Japanese government grants US$ 1,104,672 for eight grass-roots projects for education and health sectors

Myanmar, UAE sign Air Services Agreement

Bagan cultural heritage site welcomes Dutch tourism students

Senior South Korean advisors hold talks on aid, politics

Japan, Lithuania agree to cooperate over Ukraine political unrest

Media Accreditation for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community

Nay Pyi Taw, 13 March—H.E. Mr. Mikio NUMATA, Ambassador of the Embassy of Japan and Chairman of the Committees from State and Region concerned, signed the grant contracts for eight projects namely the Project for Construction of Two Basic Education Primary Schools in Kyaunggon Township, Ayeyawady Region with US$ 113,365; the Project for Construction of Rural Health Centre in Ashay Bet Village in Taunggyi Township, Rakhine State with US$ 112,859; the Project for Construction of Rural Health Centre in Zalun Village in Thandwe Township, Rakhine State with US$ 105,985; the Project for Construction of Rural Health Centre in Taung Pauk Village, Gwa Township, Rakhine State with US$ 103,710; the Project for Construction of Rural Health Centre in Taung Pauk Village, Gwa Township, Rakhine State with US$ 103,710; the Project for Construction of Rural Health Centre in Taung Pauk Village, Gwa Township, Rakhine State with US$ 103,710; the Project for Construction of Rural Health Centre in Taung Pauk Village, Gwa Township, Rakhine State with US$ 103,710. The Ministry of Live- stock, Fisheries and Rural Development has urged chicken farmers to take preventative measures to prevent an outbreak of bird flu, including wearing protective clothes at the farm and keeping good personnel hygiene. According to ministry of- ficials, it is "the time of year" and season in which infectious diseases can be transmitted from chick- ens, without elaborating further. The ministry also called on officials to be vigilant when monitoring live-fowl and fowl product imports from neighbor- bing countries in a bid to prevent the outbreak of bird flu here. H5N1 bird flu outbreaks occurred in Myanmar in 2006, 2007, 2010 and 2011, with officials saying there have been no reports of fatalities. The Ministry of Live- stock, Fisheries and Rural Development has urged chicken farmers to take preventative measures to prevent an outbreak of bird flu, including wearing protective clothes at the farm and keeping good personnel hygiene. 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Locals in Myingyan call on authorities to build tube wells

MYINGYAN, 14 March—Farmers in Talokemyo Village in Mandalay Region have called on authorities to build tube wells to allow locals to grow rice. They have so far been cultivating beans and pulses, corn, wheat, tobacco, onion and wheat, as they do not require as much water as paddy fields. Farmers said the need to improve their livelihoods by cultivating rice, stressing that tube wells and support with irrigation are needed.

According to locals, the nearest canal is three miles away from the village and can not easily be accessed. —Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)

Historic Bawkyo
Modedaw Pagoda festival kicks off

HSIPAW, 14 March—The Historic Bawkyo Modedaw Pagoda festival is being held in Hsipaw Township, northern Shan State from 13-16 March. So far, Vocalists Lashio Thein Aung, Tekkatho Ye Aung and Shan singer Sai Kham Khone have performed at the festival.

Shan singers Sai Aung Htee Kham, Sai Laik and Sai Sae Han also put on a show in front of an enthusiastic crowd. Shan Literature events were also held. Officials said the number of festival visitors has been higher than expected.

MONGYAWNG. 14 March—17 Thai pilgrims visited the Dhamma Gambiya Cave in Shan State on 13 March. Officials explained the historical background of the cave, with the pilgrims exploring the cave and donating cash for renovation works.

All-round renovation works are being carried out by local authorities and social organizations led by Monglin Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Wimala at Dhamma Gambiya Cave in Mongyawng Township in Shan State for the promotion of Buddhism and development of tourism industry.

New hotel opens in Mohynin, Kachin State

MOHNYIN. 14 March—“Hotel Mohynin” opened near Shwebo-Myatkyina Motor Road in Ashaeus Ward, Mohnyin Township, Kachin State on 11 March. The hotel has 24/7 air conditioning system, CCTV security cameras, view point, car parking and will offer breakfast services to the customers. Hotel room rates from K 30,000 for a two-bed room to K 50,000 for four-bed room.

The opening of “Hotel Mohynin” is a symbol of regional development, according to officials. Mohynin District has a favorable climate to grow agricultural products, and is popular with foreign “investors” who frequent the area to exploit natural resources. Jade, gold and teak can be widely found in Mohynin. Two colleges for higher education have also opened in the region.

National Census 2014 signboard set up in Kyauktan

KYAUKTAGA, 14 March—A new resurface was put on No.4 circular road on a self reliant basis in Kyauktagta Township in Bago Region on 12 March. Pyithu Hluttaw representative Dr Khin Maung Swe, Ward administrator U Min Aung and local people actively participated in resurfacing the 800 ft long road.

Construction of RC type bridge financed by Bago Region Government on the road was also carried out. So the local people will see good transporta- tion any season.

New resurface put on Kyauktaga circular road

KHAUKTAGA, 14 March—A new resurface put on No.4 circular road was carried out. Bago Region Government contributed money to construct the road along Hlepya villages that will be 4 miles and 6 furlong in length and 10 feet in width. Upon completion, the residents will have easy access to nearby towns.

New hotel opens in Mohnyin, Kachin State

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New Light of Myanmar Saturday, 15 March, 2014

LOCAL NEWS

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Inter-village earthen road under construction on self reliant basis

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March—An earthen road is under construction on a self reliant basis of the local people in Zeyathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw.

The local residents contributed money to construct the road along Heikan-Ywathitkon-Kyaungphya villages that will be 4 miles and 6 furlong in length and 10 feet in width. Upon completion, the residents will have easy access to nearby towns.

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**Radar data suggests missing Malaysia plane flown deliberately toward Andamans**

**KUALA LUMPUR, 14 March** — Military radar-tracking evidence suggests a Malaysia Airlines jetliner missing for nearly a week was deliberately flown across the Malay peninsula towards the Andaman Islands, sources familiar with the investigation told Reuters on Friday. Two sources said an unidentified aircraft that investigators believe was Flight MH370 was following a route between navigational waypoints — indicating it was being flown by someone with aviation training — when it was last plotted on military radar off the country’s northwest coast. The last plot on the military radar’s tracking suggested the plane was flying toward India’s Andaman Islands, a chain of isles between the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal, they said. Waypoints are geographic locations, worked out by calculating longitude and latitude, that help pilots navigate along established air corridors. A third source familiar with the investigation said inquiries were focusing increasingly on the theory that someone who knew how to fly a plane deliberately diverted the flight, with 239 people on board, hundreds of miles off its intended course from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing.

“What we can say is we are looking at sabotage, with hijack still on the cards,” said the source, a senior Malaysian police official. All three sources declined to be identified because they were not authorized to speak to the media and due to the sensitivity of the investigation.

Officials at Malaysia’s Ministry of Transport, the official point of contact for return to Japan, did not return calls seeking comment.

Malaysian police have previously said they were investigating whether any passengers or crew had personal or psychological problems that might shed light on the mystery, along with the possibility of a hijacking, sabotage or mechanical failure. The comments by the three sources are the first clear indication that foul play is the main focus of official suspicions in the Boeing 777’s disappearance.

As a result of the new evidence, the sources said, multinational search efforts were being stepped up in the Andaman Sea and also the Indian Ocean. In one of the most baffling mysteries in modern aviation, no trace of the plane nor any sign of wreckage has been found despite a search by the navies and military aircraft of more than a dozen countries.—Reuters

**Japan to inspect soil at US base in Okinawa for contamination**

**TOKYO, 14 March** — Japan will conduct environmental studies next week on soil at a US military base in Okinawa Prefecture where dozens of metal drums were found abandoned, Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera said on Friday.

“We will take appropriate measures in cooperation with the United States and the city of Ginowan,” which hosts part of the Marine Corps’ Camp Foster, Onodera told a Press conference.

Under the status of forces agreement, Japan cannot enter US military bases to conduct environmental studies without permission. It is rare for the United States to allow such an environmental inspection within US bases not planned for return to Japan. Officials from the ministry’s local bureau and Ginowan city

**Russia ships troops into Ukraine, repeats invasion threat**

**SEVASTOPOL/DONETSK**(Ukraine), 14 March—Russia shipped more troops and armor into Crimea on Friday and repeated its threat to invade other parts of Ukraine, showing no sign of listening to Western pleas to back off from the worst confrontation since the Cold War.

Russia’s stock markets tumbled and the cost of insuring its debt soared on the last day of trading before Crimea shipped more troops and armor into Crimea on Friday to a dozen APCs.—Reuters

**Moscow denies that its forces are intervening in Crimea, an assertion Washington ridicules as “Putin’s fiction.” Journalists have seen Russian forces operating openly in their thousands over the past two weeks, driving in armoured columns of vehicles with Russian license plates and identifying themselves to besieged Ukrainian troops as members of Russia’s armed forces.**

A Reuters reporting team watched a Russian warship unload trucks, troops and at least one armed personnel carrier at Kazachya bay near Sevastopol on Friday morning. Trucks drove off a ramp from the Yamal 156, a large landing ship that can carry more than 300 troops and up to a dozen APCs.—Reuters
A search team of federal authorities starts the inspection of the site where human remains are allegedly located, and that could be related to organized crime, at Lomas Encantadas neighborhood, in the border city of Tijuana, northwest of Mexico, on 13 March, 2014. Federal authorities found on Thursday an allegedly “narco grave” at Lomas Encantadas neighborhood, where it is supposed that members of drug gangs burned corpses of men and women during 2007, according to local media.

Mediator Brahimi says Syria election now won’t aid peace talks

UNITED NATIONS, 14 March — If Syria goes ahead with an election that would likely secure a new term for President Bashar al-Assad, the opposition will probably not be interested in pursuing further peace talks with the government, peace mediator Lakhdar Brahimi said on Thursday.

As Assad has not yet announced whether he will stand for a third term, in defiance of protesters, rebel fighters and Western foes who have demanded his he-go, but in state-controlled parts of Damascus, preparations for his candidacy are unmistakable. “There is to my knowledge no official declaration yet in Damascus that this election is going to take place, but there are a lot of activities that seem to indicate that there is an election,” Brahimi told reporters after briefing the UN Security Council.

“If there is an election, then my suspicion is that the opposition, all the oppositions, will probably not be interested in talking to the government,” he said.

A Western diplomat inside Brahimi’s closed-door briefing for the Security Council said Brahimi told its 15 member nations that he doubted another 7-year term for Assad would put an end to the suffering of the Syrian people.

Two rounds of peace talks mediated by UN-Arab League peace mediator Brahimi in Geneva failed to bring the government and opposition any closer to agreement on a transitional government as called for in a declaration adopted at an international conference in the Swiss city in June 2012.

The Security Council president this month, Luxembourg’s UN Ambassador Sylvie Lucas, told reporters after the meeting that Brahimi’s position was that holding an election at the present time would be “incompatible with the peace process.” Several senior Western diplomats told reporters that Brahimi said in private meetings this week that a re-election of Assad would signal a lack of seriousness on the government’s part. Syrian Ambassador Bashar Ja’afari did not confirm there would be a presidential vote soon, but said holding elections was a “sovereign domestic matter.”

Haneda airport’s int’l flight terminal building expanded

Tokyo, 14 March — Tokyo’s Haneda airport has nearly completed work to expand its terminal for international flights and unveiled the expanded terminal to the press on Thursday before it will start accommodating more flights on 30 March.

With an annex built on the north side of the terminal building, the expanded terminal has total floor space of 23.6 hectares, up from 15.9 hectares, increasing boarding gates to 18 from 10 and security screening areas to two from one. A worship space was also created at the departure lobby due to an increasing number of tourists to Japan from countries.

A large liquid crystal display screen put on the wall at the waiting space near boarding gates will introduce world heritage sites in various countries.

An eight-story, 313-room hotel with direct access to the departure lobby will also open in September.

From 30 March, Haneda will increase flight slots between 6 am and 11 pm by 40 round-trip flights a day to allow for long-haul intercontinental services to and from Europe and Southeast Asia, which are currently restricted to late night and early morning slots.

Photo taken on 13 March, 2014, shows a waiting area in the terminal building for international flights at Tokyo’s Haneda airport. Having nearly completed work to expand the terminal, the airport unveiled the building to the press the same day.

A low-intensity bomb explodes at mosque in S India

NEW DELHI, 14 March — A low-intensity bomb exploded in front of a mosque in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu on Friday morning, without causing any casualty, said local media. The incident took place at Nelpettai district of Madurai in the state. A two-wheeler was damaged in the explosion, said Press Trust of India. The area has been cordoned off and investigations are on with the help of experts, said the report.

Japan to host nuclear disarmament meeting in Hiroshima in April

Tokyo, 14 March — Japan will host a foreign ministerial meeting on 11-12 April in Hiroshima to promote nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament, Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida said on Friday.

In a bid before a planned visit to Japan by President (Barack) Obama, I think it is beneficial that the United States will take part in the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative. “Just before a planned visit to Japan by President Obama, I think it is beneficial that the United States will take part in the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative.” Kishida told reporters, referring to Obama’s trip to Japan in late April.

“Seafloor event” possibly linked to MH370

BEIJING, 14 March — Chinese researchers have detected a “seafloor event” near the waters between Malaysia and Vietnam, an area suspected to be linked with the missing Malaysian jetliner MH370, a university announced on Friday.

The event occurred about 2355 km from time on Saturday, about one and a half hours after the plane’s last definitive sighting on civil radio in the area, 116 km northeast from where the last contact with the Boeing plane was recorded, used to be a non-seismic region, according to a research group on seismology and physics of the earth’s interior under the Universities of Science and Technology of China.

New Zealand govt builds ASEAN links with visit to Indonesia, Vietnam

WELLINGTON, 14 March — New Zealand Economic Development Minister Steven Joyce will visit Indonesia and Vietnam next week in a bid to drum up new trade opportunities with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) bloc and highlight links in energy and education.

“The past five years, New Zealand’s trade with ASEAN countries, including Indonesia and Vietnam, has grown at a rate greater than with any other of our major trading partners except China,” Joyce said in a statement Friday.

“ASEAN is New Zealand’s third largest trading partner accounting for 13 percent of New Zealand’s total merchandise trade in 2013 and we want to keep building on this strong relationship.” In Indonesia, Joyce would open a New Zealand Education Fair in Jakarta, give a keynote speech at the Indonesia New Zealand Renewable Energy Forum and meet key Indonesian ministers.

Police serve warrant on Anne Frank book vandalism suspect

Tokyo, 14 March — Police served an arrest warrant on Friday on a man who allegedly vandalized copies of “The Diary of a Young Girl” by Anne Frank and released books in libraries and a bookstore in Tokyo, after the suspect admitted damaging the books, investigative sources said.

The 36-year-old unemployed man, already under arrest for putting up posters in a bookstore where defaced copies of the diary were found, is said to have told the Tokyo police he discarded pages he tore from the books.

The police found some of the pages, and are now investigating his motive.

More than 300 copies of the diary and related books have been reported damaged in 38 libraries in western Tokyo since late February. In security camera footage from some of the libraries, a person thought to be the arrested man is seen taking from the shelves books that were later found damaged, the sources said.

A two-wheeler was damaged at the mosque in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu on Friday morning, without causing any casualty, said local media. The incident took place at Nelpettai district of Madurai in the state. A two-wheeler was damaged in the explosion, said Press Trust of India. The area has been cordoned off and investigations are on with the help of experts, said the report. Hence, the two-wheeler was damaged in the explosion, said Press Trust of India.
Japan, Lithuania agree to cooperate over Ukraine political unrest

TOKYO, 14 March — Lithuanian Foreign Minister Linas Antanas Linkevicius said on Thursday that he and his Japanese counterpart agreed to seek a diplomatic solution to the recent political turmoil in Ukraine.

Both agreed a solution to the crisis “should be political...rather than military,” Linkevicius told Kyodo News on Thursday following a meeting with Japan’s Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida.

Highlighting the importance of both political and financial assistance to the Ukrainian government, he said he believed Japan could play a very significant role in this regard.

On Sunday’s referendum to decide whether Crimea should leave Ukraine to join Russia, he said, “It is really illegitimate and cannot be respected...and it is also a violation of international law,” especially at a time when the region is under control of foreign troops.

During his five-day visit to Japan from Monday, he also met with executives of Hitachi Ltd. and discussed how to promote a deal with the company to construct the Visaginas nuclear plant in the Baltic country. Although Lithuanians rejected the project to build the plant in a 2012 nonbinding referendum, Linkevicius said the Lithuanian government will continue to promote the plan to reduce energy dependency on Russia.

He said the result of the referendum was rather “emotional,” and that the public needed to be informed well before the vote.

The country now imports 100 percent of gas and 99 percent of oil from Russia, thus, a diversification of energy sources is crucial in terms of energy security, he added.

On Thursday, Linkevicius also met with Toshimitsu Motegi, minister of economy, trade and industry, and Hakubun Shimomura, minister of education, culture, sports, science and technology, to hold a Press conference.

Under the law on free distribution of textbooks for compulsory education, schools in a district overseen by a prefectural education board are obliged to use the same textbooks, even though there are no penalties for violation.

In August 2011, the regional textbook adoption council for the Yaeyama District consisting of the town of Taketomi, city of Ishigaki and town of Yonaguni in the southern Japan prefecture chose a civics textbook published by Ikuhosha Publishing Inc.

The municipal governments of Ishigaki and Yonaguni followed the council’s decision to use the controversial textbook in local junior high schools, but Taketomi rejected the book, saying it does not sufficiently deal with Okinawa’s burden in hosting US bases.

The town of Taketomi independently selected a textbook published by Tokyo Shoseki Co that is considered less conservative.—Kyodo News

Displaced Syrians receive food rations at a charity in Damascus, Syria, on 13 March, 2014. The UN’s World Food Programme (WFP) spokesperson Abeer Etefa told Xinhua that 6.5 million Syrians can’t secure their needs without outside aid and are in an urgent need for food assistance after 3 years of crisis.—Xinhua

Financial challenges facing WFP mission in Syria

DAMASCUS, 14 March — The World Food Programme (WFP) in Syria needs a fund of two billion US dollars in 2014 to cover the needs of seven million displaced Syrians in and outside the country, a WFP spokesperson said, noting that securing the fund is one of the major challenges facing the UN programme in conflict-torn Syria.

“Our programme targets seven million Syrians in 2014 and the operation’s cost is two billion dollars,” Abeer Etefa, the WFP’s Middle East and North Africa spokesperson, said in an interview with Xinhua on Thursday.

While the Syrian crisis is entering its fourth year, the ability of the international community to continue the flow of funds to WFP mission in Syria has started dwindling.

The WFP now delivers food to about four million Syrians every month, which costs about 40 million dollars per week, Etefa said.

Many Syrians are suffering from food insecurity and in some cases, hunger. Another challenge facing the WFP is to have access to besieged areas in Syria. “Our latest statistics indicate that 6.5 million Syrians cannot secure their needs without outside aid and are in an urgent need for food assistance,” she said.—Xinhua

Former guerrilla wins El Salvador vote; rival protest

SAN SALVADOR, 14 March — A former Marxist guerrilla leader won El Salvador’s presidential election by less than 7,000 votes, final results showed on Thursday, and his right-wing rival continued to press to have the vote annulled.

Salvador Sanchez Cerén of the ruling Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), which as a militant group fought a string of US-backed government in a 1980-1992 civil war, won 50.1 percent support in Sunday’s vote, results showed.

Challenger Norman Quijano, the 67-year-old former mayor of San Salvador and candidate of the right-wing National Republican Alliance (Arena) party, had 49.9 percent support. He has filed a claim to annul the election due to fraud.

The electoral tribunal’s president, Eugenio Chicas, said the five-member court unanimously validated the election results, showing that Sanchez Ceren beat Quijano by 6,364 votes.

“We make an invitation to build for the future, because the FMLN’s presidential ticket, now elected to lead the country, is going to work to unite the country,” Sanchez Ceren said.

Due to the ongoing dispute, the tribunal said it could take until Sunday or Monday to work through Quijano’s legal challenge to the election and settle any remaining doubts.—Reuters

Okinawa town school board ordered to take corrective step on textbook

TOKYO, 14 March — Education minister Hakubun Shimomura on Friday ordered the town education board of Taketomi in Okinawa Prefecture to adopt a junior high school civics textbook known for its conservative views, after the town chose another book instead despite the textbook’s selection by a regional council in 2011.

It is the first time the central government has issued such an order to a municipal government.

“It is the right thing for a law-governed nation to rectify an illegal situation,” Shimomura, minister of education, culture, sports, science and technology, told a Press conference.

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The town of Taketomi independently selected a textbook published by Tokyo Shoseki Co that is considered less conservative.—Kyodo News

Knife-wielding assailants attack civilians in China

BEIJING, 14 March — A group of knife-wielding assailants on Friday attacked civilians on a street in Changsha, the capital of the central Chinese Province of Hunan, leaving at least one person dead, according to Chinese media reports.

The attack in the morning happened a day after the National People’s Congress, China’s top legislature, wrapped up its annual session in the capital Beijing.

The state-run Xinhua News Agency said at least one body was lying on the ground at the scene, while a local TV station said that one person was shot dead by police.

Days before the nine-day session began on 5 March, a group of knife-wielding assailants stormed through a crowded railway station in the southwestern city of Kunming, leaving at least 29 people dead and more than 140 injured.

China has blamed the 1 March slashing rampage on separatist forces in the far western region of Xinjiang, home to the Muslim Uyghur minority group, describing it as a “premeditated terrorist attack.”—Kyodo News
Experts see cheaper, easier way to turn natural gas into fuels

WASHINGTON, 14 March — US scientists said on Thursday they have devised a potentially easier, cheaper and cleaner way to turn natural gas into usable fuels and chemicals — a discovery which could lead to natural gas products displacing oil products in the future.

The process would be less complex than conventional methods to turn natural gas into liquid products and it uses much lower heat and inexpensive materials to get the job done, they said. Almost anything — fuel or chemical — that can be made from petroleum also can be made from natural gas, but it is not done today because the cost of converting natural gas into those materials is much higher, the researchers said.

“Current technologies to convert natural gas into fuels or commodity chemicals are too expensive to compete with products generated from petroleum,” said Roy Periana, director of the Scripps Energy and Materials Center at the Scripps Research Institute in Florida who led the study published in the journal Science. The finding comes as natural gas production soars in the United States thanks to methods like hydraulic fracturing, known as fracking, and horizontal drilling. The United States stands as the world’s No. 1 natural gas producer, topping even Russia.

“The US has a glut of natural gas, and there are not many that ways to efficiently use it,” said Brigham Young University’s Daniel Ess, another of the researchers.

Methane, ethane and propane are the primary components in natural gas. They are members of a class of molecules known as alkanes. But turning alkanes into other useful forms like gasoline and diesel fuel, alcohols or olefins — key sources of industrial chemicals and plastics — can be costly and inefficient with current technologies.

Auto industry files 18 percent more international patents in 2013

FRANKFURT, 14 March — The car industry’s international patent filings jumped 18 percent in 2013, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) said on Thursday, in part reflecting a push for new technologies to lower emissions.

“In line with growing investments in research and development, the automotive industry has seen a sharp increase in international patent filings over the last three years,” WIPO said in a statement.

In 2013, 4,275 patents were filed by auto manufacturers, compared with 3,606 in 2012. Patent applications jumped 84 percent from 2010, when 2,322 were filed, WIPO said. Regulators across the world are demanding that auto makers increase fuel efficiency and lower carbon dioxide pollution levels, a challenge that has forced manufacturers to invest in more efficient engines and new lightweight technologies.

The Obama administration in the United States finalized gas mileage standards in 2012, calling on automakers to boost their corporate average fuel economy (CAFE). Last month, the European Parliament tightened carbon dioxide pollution standards.

The rise in patents comes as car companies are increasingly relying on software and powerful computers to help make cars safer, more entertaining, more fuel efficient and better at solving problems.

The need to lower CO2 emissions has been particularly tough for German manufacturers, who have relied on making high-powered limousines, forcing them to develop new technologies.

It only takes 0.5 seconds to make first impression

LONDON, 14 March — People make judgements on others’ trustworthiness in just half a second by hearing their voice, an international research team revealed on Thursday.

In their new study, British researchers from University of Glasgow, together with US researchers, have shown that a simple “Hello” is enough to allow most people to draw conclusions about personality type. And people can make these judgements even without seeing the person they are speaking to.

The researchers played recordings of people saying hello, and asked participants to rank them according to 10 pre-defined personality traits, including trustworthiness, dominance, attractiveness and warmth.

They found that most of the recorded voices elicited the same response from participants and that these responses were formed rapidly, after hearing the voices for only 300-500 msecs, which is 0.3-0.5 seconds. This suggests the tone of voice when saying hello directly and immediately informs the first impression of the person to whom you are speaking.

“It is amazing that from such short bursts of speech you can get such a definite impression of a person,” said Dr Phil McAler, who led the study. “In other words, it is not just a matter of whether it is accurate, your impression is the same as the other listeners get.” He added that this research promises to help in the drive to improve the efficiency of voice-operated systems and learning aids.

Facebook CEO Zuckerberg phoned Obama to complain about spying

SAN FRANCISCO, 14 March — Facebook Inc Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg blasted the US government’s electronic surveillance practices on Thursday, saying he’d personally called President Barack Obama to voice his displeasure.

“I’ve called President Obama to express my frustration over the damage government surveillance practices are wreaking on the NSA impersonated Facebook CEO Zuckerberg phoned Obama to complain about spying
Asia stocks tumble, yen stands tall as Ukraine crisis darkens mood

Tokyo, 14 March — Asian shares dropped to a one-month low and the yen pushed higher on Friday, as heightened tension in Ukraine ahead of a weekend referendum drove investors out of riskier assets.

Solid US retail sales and employment data also reinforced expectations that the US Federal Reserve will stick to its plan of gradually withdrawing its asset-buying stimulus, while Thursday’s disappointing Chinese economic data continued to add to the gloom.

MSCI’s broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan .MXAP fell 1.1 percent, touching its lowest level since mid-February and on track for a weekly loss of more than 2 percent.

Japan’s Nikkei stock average .N225 skidded 2.7 percent to a one-month low, on track for a weekly loss of more than 5 percent, as the currency soared.

“Investors are unwinding their long positions in the Nikkei and short positions in the yen,” said Kooya Okazawa, head of global equities and commodity derivatives at BNP Paribas.

“Short-term sellers like commodity trading advisors are also big players today and they are also reacting to the falling copper price,” he added.

Russia launched new military exercises near its border with Ukraine on Thursday, even as the US cautioned that Moscow risked facing serious steps if annexation was the outcome of a referendum planned for Sunday in Crimea.

The latest developments in the Ukraine crisis sent the perennial safe-haven yen soaring against both the dollar and the euro.

The greenback was down about 0.2 percent on Friday at 101.70 yen, sliding close to a more than one-month trough of 101.54 yen hit on Thursday, when it tumbled more than one yen from a session high of 102.86 yen.

The common currency as a hedge against political risks gained ground after reports said Russia was keen on annexation of Crimea.

The euro also remained under pressure after woodworking fears from European Central Bank President Mario Draghi, who said the bank is keeping policy rates unchanged while saving additional policy steps to guard against deflation taking hold in the euro zone.

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South Korea can’t join Pacific trade talks until US issues fixed

WASHINGTON, 14 March — South Korea will not be welcomed into a planned Pacific free-trade pact until all problems are settled, an official said on Thursday.

Two years after the agreement came into force, the United States was still trying to make sure promises to ease the path for US exports into South Korea were fully met, the official said, pointing to problems with Customs regulations and autos.

The South Korea-US agreement (KORUS) was at the time the second-largest US trade pact after the North American Free Trade Agreement with Canada and Mexico, but now pales beside massive trade deals being negotiated between the United States and Europe and another with 11 Pacific nations, including Japan.

South Korea has flagged its interest in joining the Trans-Pacific Partnership, but the United States will insist on having the bilateral deal working properly first.

“We have made it clear to Korea that to join TPP we would expect full KORUS implementation from them and we are working on issues in that regard in the customs and autos areas,” the US official said on a conference call with reporters.

South Korea, like other interested countries such as Taiwan, would not be allowed to join the TPP until current negotiations are wrapped up. These are being dragged amid a stand-off between the United States and Japan over farm and auto exports and other issues.

The US official said many issues with KORUS implementation had been resolved, but there were still problems with how the South Korean customs service verified certificates of origin to prove that goods came from the United States.

The Korean customs service has in our view been requiring excessive documentation and this has caused concern among stakeholders, not only in the manufacturing sector but with respect to agricultural products as well,” the official said.

KORUS

Bank of America back in court over $2.1 billion fraud penalties

NEW YORK, 14 March — A US judge wrestled on Thursday with a US Justice Department request that Bank of America Corp pay $2.1 billion in penalties after being found liable for fraud over defective mortgages sold by its Countrywide unit.

In a second hearing on the penalties to be imposed on the bank, US District Judge Jed Rakoff in New York said he had not yet decided how to rule in what was one of the few cases to go to trial stemming from the financial crisis.

But he tested the government’s arguments that it should be awarded penalties based on revenue Countrywide-Financial Corp earned selling loans to government-sponsored mortgage finance companies Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Rakoff even asked why the government had not sought even more in penalties, based on the $4.8 billion paid by Fannie and Freddie, rather than seeking just $2.1 billion based on revenue earned only on the defective portion of the loans sold by Countrywide.

“My interest is in the logic,” Rakoff said. “It may be there is logic to the $2.1 billion, but at least to me there is logic under your theory of the case that would lead you to claim a gross gain of $5 billion.”

Assistant US Attornery Pierre Armand, meanwhile, suggested the government would increase its request for penalties from Rebecca Mairone, a former Countrywide executive, from $3.1 million to $1.6 million based on a $487,000 bonus she recently earned from her employer, JPMorgan Chase & Co.

The hearing followed a verdict by a federal jury in New York in October finding Bank of America and Mairone each liable for fraud in a civil lawsuit centered on a mortgage lending process at Countrywide called the “High Speed Swim Lane,” also called “HSIL” or “Hustle.” — Reuters

Nelson Peltz, one of the principles of the Triad Group, addresses the audience at the HJ Heinz Co annual shareholder’s meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on 16 Aug, 2006.—Reuters

Peltz blasts PepsiCo again, seeks details on operations, strategy

NEW YORK, 14 March — Activist investor Nelson Peltz, who has been pushing PepsiCo Inc (PEP.N) to separate its beverage and snacks businesses, blamed the company yet again on Thursday and demanded answers on operational issues and its corporate strategy.

Peltz’s Triad Fund Management, which owns nearly 1 percent of PepsiCo’s stock, has been urging the company to split its flourishing snacks division from its sluggish beverage business to create “two leaner and more entrepreneurial companies.”

Peltz, in a letter to PepsiCo’s board on Thursday, demanded the company give details about its expenses and provide volume growth and market share data for all its beverage categories in North America. He also called for a meeting of shareholders and board members without the presence of PepsiCo’s management.

In an email response to Peltz’s latest letter, PepsiCo said two of its board members had already met with Peltz without management present. “The board has thoroughly reviewed Triad’s proposals and has concluded that they would not maximize shareholder value,” PepsiCo said.

The company, known for beverages like Pepsi, Tropicana and Gatorade, also sells snacks such as Lays, Cheetos and Doritos chips, among others.

PepsiCo, like rival Coca-Cola Co (KO.N), has been battling declining soda sales in developed markets by "denominating" the United States as health-conscious consumers switch to non-carbonated beverages such as juices and health drinks. Peltz, in his latest letter, also asked PepsiCo to outline plans for its bottling operations, which have been a drag on the company’s performance.

"Last fall, management told us that the acquisitions were a ‘mistake’ and the bottling system was ‘in disarray’ when the bottlers were acquired, yet we believe the system is operating far less efficiently today," Peltz wrote. — Reuters
CSOs should become a force in peace process

The civilian government was sworn in three years ago and Myanmar is beginning to see a boom of civil society organizations (CSOs) once subjected to suppression.

President U Thein Sein has met CSOs a number of times since taking office in 2011 and as a result, CSOs now can increasingly speak out and lend their voices to marginalized and vulnerable groups. Many CSOs have said they are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

“It is important and necessary to restore the long-weakened trust between the government and the people, between institutions and the people, and among the general public,” said the president in his address to a forum on peaceful nation-building and the role of civil society last December.

Yet, CSOs are playing only a limited role in the peace process compared to the role they are taking in other fields. Seventy-two civil society groups recently said that they are preparing to play a supporting role in the peace process taking side of armed ethnic groups as the president has not made it clear which role they are to assume though he has invited them to join peace building endeavors.

As the president has stressed, what is needed for the government and armed ethnic groups to sign a nationwide ceasefire—a major step toward lasting peace—is trust building. It doesn’t matter which side the CSOs are representing as long as they can help bring back the long-lost trust—essential for national reconciliation—between ethnic groups and the government and among ethnic communities.

Without internal peace, political and economic reforms will just come to nothing. Looking at the progress of the peace process, Myanmar is now in the final stages of negotiating the signing of a nationwide ceasefire agreement and holding political dialogue.

However, peace negotiations have yet to deliver clear results and CSOs are to facilitate the peace talks in a manner that helps restore the trust between the conflicting parties.

Forestry management crucial role for regional development: Environmental Conservation and Forestry Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March—Forestry management plays a crucial role for 600 million people in ASEAN region to develop their socio-economic life, said Environmental Conservation and Forestry Minister U Win Tun at the AFoCo Landmark Programme meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

He said the results of the AFoCo Landmark Programme will provide technical assistance to the ASEAN regional forestry management and human resources development by establishing training institutes for forest conservation and providing modern technology to solve environmental issues.

The mechanisms and goals of AFoCo should not only be applied in ASEAN member states but in the whole of Asia, he said.

Officials from ASEAN and Korea signed a Memorandum of Understanding during the meeting, with details of the MoU not yet revealed.

The programme was launched in 2000 as ASEAN-Korea Environmental Cooperation Project-AKE-COP and aims at ensuring forest preservation, conservation of biodiversity, reducing the impact of climate change, as well as human resources development between ASEAN and Korea.

Chinese NGO donates sports equipment to universities in Yangon

YANGON, 14 March—Sports equipment worth K 14.8 million were donated to universities in Yangon by the China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE) and Mogaung Myanmar on Friday.

Speaking at the donation ceremony at the Yangon University Boat Club in Kamayut Township in Yangon, Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe said the donation is aimed at improving and raising the standard of sports education.

Mr. Li Jinjun, Vice-Minister of China’s International Department and Vice-President of CNIE presented the sports equipment, with Deputy Secretary General Mr. Shi Guohui of CNIE also donating stationery.—MNA

D-G of Myanmar Board of Examinations Department inspect examination centers

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March—Director-General U Myo Nyunt of Myanmar Board of Examinations Department under the Ministry of Education inspected exam centers at A-Lar Basic Education High School in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

They will sit for Chemistry exam from 9 a.m to 12 p.m on 17 March.—MNA

Myanmar, UAE sign Air Services Agreement

YANGON, 14 March—An Air Services Agreement between Myanmar and the UAE was signed by U Tin Naing Tun, Director General of the Department of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Transport and Mr Saif Mohamad Al Suwaidi, Director General of the General Civil Aviation Authority of the UAE, in Abu Dhabi on 10 March.

According to liberalized provisions set in the Agreement, designated airlines from both countries may operate direct flights between Myanmar and the UAE, without any limitations on service frequency and aircraft type.—MNA

Deputy Education Minister leaves for Dubai

YANGON, 14 March—Deputy Minister for Education Dr Zaw Min Aung left Yangon for United Arab Emirates on Friday morning. The Deputy Minister will attend the 2nd Global Education and Skills Forum to be held from 15 March to 17 March in Dubai.—MNA
Land grabs and poverty alleviation among topics discussed with EAST WEST Centre officials

**Nay Pyi Taw, 14 March**—The peace making process, land grabbing and poverty alleviation were among the top issues discussed Friday at a meeting between Amyotha Hluttaw officials and representatives from the East West Centre which promotes better relations and understanding among the people.

**Bagan cultural heritage site welcomes Dutch tourism students**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 14 March**—Dutch tourism students have the opportunity to widen their expertise by a visit to the Bagan cultural heritage site which offers unique landscapes and tourism-related places of interest, said Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung in meeting with students from the Tourism University of the Netherlands on Friday.

In his welcome address at Bawga Theikkhoe Hotel in Bagan, the Union minister said Bagan is one of the top tourist attraction spots of Myanmar. He expressed his belief that the visit to Bagan will leave the students with countless indelible memories as Myanmar has been recently named as World Best Tourist Destination for 2014.

Under the arrangement of Khi Tour Company, the tourism student delegation led by Professor Dr Theo De Haan arrived in Yangon Tuesday via Thailand for their one-week stay in Myanmar. Before visiting Bagan, they met responsible persons of Myanmar Tourism Federation and tourism students of Yangon University, sharing knowledge on tourism industry separately. The second batch of tourism students from the Netherlands will arrive on Monday.—MNA

Sawn timber worth K 2 million confiscated in Kyaukdaga

**Kyaukdaga, 14 March**—A team led by Senior foresters confiscated sawn timber worth about K 2 million after searching a car March 12 following a tipoff. Officials said the parked car after witnesses reported them of the illegal timber load. The driver could not be found, with authorities saying the illegal timbers weighted more than 7.7 tons and were seized between mile post Nos. 114/1 and 114/2 on the Yangon-Mandalay old road in Kyaukdaga Township of Bago Region. Officials are investigating the case, and said they are interviewing witnesses to arrest the driver and timber owner.

**Khin Ko (Kyaukdaga)**

Monastic school in Ayeyawady Region through Japan’s grass-root assistance

The delegation of the U.S.-based institution led by Dr. G Shabhir Cheema also discussed the amendment of the constitution, federal affairs, and defense matters with Hluttaw officials, including Chairman of the Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation Committee Dr Banyar Aung Moe.—MNA

Senior South Korean advisors hold talks on aid, politics

**Nay Pyi Taw, 14 March**—Senior advisors of the Korea Development Institute-KDI discussed their researches on regional political affairs with the Myanmar Final Reporting Workshop in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday with an address by Deputy Minister Daw Lae Lae Thein of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development.

The talks focused on Korea’s aids to Myanmar in 2013, with officials from several other ministries, including the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development also present at the meeting.

Myanmar, India discuss bilateral cooperation

**Nay Pyi Taw, 14 March**—Union Minister for Industry U Maung Myint held talks on investment with Dr. M. Sudarsana Natchiappan, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry of the Republic of India on Friday in Nay Pyi Taw.

They discussed the establishment of an industrial zone in Pompyun near Sittway and investment in the Kyaukpyu Industrial zone in Rakhine State and steel factories under the ministry.

They also discussed training of Myanmar locals at the Industrial Training Center in Myingyan in Sagaing Region which was established with the technical assistance of India. The Center teaches about cooperation in manufacturing and telecommunication services, the textile industry, automobile and electronics industries. Both sides also discussed the programme to send Myanmar youths to the India Institute of Management (IIM) to learn about manufacturing, marketing and industrial relations.—MNA

Monastic school in Ayeyawady Region through Japan’s grass-root assistance

**Children waving miniature flags of two countries at handing over ceremony of school donated by Government of Japan, under its Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects GGP Scheme.**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 14 March**—The Government of Japan, under its Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects (GGP) Scheme, has extended the assistance totaling US$ 108,221 for one humanitarian assistance program entitled “The Project for Construction of Buddha Yaungchi Monastic Post Primary School in Ayeyawady Region”.

The hand-over and opening ceremony of the said newly constructed school building was held at project site in Ayeyawady Region on 3 March 2014.

Mr. Sachio OTAKI, Second Secretary of the Embassy of Japan, committee chairman and committee members of school construction project headed by Chief Monk Sayawaw, students and local residents attended that ceremony.

The project will benefit around 200 students, who are now studying under insufficient learning environment in old religious buildings.

The Government of Japan provided funding for one-story reinforced concrete school building, toilets, and necessary school furniture at that one monastic school through its GGP Scheme. The Government of Japan has helped 677 various grass-root projects in Myanmar under this GGP scheme since 1993, and among them, 305 education projects have been included. It is expected that these assistance will further strengthen existing friendly relations between Japan and Myanmar, which marks 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations this year.—MNA
LOCAL NEWS

Natogyi, 14 March — Most of the fires outbreak in the country is due to negligence. Fire brigade members in Natogyi Township, Mandalay Region, in the arid zone of Myanmar take fire preventive measures during their field trips to villages in the township as now is the time ushering into dry season. They taught lessons to villagers on keeping sand, water, ladder, etc. as ways to prevent outbreak of fire.

Than Aung Zaw
(Natogyi)

Volunteers get training on caring addicts

Pyay, 14 March — Voluntary services are provided in Shwepyitha Youth Rehabilitation Centre in Pyay. Volunteers who are to take care of drug addicts are given training. At the courses they get knowledge on the history of Myanmar Anti-Narcotic Association and significance of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law of 1993.—NLM-017

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A NEW BRIDGE FOR VILLAGERS: Smooth transportation in rural areas can surely help reduce poverty. As most of the population are residing in rural regions, authorities concerned are concentrating on development of their regions. Village-to-village road linking Myintyan in Mandalay Region is under construction with K 6 million regional development fund and K 2.5 million contribution from locals. As the construction of the bridge will cost 12 million, more funds are in need to complete the project.

Moeintan downtown road expansion should be completed before rainy season

Moeintan, 14 March—Shwebo-Myitkyina motorway passing Moeintan will be expanded to 18 feet with the allotment of K 21 million by Kachin State Government in 2013-14 fiscal year. The expansion task is being undertaken by the Township Public Works with slow progress. The authorities should be anxious on the work to complete before the rainy season,” said a local. The Township Public Works could start the work on 9 January due to various situations.—NLM-001

Moeintan resident to get four traffic lights soon

Moeintan, 14 March—Officials from Moeintan arranged a plan to install four digital traffic lights at crowded areas in Moeintan Township, Mandalay Zarni Electronic Co., has started the works for installation on Wednesday at the junction near bus terminal in Thiri Mingala Ward. The plan is underway to install another three traffic lights in front of the school in Nandawgon Ward and Moeintan Education College and near water tank of Fire Service Department. The company pledged to complete the tasks at the end of May.—NLM-018

Meiktila police expose burglary

Meiktila, 14 March — A fertilizer shop owner in Meiktila on 7 September 2013 claimed at a police station that her house was burgled and cash and jewelry worth over 10 million kyat were lost. The police probed into the case and on 6 March this year they were able to expose the suspects involved in burglary and most of the items of the jewelry were confiscated from various gold shops. The police filed lawsuit against the suspects.

Meiktila, 14 March — “Danatheikdi” circular bus line added in Meiktila

Meiktila, 14 March — “Danatheikdi” circular bus line launched on 12 March at the bus terminal in Meiktila which will operate along Zaygyi-Aungsanmyothit-Thegon-Pyaythaya-industrial zone-Thabyaywa Village with 10 vehicles daily. It is aimed at ensuring smooth transportation for commuters.

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Megawati approves Jakarta govenor to be presidential candidate

JAKARTA, 14 March — The waiting of the entire Indonesian nation may be paid off soon.

With her “whole heart,” former President Megawati Sukarnoputri, daughter of former President Sukarno, decided not to run again for the nation’s top job as some had expected.

Instead, she determined her choice, approving popular Jakarta Gov Joko Widodo to be candidate from her Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle to run in the 2014 presidential election, a reliable internal source said.

The party senior members, who refused to be named due to the sensitivity of the issue, revealed to Kkyodo News on Thursday that he had been summoned by Megawati’s daughter Puan Maharani late Monday during which she told him about the “blessing.”

Wednesday, speculation rose that Megawati, 56, might have approved “Jokowi,” the Jakarta governor’s nickname, as she paid a “quiet trip” to Sukarno’s tomb in the town of Blitar in East Java. By Saturday, around the same time, journalists covering Jokowi’s activities at the gubernatorial office failed to find his whereabouts for almost the whole day.

It was found out later Jokowi had traveled to Bitter to accompany Megawati, where she prayed in front of the tomb to apparently ask “direction” from his late father about her decision, media reports said.

“The signs that Megawati will nominate him have been seen these days, but I can only be sure when she announces it herself,” political analyst Burhanuddin Thahtadi said.

If it is officially confirmed and declared by Megawati, the most eagerly awaited news may lead her party, popularly known as PDI-Perjuangan, to victory in the country’s parliamentarian election on 9 April and the presidential election three months later as predicted by some surveys.

PDI-Perjuangan, who leads Megawati’s middle-of-the-ranks political party, has carried a mandate from the party members to decide who should be its presidential candidate.

At present, Indonesians are suffering from “Jokowi fever,” the governor has gained respect and popularity after he became the capital’s leader in 2012.

Jokowi, a member of PDI-Perjuangan, quickly won the hearts of Indonesian following his “blusukan” practice of regularly visiting local communities, particularly in poor areas and small cities in the capital, spending time in traditional markets and chatting with people about the city’s problems such as floods, transportation and housing.

The problem now is when Megawati will announce Jokowi’s candidacy. Surveys by some pollsters showed that if PDI-Perjuangan nominates Jokowi before the parliamentary election, the party will get 27.4 percent of the popular vote, higher than the party’s target of 27.02 percent, and just 15.5 percent otherwise.

The percentage will bring them the party victory after finishing second and third in the 2004 and 2009 legislative elections.

In a recent survey by the daily Kompas, about 43.5 percent of 1,400 respondents said they would vote for Jokowi, while other polls put him in the top ranks of presidential candidates.

Bangkok, 14 March — Thai police have found about 200 people who claim to be Turkish refugees at a secret camp in south Thailand’s Songkhla Province, local media reported on Thursday.

These refugees, who identify themselves as Turkish, were detained during a raid on a camp in a mountain rubber plantation on Wednesday night in Songkhla, local police were quoted by the Bang-kok Post as saying.

“It’s an unprecedented case that there are so many Turkish people arrested here,” said chief of the Immigration Bureau’s Division 6, Thatchai Pitaneelabout.

According to Thatchai, the refugees who speak Turkish came as families and seemed prepared to head somewhere else “because they kept their belongings ready to move.”

Several suspected minders fled during the raid, he added.

It remains unclear how these people arrived in Thailand, and the police are waiting for an interpreter to help question them.

Police suspected that they were waiting in the camp to be trafficked to Malaysia and Indonesia.

Reportedly, the Turkish embassy said it had no information about the case when the United Nations refugee agency is yet to give a response.

Thailand has long been considered a hub for human trafficking.

Arms exports to Israel possible under new rules

TOKYO, 14 March — Japan’s new principles on arms exports would not prohibit the transfer of weapons and related technology to Israel, a government official said on Friday, amid concerns about armed conflicts in the Middle East.

“We don’t think Israel will be included,” the government official said during a meeting of the Liberal Democratic Party’s panel on security, referring to countries on which Japan will potentially impose an arms embargo under the new rules. Japan’s closest ally, the United States, is a significant supporter of Israel.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe plans to update the decades-old “three principles” on arms exports, and the ruling bloc is trying to find common ground over how much the restrictive policy should be eased to keep up with the times and revitalize the domestic defence industry.

Under the draft principles presented to the ruling bloc, Japan will prohibit the export of weapons to countries involved in conflicts, and if they clearly undermine global peace and security.

For exports to be allowed, Japan plans to set strict screening procedures and make sure that the unstated use and transfer of Japanese equipment to a third party will be avoided. The new rules on “defence equipment” rather than “weapons” would mark a major policy change in postwar Japan under the pacifist Constitution.

The LDP and its coalition partner, the New Komeito, have agreed to review the current principles on arms exports, but said details still need to be worked out.

One of the main issues raised by New Komeito is the definition of “countries in conflicts” as the transfer of weapons and technology to such countries, even if unintended, could undermine Japan’s pacifist stance.

The government official told the Friday meeting that the term would mean “the fact that the UN Security Council takes action against to maintain or restore global peace and security in the face of an armed attack,” saying Iraq at the time of the Gulf War would fall into that category. For nearly half a century, Japan has, in principle, banned the transfer of weapons to communist states, countries subject to embargoes under UN resolutions and those involved in international conflicts.

S Korean president to chair committee on reunification with DPRK

SEOUL, 14 March — South Korean President Park Geun-hye will chair the first-ever quarterly meeting of the preparatory committee on reunification with the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) in April, presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said on Friday.

The committee, which Park vowed to set up in late February to lay grounds for the reunification, will be launched next month, the Cheong Wa Dae said in a statement.

The committee will be composed of one chairman, two vice chairmen and around 50 members from ministries and private sectors. The chairperson will be President Park who will nominate vice chairmen and members.

Thai navy’s Dornier patrol planes join search effort for missing Malaysian airliner

BANGKOK, 14 March — The Thai navy’s patrol planes have joined the Thai navy’s search mission, which started on Monday but still found nothing related to the missing Boeing 777 plane flight MH370 with 239 passengers and crew aboard.

One of the Dornier planes has joined the search mission by ATMS Pattani fast patrol boat and its helicopter in an extended maritime area around Malaysia’s Langkawi and Perlis islands and north of Indonesia’s Sumatra island while the other has searched the lower part of the Gulf of Thailand for any Botswan plane which might possibly be related to the airliner.

A few other patrol boats of the Thai navy have remained on stand-by at Pang-nga and Songkla naval stations but not as yet joined the search effort. The navy chief Adm. Narong Pipatnasasai commented that the Malaysian authorities who had asked the Thai navy to help search the seas for the missing airliner, which took off from Kuala Lumpur and was bound for Beijing, had not got any information concerning the exact location or direction of the plane that had taken before it lost contact with air traffic control.
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV HOANG SON SUN VOY NO ( )
Consignees of cargo carried on MV HOANG SON SUN VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.3.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L 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: MS HOANG SON CO., LTD
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MVKOTARAKAN VOYNO(RKN361)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTARAKAN VOYNO (RKN 361) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.3.2014 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: MS ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAiMS DAY NOTICE
MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (038)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (038) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.3.2014 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: MS INTERASIA LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(6/2014)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars and Myanmar Kyats.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr No</th>
<th>Tender No</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>IFB-197/13-14</td>
<td>Maintenance/Retest Service for CNG</td>
<td>Casade Jumbo Tube</td>
<td>US$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>IFB-198/13-14</td>
<td>Spares for AB 100 Well Servicing Truck</td>
<td></td>
<td>US$</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>IFB-199/13-14</td>
<td>Spares for KB 150 Well Servicing Truck</td>
<td></td>
<td>US$</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>IFB-200/13-14</td>
<td>Electrical Spares (4)Items for Z70LSR-I Rig</td>
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<td>US$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>IFB-201/13-14</td>
<td>Spares for SAFE Compressor</td>
<td></td>
<td>US$</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>IFB-202/13-14</td>
<td>Spares for Komatsu Dozer</td>
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<td>US$</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>IFB-203/13-14</td>
<td>Spares for CAT D3512B Engine</td>
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<td>US$</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>IFB-204/13-14</td>
<td>Spares for CAT D3306 DI Engine</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>IFB-205/13-14</td>
<td>40 Ton Hydraulic Crawler Crane</td>
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<td>US$</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>IFB-206/13-14</td>
<td>4 1/4” &amp; 3 1/2” Square Kelly with Drive Bushing</td>
<td></td>
<td>US$</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>DMP/L-066/13-14</td>
<td>Spares for F-1000 Rig Pump</td>
<td>Ex D3 T2 SR I &amp; II Rig</td>
<td>KS</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>DMP/L-067/13-14</td>
<td>Reinforcement Hose Pipes</td>
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<td>KS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tender Closing Date & Time - 9-4-2014, 16:30 Hr
Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 13th March, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Ministry of Energy
Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise
Invitation for Opened Tender (1/2014)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars (CIF Yangon).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr No</th>
<th>Tender No</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Qty</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>MPPE/MCY/CAP/T/4</td>
<td>New 7000 Imperial Gallons Capacity Rigid or Semi-Tailor Aircraft Refueling</td>
<td>2 Nos.</td>
<td>US$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>MPPE/MCY/CAP/T/5</td>
<td>Two-Stage Vertical Filter/Water Separator</td>
<td>4 Nos</td>
<td>US$</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>MPPE/MCY/CAP/T/6</td>
<td>400 IGP Fuel Transfer Centrifugal Pump (Motor Driven) and 300 GPM Fuel Transfer Centrifugal Pump (Engine Driven)</td>
<td>2 Items</td>
<td>US$ (each 2 nos)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>MPPE/MCY/CAP/T/7</td>
<td>Fire Fighting Angus Engine Driven Pump With Trailer Inducer</td>
<td>2 Sets</td>
<td>US$</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>MPPE/MCY/CAP/T/2</td>
<td>Aviation Fueling Equipment Spares</td>
<td>75 Items</td>
<td>US$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Tender Closing Date & Time - 8-4-2014, 12:00 Hrs
3. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 14-3-2014 during office hours and for further detail please contact Phone: 067-411487.
Kate Winslet gets her star on Hollywood Walk of Fame

LONDON, 14 March — Oscar-winner Kate Winslet is all set to be honoured with a star on the prestigious Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Kate, 38, who joins the select group of famous personalities after receiving the honour, will be presented with the star by her Titanic director James Cameron and co-star Kathy Bates next week, reported Daily Express.

“We are so happy that Kate Winslet will be here on our famous boulevard of dreams receiving her well-deserved star,” Ana Martinez, who organises the ceremonies, said.

Kate Winslet will be the 2,520th person to be honoured with a star on the famous tourist attraction.

Kate has been nominated for an Oscar 6 times, winning Best Actress for The Reader in 2009.

Sonakshi Sinha sings for the first time in Hindi Rio 2

MUMBAI, 14 March — Bollywood actress Sonakshi Sinha has not just dubbed but also sung a few lines for Hollywood family entertainer Rio 2, which releases here in April.

The vivacious actress has voiced the Hindi version of the movie, playing the character of Jewel the macaw while Imran Khan plays Blu.

Sonakshi also sings for an interesting party sequence in the film and says she enjoyed the experience of dubbing.

“I enjoyed dubbing for Rio 2 because firstly, it’s such a fun film, and secondly, because I felt like Imran (Khan) and I were perfect for the characters of Jewel and Blu,” the Dabangg girl said in a statement.

“There’s a scene where Jewel is dancing and singing, so they made me sing a few lines as well. It was such a new experience! I would have even loved to sing more but unfortunately I am only just a bathroom singer,” she added.

PTI

Kajol: Ranbir Kapoor is a better actor than Shah Rukh Khan

NEW DELHI, 14 March — Actress Kajol, who has given several hit films in company of superstar Shah Rukh Khan, thinks Ranbir Kapoor scores higher than her long-time good friend and also Aamir Khan in terms of acting capabilities.

In an upcoming episode of Koffee with Karan, the host, filmmaker Karan Johar, asks Kajol to rank — talent and acting ability wise — Shah Rukh, Salman Khan, Aamir, Ranbir and Hrithik in order of preference.

The Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge actress was quick to crown Ranbir, the junior-most among them, as No 1, though the two have not yet shared screen space.

“No, I would really say Ranbir, I think he is fantastic. On second position Shah Rukh and Aamir are on par with each other, there is no up or down in that. Then we come to Salman and so on.”

To another question, Kajol said she would like to ask Shah Rukh about his frankness in airing his views.

“Why are you so candid all the time? Don’t you know people like to hear nice, pretty lies once in a while,” Kajol quipped.

To another question, Kajol wants to know when the Bunty Aur Babli star is getting married, a query she would pose to producer-director Aditya Chopra too.

Reports of Rani-Aditya marriage had been doing the round since quite some time.

The 39-year-old Fanaa star yearns to spend more time with actor-husband Ajay Devgn. “I don’t get enough time with him. I would really like to take him out for a romantic date.”

Kajol, who dominated Bollywood in 1990s along with Madhuri Dixit, said she is extremely choosy about doing films. “It (the script) has to be good. I don’t want to work with someone who is not going to bring out the best in me. I don’t want to work with somebody who is going to depend on me to do the 90 per cent of the work.” In the episode to be aired on 16 March, the bubbly and outspoken actress will be seen with her director-cousin Ayan Mukherji.

PTI

Justin Bieber dedicates song to Selena Gomez

LOS ANGELES, 14 March — Pop sensation Justin Bieber dedicated a song to his on-and-off girlfriend Selena Gomez while on stage at 2014 SXSW in Texas.

In a video captured by his fans, Justin, 20, told the crowd; “This next song goes out to my baby,” before singing his 2012 hit As Long As You Love Me, reported Us magazine.

The Canadian singer later tweeted, “Fun taking the stage with all the other acts. Great people. Had to do a little acoustic set myself. Maybe I should do another one?”

After the performance, Justin and Selena, 21, were spotted spending time together in the beer hall for about another hour. The twosome split back in November 2012 after two years of dating, but have been photographed together multiple times since then.—PTI

PTI

The twosome split back in November 2012 after two years of dating.
Federer rolls on at Indian Wells

Roger Federer

Indian Wells, 14 March — Roger Federer faced only one break point in the entire match and reeled off seven games on the trot to clinch the opening set and race to a 5-0 lead in the second.

His reward for winning was a semi-final clash on Saturday with Ukrainian giant-killer Alexandr Dolgopolov, who continued his fairy-tale run in the Californian desert by defeating big-serving Canadian Milos Raonic 6-3, 6-4.

In the women’s draw, China’s Li Na won her rematch with Slovakia’s Dominika Cibulkova to join Italian veteran Flavia Pennetta in the semi-finals.

In her first meeting with Cibulkova since the Australian Open final in January, Li once again proved too strong for her younger opponent, winning 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 in a little over two and a half hours. Pennetta booked her place in the last four by beating American Sloane Stephens 6-4, 5-7, 6-4 in a seesawing match played in gusting winds.

In a tournament that has been packed with surprises and high-profile casualties, the 32-year-old Li has been a model of consistency, ferociously battling through each round.

The Chinese top seed, in the absence of world number one Serena Williams, has struggled with her serve all week and committed eight double faults against Cibulkova, four in the opening set and four more in the third when the pressure was on.

The Slovak also made eight doubles while the pair combined for more than 100 unforced errors in a match that was longer and much tighter than their last meeting in Melbourne.

Li got the decisive break late in the third set and then served out for victory to stay on course for her first title at one of the biggest events outside the Grand Slams.

Here is different than Australia. Of course, Roger is different,” said Li. “I think today she played more aggressive. I was feeling if I try to go back like a little bit she was trying to step in to hit the ball.

Also I was feeling in the second set I think I dropped down a little bit and gave her more chance. She can get a lot of winners.”

Van Persie wants long-term Manchester United stay

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Here is different than Australia. Of course, Roger...
About 30 companies join job fair for Saudi students in Japan

TOKYO, 14 March — Around 30 companies seeking recruits briefed Saudi students in Japan about their businesses and job openings at a fair in Tokyo organized by the Saudi Arabian Embassy on 13 March, 2014.—KYODO NEWS

Sierra Leone’s former president Ahmad Tejan Kabbah dies

FREETOWN, 14 March — Sierra Leone’s former President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah died on Thursday at the age of 82, the former president’s families said.

Kabbah assumed the presidential office in 1996, ending a decade of military rule. He was briefly ousted by a military coup in 1997, but returned to power following the 2002 elections with the help of the West African Intervention Force.

Alonso fastest in first practice in Australia

MELBOURNE, 14 March — Ferrari’s Fernando Alonso topped the timesheets in the first free practice at the Australian Grand Prix on Friday as reliability problems saw the new Formula One season open with a whimper rather than a bang.

The twice world champion Spaniard posted a lap of one minute 31.840 seconds with half an hour left in the 90 minute session and held his half-a-second lead over McLaren’s second-placed Jenson Button in brilliant sunshine at Albert Park.

After a winter testing in which teams struggled to come to terms with the new turbocharged hybrid engines, drivers spent much of the session cooling their heels in the garages, while technicians tinkered.

The biggest surprise of the session was trouble for Mercedes, who arrived Down Under optimistic after a promising winter testing.

Having batted away the favourites to win the season-opener tag, Lewis Hamilton was left fuming when his car stopped at turn nine of his installation lap just five minutes into the session.

With the vehicle hauled off by a tow-truck, the 29-year-old Briton walked back to the paddock without taking his helmet off and suffered the indignity of being stopped by security before retreating into his team’s tent.

The Mercedes later issued a statement clarifying that his car had come to an automatic halt triggered by an oil pressure alarm, but said they needed to investigate the fault further.

Mercedes-powered Williams fared better, with Valtteri Bottas posting the third-fastest time and his new team mate Felipe Massa shrugging off a radio malfunction to be fourth quickest.

Red Bull, who ensured a dismal winter testing, had an encouraging first session, with new driver Daniel Ricciardo finishing fifth ahead of reigning quadruple world champion Sebastian Vettel in seventh.

Two Yemeni soldiers killed in Shiite rebel attack near capital

SANAA, 14 March — At least two Yemeni soldiers were killed on Thursday when Shiite Houthi rebels attacked an army barrack in the northwest of the capital Sanaa, officials said.

Four other soldiers were also injured in the attack, in which the rebels forced the soldiers to withdraw from Juhaif Mountain in Hamdan area, some 20 km northwest of Sanaa.

The soldiers were deployed to Karetal area to force a ceasefire mediated by the government between Sunni tribal residents of Hamdan Tribe and Shiite rebels who came from their northern stronghold of Saaa province to seek control of the northwest entrances of Sanaa, officials said.

Last week, the fighting in Hamdan area between residents and the Shiite rebels left more than 20 people killed as the rebels took over the whole area. The Shiite rebels said they would pull out some of their fighters from Hamdan if the army withdraws. The Shiite Houthi group have managed to seize several towns of northern Provinces of Hajja, al-Jaw and Amran after deadly fightings with Sunni tribal residents over the past months.—Xinhua

Ferrari Formula One driver Fernando Alonso of Spain looks on in the garage during the first practice session of the Australian F1 Grand Prix at the Albert Park circuit in Melbourne on 14 March, 2014.—REUTERS

Hamilton’s team mate Nico Rosberg was sixth for Mercedes, while Kimi Raikkonen, taking his first run for Ferrari since returning to Maranello, was ninth after eighth-placed McLaren debutant Kevin Magnussen.

Lotus waited until 20 minutes left in the session before making an appearance, with driver Pastor Maldonado rolling out of the garage, but he managed only an installation lap before taking a skid through some gravel and coming to a halt.

He and team mate Romain Grosjean were among five drivers that failed to post a lap time, suggesting plenty of work to be done before the second practice session later on Friday.
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann delivers an address at work coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

R/489 Printed and published by the New Light of Myanmar press in Nay Pyi Taw, the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information.

Announcement for exchanging abolished Foreign Exchange Certificate-FEC

1. The Central Bank of Myanmar reiterates that those who have the Foreign Exchange Certificate-FEC can exchange the certificate with foreign currencies or local currency Kyat from 1 April 2013 to 31 March, 2014, in accordance with the following directions.
   (a) Putting US dollar into the accounts opened at banks by those who want to exchange FECs or exchanging with US dollars.
   (b) Opening a new account with foreign currency for those who want to exchange FECs.
   (c) Exchanging the money in Myanmar currency Kyat with daily exchange rate and putting the exchanged money into the accounts of those who exchanged FECs with Myanmar currency Kyat.
   (d) Opening a new account with Myanmar currency kyat for those who exchange FECs with foreign currency.
2. Those who have FECs are requested to exchange the abolished FECs with foreign or Myanmar currency at the banks which have license for money exchange. Those who have FECs are requested to exchange FECs not later than 31 March, 2014, the last date of the period of exchange as the abolishment program will end on 31 March, 2014.

The Central Bank of Myanmar

Self-administered zones, division in Shan

Nay Pyi Taw, 14 March—Under the guidelines of the President self-administered zones and division have received 12 dump trucks to carry out regional development tasks, including road transportation and farmland reclamation.

Up to now, the local governments have received a total of 36 heavy machines—six excavators, six bulldozers, six road rollers and eighteen dump trucks.

The five self-administered zones—Danu, Pa-O, Palaung, Kokant and Wa—self-administered division are in Shan State. The official names of the zones were announced by decree on 20 August 2010.

Police releases information on suspects wanted in Thakayta fatal stabbing

Yangon, 14 March—Police have released information about suspects wanted in connection with a street brawl that left one young man dead and two injured on Yanpyay road in Thakayta Township, Yangon on Wednesday night.

According to ongoing investigation, a man identified as 29-year-old Ye Naing, son of U Than Naing residing at Ma/153/154, Yan Aung 1st street in Yanpyay ward was one of the main suspects. Another suspect has been named as Bawgyi (a) Thein Htai Aung, 21, son of U Aung Gyi living in Ma/19, 20th street, 3/59 Yanpyay ward. Both men are wanted by police in connection with the death of the young man who was identified as Wai Yan Soe.

World Bank and ADB policies used to establish Thilawa SEZ

Yangon, 14 March—The Pyithu Hluttaw Education Promotion Committee and the Ministry of Education put forward respective National Education Bills to Pyithu Hluttaw, the People’s Parliament, on Friday.

According to the ministry, the submission of the bill is to improve the physical and mental potential of the youth, to turn out law-abiding citizens who uphold code of ethics and democratic practices.

Learning, research and academic administration will be improved through effective use of ICT, and enable each and every citizen to have access to education and lifelong learning opportunities and to create an educational environment of international standards. The bill amending the 1951 Leave and Holiday Acts was also presented to the parliament at today’s Pyithu Hluttaw session, with Deputy Minister U Htain Aung elaborating on aims and objectives of amendments to the Act. He said the new law will be of great benefit to all employees in addition to workers from the private sector, allowing them to enjoy more leave and holidays. Moreover, the new law will ensure maternity leave and benefits for women employees, he added.

At the question and answer session of Pyithu Hluttaw, Deputy Minister at the President Office U Thant Shin pledged to start conservation work at the “Death Railway Museum” in Thanbyuzayat Township in April. Another question at the session was about the opening of state-run laboratories at hospitals and other institutions. Deputy Minister for Health Dr Daw Thein Thet Hla replied that the National Laboratory Strategic Plan is ongoing to establish well-equipped clinical laboratories of international standards at main hospitals. No plan is available to set them up anywhere else.

Discussions on the Bill to amend the Law on Salaries, Allowances and Insignias of Union-Level Personnel stopped today’s Amyotha Hluttaw, National Parliament, session. All representatives who took part in the discussions seconded the Bill, but some expressed their views that careful consideration should be given before passing the bill as it may have impact on financial market and commodity prices of the country while others called for simultaneous measures to take care of pay rates of all government employees.

Regarding the discussions, the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker called on the Bill Committee to have an extensive discussion with officials concerned and representatives on the bill.—MNA

Two separate National Education Bills submitted to People’s Parliament

Nay Pyi Taw, 14 March—The Pyithu Hluttaw Education Promotion Committee and the Ministry of Education put forward respective National Education Bills to Pyithu Hluttaw, the People’s Parliament, on Friday.

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