Answers in national census to be kept confidential

NAY PYI TAW, 12 March — U Khin Yi, Union Minister for Immigration and Population, has called on citizens to answer the questions in the census as the answers must be kept confidential according to the Census Law.

Answer the questions correctly during the census so that the task would be in conformity with international standards and human rights, said U Khin Yi, the chairman of the central committee for the 2014-National Census, at a ceremony to clarify the questions which would be answered by the people in the census.

Ethnic armed groups will actively participate in and cooperate with the government in taking the national census, said U Khin Yi.

The national census will start at midnight of 29 March and end on 10 April.

The last census in Myanmar was taken in 1983. The ceremony is also attended by Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of President U Thein Sein, Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, wife of Vice-President Dr Sai Maik Khama.

SMIDB plans to lend K 20 billion to industries

NAY PYI TAW, 12 March — Small and Medium Industrial Development Bank (SMIDB) of the government is planning to lend K 20 billion to industries in the next fiscal year which starts on 1st April.

The bank has already granted K 10 billion in total so far to 62 entrepreneurs.

The government has opened 12 branch offices of the bank across the country and it is planning to set up further four branches.

At the coordination meeting of the committee for development of industrial zones, Union Minister U Soe Thane, the chairman of the committee, has called on entrepreneurs and businessmen to pay tax to the government so that it can work for the development of the industrial zones which create job opportunities for the people.

During the meeting, responsible personnel of the industrial zones and entrepreneurs discussed assistance to be provided by the government to the industrial zones.

Small and medium scale enterprise law has been put forward to the parliament and is expected to be enacted in near future, he said.—MNA

Students across the nation sit 2014 matriculation examination

NAY PYI TAW, 12 March—2014 matriculation examination is taking place at 1287 exam centres.

Photo shows students coming out from their exam centre after sitting for the first day of matriculation exam. MNA
Emergency response course on 12-13 March in Nay Pyi Taw

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 March—Altogether 43 trainees and two observers from European Union are attending the 2-day preliminary course on foundation of Emergency Response Centre-ERC.

The course is organized by Anti-Human Trafficking Police Crops under the Myanmar Police Force.

Opening of the course was held on Wednesday morning at Jade City Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone No.2 with addresses by Police Brig-Gen Win Naing Tun of Anti-Human Trafficking Police Crops, Myanmar Police Force and Mr. Ronald Kobia, EU Ambassador to Myanmar.

Min Min Latt
(Mann Tekkatho)

Myawady’s students sit matriculation examinations

Myawady, 12 March—High school students in Myawady of Kayin State started sitting matriculation examinations on Wednesday.

On the first day of this year’s university entrance exams, 847 students—330 schoolboys and 517 schoolgirls—sat for Myanmar Language at BEHS No (1).

Tun Tun Oo—Myawady Border Town

Farmers earn more income

Nay Pyi Taw, 12 March—“Farmers in Pobbatiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area along Yangon-Mandalay old highway grow long bean mostly using Taiwanese strains among the two strains with the brands of Taiwan and Myanmar Aeroplane. Within 70 days farmers can pluck it and send it to the markets. During summer time, there are few bean growers and thus who grows long bean earns a good income,” said farmer Ko Zaw Min who is engaged heavily in growing long bean.

Min Min Latt
(Mann Tekkatho)

Myanmar-Laos Friendship Bridge under construction

Yangon, 12 March—The construction of Lao-Myanmar Friendship bridge spanning Mekhong river started on 16 February 2013. The bridge is located in Kenglatt sub-township in Tachileik district in eastern Shan State. According to the press release of the Ministry of Construction, it can withstand 75 tons of load with the length of 691.2 meter. The bridge is a reinforced concrete type.

Soe Win (SP)

Traffic Rules Course for locals

Tatkon, 12 March—Road Administration Department conducted a course concentrating on traffic rules in Tatkon of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

About 600 locals attended the two-day course on 8 and 9 March.

The trainees are allowed to apply motor cycle driving license.

Tin Soe Lwin
(Tatkon)
Japan calls Crimea's move to join Russia "problem"

NEW YORK, 12 March — While Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has vowed to empower women, the country continues to rank poorly in the number of female parliamentarians — placing 127th, far below China, South Korea and North Korea, in a UN global report released on Tuesday.

"It is going to require a very substantial rethink in Japan about how we do politics and that is really the challenge of the prime minister," Anders Johnson, the Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, a global organization of national parliaments, told Kyodo News.

IPU and UN Women jointly launched the Women in Politics Map 2014 based on data up to 1 Jan. 2014. Compiled annually, the map tracks women’s political progress and has been published since 1995. Japan ranked slightly higher at 122. Abe took to the global stage last September during the annual General Assembly session at the United Nations, pledging to seek greater participation by women in his country and also around the world. Kyodo News

Search under way at New York building collapse, trains halted

NEW YORK, 12 March—A building collapsed in a largely residential block of Upper Manhattan on Wednesday and the New York City Fire Department was searching for anyone trapped in the debris, officials said.

Television images showed heavy smoke and dust rising from the structure at East 114th Street and Park Avenue in East Harlem, which reportedly collapsed at about 9 a.m. The fire department said that so far they have reports of 11 minor injuries, according to local television reports.

The New York City Police Department said it was investigating reports that the collapse may have involved two buildings. At the scene, fire engines were seen spraying water from high cranes into the rubble. Commuter trains were stopped on nearby tracks and passengers were ordered off the Metropolitan Railroad cars at the Fordham stop in the Bronx, passengers said.—Reuters

Gun and grenade feud kills 14, mostly women and children, in Pakistan’s Karachi

ISLAMABAD, 12 March — Rival gangs opened fire and lobbed grenades in a notoriously violent district of Pakistan's financial hub Karachi, on Wednesday, killing 14 people, including eight women and three children.

Karachi, a city and port of more than 18 million people, is home to many militant groups, including the Pakistani Taliban. Many political parties there have armed wings to fight turf wars.

More than two dozen people were wounded in the violence which erupted in Lyari, one of South Asia’s most dangerous neighborhoods, where rival gangs have been fighting for years for control.

A brother of a gang leader was killed by police on Tuesday night in Karachi.

"In reaction, gangsters came to a market on Wednesday morning in Lyari and opened indiscriminate fire, killing women and children along with the men," senior police officer Abdul Khaliqullah told Reuters.—Reuters

Japan ranks 127th worldwide in female parliamentarians

WASHINGTON, 12 March — Japan and the United States have been also at odds over automobile trade in TPP negotiations but Oe and Cutler are expected to concentrate on market access issues this time. Japan, the United States and 10 other countries have struggled for an early signing of a TPP after missing the primary deadline at the end of last year. Kyodo News

Japan OKs dispatch of 4 SDF planes to help search for Malaysian jet

TOKYO, 12 March — Japan decided on Wednesday to dispatch four of its Self-Defence Forces planes to join international efforts to search for the Malaysia Airlines passenger plane missing since last weekend. Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera told a meeting with senior officials of his ministry that Japan is sending two C-130 transport aircraft of the Air Self-Defense Force and two P-3C patrol planes of the Maritime Self-Defense Force.

"We hope the SDF will make all-out efforts to help in the search using its extensive experience in search operations," Onodera said.

Prior to the mission, an eight-member advance team including SDF officers will head to Kuala Lumpur International Airport on Wednesday. The dispatch comes in response to a request for cooperation from the Malaysian government.

Searches by several nations including Vietnam, China and the United States have so far detected no signs of the aircraft or any of its 239 passengers and crew from over a dozen countries. Kyodo News

Japan, US discuss farm produce tariffs in Pacific free trade pact

WASHINGTON, 12 March — The recent move by Ukraine’s Crimea region to become part of Russia is a “problem,” a Japanese government spokesman said on Wednesday, reiterating Tokyo’s opposition to Moscow’s intervention in the country. Japan also sent the top bureaucrat of its National Security Council to Russia to discuss the crisis in Ukraine, where the Crimean parliament says the Black Sea peninsula will declare its independence if residents vote yes in a referendum later this month, amid strong opposition from US-led Western nations.

“We wonder whether (the move) is in line with Ukraine’s Constitution. There is a problem in terms of territorial integrity," Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Katsunobu Kato told a news conference.

Kato was referring to the adoption on Tuesday by Crimea’s regional legislature of the “declaration of independence” that will be effective if residents vote in the upcoming referendum for splitting off from Ukraine and joining Russia as an autonomous republic. Japan has expressed its hope that parties concerned will seek a peaceful solution to the Ukraine crisis by respecting the nation’s sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Kyodo News

JAPAN TO DISPATCH 4 SDF PLANES TO HELP SEARCH FOR MALAYSIAN JET

A C-130 transport aircraft of Japan’s Air Self-Defense Force is pictured at the Alpen Air Base in Jori, Chiba Prefecture, on Saturday, March 15, 2014, before the jet’s final flight on Wednesday. The Japan Air Self-Defense Force deployed a total of four C-130s and two P-3C patrol planes to help the search for a missing Malaysia Airlines passenger plane.

The two planes are scheduled to depart on Wednesday. The dispatch comes in response to a request for cooperation from the Malaysian government.

Kyodo News

A victim is evacuated by emergency personal near an apparent building explosion fire and collapse in the Harlem section of New York City, 12 March, 2014.—Reuters

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World

Thursday, 13 March, 2014

Kuala Lumpur, 12 March — Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 was traced what could have been the jetliner missing for almost five days to an area near India’s Andaman and Nicobar islands, hundreds of miles from its last known position, the country’s air force chief said on Wednesday.

After a series of at times conflicting statements, the latest revelation underlined that authorities remain uncertain even where to look for the plane, and no closer to explaining what happened to Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 or the 239 people on board.

The flight disappeared from civilian radar screens shortly before 1:30 a.m. on Saturday, less than an hour after taking off from Kuala Lumpur, as it flew northeast across the mouth of the Gulf of Thailand bound for Beijing. What happened next is one of the most baffling mysteries in modern aviation history.

Malaysian air force chief Rodzali Daud told a news conference that an aircraft was spotted on military radar at 2:15 a.m., 200 miles northwest of Penang Island off Malaysia’s west coast.

It was not confirmed that the unidentified plane was Flight MH370, but Malaysia was sharing the data with international civilian and military authorities, Rodzali said. “We are corroborating this,” he added.

“We are still working with the experts, it’s an unidentified plot.” According to the data from Rodzali, if it was the missing plane it would have flown for 45 minutes and lost only about 5,000 feet in altitude.

There was no word on which direction it was headed and still no clue what happened aboard, prolonging the agonizing wait for news of hundreds of relatives of those on board.

A position 200 miles northwest of Penang, in the northern part of the Strait of Malacca, would put the plane roughly south of the Thai holiday island of Phuket and east of the tip of Indonesia’s Aceh province and India’s Nicobar island chain. Indonesia and Thailand have said their militaries detected no sign of any unusual aircraft in their airspace.

The position is hundreds of miles west of the point where the Boeing 777-200ER dropped off air traffic control screens. Malaysia has asked India for help in tracing the aircraft and New Delhi’s coastguard planes have joined the search.

Deputy Commander of Vietnam 918 Air Brigade, Senior Lieutenant Nguyen Quang The (R) looks for the missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370, that disappeared from radar screens in the early hours of Saturday, off Con Dao island 12 March, 2014.—Reuters

Once-genteel Caracas plaza is ground zero for protests

CARACAS, 12 March — An elegant 1940s square in an affluent area of the Venezuelan capital has become a charred battleground at the heart of violent protests against President Nicolas Maduro’s government.

A couple of months back, Plaza Altamira was hosting book fairs, food festivals and open-air concerts around its landmark obelisk. Children played, and lovers sat round a fountain in one of Caracas’ most pleasant open-air spaces.

Now though, the protesters have made the square their base of operations, with a militant hard core battling security forces most evenings.

The clashes are part of wider unrest that has claimed 22 lives around Venezuela.

By day, locals clamber round razor wires, smashed grates and barricades of smoldering trash. Street cleaners normally manage to open access for traffic on each side by mid-morning.

But as dusk nears, the square becomes a no-go zone for residents as hooded protesters begin to line up against police and troops awaiting them.

Some wear menacing Guy Fawkes masks, made popular by the graphic novel and movie “V for Vendetta,” that have become a symbol of global protest.

Then come hours of street fights as the demonstrators pelt security lines with stones, fireworks and petrol bombs, to try to reach a nearby highway to block rush-hour traffic in a favored tactic of Venezuelan protests.

Reuters

Anti-piracy work strengthens New Zealand military ties

Wellington, 12 March — The deployment of a New Zealand navy frigate in the US-led anti-piracy operation in the Gulf of Aden had improved relationships and interoperability with NATO and forces from other nations, New Zealand Defence Minister Jonathan Coleman said on Wednesday.

New Zealand had a direct interest in protecting international shipping lanes with a large volume of its trade carried by sea, Coleman said in a statement on the return of HMNZS Te Mana after a three-month deployment in the Gulf of Aden. “The deployment of HMNZS Te Mana was a valuable opportunity for the Royal New Zealand Navy to work with the US-led Combined Maritime Forces and with NATO,” said Coleman.

“HMNZS Te Mana built strong relationships and enhanced interoperability with a range of international partners, including Spain, Denmark, Japan, the US and Australia.” The vessel’s crew had conducted 94 boardings to check for evidence of piracy and the ship’s helicopter had flown 81 sorties gathering aerial imagery of the maritime environment.—Xinhua

Gov’t body postpones video tracking of passersby at Osaka station

OSAKA, 12 March — A government technology laboratory said on Tuesday that it has postponed the start of video tracking of individual passersby at a major train station from the originally scheduled April, citing “voices of concern” raised by citizens.

The National Institute of Information and Communications Technology’s project aimed to capture the faces of people and their movements with around 90 cameras installed at JR Osaka Station as part of research to work out evacuation measures in a disaster.

The institute said it would process the video data on people in such a way as to make it impossible to identify individuals. A civic group voiced opposition, citing privacy.

Kyodo News
Chilean new president vows to enhance ties with LatAm, Asia Pacific countries

SANTIAGO, 12 March — Chilean President Michelle Bachelet, who was sworn in Tuesday for a second four-year term, vowed to strengthen relations with major Latin American and Asia Pacific countries.

Chile needs to “restore understanding and cooperation with Brazil and Argentina” and improve relations with neighboring Peru and Bolivia, Bachelet said in an outline of foreign policies.

“Chile must value the diversity that characterizes Latin America and effectively tackle the challenges presented by our relations with neighbours,” said Bachelet, who was president from 2006 to 2010. The Union of South American Nations (Unasur) should serve “as a meeting point for South American integration initiatives,” and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) should serve as mechanism for political coordination, she said.

Bachelet also sought to reinforce political, economic and cultural ties with Asia Pacific countries such as China.

The Chilean president voiced the hope that the Pacific Alliance, a regional trade bloc founded in 2012 by Chile, Peru, Colombia and Mexico, could serve as a platform for bolstering ties with Asia Pacific nations.

Ashton to visit BiH on Wednesday

SARAJEVO, 12 March — European Union (EU) foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton will visit Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) on Wednesday, EU officials said on Tuesday.

Ashton is expected to meet with high-level BiH officials and talk about bilateral issues in the Balkan country, including recent protests over factory closures.

She said ahead of her visit that the EU would provide help “to truly benefit citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina.”

Peter Sorensen, the EU special representative to BiH, noted it is important for Ashton to get first-hand experience in BiH.

Protesters and police clashed violently on 7 Feb in several cities in BiH, with over 200 injured and the presidential building set on fire.

The protests, which began on 5 February in Tuzla, were triggered by factory closures, local media reported. Protests have since continued though in smaller numbers.

Brazil’s opposition presidential candidate slams current economic policy

RIO DE JANEIRO, 12 March — Brazil’s opposition presidential candidate Eduardo Campos criticised Tuesday the current economic policy, demanding greater transparency.

Campos, the Brazilian Socialist Party (PSB) candidate, accused the government of President Dilma Rousseff of artificially keeping inflation under the target rate of 4.5 percent.

“You cannot sweep it all under the rug as was done (before) and then have the people deal with the problem later on,” said Campos, one of Rousseff’s major rivals in the October presidential election.

Campos criticized the government for halting the presidential building set on fire.

Protests have since continued though in smaller numbers.

Kerry vows US role in rebuilding Japan after March 2011 disaster

WASHINGTON, 12 March — The head of the United Nation’s refugee agency said on Tuesday it must be ready in case the aftermath of the Fukushima nuclear disaster exacts a “total disaster” from Japan’s northeastern region.

He said that during his two visits to Japan as secretary of state, he was “deeply impressed” by the strength of the Japanese people in overcoming the disaster, adding he joins other Americans in sending their thoughts and prayers to the Japanese people.

“Like so many members of her family, Ambassador (to Japan Caro- line) Kennedy has always understood the vital importance of America to Japan’s future,” she said.

Kerry pledged a continuing US commitment to helping rebuild the areas of the country that have been devastated by the earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan’s northeast on 11 March.
NASA’s Mars orbiter suffers computer glitch

WASHINGTON, 12 March — US space agency NASA said on Tuesday its scientists are working to restore the long-lived Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter to full operations after the spacecraft suffered a computer glitch on Sunday.

The Mars orbiter put itself into a precautionary safe stand-by mode on 9 March after an unscheduled swap from one main computer to another, NASA said.

“The spacecraft is healthy, in communication and fully powered,” Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter Project Manager Dan Johnston of NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory said in a statement. “We have stepped up the communication data rate, and we plan to have the spacecraft back to full operations within a few days,” Johnston said.

So far, the spacecraft’s science observations and its relaying of communications from NASA’s two active Mars rovers have been suspended, the agency said. The rovers continue to use NASA’s Mars Odyssey orbiter as a communications relay, it noted.

According to NASA, the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter has experienced unplanned computer swaps triggering safe-mode entry four times previously, most recently in November 2011.

The root cause of the previous events has not been determined, it added. The spacecraft has also experienced safe-mode entries that have not involved computer swaps. The Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter entered orbit around Mars eight years ago. The primary mission is scheduled for only two years, and the spacecraft is now on its third extension that began in 2012.

Microsoft appoints activist investor Mason Morfit to board

WASHINGTON, (Delaware), 12 March — A US federal judge on Tuesday temporarily froze the US assets of Mt Gox chief Mark Karpeles and allowed alleged victims of the shuttered bitcoin exchange to demand evidence of what they claim is a massive fraud.

The judge’s order did not apply to the Tokyo-based Mt Gox KK, which was shielded from bankruptcy proceedings in Japan and the United States. Mt Gox suspended withdrawals on 7 February, leaving customers unable to recover their funds.

In a bankruptcy hearing on Monday, parties suing Mt Gox said there are growing concerns that Karpeles removed millions of dollars of bitcoins in recent days based on information gleaned from the Internet.

US judge freezes assets of Mt Gox bitcoin exchange boss

ReuterS

Twitter crashes second time in nine days, blames software glitch

BOSTON / SAN FRANCISCO, 12 March — Twitter Inc crashed on Tuesday for the second time in nine days when a software glitch stalled the popular messaging service for about one hour.

The company apologized to its 250 million users in a status blog, saying it had encountered “unprecedented complications” during “a planned deployment in one of our core services.”

The outage began around 11 am Pacific time and service had “fully recovered” by 11:47 am, the San Francisco-based company said. The stock rose as much as 3.7 percent before Twitter confirmed the glitch, but gave up most of the gains to end 0.25 percent higher. The outage occurred just as Twitter co-founder Biz Stone took the stage in Austin, Texas, to speak at the South by Southwest Interactive festival, the annual gathering of tech enthusiasts that helped propel Twitter to national fame in 2007.

Alibaba buys ChinaVision stake for $804 million; gains TV, movie content

HONG KONG, 12 March — China’s largest e-commerce company Alibaba Group Holding has agreed to buy a controlling stake in ChinaVision Media Group Ltd for $804 million, giving it access to TV and movie content as competition in the world’s biggest Internet market becomes increasingly cutthroat.

The pact, which sent ChinaVision’s stock surging, comes amid a flurry of deals as Alibaba, the e-commerce giant Tencent Holdings Ltd and search engine Baidu Inc seek to expand into each other’s turf.

This week, Tencent said it was taking a stake in China’s No 2 online retailer JD.com, with the new partnership gunning for Alibaba’s mississipie heel.

A worker walks past a logo of Alibaba Group at its headquarters on the outskirts of Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, on 24 Aug, 2013. —Reuters
US FDA approves first device to prevent migraine headaches

WASHINGTON, 12 March — The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said on Tuesday it has approved the marketing of a medical device as a preventative treatment for migraine headaches.

The FDA said in a statement that this is the first transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation (TENS) device specifically authorized for use prior to the onset of pain.

The device, to be marketed under the name Cefaly, is manufactured by STX-Med in Herstal, Liege, Belgium.

“Cefaly provides an alternative to medication for migraine prevention,” said Christy Foreman, director of the Office of Device Evaluation at the FDA’s Centre for Devices and Radiological Health.

“This may help patients who cannot tolerate current migraine medications for preventing migraines or treating attacks. Cefaly is a small, portable, battery-powered, prescription device that resembles a plastic headband worn across the forehead and atop the ears, the FDA said.

The user positions the device in the centre of the forehead, just above the eyes, using a self-adhesive electrode.

The device applies an electric current to the skin and underlying body tissues to stimulate branches of the trigeminal nerve, which has been associated with migraine headaches.

The user may feel a tingling or massaging sensation where the electrode is applied, the agency said.

According to the FDA, Cefaly is indicated for patients 18 years of age and older who should only be used once per day for 20 minutes.

The FDA said the approval was based on data from a clinical trial in Belgium involving 67 individuals who experienced more than two migraine headache attacks a month and who had not taken any medications to prevent migraines for three months prior to using Cefaly.

The study found that those who used Cefaly experienced “significantly fewer days” with migraines per month and used less migraine attack medication than those who used a placebo device, the agency said.

The approval was also based on a patient satisfaction study of more than 2,300 Cefaly users in Belgium and France, which showed that about 53 percent of patients were satisfied with Cefaly treatment and willing to buy the device for continued use, it said, noting that no serious adverse events occurred during either study.

SpiceJet to announce order for 42 Boeing 737 MAX planes

HYDERABAD, 12 March — Indian budget airline SpiceJet Ltd SJET.BO will on Wednesday announce an order for 42 Boeing (BA.N) 737 MAX jets, a source with direct knowledge of the matter told Reuters.

SpiceJet has agreed to buy about 40 Boeing jets worth over $4 billion at list prices, industry sources had said in January, a move that could help the loss-making carrier as it seeks new investors.

The airline, controlled by billionaire Kalanithi Maran’s Sun Group, is seen as a target for foreign investors after India loosened restrictions on investment by foreign airlines.

SpiceJet plans to raise wages to meet govt’s request

HYDERABAD, 12 March — Many major Japanese companies notified their labour unions on Wednesday they have decided to raise pay scales to conclude this year’s spring wage negotiations, responding to strong calls from the government of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe for such action to help end long-standing deflation.

Toyota Motor Corp, which has a huge influence over other companies, will raise its average monthly pay scale by 2,700 yen and Honda Motor Co by 2,200 yen. Likewise, six major electronics firms including Hitachi Ltd and Panasonic Corp have decided to raise their wage scales by 2,000 yen per month, the highest hike on record. Although the management of those companies failed to fully meet labour unions’ demands, the respective hikes in pay scales will take place for the first time in six years, reflecting significant improvement in their business performances partly stemming from the yen’s weakness that benefits exporters.

The moves are thanks to the government’s rare and strong calls on companies to hike wages. Labour unions have seen some success in pay negotiations in this year’s “shunto” spring labour offensive, with many of them winning a pay-scale increase.

The focus will now shift to whether such moves will spread to medium and small-sized companies as well as nonregular workers, a development considered necessary if the domestic economy is to withstand a possible downturn in demand as a result of a sales tax hike in April. On top of manufacturing companies, many firms in the service industry will also raise wages, with convenience store chain operator Lawson Inc moving to raise a pay scale for the first time in 12 years after agreeing to fully meet its labor union’s demand for an average pay-scale hike of 3,000 yen per month.

Meanwhile, automakers Suzuki Motor Corp and Daihatsu Motor Co decided to forgo a pay hike due to concerns about the business environment including the uncertain outlook for emerging economies.

Israel’s LabStyle launches mobile phone blood sugar monitor

JERUSALEM, 12 March — Israeli start-up LabStyle Innovations Corp on Tuesday launched a mobile-phone glucose meter for diabetics to monitor their blood sugar levels.

Called Dario, the meter plugs directly into a smartphone and has a software application that gives real time recording and analysis of blood sugar readings.

The product is initially being launched in New Zealand, Italy, Australia and the United Kingdom. It will at first be available for Apple’s iOS and later for Google’s Android platform. LayStyle said it was in the process of seeking insurance reimbursement approvals and expects the first approval by the end of June.—Reuters

Federal prosecutors open criminal probe of GM recall

NEW YORK/DETROIT, 12 March — Federal prosecutors are examining whether General Motors is criminally liable for failing to properly disclose problems with some of its vehicles that were linked to 13 deaths and led to a recall last month, according to a source familiar with the investigation.

The New York-based probe is in its early stages, and the source did not elaborate on the legal theory behind the potential criminal liability.

Federal investigators are reviewing information about how GM handled reports of problems with ignition switches that first came to light 10 years ago, which has a huge influence over other companies, will raise its average monthly pay scale by 2,700 yen and Honda Motor Co by 2,200 yen. Likewise, six major electronics firms including Hitachi Ltd and Panasonic Corp have decided to raise their wage scales by 2,000 yen per month, the highest hike on record. Although the management of those companies failed to fully meet labour unions’ demands, the respective hikes in pay scales will take place for the first time in six years, reflecting significant improvement in their business performances partly stemming from the yen’s weakness that benefits exporters.

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Kyodo News

Employee work inside a travel agency office besides a model of a SpiceJet aircraft in the western Indian city of Ahmedabad on 14 Feb, 2014.—Reuters

Employees work inside a travel agency office besides a model of a SpiceJet aircraft in the western Indian city of Ahmedabad on 14 Feb, 2014.—Reuters

The General Motors logo is seen outside its headquarters at the Renaissance Centre in Detroit, Michigan in this file photograph taken on 25 Aug, 2009.—Reuters

The US House Energy and Commerce Committee will on Tuesday launch an investigation (NHTSA) previously opened an investigation into whether GM reacted swiftly enough in its recall. Earlier on Tuesday, Reuters reported that a US Senate committee chairman is seeking a hearing on the recall.

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Supporting education

The matriculation students have entered their battle of the final exam. This week will decide their future because the matriculation exam also decides the entrance of all universities in Myanmar. The better you score, the more promising campus you can join. It is no doubt that students, parents and teachers are in frenzy. Some asked for advice from soothsayers while some say marathon prayers. Do we really know how to support a child’s education?

We used to switched off the TV, taking super care of the exam-sitting students, and so on and on for about a week. Is it enough?

It would be better we would help our children learn how to manage time without turning off the TV for just one week. We have driven our children deep into the digital world obsessively. We are responsible for creating future ‘coach potato’ generation.

The essence of education is knowing what is right and what is wrong basically. But we urge our children to score more marks in the exam. It means we are not supporting their education, but we rather are supporting them for just exams. We value more exam marks than education. We value more job opportunities than education. We value pride, money and positions than education. If so, should we say we are supporting our children’s education?

Techniques transfer for oil exploration discussed

Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung shaking hands with Saudi Arabia’s Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Talal M.S. Abdul Salam.

Watershed area of Inlay Lake needs to be conserved

Umbrella hoisted atop Katka Kabaraye

Union Home Affairs Minister receives EU Ambassador

Retired teacher died in fire

Earthquake

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email wallace.tun@gmail.com with your name and title.
Meiktila, 12 March—Dwellers of Kyaungywa and Nyaunggon villages are eagerly taking part in the construction of road a bridge spanning Kyaungywa Creek on in Meiktila Township. The 40 ft long, 18 ft wide RC bridge is being constructed to replace former wooden one which was built by Meiktila Township Development Department. “Villagers contribute both cash and labours to construction of the bridge. Kyaungywa, Nyaunggon, Kyaukdaing, Thanpyo and Shartaw villages are located 8 miles (13 km) far from Meiktila. The work on construction of the bridge started on 20 February. It is aimed at ensure smooth transportation in every season,” said the administrator of Kyaungywa Village. Thein Kyaw Myint (Meiktila)

Campaign launched to disseminate census taking process knowledge

Mandalay, 12 March—Authorities gathered at an administration office in Aungmyethazan Township in Mandalay to launch campaign and put stickers to disseminate knowledge on nation-wide census taking process in 2014. Ward administrator U Hla Myint and Ward Development Supportive Committee Secretary U Ba Kyi urged officials to distribute pamphlets and put stickers at junctions and motor vehicles.

The officials carried out their tasks for census taking process from 30 March through 10 April.

Yangon, 12 March—Myanmar gold sellers are optimistic about gold price that it will hold steady after dramatic up and down last months.

While gold had been trading within the range US$ 1,254 to US$ 1,269 an ounce in January in the world market at it’s high point, gold price in Myanmar market had also increased from K 659, 400 to K 664,000 a tical.

“Gold price is expected to be stable in our market because there is no increase in prices of gold these days though gold price climbs in the world market,” said U Win Myint, Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association.

Gold reached at US$1,339 an ounce in the world market on Tuesday. However, gold price in Myanmar market reached just K 683,000 a tical, showing the stability of the gold market in Myanmar.

Htet Khaing (Sangyoung)

Myanmar women’s golf team brings two prizes home

Yangon, 12 March—Myanmar women’s golf team secured two prizes in the “29th Bangladesh Amateur golf championships 2014” at Kurmitola Golf Club in Dhaka of Bangladesh from 5 to 8 March. May Oo Khaing seized the first prize while Yin May Myo stood fifth in women’s individual handicap event.

Yin May Myo stood third with 152 strokes while May Oo Khaing took fourth with 155 strokes in women’s individual two-day event. In women’s team event, gold medal went to Thailand, silver to Myanmar and bronze to Bangladesh.

Over 100 golfers from ten countries competed in the championships.

Man Sein (IPRD)

National census pamphlets distributed to people in Falam

Yangon, 12 March—Mayangon Township residents actively participated in carrying out sanitation tasks, digging the drains and paving streets on 10 March under the leadership of Ward Development and Supportive Committee to avoid water flood this rainy season.

Nyi Nyi (Thamine)
Deputy Energy Minister briefs about oil spill response plan in parliament

YANGON, 12 March— The final day of East-West Centre’s International Media Conference on Challenges of a Free Press took place at UMPCCI Building in Yangon on Wednesday.

Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, former ASEAN Secretary-General, Dr. Charles E. Morrison, President of East-West Centre, Ralph Cossa, President of Pacific Forum CSIS, Mr. Ni Siyi, Chief Editor of Xinhua News Agency, and U Moe Kyaw, Myanmar Marketing Research & Development Co., Ltd. took part in the discussions on relations with Superpowers (studying on the US, China and Southeast Asia).

“East Asia’s economic development seems to be better than that of 21st Century Europe, but similarities to 19th Century Europe still remain. China is not ready to accept new standards and willing to recognize just the ASEAN Plus Three relations. Despite US’s interest to boost relations with ASEAN, relations between China and ASEAN have already existed”, said the former ASEAN Secretary-General.

Another topic discussed at the conference that started on Monday was Ethnic Media and Myanmar’s Peace Process. Ethnic media groups stressed the need for assistance from the government and international organizations for promotion of the role of ethnic media in Myanmar and highlighted the importance of the people’s voices on peace process in media.

In his discussion on the development of ethnic media, Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Htut said plans are underway to put pages in ethnic languages in the state-owned dailies while broadcasting 15 programs in ethnic languages for one hour each. The Broadcasting Law had been submitted to Parliament.

Participants in the roundtable discussion on Future of Myanmar Media called for sustainable investment and reliable market before the inflow of investment from abroad.

More than 50 programmes including talks, workshops and seminars focusing on challenges of a free press that Asia and Pacific region and the United States are encountering were available at the fourth International Media Conference that was held from 10 to 12 March. More than 400 participants from 31 countries took part in the 2014 Conference in Myanmar. East-West Centre organizes the international media conference every two years and the previous conferences were held in Bangkok, Hong Kong and Seoul.

Shwe Lun Byan offers taxi service for convenience of travelers at Yangon International Airport

Shwe Lun Byan Taxi Service is providing transportation service to passengers from Yangon International Airport to destinations of the passengers at reasonable fee.

The airport will see more passengers as domestic flights will be expanded as from 15 March.

Therefore, it has planned to link with highways bus lines and to arrange bus tickets for passengers in the near future for the convenience of travelers.

Shwe Lun Byan Taxi Service was established in 1998 under the supervision of the Aviation Branch of the Yangon International Airport and the Yangon Region All-Bus Line Control Committee.

It has become a registered taxi service since 6 November, 2013.

Shwe Lun Byan is also providing services for highway trips. TTS:AMS

East-West Centre’s International Media Conference on Challenges of a Free Press in progress.

Nay Pyi Taw FC claims 3-1 win over Tampines Rover

NAY PYI TAW, 12 March—Nay Pyi Taw FC of Myanmar gained a 3-1 win over Tampines Rover Club of Singapore at its second group match of 2014 AFC Cup at Paunglaung Sports Ground in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday.

Nay Pyi Taw FC have had one win and one draw so far and it is expected to put through to the next stage.

Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan and, officials from Myanmar Football Federation and fans enjoyed the tournament.—MNA

Myanmar Railways to print out new 100-kyat tickets

NAY PYI TAW, 12 March—Myanmar Railways is planning to print out new 100-kyat tickets as current tickets have caused misunderstanding among the passengers.

Myanmar Railways has got an idea to issue new 100-kyat tickets after finding out that the 200-Kyat, 300-kyat and 400-kyat tickets for AC trains and circular trains are convenience for the commuters.

The currently-used 100-kyat tickets will be abolished when the new one comes out. —MNA
Man charged with mailing package bomb to ‘America’s toughest sheriff’

WASHINGTON, 12 March — Federal agents have arrested an Oklahoma man accused of mailing a package bomb last year addressed to Joe Arpaio, the controversial Arizona lawman who calls himself “America’s toughest sheriff,” officials said on Tuesday.

Gregory Lynn Shradar, 55, is suspected of dropping off the parcel, filled with gunpowder and other materials, at a US Postal Service mailbox in Flagstaff, Arizona, but the package was intercepted by state authorities before it reached Arpaio, according to the US Postal Inspection Service.

The device was later rendered harmless by police. Shradar was arrested last week and is being held without bond at the Tulsa County Jail, where he is awaiting release to the custody of US marshals, according to the county’s website.

He was charged in a criminal complaint with one count of willfully making a threat against the US mail. Arpaio, the sheriff of Maricopa County, has drawn criticism for his aggressive stance on illegal immigration. He was the subject of a US Justice Department probe over his office’s treatment of Hispanics and has been scrutinized for housing county inmates in a Spartan “Tent City” jail.— Reuters

Man charged with mailing package bomb to ‘America’s toughest sheriff’

Cairo, 12 March — A home-made bomb exploded in front of the Israeli embassy in Cairo on Tuesday, but no one was hurt, security sources and the website of state-run Al-Ahram newspaper said.

The office has not been used by Israeli diplomats for at least two years, following a September 2011 attack on the embassy. Security sources said the explosion targeted a police car parked nearby, rather than the embassy itself and did not cause any injuries.

The Egypt became the first Arab state to sign a peace treaty with Israel in 1979.— Reuters

Policemen and members of the investigative team gather at the site of a bomb attack in front of the Israeli embassy in Cairo, on 11 March, 2014. REUTERS

EU marks 10th anniversary of Madrid train bombings

BRUSSELS, 12 March — The European Union (EU) on Tuesday marked the 10th anniversary of the Madrid train bombings that killed 191 persons and injured at least 1,800 people.

“Ten years later, the physical and mental wounds of the victims who survived are still not healed,” an official statement read, adding, “The EU stands firmly against and condemns all terrorist acts.”

The EU has devoted 11 March to remembering all victims of terrorist attacks in Europe and elsewhere in the world. Cecilia Malmstrom, EU home affairs commissioner, said, “We express our sympathy and solidarity with all victims of terrorism, their families and friends.”

She said survivors of terrorist attacks and family members of victims can also be important partners to address problems of security and to build a more resilient society.

The European Commission in September 2011 launched the EU Radicalisation Awareness Network, which supports first-line local practitioners involved in preventing radicalisation and violent extremism across the EU.

Victims of terrorism play an important role in this network which includes a dedicated working group.

The Commission also provides funding to projects and actions for the aid and protection of victims of terrorism.— Xinhu

Runner-up in El Salvador presidential election wants vote to be annulled

San Salvador, 12 March — The runner-up in El Salvador’s presidential election said on Tuesday he was asking the country’s electoral tribunal to annul the tight contest after refusing to accept the outcome.

“We’re going ahead and presenting a motion to have the elections on 9 March annulled,” Nor- man Quijano, candidate of the right-wing Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA), told reporters in San Salvador as squabbling over the vote continued.

On Sunday Quijano finished 0.22 percentage points, or less than 7,000 votes, behind Salvador Sanchez Ceren of the ruling leftist Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), a former com- mander of rebel forces in El Salvador’s civil war.

Claiming 75,000 lives, the 1980-1992 conflict pit- ted an alliance of leftist insurgents against a string of US-backed right wing governments and left the country deeply divided.

Sanchez Ceren would be the first rebel leader to become president if the election results are confirmed later this week.

The electoral tribunal called the outcome “irre- versible” on Monday, but Quijano declared himself the real winner and the spat has raised concerns of a protracted dispute in El Salvador.— Reuters

A supporter of Norman Quijano, presidential candidate of the conservative Nationalist Republican Alliance party (ARENA), shouts as others carry placards during a protest regarding alleged electoral fraud near the Supreme Electoral Court in San Salvador on 11 March, 2014.— Reuters
Tokyo, 12 March — Japan, China and South Korea need to hold a trilateral summit soon as three-way cooperation is "too significant to be jeopardized by any difficulties" between Tokyo and its two neighbours, the head of a regional body said on Tuesday.

Shigeo Iwata, Japanese secretary general of the Seoul-based Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat, also told a Press conference in Tokyo that regional integration in Northeast Asia is "the ultimate goal" that the three countries need to achieve to ensure peace and stability.

"There is an irreversible momentum for trilateral cooperation," said Iwata, a former Japanese Ambassador to Austria and Kenya who heads the secretariat formed in 2011 to promote cooperation among the three countries. No trilateral summit has been held since May 2012 as Japan's ties with China and South Korea have been strained over territorial disputes and different perceptions of wartime history. "Negative factors are too much highlighted and sometimes exaggerated out of proportion," said Lee Jong Heon, deputy secretary general of the secretariat, who attended the Press conference with Iwata.

Lee, a former minister-counselor at the South Korean Embassy in Germany, called for "collective efforts" to improve the countries' relations. In a rare show of unity, the three countries held a joint drill last week to study how to respond to disasters ahead of Tuesday's third anniversary of the massive earthquake and tsunami in northeastern Japan that triggered a nuclear crisis at the Fukushima Daiichi power plant. Iwatani, who assumed the top post at the secretariat last September for a two-year term, said his organization hopes to launch projects to deepen understanding of history and security, and facilitate dialogue at various levels, especially among young people.—Kyodo News

### Haze worsens in Indonesia’s Riau Province

**JAKARTA**, 12 March — The haze blanketing Indonesia’s Riau Province was thickening, making air quality in several regions increased to alarming condition and increasing numbers of people were suffering from respiratory problems, a senior Indonesian official said here on Tuesday.

Citing results of detection conducted by satellite, Indonesia’s Disaster Mitigation Agency (BNPB) Spokesperson Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said that forest fires were still continuing in Riau Province.

A total of 145 hotspots were detected as of Tuesday by the satellite, covering several regions in the province, including Meranti, Siak, Pelalawan, Dumai, Inhil, Rohil and Kuansiang.

Sutopo also said that the thick haze also affected the bio-conservancy area of Giam Siang in the province, endangering the lives of endangered animals inhabited in the area such as tigers, elephants and bears.

Xinhua

### Philippine govt’ to probe dumping of spoiled relief goods for typhoon victims

**MANILA**, 12 March — The Philippine government vowed on Tuesday to look into reports that trucks of relief aids for victims of typhoon Haiyan only ended up at dump sites because they were already spoiled.

President Communications Operations Office Secretary Hern inning Coloma Jr said in a news briefing in Malacanang, the presidential palace, that the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) will find out where the lapses could have taken place.

He said Malacanang wanted to know why the goods were not immediately distributed to the typhoon victims.

“If the goods already expired their palatability or useful life, it will be irresponsible to still distribute them,” Coloma said.

Canned goods, biscuits and even rice were among the relief goods that were reportedly buried in separate occasions in central Philippine province of Leyte, considered as the worst-hit area, because they already expired and became spoiled.

Tons of relief goods were extended to millions of typhoon victims by international donors, non-government organizations and private groups here and abroad in the aftermath of Haiyan that struck more than half of the country’s provinces on 8 November last year.—Xinhua

### Indonesia’s ruling party scales down target in parliamentary polls

**JAKARTA**, 12 March — Indonesia’s Democratic Party whittled down its target in the upcoming parliamentary polls in April, following a dip in its popularity as some of the party’s top figures are involved in graft.

The ruling party now aims to pocket 77 seats at the parliament in this year’s polls, Ferry Romawi, a parliament member of the party said on Tuesday.

That is lower than the 148 seats obtained by the party in the previous election in 2009, when it secured overwhelming victory in the parliamentary election as well as the presidential polls.

“We still target to have 77 seats at the parliament. The change of strategy certainly occurs," he said at the parliament building.

Romawi said several provinces, including Aceh, Jakarta, East Java, Central Java, North Sumatra and South Sulawesi, were the main vote contributors for the party in the 2009 polls.

In 2004, after its establishment, the Democratic Party secured only 57 seats at the parliament, ranking the fifth among all contenders.

Indonesia is set to hold direct legislative polls in April, which will be followed by direct presidential elections in July.

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono will end his second five-year term in October and is not expected to join the contest according to the country’s law.

Xinhua

A birthday party is held on 12 March, 2014, for Kumanon, the popular black bear mascot of Japan’s southwestern prefecture of Kumamoto, in the prefectural capital Kumamoto City. Governor Ikuo Kabashima and many fans of Kumanon gathered for the event.—Kyodo News

### Fire in Philippine capital city kills seven

**MANILA**, 12 March — Seven people were killed in a predawn fire in Malabon City in Philippine capital region. Malabon Central Fire Station said on Wednesday.

The youngest decedent was only four year old, while the oldest was 52.

A certain Alvin Cruz-Santos was also injured due to first degree burn.

The fire started at around 3:20 am local time and burned around 100 houses in Tinejeros village, Malabon City of Metro Manila before it was extinguished at 6:29 am.

Some 200 families were left homeless and the cost of damage was pegged at around 2 million pesos (44,964 US dollars).

Investigation has been ongoing to determine the cause of fire.—Xinhua

### Vietnamese DM says Vietnam-China border meeting constructive

**HANOI**, (Vietnam), 12 March — A border meeting between Vietnamese and Chinese militaries was creative, constructive and strategic, Vietnamese Defence Minister Phung Quang Thanh here on Tuesday.

It was also of great significance to enhancing mutual trust, deepening border defense cooperation and benefiting the two peoples, he said.

The Vietnamese party, government and armed forces highly valued the Vietnam-China relation ship, cherished the friendship between the two countries, and regarded China’s development as Vietnam’s opportunity. Thanh said when meeting Qi Jianguo, deputy chief of General Staff of the Chinese People’s Liberation Army.

Xinhua
New Light of Myanmar

Lebanon condemns cross-border attack from Syria

BERUIT, 12 March — Lebanese President Michel Suleiman on Tuesday reiterated his call to feuding parties in Syria to avoid shelling Lebanese towns and villages close to the borders.

Earlier Tuesday four rockets fired from Syria hit the outskirts of the Nabi Sheet village in east Bekaa Valley, wounding three Lebanese nationals and causing damage to their house.

After the cross-border attack Suleiman asked the Lebanese army to take all necessary steps to defend frontier villages and innocent residents living there. Lebanon has long been divided over the clashes in neighboring Syria. The country’s Shiite Hezbollah and its allies back Syrian President Bashar al-Assad’s government, while the Sunni-led opposition supports the rebels. That’s why local Sunni Jihadist groups have repeatedly launched cross-border rocket attacks against eastern Lebanon.—Xinhua

CLAiMS DAY NOTICE

MV E.R TURKU VOY NO (039)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV E.R TURKU VOY NO (039) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.3.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S HANJIN SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Sr.No Tender No Description Remark
(1) IFB-197(13-14) Maintenance/Retest Service for CNG Ks US$ Cascade Jumbo Tube
(2) IFB-198(13-14) Spares for AB 100 Well Servicing Truck USA $ (3) IFB-199(13-14) Spares for KB 150 Well Servicing Truck USA $ (4) IFB-201(13-14) Spares for SAFE Compressor USA $ (5) IFB-202(13-14) Spares for Komatsu Dozer USA $ (6) IFB-203(13-14) Spares for CAT D3512B Engine USA $ (7) IFB-204(13-14) Spares for CAT D3306 DI Engine USA $ (8) IFB-205(13-14) 40 Ton Hydraulic Crawler Crane USA $ (9) IFB-206(13-14) 4 1/4” & 3 1/2” Square Kelly with Drive USA $
(10) DMP/L-066(13-14) Spares for F-1000 Rig Pump Ks.
(11) Ex D3 T2 SR I & II Rig
(12) DMP/L-067(13-14) Reinforcement Hose Pipes Ks.

MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (373)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (373) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.3.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

MRINISTY OF ELECTRIC POWER DEPARTMENT OF HYDROPOWER IMPLEMENTATION INVITATION TO TENDER

1. Qualified Contractors and/or Joint Ventures are invited to submit Tender Proposals in United States Dollars for the design and construction of the Contract: “Upper Yeypwa Hydropower Project - Construction of Underground Facilities”.

2. Closing Date of Tender Acquisition: 9-4-2014(16:00) PM

3. Tender Invitation Letter and Documents with detail informations shall be available at the following address:

Tender Invitation Committee
Department of Hydropower Implementation
Office No. (38), Nay Pyi Taw

Phone: 067 411415, Fax: 067 411081

MV PHU TAI 18 VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PHU TAI 18 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.3.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-6 where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S RK SHIPPING & TRADING PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301191/2301178/2301177

A K-9 unit of the Aviation Security Group of the Philippine National Police (PNP) inspects the buggies of passengers at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) in Pasay City, the Philippines, on 11 March, 2014.—XINHUA

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.
Connery, Bowie take sides on Scottish independence, Murray keeps mum

LONDON, 12 March — Celebrities plunging into the debate on Scottish independence risk attracting public wrath from opposing sides in the run-up to the 18 September referendum. Some, like tennis star Andy Murray, have opted to keep quiet.

James Bond actor Sir Sean Connery, a long-time Scottish nationalist, advocates breaking the 307-year tie with England, supporting separatists’ arguments that oil-rich Scotland can be a prosperous, independent nation.

English singer David Bowie, who lives in New York, has urged Scots not to break away, endorsing Prime Minister David Cameron’s view that the United Kingdom is strongest together.

But Murray has kept out of the increasingly heated debate, saying at the weekend that he had been previously roasted for a comment seen as representing a political view.

Murray, who became the first Briton in 77 years to win the men’s singles title at Wimbledon last year, drew criticism before the 2006 World Cup when he said he’d support anyone but England, a remark he has said many times since was not serious.

“I wouldn’t personally choose to make my feelings on something like that public either, because not a whole lot of good comes from it,” said Murray, adding his view was irrelevant as one of 1.15 million expatriate Scots not eligible to vote.

Actor Sean Connery awaits the start of the US Open men’s final match between Serbia’s Novak Djokovic and Britain’s Andy Murray in New York, on 10 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS
**Bayern's Robben a 'good diver', says Wenger**

MUNICH, 12 March — Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger described Bayern Munich’s Arjen Robben as a “fantastic player and very good diver” after the winger won another controversial penalty against his side in the Champions League on Tuesday.

Robben was at the heart of the incident that Wenger said turned the last 16 tie when the Dutchman won a penalty which resulted in Arsenal goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny being sent off in the first leg in London.

Bayern, who won that game 2-0, went through 3-1 on aggregate after a 1-1 draw in Tuesday’s second leg, missing a last-gasp penalty which Robben also won in controversial circumstances.

“Robben is very good at getting something out of nothing, he is a great player as well as a very good diver, that’s part of it,” Wenger told a news conference.

“He’s a fantastic player, I would not deny that, he’s one of the best in the world, but he gets in front (of the defender) and slows down and goes down, and he gets the free kicks.

“If he (the referee) gives him a yellow card the first time he goes down, he will not do it again.”

Wenger said he was still bitter about the incident in the first leg.

“Overall, over the two games, the decision to send our keeper off in the first game had a huge impact, it was a bad decision.

“Even UEFA have come out and said they have to re-think that problem (the award of a penalty and a sending off)... Bayern are a good team, they played well but we still have regrets.”

**Arsenal’s Ozil out for “a few weeks” — Wenger**

Mesut Ozil’s unhappy spell continued on Tuesday when the Arsenal and Germany midfield suffered an injury against Bayern Munich that manager Arsene Wenger is likely to keep him out for several weeks.

Ozil, the club’s record signing, was substituted at halftime during the 1-1 draw in the last 16 second leg at the Allianz Arena which saw holders Bayern progress 3-1 on aggregate.

Local media reported Ozil had sustained a hamstring injury though Wenger did not confirm that.

“It looks quite serious,” said Wenger. “I don’t know (how long Ozil will be missing) but for sure he is out (of the Tottenham Hotspur game on Sunday).

“We have to make a scan tomorrow to see how bad it is but he’s out for at least a few weeks. I hope it’s not too bad.”

**Arsenal’s coach Arsene Wenger during their Champions League round of 16 second leg soccer match against Arsenal in Munich, on 11 March, 2014.**

**Fenninger puts men in shade in World Cup warm-up**

LENZERHEIDE, Switzerland, 12 March — Austrian Anna Fenninger clocked the 16th fastest time of the women’s and men’s fields combined in World Cup downhill training on Tuesday.

Fenninger, who will battle it out with Germany’s Maria Hoefl-Riesch for the overall women’s World Cup title in the Swiss resort this week, was timed at one minute 33.01 seconds.

She was quicker than 10 male skiers who made the run, including downhill specialists such as World Cup winner Aksel Lund Svindal, Austrian Klaus Kroll and Olympic silver medalist Christof Innerhofer of Italy.

While the result was not significant — and noting that skiers often slow down towards the finish of training sessions to conserve energy — it showed how motivated Fenninger is after winning the Super-G gold medal at the Winter Olympics as well as three World Cup giant slaloms in succession.

The 24-year-old from Salzburg also complained to men’s World Cup director Gunter Hujara, who is in charge of the women’s competition, that he was treating the women too cautiously.

Hujara has ordered the men to wear race outfits that slow them down and mitigate against the risk of accident. “It was a strange decision,” Fenninger said after finishing one and a half seconds slower than the fastest man on the day, France’s Adrien Theaux.

**Djokovic and Li advance at Indian Wells**

INDIAN WELLS, 12 March — Normal service resumed at the BNP Paribas Open in Indian Wells on Tuesday when Novak Djokovic safely booked his place in the fourth round of the men’s draw and Li Na won in controversial circumstances.

Croatian Marin Cilic, who recorded his 20th win this season with a 6-4, 6-3 over Spain’s Tommy Robredo.

“I obviously cannot allow myself to have these particular concentration lapses in the match at this level especially in the next match when I’m playing Cilic, a guy who is in really good form and I think has gotten better in last couple of months working with (Goran) Ivanisevic,”

Li, promoted to the women’s top seed after winning the Australian Open and in the absence of Serena Williams, beat Canada’s Aleksandra Wozniak 6-1, 6-4 but only after an extraordinary final game where she struggled to close out the match.

Li raced through the opening set in just over half an hour then recovered from 3-0 down to serve for the match at 5-4 when she suddenly got the wobbles.

**Olympic champion Samkova suffers concussion in training fall**

PRAGUE, 12 March — Czech Eva Samkova, the Olympic snowboarding cross champion at the Sochi Games, suffered a concussion as well as shoulder and ankle injuries after a crash in training in Switzerland on Tuesday, news agency CTK reported.

The Czech news agency said the 20-year-old was taken to hospital by helicopter after a fall before a World Cup race in Veysonnaz. Coach Marek Jelinek said Samkova fell on a jump that had caused problems for a number of racers.

“It was nonsense, a stupid thing,” CTK agency quoted him as saying. “Several other people got injured there.”

He said Samkova “saw stars for 10 minutes” and suffered a painful ankle injury.
NEW YORK, 12 March — Roughly 50 protesters rallied on Tuesday in front of the Consulate General of Japan in New York to oppose the Japanese government’s embrace of nuclear power on the third anniversary of the Fukushima nuclear disaster.

“We have a responsibility to speak up. This is not just about Japan; this is a global issue,” said organizer Ritsuko Higashi. The demonstrators handed a letter to a consulate representative before marching to Times Square with chants of “no nukes, protect the children,” in Japanese. The letter demanded the closure of Japanese nuclear plants, independent oversight of containment of the crippled Fukushima Daiichi plant, an end to Japan’s export of nuclear technology, transparency around decontamination, and compensation for the victims of the disaster.

SOUTH KOREA TO DEVELOP RURAL AREAS WITH TAILORED INVESTMENT PROJECTS

SEOUL, 12 March — South Korea unveiled plans on Wednesday to develop regional economy, including rural areas, by boosting investment nationwide through various projects tailored to each region.

South Korean President Park Geun-hye chaired a joint meeting of the trade-promotion committee and the regional development committee, attended by around 200 heads of ministries, local governments, public firms and business lobby groups.

The tailored development strategy will grant more leeway to local governments, which will be enabled to draw up their own development projects tailored to each region that will be supported by the central government through deregulations and tax benefits.

In the past, the central government unilaterally applied a top-down development strategy to every region, failing to reflect regional specialties.

A presidential official said on the condition of anonymity that creative ideas will arise from each region to nurture their own growth engines, noting that local governments will be given more discretionery fiscal funds that can be used to develop their own regions.

The government designated 56 regional development blocs, excluding capital Seoul, to help them foster their unique industries and establish industrial complexes.

It will finalize the list of projects that will be supported by the central government till July among 2,146 projects and 15 special development projects offered by local governments.

The government expected such deregulation and support will induce investment worth about 14 trillion won (13 billion US dollars) nationwide.

The usage of areas freed from the so-called “green belt” development restrictions will be deregulated further to allow for establishment of commercial and industrial complexes in the regions.

Xinhua

LOTUS BRACE FOR TOUGH START TO F1 SEASON

MELBOURNE, 12 March — Last year’s race winnern Lotus are braced for a tough start to the Formula One season in Australia on Sunday, with their immedi- ate target being just reaching the finish at a difficul-testing session.

French driver Romain Grosjean, who was regular-ly challenging for podium places last year, accepted the first test be hard but was optimistic the team would make up lost ground.

“We’re not in a nice situation but it doesn’t mean that it’s game over,” he said in a team preview for the race in Melbourne.

“Grosjean has a new team mate in Venezuelan Pastor Maldonado. Lotus finished fourth overall last season and won in Australia with Kimi Raikkonen, who has since departed for Ferrari. The British-based team strugg- ed financially towards the end of last year and missed the first test of the season because their car was not ready in time.

When they did turn up for the second and third tests in Bahrain, prob-lems with the new Re-nault V6 power unit meant they got in far fewer laps than all the other teams in sessions dominated by Mercedes-engined rivals.

Lotus have also lost principal Eric Boullier to McLaren, with chairman Gerard Lopez taking over the role.

“There is a degree of frustration coming away from winter testing,” said technical director Nick Chester.

“As was evident in Bahrain, we have much more work to do with the power unit itself to ensure that it is working correctly with the chassis.”

“Be blunt, we are starting further back than we would like to be. I think that the first two races of this season will be very challenging for us, however it also depends on the solutions that Renault Sport F1 will be able to bring to the table too,” said Chester.

Despite that he was also optimistic that the E22 car, which tested with a dis- tinctive split nose, would in time become “a very strong proposition”.

Chester said solution to the problems encoun- tered so far looked “fairly obvious”, which should allow the team to make reasonably quick progress with improving reliability, although that could be a false dawn.

“Because of the low mileage runs thus far, the reality is that there might be issues that we have yet to discover, and which might crop up further down the line and compromise reliability in the first few races,” he warned.

“Our target is to finish the race. As we have done so little mileage it is difficul-t to estimate where we will be at in terms of performance.”