot from Costa Rica's Alvaro Saborio (L) during their 2014 World Cup qualifying soccer match in Commerce City, Colorado on 22 March, 2013.—REUTERS*

progressive passing football when his immediate task is primarily to negotiate what is the most competitive qualifying processes the CONCACAF region has seen.

Getting to Brazil will require grinding out results in front of hostile crowds in stifling heat in Central America and, on Friday, it was about getting three points in a blizzard by the Rocky Moun-

tain first choice keeper Tim Howard, the air of negativity surrounding the team never entered the dressing room.

"Negativity from who? Whatever goes on the outside, you know inside of our team these group of guys have all the confidence in each other and belief that we can go out there and do our job," he said after the win.

Reuters

GENERAL

## Murray and Serena advance in Miami, Venus withdraws

Andy Murray of Britain lunges for a return to Bernard Tomic of Australia during their Sony Open tennis tournament match in Key Biscayne, Florida on 23 March, 2013.

REUTERS



KEY BISCAYNE, 24 March—British world number three Andy Murray cruised to a straightforward victory over Bernard Tomic at the Sony Open but the Williams sisters had contrasting fortunes in Miami on Saturday.

Top ranked Serena overcame a slow start to turn away Japan's Ayumi Morita 6-3, 6-3 in third round play, but Venus was

forced to withdraw from the tournament with a back injury. Murray, meanwhile, needed only 56 minutes to defeat sluggish Australian Tomic 6-3, 6-1 in his second round match.

"I don't know if he was tired or struggling with the humidity, but he was playing pretty low percentage tennis," Murray told reporters. "With the conditions like they were today, that played into my hands."

The 2009 Miami

champion won 80 percent of his first service points and broke Tomic twice in each set to improve to 2-0 all-time against the Australian.

Murray, runner-up to world number one Novak Djokovic last year, will face Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov in the third round. Dimitrov was leading 6-4, 1-1 when Italy's Simone Bolelli was forced to retire.

Reuters

### MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(25-3-13 09:30 am ~ 26-3-13 09:30 am) MST

- \* News
- \* Pa-O Traditional Bag
- \* My Tour around Hopone City
- \* News
- \* Boost Production for Surplus Marine Product
- \* The Venerable Baw Kyo Pagoda
- \* Today's Fashion Trend
- \* News
- \* Mone Yarzawin Series Introduction
- \* "Great Shwedagon" The Religious insignias of pagoda in Myanmar
- \* News
- \* Myanmar Agro Machine Exhibition 2013
- \* Workshop on Electric Power Development and Challenges in Myanma
- \* Sharing Experiences of the Mekong Region
- \* Culture Stage
- \* Pesticide and Cancer
- \* Easy Transport Facility
- \* Today's Efficient Youth (OBF student)
- \* Travelling to Shan Plateau (Pindaya Myo Ma Market)
- \* Myanmar Movies "Regretful Game"

### Myanmar TV

(25-3-2013, Monday)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 7:00 am  | Lectures) -First Year (Home Economic)                         |
| 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw                          | 4:35 pm   |
| 7:25 am  | 15. Teleplay (Industry)                                       |
| 2. Health Programme  | 4:50 pm   |
| 7:30 am  | 16. Musical Programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Trouou) |
| 3. Morning News  | 4:55 pm   |
| 7:40 am  | 17. Myanmar Language  |
| 4. International News  | 5:20 pm   |
| 8:00 am  | 18. Gitadagale Phwintbaohn                                    |
| 5. Pagoda Programme  | 6:00 pm   |
| 8:20 am  | 19. Evening News  |
| 6. Song of National Races  | 6:15 pm   |
| 8:30 am  | 20. Weather Report  |
| 7. Cute Little Dancers   | 6:20 pm   |
| 8:35 am  | 21. Teleplay (Sea Games)                                      |
| 8. Songs in honour of (68 <sup>th</sup> ) Anniversary Armed Forces Day | 6:50 pm   |
| 8:40 am  | 22. TV Drama Series   |
| 9. Road to 27 <sup>th</sup> SEA Games                                  | 7:00 pm   |
| 4:00 pm  | 23. News  |
| 10. Opening Song   | 7:10 pm   |
| 4:05 am  | 24. TV Drama Series   |
| 11. Songs For Upholding National Spirit                                | 8:00  |
| 4:10 pm  | 25. News  |
| 12. Dance Variety  | 26. People Talks  |
| 4:15 pm  | 27. International News  |
| 13. Musical Programme  | 28. Weather Report  |
| 4:20 pm  | 29. Cartoon Series  |
| 14. University of Distance Education (TV                               | 30. Dhamma Puja Song  |
|  | 10:00 pm  |
|  | 31. News  |
|  | 32. India Drama Series  |

## Singapore's CBD switches off for Earth Hour

SINGAPORE, 24 March—After countdown by millions of thousands of people, the skyscrapers standing in the Central Business District (CBD) area of Singapore all went dark for Earth Hour at around 8:30 local time on Saturday night.

All the landmark buildings around the city-state's Marina Bay, including the Merlion, the Singapore Flyer and the Esplanade, were turned off for an hour. In all, there were more than 100 buildings, locations and organizations around Singapore turn their lights out, showing their support for environmentally sustainable action.

With the global headquarters of Earth Hour moved to Singapore last year, the World Wide

Fund for Nature initiative expanded in Singapore to involve more organizations and individuals.

Under the brand name "I Will If You Will", there are three challenges this year to encourage more people and organizations to participate in common practices to save more energy.

IKEA Singapore will have a free reusable blue bag day if 20,000 people pledge to use reusable bags instead of plastic bags. They commit to give a free IKEA reusable blue bag for each transaction per customer in Singapore. IKEA will stop the sale of plastic bags from 23 March, 2013 onwards.

Marina Bay Sands commits to raise its air-conditioners by 1 degree

for one day every month if their top 20 venders pledge to go 1 degree up on Earth Hour 2013.

Philips Lighting will also give LED and sustainable lighting to 1000 lower-income families if 100,000 Singaporean families convert to LED lighting solutions.

According to the organizer, the so-called "I Will If You Will" challenge-based platform encourages people to make a difference in the world by offering them something in return. This year's involvement of more

organizations may provoke more participants here.

The public played an active role in powering up the main event held at The Float at Marina Bay in this city-state. They danced on energy absorbing pads to convert the kinetic energy produced to electricity, which were used to power an outdoor film screening as part of the celebration activities for the night.

The initiative is said to encourage people to do more exercise to keep fit and strengthen the awareness of renewable energy.

Xinhua



Visitors view peach flowers in Nyingchi, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, on 23 March, 2013. The 11th Nyingchi Peach Flower Cultural Tourism Festival kicked off on Saturday, attracting numbers of tourists.—XINHUA

## Two killed, seven injured in minibus overturn in Egypt

CAIRO, 24 March—At least two passengers were killed and seven injured when a minibus overturned on a desert highway in Egypt, official news agency MENA reported on Saturday.

The minibus overturned after hitting a tree on the Ismailia- Suez desert highway, killing two brothers.

The seven wounded, whose injuries varied from cuts, bruises, fractures to concussions, were taken to the nearby Ismailia Public Hospital. On 15 March, six passengers were killed and five others rescued after a

microbus overturned into a canal in Upper Egypt's governorate of Sohag, some 400 km south of the capital Cairo.

On the same day, another six were killed and eight injured in a car crash on Ismailia-Zagazig desert highway north of Cairo.

According to the transportation ministry, road accidents kill around 10,000 people every year in Egypt. Lack of security monitoring systems, improper road maintenance and irresponsible behaviors are behind the high rate of road accidents.—Xinhua

## Quake of 6.1 magnitude hits off Kuril Islands, south of Russia's Kamchatka peninsula

WASHINGTON, 24 March—An earthquake of 6.1 magnitude hit off Kuril Islands, south of Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula on Sunday, the US Geological Survey (USGS) said.

The epicenter, with a depth of 9.70 km, was initially determined to be at 50.7183 degrees north latitude and 160.1546 degrees east longitude.

Xinhua



Pakistani soldiers attend a ceremony marking the Pakistan Day at the mausoleum of the founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah in southern Pakistani port city of Karachi, on 23 March, 2013.—XINHUA

# UN secretary-general's special advisor on Myanmar Mr. Vijay Nambiar visits relief camps in Meiktila



Sayadaw Dhammaduta Dr Ashin Çekinda meets local people at relief camp in sports ground of Meiktila.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 24 March—Mr. Vijay Nambiar, the UN secretary-general's special advisor on Myanmar, accompanied by Union Minister at the President Office U Aung Min, Sayadaw Dhammaduta Dr Ashin Çekinda and officials, arrived in Meiktila Township in Mandalay Region this morning. They



Health staff give health care service to victims in relief camp in Meiktila Township.—MNA

## Meiktila violence suspects detained

NAY PYI TAW, 24 March—Myanmar Police Force has reportedly detained some suspects in connection with violence, arson and ransacking in Yonebin Village in Lewe Township, Ywadan Village and Shwe Dah Thazi Village in Yamethin Township. Than Win, Than Tun Aung, Than Htaik Soe, Kyaw Swa Hlaing, Aung Myo, Nyi Nyi Kyaw, Maung Nyo, Aung Naing Win, Soe Thu Aung, Tin Aung, Win Zaw, Hla Tun Myint and San Lin, altogether 13, were taken into custody on 22 March afternoon and 52 others found with weapons like sticks and knives in their hands were released on bail. Likewise, Win Hlaing, Aung San Oo, Hlaing Win, Kyaw Soe and Tin Yu Hlaing, suspected to be involved in riot in Yonebin Village were detained on 23 March. Aung Naing Swe, Aye Lwin, Soe Lwin, Aung Hlaing, Ko Ye, Maung Htwe, Ko Pyone, Naing Soe Aung, Aung Naing and Than Tun, suspected to get involved in the incident have been on the run. Similarly, Naing Tun, Aung Myo Lwin, Hmine Gyi, Phoe Zaw, Win Moe, Aung Nan Tin, Moe Kaung, Myint Thein, Naing Lin, Myo Myint Aung, Bo Shine, Hla Oo, Tin Aung, Myo Zaw Tun, Zeya Maung Maung, Than Zaw and Nan Myo Aung, altogether 17 were detained at Yamethin Police Station on 24 march. The Home Affairs Ministry is reported to take leyal action against those for the sake of rule of law. MNA

were welcomed at Meiktila airbase by Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint, Union Minister U Khin Yi, Lt-Gen Myint Soe from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and the deputy ministers.

UN Special Envoy on

Myanmar Mr. Vijay Nambiar and party visited relief camp in Meiktila District sport ground. The UN special envoy on Myanmar raised questions over what he would like to know to victims and comforted them.

The special envoy and party proceeded to relief camps in No 1 BEHS, Education College and cordially greeted victims. They also observed damaged buildings and went to relief camp in Sasana Waiponla

monastery.

The special envoy and party then visited Meiktila People's Hospital and gave encouragements to the injured who are receiving medical treatment.

Director (Public Health) Dr Aung Tun clarified the conditions of the patients and medical treatment to the UN special envoy. Special Envoy Mr. Vijay Nambiar and officials left Meiktila Township.

MNA



Mr. Vijay Nambiar, the UN secretary-general's special advisor on Myanmar, cordially converses with local people at relief camp of Education College in Meiktila.—MNA

## Meiktila rehabilitation committees meet

NAY PYI TAW, 24 March—Committees to coordinate immediate efforts in Meiktila during the period of the state of emergency met at the office of Meiktila District General Administration Department yesterday morning.

Chairman of Central Coordination Committee Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint

addressed the meeting attended by central committee members Deputy Religious Affairs Minister Dr Maung Maung Htay, Deputy Education Minister U Aye Kyu, Deputy Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Minister U Phone Swe, and Region Security and Border Affairs Minister Col Aung Kyaw Moe. Security committee, rescue and

resettlement committee, rule of law committee, education committee, health committee, religious committee and information committee reported on ongoing tasks.

The chief minister coordinated the tasks, calling for smooth rescue operation as calm had been restored in the region.

MNA



Photo shows Tatmadawmen making rehabilitation works in Meiktila Township. (News on page 8)—MNA