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Development of agricultural sector rests on quality seeds production: President

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March—*President Agga Maha Thayay Sithu, Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma U Thein Sein sent a message on the occasion of the Peasants' Day which falls on 2 March 2014. The unofficial translation of the message is as follows:-*

Esteemed peasantry,

Today is the significant day that honours farmers across the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. On this auspicious occasion, I would like to wish all farmers throughout the country physical and mental fitness and wellbeing.

It has been three years since the democratically-elected government was in office on 30 March, 2011.

During this period, the government has been implementing eight rural development and poverty alleviation tasks for long-term national interest. As part of it, the priority is given to develop agricultural sector as seventy percent of the country's total population is famers.

Myanmar is an agro-based country. Efforts to promote incomes and socio-economic status of farmers would help support development of agricultural sector, thereby contributing to further strengthening national power.

Transforming the rainfed farming system to irrigated ones helps the farmers enjoy multi-cropping pattern, leading to more job opportunities and higher incomes of farmers.

Continued efforts are being made for conservation of dams and river-water pumping projects implemented by the successive governments and completion of projects and cannels which are under construction. The government is implementing short-and long-term projects to shift from conventional farming to mechanized one across the country, centered eight townships in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. The government is laying good foundations for development of agricultural sector by means of educating the farmers and cooperating with them. Efforts are being made for simultaneous establishment of farmer educative model plantations in every villages of the country.

(See page 8)

Cultivation of culture of rule of law is extremely important for future democratic growth of Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 1 March—*The following is the full text of the speech delivered by President U Thein Sein through radio grammes to the entire people on 1 March.*

My fellow citizens:

I would like to inform all of you about the recent changes and developments that have taken place in our country during the month of February just as I have done previously on this radio program.

All of you will notice that February is filled with historic moments born out of the Myanmar independence struggle.

Not only is February significant for building national unity and ethnic affairs, it gave birth to the Union day which commemorates an important step in the independence struggle—the Panglong conference and the signing of the Panglong agreement. It is also a month when General Aung San was able to establish a union system based on the Panglong spirit where all ethnic nationalities can live together in peace, unity and equality.

Since independence, Myanmar has also experienced bitterness stemming from conflicts grounded in political disagreements and divisions within the society. This is the time to learn lessons from our past experiences and strive together to resolve all the conflicts so that all ethnic nationalities can live together in peace and harmony.

We can also see that the progress achieved in the national reconciliation process based on peace building is because we are trying to align Panglong promises with the current situations by seeking political solutions through dialogue.

In order to achieve a nationwide ceasefire agreement which is part and parcel to the peace process, all the relevant authorities and groups are currently negotiating to hold a conference in Hpa-an. Like all of you, I am optimistically expecting that one of the results of the Hpa-an conference is

(See page 9)

Only census could provide amounts of data needed for development of the country

President U Thein Sein addresses ceremony to mark the national census-2014.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 1 March — The upcoming census will be taken meeting international standard and based on human rights, said President U Thein Sein.

In his address at a ceremony to mark the national census-2014 held in Nay Pyi Taw on 1 March, the president said the 2014-national census is a good chance and a milestone for all national people to show the world their unity by working together each other to complete the task successfully.

The national census would be taken for 12 days from 30th March to 10th April and the rough report on results of the national census will be released in early 2015.

The government has to take about two years to prepare for the national census in 30 years and has been closely working together with the United Nations Population Fund – UNFPA to carry out the task.

He highlighted the importance of census that is used in connection with national population and the number of national races as an important process that could contribute towards effective realization of of national interest.

He called for more understanding of the own country for the uplift of dynamism of Union spirit and stressed the need to uphold diversity. Only the census could provide amounts of data needed for the development of the country, he added. The President called

(See page 8)

HONOURING THE PEASANTS' DAY

Prevention of girls against violence talked

PAUKTAW, 1 March—Talks on prevention of girls against violence, organized by Rakhine State Women's Affairs Organization, took place at Basic Education Post-Primary School in Soemegyi Village of Pauktaw Township, Rakhine State, on 27 February afternoon.

Chairperson of Rakhine State Women's Affairs Organization Daw Nyo Nyo Wai Lwin, Chairman of Sittway District WAO Daw Thet Thet Soe and officials attended the talks.

Chairperson of the state WAO Daw Nyo Nyo Wai Lwin gave talks on protection of teachers, parents and guardians for girls against physical and mental violence, and response of village WAOs and local people to the violence. Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Thein Kyaw lectured laws for women, common laws against the violence, and noticiable facts about prevention of women against violence. After that, the chairperson of the state and party distributed trated mosquito nets and equipment for fly-proof latrines to villagers.

MMAL-Rakhine State IPRD

News in Brief

Mobile library introduced

NAY PYI TAW, 1 March—As part of public service media, Deputy Head of Dekkhina District Information and Public Relations Department Daw Phyu Thwe Tun and staff carried out mobile library works at Basic Education Primary School No 28 in Htantabin Village on 24 February and Win Shwe Yi library in Shwekhein Village on 25 February.

The staff donated 50 copies each of books to such villages.

It was aimed at raising reading habit of the local people.—*Dekkhina District IPRD*

Cash donation for renovation of Hsandawshin Pagoda

PAUKTAW, 1 March—Rakhine State Commissioner U Min Chit Oo and wife Daw Wai Wai Lwin and family donated renovation of Hsandawshin Pagoda on Myengu Island in Pauktaw Township, Rakhine State, on 27 February.

Merit sharing ceremony was held at the prayer hall on the platform of the pagoda.

MMAL-Rakhine State IPRD

Child care centre opened

MEIKTILA, 1 March—Early Childhood Care and Development Centre was opened in Uyin Village of Meiktila Township in Mandalay Region on 27 February.

Save the Children and local people jointly opened the centre that admit 45 children from Uyin Village and 16 from other villages under care of three teachers.

MMAL-Chan Tha (Meiktila)

Globetrotters take interests in Bagaya Monastery in ancient Inwa City

TADAU, 1 March—Flocks of globetrotters observe Bagaya monastery in ancient Inwa City in TadaU Township of Kyaukse District, Mandalay Region.

"Globetrotters in flocks visit the monastery. As the monastery was built in monarchial era, it has plenty of ancient cultural heritage, rare architectural works, sculpture works, statues, teak posts of the monastery and decorated tiers. So, the tourists interestingly view the artifacts of the monastery," said locals.

Bagaya Monastery has five brick ladders. Spire-like roof is installed with decorations of handicrafts and sculptures, images and statues of lions at windows and other parts. The monastery was built by King Bagyidaw in 1196 Myanmar Era. Construction of the monastery was used with 267 teak posts. The largest teak post is 9 feet diameter. It is a 188 feet long and 103 feet wide monastery, made of wood.

MMAL-Than Zaw Min

SINKING TUBE-WELL: ***Junior Engineer-II U Nyi Nyi Oo of NyaungU Township Rural Development Department inspects sinking of 4-inch diameter tube-well in Ayadaw Village of Taungbilay Village-tract in NyaungU Township on 27 February.***

MMAL-YE THURA AUNG (NYAUNGU)

One stop service given for issuance of licences to motorcycles

PAKOKKU, 1 March—A combined team comprising officials of Directorate of Road Administration, Internal Revenue Department, Myanma Insurance and Myanma Economic Bank issue licences to unlicenced motorcycles at Myoma sports ground in Pakokku as of 17 February.

The officials have issued licences to 833 motorcycles from 17 to 27 February.

Staff of Directorate of Road Administration of Pakokku District distribute pamphlets on disciplines and traffic rules for pedestrians, drivers and bikers to those who take out the licences for motorcycles.

MMAL-Aung (Mann Tekkatho)

France striving to stop Central African Republic split, Hollande says

Bangui, 1 March — French President Francois Hollande told the Central African Republic on Friday that his troops would work to stop the country splitting in two and endeavor to disarm rival fighters engaged in months of inter-religious killing. Arriving in the capital Bangui from Nigeria, where he attended unification celebrations, Hollande met the interim president, religious leaders and addressed French troops.

"We need to stop score-settling, establish the authority of government, allow it to engage in dialogue and avoid any temptation to partition the east of the Central African Republic," Hollande told French soldiers in a helicopter hangar at the airport in Bangui. France sent troops four months ago to the majority Christian country where predominantly Muslim Seleka rebels seized power last March and have since been pushed back by Christian "anti-balaka" — "anti-machete" in the local Sango language — militia. Its force now numbers some 2,000 soldiers.

France's parliament voted on Tuesday to extend the mission, despite tepid support at home for a military operation in the former French colony where thousands of people have been killed and around a million forced from their homes.

Thousands of Muslims have fled northeast from the capital towards the border with Chad, creating a de facto division of the country which the UN human rights chief has said now faces "ethnic-religious cleansing". In addition to French troops, 6,000 African Union peacekeepers (MISCA) are also deployed and up to 1,000 EU soldiers are still to arrive.

However, speaking in Geneva after two months in charge of civilian protection for the United Nations in Bangui, Philippe Leclerc said there were still not enough troops on the ground and the lack of security was forcing the evacuation of civilians, contributing to the ethnic cleansing.

Reuters

French President Francois Hollande speaks and greets troops at the French military base in Bangui's Mpoko international airport on 28 Feb, 2014. **Reuters**

Malaysia, Philippines eye security hot line

Putrajaya, (Malaysia), 1 March — Malaysia and the Philippines are exploring the establishment of a security hot line, Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak said on Friday, a year after scores of gunmen from the southern Philippines invaded Malaysia's Sabah state over a historical territorial claim.

"We stress the importance of timely exchange of intelligence," Najib said at a joint Press conference with Philippine President Benigno Aquino after a meeting in Malaysia's administrative capital. "In this regards, we are looking at the possibility of establishing a hot line between our security forces in the event of any security incident happening. We need to ensure immediate interdiction by our Malaysian side as well as the Philippines."

In February last year, a Filipino armed group calling itself the "Royal Army of the Sulu Sultanate" crossed by sea from the southern Philippines and landed in Sabah's northeastern Lahad Datu district, demanding that Malaysia recognize its historical rights over part of Sabah.—*Kyodo News*

Pakistan reiterates call for SCO full membership

Islamabad, 1 March — Pakistan on Friday reiterated its call for full membership of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) during the visit by the group's Secretary General Dimitry Mezentsev to Islamabad, officials said.

Pakistan currently holds the SCO observer status together with four other countries including its neighbors Afghanistan, India and Iran as well as Mongolia.

A top Pakistani diplomat told the visiting SCO secretary general that the country has "exceptionally strong credentials" to become a full member of the SCO which groups China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan.

Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry underlined that Pakistan 's membership would bring the SCO a step closer to achieving its vision of regional economic cooperation because of its deep rooted historical and cultural links and strong economic and strategic complementarities.

Chaudhry mentioned that Pakistan fully endorsed SCO's ideals and objectives for durable peace in the region, the Foreign Ministry said.

The foreign secretary mentioned that it was satisfying to note that SCO's interaction with the observer states had been raised to a qualitatively higher level.

Xinhua

Ukrainian Permanent Representative to the United Nations Yuriy Sergeyev speaks to reporters after attending a meeting of the UN Security Council on the situation in Ukraine, at the UN headquarters in New York, on 28 Feb, 2014. The UN Security Council met behind closed doors on Friday to discuss the current situation in Ukraine, shortly after armed men took over airports in Ukraine's Crimea region. **Xinhua**

Iranian official stresses political solution to Syrian crisis

Beirut, 1 March — Iran's parliament committee on foreign policy and national security Alaeddin Boroujerdi said here Friday that the best possible way to solve the Syrian crisis is through political efforts.

Boroujerdi, who is on a visit to Lebanon, made the remarks after meeting with Lebanese speaker Nabih Berri, Prime Minister Tammam Salam and Foreign Minister Gebran Bassil. "After three years of crisis in Syria, I hope we will see a change in the policies of the US allies in the region," he said, in reference to Saudi Arabia.

"It is up to the United Nations and the International community to pave the way for the feuding Syrian parties to engage in a political dialogue that would eventually lead to a fair and transparent presidential elections this year," he added.

In addition, Boroujerdi condemned the Israeli strike on a border position of Lebanon's military party Hezbollah on Monday, saying it aimed to "boost the extremist militants morale." He expressed confidence in the Lebanese army's ability in putting an end to the "terrorist" activities in the country.

Xinhua

Kerry says concerned about ongoing violence in Thailand

Washington, 1 March — US Secretary of State John Kerry on Friday expressed "deep concern" about ongoing politically motivated violence in Thailand, calling on Thai authorities to make a swift investigation into the attacks.

"As a father and grandfather, the death of several innocent children is particularly horrifying, and must at last be a wake-up call to all sides to refrain from violence, exercise restraint, and respect the rule of law," the top American diplomat said in a statement.

At least 23 people have been killed, among them four children, and nearly 800 others injured since anti-government protests broke out in November in the Southeast Asian nation. The demonstrators are trying to force out Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra and her government.

"I call upon Thai authorities to investigate these attacks swiftly and bring those responsible to justice," Kerry said. "Violence is not an acceptable means of resolving political differences."

Stating that Washington does not take sides in Thai politics, he voiced concern about "the employment of other tactics that undermine Thailand's democratic values and processes, inhibit compromise, and further exacerbate political tensions."

Xinhua

National peace talks held in Venezuela to end protests

Caracas, 1 March — Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro opened another session of a national conference for peace on Friday, seeking to put an end to the country's weeks-long violent protests.

At the meeting, Maduro proposed turning the event into a "permanent" forum.

Among other measures to promote peace, Maduro called for a political liaison committee as a permanent channel of communication between various sectors in Venezuela.

He also urged right-wing student leaders, who reportedly instigated the anti-government protests starting on 12 February, to decide how they wanted to participate in the peace talks, saying he was ready to meet them at Miraflores, the Presidential Palace.

Maduro also voiced his concern about rising anti-Cuban sentiment among right-wing extremists, as evidenced by placards and banners in opposition rallies and marches.

Some 25,000 Cuban doctors and healthcare workers were in Venezuela as part of a bilateral cooperation agreement, and their lives could be endangered, said Maduro.

Xinhua

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro (L) addresses the National Conference for Peace with members of his cabinet and other representatives of different sectors at Simon Bolivar Hall of the Miraflores Palace, in Caracas, Venezuela, on 28 Feb, 2014.— **Xinhua**

LOCAL MARKETS

The following is the reproduction of the Myanmar Hotel and Tourism Guide 2013. Please visit www.tourismguide.com.mm for further information. — Ed

Bogyoke Aung San Market,Yangon

The landmark Bogyoke Aung San Market opened in 1926 under the name Scott Market in honour of Gavin Scott, Municipal Commissioner under the British government of the time; the name was changed after Myanmar became independent.

Not much has changed since; it still caters to the needs of the locals shopping for fabrics, the latest fashions, cosmetics and accessories. Myanmar women still like the hand-woven silks and cottons which also attract visitors. For the latter there are many shops offering high-quality antiques, crafts and jewellery. Browsing through the hundreds of stalls is an experience not to be missed.

Zegyo Market, Mandalay

Unfortunately the old sprawling, one-storey Zegyo Market of Mandalay had to make way to a new multi-story modern structure in the face of rising real estate, but the wares available are still the same, such as the paraphernalia for feasts and ceremonies so dear to the heart of the rural folk, who shop here for the novitiation parades of their sons, the weddings of daughters, or for religious ceremonies held throughout the year.

Five Days' Markets of the Shan State

Inlay Lake stretches 11 miles from the northern tip to the southern end and there are about 22 villages on its banks. There are many more villages in the valleys of the hills surrounding the lake and although the farmers living there have enough food from what they grow or breed or gather from the forests, they need to shop about once a week. Called the Five Day Markets, each market group moves around ten or so villages and returns to each big village within five days and ten for smaller villages.

The mobile markets, each with a large group of traders, sell all kinds of merchandise ranging from dry goods, salted dry fis and fresh meat to ready-made clothing and noodles. There are also women with sewing machines who sew newly purchased garments, as well as barbers, knife sharpeners, and shoe repairers.

These markets are an important part of life for the Inle region's population not only for the goods and services they provide but to maintain contacts with friends and family from other places or to send messages through the traders. They can also sell their home-grown vegetables, eggs, woven textiles or hand crafted utensils.

WORLD

Japan's lower house approves record 95.88 tril yen FY 2014 budget

Ruling Liberal Democratic Party members applaud after the House of Representatives approves a 95.88 trillion yen ($941.7 billion) draft budget for fiscal 2014 during a plenary session in Tokyo on 28 Feb, 2014, ensuring its enactment by the end of the fiscal year on 31 March. KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 1 March — Japan's House of Representatives gave the nod on Friday to a draft budget for fiscal 2014 totaling a record 95.88 trillion yen ($941.7 billion), ensuring its enactment by the end of this fiscal year on 31 March.

The budget bill mapped out by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government will go to the House of Councillors for deliberations, after opposition parties called in vain for the details to be scrutinized in the lower house. Under the Constitution, the annual budget is automatically enacted within 30 days of being sent to the upper chamber after the more powerful lower house's approval.

The opposition bloc has criticized the budget draft as failing to cut wasteful spending and pave the way for restoring Japan's precarious fiscal health, the worst among major developed nations.

Abe's ruling Liberal Democratic Party and its coalition partner, the New Komeito party, are aiming to secure passage of the budget by the end of next month to implement it from 1 April, when the country's sales tax rate will be raised.

The budget for the next fiscal year contains measures to ease the potential negative impact of the 3-percentage-point tax hike to 8 percent, such as boosting public works projects, which the government sees as having an immediate effect on the economy.

Kyodo News

TEPCO to reinforce monitoring of tanks at Fukushima plant

TOKYO, 1 March — Tokyo Electric Power Co. announced Friday a set of measures to reinforce its monitoring of radioactive water storage tanks at the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, following a recent 100-ton leakage.

To ensure workers do not miss signs of possible leakage, the plant operator said it has revised manuals and will create a system to double-check data on water levels inside the tanks as well as enhance training to raise safety awareness.

TEPCO will also take steps so that the around 130 valves attached to water transfer pipes cannot be easily opened or closed, such as by placing padlocks and increasing the number of surveillance cameras near water treatment equipment.

The latest announcement came after roughly 100 tons of highly toxic water was found to have overflowed from one of the huge tanks set up at the site on 19 February. The direct cause of the leakage was an incorrect valve operation, which led toxic water to be injected into the tank that was nearly full.

But TEPCO has been criticized for its action after an alarm warned of a rise in the tank's water level. Workers judged that the water-level gauge had malfunctioned because of the irregular readings it started to show afterward.

TEPCO said it plans to have the water-level data checked not only at its control room for water treatment but also at a building serving as an accident response centre.

Kyodo News

Thai protesters to end 'Bangkok Shutdown' on Sunday

BANGKOK, 1 March — Antigovernment protesters are planning to end traffic blockades in Bangkok's key business districts on Sunday night and move all main rally sites to a park in the heart of the capital, the protest leader announced on Friday night.

The leader, former deputy Prime Minister Suthep Thaugsuban, told the crowd that the demonstrators will restore normal traffic because the blockades had hurt businesses and residents. He added the blockade of government agencies will remain.

All rally venues in main business districts such as Silom, Siam, Ratchaprasong and Asoke will be dissolved and combined into a site inside Lumpini Park near Silom, Suthep said.

"We will set up a new rally site at the Lumpini Park and will maintain this site in parallel with shutting down government agencies and Shinawatra business interests", said Suthep, who is leading the movement to unseat Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra.

Suthep apologized to Bangkok citizens for the blockades that the protesters put up in mid-January, with the aim of adding momentum to the protest movement that started in November following the passage of an amnesty bill that they see will benefit Yingluck's older brother in exile, ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

Kyodo News

People visit China's Taiwan exhibition booth during the New York Times Travel Show in New York, the United States, on 28 Feb, 2014. The New York Times Travel Show, the largest consumer and trade travel event of its kind in the US, kicked off on Friday, which attracted about 430 exhibitors from 150 nations and regions to attend.—XINHUA

Obama warns Russia of 'costs' for intervention in Ukraine

Washington, 1 March — President Barack Obama warned Russia on Friday that military intervention in Ukraine would lead to "costs," as tension with old foe President Vladimir Putin rose in a Cold War-style crisis.

"We are now deeply concerned by reports of military movements taken by the Russian Federation inside of Ukraine," he told reporters.

Obama and European leaders would consider skipping a G8 summit this summer in the Russian city of Sochi if Moscow intervenes militarily in Ukraine, a senior US official said. The G8 includes the world's seven leading industrial nations and Russia.

"The United States will stand with the international community in affirming that there will be costs for any military intervention in Ukraine," Obama said in the White House briefing room.

US President Barack Obama delivers remarks on the situation in Ukraine from the Press briefing room at the White House in Washington, on 28 Feb, 2014.
Reuters

Facing yet another confrontation with Putin after butting heads with him over Syria, Obama said any violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity would be "deeply destabilizing."

Obama did not spell out what he meant by Russian military intervention.

Reuters

Canada's warship adrift in mid-Pacific after fire

Ottawa, 1 March— A Canadan warship has been stopped from returning home in mid-Pacific after a fire damaged its engine room, Canada's Defence Department said on Friday.

Royal Canadian Navy vessel *HMCS Protecteur*, a supply ship with 24,700 ton full load, reported the fire at 10:20 pm Pacific Standard Time on Thursday and the fire wounded some sailors before it was extinguished.

"*Protecteur* is presently located approximately 340 nautical miles (630 km) northeast of Pearl Harbour," the department said in a statement. "The ship has limited power and a return to Pearl Harbour is expected." *Protecteur* was returning from operational duties in the mid-Pacific Ocean toward its home port at Esquimalt in British Columbia with 279 crew, 17 family members and two civilian contractors who joined the ship for the return transit.

The navy said having family members on board for the last part of a sail was a common practice with Royal Canadian Navy ships returning from extended operations and exercises.

Xinhua

Jailed Venezuela protest leader mocks Maduro's talks

Caracas, 1 March — Jailed Venezuelan protest leader Leopoldo Lopez scoffed on Friday at President Nicolas Maduro's efforts to open talks with opponents and businessman after a month of demonstrations and violence that have killed at least 17 people.

Maduro, 51, seems to have weathered the worst of an explosion of protests against his socialist government that exposed deep discontent with economic problems and brought the nation's worst unrest in a decade. Some students are still setting up roadblocks and clashing with police in Caracas and the western state of Tachira. But the number of protesters has dropped, and many Venezuelans have begun heading for the beach to enjoy a long weekend for Carnival celebrations.

To try to ease the crisis further, Maduro has been holding talks with business and church leaders and some anti-government politicians, though the main opposition figures such as two-time presidential candidate Henrique Capriles have boycotted them.

Lopez, a hardline opposition leader who faces charges of fomenting the violence, said Maduro's offer of dialogue was a hypocritical move to try to deflate the protests while failing to address the deep-seated problems behind them.

"'The dialogue' is a tactical retreat as a result of the pressure in the streets. It's not real conviction," Lopez said in a message from Ramo Verde military prison given to his wife, who tweeted it from his account, @leopoldolopez.

"Maduro's dialogue is: 'come to Miraflores (presidential palace) and while I speak to the nation, I pursue, kill and repress in the streets'." More than 250 people have been hurt in the unrest and another 500 or so arrested, authorities say. Venezuela's state prosecutor says 17 people have died, the latest victim shot while trying to dismantle a barricade in Carabobo state.

Venezuelan opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez is escorted by supporters before handing himself over in Caracas on 18 Feb, 2014.—Reuters

Most of the 55 people still behind bars are protesters, but seven intelligence agents and security officials have also been detained over the shooting of two people in downtown Caracas after a February 12 rally that sparked the worst trouble.—*Reuters*

Colombian rebels want US to participate in peace talks

Havana, 1 March — Colombia's FARC rebels asked for the United States to join its peace talks with the Colombian government, saying on Friday it would speed up the process because Washington was making all the important decisions anyway.

The US State Department said it disagreed with FARC's assessment and was unaware of any effort to join the talks. Colombia did not respond to the request, which it would likely reject on grounds of national sovereignty. "We are discussing a matter of interest for the United States," Ivan Marquez, head of the FARC's negotiating team in Havana, told reporters before entering the latest round of talks. "Who is really determining what happens or not here is the US government, so we would like to speak with the government of the United States ... We would reach an understanding much quicker," Marquez said.

Colombia's Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) lead negotiator Ivan Marquez talks to the media during a news conference in Havana on 24 Jan, 2013.
Reuters

For the past 15 months, Cuba has hosted talks aimed at ending a half-century guerrilla conflict, the longest in Latin America, which has claimed some 200,000 lives and displaced millions more. Norway has participated in the talks as a so-called facilitator.

The FARC, which stands for Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, criticized a purported encounter between the United States and Colombia in which it said Colombian Defence Minister Juan Carlos Pinzon met with the US State Department and the Central Intelligence Agency. *Reuters* has not confirmed whether such a meeting took place. State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said during a news briefing that the United States welcomed the peace process but that "we are not a party to these negotiations and not aware of efforts for us to be a party to these negotiations."

Reuters

S Korea proposes to hold regular family reunions with DPRK

Seoul, 1 March — South Korean President Park Geun-hye on Saturday proposed to hold regular family reunions with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), saying the issue is becoming increasingly urgent as many elder family members have passed away.

The two Koreas ended a six-day reunion of families separated by the Korean War on Tuesday at the DPRK's Mount Kumgang resort where hundreds met their long-lost relatives for the first time in six decades. It was the first reunion of separated families in over three years.

Park also urged Pyongyang to shut down its nuclear programme and cooperate with Seoul for unification.

"A unified Korean Peninsula will be a heart of peace linking Eurasia to Northeast Asia. Northeast Asian countries will also be able to find new opportunities for development from a peaceful, unified Korean Peninsula," *Yohap* news agency quoted Park as saying.

Local media reported earlier citing South Korean Defence Ministry that the DPRK fired four short-range missiles, from Gitaeryeong area on the DPRK's southeastern coast at around 5:42 p. m. Thursday, toward the northeastern waters.

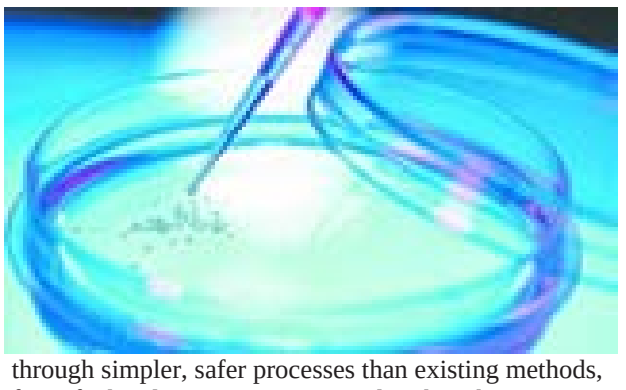
A Defence Ministry official said that the DPRK's move came after South Korea and the United States began their annual joint war games as scheduled despite the DPRK's demand for the delay or cancellation of the drills.—*Xinhua*

New stem cell research raises questions, so far lacks reproducibility

Tokyo, 1 March —Since its publication on 30 January in the British science journal *Nature*, a research paper on so-called STAP cells heralding what appears to be a groundbreaking new stem cell technology has grabbed headlines but at the same time drawn a number of questions. The Japanese government-affiliated Riken institute and the British magazine have started investigations after comments were made in the Internet sphere about passages and images in the paper that raise questions about authenticity.

At this moment, Riken insists that, despite the allegations, "what the research has achieved itself is unwavering." The institute is expected to report its findings from the probe soon. But the credibility of the paper has also come under suspicion on another front. No other researchers have come forward so far to claim they have produced stem cells using the same method. Reproducibility is the touchstone of scientific research and its absence could throw the conclusion of the study into question.The paper titled "Stimulus-triggered fate conversion of somatic cells into pluripotency" was lead-authored by Haruko Obokata, a unit leader at the Riken Center for Developmental Biology, and attracted huge public attention in Japan.

Obokata's team claims their method can produce versatile cells that can turn into various parts of the body



through simpler, safer processes than existing methods, free of ethical questions associated with embryonic stem cells. Questions raised about the paper focus chiefly on three points. First, an image in the paper purporting to show that a STAP cell can develop into a placenta is similar to an image from another experiment. Second, there appear to be anomalous lines in an image of DNA fragments. Third, the paper contains a passage nearly identical to a section in another paper, used without citation. Teruhiko Wakayama, a professor at Yamanashi University who co-authored the paper, admitted an error in the placenta picture but said it was mere carelessness.

"I took hundreds of pictures of a single placenta from different angles and gave them to Ms Obokata. I believe Ms. Obokata made an error," he said. In presenting electrophoresis, a process using electricity to separate DNA fragments, it is common to show an image of different DNA fragments tested simultaneously side-by-side for comparison.

In the paper in question, anomalous lines are seen in the image, raising suspicions that it may be a composite photo using images from different experiments. Sometimes researchers adjust contrast to make images clearer, but use of a composite image without explanation is not condoned.

It was just in December that the University of Tokyo published an interim report calling for retractions and corrections for 51 papers after a team at the university's Institute of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences was found to have created composite photos of electrophoresis. The professor found responsible for the problem has resigned from the university.

On reproducibility, attempts have been made but so far no tangible result has been reported. "We tried twice but haven't been able to produce STAP cells," said Yoshiyuki Seki, a lecturer in developmental biology at Kwansei Gakuin University.

"It's possible we didn't do the experiment in the same conditions as in the paper," he said.

Kyodo News

Frequent childhood nightmares linked to risk of mental illness

Washington, 1 March — Children who suffer from frequent nightmares or bouts of night terrors may be at an increased risk of mental illness in adolescence, a new study said on Friday. The study, published in the US journal *SLEEP*, showed that children reporting frequent nightmares before the age of 12 were 3. 5 times more likely to suffer from psychotic experiences in early adolescence. Similarly, experiencing night terrors doubled the risk of such problems, including hallucinations, interrupted thoughts or delusions, it said.

Younger children, between two and nine years old, who had persistent nightmares reported by parents had up to 1.5 times increased risk of developing psychotic experiences. Nightmares are considered to be commonplace in young children with incidence reducing as they grow older. They occur in the second half of sleep during rapid eye movement (REM) sleep. Those who have experienced them will be familiar with the sensation of waking suddenly with a sense of fear, worry and possible palpitations.

Night terrors, a sleep disorder, differ from nightmares and occur during deep sleep (non-REM) cycles in the first half of the night. A night terror bout is often signified by a loud scream and the individual sitting upright in a panicked state, though unaware of any of the involuntary action. The thrashing of limbs and rapid body movements are witnessed in more extreme cases. Children wake up in the morning unaware of their activity throughout the night.

"We certainly don't want to worry parents with this news; three in every four children experience nightmares at this young age," lead author Dieter Wolke, professor of the University of Warwick, said in a statement."—*Reuters*

US expands healthy food assistance to women, infants and children

Washington, 1 March — Some 9 million poor women and young children who receive federal food assistance under the US government's so-called WIC programme will have greater access to fruits, vegetables and whole grains under an overhaul of the program unveiled on Friday. The US Department of Agriculture hailed the revamping of its Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children as the first comprehensive revisions to WIC food voucher allowances since 1980.

Dietician Tiffany Willard (L) teaches breastfeeding to expectant mother Kiyana Aiono at the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) office inside a Salt Lake County health clinic in West Valley City, Utah, on 2 Oct, 2013.
Reuters

The list of foods that recipients could pay for with WIC vouchers was long limited to such basics as milk, infant formula, cheese, eggs, cereals, bread and tuna fish. But many of the changes finalized by the USDA on Friday were instituted on an interim basis in 2007, including the introduction of fresh, frozen or canned fruits and vegetables to the list of WIC-covered foods. In its final form, the overhaul will boost by 30 percent, or $2 per month, the allowance for each child's fruit and vegetable purchases, and permit fresh produce in lieu of jarred infant food for babies, if their parents prefer.The update also expands whole grain options available to recipients and allows yogurt as a partial milk substitute, adding to the soy-based beverages and tofu that were previously included.—*Reuters*

Sharp to sell Pulogadung plant in Jakarta to cut costs

Osaka, 1 March — Sharp Corp is considering selling its Pulogadung plant in Jakarta after terminating the production of liquid crystal display televisions and other home appliances to slash costs, sources close to the matter said on Friday.

To compete with South Korean rivals, the company plans to concentrate its local production at its plant that began operations last fall in Karawang in the suburbs of the Indonesian capital. Sharp began manufacturing products mainly for Indonesia in 1971 at the Pulogadung plant, located in an area of about 130,000 square meters.

While ending washing machine production there in February, the Japanese company will also terminate that of refrigerators by spring next year. The company is expected to transfer the production of LCD TVs to the Karawang plant later.However, it is possible Sharp may rent out the plant rather than sell it, depending on conditions, the sources said.— *Kyodo News*

US GDP revised down, but hints of economic thaw emerge

Washington, 1 March — The US government slashed its estimate for fourth-quarter economic growth on Friday in the latest sign of a loss of momentum, but some tentative signs emerged that suggested the worst of the slowdown may be over.Gross domestic product expanded at a 2.4 percent annual rate, the Commerce Department said, down sharply from the 3.2 percent pace it reported last month and the 4.1 percent logged in the third quarter.

The economy has faced a number of headwinds, including a 16-day shutdown of the government in October and an unusually cold winter that has weighed on activity since late December.Growth has also been dampened by the expiration of long-term unemployment benefits, cuts to food stamps and businesses placing fewer orders with manufacturers as they work through a pile of unsold goods in their warehouses."I don't think the fundamentals have changed appreciably," said Ryan Sweet, a senior economist at Moody's Analytics in West Chester, Pennsylvania. "Heading into this year we knew it wasn't going to be smooth sailing." First-quarter growth is forecast at below a 2 percent pace. But other data on Friday on consumer sentiment, regional factory activity and housing suggested some economic thawing, which should put growth on a stronger path later in the year.—*Reuters*

***A holiday shopper carries a discounted television to the checkout at the Target retail store in Chicago, Illinois, in this file photo taken on 28 Nov, 2013.*—Reuters**

German scientists identify new mechanisms in cellular stress response

Berlin, 1 March — Germany's Max Planck Institute of Biochemistry announced Friday that their researchers could uncover an entire network of cellular helpers and thus identify new regulatory mechanisms of the cellular stress response, when a cell is exposed to dangerous environmental conditions. "Our results could also be of use for investigating neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's or Parkinson's," said institute's PhD student Christian Loew.

When an organism is exposed to life-threatening conditions, such as high temperatures, it signals the alarm and a cellular emergency programme, initiating the cellular stress response. Today researchers know that this program is also triggered by other dangers such as radiation or toxic substances. During the cellular stress response, different stress proteins are synthesized as to prevent permanent damage to the organism.

"You can compare it to an emergency alert. In order to restore the original status as soon as possible, problems and damages are identified, counter-measures initiated and coordinated," Loew said. In a comprehensive analysis, the Max Planck scientists have investigated 15,000 proteins and their role in the cellular stress response. The scientists could show that the helpers are organized in different groups according to their tasks and disaster zones.

One group of proteins, for instance, checks whether the DNA in the nucleus is still intact.

Reuters

Robot set challenge of passing top university exam

Tokyo, 1 March — If robots with artificial intelligence prove to outperform human beings, will most jobs that are currently done by humans be done by robots instead? To find out the answer, Noriko Arai, a mathematician at Japan's National Institute of Informatics, launched the "Can a Robot Get into the University of Tokyo?" project in 2011.

"Unless we find that out, we won't be able to design public policies on any of the subjects — education, the economy, labour or social welfare," the 51-year-old said.

Under the Todai Robot Project, as it called for short, a team led by Arai aims to develop computer programmes that will be smart enough to pass Japan's most competitive entrance examination for the University of Tokyo, known as "Todai," by 2021.

The professor at the institute's information and society research division says that each time human beings lose their jobs due to advances in AI technologies they will have to seek education and vocational training in completely new fields.

The government will also need to review its social insurance policies."If society as a whole can see a possible change coming in the future, we can get prepared now," she said.

As one example, Arai predicted that English education, which the Japanese government has strengthened in recent years, may not be necessary in the future if a portable simultaneous translation device is created. Another main purpose of the project is to test the capacity of the latest artificial intelligence technology.

Arai said that if machines cannot do any tasks that are currently done by human beings, "we need to clarify what is missing and move to develop the technology."

A robot took a mock test for Japan's standardized university entrance examination last year, but it failed to meet the research team's goal of getting a 50 percent score.

But the result indicated that the robot has an 80 percent or higher probability of passing exams for 404 universities across Japan and the deviation score for a University of Tokyo math test also came to 60, according to Arai.

"We are satisfied with the result for the first test," Arai said. Her team currently receives cooperation from professors at universities across Japan, publishers and other education-related companies, and even a high school student.

The team also invites people abroad to take part in the project's contests and presentations as well. "We want them to see how badly machines can perform as well.

They may feel (robots) are improving and gradually approaching the capacity of human beings," Arai said.

Kyodo News

Preparation for Chang'e-5 2017 launch as scheduled

Beijing, 1 March — Preparation for the 2017 launch of China's lunar probe *Chang'e-5* is going smoothly as planned, a leading scientist of the programme Ye Peijian told *Xinhua* on Saturday.

Chang'e-5, as an important part of China's third-phase lunar programme, is expected to bring back a moon rock sample to earth, a move hailed by Ye as "a historic moment" for China.

The *Chang'e-3* lunar probe soft-landed on the Moon on 14 December, with the country's first moon rover *Yutu* (Jade Rabbit) aboard. But Yutu has experienced a mechanical control abnormality, and scientists are still organizing repairs.

Xinhua

Scientist develops earpiece-shaped computer

Tokyo, 1 March — A researcher at Hiroshima City University in western Japan recently unveiled an earpiece-shaped computer that allows hands-free control of electronic devices through facial and head movements such as chomping one's teeth and nodding.

Kazuhiro Taniguchi, who teaches robotics at the university, said the technology will allow people to automatically open car doors and search for travel routes on a smartphone, opening up a wide range of possibilities for use by people with physical disabilities.

The computer, weighing 17 grams, uses sensors to detect the wearer's commands and combines GPS and other sensors to detect their location.

"Audible information is less intrusive than visual information, which gives (his device) the upper hand" compared to other wearable computers, Taniguchi said.

"You can study while listening to music but not while watching TV."

He said he is currently developing models with decorations geared toward women.

Kyodo News

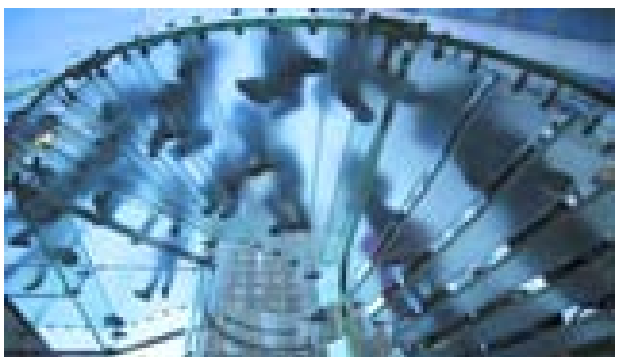
Apple CEO promises new products, says Apple TV no longer a 'hobby'

Cupertino, (California), 1 March — Apple Inc sold more than $1 billion of Apple TV set-top boxes in 2013 and is investing heavily in the next generation of products, Chief Executive Tim Cook said at the company's annual meeting on Friday. Apple's ability to again transform the fast-moving technology arena is the central question in investors' and Silicon Valley executives' minds as the company's growth slows, and rivals like Samsung Electronics Co Ltd and Google Inc take chunks out of its market share.

Industry executives and Apple observers continue to believe that the company will come up with some sort of wearable device, like a smartwatch, and speculation persists about a long-rumored TV product of some sort to shake up the living room viewing experience. "We're working on some things that are extensions of things you can see and some that you can't see," Cook said at the annual meeting, referring to a 32 percent increase in research and development costs last year.

Responding to a question about innovation, Cook said Apple preferred not to talk about new products under development so as not to tip off the competition."You can see we're getting ripped off left, right and sideways," he said. Apple's shares fell 0.27 percent to close at $526.24 on Friday. They have clawed back substantial ground since falling below $400 in June, but remain well below the record-high $700 level of 2012, weighed by concerns about whether the company has any new hit products in the pipeline.

Reuters



Shoppers are pictured inside an Apple store on 5th Ave during Black Friday Sales in New York on 29 Nov, 2013. —Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 2 March, 2014

Association and democracy

The country sees a growing number of associations since the current government has taken office. Strength of the associations can accelerate the democracy stream as well as contributing to economic development of the country.

The associations promote the sense of cooperation which is a need for the success of democracy. It can also promote mutual trust each other. Trust plays a pivotal role in building up a country. It is a bit difficult to build up a country in the low-trust society. Due to the lack of trust, there wouldn't be progress in political, economy, social, etc. Cooperation is a best tool for building trust. The associations that encourage the trust-building can create cooperation opportunities and cultivate the sense of tolerance.

According to the researches, there is a linkage between associational life and economic development. For the economic development, a country needs financial capital, human capital and social capital. The country that has human capital, financial capital and social capital would overtake a country lacking social capital. Social capital is the source of associations.

So, we need more associations in our democratic country. But activities, unity and efficiency of members is a must for the success of the associations.

Development of ...

(from page 1)

For higher quality and per acre yield of income-generating crops including paddy which is the country's staple crop, the agriculturalists are trying to carry out massive production and distribution of hybrid paddy, corns, beans and pulses, sunflower, fruits and vegetables seeds with the use of advanced seed production technology.

It is heartening to see more cooperation by private sector in production of quality seeds which is essential for agricultural sector development.

The government is giving the encouragement for exporting of valued-added products after the establishment of advanced rice mills, oil mills, fruit processing machines and advanced packing machine.

In addition, cooperatives sector helps the farmers enjoy the fruits of supply chain by ways of forming agricultural produces cooperatives societies.

Systematic arrangements are being made for emergence of wholesale market for seasonal crops. Now, the farmers' channel has been telecasting the real-time news on the farmers.

Esteemed peasantry,

Food is most essential for daily existence of our life. The world sees the growing number of population, reaching 9,000 million in 2050 from the current population of 7,000 million. At the time, the world would need more foods and water.

More emphasis should be placed on food security due to natural disasters such as global warming, climate change, storms and earthquakes, etc. Myanmar's population would reach over 100 million in the near future.

With the aim of ensuring the country's food sufficiency and exporting foods to international markets, it needs to give encouragements for mass production of crops. Myanmar is a resource-rich country. It is the high time to strive for national interest and multi-sector development including agricultural sector through the strength of farmers.

In that regard, farmers' mindset change, shift to irrigated system and mechanized farming system, use of quality seeds and production of advanced agricultural produces and value-added products would help overall development of agricultural sector and build up an agro-based industrialized country on a step-by-step basis.

Esteemed peasantry,

The government is seeking every possible ways to march towards a peaceful, modern, developed and democratic nation.

During the rest of its tenure, the government gives priority to rural development tasks and fulfilling the basic needs of all citizens including the farmers. On the other hand, the government is laying the basic foundation essential for long-term national interest and sustainable development. All citizens including the farmers are urged to join hands in an effort for long-term national interest.

Only census could provide amounts of data ...

(from page 1)

for participation of all in the process by giving accurate answers as census-taking is a noble process of making an investment for at least a decade.

It is required for everyone to get involved in the process, responding to all questions without any hesitations as everyone's information is kept confidential in accord with 2013 Census Law.

He called on the entire people including census workers to do their bit for the success of the census-taking process which is regarded as a national duty.

Next, the President formally opened the launching ceremony of 2014 nationwide census-taking process.

Then, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, vice-chairman of the central census commission, presented letters of duty assignment to the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairman and the region/state chief ministers.

Afterwards, those present enjoyed dinner hosted by the central census commission.

MNA

2nd Preparatory meeting for 3rd BIMSTEC Summit, related meetings held

***Second preparatory meeting for 3rd BIMSTEC Summit and related meetings in progress at Royal Kumudra Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.*—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 1 March—Altogether 49 delegates from Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Thailand, India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Asian Development Bank-ADB attended the second preparatory meeting for the 3rd BIMSTEC Summit and related meetings at Royal Kumudra Hotel here on Saturday.

Those were served with dinner in the evening.

The 16th BIMSTEC Senior Officials Meeting will be held on 2 March at Royal Kumudra Hotel and the 14th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting and the 3rd BIMSTEC Summit on 3 and 4 March at Myanmar International Convention Centre-MICC.—*MNA*

Agreement signed to launch worker's remittance to their families through mobile money system

YANGON, 1 March—Senior Managing Director Dr Wah Wah Sein of Today Top Star Co Ltd and Chief Executive Officer U Kyaw Swa Oo from Myanmar Mobile Money Services signed an agreement on launching Myanmar oversea worker's remittance to their families through mobile money system in the presence of Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Aye Myint at the job fair at MICT Park in Hline Township, Yangon on Saturday.

It is learnt that T.T.S Co and MMM Services will help reduce Myanmar oversea worker's remittance to their families by illegal means with the advantages of mobile money system. Legal remittance facilitates GDP of the country and plan is underway to broaden horizons of the workers.

The newly services of T.T.S Co Ltd and MMM is of inward remittance system and it offers safety and convenience for the customers, said CEO U Kyaw Swa Oo.

Similarly, Today Top Star Co Ltd and Myanmar Payment Solution Services Co Ltd signed an agreement to launch mobile money system recently.

MNA

Norwegian Foreign Affairs Minister arrives Yangon

YANGON, 1 March—Norwegian Foreign Affairs Minister Mr. Borge Brende and party arrived here on Saturday. They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by officials of Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

They visited the Shwedagon Padoga and signed the visitors' book.

Then, the Norwegian Foreign Affairs Minister accepted the book on history of Shwedagon Pagoda as gifts presented by Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees.—*MNA*

***Norwegian Foreign Affairs Minister Mr. Borge Brende being welcomed by officials at Yangon International Airport.*—MNA**

Cultivation of culture of rule...

(from page 1)

the determination of the date to sign a nationwide ceasefire agreement. Step by step, we will undertake the signing of the nationwide ceasefire agreement, agreement on the political dialogue framework and the inauguration of the political dialogue process.

Again, I would like to encourage the government, the legislature, the political parties and forces, the Tatmadaw, ethnic armed groups, civil society organizations and all the people to be magnanimous, worldly, patient and try to understand each other's needs so that we can work together to achieve peace in Myanmar.

I also met with members of the business community and representatives from business associations on February 22, 2014. The main message I communicated during the meeting was that the government is undertaking economic reforms to establish a well functioning national economic system. I also encouraged the private sector to view these economic reforms as opportunities within a new framework and participate in these reforms as well as make necessary adjustments themselves with a view of building a competitive business environment that serves as the basis for market economy.

I also reiterated that the private sector should shift their focus to finding solutions and building institutions in their specific areas of business expertise and activity instead of criticizing and viewing the economic reform process in a negative light.

During the past month, I also visited and inspected the ongoing building and renovation projects such as Bago-Sittaung dike, Htihlaing lake located in Meiktila district of Mandalay region, Zagyan-Kanmyae and Kanar lakes in Myinchan district that are necessary not only for agricultural production but also for flood protection. Not only do the building and renovation of rivers, creeks, ponds and lakes aid in water delivery for agricultural and human use, we are prioritizing such projects because they also improve the socio-economic conditions of the people living in the rural areas.

On the other hand, we are taking the lessons learned from the Cyclone Nargis disaster to undertake preventative measures to protect from natural disasters. More specifically, we are utilizing special funds allocated by the legislature for disaster preparedness to protect from natural disaster homes, agricultural lands, and water resources that people living in the rural areas depend on.

During this month, the President of the Federal Republic of Germany paid a goodwill visit to Myanmar commemorating 60 years of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and Germany. After discussions, we were able to reach agreements that forgive 50% of Myanmar's total debt of 1,048 million euros and restructure the remaining 50% of the debt into a low-interest, longer-term schedule. We were also able reach agreement to cooperate on the development of small and medium enterprises to aid in the overall reform process. In his speech delivered at the Convocation Hall at the University of Yangon, the President of Germany spoke about the experiences of East and West Germany and the role of the people in the democratic transition.

I have already articulated my position on Constitutional amendments in my previous speeches. I would again like to reiterate my view that necessary Constitutional amendments ought to be made to reflect the political, economic and social needs of the society. I would also like to stress that the political and media freedoms resulting from current political reforms have allowed the people and various political forces to freely discuss and debate issues touching on the amendment of the Constitution as well as other existing laws.

Even though we can choose to adopt different viewpoints with regards to the Constitution and existing laws, we must act within the existing legal frameworks and we need to respect the systems that are in place when we try to amend them. In other words, we need to instill a practice of acting within the legal fabric even if we don't like the fact that the laws we are trying to change still remain in place.

This cultivation of the culture of rule of law is extremely important for the future democratic growth of Myanmar.

Here, I would like to stress that my reason for speaking to the people of Myanmar through these radio addresses is to inform all you about the government's plans, highlight practical implementation of these plans and inform the public of my views on certain political, economic and social issues.

In other words, I am doing this as way to restart the direct communication between the government and the people that has been lost for quite some time. Likewise, I am putting my energy in this because I believe that setting up a regular practice of communicating with the people will compel the future leaders of this country to treat its citizens with respect.

I would like to conclude here by pledging that will work tirelessly to achieve peace in the country, promote economic development, and build a better future for the younger generations.

May you all have peace of mind and good health.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann meets with General Secretary U Puk Yu Yi of Wa Special Region-2. **(News on page 16)—MNA**

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann poses for documentary photo with Vice-Chairman U Sam Lu and party of Mongla Special Region-4. **(News on page 16)—MNA**

Private sector's effective participation in upgrading education sector

YANGON, 1 March—A meeting on private education for successful promotion of education sector and a workshop on national level programmatic education reforms took place at Yangon University's Diamond Jubilee Hall here on Saturday.

Union Minister for Education Dr Daw Khin San Yi, Deputy Minister Dr Zaw Min Aung and officials attended the meeting.

They had a discussion on effective participation of private sector in upgrading Myanmar's education sector development.—*MNA*

Sandpaintings, expression of cultural heritages of Bagan

It is delighted to see shops in which sand paintings reflecting Bagan's image and its rich cultural heritage are on display near ancient pagodas and temples. Bagan, Myanmar's famous old city, has a long and proud historical and cultural heritages.

Sandpainting is an art that traces its history back to the past fifteen years. Daw Sandar, an artist who arrived in Bagan at that time, handed over the art of sandpainting to a local called U Lin Min Phyo with the aim of revitalizing cultural heritages of the ancient cultural region. Within a short time, the art of sandpainting had spread among his friends who are interested in painting. They depict the amazing Bagan through their sand art, creating sand paintings that present cultural and traditional significances of the region to globetrotters.

Sandpainting is an art of pouring sands that come from Ayeyawady River onto the surface of a piece of white canvas to make a fixed sand painting through a combination between the art and glue.

As the sand art works attract the attentions of visitors, it has become a family business of local people.

"I create sand paintings and my wife display and sell them as a souvenir of Bagan at the pagoda bazaar. I passed down the sand art to my children. I feel very proud of making the tourists known the Bagan's rich cultural heritages through my sand paintings," said a local artist.

A sandpainting is priced from K 2000 to K 10000. Now, artists are making paintings that portray the religious edifices of historical and cultural importance.

Ko Myo
(Shwe Paukkan)

Prize awarded to outstanding students

NATMAUK, 1 March—Gwaychaung Village Basic Education Middle School Branch held the prize presentation for outstanding students in Natmauk Township, Magway Region on 27 February.

Officials presented prizes to outstanding students in respective grades and outstanding teachers.

Later, students performed entertainments to parents and teachers.

Township IPRD

Rural Development

Rural roads stretching in Thantlang Township

HAKA, 1 March – The 12 miles long earthen road is being constructed from Talang Villages A and B and Hariphe Village in Thantlang Township of Chin State on 26 February.

As part of efforts to develop rural areas, Chin State Rural Development Department built three miles and four furlongs long asphalt road, 199 miles and four furlongs long earthen road, expansion of the road width of 96 miles long earthen road to 18 feet wide one, seven 750 feet long wooden bridges, one 75 feet long bailey bridge, the long conduits, 40 solar power panels and 68 low-cost housings under the supervision of Ministry of Livestock Breeding, Fisheries and Rural Development and Chin State Government.

In addition, the department had also implemented construction of 40 rural supply projects, two urban water supply tasks and 200 fly-proof latrines.

The vocational training courses were conducted for two times, according to Head of Chin State Rural Development Department U Htay Win.

Thanks to new rural roads and expansion of the roads, people of Chin State can enjoy fruits of socio-economic status.

MMAL-Haka-District IPRD

Head of Chin State Rural Development Department U Htay Win and party inspect progress of 12-mile rural road in Thantlang Township.

Light fire engines handed over

KAWTHOUNG, 1 March—A ceremony to hand over light fire engines and related equipment provided by Taninthayi Region government was held at Hanthawady Hall of Kawthoung Township General Administration Department in Taninthayi Region, southern most of the nation, on 29 February morning.

On the occasion, Township Administrator U Parcy made a speech. Head of Township Fire Services Department U Tin Tun Naing explained use of light fire engines.

Next, the township administrator handed over fire engines and related equipment to 10 wards of Kawthoung, Khamaukkyi Sub-Township and villages.

The fire engines are to be used with diesel and petrol. All the fire engines and related equipment were worth K 5.8 million.

MMAL-Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)

Solar power introduced in Singaing Township

SINGAING, 1 March—District, township and village electrification committees held a meeting at the hall of Township General Administration Department in Singaing Township, Mandalay Region, on 25 February morning.

Deputy Commissioner U Ohn Than of Kyaukse District General Administration Department and the commander of District Police Force, Mandalay Region Hluttaw MP U Nyi Nyi explained work process for electrification to all the villages and plans of the Union government to provide assistance for works. District Electrical Engineer Daw Zar Zar Ohn and Township Electrical Manager U Naing Tun briefed all the participants on tasks of the enterprise and obligations of villagers for village electrification.

At the meeting, Oktha LED Factory of Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd demonstrated use of solar power to produce electrification.

The installation of solar panels for power supply will cost ranging K 30000 to K 500,000. A total of 63 villages are enjoying electrification. Altogether 25 villages are undertaking power supply projects.

A total of 12 villages have planned to electrification tasks through solar panels. In addition, 11 villages are preparing electrification, said manager of Township Electricity Enterprise U Naing Tun.

MMAL-Tun Tun Naing (Kyaukse)

Solar panels displayed for electrification of villages in Singaing Township.

Workshop on development of libraries in Toungoo District

TOUNGOO, 1 March—The training school of Information and Public Relations Department (Pyinmana) conducted the libraries development workshop on 3 and 4 February.

Staff Officer Daw Khaing Kyaing Thin of District IPRD recounted her experiences from ASEAN Library Development Forum 2014 at Nay Pyi Taw Thiri Mingala Hotel.

It was attended by heads of Township IPRDs and librarians totalling 18.

At the workshop, trainees shared knowledge and held debates and demonstrations.

Thanks to the workshop, the libraries will give public service media to the local people.

NLM-017

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The New Light of Myanmar

Sunday, 2 March, 2014

President calls for establishment of fruit & vegetables wholesale markets

NAY PYI TAW, 1 March — President U Thein Sein has called for establishment of fruit and vegetables wholesale markets to ensure the produce getting into the international market.

During his visit to the 900-acre farm where the horticulture exhibition will be held to mark the Peasants' Day which falls on 2 March, the president stressed the need to establish commercial farms in regions and states and produce marketable fruit and vegetables which are favourable to the climate of respective regions and states.

He also stressed the importance of cooperation between cooperative sector and private sector in packing and producing value-added products of fruit and vegetables grown by farmers and companies to be able to penetrate international market and to fetch good prices.

The President visited the booths staged by Ayeyawady Region, Yangon Region, Mandalay Region, Shan State, Bago Region, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, Sagaing Region, Magway Region, Taninthayi Region, Rakhine State, Mon State, Chin State, Kayin State, Kayah State and Kachin State at the horticulture exhibition in Nay Pyi Taw.

Agricultural companies and agricultural schools and university also exhibited booths at the show.— *MNA*

President U Thein Sein views fruits and vegetables at Horticilture Exhibition.—MNA

AEM Retreat sets priorities for ASEAN economic integration

NAY PYI TAW, 1 March—Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw chaired the 20th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Retreat in Singapore on Thursday. The AEM Retreat focused on strengthening preparedness for ASEAN economic integration ahead the 24th ASEAN Summit to be held in May, 2014.

In his address, the Union minister assured those present of Myanmar's commitment to ensuring expansion of SMEs, narrowing the development gap between the member countries and stepping up preparation for possible challenges and bringing successful outcomes in cooperation with dialogue partners to the region during Myanmar's ASEAN Chair in 2014.

Next, he took part in exchanging views on ASEAN economic integration and attended a press meet together with the ASEAN Secretary-General and Singaporean and Thai ministers.

The Union Minister who was also the chairman of the Retreat gave an account of the meeting that focused on 2014 priorities, the role of Myanmar's ASEAN Chairmanship, regional comprehensive economic integration, assistance to ensuring smooth and speedy transport in the region and post-2015 vision for ASEAN Economic Community.

The Union minister attended a working dinner for coordinating preparedness ahead of the AEM retreat on Wednesday and held discussions on the establishment of ASEAN-India Trade and Investment Centre and the AEM Roadshow to Canada.

MNA

Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw poses for documentary photo with ASEAN Economic Ministers at 20th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Retreat in Singapore.—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker meets delegates from Wa Special Region-2, Mongla Special Region-4

NAY PYI TAW, 1 March—Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann separately met with General Secretary U Puk Yu Yi of Wa Special Region-2 and party and Vice-Chairman U Sam Lu and party of Mongla Special Region-4 at the Speaker's residence on Saturday.

Those delegates will attend the ceremony to mark the nation-wide census taking process in 2014.—*MNA*

Press Release of Ministry of Health

The Ministry of Health is giving health care services to the people joining hands with UN agencies and social organizations at home and abroad. As a rumour is spreading that the government will suspend all operations of MSF Holland (Medicins Sans Frontiers – Holland) (AZG) for provision of medicines to the patients, the public are informed of the real situation as follows.

Officials of the Ministry of Health held a meeting with those from MSF Holland (AZG) on 28 February morning. According to the meeting's agreement, all functions being operated by MSF Holland (AZG) in Rakhine State will be temporarily suspended. Due to public acceptance and recommendation of ethnic organizations to MSF Holland (AZG)'s providing medical care in the regions and states, the government will allow its operations in other regions and states for the sake of the people. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two sides will be signed depending on the gears of working. When Rakhine State sees peace and stability, the government will consider to resume MSF Holland (AZG)'s health care services in Rakhine State in a certain period after reviewing its medical aid to the people in the other regions and states.

Ministry of Health

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The New Light of Myanmar

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3 troops killed, 6 injured as forces' convoy attacked in SW Pakistan

Islamabad, 1 March — At least three security personnel were killed and six others injured when a bomb exploded near a convoy of paramilitary troops in Pakistan's southwest Washiq District on Saturday morning, officials said.

Spokesperson of Frontier Corps (FC), a military force working under the country's paramilitary command, said that a bomb went off near the FC convoy in Sorab area of Washiq, a district located in the country's southwest Balochistan Province.

He said that some unknown militants detonated the bomb with a remote-controlled device and opened fire at the troops following the explosion, killing three of them right at the spot and injuring six others. The militants fled after retaliatory attack by the forces.

The injured people have been shifted to a nearby hospital. The area is cordoned off following the incident and an investigation process has started.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack yet. —*Xinhua*

Cambodian PM orders close of all shisha businesses

Phnom Penh, 1 March — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen on Friday ordered to shut down all shisha and e-cigarette businesses across the country, saying the increasing popular products contained high levels of addictive substances.

Shisha is flavoured tobacco smoked through a water pipe, while e- cigarette is a battery-powered device that simulates smoking by heating and vapourizing a liquid solution containing nicotine. "I'd like to order all authorities to close all shisha businesses across the country and call on all shisha business operators to immediately stop such businesses,"the premier said during the closing of an annual tourism conference."After being tested in laboratory, shisha contained high levels of addictive substances."—*Xinhua*

Malaysia, Philippines agree on peaceful settlement of disputes in South China Sea

Putrajaya, (Malaysia), 1 March — Philippine President Benigno Aquino III said here Friday that Malaysia and the Philippines agreed on the peaceful settlement of disputes in the South China Sea in accordance with the rule of law and United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). He made the remarks at a joint press conference with Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak, adding that both countries believed their potential to prosper could only be fully realized in the international context where the rule of law was upheld.

"We believe that adherence to the rule of law, positive engagement and sincere dialogue are fundamental if we are to build a truly prosperous and peaceful Southeast Asia, where no one is left behind," he said. Aquino said the two leaders reviewed many aspects of defence relations, particularly the educational and training exchanges between the armed forces and defense officials, as well as continued joint training activities and intelligence exchange.

He said both countries would be examining the progress of several initiatives and cooperation during the 8th Philippines-Malaysia Joint Commission Meeting, which would take place this year.

Aquino is on a two-day visit to Malaysia, which is his first since he took office as the Philippine President in 2010.—*Xinhua*

***Dancers perform in the ballet drama "The Red Detachment of Women" at the Tianjin Song and Dance Theater in Tianjin, north China, on 28 Feb, 2014. The theater will give a serious of classical dramas to make local people have more chances to enjoy them this year.—*Xinhua**

East Asia, other economies start talks on Palestinian development

Jakarta, 1 March — Ministers and officials from East Asian countries as well as other economies and international organizations started a conference in Jakarta on Saturday aimed at discussing ways to assist the Palestinian Authority in building its capacity. The second Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development, or CEAPAD, is being attended by officials from the Palestinian Authority, Indonesia and other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Japan, China and South Korea as well 13 observer countries and organizations.

The session is being co-hosted by Indonesia, Japan and the Palestinian Authority, which has sent Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah to the event.

Japan, which initiated the establishment of CEAPAD, co-hosted the first conference with the Palestinian Authority in Tokyo last year. "During the meeting, we will hear what Palestine needs, and based on that, the conference's participants will determine their commitments and concrete contributions related to capacity-building programmes to be provided to Palestine," Indonesian Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa told *Kyodo News* late Friday.

CEAPAD is designed to back up the "two-state solution" to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The 13 observer countries and organizations include the United States, the Arab League, the Islamic Development Bank, the Japan International Cooperation Agency, the World Bank and the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

ASEAN groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Kyodo News

Visitors look at wedding dresses during the Beijing International Wedding Culture Expo in Beijing, capital of China, on 28 Feb, 2014. The three-day expo kicked off at the Beijing Exhibition Centre on Friday.
Xinhua

China plans modern vocational education

Beijing, 1 March — The State Council, China's cabinet, met on Wednesday to discuss deploying a modern vocational education programme to improve the quality of the country's vast labour force and increase employment. Presided over by Premier Li Keqiang, the meeting agreed that developing the program is a strategic move for economic transformation and improvement of people's wellbeing.

The Chinese government has advocated a contemporary vocational education that will help nurture tens of millions of engineers, technical workers and "open the gates of success to young people," according to a statement from the meeting. It will also enhance market competitiveness of products made in China and help upgrade the Chinese economy, the statement said.

The meeting also outlined measures to strengthen vocational education, including giving vocational schools more independence and developing a talent cultivation mechanism under which schools and the enterprises jointly recruit and teach students. It called for authorities to encourage youngsters to grasp a specific skill rather than only have a diploma, and saw discussion of how to attract more non-governmental investment into the field.—*Xinhua*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (009)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (009) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.3.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WAN HAI LINES PTE LTD
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Documents show 1990s effort to 'humanize' Hillary Clinton

Former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who leads the pack of potential Democratic 2016 presidential contenders, speaks to a group of supporters and students at the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida on 26 Feb, 2014 file photo. —Reuters

Washington, 1 March — Aides in former President Bill Clinton's White House crafted a strategy to "humanize" then-first lady Hillary Clinton and work around her "aversion" to the national media, according to documents released on Friday. The documents also detailed the first lady's struggles in the early 1990s with her healthcare task force, including worries about resistance on Capitol Hill and an aide's warning the plan could not meet a pledge to allow patients to pick their doctors, a promise that also came back to haunt President Barack Obama.

The release of nearly 4,000 pages of previously sealed documents by the Clinton Presidential Library served to revisit Hillary Clinton's record and early struggles with her image as she gears up for a potential 2016 run for the presidency. The documents had previously been withheld from the public under a legal authority that expired last year.

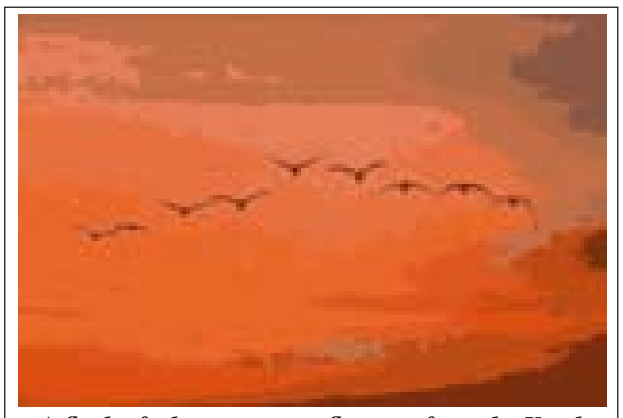
The documents shed light on efforts to overcome the perception that the first lady was aloof and calculating, detailing her attempts to win positive press coverage around the time she gave a speech at a UN conference in China in 1995 and ahead of her successful run for the US Senate in 2000. An August 31, 1995, memo by Clinton's press secretary Lisa Caputo suggested she do interviews with "regional media."

"Hillary is comfortable with the local reporters and enjoys speaking with them," the memo states. "This will help us get around her aversion to the national Washington media and serve to counter the tone of the national media."

The memo recommended a "Hillaryland Staff Outreach to Media" and urged Clinton aides to "socialize more" with reporters. "I believe it would create enormous good will for Hillary since we can all tell wonderful Hillary anecdotes that humanize her and show the press the good person that she is," it said. Such an effort would also correct the picture of Clinton's "being in a bunker mentality," the memo stated. It further suggested the "wild idea" of having the first lady make a guest appearance on the then-popular ABC sitcom "Home Improvement," starring Tim Allen.

In a 6 July, 1999, memo to Clinton as she headed off on a "listening tour" in New York state to introduce herself to voters ahead of her successful run for the Senate, consultant Mandy Grunwald advised her to be "chatty, intimate, informal" and "real."

Reuters



A flock of whooper swans fly away from the Yandunjiao Bay to the north as the spring approaches in Rongcheng, east China's Shandong Province, on 28 Feb, 2014. Some 8,000 whooper swans here started migrating to the north as the warm weather comes. Xinhua

Turkish top judicial body announces new appointments

Ankara, 1 March — Turkish government started to appoint new members of the key judicial body after a law on Supreme Council of Judges and Prosecutors (HSYK) entered into force on Friday.

Minister of Justice Bekir Bozdag has appointed five new deputy secretary-generals, one president and three vice presidents for the HSYK, replacing those who were dismissed when a draft law to restructure HSYK published on Thursday, the semi-official *Anadolu Agency* reported.

The law gives the minister of justice more rights over the judicial body, including appointing secretary-general of HSYK and members of the disciplinary board.

The main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) immediately applied to the Constitutional Court on Friday for the annulment of the law.

The controversial law came amid the political row which the Turkish government was shaken-up by a graft probe. The move on judiciary is seen as a backlash by Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan against the corruption and bribery investigation which led resignation of three ministers.—*Xinhua*

New York jury finds Kerry Kennedy not guilty of impaired driving

White Plains, (New York), 1 March — It took a jury less than hour to find the daughter of slain US Senator Robert F Kennedy not criminally liable for sideswiping a tractor-trailer while driving on a suburban New York highway, after mistakenly taking a sleeping pill.

After a four-day trial, the six-member jury quickly found Kerry Kennedy not guilty of driving while impaired by drugs. On 13 July, 2012, she took the sleeping pill zolpidem, known by the brand name Ambien, rather than her usual thyroid medication before getting behind the wheel of her silver Lexus.

"I'm incredibly grateful to the jury for working so hard on this case, and to my lawyers, and to my family and friends and so many other people who supported me," Kennedy, 54, told reporters after the verdict was read at Westchester County Court in White Plains, New York.

Nobody was injured in the 2012 accident, during which Kennedy drove for more than five miles (eight km) at high speed, swerving into other lanes and the medians on both sides of the highway before striking the truck, then leaving the scene of the accident.

Police found her passed out over the steering wheel and one officer suspected she might have suffered a seizure.

Kerry Kennedy, (L) daughter of assassinated Senator Robert F. Kennedy and the ex-wife of New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, exits the Westchester County Courthouse next to her mother Ethel Kennedy in White Plains, New York, on 28 Feb, 2014. Reuters

It was unusual to hold a full jury trial for the unclassified misdemeanor charge, and Kennedy's attorney suggested she was prosecuted in part because of her wealth and status as a member of one of the United States' most storied political families. Kennedy is the ex-wife of New York Governor Andrew Cuomo and niece of assassinated US President John F Kennedy and the late Senator Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts.

"It was so obvious this was an accident," defense attorney Gerald Lefcourt said of the charge after the verdict. He said he had wondered why the prosecution went ahead, adding, "Was it because of who the defendant was?"

Reuters

A villager works in the field at Dahe Township in Liupanshui City, southwest China's Guizhou Province, on 28 Feb, 2014. As weather warms up, farmers in Liupanshui are busy with spring ploughing.—Xinhua

British citizens advised not to travel to Crimea in Ukraine

London, 1 March — British Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Friday issued advises to people of British nationals to not travel to Crimean peninsula in southern Ukraine as tension is escalating in the area.

It also asked those who are already there to leave the area by commercial means.

The FCO advised against all travel to the Crimean Peninsula, saying "there has been increased violence and disturbances in Crimea, particularly in Simferopol."

It said in a statement there are media reports of blockades on roads out of the Crimean Peninsula. Armed men are reported to have seized Simferopol airport early on 28 February. Although the airport is reportedly operating as usual, we do not advise British nationals to try to leave from there until the situation becomes clearer.

Sevastopol (Belbek) airport is also reported to be blocked by military and flights are not operating.

"If you're currently visiting or living in Crimea, you should leave now by commercial means. Train routes are still operating out of the peninsula," the foreign office said.

Xinhua

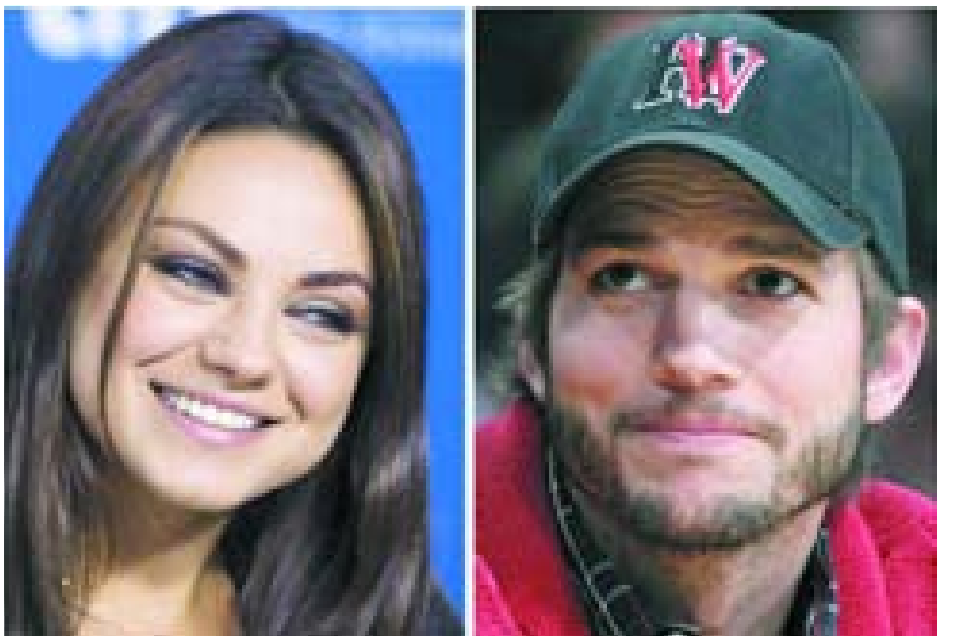
Hollywood's Mila Kunis, Ashton Kutcher engaged

Los Angeles, 1 March — Hollywood stars Ashton Kutcher and Mila Kunis are engaged to be married, according to *US Weekly* and the E! entertainment news website.

The two, who have been dating for about two years, appeared together on the popular television sitcom "That '70s Show."

Photographs on the *US Weekly* and E! websites taken of Kunis on Thursday in Los Angeles show her sporting a large diamond ring on her left hand. Kutcher, 36, is divorced from actress Demi Moore. He appears in the TV sitcom "Two and a Half Men" and starred last year in the movie "Jobs."

Kunis, 30, appeared in the movies "Ted" in 2012, "Black Swan" in 2010 and "Forgetting Sarah Marshall" in 2008.She was the longtime girlfriend of actor Macauley Culkin. Representatives for Kunis and Kutcher did not immediately respond to requests for comment.—*Reuters*



***Mila Kunis (L), seen at the Toronto Film Festival on 10 Sept, 2013 and Ashton Kutcher, seen at an LA Lakers game in Los Angeles on 1 May, 2012, are seen in a combination photo.*—Reuters**

Singer Rihanna poses before the Lanvin Fall/ Winter 2014-2015 women's ready-to-wear collection show during Paris Fashion Week on 27 Feb, 2014.
Reuters

Grey skies don't deter Rihanna at Paris fashion week

Paris, 1 March — Rainy skies did not deter the fashionistas from gathering this week in Paris — with singer Rihanna this season's front-row "It" girl — as the Fall/Winter ready-to-wear collections promised cold weather looks to warm the iciest of hearts.As winter refused to say goodbye in the City of Light, Dior head designer Raf Simons resuscitated his "flower woman" on Friday, this time sheathing her in doubled-breasted power suits with white laces up the sides.

That boudoir feel was nowhere to be seen, however, in the billowing quilted nylon dresses and skirts that ended the show — unless Simons was envisioning a high-fashion sleeping bag. Still, the audacious fabric and colour combinations, such as emerald green and fuchsia, kept fans of the house of Dior buzzing, and Rihanna, who sipped champagne from the front row at Lanvin the night before, slipped backstage to schmooze with Simons. Designer ready-to-wear, or pret-a-porter in French, is an 85-billion-euro ($116 billion) global business, according to Euromonitor, and the fashion week that runs from Tuesday through to March 3 is a major advertising weapon for brands. Rihanna, one of many celebrities including model Miranda Kerr and actress Jessica Alba who cropped up this week, did not let the weather get her down. At a Lanvin after-party, the "Umbrella" pop star showed up in a see-through fishnet top, while at Dior, black-gartered stockings peeked out underneath a red coat.—*Reuters*

***Actor Josh Gad, voice talent for "Olaf" in the animated film "Frozen", poses at the 51st annual Publicists Guild Awards in Beverly Hills, California on 28 Feb, 2014.*—Reuters**

'Frozen,' famous musicians in fierce fight for best song Oscar

Los Angeles, 1 March — A recent Grammy winner, a legendary rock band, a Broadway star belting out a girl-power ballad and an impossibly cool indie rocker have found themselves at the juncture of one of the most compelling Oscar races of the year: best original song. It's a category that has drawn big names and some drama of its own, and a lot of buzz around one song in particular that many girls and their parents are now playing in their heads; "Let It Go," from Disney's blockbuster animated film "Frozen.""The song category is the most interesting category in my opinion, and it's drawn the biggest campaigning this year," said Matthew Belloni, executive editor of trade magazine *The Hollywood Reporter*.

The best original song category drew attention early in the race when Oscars organizers revoked a nomination for "Alone Yet Not Alone," from an independent Christian faith movie of the same name, citing improper campaigning by the songwriter.The remaining four contenders span a wide spectrum of genres: Grammy winner Pharrell Williams' upbeat R&B ditty "Happy" from "Despicable Me 2," Broadway star Idina Menzel's inspirational interpretation of "Let It Go," indie rocker Karen O's dreamy ballad "The Moon Song" from "Her," and U2's rock-infused "Ordinary Love" from "Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom."All four acts will lend their star power on the Oscars stage on Sunday to sing the nominated tunes.

Reuters

Conmen posing as Red Chillies employees dupe aspiring actors

Red Chillies is headed by Shah Rukh and Gauri Khan

Mumbai, 1 March — More than 300 junior artists and struggling actors gathered at Versova police station yesterday, alleging that they had been cheated by people who had identified themselves as employees of production house Red Chillies, which is headed by Shah Rukh and Gauri Khan.

The complainants told the police that they had received text messages saying that Red Chillies was conducting an audition for a forthcoming film at a bungalow in MHADA Colony, Andheri (West). Several people turned up for the auditions.

On reaching the spot, they were asked to pay Rs 3,000 each for an artist card that they would be doled out before the audition.

Rahul, one of the complainants, said, "We received the messages on our phones inviting us to audition for Shah Rukh Khan's production house for a project. We were asked to pay Rs 3,000 as fees to appear for the audition."Another complainant said,

"There were around 100 people in queue, who paid the fees. Girls were called inside, while we were asked to wait outside. When we realised that it was being run by some frauds, we caught three of the organizers and handed them over to Versova police, but they were released later."

PTI

Photo taken on 15 Feb, 2014 shows Japanese actress Haru Kuroki holding the Silver Bear trophy at a Press conference in Berlin, Germany. Kuroki won the best actress award at the 64th Berlin International Film Festival for her part in director Yoji Yamada's "The Little House."
Kyodo News

Holders Olympiakos struggle as Barcelona march on

Belgrade, 1 March — Euroleague holders Olympiakos Piraeus face an uphill battle to reach the knockout stages following a 78-74 defeat at Fenerbahce while Barcelona stretched their winning Top 16 streak to eight matches. CSKA Moscow won a rip-roaring Russian classic against Lokomotiv Kuban Krasnodar 94-93 and former Los Angeles Lakers forward Lamar Odom made a cameo appearance for Spaniards Laboral Kutxa Vitoria who are bottom of Group E with a 1-7 record.

Fenerbahce hauled themselves back into the hunt for a quarter-final berth after forward Linas Kleiza and playmaker Lester Bo McCalebb scored 41 points between them in front of a fervent home crowd in Istanbul on Friday. It was a third win on the trot for Fenerbahce who have a 4-4 record as do Olympiakos, fellow Greeks Panathinaikos and Spaniards Unicaja Malaga with a four-way dogfight developing for three tickets to the knockout stages.

The quartet trail Emporio Armani Milan who have a 5-3 record and runaway leaders Barcelona who are on the verge of sealing their passage with games to spare after Croatia center Ante Tomic amassed 26 points and 15 rebounds in an 89-84 overtime win at Anadolu Efes Istanbul." It was a great effort from Efes but we played really smart in the last couple of minutes of regular time and then put our hearts on the court to win the game," Barcelona coach Xavi Pascual told www.euroleague.net. — *Reuters*

Freiburg hold Berlin to goalless draw in German Bundesliga

Berlin, 1 March — Berlin failed to grab decisive points against bottom side Freiburg, to open the 23rd round of the German Bundesliga on Friday. Hertha Berlin squandered the chance to tighten their place in the top six as the hosts shared the spoils with Freiburg following a goalless draw after 90 minutes. Thus, Freiburg remain in relegation zone. The hosts nearly caught a bright start as Sami Allagui pulled just wide with 20 seconds into the game. Freiburg, that were mostly defensively orientated, worked out their first chance at the 8th minute when Berlin goalkeeper Thomas Kraft had to defuse Admir Mehmedi's deflected shot on target.

Berlin's Marcel Ndjeng created the best chance for the hosts when the midfielder headed just wide of the left post. However, the visitors had arguably the best chance to break the deadlock through Mehmedi, who was unable to overcome Kraft following a square pass by Jonathan Schmid at the 44th minute.

Freiburg's best man had another chance to break through tie but Thomas Kraft tipped his effort over the bar to deny the opener after the restart. Meanwhile Freiburg's custodian Oliver Baumann denied Adrian Ramos twice to secure one point for his side on the road.

The following fixtures are scheduled for Saturday: front runners Bayern Munich encounter fourth placed Schalke, runners-up Leverkusen clash Mainz, third positioned Dortmund see Nuremberg, bottom side Braunschweig meet Monchengladbach, Bremen host Hamburg for the Northern derby and Augsburg take on Hannover.

Xinhua

McIlroy retains command at Honda Classic

Cary, (NC), 1 March —Rory McIlroy recovered from a poor start to record six birdies and earn a one-shot lead after the second round of the $6 million Honda Classic in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida on Friday.

The Northern Irishman, who had been one ahead overnight after opening with a flawless 63, remained mentally upbeat despite two early bogeys and his positive attitude was rewarded with a four-under-par 66 at PGA National.

"It's just another 36-hole lead," McIlroy told reporters after posting an 11-under total of 129, one ahead of Zimbabwean Brendon de Jonge (64) and three clear of American Russell Henley (68) on a day of contrasting fortunes for the big names.

Masters champion Adam Scott, who played with McIlroy for the first two rounds, made two double bogeys on the way to a 69 as he fell eight eight shots off the pace.

World number one Tiger Woods continued his recent struggles, making the cut with nothing to spare at even-par 140 after carding a 69, while Phil Mickelson will have the weekend off after shooting a 71 for a one-over total.

McIlroy, 24, has rediscovered his form in the past few months and says he is back at the comfort level he enjoyed in late 2012, when he was riding high atop the world rankings. He changed driver and ball last autumn and sounds eminently satisfied with the results, saying he can hit a variety of shots with the new combination. "I'm much more comfortable with everything and I think it shows in the way I'm playing," he said.

Reuters

Rory McIlroy rests on his bag on the 18th hole during the second round of the Honda Classic at PGA National GC Champion Course on 28 Feb, 2014; Palm Beach Gardens, FL, USA.—Reuters

Man Utd team with Google to put faraway fans pitchside

London, 1 March — Manchester United have joined forces with technology giant Google to allow a handful of soccer fans around the world to follow next month's clash with Liverpool as if they were pitchside at Old Trafford.

To heighten the sense of being at the game, images of the fans will appear live on the digital advertising hoardings at the stadium during the Premier League game on 16 March. Their pictures will be streamed using the Google+Hangout system — a video chat function.

Google described the move as an "experiment into what the future of supporting your team could be", although the initiative will be limited to only around 10-20 fans this time. United fans are being asked to share a picture on Google+ with the tag "#MUFrontRow" to show their support and the participants will be chosen from this group. English champions United claim to have more than 650 million global followers.

Reuters

Federer beats Djokovic into final at Dubai Open

Dubai, 1 March — Swiss tennis ace Roger Federer, the world's No 8 in the ATP ranking, defeated the title defender Novak Djokovic of Serbia in a tough battle of three sets to reach the Dubai Open ATP final on Friday.The Swiss rallied to beat the world No 2 Serbian in 3-6, 6-3, 6-2.Federer said: "I really enjoyed the match, I had a tough start in the first set, but the crowds pushed me and that gave me real boost."

At the beginning of the second set, the match had to be delayed for some time when rain came up for about ten minutes.The Serbian tennis champion Djokovic reached the semifinal from a walkover of Russian player Mikhail Youzhny, who felt sick ahead of the quarterfinal on Thursday.

Federer, who won the Dubai Open five times in his career, will encounter on Saturday Czech player Tomas Berdych in the final. Federer added: "tactically, I always try to play aggressive, I have never been the defensive player, Berdych is a great player with an unbelievable hard forehand and backhand hand so I must come with something different to beat him in the final on Saturday."

Reuters

Novak Djokovic of Serbia

Manchester United's Robin Van Persie celebrates scoring against Stoke City during their English Premier League soccer match at Old Trafford Stadium in Manchester, northern England,on 26 Oct, 2013.—Reuters

Australia celebrates 100 years of military aviation

Canberra, 1 March — The Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) marked 100 years of military aviation in Australia on Saturday with an air show at Point Cook, Victoria.

Attending the celebration, Shadow Defence Minister Stephen Conroy said military aviation has been a "vital pillar of our Defence Force and in ensuring our national security". Royal Australian Air Force chief, Air Marshal Geoff Brown, said on Friday it was important to remember the contribution past aviators had made to the air force of today. "As we host the celebration of the centenary of Australia's first military flight, we are also focused on maintaining the traditions of service that have built the world's second oldest air force," he said. Brown said the organization was on the threshold of an evolutionary change with the introduction of a fifth generation aircraft to be rolled out soon.

"The first Australian *F-35A* Lightning II (Joint Strike Fighter) is nearing completion and our pilots begin training to fly this aircraft this year," he said.

Shadow Assistant Minister for Defence David Feeney said the fifth generation fighter is set to provide the RAAF with crucial capabilities that they need to meet Australia's future security needs.—*Xinhua*

Popular nursery rhyme poet Mado dies at 104

Tokyo, 1 March — Michio Mado, a Japanese poet known for his nursery rhymes, died of old age at a Tokyo hospital Friday, his family said. He was 104.

Mado penned many poems and children's songs including the popular ''Zosan'' (Elephant), ''Yagi-san Yubin'' (Goat mail service) and ''Ichinensei ni Nattara'' (When I become a first grader), becoming a well-known figure in postwar Japan.

The poet, whose real name was Michio Ishida, began writing lyrics for children's songs after a poem he submitted to a children's magazine won a prize in 1934.

Mado, whose poetry anthology was translated into English by Empress Michiko, received the prestigious Hans Christian Andersen Award for Writing from the International Board on Books for Young People in 1994.

Age did not deter him from writing, as the Yamaguchi Prefecture native published two volumes containing new poems in 2009 on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

Kyodo News

Photo taken in November 2005 shows Michio Mado, a Japanese poet known for his nursery rhymes. Mado died of old age at a Tokyo hospital on 28 Feb, 2014, at age 104.
Kyodo News

Yanukovych says not to ask Russia for military support

Moscow, 1 March— Ousted Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych said Friday he would not ask Russia for military support to resolve domestic crisis, but he blamed some Western powers for the chaos in his country.

"Any military operation is unacceptable in that situation ... I 'll return to Ukraine as soon as my and my family's safety are guaranteed," he told a Press conference in Russia's Rostov-on-Don, some 1,000 km southwest of Moscow, in his first public appearance after a week-long hiding.

Meanwhile, Yanukovych said he was surprised that Russian President Vladimir Putin had been "silent."

"I haven't met Putin, only spoke to him by phone. We agreed to meet when he'll find such an opportunity," he said. "After a meeting with Putin, I'll understand his position, and we'll discuss these issues."

"Russia must use all available resources to put an end to the chaos and terror that exist in Ukraine today," Yanukovych said.

He added that it did not mean Russia must do anything, but Russia could not stay indifferent to the fate of such a big partner like Ukraine.

However, Yanukovych stressed that he was "categorically against intervention into Ukraine."

He claimed "I am still the president, because I am alive, I didn't step down in line with the Constitution, and impeachment was not declared."

For that, Yanukovych said he was not going to take part in the presidential elections scheduled on May 25, because they were, in his opinion, illegally announced by the opposition-controlled Supreme Rada, the parliament.

The ousted president blamed "irresponsible" Western powers for chaos and lawlessness in his country.

"Outcome of the crisis will be difficult as a result of irresponsible Western policy of supporting Maiden (the Independence Square)," he said.

"But we'll overcome," he stressed.

Yanukovych said the current parliament was illegitimate because power in Ukraine has been seized by nationalists "who represent absolutely minority of the population."

Xinhua

MYANMAR TV

(2-3-2014, Sunday)

6:00 am
1. Paritta By Venerable Min Gun Sayadaw

6:40 am
2. Musical Programme

7:00 am
3. News/Weather Report

8:30 am
4. Amazing World

9:50 am
5. Beautiful ASEAN

10:00 am
6. News

11:15 am
7. Gitadagale Phwintbarohn

12:35 am
8. Myanmar Movie

3:00 pm
9. News

3:35 pm
10. Performance with song

4:15 pm
11. 2014 University Entrance Examination (Economic)

4:50 pm
12. Sing & Enjoy

5:00 pm
13. News

6:00 pm
14. News/ Weather Reoprt

6:20 pm
15. Cartoon Series

7:00 pm
16. News

8:00 pm
17. News/ International News/ Weather Report

8:00 pm
18. Pyi Thu Ni Ti

9:00 pm
19. News
20. Tamyethnar Takwetsar
21. New Melody

MYANMAR INTRNATIONAL

(2-3-14 07:00am~ 3-3-14 07:00am) MST

* Local News
* A Memorable Visit to Alaungdaw Kathapa National Park
* World News
* Graffiti: Character Art
* Local News
* Myanmar National Poet and Literary Icon "Min Thu Wun" (Part-IV) (Political Life and Remembrance)
* World News
* Moving Meditation: Aikido
* Local News
* The Precious Lands of Myanmar (Mandalay Region)
* World News
* Talented Musicians
* Local News
* FLying Without Wings- My Great Limitless Adventure - Inle Lake (Part-1)
* World News
* Myanmar Masterclass "Contemporary Art"
* Local News
* "Great Shwedagon" (Episode-4) The Historic Bells on the Platform of Shwedagon Pagoda
* World News
* Will you feed the pigeons
* Local News
* Mawtinsoon Pagoda Festival
* World News
* Cosplayer
* Local News
* A Short Trip With Steve (South Korea) (Ep-1)
* World News
* Photographer: Kyaw Win Hlaing (YUC)
* Local News
* Enchanting Rakhine Land
* World News
* Myanmar Masterclass: Portraiture

League raises salary cap to $133 million

Los Angeles, 1 March — The National Football League's salary cap will be increased by nearly $10 million next year to $133 million per team, the league told teams on Friday.

The rise is larger than initial estimates and gives teams a little extra breathing room under the cap, which is tied to projected revenue from all of the NFL's commercial agreements for the upcoming season and meets requirements under the Players' Association's Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA).

The 2014 level represents the highest salary cap set by the league, though that is expected to rise in 2015 when new television contracts are factored into the equation.The 2011 CBA gives players 55 percent of revenue from TV deals, 45 percent of revenue from league properties and 40 percent of local revenue.

Individual teams are required to spend an average of 89 percent of the salary cap from 2013-16, while teams across the league must spend an average of 95 percent of the salary cap over the four-year period.The Pittsburgh Steelers ($138.7m) and Dallas Cowboys ($150.9m) are the only two teams projected to be above the salary cap and the increased limit for the 2014 season will allow them greater opportunity to hold onto players.

***The NFL logo appears on an entrance door to the football stadium at Super Bowl XLII in Glendale, Arizona on 2 Feb, 2008.—*Reuters**

Teams have until 11 March, the start of the league's 2014 year and free agency, to cut or trade away players on their roster or renegotiate contracts to ensure they meet the cap requirements. Teams above the cap are fined by the league. Players like New Orleans tight-end Jimmy Graham, who are franchise tagged, will benefit from the increased level as their salaries are tied to a percentage of the cap.

Reuters

Dutch nuclear industry prepares for 3rd Nuclear Industry Summit

The Hague, 1 March — With less than a month to go, the Dutch nuclear industry beefs up preparations for the Nuclear Industry Summit that will be held in Amsterdam from 23 to 25 March with focus on security. The Nuclear Industry Summit 2014 (NIS), or the third edition of NIS, is a high level event which will group CEOs from the nuclear industry world-wide to discuss the security aspects needed to ensure that the nuclear industry is seen by society as valuable.

"It is a good thing that the nuclear industry and the Dutch government work together to make the nuclear industry more secure," Eric van Leeuwen, radiation inspector at the Dutch nuclear waste processing and storage company Covra told Xinhua Friday.

Major Dutch nuclear industry players, including the Urenco Group, a nuclear fuel company operating several uranium enrichment plants in Europe, a nuclear power plant near the Dutch town of Borssele, and other two Dutch nuclear research reactors in Petten and Delft will all present at the NIS.

Xinhua