President U Thein Sein sends messages of felicitations to Lithuania

NAY PYI TAW, 11 March—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to Her Excellency Mme. Dalia Grybauskaite, President of the Republic of Lithuania, and His Excellency Mr. Algirdas Butkevicius, Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Lithuania, which falls on 11 March 2015.

MNA

Seed supply shortfall prompts invitation to private investors

By Aye Min Soe

NAY PYI TAW, 10 March—In a bid to solve the ongoing problem of insufficient seed supply to farmers, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has invited private investors to enter the seed production sector, offering technical assistance for quality inspection and certification.

Local authorities should seek ways of inviting investors to develop region- and state-wise seed industries, said Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Tun Than.

The ministry can meet just 10 per cent of demand for rice seeds from farmers, according to an official.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and local seed companies produced 7.25 million baskets of rice seeds in total for the rainy season cultivation of the 2014-2015 FY.

A number of foreign seed companies are operating with local companies under a joint venture system, importing and selling seeds in the country.

“For instance, foreign seed companies are willing to invest 100 per cent in the seed production sector. To do it, they need permission from Myanmar Investment Commission and legal protection for their own products,” said U Naing Kyi Lin, Deputy Director-General of the Ministry and legal protection for their own products,” said U Naing Kyi Lin, Deputy Director-General of the Ministry.

ASEAN, India aim to strengthen economic, security ties in Delhi Dialogue VII

By Ye Myint

DELHI (India), 10 March—A two-day strategic dialogue among the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and India begins Wednesday in New Delhi, with the aim of broadening ties between the 10-member regional block and the world’s second-most populous nation.

Bringing together members of the strategic community, thinks tanks, academicians and opinion makers from ASEAN and their Indian counterparts, the seventh Delhi Dialogue will focus on political, security and economic issues in shaping the post-2015 agenda for the ASEAN-India partnership.

In addition to discussions on common security challenges faced by ASEAN members and India, (See page 2)

Gov’t forms inquiry commission into protest dispersal in front of Yangon City Hall

By Aye Min Soe

NAY PYI TAW, 10 March—President U Thein Sein signed an order Tuesday to form a commission of inquiry into the dispersal of protesters who called for the amendment of the National Education Law in front of Yangon City Hall on 5 March.

The commission will be led by Chairman Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun, deputy minister of Home Affairs, and Secretary U Saw Tun Aung Myint, Yangon Region minister for Kayin ethnic affairs, together with deputy attorney-general U Tun Tun Oo, retired deputy director-general Dr Than Aung, and retired civil service officer U Mya Ngwe.

The commission is assigned to investigate whether security forces acted properly in dispersing the protesters, and whether the authorities responsible acted in line with legal procedures, while also seeking measures to prevent such cases in the future.

The order also mentioned that the tasks of the commission will be facilitated by the Yangon Region government, with the inquiry body having legal authority to summon witnesses, check documents, and examine the scene of the protest.

The commission’s report will be submitted directly to the President on 31 March at the latest.—MNA

Project delivers safe drinking water to Ayeyawady Delta

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 10 March—Work will soon begin to supply safe drinking water to villages where arsenic contamination poses a serious health risk, under a collaborative project to be implemented in Ayeyawady Region.

The three-year project in the region’s Thabaung Township will be conducted with the assistance of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Ministry of Health, in cooperation with Japan’s University of Miyazaki.

“The township comprises seven villages and has 5,000 residents,” Dr Khin Phyu Phyu, director of National Poison Control Centre, the Department of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar), said at Saturday’s seminar in Yangon.

The main aim of the project is to promote environmental health in arsenic-contaminated areas of the country. It includes construction of safe water facilities, establishment of maintenance systems, and education for residents.

“Before the project, we will collect and analyse resident’s basic health data and conduct medical examinations in the (See page 2)
Pyithu Hluttaw explains laws on electioneering and campaigning activities

NAY PYI TAW, 10 March — A representative from the TadaU constituency asked the Pyithu Hluttaw here on Tuesday about public campaigns for what action would be taken against in violation of the law on electioneering, with an official of the Union Election Commission responding that nobody is above the election law and that lawsuits could be filed in police stations as for violation of laws prescribed in Section 13.

The Union Election Commission announced the Election Law to take action against violators on 16 January this year, according to the official.

An MP from Myebon asked whether incumbent representatives and candidates need to abide by the electioneering law and the election law, to which the same UEC official responded, stating that they all must obey the laws.

UEC has announced that the general elections have been scheduled for late October or early November this year, with the official saying that political parties are found soliciting for votes although the commission has not yet officially designated the canvass period.

He also spoke of speeches and leaflet distribution must be in line with the existing law and the election law. — MNA

Construction ministry giving compensations for land seizures in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area

NAY PYI TAW, 10 March — Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin said the ministry has given some compensations for land confiscations in Letpadaing and Pyinmana townships for construction of Letpadaing-Pyinmana Highway.

During Amyotha Hluttaw session Tuesday, U Kyaw Lwin replied to the query of U Hnat Gyi from Mandalay Region constituency No.9, saying the ministry has compensated K407.11 million from Union Budget (Additional) to 217 farmers for 319.88 acres from December 28, 2014 to January 13 2015.

He added the five remaining farmers will get compensations for a total of 7.8 acre in March after the land prices have been approved by local scrutinizing committees.

The union minister also said that compensation will be given to 265 farmers for their 170.34 acres of vacant lands, 169.97 cultivated land and two buildings after the prices have been approved by relevant committees.

Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Nyunt said the farmers who are cultivating crops in army-owned lands will get loans from Myawady Bank and Inwa Bank if they agreed to sign they are temporarily working on these lands.

The deputy minister also said these farmers will need approvals and recommendations for their property or the agreement of the military base concerned to return loans if the debtors failed to do so.

Then, Amyotha Hluttaw members viewed video record that carries discussion about amendment of the bill for National Education Law.

MNA

Navy deploys floating barriers to prevent illegal entry of fishing boats

NAY PYI TAW, 10 March —A delegation led by Vice President Madam Nguyen Thi Doan of the Social Reconciliation, Rights, Peace and Development Committee, on Tuesday, arrived at the airport by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw and officials. — MNA

Deputy Minister U Thant Kyaw welcomes Vice President Madam Nguyen Thi Doan of SRV at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport. — MNA

Policy clear Letpadan protest site

LETPADAN, 10 March — Police arrested 127 protesters after clashes with police in Letpadan, Bago region, Tuesday.

Protesters against National Education Law forcibly tried to liberate from the surrounding of police, turning the sit-in protest to violence between the both sides.

A total of 16 police were wounded in the incident. The arrested protesters include 52 male students, 13 female students, 62 civilians including 55 male and seven women, totalling 127, according to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

009

Project delivers safe drinking water to . . .

(from page 1) the potential for increasing business and economic ties, as well as others dedicated to cultural and development matters.

The partners have identified cooperation in education and skill development fields, integration of regional production networks, and promotion of social and cultural links among their peoples as areas of priority.

The Ministry of External Affairs of India is organizing Delhi Dialogue VII in partnership with the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) and other stakeholders.

ASEAN, India aim to . . .

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MNA

Vietnamese delegation on goodwill visit to Myanmar

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(from page 1) project area,” Dr Khin Phyu Phyu said.

The doctor said arsenic is a naturally occurring contaminant. It is a component of certain underground rocks, with small quantities being dissolved in groundwater as a result of weathering.

If ingested over long periods, even low concentrations can cause damage to health, including hyper-pigmentation of the skin, liver and kidney disorders, as well as various types of cancer.

Safety and accessibility of drinking water is a major concern throughout the world. According to the World Health Organization, there have been 4,600 million diarrhoea cases annually and 2.2 million deaths attributed to drinking unsafe water. — GNLM

GNLM

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MNA
MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 10 March—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of Managing Director U Aung Nyunt Thein of Myanmar Gems Enterprise under the Ministry of Mines on expiry of the one-year probationary period.

The president of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each one probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>Principal</td>
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 Yangon sees mass rallies, two official and one unofficial

YANGON, 10 March—Mass rallies were organized in two townships in Yangon Region on Tuesday, with each rally comprising nearly 500 people.

The mass rally in Taikkyi gathered in front of the town hall and marched along the Yangon-Pyay Road till they reached the Gyophyu sport ground.

A participant said the rally called for coordination and negotiation on the disputed education law, raising concern over the negative effects the ongoing student protests might have on the matriculation examinations, which are scheduled for 11 March. The rally sought permission from local authorities.

Myanmar cooperates in judicial training in ASEAN

NAY PYI TAW, 10 March—Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo attended the 3rd ASEAN Chief Justices Meeting (ACJM) in Boracay island, the Philippines, from 1 to 3 March.

The meeting focused on establishment of ASEAN Judicial Portal, connection with ASEAN Secretariat to implement the decisions of the meeting, cooperation of Myanmar in judicial training, process of summon for civil cases among ASEAN countries, and promotion of cooperation in court technology case management among ASEAN countries. The first meeting was held in Singapore, the second in Kuala Lumpur of Malaysia and the third in Boracay island, the Philippines.—MNA

Union FM sends message of felicitations to Lithuania

NAY PYI TAW, 11 March—U Winna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Linas Antanas Linkevičius, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Lithuania, which falls on 11 March 2015.

Public Announcement for remonstration

The Democracy and Peace Party headquartered at No. 14 on 161st Street in Tamwaygyi A+C Ward, Tamway Township, Yangon Region, registered by the Union Election Commission as a political party under the Article 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law, submitted an application to change its flag and logo as below.

It is hereby announced that those who want to remonstrate with the UEC about the party’s flag and logo may submit a complaint along with the strong evidences within seven days starting from issuance of this announcement in line with Section 14 (d) of the Political Parties Registration Rules.

Flag of Democracy and Peace Party

Revenue and Customs

NAY PYI TAW, 10 March — Government troops mounted attacks on Kokang insurgent-based hills in the vicinity of the village of Lonhtan, taking some hills after four airstrikes on 9 March, officials said.

Heavy shelling ensued on Tuesday morning as the army shelled rebel bases near the border of Myanmar and China. The military columns captured some strategic hills, continuing their launch of massive security operations in nearby areas.

Clashes left the army with two dead and seven wounded.—Myawady

A map show clashes between Taungdaw and Kokang insurgents in Laukkai region.

MYAWADY
Youths study Buddhist culture in summer holidays

Dawei, 10 March — A Buddhist culture course aimed at helping young people become conscientious followers of the religion began this week at the hall of Myoma Sasana Yeiktha on Myeik Road in Dawei, Taninthayi Region.

Organized by the Buddhist Culture Development Group of Dawei Township, instructors gave lectures on basic knowledge about Buddhism and Buddhist culture to the youths.

More than 600 youths from Dawei District and surrounding areas are attending the one-month course from 8 March to 8 April.

Po Shwe Than (Dawei)

Tamarind fruit provides extra income for rural people

Tatkon, 10 March — With tamarind fruits having come into season, rural residents are busy harvesting and sorting crops in the prime growing area of Tatkon Township in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

The fruit can be found on many wild-growing trees around the township in addition to those planted by land owners.

Rural residents of the township’s Kantha Village have been sorting tamarind fruits to earn extra income in addition to their main agricultural work.

Depending on the number of fruits, local residents have bought tamarind plants from owners since June and July every year. In February and March, plant owners need to hire labourers to pick the fruits, paying labourers up to K5,000 per day.

Despite buying K30,000 to K40,000 per plant, owners can earn K300,000 to K400,000 profit per tree after production.

Tin Soe Lwin (IPRD)

Senior librarians share tips of trade with trainees

Nay Pyi Taw, 10 March — As part of its push to improve literacy countrywide, the Information and Public Relations Department has been opening a succession of ward and village libraries across the nation.

A basic librarian course began at the hall of Dekkhina District IPRD in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Tuesday, with an address by Director (Information/Relations) U Aung Ngwe of IPRD (Head Office).

Trainees will receive the opportunity to study the courses on the durability of libraries, the role of the library in development of human resources, the history of libraries, the democratisation process and public service media, procedures of librarianship, and public librarian service.

Senior librarians of the department will share their experience with 51 ward and village librarians from the district in a three-day course from 10 to 12 March.

Tun Tun Win (Pyinmana)

State School of Fine Arts under Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Culture conducted the summer painting course and dancing course on 9 March, attended by about 70 youths from Mandalay and surrounding towns. Under the supervision of Principle Daw Khunng Thuizin Hwe, artists U Soe Win Aung, Daw Phyo Tin Win, Daw Thida Swe and Daw Lin Lin Aye give painting training to trainees in one-month course as of 9 March.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Tatkon, 10 March — With tamarind fruits having come into season, rural residents are busy harvesting and sorting crops in the prime growing area of Tatkon Township in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

Po Shwe Than (Dawei)
Two cyclones may form off Australian coast — weather agency

Sydney, 10 March — A cyclone is expected to develop off Australia's east coast this week, potentially threatening mining operations, while a second cyclone could hit the east coast, the country's weather agency said on Tuesday.

A tropical low is forming south of Indonesia’s Aceh province, the Bureau of Meteorology said, with more than 50 percent chance that a cyclone will develop by Thursday that could hit the northwest coast by the weekend.

Current models indicate the weather pattern is likely to affect the West Pilbara region, which is home to many large iron ore mines.

A second cyclone is also expected to develop off Australia’s east coast by Thursday as a tropical low south of Papua New Guinea moves slowly westward, the bureau said.

Should a cyclone make landfall, it will be the second east coast storm in recent weeks after Cyclone Marcia flooded homes and businesses and knocked out power lines on 20 February.

Insurance Australia Group (IAG.AX) is facing 3,500 claims totalling up to A$390 million ($707 million), although the state’s mining and agricultural sectors suffered little damage.

— Reuters

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— Reuters

Malaysian parliament observes minute’s silence on MH370

Kuala Lumpur, 10 March — A minute’s silence was observed in Malaysia’s parliament on Tuesday to mark the one-year anniversary of the disappearance of Malaysia Airlines’ MH370 flight.

“The MH370 tragedy has truly touched the whole nation. The families and victims of the incident will continue to remain strong throughout the ordeals,” Speaker Pandikar Amin Mulia said.

The Malaysia Airlines plane disappeared on route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing on 8 March, 2014 with 239 people on board. So far no trace has been found despite a massive surface and underwater hunt.

The massive search has been jointly carried out by Australia, Malaysia and China in the Indian Ocean some 1,600 kilometres off Australia’s west coast, with four ships using sophisticated sonar systems to scour a huge underwater area. The vessels are focusing on a 60,000-square-kilometre priority zone, with the hunt scheduled to end in May.

An interim statement accompanied by a 587-page report containing factual information was released by a 19-member independent international investigation team which was set up by Malaysia’s Ministry of Transport.

Osaka, 10 March — The Sanyo Shinkansen Line, Japan’s second-oldest bullet train service that covers the western part of Japan, marked the 40th anniversary of its full operation on Tuesday, having carried a total of 2.5 billion passengers.

After the initial operation to link Shin-Osaka and Okayama stations in 1972, the line was extended west to Hakata station in Fukuoka Prefecture in the southwestern main island of Kyushu three years later.

Around 180,000 passengers take the train every day on average at present, according to West Japan Railway Co which runs the Sanyo Shinkansen Line.

JR West developed the Nozomi 500 series bullet train in 1997 which set a world speed record of 300 kilometres per hour at that time, shortening the travel time between Shin-Osaka and Hakata to two hours and 17 minutes from the previous three hours and 44 minutes.

Following the 500 series, the company introduced more high-speed trains including the latest Nozomi N700 series, due to intensifying competition with rising low-cost airlines.

In 2011, the Sanyo Shinkansen Line was connected with the newly launched Kyushu Shinkansen Line that runs through Kyushu to expand its service area.

The Mizuho high-speed train now runs between Shin-Osaka and Kagoshima Chuo stations in about three hours and 40 minutes.

A Shinkansen bullet train departs JR Hakata station in Fukuoka Prefecture, southwestern Japan, on 10 March, 2015, during a ceremony to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the opening of the extended Sanyo Shinkansen Line. — Kyodo News

With several commemorative ceremonies held along the line on Tuesday, Toshihiko Kunihiro, head of JR West’s Osaka branch, pledged to continue to improve its services and pursue safe operations at a ceremony at Shin-Osaka station.

“The full operations (linking between Osaka and Hakata) became a driver of economic development in the Kyushu area,” said Hiroshi Ogawa, governor of Fukuoka Prefecture, in a separate ceremony at Hakata station.

Kyodo News

Forty years after escaping war, ‘boat people’ find fortune back in Vietnam

Ho Chi Minh City, 10 March — As one of the Vietnam War’s final battles raged four decades ago, Quynh Pham lay with her mother in a field covered in a stranger’s blood. They survived only by pretending to be dead.

They were among an exodus of over a million South Vietnamese who fled oppression and uncertainty before and after US forces retreated and victorious North Vietnamese tanks rolled into Saigon in April 1975, reunifying the two sides under communism.

Pham, 41, resettled in California and is now owner of an art gallery in Ho Chi Minh City, one of a stream of Vietnamese Americans who found their fortunes in a fast-changing Vietnam where capitalism is thriving under communist rule.

Pham runs leading art house Galerie Quynh. In the 17 years she’s lived in Vietnam, her mother has refused to return to Vietnam.

“When I moved back to Vietnam, she disowned me,” said Pham. “She said, ‘You’re not my daughter.’”

They’ve since buried the hatchet, but Pham’s mother has bitter memories and can’t understand why she returned.

The war drove boat-loads of Vietnamese to the United States, which had more than 1.5 million citizens of Vietnamese origin in a 2010 census. Others resettled in Australia, Canada, Britain and France via Pilbara region, which is home to many large iron ore mines.

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Henry Nguyen, a venture capitalist and former Goldman Sachs associate from Virginia who co-owns a Los Angeles soccer team and helped bring McDonald’s (MCD.N), Pizza Hut and Starbucks to Vietnam.

“Vietnam was in a certain place in its development and I was in a certain place in my life,” Nguyen told Reuters, referring to his return in 1995. “That was a good fit.”

He’s also famous for a marriage that brought together families on opposite sides of the war.

His wife, Phuong, is daughter of Vietnam Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung.

“It forced people who share common values and culture to pick sides,” Nguyen, 41, said of the war. “It’s kind of like a tragic comedy.”

Not all Viet Kieu, or Vietnamese overseas, can move on. Some are scarred by war and persecution.

Reuters
Tokyo marks 70th anniv of 1945 US air raids, PM Abe vows peace

**Tokyo, 10 March** — Tokyo marked the 70th anniversary on Tuesday of the US firebombings of the capital during World War II, holding events to commemorate the 100,000 victims of the bombings and to pray for peace.

During a Buddhist memorial service in Sumida Ward, which was once one of the badly hit downtown areas in the 1945 air raid, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe vowed to “contribute as much as possible to achieve lasting peace,” while “humbly facing up to the past and keeping deeply in mind the lessons of the tragic war.”

It is thought to be the first time that a prime minister has taken part in the annual event, according to the organizer of the service.

Tokyo Gov Yoichi Masuzoe told the ceremony attended by about 600 people that his government will “carry out its responsibility to pass on the present peace to the next generation as the city hosting the (2020) Olympics, which is a peaceful festivity.”

Prince Akishino, younger son of Emperor Akihito, and his wife Princess Kiko made an offering of incense at the memorial hall, where the ashes of those killed in the raids are placed.

On 10 March, 1945, more than 300 US B-29 bombers dropped incendiary bombs on parts of the capital, particularly on populous residential areas in eastern Tokyo, killing an estimated 100,000 people.

Tokyo suffered more than 100 bombing raids during the war, with 60 percent of the metropolis destroyed, according to the Centre of the Tokyo Raids and War Damage.

After the 10 March raids, the United States attacked other cities and towns across Japan, before eventually dropping atomic bombs on Hiroshima on 6 August and on Nagasaki on 9 August, 1945. Japan finally surrendered on 15 August that year.

Etsuko Nakagawa, who was living in Sumida Ward at that time and lost many of his classmates in the air raid, was among those who took part in the memorial service on Tuesday.

“I still remember clearly how people were running around in the fire. We should never engage in war again,” said the 83-year-old who now lives in neighbouring Katsushika Ward.

According to the Tokyo Metropolitan government, the number of air raid victims registered this year has increased to 80,324, as the names of 174 victims have been newly identified last year.

Designating on 10 March as a “Day of Peace,” the Tokyo metropolitan government held a memorial ceremony at its building in the afternoon, with US Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy among the attendants.

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US ambassador to South Korea leaves hospital after knife attack

**Seoul, 10 March** — The US ambassador to South Korea left a Seoul hospital on Tuesday, five days after he was slashed by a knife-wielding Korean nationalist with a history of violent protest, causing wounds that required 80 stitches to the envoy’s face.

Police are seeking to bring charges including attempted murder against Kim Ki-jong, 55, for the attack at a forum discussing Korean reunification. The ambassador, Mark Lippert, suffered a deep facial gash and a puncture wound on his wrist.

Lippert, 42, had become known for an approachable, informal style since taking up his post in Seoul in November and the attack raised questions about his security arrangements.

The South Korean government has since ordered increased security for diplomatic missions, including the US Embassy.

“...that will not change,” Lippert told a crowded media conference amid heavy security at Yonsei University’s Severance Hospital.

Lippert declined to comment on potential changes to his security arrangements. He said he expects to return to work as soon as possible and to make a full recovery.

“I feel pretty darn good, all things considered. I mean it was obviously a scary incident. But I’m walking, talking, holding my baby, hugging my wife, so I just feel really good,” Lippert said.

Kim was given a suspended jail sentence in 2010 for trying to attack the Japanese ambassador by throwing a piece of concrete. He said after he attacked Lippert he was protesting against annual joint US-South Korean military drills, which began last week.

Lippert was accompanied by his bodyguard, an unarmed South Korean policeman, when the attack took place at a government-owned theater across the street from the heavily guarded US embassy. Other police were present at the event, although not at the request of the US Embassy or organizers.

As Cuba’s main port of entry, the Jose Marti international airport received 3 million visitors in 2014.

As Cuba is expecting a significant increase of visitor arrivals as the United States has decided to facilitate its citizens to travel to the Caribbean nation.

In a surprise agreement, US President Barack Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro announced last December that they would normalize ties between their countries after a half-century embargo.

Under the new regulations, Americans are allowed to travel to Cuba for any of a dozen specific reasons without seeking permission first.

According to Cuban officials, tourism to Cuba was up 16 percent in January from the same time last year, following the rapprochement between the island and the United States.

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Cuba to expand int’l airport as tourists surge

Havana, 10 March — The Brazilian construction conglomerate Odebrecht will expand Havana’s International Airport “Jose Marti” beginning this month, according to a local media here on Monday.

Fabio Goebel, Odebrecht’s representative in Cuba, said the planned update of the airport terminal No 3 will cost 207 million US dollars, as cited by the digital magazine “Cubamomentanea.”

Goebel said the goal is to “streamline the service for the nearly 2,000 travellers transiting through the facility during the peak hours.”

As Cuba’s main port of entry, the Jose Marti international airport received 3 million visitors in 2014.

As Cuba is expecting a significant increase of visitor arrivals as the United States has decided to facilitate its citizens to travel to the Caribbean nation.
WASHINGTON, 10 March — The United States declared Venezuela a national security threat on Monday and ordered sanctions against seven officials from the oil-rich country in the worst bilateral diplomatic dispute since socialist President Nicolas Maduro took office in 2013.

US President Barack Obama signed and issued US sanctions programme.

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro denounced the sanctions as an attempt to topple his government. At the end of a thundering two-hour speech, Maduro said he would seek decree powers to counter the threat, and appointed one of the sanctioned officials as the new interior minister.

Declaring any country a threat to national security is the first step in starting a US sanctions programme. The same process has been followed with countries such as Iran and Syria, US officials said.

The White House said the order targeted people whose actions undermined democratic processes or institutions, had committed acts of violence or abuse of human rights, were involved in prohibiting or penalizing freedom of expression, or were government officials involved in public corruption.

“Venezuelan officials past and present who violate the human rights of Venezuelan citizens and engage in acts of public corruption will not be welcome here, and we now have the tools to block their assets and their use of US financial systems,” White House spokesman Josh Earnest said in a statement.

“We are deeply concerned by the Venezuelan government’s efforts to escalate intimidation of its political opponents,” he added.

New judge to hear Ferguson court cases after federal probe

FERGUSON, 10 March — A Missouri state appeals court judge will take over all current and future cases assigned to Ferguson’s municipal courts following a scathing US Justice Department report that found systemic abuses, the Missouri Supreme Court said on Monday.

The court said the transfer of Judge Roy Rich- tner would take effect on 16 March and was aimed at helping restore public trust and confidence in the courts.

Richter will also have the power to implement need- ed reforms to court policies and procedures.

“Extraordinary action is warranted in Ferguson, but the court also is examining reforms that are needed on a statewide basis,” Chief Justice Mary Russell said in a statement.

Ferguson municipal judge Ronald Brockmeyer, criticized in the Justice De- partment report, resigned on Monday, the St Louis Post-Dispatch newspaper reported.

The Justice Depart- ment launched an investiga- tion into Ferguson, a St Louis suburb, following the shooting death of unarmed black teen Michael Brown, 18, by a white police officer in August.

The department found insufficient evidence to charge Officer Darren Wil- son with federal civil rights violations, but found pervasive racial bias in Fer- guson’s police and courts practices.

The department’s re- port found that Ferguson’s police officers overwhelm- ingly used excessive force, and issued traffic citations to blacks by swilling tickets through fines, creating a culture of distrust that exploded after Brown was fatally shot.

Instead of acting as neutral arbiter, the court pri- marily uses its authority to compel payment of fees and fines, imposing unnecessary harm, overwhelmingly on African Americans, the re- port found.

In one case the depart- ment cited, a woman re- ceived two parking tickets totaling $151 plus fees in 2007. Seven years later, af- ter paying $550 in fines and fees, being arrested twice and spending six days in jail, she still owed Ferguson $541.

Brockmeyer’s attorney said in a statement posted on the Post-Dispatch website that Brockmeyer hoped appointment of a new judge would help restore public confidence that has diminished following the Justice Department report.

The statement said the judgeship is a part-time position not involved in day-to-day operations and Ferguson’s court clerk rou- tinely performs essentially judicial duties including accepting guilty pleas and issuing subpoenas.

Ferguson Mayor James Knowles noted last week that the city announced last year it was reducing some fines and the number of of- fenses that could result in arrests. Missouri Governor Jay Nixon called the state Supreme Court’s actions “a solid step forward.”

NZ police reveal threat to contaminate infant, other formulas

SYDNEY, 10 March — New Zealand police said on Tuesday that anony- mous threats have been made to contaminate infant and other formulas appar- ently in protest against the use of a pesticide known as 1080 poison.

Letters were sent to farming groups — Feder- ated Farmers and Fonterra — last November together with small packages of milk powder that later tested positive for a concentrated form of 1080, threatening to contaminate formulas with the pesticide unless the use of the agent in New Zealand was stopped by the end of March, the police said in a statement.

Since then, an Auck- land-based investigation team has been working with the Ministry of Primar- ry Industries to investigate the threat.

“Whilst there is a possi- bility that this threat is a hoax, we must treat the threat seriously and a pri- ority investigation is under way,” Deputy Commissioner of National Opera- tions Mike Clement said in the statement.

New Zealand Food Safety Minister Jo Good- hew said in a separate statement on Tuesday that a new testing method for detecting 1080 in dairy products was in place and that authorities have been working with manufactur- ers and retailers to mini- mize any risks.

Russian starts military exercises in southern region of Stavropol: RIA news agency

MOSCOW, 10 March — The Russian defence min- istry said on Monday it had launched military exercises in the country’s southern region of Stavropol, the news agency RIA Novosti reported on Tuesday.

The exercises involve artillerymen and multiple launch rocket systems, the agency reported, citing a statement.
Developing countries must root out tax evasion

By Aung Khin

Tax evasion can have a major impact on the economies of developing countries. The more businesses and individuals that properly pay their taxes, the faster the country can liberate itself from poverty. If policy makers do not act against this problem, the success of tax evaders may encourage others to follow suit.

Diversions of nominally public money through corruption or tax evasion hinders economic development. The amount of uncollected taxes is more than the education or health budget in some countries, and almost as large as the revenue from the business sector in others.

Tax evasion exacerbates income inequality, widening the gap between rich and poor. It also siphons away money that can be used for investment in productive resources needed to diversify the economy and address urgent social problems.

Corruption and tax evasion are mostly inter-related, causing the loss of revenue and redirecting financial resources away from the state budget and towards private spending, which contributes less to development than public expenditures on agricultural inputs, education, health and infrastructure.

A World Bank study has shown that the losses caused by corruption and tax evasion are powerful examples of how criminal activities can have a tremendous negative impact on the economic development of a country.

In fact, when ill-gotten money is diverted from productive investments, it can have a multiplier effect on an economy. Therefore, any official strategy to alleviate poverty must include measures to address corruption and tax evasion.

If developing countries are to improve the standard of living for all citizens, it is vital that they establish mechanisms to pursue and punish tax evaders.

I will leave Myanmar with admiration and hope

By Masahiko Tanaka

In the last three and a half years I have served in Myanmar, I have come to admire its people deeply. Just since the start of 2015, I have come across three ‘incidents’ that reinforced my love for this country and made me hopeful about its future.

First, one day in early January, I lost my wallet while I had gone out for some errands. It seemed like a bad beginning for a new year, but I quickly gave it up for lost. My driver, however, insisted that I should retrace my steps and ask around. At the supermarket where I had stopped earlier, I was told that someone had turned in my wallet to the security office. It was returned to me, all the cash and credit cards intact.

Second, I came upon an index called the World Giving Index, compiled by a global organization called Charitable Aid Foundation. It ranks countries by charitable giving (giving money, volunteering time, and helping strangers). I was astonished to find that Myanmar ranks number 1 in the world, along with the US, in the 2014 report. The Foundation estimated that in Myanmar, 91% of the people aged 15 and older gave money to charity, far distancing the other 134 countries. Myanmar was also number 2 in volunteering time. (Only in helping strangers, Myanmar stood in the middle of the group, probably reflecting its more reserved culture.)

Third, I came to realize that Myanmar people are very good at doing arithmetic in their heads. When I buy something for Ks. 4,550, for instance, if I hand Ks. 5,050 to a store clerk or shopkeeper, they hand me a Ks. 500 note back without missing a beat. Myanmar people may think this is trivial, and so would my compatriots, but I know this does not happen commonly in many countries.

In Myanmar, I knew traditional values of honesty and generosity remained firm. But, the first two incidents showed me how strong they really were. When that is combined with mental agility as well as attention to details and diligence (which I had noted in one of my earlier pieces) that Myanmar people seem to acquire through their upbringing and education, I feel Myanmar is well equipped for economic success, especially in manufacturing. Some economists would say culture-based explanations of growth potential aren’t sound. But, cultures do affect political and economic institutions, which in turn determine the capability of a country to grow. Besides, even economists agree that a high level of trust in the society is an important success factor for an economy (because it reduces transaction costs). That my driver took it for granted that someone would turn in my wallet demonstrates a shared trust in people’s honesty.

In my earlier articles, I have argued that for Myanmar to achieve people-centered development and become a prosperous country, it must get on a path of sustained and inclusive growth. That in turn requires policy actions in four key areas: (1) limiting elite influence (so that fair competition will encourage innovation), (2) promoting high-value industries (because they create well-paying jobs), (3) assuring a quality education to every child (both to support growth of innovative businesses and to give every one a chance to find a good job), and (4) establishing social norms for equitable income distribution (so that there will be social harmony and stability, and because without conscious policy actions, inequality in income distribution tends to rise). In this effort, what is critical and urgent is for Myanmar to escape from the old system of political economy that is dominated by the elite and serves its interests and establish one that is more inclusive and serves the interests of everyone.

Well-established virtues of honesty and generosity should surely support Myanmar’s efforts to limit the elite influence and affirm a social compact for equitable income distribution. What would be more dishonest and contrary to generosity than a system that benefits a small privileged class at the expense of the great majority that suffers from poverty? Creating an inclusive economic system is so fundamental to encouraging the growth of competitive and innovative businesses (in manufacturing, agriculture, and services); in the long run, they will be the source of well-paying jobs for everyone. Building such a high-quality work force, however, is no easy task. It will require not only the right incentive framework and far-sighted entrepreneurship, but also a high-quality work force. This is where some of the qualities that mark the Myanmar people seem perfectly suited for supporting the businesses that aspire to make high-value and high-quality products. For whatever reason, Myanmar’s traditions of education (not just in formal schools but at home and in the community) seem to generate young people with honesty, diligence, attention to details, and mental agility. These are precisely the traits that are valued in innovative industries.

Some of the neighboring countries surely had similar traditions but lost them as their people got caught in the trap of getting ahead economically. They failed to uphold the social norms for equity and fairness, and allowed the traditions of honesty and generosity to wither. Their experiences show that Myanmar must guard against such a change. But, others have preserved similar values as they developed along a path of inclusive development. I am hopeful that Myanmar will succeed in following the latter path, and that the common aspirations of the Myanmar people for harmony would not allow their country to go down the wrong path.

Pakistani naval ship docks at MITT

YANGON, 10 March—PNS Zulfiquar, a Pakistani ship commanded by Captain Amir Mahmood, paid a goodwill visit to Myanmar on Tuesday.

The ship manned by 28 officers and 275 crew docked at Myanmar International Terminal Thilawa, 25 km south of Yangon, from 10 to 13 March.

During the four-day trip, the commanding officer and crew will hold bilateral meetings between Pakistan and Myanmar and visit Myanmar naval establishments.

“PNS Zulfiquar” is the pioneer ship of the sword class, F-22P Frigate Project. The ship is a state of the art and carries a helicopter on board.

Mr. Tanaka will soon complete his assignment as the Head of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) office in Myanmar and return to Tokyo.
Vets warn poultry farmers about avian influenza

Myanaung, 10 March — Local poultry farmers recently attended lectures on avian influenza and bio-security at the hall of the Myanaung Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, Ayeyawady Region, as part of a campaign to prevent the spread of the disease.

Staff Officer Dr. Hlaing Swe shared knowledge about the proper handling of contaminated chicken. In recent days, bird flu broke out in Monywa, a city of Sagaing Region, where local breeders lost significant numbers of livestock to the disease. As a result, veterinarians conducted training on bio-security measures for poultry farmers and chicken vendors in Myanaung.

Officials of Myanaung Township Development Affairs Committee checked sales of fresh chicken and meats at the Naychi Market in Myanaung.

Veterinarians urged owners of more than 20 poultry farms to seek advice and consultation on breeding tasks from the Township LBVD whenever they extend farms. The departmental officials have plans to provide pesticides for the breeders.

“As a result of cooperation between poultry farmers and departmental officials, Myanaung Township faces only rare outbreaks of bird flu disease with minimal loss. Veterinarians have shared their knowledge of poultry farming with local breeders several times,” Staff Officer Dr. Hlaing Swe told media. — Nay Win Zaw (Myanaung)

Mdy Police Force officers undergo media skills training

Mandalay, 10 March — Under the arrangement of the European Union, the Mandalay Region Police Force staged a three-day media skills workshop at the Mandalay Swan Hotel on Monday.

A total of 12 police officers at different branches participated in sharing of knowledge at the workshop.

Ms. Karin Deckenbach explained the procedure of media and community-based organizations. Course instructors Ms. Mechthild Menneke and Ms. Bettina Ambach introduced subjects to be given to the trainees. The course will run until 11 March.— Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Agriculturists promote use of natural fertilizers

Tatkon, 10 March — Local farmers have been receiving training on use of natural fertilizers and safer crop cultivation from staff and officials of the Agriculture Department.

Farmers should not rely too much on chemical fertilizers, but instead systematically use natural fertilizers including EM Bobkashi on their farms, which can improve the health of farmland and consumers, an agriculturalist said. — Tin Soe Lwin (IPRD)

Under supervision of Myawady District’s deputy commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo and officials, Assistant Director U Kyaw Htay of Myawady Township Immigration and National Registration Department and staff prepare to issue citizenship scrutiny cards to 162 eligible citizens in Ward 5, Myawady, on 8 March.

Tun Tun Oo (Myawady Town)
**Islamic State alternative to Facebook gets bumpy start**

**Dubai, 10 March** — Facing a ban from mainstream online social networks Facebook and Twitter, supporters of the Islamic State appear to have launched their own “caliphate book.”

But 5elafabook.com was offline on Monday just a day after its launch and its Twitter account was suspended, highlighting the challenges faced by backers of the ultra-violent militants based in Iraq and Syria in spreading their message and recruiting online.

The amateur page showed a map of the world dotted with Islamic State’s trademark Arabic insignia and was crafted by Szociakita, a programme that lets users produce do-it-yourself social networks.

It was unclear who created the site or how many members it attract-ed. A banner message in its current form said it had a temporarily suspended op-erations to “protect the in-formation and details of its members and their safety.”

“5elafabook is an inde-pendent site and not spon-sored by the Islamic State. We reiterate that the pur-pose of launching the site was to clarify to the whole world that we do not only carry guns and live in caves as they imagine — we ad-vance with our world and we want advancement to become Islamic,” it added.

Online supporters of the group wonder on the web forum whether plat-forms like 5elafabook could be trusted or wheth-er they could be used by IS’s many enemies to gain intelligence, according to militancy watchdog SITE Intelligence Group.

“There is no secure website, even if it did be-long directly to the Islamic State, because the servers are controlled by the gov-ernments, which can take all the IP addresses of those who visited the website,” said a user calling himself Taqui Minbar.

IS militants have re-lied heavily on social me-dia networks for coordina-tion and communication, and the militants use them to publish shocking videos of beheadings and other violent acts against their enemies.

Twitter Inc. and Unit-ed States law enforcement are investigating alleged threats against the com-pany’s employees by the group’s online backers, the company said last week, as Twitter and Facebook work to close accounts spreading IS’s message.

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**Suicide car bombing kills civilian, wounds 25 Egyptian police in Sinai**

**Cairo, 10 March** — A suicide car bomber killed a civilian and wounded 25 Egyptian policemen when he tried to ram his car into a police barracks in the city of al-Arish on Tuesday, se-curity sources said, the latest in a string of attacks in the Sinai peninsula.

The violence comes days ahead of an invest-ment conference in the re-sort of Sharm el-Sheikh, 340 km (210 miles) south of al-Arish, that Egypt hopes will project an image of stability and attract bil-lions of dollars.

Previous attacks have been concentrated in North Sinai.

The security sourc-es said police were able to stop the suicide bomb-er from entering the bar- racks. Security and medical sources said a civilian was in the area by coincidence when the bomber struck.

There was no immedi-ate claim of responsibility. But Islamist militants based in the Sinai have carried out similar attacks that have killed hundreds of soldiers and police since the army toppled Islamist president Mohamed Morsi in 2013 after mass protests against his rule.

On Monday, a roadside bomb killed three Egyptian soldiers in Sinai, a largely lawless area bordering Isra-el and the Gaza Strip which is home to Egypt’s most dangerous Islamist group, Sinai Province.

Formerly known as Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis, the group has pledged alle-giance to Islamic State, the ultra-hardline Sunni group which controls large parts of Iraq and Syria.—Reuters

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**Iraqi forces launch operation to retake Tikrit from IS**

**Tikrit, (Iraq), 10 March** — Iraqi securi-ty forces launched on Tuesday a major offen-sive against militants of the Islamic State (IS) to free the city of Tikrit, the capital of Salahadin Province, a provincial security source said.

Iraqi army and pol-ice forces backed by thousands of allied Shi-ite and Sunni militias entered outer neighbour-hoods of the city, some 170 km north of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad from the south, west and north, while heavy clashes with the extremist militants are underway, the source told Xinhua on condition of an-ononymity.

The troops were also backed by dozens of tanks and armored vehicles and covered by heavy artillery shelling and Iraqi aircraft, the source said.

For the past few days, the city has been under siege by the Iraqi forces and continuing heavy bomb-ardment on IS positions inside the city, the source said. The battles to free Tikrit started one day after the troops retook control of the last IS stronghold in town of al-Alam, Tikrit. Some 30,000 Iraqi troops and thousands of al- lied Shiite and Sunni mili-tias have been involved in a week-long offensive to recapture Tikrit and other key towns and villages in northern part of the prov-ince from IS militants.

Large parts of Sa-lahadin Province have been under IS control since 11 June, a day after bloody clashes broke out between Iraqi security forces and the IS group, which took control of the country’s northern city of Mosul and later seized swathes of territories in Nineveh and other pre-domi-nantly Sunni Provin ces.—Xinhua

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**Suicide car bombing kills civilian, wounds 25 Egyptian police in Sinai**

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**Ivory Coast court jails ex-first lady for 20 years over election violence**

**Ivory Coast**'s brief civil war was sparked by Laurent Gbagbo's refusal to acknowledge his de-feat to Alassane Ouattara, now president, in elections in late 2010.

He is awaiting trial at the ICC accused of crimes against humanity, was tried along with 82 other allies of ex-President Laurent Gbagbo.

The “jury members retained all the charges against her, including dis-turbing the peace, form-ing and organizing armed gangs and undermining state security,” said Rodri-gue Dadjé.

Her civil rights will also be suspended for a pe-riod of 10 years.

The former president’s son, Michel Gbagbo, was also convicted and sen-tenced to five years in pris-on, he said.

Ivory Coast’s brief 2011 civil war was sparked by Laurent Gbagbo to The Hague court, claiming she could be judged fairly in a do-mestic court.

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**Dozens escape Islamic State-run jail in Syria — monitor**

The escapees also in-cluded Syrian civilians and members of Islamic battal-ions opposed to the more hardline Islamic State, the Observa-tory said.

Islamic State has put the town on high alert and has been using loudspeak-ers to tell citizens to capture the escapees, the Observa-tory said, citing people on the ground.

Al-Bab was the site of Islamic State infighting over the weekend when several of its members broke out of another jail in the town and tried to head for the Turkish border.

The group, which in-cluded mainly European fighters, was stopped by other Islamic State mem-bers in clashes that killed at least nine, the Observatory said.

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**Global New Light of Myanmar**
San Francisco, 10 March — Apple Inc (AAPL.O) launched its long-awaited watch on Monday, including yellow or rose gold models with sapphire faces costing up to $17,000 (11,238 pounds), but some investors questioned whether Chief Executive Tim Cook’s first product would be a breakaway hit.

Apple’s first new device since Cook became CEO will be available for orders on April 10 and in stores on 24 April, including chic boutiques in Paris, London, and Tokyo.

In a nod to both fashion and technology, Cook shared the stage with model Christy Turlington Burns, who used it to train for a marathon, and Apple engineers who showed how to send drawings, pictures and even heartbeats with the watch.

Apple shares barely budged, however. Investors and analysts agreed that Apple would sell millions to fans but questioned whether it had a “killer app” that would engage a broader audience. Apple in September gave a sneak peek of the watch which included many features shown on Monday.

“I think there’s a niche market for these kind of App tech people who love Apple and will buy anything they come out with. But I just don’t know if it’s going to be the power product that everyone’s looking for,” said Daniel Morgan, senior portfolio manager at Synovus Trust Company in Atlanta, Georgia, who described Wall Street as “scratching its head.”

Members of the style establishment, in Paris for shows from the glitzy likes of Chanel, Givenchy and Hermès mostly said they saw the watch as a gadget, not this season’s must-have accessory.

The Edition price tag which is inexpensive compared with a Patte Philippine Nautilus at just over 422,000 on 11main.com, inspired plenty of jibes on social media, including many who questioned whether it would become outdated and compared the price to a car’s.

“I wonder what kind of gas mileage it gets,” asked investor Christopher Caruso. Nevertheless many made clear they wanted it. “My birthday is gonna rock this year... :) Applewatch,” wrote Jay Runquist.

The Apple Watch sport will start at $349 for the smaller, 38-mm model. The standard version of the watch will start at $549 and the high-end “Edition” watch will be priced from $10,000, said Cook, who loved the Dick Tracy ability to hold phone calls by watch.

“I have been wanting to do this since I was five years old,” said Cook.

The different models reflect different materials. A $17,000 Edition in the smaller, 38-mm size, has a customised version of 18-karat rose gold, which is especially hard, along with a sapphire display. It comes with a magnetic charging case.

A $349 Sport model has the same size as an aluminum case, a “sport band” and a magnetic charging cable, and no case.

All the watches share digital faces that can look like traditional timepieces, or show the holder’s contact list and social networks, and display photos and interfaces for apps.

“Apple’s been very good at personalizing its products,” said Angelo Zino, an analyst at S&P Capital IQ, who said the “immaturity” of the watch was appealing. He saw 10 million in sales this year. In the presentation, Cook described the watch handling many functions currently associated with the iPhone, which tethers wirelessly to the watch and connects it to the Internet.

The watch will track exercise and remind wearers of events with a tap on the wrist. Cook also laid out other product successes and launched a new MacBook laptop computer that starts at $1,299 and weighs as little as 2 pounds.

Every major car brand had converged delivering Apple’s CarPlay entertainment system, and the new iPhone 6 and 6 Plus have 99 percent customer satisfaction, he said. The Apple Pay payment system is now accepted at 700,000 locations, and Time Wary, Apple’s (TWX.N) HBO in April will debut its streaming HBO NOW service on Apple TV.

Apple is also offering researchers new development tools, called ResearchKit, to help medical researchers design apps for clinical trials, the company said.

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**Coins, jewelry from Alexander the Great era found in Israel**

The 2,300-year-old cache was discovered by the Israel Antiquities Authority and technology, Cook said in a statement. 

“Presumably the cache was hidden in the hope of better days, but today we know that whoever buried the treasure never returned to collect it,” the authority said. Archeologists with the Israel Antiquities Authority believe this is one of the important discoveries to come to light in the north of the country in recent years.

The cache was discovered by chance two weeks ago, as three members of the Israeli Caving Club were touring the area, known as one of the largest and well-hidden stalactite caves in northern Israel. They wandered and crawled between the different parts of a stalactite cave for several hours, as a shining object caught their eyes.

They reported the find to the Antiquities Authority, which sent researchers who have examined the cave over the past two weeks.

The discovery comes a month after a hoard of at least 2,000 ancient gold coins was accidentally discovered by divers off the coast of Caesarea, north of Tel Aviv, in the largest gold trove ever discovered in Israel.

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**World’s oldest primitive animal fossil found in China**

The World’s oldest primitive animal fossil found in China.

WASHINGTON, 10 March — Animals have been on Earth for at least 600 million years, research led by Chinese scientists confirmed on Monday.

The study, published in the US journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, described a well-preserved, grain-sized primitive sponge fossil recovered from 600-million-year rocks in southwest China’s Guizhou Province.

“It’s the world’s earliest and most credible fossil record of primitive animal bodies,” lead author Maoyan Zhu of the Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontolgy, which is part of Chinese Academy of Sciences, told Xinhua. “The discovery will help remove doubts as to whether animals have emerged on Earth 600 million years ago.”

The fossilized animal, slightly more than 1.2 mm wide and 1.1 mm tall, displays multiple independent characters of modern adult sponges, the researchers said.

“This features showed it’s a primitive animal very similar to modern sponges and could have lived a filter-feeding lifestyle,” said Zhu. The sponge fossil was dated to 530 million years ago, in early Cambrian period.

There are other isolated objects that are claimed to be pre-Cambrian fossilized sponges, including a 760-million-year-old fossil from Namibia, but Zhu said they decided to leave aside other discoveries because those objects “did not possess typical structural characteristics of modern sponges.”

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**In Japan, Abe’s new panel aims to give drone industry an edge**

TOYO, 10 March — The government of Japan, a country with a proven track record in electronics and robotics, is looking to fast track industry-friendly drone sector an edge on the United States. Companies from motorcycle maker Yamaha Motor (7272.T) to security firm Secom Co (9735.T) are readying drone technology and services, as advisers to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe drive a regulatory overhaul.

The Robot Revolution Realization Committee, an advisory panel appointed by Abe, will review existing radio and civilian aeronautics laws and set up industry-run best practice for drones. Another panel is asking companies for ideas on how to open up new special economic zones in Tokyo and other big cities to drones on a test basis. The Fukushima area, blighted by the 2011 tsunami and nuclear disaster, could also become a “field test zone” for robots and drones, largely free of regulation.

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**Undated photograph taken in a cave in northern Israel and released by Israel Antiquities Authority shows agate stones that are part of a string of beads and the Hellenistic oil lamp in which the stones were kept. Rare coins and jewelry from the time of Alexander the Great have been found by chance in a cave in northern Israel, officials with the Israel Antiquities Authority said on Monday.**

The 2,300-year-old cache includes silver coins of Alexander the Great, who conquered the region in the late fourth century BC. In addition, several pieces of silver and bronze jewelry were found, including decorated earrings, bracelets and rings, which were apparently concealed in the cave, inside a cloth pouch.

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Apple debuts $17,000 watch, some waiting for killer app

Apple CEO Tim Cook speaks about the Apple Watch during an Apple event at the Flint Center in Cupertino, California, on 9 September, 2014.—REUTERS

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**Coins, jewelry from Alexander the Great era found in Israel**

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**World’s oldest primitive animal fossil found in China**

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**Oklahoma University shuts ‘disgraceful’ fraternity for racist video**

**NORMAN, (Okla), 10 March —** The University of Oklahoma closed a fraternity linked to a video of students singing racial epithets, ordered its members to move out of the house and labeled the actions of those involved “disgraceful.”

“The effective immediate, all ties and affiliations between the university and the local SAE (Sigma Alpha Epsilon) chapter are hereby severed,” University President David Boren said on Monday.

Members have until midnight on Tuesday to vacate the premises. People could be seen loading goods into moving trucks behind the fraternity house on Monday.

The incident comes at a time of heightened racial tensions following US incidents of unarmed African-Americans being fatally shot by police. Over the weekend, a lynch mob in Selma, Alabama, marked the 50th anniversary of a crackdown on a civil rights march there known as “Bloody Sunday.”

In the 10-second video posted online on Sunday and replayed by media outlets, students on a bus chanted in unison, using offensive language referring to blacks and vowing to never admit them into the fraternity.

It was not immediately clear when the video of students on a bus chartered for a fraternity on Monday, 11 March, 2015.
**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**

**MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (095N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (095N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.3.2015 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 YANG MING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

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**TRADEMARK CAUTION**

Shimaya CO., LTD, a company registered under the laws of Japan, is the sole owner of the following trademark:

Reg. No. 19302/2014

In respect of Class 29: Bonito flavored soup stock.

Shimaya CO., LTD, claims the trademark right and other relevant Intellectual Property right for the mark as mentioned above. Shimaya CO., LTD. reserves the rights to take legal measures against any infringer who violates its Intellectual Property or other legal rights in accordance with the concerned laws of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.


For Shimaya CO., LTD.

Tilleke & Gibbins Myanmar Ltd.

No. 1608, 16th Floor, Sakura Tower, 359 Bogyoke Aung San Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar

Email address: myanmar@tilleke.com

Dated: 11.3.2015

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**WEATHER REPORT**

**BAY INERENCE:** Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 15th March, 2015:** Weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagarang, Yangon and Tanintharyi Regions, Kachin and Mon States, generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Generally fair in the whole country.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYIT AW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11th March, 2015:** Generally fair weather.

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_The new chief served as the head of Judiciar System of Iran between 1989 and 1999._

_The Iran’s Assembly of Experts is charged with electing and removing the Supreme Leader of Iran and supervising his activities._

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**Iran’s Assembly of Experts selects new chief**

Theheran, 10 March — Iran’s Assembly of Experts on Tuesday elected Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi as the new chief of the deliberative body of 86 Iran’s Mujahids (Islamic scholars).

Yazdi, who replaced deceased Ayatollah Mohammad-Reza Mahdavi-Kani, won 47 in favour out of 73 votes in the meeting of the assembly.

The newly elected chief served as the head of
Madonna unveils renegade, romantic sides in new album ‘Rebel Heart’

New York, 10 March — Madonna proves her staying power as a creative force and an enduring pop icon with her new album, “Rebel Heart,” her 13th studio release that also shows her renegade and softer sides.

It is a revealing portrait of the Material Girl, showing the Grammy-winning singer as a trail-blazer and provocateur but also someone who is sensitive, reflective and outsider. Madonna, 56, told Reuters that the album’s title “Rebel Heart” reflected her original intent to make a two-sided record featuring 10 songs on each.

“One side was going to be the more rebellious, provocative, envelope pushing part of me and the other side was going to be the more romantic, vulnerable side and they end up getting all mushed together,” she said.

“Rebel Heart” is her first album since 2012’s “MDNA,” which shot to number one on Billboard’s 200 chart. It is also somewhat autobiographical with tracks like “Veni Vidi Vici,” which chronicles her career, and personal, revealing feelings of insecurity, heartache and loss.

The album’s 19 tracks includes lush, lyrical ballads, such as “Devil Pray,” “Ghosttown” and “Joan of Arc” that ponder the meaning of life, breakups and love. “Each time they write a hateful word/Drugging my soul into the dirt/Na na nie/Never admit it but it hurts,” she says in “Joan of Arc.”

But Madonna also lets loose with catchy dance numbers including “Living for Love” and “Unapologetic Bitch,” a collaboration with Grammy-nominated American DJ Diplo.

“He likes to make people up out of their seat and dance and so do it,” she said of Diplo.

“Living for Love,” the lead single has a thumping disco beat with lyrics about the heartache of a parting and picking herself up to find love again.

Madonna returns to themes of sex and religion, which she said she finds infinitely interesting topics. “They are as important to people as they are misunderstood,” she explained. “They both bring a reality bite into the world and a lot of darkness. For those reasons, I like to explore them.”

For “Rebel Heart,” Madonna collaborated with rapper Kanye West on four songs, Swedish DJ and producer Avicii, American producer and songwriter Toby Gad, among others. West, rappers Nas and Nicki Minaj and boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr. lent their vocals on tracks.

Madonna will support “Rebel Heart” with an international tour beginning in Miami on 29 August. Reuters

Two Broadway musical imports top London theatre award nominees

London, 10 March — Broadway imports “Memphis” The Musical and “Beautiful — The Carole King Musical” collected the most nominations on Monday, with nine and eight nods respectively for London’s Olivier Awards to be announced in April.

Mark Strong and Richard Armitage both received best actor nominations for roles on the London stage in revivals of Arthur Miller plays — Strong for “A View from the Bridge” and Armitage for “The Crucible”.

They are competing with James McAvoy for his performance in “The Ruling Class” and Tim Pigott-Smith in “King Charles III.” Nominees for best actress in a play are Gillian Anderson for “A Streetcar Named Desire,” Kristin Scott Thomas for “Electra,” Imelda Staunton for “Good People” and Penelope Wilton in “The Mousetrap”.

The best director nominees are Rupert Goold for “King Charles III,” Jeremy Herrin for “Wolf Hall” and “Bring Up the Bodies,” Josie Rourke for “City of Angels” and Ivo Van Hove for “A View from the Bridge.”

Carnegie’s Out There tour

London, 10 March — McCartney has added a second show at London’s O2 Arena due to high demand.

The singer will perform at the venue on 23 May, with an additional show on 24 May, reported Digital Spy.

The UK leg of McCartney’s ‘Out There tour back to Europe this summer. PTI

Paul McCartney adds second London O2 show

London, 10 March — Beatles legend Paul McCartney has added a second O2 show at London’s O2 arena due to high demand. The singer will perform at the venue on 23 May, with an additional show on 24 May, reported Digital Spy.

PITI

Paul McCartney: I’m looking forward to taking the Out There tour back to Europe this summer. PTI

Helen Mirren reigns on Broadway as Queen Elizabeth

New York, 10 March — Nearly a decade after winning an Academy Award for her role as Britain’s Elizabeth II in “The Queen,” Helen Mirren is ruling over Broadway in “The Audience,” a new play about the monarch’s weekly meetings with her prime ministers.

Mirren said she has huge empathy for the 88 year-old royal she plays in the British import that premiered in London and opened on Sunday at New York’s Gerald Schoenfeld Theatre. “Both times, for the film and now the play, I had to do a lot of research and the more research I did really, the more respect I gained for her,” Mirren, 69, said after the opening.

The queen’s weekly meetings with her prime ministers are private, so “The Audience” is an imitator of the conversations and relationships Elizabeth has had with eight of the 12 British leaders who served during her more than 60-year reign.

Mirren, a multiple-Tony nominee, admits it is difficult to imagine what Elizabeth’s world is like. But the newspaper USA Today said her Elizabeth defends the monarchy and “deftly reconciles her sense of entitlement with her humility and empathy.” In the play, which does not run chronologically, Mirren is shown as a older queen reassuring a doubtful John Major, played by actor Dylan Baker, that is he is up to the job. In the next scene she changes into the young Elizabeth, holding her first meeting as queen with the formidable Winston Churchill (Dakin Matthews).

The play, written by Peter Morgan who also penned “The Queen,” and directed by Stephen Daldry, “lists listening to her conversation with a depressed Gordon Brown (Rod McLachlan.) They hear her playful, friendly banter with Labour Prime Minister Harold Wilson and watch as she soothes a testy Margaret Thatcher.

With each scene the queen’s age changes along with her costumes and hairstyles.

“Even if she’s not the real royal deal, this is still about as close as most of us are going to get to a cozy tea-time with the best and the real Windsors,” said The New York Times newspaper.

Mirren also appears alongside younger versions of the monarch, showing her reluctant to move into Buckingham Palace and her early annoyedness with royal life. “It’s obvious who the real ruler is when it comes to Broadway. Mirren’s crown is safe,” said The New York Post newspaper. — Reuters

Global New Light of Myanmar

ENTERTAINMENT

Wednesday, 11 March, 2015
Mauresmo leads group elected to Hall of Fame

New York, 10 March — Amelie Mauresmo, a two-time grand slam winner and the first French woman to be ranked number one, was elected to the International Tennis Hall of Fame, organizers said on Monday.

Mauresmo was one of the three players in the final category. The others were John McEnroe and Martina Navratilova, each elected for their contributions to women’s tennis. The hall said it also elected a group of four from the contributor category, the International Tennis Federation.

“I am happy for Amelie. I am happy for the whole French tennis family,” French tennis chief Luc Desgoffe said on Monday. “Thanks to her (Mauresmo), we are going to lift the French flag once again in this hall.”

French sports stars among 10 dead in Argentina helicopter crash

Buenos Aires/Paris, 10 March — Eight French nationals including celebrity yachtswoman Florence Arthaud, Olympic swimmer Camille Muffat and boxer Alexis Vastine were among 10 killed when two helicopters collided in Argentina on Monday while filming a French reality TV show.

The accident happened in the rugged western province of La Rioja near the Andes mountains, local authorities said, adding that the cause was not currently known.

“The sudden death of our fellow French nationals is a cause of immense sadness,” a statement from French President Francois Hollande’s office in Paris said.

It added that several members of the ALP TV production company involved in shooting the adventure show “Dropped” for private TV station TF1 were among the dead.

Arthaud, 57, was one of the first women to carve a place for herself in the world of sailing and in 1990 secured the record for the fastest solitary crossing of the North Atlantic, according to her publisher’s site.


The victims included the helicopters’ two pilots, Cesar Angulo, La Rioja’s security chief, told reporters earlier.

“There were no survivors, according to the information we have,” Angulo said.

Argentina’s official news agency Telam said one of the helicopters belonged to the provincial government and the other to organizers of a survival competition that had been held for three years near the village of Villa Castelli.

A British pilot, a missing plane and a ring returned after 70 years

Tirana, 10 March — Of 14 sorties flown by British World War Two pilots supplying anti-fascist fighters in Albania during World War Two pilots supplying anti-fascist fighters in Albania on 29 October, 1944. 12 returned to base in Italy, one failed to discharge its load and “the other is missing and assumed to have crashed”, according to military records.

For seven decades, the Handleby Page Halifax bomber was believed to be at the bottom of the Adriatic Sea. Then, last October, a British and US team climbed 6,000 feet (1,829 metres) into the Albanian mountains to locate its wreckage, which had been spotted by a villager out collecting herbs.

“Clearly what we found was enough to suggest we had found the remains of a big four-engine bomber,” said Chris Casey, a doctor at the US embassy in Tirana and part of the expedition.

A British-born aviation enthusiast, Casey trawled the Internet but was frustrated in his attempts to pinpoint the identity of the plane or its crew. The vital clue would come in the form of a golden ring, engraved “Joyce & John” and held in safe keeping by an Albanian villager and then his son.

Jaho Cala found the ring in 1960 while collecting metal and wood in the mountains, when Albania was shut off from the outside world by the Stalinist regime of Enver Hoxha.

“He gave it to me when I got married in 1971, but told me clearly the ring did not belong to our family and I was to return it to its owner after communism ended,” Jaho’s son, Xhemil Cala, told Reuters. Twenty years later, with Albania rid of communism, Cala took to wearing the ring while serving as a police officer. But he had not given up returning it to its rightful owner. He said the ring would not stay put on his finger, twisting as he slept.

“It is not yours, that is why,” Cala quoted a Muslim cleric as telling him.

Albanian Xhemli Cala (L) puts the ring of the British flight engineer Sergeant John Thompson, onto the finger of his sister Dorothy Webster, 92, during a ceremony held at the Ministry of Defence in Tirana on 9 March, 2015. — Reuters

Olympic swimmer Camille Muffat

Reuters

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7:35 pm

5:00 pm

12:00 noon

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Wenger, who admitted in the midst of Tuesday’s BNB Parabas Showdown exhibition at Madison Square Garden against 23-year-old Grigor Dimitrov. “I’d love to win Wimbledon. I think it’s possible, and I think if I win Wimbledon it’s more cool for me personally, and my team and Swiss people and my fans.”

Roger Federer of Switzerland celebrates after winning his final match against Novak Djokovic of Serbia at the ATP Championships tennis tournament in Dubai, on 28 Feb, 2015.—Reuters

Another Wimbledon title is Federer’s goal

Federer said he is not concerned by a quest to add breathing room to his record total with Rafa Nadal sitting on 14, six ahead of world number one Novak Djokovic, who lost to the Swiss in the final at Dubai on 28 February. Federer said Nadal could charge past him, but felt Djokovic was a longshot. “Who knows? Rafa has the best shot if he wins the French Open a few more times and if I don’t win anymore he can catch me quickly.”

“Guess Novak is still a long shot but it really depends on how dominant his next years are going to be,” said Federer, whose wife and two sets of twins travel with him around the globe.

They have to be very dominant because Rafa and me, we both are still playing. It’s not like we’re both retired or anything. I’m more focused on me personally, and my team and Swiss people and my fans.”

Another singles title at the All England Club would give Federer a record eighth Wimbledon crown, breaking his tie with Pete Sampras and WC Renshaw of the late 19th century.

It would also make him the oldest Wimbledon men’s winner, eclipsing Arthur Ashe, who was 31 when he won in 1975.

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