President U Thein Sein receives Bhutan PM, C-in-Cs of ASEAN

NAY PYI TAW, 5 March—A delegation led by Prime Minister of Bhutan Lyonchhen Tshering Tobgay paid a call on President U Thein Sein at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday.

At the call, both sides discussed bilateral cooperation in religious affairs, health, culture and agriculture sectors, improving of tourism industry, exchange experiences on agriculture sector, prospect for direct operating flights between the two countries and exchange visits among the senior officials of the two countries.

Myanmar has established diplomatic ties with Bhutan since 1 February, 2012. The Bhutanese PM’s visit to Myanmar is the first time.

In the evening, the President received the Commanders-in-Chief of Defence Services from ASEAN at the same venue.

During the meeting, they had a discussion on further strengthening relations among the ASEAN countries, exchange experiences and building up strong armed forces to prevent the countries and current affairs of political, economic, social and current administrative reform process.

Also present on the occasion were Commanders-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior-General Min Aung Hlaing, Union Ministers Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Lt-Gen Wai Lwin and U Aung Min, Deputy Minister U Thant Kyaw and officials.


MNA

President U Thein Sein receives Bhutan PM, C-in-Cs of ASEAN

Nay Pyi Taw to host 18th ASEAN Finance Ministers’ Meeting (AFMM), related meetings on 1-5 April

Media persons are informed to register not later than 25 March

NAY PYI TAW, 5 March—18th ASEAN Finance Ministers’ Meeting (AFMM) and related meetings will be held at Myanmar International Convention Center (MICC) in Nay Pyi Taw from 1 to 5 April.

The media persons at home and abroad who want to cover news at the meetings are to press 18th ASEAN Finance Ministers’ Meeting (AFMM) on Upcoming Events at the Home Page of www. asean2014.gov.mm. They must press Registration Link to take MEDIA REGISTRATION FORM and fill it completely in order to make Go. The media persons are requested to register not later than 25 March and media accreditation cards will be issued to them as of 1 April at MICC.

International journalists are to apply visa through nearby embassies and those wishing to know about the meetings and media accreditation cards are to enquire Ph-067-410198, International Relations Department, Ministry of Finance and Ph-067-412126, the News and Periodicals Enterprise.

MNA

Myanmar government condemns knife attack in China

NAY PYI TAW, 5 March—The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar strongly condemns the brutal and senseless attack by knife-wielding assailants on 1st March 2014 in Kunming Railway Station, the People’s Republic of China which caused numerous deaths and injuries to innocent lives.

The Government and people of the Republic of Myanmar express their deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolences to the victims of the terrorist attack and their families as well as to the people and the Government of the People’s Republic of China and wish those injured a quick recovery.

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar remains committed to working closely with the Government of the People’s Republic of China and international community in combating terrorism around the world.—MNA
Myanmar & Thai businessmen meet in Mandalay

Mandalay, 5 March—Mandalay Hill Resort Hotel hosted a meeting of Myanmar and Thai businessmen on 3 March. The two sides discussed trade and investment between the two countries. “Together with industrialists from five townships from north-eastern Thailand, I’m here to study making investment in Myanmar,” said Thai Chamber of Industry Chairman Mr Chalothorn. According to Vice-President of MRCCI U Soe Myint, Thai businessmen had a fruitful result in discussing trade matters after the new government took office.

As Myanmar government is pursuing market system, companies are mushrooming in the country with over 2000 based in Mandalay alone. Steps are now taken to establish stock market in the country with the help of a Japanese company. The vice-president explained trade of Myanmar with neighbouring countries including Thailand which stands as a second largest trade partner of Myanmar.

Kyaw Htoo (Mandalay)

SINGAING GETS NEW SCHOOL BUILDING: Ministry of Education allowed construction of a new school building at a cost of 108.8 million Kyat for Hinnyu Affiliate Basic Education High School in Singaing Mandalay Region in 2013-2014 fiscal year. Photo shows 100% completion of the building.

TUN TUN NAING
(KYAUKE)

World War II bomb found in Ayeyawady Construction site in Meiktila

Meiktila, 5 March—Digging works for construction of New Meiktila General Hospital of Ayeyawady Construction found an iron material looks like World War II bomb. The material is 3 feet long and 27 inches in circumference. Officials observed the bomb and handed it over to the Engineer Regiment.

NLM-018

Accident claims woman’s live

TAIKKYI, 5 March—A pickup passenger truck from No. 220 Bus Line hit a roadside tree on Yangon-Pyay Highway on 1 March. Driver Soe Min Hteik got injured together with other passengers who were rushed to Taikkyi Hospital. Among them a woman named Daw Nwe Nwe Thinn, 47, died at the hospital. Action has been taken against driver Soe Min Hteik.

Tun Hlaing (Myaing)

TAIKKYI, 5 March—Police Inspector Zaw Linn Kyaw, acting on a tip off, searched a car at Hopeseik Toll Gate on 2 March. Khin Maung Wai was at the wheel with Thiha Yazar. The vice-president explained trade of Myanmar with neighbouring countries including Thailand which stands as a second largest trade partner of Myanmar.

Kyaw Htoo (Mandalay)

Census Taking Process

WETLET, 5 March—Teachers were briefed on taking of population and housing census in Wetlet of Shwebo District in Sagaing Region of Upper Myanmar recently. With audio-visual aids, they were clarified on the census by Secretary of the department, altogether 96 talks on census have been given to people at 94 villages during the field trips in Taikkyi Township in Yangon Region. The process will start on 30 March this year.

Nin Myin (IPRD)

Census taking process gets momentum in Taikkyi

TAIKKYI, 5 March—“To enabling locals to be ready when the census taking process begins, field trips have been made to reach right down the villages,” said Township Immigration Department officer U Zaw Win. According to the department, altogether 96 talks on census have been given to people at 94 villages during the field trips in Taikkyi Township in Yangon Region. The process will start on 30 March this year.

Tun Hlaing (Myaing)

DRUG, CRIME

Opium seized in Lashio

BASHO, 5 March—An Anti-Drug Squad led by Police Inspector Zaw Linn Kyaw, acting on a tip off, searched a car at Hopeseik Toll Gate on 2 March. Khin Maung Wai was at the wheel with Thiha Yazar. The squad found 13.3 Kg of opium worth 20.25 million Kyat under the front seat of the car. Police station concerned filed lawsuit against them.—Hun Htay (District IPRD)

Murderer arrested

MYAWADDY, 5 March—Police from Myawaddy Police Station managed to arrest a murderer within 16 hours on 28 February. On 27 February, Hla Myint residing in Myawaddy had a quarrel with Poh Sanay at a workshop. Hla Myint hit Poh Sanay’s head with a hammer, then, slashed him to death with a sword. Hla Myint managed to escape the scene but police’s diligence led to the arrest of the murderer suspect.

Hun Htun Htwe (Hpa-an)
China pledges stable growth, deepening reform

BEIJING, 5 March — China keeps its economic growth target unchanged at around 7.5 percent this year as the government looks to achieve stable growth while driving through reforms for a more balanced model.

“In the basis of careful comparison and repeatedly weighing various factors as well as considering what is needed and what is possible, we set a growth target of around 7.5 percent,” said the government work report delivered by Premier Li Keqiang at the parliament’s annual session on Wednesday.

This is the third consecutive year that the government put the goal at 7.5 percent. China’s economy expanded 7.7 percent last year, well above the government goal, but a set of data that pointed to softening manufacturing activity in recent months renewed concerns on the growth outlook of the world’s second largest economy.

Describing the economy as at a critical juncture where the paths upward is “particularly steep” amid challenges from at home and abroad, the premier stressed that China must keep economic development as the central task and maintain “a proper economic growth rate.”

He reiterated that reform is the top priority for the government’s work this year, four months after a key meeting last November outlined a wide-ranging reform package. To ensure the economy stay within a “proper range”, the government promised to continue to implement a proactive fiscal policy and a prudent monetary policy.

It projected a budget deficit of 1.35 trillion yuan, an increase of 150 billion yuan over last year, and a 13-percent rise in broad money supply in 2014, while vowing to keep inflation around 3.5 percent and create 10 million more urban jobs to ensure the registered urban unemployment rate does not rise above 4.6 percent. —Xinhua

China pledges stable growth, deepening reform

BEIJING, 5 March — China keeps its economic growth target unchanged at around 7.5 percent this year as the government looks to achieve stable growth while driving through reforms for a more balanced model.

“In the basis of careful comparison and repeatedly weighing various factors as well as considering what is needed and what is possible, we set a growth target of around 7.5 percent,” said the government work report delivered by Premier Li Keqiang at the parliament’s annual session on Wednesday.

This is the third consecutive year that the government put the goal at 7.5 percent. China’s economy expanded 7.7 percent last year, well above the government goal, but a set of data that pointed to softening manufacturing activity in recent months renewed concerns on the growth outlook of the world’s second largest economy.

Describing the economy as at a critical juncture where the paths upward is “particularly steep” amid challenges from at home and abroad, the premier stressed that China must keep economic development as the central task and maintain “a proper economic growth rate.”

He reiterated that reform is the top priority for the government’s work this year, four months after a key meeting last November outlined a wide-ranging reform package. To ensure the economy stay within a “proper range”, the government promised to continue to implement a proactive fiscal policy and a prudent monetary policy.

It projected a budget deficit of 1.35 trillion yuan, an increase of 150 billion yuan over last year, and a 13-percent rise in broad money supply in 2014, while vowing to keep inflation around 3.5 percent and create 10 million more urban jobs to ensure the registered urban unemployment rate does not rise above 4.6 percent. —Xinhua

Japan, Denmark eye cooperation on maritime security, FTA

TOKYO, 5 March — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his Danish counterpart Helle Thorning-Schmidt agreed on Tuesday to strengthen bilateral cooperation on maritime security and pledged to seek the early conclusion of a free trade agreement between Japan and the European Union.

Abe explained Japan’s policy to make contributions to global peace and security during the talks at the prime minister’s office with Thorning-Schmidt, who agreed on the importance of promoting the rule of law and free trade.

With Japan facing a tough decision on its future energy mix and the third anniversary next week of the nuclear crisis at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear complex, the two leaders agreed to seek cooperation in renewable energy and encourage private-sector partnerships, the Japanese government said.

“We’d like to work together in such fields as peace-building, (development in the Arctic region, and empowerment of women, and further bilateral relations),” Abe told a Press conference after the talks. One of Abe’s top priorities is to put the deflation-mired economy on a path of sustainable recovery, and he has been calling for more women to join the workforce while implementing his “Abenomics” policy package. Japan and the European Union launched negotiations last year on a free trade accord.

“Trade and cooperation have thrived for many years but it still holds tremendous potential. I believe that one of the best ways to fulfill this potential is to finalize the free trade agreement between Japan and the European Union,” Thorning-Schmidt said earlier in the day at a meeting in Tokyo to commemorate the relaunch of the Japan-Denmark Parliamentary Friendship League.

The league includes around 40 members of the Japanese parliament, including former Prime Minister Naoto Kan and New Komeito party leader Natsuo Yamaguchi. LDP lower house member Taro Kono chairs the group. —Kyodo News

Lackluster Netanyahu-Obama meeting reflects confusing peace process

JERUSALEM, 5 March — During Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s recent visit to Washington DC, US President Barack Obama strongly criticized Israel’s continued settlement building, but came short of pressuring Netanyahu to rein in the construction, a move many analysts attribute to the uncertainty surrounding the peace process.

“The meeting itself is in a way a reflection of the situation on the international scene and the limitation of both sides to move the peace process (forward),” Oded Eran from the Institute of National Security Studies in Tel Aviv, told Xinhua. Eran says Obama didn’t pressure Netanyahu because the Palestinians so far haven’t made their positions clear.

“Netanyahu is basically saying ‘yes’ but that’s not identical to the other side, the other side is still asking questions, still making demands, which is part of the process,” Eran said.

Eytan Gilboa, a professor of the Bar-Ilan University says that part of the reason why the process is shrouded in uncertainty is because there are still a number of issues to be addressed.

“It’s not clear whether the deadline set by (US Secretary of State John) Kerry as 29 April is still in effect or there were all kinds of leaks suggesting that the deadline might be extended. It’s not clear what kind of document the US is going to present is it going to be binding or not,” Gilboa said.

Kerry proposed a framework agreement that would serve as a base for the final status negotiations on 28 April, however, Kerry has recently requested the two sides extend the peace talks past this deadline in light of the lack of progress. “The is a lot of confusion and after the meeting the confusion hasn’t been clarified and (Palestinian President) Mahmoud Abbas is scheduled to arrive in Washington on 17 March and only after this meeting we will be able to know if the two leaders will accept the framework,” Gilboa said.

Despite the confusion, the US, Israel and the Palestinians are trying to salvage the negotiations even if no framework is in place by the end of April, according to observers. —Xinhua

S Korea proposes inter-Korean talks on family reunions next week

SEOUL, 5 March — South Korea proposed to North Korea that talks be held next Wednesday at the truce village of Panmunjom to discuss holding, on a regular basis, reunions of families separated by the 1950-1953 Korean War.

“We anticipate North Korea’s positive response to our offer in consideration of the pains and sufferings of the separated families,” South Korea’s Unification Ministry spokeswoman Park Soo Jin said in a news briefing.

The offer for the talks between Red Cross officials of the two sides is a follow-up move after South Korean President Park Geun Hye proposed to North Korea earlier this month that the two Koreas hold regularly scheduled reunions. The offer was conveyed to the North’s side through a liaison channel at Panmunjom.

In a speech Saturday Park said regular family reunions should be held because time is running out for the separated family members, most of whom are in their 70s and 80s and have expressed a strong wish to see their long-lost relatives before they die. Last month, North and South Korea held the reunion events at a resort at the North’s Mt Kumgang resort for the first time in more than three years. —Kyodo News
WASHINGTON, 5 March — US President Barack Obama released his budget blueprint on Tuesday projecting the deficit will shrink to $564 billion for fiscal 2015 from $649 billion in the current year on the back of the economic recovery. The Obama administration estimated the ratio of the budget deficit to gross domestic product will fall to around 3 percent, a level widely regarded as the threshold for maintaining fiscal discipline, in fiscal 2015 and 2016. The expected deficit for fiscal 2015, which starts 1 October, will represent 3.1 percent of US GDP, down from 3.7 percent in fiscal 2014, falling to 2.8 percent the following year. The figure compares with 10.1 percent in fiscal 2009 when the global financial crisis hit.

The blueprint forecasts the deficit will stay around $500 billion for each of the next 10 years, with the Obama administration planning to secure revenues worth $1 trillion over a decade through measures such as changes on the wealthy. However, the Congressional Budget Office recently warned that the annual deficit is likely to top $1 trillion in fiscal 2022. The budget plan sent to Congress the same day featured outlays aimed at boosting educational services and infrastructure investment ahead of the country’s midterm elections in November.

“It’s a roadmap for creating jobs with good wages and expanding opportunity for all Americans,” Obama said in a speech delivered in Washington.

The administration seeks $495.6 billion for defense spending, excluding military expenses for overseas operations, for fiscal 2015, almost unchanged from $496.0 billion the previous year. For the overseas contingency operations, the administration requested $79.4 billion, down from $85.2 billion the previous year, ahead of the planned withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan.

Expenditures for fiscal 2015 are estimated to total $3.9 trillion, up from $3.65 trillion in fiscal 2014, while revenues will rise to $3.34 trillion from $3 trillion, according to the budget plan.

Kyocho News

Okinawa’s Kerama Islands designated Japan’s 31st national park

OKINAWA, 5 March — The Japanese government on Wednesday designated Okinawa’s Kerama Islands, known for their coral reefs and biological diversity, as the country’s 31st national park.

It is the first such designation since 1987, when Hokkaido’s Kushiro Marshland became a national park. The announcement was scheduled to coincide with “Coral Day,” which is celebrated in Okinawa on March 5.

Minister of the Environment Nobuteru Ishihara and his wife Misao Okawa, recognized as the world’s oldest person by Guinness World Records, eat birthday cake at a nursing home in Osaka on 5 March, 2014, as she turns 116. She became the oldest living person in the world in June 2013.

Kyodo News

UN anti-narcotics panel calls for greater stock in prevention, treatment of drug abuse

UN NEWS

UNITED NATIONS, 5 March — Prescription drug abuse in North America and drug trafficking in Latin America, Europe and other parts of the world are major issues of concern, but investment in prevention and treatment of drug abuse can lead to significant savings in health-care and crime-related costs, a UN panel said in a report released on Tuesday.

“Every dollar spent on drug abuse prevention can save the government up to ten dollars in later costs,” the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), an independent United Nations body tasked with monitoring the production and consumption of narcotics worldwide, said in its annual report.

Only one in six drug users receive the treatment he or she needs at a cost of 35 billion US dollars per year, and most commonly, to fight addictions to heroin, cannabis or cocaine, according to its findings.

Increasingly, prescription drug abuse — often legally obtained medication by a friend or a family member who no longer needs it or is not using it for medical purposes — is outpacing the rates for illegal drugs in some countries.

“There is an erroneous perception that prescription drugs are less susceptible to abuse than ‘illicit’ drugs,” said INCB President Raymond Yans. Prescription drug abuse is a “serious and growing threat to public health in North America, which the INCB says is the region with the highest drug-related mortality in the world. One way to tackle this abuse is by addressing the root causes of excessive supply, such as so-called ‘doctor shopping’ by visiting numerous doctors to fraudulently get prescription drugs, overprescribing medication, or filling several prescriptions simultaneously."

Xinhua

Quakes aggravate flooding woes in storm-hit Christchurch

WELLINGTON, 5 March — Residents of earthquake-battered Christchurch were clearing up their flooded properties on Wednesday after the city was hit by a once-in-a-century storm — and scientists warned the quakes have only increased the incidence of floods.

Roads and houses were flooded, communities cut off and schools closed on Wednesday in the wake of the fierce storm that lasted 24 hours.

River levels in Christchurch were dropping with the outgoing tide and as rainfall eased, but further rain was expected, Christchurch Mayor Lynae Darziel said in a statement.

Christchurch residents were urged to stay home if possible and to stay off the roads. About 4,000 homes were without power Wednesday. “This was a significant, escalating event that moved very quickly from a one-in-five-year event to a one-in-100-year event,” said Dalziel.

Xinhua

France mulls “all necessary pressure” to end Ukrainian crisis

PARIS, 5 March — France and its European partners would “apply all necessary pressure including sanctions” to seek a political solution to Ukrainian crisis, French President Francois Hollande said on Tuesday.

During an annual dinner with representatives of Jewish institutions, Hollande said “Russia has taken the risk of a dangerous escalation,” by “deploying soldiers in Crimean peninsula.”

Xinhua

“Hina” dolls set out for a seaborne journey on a tiny boat in Day ritual to wish girls healthy growth and happiness at Awashima Shrine on the coast of Wakayama, western Japan, on 3 March, 2014.

Kyodo News

France mulls “all necessary pressure” to end Ukrainian crisis
Venezuela marks anniversary of Chavez’s death with pomp and protests

CARACAS, 5 March — Followers of the late Venezuelan leader Hugo Chavez will flood the nation’s streets on Wednesday to mark the anniversary of his death, a sad but welcome distraction for his would-be successor, who has struggled for a month to contain violent protests.

A year after Chavez succumbed to cancer, his self-proclaimed “son”, President Nicolas Maduro, faces a determined challenge to his rule from an explosion of anti-government demonstrations that have led to clashes with security forces and 18 deaths.

Wednesday’s military parade and other events to honor ‘El Comandante’ are a chance for Maduro, 51, to reclaim the streets and show opponents that he too can mobilize.

The anniversary is enormously sad. There’s not a single day I don’t remember Hugo,” Chavez’s cousin, Guillermo Frias, 60, said from Los Rastrojos village in rural Barinas state, where the pair used to play baseball in the street as kids.

“He changed Venezuela forever, and we cannot go back. Maduro also is a poor man, like us. He’s handling things fine. Perhaps he just needs a stronger hand.”

Tens of thousands of ‘Chavistas’ are expected at rallies in Caracas and elsewhere in honour of the socialist whose 14-year rule won him the adoration of many of Venezuela’s poorest, while alienating the middle and upper classes.

Maduro will preside over a parade in the capital before going to the hilltop military museum where Chavez led a 1992 coup attempt that launched his political career, and where his remains have been laid to rest in a marble sarcophagus.

Crime, skill shortage hamper S Africa economic growth

JOHANNESBURG, 5 March — Rising crime, skill shortage and poor service delivery hamper South Africa’s economic growth and social stability, international audit and advisory firm Grant Thornton said on Tuesday.

Among these factors, crime is “hugely affecting South Africa’s economic growth,” Grant Thornton said in its International Business Report (IBR) released in Johannesburg.

According to the group’s IBR quarterly tracker survey, 66 percent of South African business executives said that they, their staff and immediate family members were affected by personal security threat in 2013.

Andrew Hannington, chief executive officer of the group, said the figure is 14 percent higher than the number recorded in December 2012 and it is a shocking 20 percent higher than the figure in the fourth quarter of 2011.

“Poverty is the core cause of criminal activity — South Africa’s struggling economy, weak currency and striking unions no doubt directly result in the climbing figure,” he said.

“The crime is totally unacceptable and more focus needs to be given to this scourge now, ensuring that crime will not continue to impact our daily lives,” Hannington said.

Contrary to popular perceptions, the richest province is not the worst-affected region among South Africa’s nine provinces, the survey showed.

Crime, skill shortage hamper S Africa economic growth

Johannesburg, 5 March — Rising crime, skill shortage and poor service delivery hamper South Africa’s economic growth and social stability, international audit and advisory firm Grant Thornton said on Tuesday.

Among these factors, crime is “hugely affecting South Africa’s economic growth,” Grant Thornton said in its International Business Report (IBR) released in Johannesburg.

According to the group’s IBR quarterly tracker survey, 66 percent of South African business executives said that they, their staff and immediate family members were affected by personal security threat in 2013.

Andrew Hannington, chief executive officer of the group, said the figure is 14 percent higher than the number recorded in December 2012 and it is a shocking 20 percent higher than the figure in the fourth quarter of 2011.

“Poverty is the core cause of criminal activity — South Africa’s struggling economy, weak currency and striking unions no doubt directly result in the climbing figure,” he said.

“The crime is totally unacceptable and more focus needs to be given to this scourge now, ensuring that crime will not continue to impact our daily lives,” Hannington said.

Contrary to popular perceptions, the richest province is not the worst-affected region among South Africa’s nine provinces, the survey showed.

Crime, skill shortage hamper S Africa economic growth

Johannesburg, 5 March — Rising crime, skill shortage and poor service delivery hamper South Africa’s economic growth and social stability, international audit and advisory firm Grant Thornton said on Tuesday.

Among these factors, crime is “hugely affecting South Africa’s economic growth,” Grant Thornton said in its International Business Report (IBR) released in Johannesburg.

According to the group’s IBR quarterly tracker survey, 66 percent of South African business executives said that they, their staff and immediate family members were affected by personal security threat in 2013.

Andrew Hannington, chief executive officer of the group, said the figure is 14 percent higher than the number recorded in December 2012 and it is a shocking 20 percent higher than the figure in the fourth quarter of 2011.

“Poverty is the core cause of criminal activity — South Africa’s struggling economy, weak currency and striking unions no doubt directly result in the climbing figure,” he said.

“The crime is totally unacceptable and more focus needs to be given to this scourge now, ensuring that crime will not continue to impact our daily lives,” Hannington said.

Contrary to popular perceptions, the richest province is not the worst-affected region among South Africa’s nine provinces, the survey showed.

Crime, skill shortage hamper S Africa economic growth

Johannesburg, 5 March — Rising crime, skill shortage and poor service delivery hamper South Africa’s economic growth and social stability, international audit and advisory firm Grant Thornton said on Tuesday.

Among these factors, crime is “hugely affecting South Africa’s economic growth,” Grant Thornton said in its International Business Report (IBR) released in Johannesburg.

According to the group’s IBR quarterly tracker survey, 66 percent of South African business executives said that they, their staff and immediate family members were affected by personal security threat in 2013.

Andrew Hannington, chief executive officer of the group, said the figure is 14 percent higher than the number recorded in December 2012 and it is a shocking 20 percent higher than the figure in the fourth quarter of 2011.

“Poverty is the core cause of criminal activity — South Africa’s struggling economy, weak currency and striking unions no doubt directly result in the climbing figure,” he said.

“The crime is totally unacceptable and more focus needs to be given to this scourge now, ensuring that crime will not continue to impact our daily lives,” Hannington said.

Contrary to popular perceptions, the richest province is not the worst-affected region among South Africa’s nine provinces, the survey showed.
S&P 500 ends at a record; Ukraine-Russia tensions ease

New York, 5 March — US stocks rallied on Tuesday, with the S&P 500 closing at a record as concerns about a confrontation between Russia and Ukraine eased, and the market recovered more than all of the previous session’s hefty losses. President Vladimir Putin delivered a robust defence of Russia’s actions in Crimea on Tuesday, saying he would use force in Ukraine only as a last resort. His comments relieved investors’ fears that East-West tension over the former Soviet republic could lead to war.

The day’s gains followed Wall Street’s worst day in a month, when investors sold stocks and other risky assets as tensions escalated between Ukraine and Russia. Global stocks rebounded on Tuesday while gold, the Japanese yen and Treasuries prices fell. Crude oil prices, up more than 2 percent on Monday, reversed some of that session’s gain in trading on Tuesday. “Monday’s selling and Tuesday’s stark reversal have become commonplace in traders’ calen-
dars in 2014,” said Andrew Wilkinson, chief market analyst at Interactive Brokers LLC in Greenwich, Connecticut.

“Investors have clearly got an appetite for equities displaying strong momentum, no matter whether geopolitical risks or fears for the health of the recovery stand in their path.” The CBOE Volatility Index VIX, Wall Street’s fear barometer, slid 11.9 percent to end at 14.10 on Tuesday. That was a sharp reversal from Monday, when the VIX rose 14 percent. The Dow Jones industrial average .DJI jumped 227.85 points or 1.41 percent, to finish at 15,973.91. The Nasdaq Composite .IXIC climbed 74.671 points or 1.75 percent, to close at 4,351.972. The S&P 500 ended at a record high for the second time since Friday, when the broad index finished February with a milestone. In Tuesday’s session, domestic and financials ranked among the biggest gainers. The benchmark index is up 1.4 percent for the year. The Wilshire 5000 Index .W5000 closed above 20,000, for the first time. The index has gained 193.55 percent or $15.9 trillion from its low on March 9, 2009, after the financial crisis. “The longer-term trend of the US equity indexes remains positive,” but short-term indicators “remain overbought and are peaking as most indexes rally back to resistance at their 2014 highs,” said Robert Shryper, an analyst at RB Capital Markets, LLC in New York. Walt Disney Co (DIS.N) shares rose 10 percent after an agreement was made to revive its stagnant company’s Web products and to revive its stagnant company’s Web products revenue. “Yahoo is continuing to work on improving the user experience,” the company said in a statement, noting that the new process “will allow us to offer the best personalized experience to everyone.” The first Yahoo service to require the new sign-in process is Yahoo Sports Tourney Pick’Em, a service focused on the NCAA college basketball tourna-
ment which begins later this month.

News of the change to Yahoo’s Tourney Pick’Em sign-in process was first reported by the technology blog Betasnews. Since May, the company has rolled out new versions of many of its key products, including Yahoo Mail and Yahoo Finance. Last year, Yahoo announced a program to recycle inactive Yahoo user IDs, letting new users claim email addresses that have not been used for more than 12 months.

In eliminating the Facebook and Google sign-in features, Mayer, a former Google executive, is effectively reversing a strategy that Yahoo adopted in 2010 and 2011 under then CEO Carol Barz. The change to the Tourney Pick’Em sign-in process began on Monday, the Yahoo spokeswoman said, noting that users could still access other services with Google or Facebook IDs.

The Yahoo logo is shown at the company’s headquar-
ers in Sunnyvale, California on 16 April, 2013. Reuters

Goldman Sachs Sr floor trader Jay Woods (R) works at the post that trades RadioShack on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on 4 March, 2014. Reuters

Japan to set clear rules for bitcoin trading

Tokyo, 5 March — The Japanese government has decided to define bitcoin as a non-currency market commodity, likening its trading to that of precious metals, a source close to the matter said on Wednesday.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s administration also plans to tax profits from bitcoin transactions, which have become increasingly common as a means of payment among Internet users across the globe, the source said. The government has moved to legally define terror trading rules following Friday’s bankruptcy of major Tokyo-based bitcoin exchange Mt Gox, once the world’s leading exchange for the virtual currency, which has dent-
ed confidence in virtual currencies and accelerated discussions about how to regulate their use. The decision on the issue is scheduled to be approved at a Cabinet meeting possibly on Friday, the source said. The government is expected to define the bitcoin as a product that is not handled by banks and security houses, while expressing a view that the consumption tax will be levied on purchases of bitcoin and income tax will be imposed on profits from its sale. While bitcoins have been traded online since 2009, Japan currently has no laws regulating the virtual currency. Mt. Gox filed last Friday for civil rehabilitation proceedings with the Tokyo District Court after abruptly shut-
ting down all transactions earlier in the week.

Reuters

Yahoo to stop user access of services with Facebook, Google

San Francisco, 5 March — Yahoo Inc will stop letting consumers access its various online services, including Fantasy Sports and photo-sharing site Flickr, by signing on with their Facebook Inc or Google Inc credentials. The change, which will be rolled out gradually ac-
cording to a Yahoo spokeswoman, will require users to register for a Yahoo ID in order to use any of the Internet portal’s services.

The move marks the latest change to Yahoo by Chief Executive Marissa Mayer, who is striving to spark fresh interest in the company’s Web products and to revive its stagnant revenue. “Yahoo is continuing to work on improving the user experience,” the company said in a statement, noting that the new process “will allow us to offer the best personalized experience to everyone.”

The first Yahoo service to require the new sign-in process is Yahoo Sports Tourney Pick’Em, a service focused on the NCAA college basketball tournament which begins later this month.

News of the change to Yahoo’s Tourney Pick’Em sign-in process was first reported by the technology blog Betasnews. Since May, Yahoo has rolled out new versions of many of its key products, including Yahoo Mail and Yahoo Finance. Last year, Yahoo announced a program to recycle inactive Yahoo user IDs, letting new users claim email addresses that have not been used for more than 12 months.

In eliminating the Facebook and Google sign-in features, Mayer, a former Google executive, is effectively reversing a strategy that Yahoo adopted in 2010 and 2011 under then CEO Carol Barz. The change to the Tourney Pick’Em sign-in process began on Monday, the Yahoo spokeswoman said, noting that users could still access other services with Google or Facebook IDs.

The Yahoo logo is shown at the company’s headquar-
ters in Sunnyvale, California on 16 April, 2013. Reuters

Goldman Sachs Sr floor trader Jay Woods (R) works at the post that trades RadioShack on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on 4 March, 2014. Reuters

Scientists develop long-acting drug to protect against AIDS

Washington, 5 March — A single injection of an experimental drug may someday protect people from infection with the AIDS virus for up to three months, a US study said on Tuesday. The study, published in the US journal Science, showed that the drug called GSK 744LA can protect macaque monkeys from repeated intra-
rectal infections with the deadly SHIV, a hybrid between the human and monkey AIDS virus.

The efficacy and safety of the drug have not been tested in humans, but David Ho, whose team at the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center in New York led the study, told Xinhua the drug may be maintained at adequate level for about three of four months in humans. “Therefore, we believe the drug should be given once every quarter,” said Ho, noting that their results “give a big momentum boost to this HIV prevention effort.”

In the new study, the researchers gave two in-
jections of the drug to eight macaque monkeys and then “challenged” the animals by putting SHIV into their rectums once a week. They found none of the animals became infected after eight challenges. In a second ex-
periment, SHIV readily in-
fected eight untreated con-
trol monkeys. This novel approach was based on the proven strategy of protecting people who do not have HIV but are at high risk for infection with antiretroviral pills known as oral pre-ex-
posure prophylaxis (PrEP). It has been shown already that taking anti-HIV medications once a day could protect high-risk in-
dividuals from catching HIV. However, in such an approach, most persons cannot follow the pre-
scribed regimen with good adherence,” said Ho. “With long-act-
ing drug like 744LA, we take away this adherence problem, with the expecta-
tion that protection results would be better,” he said. Robert Grant, a virologist at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), who was not involved in the study, believed that the new study “would be a game changer.”
Sustainable Post-2015 ASEAN Community needs collaborative discussions on security, defence matters

**11th ACDFIM’s press conference held**

Myanmar hosted the 11th ACDFIM’s press conference held in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday. In his welcome speech, Union Minister for Commerce receives Prime Minister of Bhutan

Nav Pyi Taw, 5 March—Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint received Prime Minister of Bhutan Mr. Tshering Tobgay at Myat Mingala Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday. At the meeting, they discussed bilateral cooperation in trade and investment, transport, education and tourism industry sectors.—MNA

**Special meeting of senior officials’ Committee for ASCC (SOCA) 2/2014 held**

Nav Pyi Taw, 5 March—Special meeting of the senior officials’ Committee for ASCC (SOCA) was held at Chatrium Hotel in Yangon on Wednesday with an address by Daw Nanda Hmon, Director-General of Department of Historical Research and National Library under the Ministry of Culture.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to the council’s management, prevention of climate change and natural disaster, improving and protection of the rights of migrant labours, social prevention and goals of ASCC (SOCA).

The purpose of the meeting is to ensure dates and places to hold the 16th Senior Officials’ Meeting of ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council, 17th ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces Informal Meeting (ACDFIM) at Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday.

**Japan shares knowledge about digital evidence**

Nav Pyi Taw, 5 March—A talk on digital evidence between the Office of the Supreme Court of the Union and Japan International Cooperation Agency-JICA took place at assembly hall of its office in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday.

At the talks, Professor Mr. Kosuke YOKOMAKU of Training and Research Institute of Japan under the Ministry of Justice explained Japan’s digital evidence law.

Altogether 40 officers from the Office of the Supreme Court of the Union attended the talks.—MNA

**Shwegondine overpass commissioned into service**

Nav Pyi Taw, 5 March—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing held talks on establishment of mechanized farming and upgrade of irrigation system with delegations led by Mr. Lee Bong Hoon of Korea Rural Community Co-operation KRC of the Republic of Korea and Ambassador H.E. Jojo Boer of the Netherlands on Monday.

They observed fruit and vegetables at the booths marked the Peanuts’ Day.—MNA

**Agriculture sector development discussed**

Nav Pyi Taw, 5 March—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing held talks on establishment of mechanized farming and upgrade of irrigation system with delegations led by Mr. Lee Bong Hoon of Korea Rural Community Co-operation KRC of the Republic of Korea and Ambassador H.E. Jojo Boer of the Netherlands on Monday.

They observed fruit and vegetables at the booths marked the Peanuts’ Day.—MNA

**Commander-in-Chief stresses the importance of collaborative discussions on security and defence matters that are key to sustainable ASEAN community in the post-2015.**

Next, the Senior General posed for documentary photos together with the Chiefs of Defence Forces of ASEAN countries.

Prior to the 11th ACDFIM, the Commander-in-Chief and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla hosted a welcome dinner to the Chiefs of Defence Forces of ASEAN countries at Thingaha Hotel on Tuesday evening.—Mnyawady
We support the seeking answer to maintaining friendly relations by respective countries: Senior General Min Aung Hlaing

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing—MNA

The Press Conference on the 11th ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces Formal Meeting was held in Thon-gaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on 5 March 2014. After the press conference, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing replied questions raised by journalists. In reply, he said on how you can discuss them on: Defence Coopera-
tion Toward Peaceful and Prosperous ASEAN Commu-
nity in the previous meeting raised by the Myawady TV, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said that the Myanmar Armed Forces is fully cooperating with the ASEAN armed forces for re-
alizing the theme. Towards this end, we are cooperating in maritime security, humani-
tarian and other non-trad-
tional challenges such as drug smuggling, transborder crimes and counter-tourism and regional disaster relief cooperation. In reply, he said on how the Myanmar Armed Forces to cooperate in UN Peacemaking operation, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services said after the independence, the My-
anmar Armed Forces was in the past in UN peacemaking mission. We have been try-
ning to cooperate upon this mission. Unfortunately, our previous offer regarding the mission with preparations was cancelled. And in future, we will cooperate with UN for peace-making mission.

In replying question on military security and human security raised by the MRTC-4, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services said that the ASEAN countries are cooperating in maritime and disaster relief operation as cooperation in against the traditional and non-traditional threats such as cyber crimes and transnational crimes and we can promote the relations and cooperation among our ASEAN armed forces and we exchange visits between our armed forces to be able to cooperate in security tasks in-
cluding maritime security.

There are non-trad-
tional threats such as food security, health security, economic, social and political security, environmental security and personal secu-

In replying question on military security and human security raised by the MRTC-4, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services said that the ASEAN countries are cooperating in maritime and disaster relief operation as cooperation in against the traditional and non-traditional threats such as cyber crimes and transnational crimes and we can promote the relations and cooperation among our ASEAN armed forces and we exchange visits between our armed forces to be able to cooperate in security tasks including maritime security.

There are non-traditional threats such as food security, health security, economic, social and political security, environmental security and personal security. The Myanmar Armed Forces is hoping with not only human security but also with national and regional security based on view of our people. We also protect our people from non-traditional threats such as cyber crimes and transnational crimes and we can promote the relations and cooperation among our ASEAN armed forces and we exchange visits between our armed forces to be able to cooperate in security tasks including maritime security.

In replying question on military security and human security raised by the MRTC-4, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services said that the ASEAN countries are cooperating in maritime and disaster relief operation as cooperation in against the traditional and non-traditional threats such as cyber crimes and transnational crimes and we can promote the relations and cooperation among our ASEAN armed forces and we exchange visits between our armed forces to be able to cooperate in security tasks including maritime security.

There are non-traditional threats such as food security, health security, economic, social and political security, environmental security and personal security. The Myanmar Armed Forces is hoping with not only human security but also with national and regional security based on view of our people. We also protect our people from non-traditional threats such as cyber crimes and transnational crimes and we can promote the relations and cooperation among our ASEAN armed forces and we exchange visits between our armed forces to be able to cooperate in security tasks including maritime security.

There are non-traditional threats such as food security, health security, economic, social and political security, environmental security and personal security. The Myanmar Armed Forces is hoping with not only human security but also with national and regional security based on view of our people. We also protect our people from non-traditional threats such as cyber crimes and transnational crimes and we can promote the relations and cooperation among our ASEAN armed forces and we exchange visits between our armed forces to be able to cooperate in security tasks including maritime security.

There are non-traditional threats such as food security, health security, economic, social and political security, environmental security and personal security. The Myanmar Armed Forces is hoping with not only human security but also with national and regional security based on view of our people. We also protect our people from non-traditional threats such as cyber crimes and transnational crimes and we can promote the relations and cooperation among our ASEAN armed forces and we exchange visits between our armed forces to be able to cooperate in security tasks including maritime security.

There are non-traditional threats such as food security, health security, economic, social and political security, environmental security and personal security. The Myanmar Armed Forces is hoping with not only human security but also with national and regional security based on view of our people. We also protect our people from non-traditional threats such as cyber crimes and transnational crimes and we can promote the relations and cooperation among our ASEAN armed forces and we exchange visits between our armed forces to be able to cooperate in security tasks including maritime security.

There are non-traditional threats such as food security, health security, economic, social and political security, environmental security and personal security. The Myanmar Armed Forces is hoping with not only human security but also with national and regional security based on view of our people. We also protect our people from non-traditional threats such as cyber crimes and transnational crimes and we can promote the relations and cooperation among our ASEAN armed forces and we exchange visits between our armed forces to be able to cooperate in security tasks including maritime security.

There are non-traditional threats such as food security, health security, economic, social and political security, environmental security and personal security. The Myanmar Armed Forces is hoping with not only human security but also with national and regional security based on view of our people. We also protect our people from non-traditional threats such as cyber crimes and transnational crimes and we can promote the relations and cooperation among our ASEAN armed forces and we exchange visits between our armed forces to be able to cooperate in security tasks including maritime security.

There are non-traditional threats such as food security, health security, economic, social and political security, environmental security and personal security. The Myanmar Armed Forces is hoping with not only human security but also with national and regional security based on view of our people. We also protect our people from non-traditional threats such as cyber crimes and transnational crimes and we can promote the relations and cooperation among our ASEAN armed forces and we exchange visits between our armed forces to be able to cooperate in security tasks including maritime security.

There are non-traditional threats such as food security, health security, economic, social and political security, environmental security and personal security. The Myanmar Armed Forces is hoping with not only human security but also with national and regional security based on view of our people. We also protect our people from non-traditional threats such as cyber crimes and transnational crimes and we can promote the relations and cooperation among our ASEAN armed forces and we exchange visits between our armed forces to be able to cooperate in security tasks including maritime security.

There are non-traditional threats such as food security, health security, economic, social and political security, environmental security and personal security. The Myanmar Armed Forces is hoping with not only human security but also with national and regional security based on view of our people. We also protect our people from non-traditional threats such as cyber crimes and transnational crimes and we can promote the relations and cooperation among our ASEAN armed forces and we exchange visits between our armed forces to be able to cooperate in security tasks including maritime security.

There are non-traditional threats such as food security, health security, economic, social and political security, environmental security and personal security. The Myanmar Armed Forces is hoping with not only human security but also with national and regional security based on view of our people. We also protect our people from non-traditional threats such as cyber crimes and transnational crimes and we can promote the relations and cooperation among our ASEAN armed forces and we exchange visits between our armed forces to be able to cooperate in security tasks including maritime security.

There are non-traditional threats such as food security, health security, economic, social and political security, environmental security and personal security. The Myanmar Armed Forces is hoping with not only human security but also with national and regional security based on view of our people. We also protect our people from non-traditional threats such as cyber crimes and transnational crimes and we can promote the relations and cooperation among our ASEAN armed forces and we exchange visits between our armed forces to be able to cooperate in security tasks including maritime security.

There are non-traditional threats such as food security, health security, economic, social and political security, environmental security and personal security. The Myanmar Armed Forces is hoping with not only human security but also with national and regional security based on view of our people. We also protect our people from non-traditional threats such as cyber crimes and transnational crimes and we can promote the relations and cooperation among our ASEAN armed forces and we exchange visits between our armed forces to be able to cooperate in security tasks including maritime security.

There are non-traditional threats such as food security, health security, economic, social and political security, environmental security and personal security. The Myanmar Armed Forces is hoping with not only human security but also with national and regional security based on view of our people. We also protect our people from non-traditional threats such as cyber crimes and transnational crimes and we can promote the relations and cooperation among our ASEAN armed forces and we exchange visits between our armed forces to be able to cooperate in security tasks including maritime security.

There are non-traditional threats such as food security, health security, economic, social and political security, environmental security and personal security. The Myanmar Armed Forces is hoping with not only human security but also with national and regional security based on view of our people. We also protect our people from non-traditional threats such as cyber crimes and transnational crimes and we can promote the relations and cooperation among our ASEAN armed forces and we exchange visits between our armed forces to be able to cooperate in security tasks including maritime security.

There are non-traditional threats such as food security, health security, economic, social and political security, environmental security and personal security. The Myanmar Armed Forces is hoping with not only human security but also with national and regional security based on view of our people. We also protect our people from non-traditional threats such as cyber crimes and transnational crimes and we can promote the relations and cooperation among our ASEAN armed forces and we exchange visits between our armed forces to be able to cooperate in security tasks including maritime security.

There are non-traditional threats such as food security, health security, economic, social and political security, environmental security and personal security. The Myanmar Armed Forces is hoping with not only human security but also with national and regional security based on view of our people. We also protect our people from non-traditional threats such as cyber crimes and transnational crimes and we can promote the relations and cooperation among our ASEAN armed forces and we exchange visits between our armed forces to be able to cooperate in security tasks including maritime security.

There are non-traditional threats such as food security, health security, economic, social and political security, environmental security and personal security. The Myanmar Armed Forces is hoping with not only human security but also with national and regional security based on view of our people. We also protect our people from non-traditional threats such as cyber crimes and transnational crimes and we can promote the relations and cooperation among our ASEAN armed forces and we exchange visits between our armed forces to be able to cooperate in security tasks including maritime security.

There are non-traditional threats such as food security, health security, economic, social and political security, environmental security and personal security. The Myanmar Armed Forces is hoping with not only human security but also with national and regional security based on view of our people. We also protect our people from non-traditional threats such as cyber crimes and transnational crimes and we can promote the relations and cooperation among our ASEAN armed forces and we exchange visits between our armed forces to be able to cooperate in security tasks including maritime security.
Korean Memorial Monument...

(from page 16) and senior official-level meetings during our president’s visit. South Korean government also granted aids and assistance to Myanmar through the Korean International Cooperation Agency, including assistance for establishing model villages in Hlegu and Phaunggyi.

Q: There are some objections against the agreement because the monument would be built in the compound of the Martyrs’ Mausoleum. Is it correct?
A: No. The monument would not be in the compound of the Martyrs’ Mausoleum. It would be located at the east of the northern entrance to the Shwedagon Pagoda and between the car park and security building.

Q: How about the architectural design of the monument?
A: The monument is not a building. There is no pillar not roof, just a wall which is five feet high. The exact measurement of the wall is: 1.5 metre in height; 9 metre in length and one metre in width. The names of the Korean victims would be inscribed on the wall.

Q: Is there any impacts from the monument on an annual Martyrs’ Day ceremony?
A: Nothing. Because the location of the wall and the Martyrs’ Mausoleum are very different. The wall would not cause deterrence to the scene of the martyrs’ Mausoleum nor the annual Martyrs’ Day ceremony.

Also present at the call were Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw U Shwe Mann received a delegation led by Prime Minister of Bhutan H.E Tshering Tobgay at the Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday afternoon.

At the meeting, they discussed mutual cooperation between the two countries.

Prime Minister of Bhutan H.E Tshering Tobgay signs visitors’ book at the Hluttaw Building.

Notice issued by the National Census Committee

1. The national census would be launched on 30 March.
2. For the task of taking the national census, authorities concerned and organizations have made tours to national people across the country and clarified the task. Meanwhile, the National Census Committee has stepped up efforts for clarification of the national census through mass media such as newspapers, journals, radio and TV.
3. Some person from foreign countries who are not assigned duty by the government and have not received trainings for the national census conducted by the government made clarifications of the national census to some organizations in the country. Their clarification which are not perfect and language barriers and their false assumption, can cause misunderstanding and complication to the national census. Those wishing to raise queries about the national census may ask the respective region/state/district/township Immigration and National Registration Department, or may contact the following contact numbers where officials concerned are ready to answer the queries.

Notice issued by the National Census Committee

MoU on regional development cooperation between Myanmar, ROK signed

NAY PYI TAW, 5 March—Myanmar and the Republic of Korea signed a MoU on regional development cooperation at the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development here on Wednesday.

Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw and ROK Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of the Republic of Korea H.E. Sub Seoung-hwan signed the MoU on cooperation in regional development of the two countries.

The MoU covered bilateral cooperation between the two countries in establishment of comprehensive development project in Myanmar and ROK, laying down environmental technology management policies, urban development strategies, land compensation system, environmental conservation planning projects and human resources development.
Arlain Nga Sint Pagoda needs to be renovated

Mohnyn, 5 March— Plans are underway to renovate Arlain Nga Sint Pagoda in Semule Ywathit Village, Mohnyn Township, of Kachin State.

The 100-year old Arlain Nga Sint Pagoda with fine architecture needs to be conserved because it is one of the historic pagoda in Mohnyn Township.

It was built by the contribution of the local people.— Tun Yi

Free medical care provided in Tatkon

Tatkon, 5 March— Free medical care was provided in Bayintaung Ward, Tatkon Township on Wednesday.

Township assistant traditional medical practitioner Daw Thin Thin Moe and deputy assistant traditional medical practitioner Daw Hay Man Oo treated a total of 40 residents with traditional medicine at the Bayintaung Ward Administration’s Office in the township.

Establishment of Myeik Economic Zone under consideration

Myeik, 5 March — Arrangements are being made for the establishment of Myeik Economic Zone on a plot that has a total area of more than 1100 acres, three-mile east of Myeik which is on the track to achieve its economic potentials, according to Myeik Future Development Col., Ltd.

The company said a proposal for establishment of Myeik Economic Zone had been submitted to authorities concerned. It is planned to collectively build Port Zone, Business Zone, Industrial Zone, Green Zone, Industrial Zone and Residential Economic Zone in the designated economic zone with a total area of three square miles as soon as possible.

The Myeik Economic Zone is aimed at turning the Myeik into a centre of the business activities in the region and ensuring public convenience and smooth and speedy flow of commodities with least transport costs.

Moe Hein-Myeik

Goatskin thief arrested in Thazi

Thazi, 5 March— Goatskin worth K 331,200 was stolen in Ywamontha Village in Thazi Township on 28 February.

On 2 March, Ywamontha Village head of police Tun Yi from Thazi Police Station lodged a lawsuit against the suspect Yar, 20, for the theft of goatskin at Thazi Police Station.—NLM-018

Narcotic tablets worth K 23 million seized in Tachilek Tsp

Tachilek, 5 March— A combined team comprising members of Counter-narcotics Police Force No.30 searched a car, driven by Lawta, 35, son of U Kyi-alaw, in the presence of the villagers of the village U Khin Maung Myint, 31, tracked stolen goatskin from U Maung Maung Khin from Zepauk Village in Thazi Township.

Therefore, Owner U Khin Maung Myint opened a file against suspect Yar-shit, 20, for the theft of goatskin at Thazi Police Station.—NLM-018

Landslide-hit area in Mohnyn cleared

Mohnyn, 5 March— Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Sai Tin Aung and Head of Mohnyn District Agriculture and Irrigation Department U Khin Maung Lwin looked the 100-year old Arlain Nga Sint Pagoda with fine architecture needs to be conserved because it is one of the historic pagoda in Mohnyn Township.

It was built by the contribution of the local people.— Tun Yi

3000 gallon of Illegal crude oil seized in Natmauk Tsp

Natmauk, 5 March— Acting on a tip-off, a team led by SIP Tin Maung Tun checked a vehicle driven by Aung Zaw Moe, 41, son of U Maung Maung of Natmauk Township of Magway Region on 3 March.

They found that the suspect installed wrong number plate and copy of licence and loaded 3000 gallon of illegal crude oil without official’s grant.

The Natmauk Myoma Police Station filed a lawsuit against the driver and two bus conductors under the law.—Hla Win (IPRD)

New village library to be launched

Natmauk, 5 March— A literary talks will be given at the opening ceremony of Bawa Ah Myin Library, Kalashin village, Natmauk Township, Magway Region on 21 March.

Writers Nay Win Myint, Khin Khin Htoo and Nyo Hnin Lu will share the knowledge on the occasion.

The 26-feet long and 24-feet wide library was donated by U Bo Kyi Win and wife Daw Mar Mar Htay.—Hla Win (IPRD)
Pakistan to install CCTV cameras in all courts in capital

ISLAMABAD, 5 March — Pakistan’s top court on Tuesday ordered installation of closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras in all courts in the capital Islamabad a day after gun and bomb attack on a local court killed 11 people.

A judge and five lawyers were among the dead in the brazen terror attack on the district court in Is-

lamabad which also left two suicide bombers dead.

The Supreme Court directed to install CCTV cameras within 48 hours in Islamabad and the near-

by garrison city of Rawal-

pindi. The three-member bench of the apex court headed by Chief Justice Tasadduq Hussain Jilani also ordered action against police officers who failed to quickly respond to the attack.

A lesser-known milit-

ant group “Ahrar-ul-Hind”

has claimed responsibility for the attack.—Xinhua

India to kick off world’s biggest election on 7 April

NEW DELHI, 5 March — India’s mammoth par-

liamentary election will start on 7 April, authorities announced on Tuesday, kicking off a race that will pit charismatic Hindu na-

tionalist leader Narendra Modi against the unpopu-

lar Nehru-Gandhi family’s ruling Congress party. Voting will be held in nine phases, staggered until 12 May to allow se-

curity forces to focus their strength during an exercise that, for decades after in-

dependence from Britain in 1947, has often been marred by violence and ballot-rigging.

Counting of votes will begin on 16 May, Chief Election Commissioner VS Sampath told a news con-

ference.—Reuters

Chinese humanitarian aid reaches Cambodian people in E province

KAMPONG CHAM, (Cambodia), 5 March — Cambodia on Wednesday continued distributing Chi-

na-donated relief items to some 3,088 families, who are victims of last year’s flood, HIV/ AIDS patients, disabled people and or-

phans.

Cambodian Red Cross president Bun Rany, the wife of Prime Minister Hun Sen, and Chinese Ambassa-

dor to Cambodia Bu Juan-

guo handed over the items including rice, noodles, tins of sardines, clothes, mosquito nets, blankets, and cash gift to those vul-

nerable families. The hu-

manitarian goods are part of the 1 million US dollars donation from the Chinese government to Cambodia in October for people who have faced hardships due to severe flooding last year.

Bun Rany, on behalf of the Cambodian people, expressed gratitude to the government and people of China for providing hu-

manitarian aid to Cambodia whenever the country faced difficulties from natural dis-

asters.

She said 1 million US dollars donated from China was used to buy 2,000 tones of milled rice for vulnerable people.

So far, about 580 tones have been donated to some 23,000 families in 11 prov-

inces and distribution oper-

ations are still going on.

Ambassador Bu said China hoped that the relief items would help ease the hardships of those vulner-

able people, promising that China would still continue assisting Cambodia in eco-

nomic development and poverty reduction.—Xinhua

Cambodia needs to build human capital for ASEAN Community 2015

PINOM PENI, 5 March — Cambodia needs to build qualified and competent human capital to prepare for competition when the ASEAN Economic Community becomes a reality at the end of 2015, Prime Minister Hun Sen said on Tuesday.

“The Cambodian government will focus its atten-

tion on strengthening education quality and technical vocational training that have yet to respond to and match market demand to ensure youth are worthy successors of the present generation and sustainable development of the country,” he said during the 17th Government-Private Sector Forum at the capital’s Peace Palace.

The premier said participation from the private sector was another important factor for Cambodia’s pre-

paredness for its membership in the ASEAN Economic Community 2015.

“Our pursuit of ASEAN Economic Community 2015 is comparable to boat racing that require paddlers at both the front end and rear end of the boat,” the premier said. “Although the government, the rear-end paddler, might have the responsibility of steering the boat, but inputs from the private sector at the front end of the boat are equally important for direction setting.”

He said the government has desire to see greater participation from the private sector in dealing with challenges faced by Cambodia in the context of ASE-

AN Economic Community in 2015. Brettton Sciarioni, chairman of International Business Chamber of Cambo-

dia, said ASEAN would be a region with free movement of goods, services, investment, skilled labor, and a freer flow of capital when it became a community.

“When the ASEAN Economic Community realizes, the bloc will become a single market and production base, making the region more dynamic and competitive,” he said. “Therefore, it is crucial for Cambodia to prepare itself to make use of this regional economic integration.”

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASE-

AN) groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malay-

sia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.—Xinhua

Cambodia considers giving visa for Japanese on airplane

PINOM PENI, 5 March — Cambodian Prime Minis-

ter Hun Sen said on Tuesday his government wants to make it easier for Japanese travellers to visit Cambodia by introducing in-flight processing of tourist visas.

Speaking at a government forum with private sectors in Phnom Penh, Hun Sen said the original idea from the Japanese side is reasonable and could lead to an increased number of tourists from Japan.

The premier said he has ordered the tourism and immigration officials to study the idea together with representatives of the travel industry and the Japanese side.

For it to be possible, he said, whatever Japanese airline is involved, once direct flights between the two countries commence, would have to make one or two seats available for immigration officials on flights from Japan to Cambodia.

The same service could be applied to South Korean visitors in a later stage, he said.

A total of 4,210,165 foreign tourists visited Cambod-

ia in 2013 against 3,584,307 in 2012, according to of-

ficial data.

In 2013, Vietnamese topped arrivals with 854,104 visitors, followed by Chinese with 463,123 and South Koreans with 435,009. Japanese tourists placed sixth with 206,932.

Singapore experiences driest month since 1869

SINGAPORE, 5 March — The prolonged dry weather affecting Singapore since mid-January has set a new record for the driest month since 1869.

During February, there were only seven days of short showers that occurred between February 7 and 19, mainly in the western parts of Singapore.

Local TV Channel NewsAsia reported that the total rainfall across 64 rainfall stations ranged from 45 percent to 100 percent below the long-term average of 161.0 mm for February — about half of the stations, mostly in the southern and eastern areas, recorded total monthly rainfall below 10.0 mm.

Besides being the driest month ever, February was also the most windy month in last 30 years. An average daily wind speed of 13.3 km/h was recorded in February.

The prolonged dry conditions have also set a new record for the lowest average daily relative humidity of 74.5 percent. The previous record low for February and any month of the year was 76.9 percent in February 1968, and 74.6 percent in June 2013 respectively.

Singapore National Environment Agency (NEA) said the last day of significant rainfall was on February 16, when between 0.2 and 29.0 mm was recorded in various parts of the island.

Since then, there has been little or no rainfall, with Singapore entering another dry spell on 17 February.

This follows the 27-day long dry spell between 13 January and 8 February, 2014.—Xinhua
Claim Day Notice

MV AN ZE JIANG VOY NO (176)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV AN ZE JIANG VOY NO (176) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.3.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W/S(5) where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Shipping Agency Department

Myanmar Port Authority

Agent for: MSC COSCO Shipping Co Ltd

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Ministry of Energy

Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise

EU injects 4.45 million Euros to support EAC regional integration

Arusha, 5 March — The European Union Delegation and East African Community (EAC) on Tuesday inked a financial agreement worth 4.45 million Euros to enhance regional integration processes.

The support, which is for the EAC regional integration support program 3 (RISP3) is a response to the challenges and needs expressed in the 4th EAC Development Strategy for the period 2011-2016.

After signing the agreement, EU Delegation Head of Cooperation for Tanzania/EAC Eric Beune said the 3rd generation Regional Integration Support Program (RISP3) aims at enhancing regional integration processes in the whole of Eastern and Southern Africa, as well as the Indian Ocean.

“Building on the lessons learnt during the implementation of previous similar projects, RISP3 specifically addresses the challenges of the East African Community and provides concerted, tailor-made support to the EAC Secretariat, to other EAC organs and the 5 Partner States,” the EU official said, adding that the program is part of a 20 million Euros package designed for COMESA, EAC, IGAD and IOCs.—Xinhua

Claim Day Notice

MV YANGONSTAR VOY NO (J001R)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANGONSTAR VOY NO (J001R) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.3.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Shipping Agency Department

Myanmar Port Authority

Agent for: M/S CGM

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Invitation for Open Tender

(16th Term Supply Tender)

1. Open Tenders are invited for the Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the supply of High Speed Diesel 1.645 M bbls ±10% and Jet A1 0.752 M bbls ±10%.

2. Tender Closing Date : 2-4-2014 at (12:00) noon.

3. Tender Opening Date : 2-4-2014 at (13:00) hrs.

4. Delivery Time : 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015

5. Tender Documents and details information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours commencing from 3rd March, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise

Phone: +95 67 - 411097/411206

The New Light of Myanmar
Miley Cyrus is harmless: John Legend

LOS ANGELES, 5 March — Singer-songwriter John Legend doesn’t believe pop star Miley Cyrus deserves the criticism she has received with her raunchy performances. He says they are “harmless”.

The 35-year-old feels critics are overacting when it comes to the Wrecking Ball singer, who gyrates and simulates sex acts during her Bangerz tour. Parents of her fans have even described her live shows as “soft porn”.

“I think it’s relatively harmless — she’s not doing anything dangerous,” contactmusic.com quoted Legend as saying.

“She’s just making decisions about how she wants to portray herself and her sexuality. It’s working for her at the moment,” he added.

World War One, a hundred years on, entrenched on London stages

LONDON, 5 March — The centenary year of the start of World War One is being marked on the London stage as a bloodbath that wasted millions of lives and ended in failure, setting the world on the destructive path for World War Two.

With “War Horse” — the internationally hailed play about a British army steed in the Great War — still playing in the West End, theatre-goers can now delve deeper into the human side of the conflict that killed some 10 million military personnel.

A slick and spirited revival of Joan Littlewood’s dark-humored 1963 anti-war musical “Oh What a Lovely War” is on at the Theatre Royal in the east London borough of Stratford, where it created waves 50 years ago. Playwright Peter Gill’s “Versailles” dealing with the peace treaty that ended the 1914-18 war — but which in Gill’s and many historians’ view set the world on the road to the next one — opened last week at the bijou Donmar Warehouse venue.

Both shows are thought provoking as well as entertaining, with director Terry Johnson’s revival of Littlewood’s groundbreaking piece having the edge in sheer entertainment.

The play was made into a movie by director Richard Atttenborough in 1969, featuring a pantheon of British stage and screen stars. In the new London performance, a spirited troupe of 12 mostly young singers and actors, dressed much of the time in white clown suits rather than khaki because Littlewood abhored the uniform, put on a mock “pierrot” musical review that was typical of seaside resorts in Britain at the time of the war. It starts in a light-hearted vein with young men heading off to the front expecting to be back in a few months’ time. But as the war drags on and on, and the casualty figures climb, the humour prompts harsh criticism.

Oscars pizza delivery guy gets $1,000 tip

BEIJING, 5 March — Pizza delivery guy Edgar Martirosyan had a good Sunday night. He got to deliver pizza to the Oscars and received a 1,000 dollar tip.

Edgar, the pizza owner, got the call to deliver pizza to Hollywood’s Dolby Theatre for some writers during Sunday night’s Academy Awards. He was shocked when host DeGeneres led him to the stage in front of Hollywood actors and 43 million viewers at home.

Best Supporting Actor Jared Leto, Brad Pitt, Meryl Streep and the Jennifer Lawrence all indulged on a piece of the pie, but none of the multi-millionaire nominees in the audience seemed to have any cash on them for a well-deserved tip.

Luckily, when Edgar was invited back onstage for an interview on The Ellen Show Monday, Ellen DeGeneres surprised Edgar with a 1,000 dollar tip for delivering pizza to the Oscars.—Xinhua

161 years a misspelling: NY Times corrects story on ‘Slave’ subject

NEW YORK, 5 March — The New York Times on Tuesday corrected a 161-year-old story about Solomon Northup, whose memoir was the basis for the Academy Award-winning movie “12 Years a Slave.” The 20 Jan, 1853, article, headlined “The Kidnapping Case,” tells the story of Northup, a black man born free in the northern United States, who was kidnapped in Washington DC in 1841 and sold into slavery in Louisiana.

That article misspelled Northup’s surname, referring to him as “Solomon Northrop,” while its headline misspelled it as “Northrup,” according to the correction, which followed Sunday’s Oscar ceremony, where the film based on Northup’s experience was named Best Picture. The correction followed a series of Twitter posts from best-selling author Rebecca Skloot, whose tweets about the article contained their own typographical errors.

Skloot is the author of “The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks,” a bestseller out in 2010. Lacks was a poor black Virginia tobacco farmer whose cancerous tumor cells were taken without her knowledge in 1951, and used to create an “immortal cell line” that proved key in developing the polio vaccine, gene mapping and other medical research breakthroughs.

On Monday, Skloot tweeted “Original 1953 NYTimes article on kidnap- ping of Solomon Northup #12YearsASlave #histrory” and provided a link, which was later amended, or “fixed,” as she noted in a retweet. She then retweeted her first post, adding: “Uh, make that 1853,” after a follower pointed out her error. Even as it corrected its own error, the Times noted that its original article on Northup had been billed as “a more complete and authentic record than has yet appeared.”

The New York Times, long called the US “paper of record,” is known for its thorough and precisely worded corrections.

In 2012, the newspaper ran a correction acknowledging that it had misidentified a character from the children’s show “My Little Pony” in a story about college students with Asperger’s syndrome. “It is Twilight Sparkle, the nerdly intellectual, not Fluttershy, the kind animal lover,” the correction noted.

Oscars telecast audience revised up, highest in 14 years

LOS ANGELES, 5 March — The audience that tuned in to watch ABC’s live telecast of the Oscars hosted by Ellen DeGeneres on Sunday was the show’s highest in 14 years after ratings were upwardly revised. Nielsen ratings data on Tuesday showed that the audience for the telecast was 43.7 million, versus the 43 million reported on Monday, the highest since 2000 and 8 percent higher than last year.

The Oscars attract the biggest non-sports audience in the United States. Walt Disney Co’s ABC network has signed on to broadcast the film industry’s highest honors through 2020. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences kept producers Craig Zadan and Neil Meron for the second straight year, but swapped out Seth MacFarlane as host after his provocative humor prompted harsh criticism.

Comedic and daytime talk show host DeGeneres, who hosted in 2007 and is only the second woman to emcee Hollywood’s biggest night on her own, brought an easy breezy style to the Dolby Theatre, though she did poke the powerful people in the room.—Reuters

Winners of the Oscar Award Lupita Nyong’o and Matthew McConaughey.
Wembley Stadium to host Froch v Groves re-match

LONDON, 5 March — Wembley Stadium will host the re-match between WBA and IBO super-middleweight champion Carl Froch and George Groves on 31 May with promoters expecting to sell more tickets than for any post-World War Two fight in Britain. The fight will be the first staged at the new national stadium in North London, which re-opened in 2007 and seats 90,000.

“I think we have got the product to fill stadiums like this. When you get an opportunity to do so, you have to grab it with both hands,” promoter Eddie Hearn told the BBC. “This is the ultimate, in my opinion - steeped in history - and this is the first fight at the new stadium. And what a fight.” The two Britons first clashed at the Manchester Arena in November when Groves, 25, was controversially stopped by 36-year-old Froch in the 11th round of scheduled rounds.

Groves had floored Nottingham-based Froch in the opening round and was ahead on the judges’ cards when referee Howard Foster stepped in. “I don’t want to fight in Nottingham. Nottingham’s not big enough.” Froch told Sky Sports news. “It only holds the best part of 30,000. I am just so excited that I am going to give George Groves an absolute pasting in front of such a big crowd. The current highest attendance recorded at a British bout was £5,000 who watched local IBO light-welterweight champion Ricky Hatton take on Mexican Juan Lazcano at the City of Manchester stadium in 2008.

The last fight at the old Wembley stadium was the WBC heavyweight title clash in 1995 between Britain’s Frank Bruno and American Oliver McCall which the home favourite won on points to become champion at the fourth attempt.—Reuters

Injured Woods may not be ready for Doral title defence

DORAL, (Florida), 5 March — Tiger Woods’ status for this week’s WGC-Cadillac Championship remained uncertain on Tuesday as the reigning champion continued to receive treatment for a sore back. He cancelled his pre-tournament news conference and practice round on Tuesday but is due to meet with the media on Wednesday.

Woods, who has been paired with Masters champion Adam Scott and FedExCup winner Henrik Stenson for the opening two rounds at Doral, withdrew from Sunday’s final round of the Honda Classic after 13 holes due to back spasms.

Woods, whose career tally of 14 majors is second to Jack Nicklaus, said in a statement after the Honda Classic that he would decide later if he could defend his WGC-Cadillac title. If Woods is unfit to defend his WGC-Cadillac Championship, Woods has seven wins, the last four on the famed Blue Monster course which underwent a massive redesign following last year’s win. “I’d say it’s definitely a different Doral,” said Briton Justin Rose, the 2012 WGC-Cadillac champion.

“A lot has clearly been done since last year,” he said. “There’s new elements that you recognize but pretty much the shots, the lines and obviously the reads on the greens are all completely new.”

With the world’s top 50 players all teeing it up at the Blue Monster course there will be plenty to keep the expected large galleries entertained.

Another marquee grouping will feature Northern Irishman Rory McIlroy, who will be bidding to rebound from a jarring playoff loss at the Honda Classic, 2009 Doral winner and fan favorite Phil Mickelson and in-form Australian Jason Day, winner of WGC-Accenture Match Play Championship.

At these events like the majors and WGC events, if you play well, you can move yourself up the rankings pretty quick,” said Day. “Winning the WGC Match Play, moving from 11 to 4, it was one of my goals to get into the top five this year and winning that event shot me up to number four.”

“I don’t want to stop there. I just love playing in front of a lot of people on the big stage.”

World Cup stadiums will be ready

RIO DE JANEIRO, 5 March — Football great Ronaldo tried to allay fears about ongoing construction delays to Brazil’s World Cup stadiums.

Four of the country’s 12 World Cup venues are yet to be ready despite a December 2013 deadline imposed by football’s governing body FIFA.

Ronaldo, an official World Cup ambassador, said the venues have ample time to finish work and hold test events before the 12 June opener between Brazil and Croatia in Sao Paulo.

“I’ve been closely following the dedication and commitment of those who are working and now we are in the final stretch of preparations,” Ronaldo told Argentine newspaper Clarin on Tuesday.

“The stadiums are beautiful. Between now and the World Cup several test events will be held. They will be fundamental for all involved so that adjustments can be made if needed.”

Stadiums yet to be completed are Cuiaba’s Arena Pantanal, Curitiba’s Arena da Baixada, Sao Paulo’s Itaquerao and Manaus’ Arena da Amazonia. —Xinhua

Messi does not need World Cup for greatness

BUENOS AIRES, 5 March — Lionel Messi does not need a World Cup winners’ medal to be considered among soccer’s all-time greats, fellow Argentine Diego Maradona said on Tuesday. “Messi doesn’t need to win the World Cup to be the best player in the world.” Maradona, who inspired Argentina to the title in Mexico in 1986, told La Nacion: “If he did it would be great for Argentina, the fans and Lio, but (winning) a World Cup or not won’t take away any of his achievements up to now to be among the greatest.”

Twice World Cup winners Argentina face Romania in a friendly in Bucharest on Wednesday as they begin to crank up their preparations for this year’s finals in Brazil.

Former captain and coach Maradona said everything appeared in place for Messi to shine although Argentina’s task would be tough with hosts Brazil, title holders Spain and Germany among the sides to beat. Maradona said Messi had had a great World Cup in South Africa in 2010 despite not scoring any goals. The Argentina team coached by Maradona lost 4-0 to Germany in the quarter-finals.

“Messi had an exceptional World Cup with me... and no-one said so. (Was it) because he didn’t score? He turned all the goalkeepers into stars,” he said.

Maradona said he could not forget Messi’s sobs when Argentina were eliminated. “I approached him and told him he’d have many World Cups to get revenge. I said it with all my heart. While the rest were thinking about our return (home) he was there, head bowed, crying.”

Argentina are in Group F with Bosnia, Iran and Nigeria at the finals starting on 12 June. “There’s Spain, Germany and there’s Brazil with a tremendous defense. You think of Brazil’s defence and six or seven names come to mind, you think of their attack and there’s only Neymar,” Maradona said. “For Lio it will be a test of character, to bring out all that crying he has in his heart. Brazil can be his great revenge,” added Maradona, who will commentate on the tournament for a Venezuelan television programme.—Reuters

Barcelona’s Lionel Messi celebrates after scoring a penalty against Manchester City during their Champions League round of 16 first leg soccer match at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, northern England on 18 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

Brazilian’s Carl “The Cobra” Froch holding the WBC super middleweights belt celebrates with wife Rachael Coardowng after defeating Germany’s “King” Arthur Abraham in their WBC super middleweights title bout at boxing event of Super Six World Boxing Classic in Helsinki on 27 Nov, 2010. —REUTERS

Kogawa loses decision for interim WBA crown in Thailand

BANGKOK, 5 March — Japan’s Takuya Kogawa lost a close decision to Thai Youmongkol Vor-saengthep on Tuesday in a bid for the interim WBA flyweight crown.

The judges gave the 2-0 decision to Youmongkol in the 12-rounder in Thai’s Nakhon Ratchasima.

“I was the weaker fighter,” said the 28-year-old Kogawa. “I felt the pressure of fighting on the round. I felt that I wasn’t able to win a decision in Thailand. I’m not thinking of retiring even though I lost,” he said.

Kyodo News

Argentina were in Group F with Bosnia, Iran and Nigeria at the finals starting on 12 June. “There’s Spain, Germany and there’s Brazil with a tremendous defense. You think of Brazil’s defence and six or seven names come to mind, you think of their attack and there’s only Neymar,” Maradona said. “For Lio it will be a test of character, to bring out all that crying he has in his heart. Brazil can be his great revenge,” added Maradona, who will commentate on the tournament for a Venezuelan television programme.—Reuters

Barcelona’s Lionel Messi celebrates after scoring a penalty against Manchester City during their Champions League round of 16 first leg soccer match at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, northern England on 18 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

Brazilian’s Carl “The Cobra” Froch holding the WBC super middleweights belt celebrates with wife Rachael Coardowng after defeating Germany’s “King” Arthur Abraham in their WBC super middleweights title bout at boxing event of Super Six World Boxing Classic in Helsinki on 27 Nov, 2010. —REUTERS

Kogawa loses decision for interim WBA crown in Thailand

BANGKOK, 5 March — Japan’s Takuya Kogawa lost a close decision to Thai Youmongkol Vor-saengthep on Tuesday in a bid for the interim WBA flyweight crown.

The judges gave the 2-0 decision to Youmongkol in the 12-rounder in Thai’s Nakhon Ratchasima.

“I was the weaker fighter,” said the 28-year-old Kogawa. “I felt the pressure of fighting on the round. I felt that I wasn’t able to win a decision in Thailand. I’m not thinking of retiring even though I lost,” he said.

Kyodo News
Roadside bomb kills three Pakistani soldiers as violence spirals

ISLAMABAD, 5 March — A roadside bomb killed at least three soldiers on Wednesday as militant violence spiralled across Pakistan despite the government’s increasingly futile efforts to engage the Pakistan Taleban in peace negotiations.

On Monday, gunmen burst into a court killing at least 11 people in a rare suicide-bomb and gun attack in the heart of the Pakistani capital of Islamabad.

Security officials said three soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb near the northwestern town of Hangu. No one immediately claimed responsibility.

The Pakistani Taleban, who have declared a month-long ceasefire to pursue peace talks with the government, have tried to distance themselves from recent attacks but continuing violence shows they are not fully in control of all its various factions.

Fiji’s junta chief steps down from military ahead of elections

SYDNEY, 5 March — The leader of Fiji’s military junta officially resigned his position in the armed forces on Wednesday ahead of national elections he is widely expected to win.

Commodore Vereve “Frank” Bainimarama, who took power in a bloody 2006 coup, announced earlier this year that he would resign as commander-in-chief in order to stand for the presidency in elections slated for September.

Ceremonies were being held in the capital, Suva, to commemorate the end of his nearly four-decade military career and the transfer of command to Land Force Commander Brigadier Mosese Tikotiga, Australian and Fijian media reported.

Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop praised the announcement. Bishop visited Fiji last month and has made a thawing of icy relations between the two neighbors a priority.

Australia and New Zealand are Fiji’s biggest aid donors.

“This is the latest in a series of positive developments in Fiji’s election preparations, and its return to parliamentary democracy,” Bishop said in a statement.

Fiji has suffered four coups and a bloody military mutiny since 1987, mainly as a result of tension between the majority indigenous Fijian population and an economically powerful, ethnic Indian minority.

Australia and New Zealand imposed tough sanctions on the regime in the wake of the 2006 coup, which contributed to a sharp deterioration of relations.— Reuters

Tokyo, 5 March — Japan coach Alberto Zaccheroni insists Shinji Kagawa has no need to panic at his lack of playing time at Manchester United and also shrugged off concerns over the slow start Keisuke Honda has made to life in the Italian Serie A following his high-profile move to AC Milan. Kagawa and Honda will both feature against New Zealand — Japan’s first game of the year — in Wednesday’s friendly.

Security chief says his high-profile move to AC Milan has made to life in the Italian Serie A followed by Honda has no need to panic at his lack of playing time at Manchester United, while current manager at Old Trafford, while former manager at AC Milan has recently changed manager and I think the team is struggling a bit. It took (French great and current UEFA President Michel) Platini half a year to show what he was really capable of when he went to Italy. The coach has just changed at Milan too.” Zaccheroni is also unconcerned by Kagawa and Honda’s struggles.

“I want the players I have picked this time to show how well they can play. I want the players I have picked this time to show how well they fit in.”

But Zaccheroni, who has not decided on a captain for Wednesday’s game, said, “Some players missing out means that other players get a chance and I want them to show me how well they can play. I look at this as a positive.”

“The makeup of the squad has changed quite considerably since losing to Mexico in November” said New Zealand coach Neil Emblen. “But at the same time we are playing against a top-class team so we need to contain Japan and all the quality they bring going forward as well as we can.”

Japan and New Zealand were scheduled to play two years ago in late March, but the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami on 11 March led to the Kiwis pulling out. New Zealand was also devastated by an earthquake in Christchurch in February that year.

Zaccheroni holds a press conference at National Stadium in Tokyo on 4 March, 2014, on the eve of a friendly against New Zealand.


KyoDo News

KyoDo News

KyoDo News

"This (match) will be a friendly against New Zealand. We have brought in some young players and we are going to give those boys an opportunity in this game. We certainly will be looking to show a brave, possession-based brand of football,” said New Zealand interim coach Neil Emblen. “But at the same time we are playing against a top-class team so we need to contain Japan and all the quality they bring going forward as well as we can.”


KyoDo News

KyoDo News

KyoDo News
Reforms that need to be carried out at once should be done at once

National-level practical education reforms forum kicks off

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham greets attendees at national-level forum on practical education reforms.—MNA

Plans were also adopted in February, 2012, to conduct a comprehensive education sector review (CESR).

Joined with foreign experts, Myanmar’s education experts carried out a survey of the country’s current education system and collected data from August, 2012, to March, 2013.

Besides, as part of efforts for improving the education system, the government held the forum on practical education reform on 7th October, 2013.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham quoted the speech of President U Thein Sein at the forum as saying that reforms that need to be carried out at once should be done at once and advices should be sought from the people to lay down short-term and long-term plans.

The government also set up the committee for implementing the tasks for promoting the education system in October, 2012, and 18 working groups to participate in the reforms.

Ministry of Education and related ministries are currently carrying out the tasks for free education in primary and middle school level, posting five teachers at every primary school, improving the efficiency of teachers and head of schools, expanding teachership training schools, reforming the curriculums at the basic education primary level.

Meanwhile, Ministry of Education is cooperating with foreign universities in research and academic sectors.

The vice-president also expressed his delight for actively participation all national people in the education reform.

During the form, the participants discussed the frameworks for economic and social reforms for the national development, a comprehensive education sector review and a practical education reform.

They also discussed the reforms that should be carried out in the kindergarten, primary, middle and higher education sectors, technology and vocational sector, informal education sector, community development sector, private education sector and the draft for the National Education Bill.

The forum continues on 6 March. The outcomes from the forum will be put forward to the Union Government and the parliament.—MNA

Coordination underway for construction of waste-to-energy plants in Yangon, Mandalay

EP Deputy Minister said in Amyotha Hluttaw

New six special stamps to mark census taking process

Korean Martyrs’ Mausoleum bombing shows sympathy of Myanmar to S-Korea

The vice-president quoted the speech of President U Thein Sein at the forum as saying that reforms that need to be carried out at once should be done at once and advices should be sought from the people to lay down short-term and long-term plans.

Coordination underway for construction of waste-to-energy plants in Yangon, Mandalay

EP Deputy Minister said in Amyotha Hluttaw

Korean Memorial Monument of the 1983

Martyrs’ Mausoleum bombing shows sympathy of Myanmar to S-Korea

Seventeen from the Korean delegation died in the 1983 Martyrs’ Mausoleum bombing in Yangon in 1983. South Korean government has reached agreement with Myanmar government to build a monument to the victims. Some objections against the agreement have arisen. Following the interview with U Thant Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, carried out by the Myanmar News Agency.

Q: Please let us know about the agreement to build the monument for the Korean victims of the 1983-Martyrs’ Mausoleum bombing.

A: Korean government had requested Myanmar government for many years to build a monument for their victims who died in the blast at the Martyrs’ Mausoleum at 10.25 am on 9 October, 1983. They paid the visit to Myanmar at the invitation of the then government.

In sympathy with the families of the victims, Myanmar government signed the Memorandum of Understanding with the Korean government on 31 December, 2013, to build the monument. The agreement should be considered that we, Myanmar, the host, has expressed our sympathy to the families of the victims. It’s very reasonable to allow them to build the monument.

The agreement would help the countries to ensure strengthening the friendship between the two peoples and the two countries. Myanmar and South Korea established the diplomatic relations in 1975 and the friendship and cooperation between the two countries have improved, especially greatly after 2011.

South Korean President Lee Myung-bak visited Myanmar in May, 2012, and he was the Korean President who visited Myanmar for the first time in 30 years. President U Thein Sein also paid a visit to South Korea in October, 2012. During the visit, the two countries reached the agreement to give aids for development and the fund for economic cooperation to Myanmar and to build Myanmar Development Institute (MDI) in Myanmar.

Besides, the two sides held the ministerial level (See page 9)