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President U Thein Sein felicitates Bulgarian counterpart

Nay Pyi Taw, 3 March—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Rosen Plevneliev, President of the Republic of Bulgaria, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Bulgaria, which falls on 3 March 2014.—*MNA*

President opens Yezin University of Agriculture convocation hall, attends prize awarding ceremony to mark Peasants' Day

President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo with student and faculty members of Yezin University of Agriculture at opening ceremony of convocation hall to mark 90th anniversary of University in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

NEWS ON PAGE 8

President U Thein Sein receives Norwegian Foreign Minister

(News on page 8)

16th BIMSTEC SOM reaches agreement on two MoAs, one MoU

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March — The 16th BIMSTEC Senior Official Meeting reached agreement on the Memorandum of Association (MoA) on the establishment of the BIMSTEC Permanent Secretariat, the Memorandum of Association (MoA) concerning establishment of the BIMSTEC Centre for Weather and Climate and the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the establishment of the BIMSTEC Cultural Industries Commission (BCIC) and BIMSTEC Cultural Industries Observatory (BCIO).

The BIMSTEC would establish its Permanent Secretariat in Dhaka, Bangladesh, and start its functions in May. BIMSTEC Cultural Industries Observatory (BCIO) would be established in Bhutan.

The two MoAs and one MoU would be signed by respective ministers from seven-member Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) at its summit on March 4 in Nay Pyi Taw.

The two MoAs and one MoU would be beneficial all member countries in many ways, said Md Shahidul Haque, Foreign Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh.

BIMSTEC Centre for Weather and Climate to be established in India would

(See page 8)

BIMSTEC delegates pose for documentary photo at 16th BIMSTEC Senior Official Meeting.—MNA

Reconstruction of Htee Hlaing Tank to be completed before monsoon

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March— Htee Hlaing Tank, built in Bagan era by King Anawrahta, near Htee Hlaing village in Wundwin Township is now under reconstruction as it was silted. Normally, it can irrigate 1407 acres but due to the siltation its irrigated area now stands at 270 acres only. Its water storage capacity reduced from 550 acre feet to 125. In 2013 a heavy rain flooded the tank and its spillways were destroyed.

The reconstruction tasks started on 14 January this year. The task was carried out by Irrigation Department with the use of heavy machinery scheduled to complete before monsoon. On completion it can supply water to 1394 acres of land in addition to supplying of overflow to 12 small lakes which can help alleviate poverty in the region.

According to historians, King Anawrahta, one of the great kings in Myanmar history, built irrigation system in which river waters from Zaw Gyi and Padaung rivers were channeled to fields of Nine districts in arid zone. During his royal tour of the districts he instructed his men to build a lake near Htee Hlaing village in Wundwin Township.

NLM-018

Free health care at Meiktila General Hospital

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March—Meiktila General Hospital under the Ministry of Health gave free health care to people.

They are now able to enjoy the service from their admission to discharging. NLM's correspondent reported that the Ministry of Health provided K 300 million in 2013 for in-patients.

Expensive anti-rabies vaccines have been provided free of charge since 2012 and up to this date, altogether 340 people have been vaccinated. Snakebite patients were also treated with anti-venom.

Due to the increase in in-patients, the Ministry of Health made a plan to expand the hospital. Three two –stroey wards are now under construction at a cost of K 300 million per each.

As the situation has improved at the hospital from worse to better, people expressed their delights in receiving treatments in Meiktila General Hospital.

NLM-018

Census taking process clarified in Mohnyin

MOHNYIN, 2 March— "Advanced technology will be applied in taking census." said Assistant Director U Sein Win of Mohnyin District Immigratin and National Registration Department at a meeting held on 28 February in the town on taking population and housing census.

The census taking committee secretary Staff Officer M Zaw Naw clarified drawing 5 maps and maps for census taking areas, and information tasks.

NLM-001

Fire victims in Meiktila get green light to rebuild houses before rain

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March—A meeting at Meiktila Commissioner Office reached a solution to rebuild houses of fire victims before the rainy season. Those who can show firm evidences of their properties and have no any other disputes were allowed to rebuild their houses in Thiri Mingalar Ward. Fire victims living near Koe Nawin Monastery in Aung Zeyar Ward will also get permission after scrutinizing. The plots in Thiri Mingalar Ward were cleard and roads were rebuilt for rebuilding before monsoon.

NLM-018

Development of village libraries discussed in Meiktila

MEIKTILA, 2 March— Monthly meeting among members of social organizations took place at the hall of District Information and Public Relations Department in Meiktila on Sunday.

Head of District IPRD U Myint Aye said that the department has been providing publications for village libraries, linking with Myanmar Libraries Foundation to ensure cash assistance for construction of libraries, conducting librarian multiplier courses and holding talks. He invited all participation for development of ward/village libraries. Members of social organization discussed difficulties and ongoing work programmes and officials gave clarifications.

Chan Tha (Meiktila)

Practice Makes Perfect : ***As a preparation for XXVIII SEA Games to be held in Singarpore in 2015, triathlon contest was held on 1 March in Nay Pyi Taw. Mon man Chit Ko Ko and Ayeyawady woman Yin Nwe Oo emerged champions in the contest with 1 hr, 41 min and 42 second and; the woman with 2 hr 8 min and 31 second. Photo shows Chit Ko Ko in action. —NLM***

Thai vote goes smoothly as protesters regroup near Bangkok lakes

BANGKOK, 2 March — Thailand was holding re-run elections on Sunday in five provinces where voting was disrupted in last month's poll by anti-government protesters trying to unseat Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra and officials said all was going smoothly.

Dozens of gunshots and at least two explosions raised tension on the eve of the February 2 general election, which was seen as incapable of restoring stability in deeply polarized Thailand whatever the result.

Protesters were gathering in central Lumpini Park in Bangkok on Sunday, where many already sleep in tents alongside boating lakes, after protest leader Suthep Thaugsuban said they would abandon other sites in the city. Some of the other protest sites were being dismantled but the elevated highway along the south side of Lumpini Park on the edge of Bangkok's financial district was still blocked.

Election re-runs planned for April in other provinces have been suspended pending a court decision on procedures.

Voting was disrupted on 2 February in 18 percent of constituencies, 69 out of 375, nationwide, the Election Commission said, affecting 18 of 77 provinces.

Commission secretary-general Puchong Nutrawong said voting had gone ahead peacefully on Sunday.

The demonstrators, who have blocked intersections in the capital for weeks, say Yingluck must resign and make way for an appointed "people's council" to overhaul a political system they say has been taken hostage by her billionaire brother and former premier, Thaksin Shinawatra.

The election is almost certain to return Yingluck to power, thanks to her support base in the largely rural north and northeast, a result the opposition will never accept.

The result cannot change the dysfunctional status quo in a country popular among tourists and investors yet blighted by eight years of turmoil, pitting the Bangkok-based middle class and royalist establishment against the mostly poor, rural supporters of the Shinawatra family. "For those who worried that I may give up, I can reassure that an old man like me does not know how to give up," Suthep said on Saturday, in reference to the scaled-down protest.

"That's because there are millions of people who support me ... This is not a move to retreat, but it is an adjustment in our maneuver for fighting."

Reuters

Anti-government protesters set up a tent inside Bangkok's Lumpini Park on 1 March, 2014.—REUTERS

Chinese security official vows harsh punishment for terrorists

Meng Jianzhu (2nd L F), head of the Central Commission for Political and Legal Affairs of the Communist Party of China, inspects the crime scene at the Kunming Railway Station in Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province, on 2 March, 2014.—XINHUA

KUNMING, 2 March — Senior Chinese security official Meng Jianzhu on Sunday pledged to harshly punish terrorist attackers in accordance with law to ensure social stability.

Meng, head of the Commission for Political and Legal Affairs of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, arrived in Kunming at 5:30 am to oversee the anti-terrorism work following a deadly train station attack on Saturday night.

Twenty-nine innocent people died, and more than 130 were injured in Kunming Railway Station terrorist attack as of 8:00 am Sunday.

Meng said the attack caused big losses to people's lives and property. The terrorists were devoid of conscience, brutally attacked unarmed civilians, exposed their anti-humanity and anti-society nature and they should be harshly punished according to law, he said.

"All-out efforts should be made to treat the injured people, severely punish terrorist attackers according to law, and resolutely avoid the occurrence of similar cases, so as to ensure the safety of people's lives and property and social stability," Meng said.

Meng ordered use of all resources and means to thoroughly investigate the case and urged forcible measures to crack down on the violent terrorism activities.

Meng called for a sweeping check-up for hidden risks regarding violent terrorist attacks, urging to step up patrols at crowded places and harshly crack down on violent crimes to improve the sense of security among the public.

Xinhua

Pakistani Taleban announces month-long ceasefire

ISLAMABAD, 2 March — The Pakistani Taleban has decided to observe a month-long ceasefire and directed all its units to cease militant activities during this period, a statement issued by the group's spokesman Shahidullah Shahid said on Saturday.

The statement said that the ceasefire was being observed to end the deadlock in negotiations between the government and the militant group and because of a positive response by the government to the group's proposals.

Talks between government and Taleban representatives had deadlocked after a Taleban group on 17 February executed 23 paramilitary troops who had been kidnapped in 2010. After the executions, the government had demanded the Taleban to announce a unilateral ceasefire of their activities.

"The Taleban's top leadership directs all its units to respect the ceasefire and desist from all 'jihadi activities' during this period," the statement said.

The statement said that the decision to observe a ceasefire has been taken in response to appeals by religious leaders and in the best interests of Pakistan and Islam. Official sources said that the decision to observe a unilateral ceasefire for a month was taken by the leadership at an unspecified place. Irfan Siddqui, the head of the government's negotiating team, welcomed the decision and hoped that talks with the Taleban would be resumed as soon as possible.

Kyodo News

Urkraine mobilizes for war, calls up reserves

President Barack Obama talks on the phone in the Oval Office with Russian President Vladimir Putin about the situation in Ukraine, 1 March, 2014.—REUTERS

KIEV (Ukraine), 2 March —Ukraine mobilized on Sunday for war and called up its reserves, after Russian President Vladimir Putin threatened to invade in the biggest confrontation between Moscow and the West since the Cold War.

Ukraine's security council ordered the general staff to immediately put all armed forces on highest alert, the council's secretary Andriy Parubiy announced. The Defense Ministry was ordered to conduct the call-up, potentially of all men up to 40 in a country that still has universal male conscription.

Russian forces who have already bloodlessly seized Crimea - an isolated Black Sea peninsula where most of the population are ethnic Russian and Moscow has a naval base - tried to disarm the small Ukrainian contingents there on Sunday. Some Ukrainian commanders refused to give up weapons and bases were surrounded. Of potentially even greater concern are eastern swathes of the country, where most of the ethnic Ukrainians speak Russian as a native language.

Those areas saw violent protests on Saturday, with pro-Moscow demonstrators hoisting flags at government buildings and calling for Russia to defend them. Putin's declaration that he has the right to invade his neighbor - for which he quickly received the unanimous approval of his parliament - brought the prospect of war to a country of 46 million people on the ramparts of central Europe.

"President Obama expressed his deep concern over Russia's clear violation of Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity, which is a breach of international law," the White House said after the leaders spoke for 90 minutes on Saturday.

Reuters

Japan, Indonesia to arrange defence, foreign ministers' meeting

JAKARTA, 2 March — Japan and Indonesia agreed on Saturday to convene a meeting of their defence and foreign ministers at an early date to enhance security ties, Japanese officials said. During talks in Jakarta, Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida and his counterpart Marty Natalegawa reaffirmed an accord reached by the two countries' leaders last December in Tokyo to bolster security cooperation by holding a ministerial meeting.

Referring to territorial disputes in the South China Sea between China and some member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Kishida expressed Tokyo's support for compiling a code of conduct to avert conflicts. Natalegawa said it is important to expedite negotiations, according to the officials.

Kishida aired concerns over a recent Indonesian ban on exports of unrefined ores such as nickel in order to foster its own industries, saying such a ban would "seriously affect the Japanese economy," they added.

Kyodo News

Ja Song Nam (R), North Korea's new ambassador to the United Nations, shakes hands with UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon at the UN headquarters in New York on 28 Feb, 2014. **KYODO NEWS**

Turkey halts talks with Japan on joint tank engine development

CAIRO, 2 March— Turkey has suspended talks with Japan over proposed joint development of a tank engine, a senior Turkish defence ministry official was quoted by Turkish media as saying.

The official said in late February that joint tank engine development is currently off the list of topics at bilateral negotiations, according to the Turkish media. Negotiations may have hit a snag as Tokyo could not accept Istanbul's plan to export tanks to other countries in the future due to concerns over the outflow of technologies.

Turkey was interested in adopting for its army's Altay tank engine technology employed in Japan's Ground Self-Defense Force's Type 10 tank. Japan's Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. developed the tank engine.

Kyodo News

Venezuela foreign minister to meet Ban Ki-moon in Geneva

CARACAS, 2 March — Venezuela said on Saturday its foreign minister will meet United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in Geneva on Tuesday amid growing international calls for dialogue between political players to ease the OPEC nation's worst unrest in a decade.

At least 17 people have died in violence during a month of opposition protests. President Nicolas Maduro says his foes are trying to trigger a coup, while his opponents accuse troops and pro-government militants of attacking demonstrators.

Appeals for the two camps to sit down for talks have poured in from leaders around the world, including in the United States, and from Pope Francis.

Venezuela's permanent representative to the United Nations, Jorge Valero, said on Saturday that the secretary general asked for a meeting with Foreign Minister Elias Jaua on Tuesday at the sidelines of a gathering of the UN Human Rights Council.

"He will have the opportunity to explain the policies for peace and promotion of dialogue that the government is pushing, and to denounce the terrorist plans that have been developing in Venezuela," Valero told Noticias24 Radio in Caracas.

Maduro's socialist administration blames what it calls opposition-led "fascist groups" for unrest the authorities say is aimed at triggering a coup like the one in 2002 that briefly ousted his mentor and predecessor, the late Hugo Chavez.

UN human rights commissioner Navi Pillay has called for an independent investigation into the recent deaths, and said on Friday that inflammatory rhetoric from both sides was unhelpful and risked escalating a tense situation. "It is time for all sides to move beyond verbal aggression and towards meaningful dialogue," Pillay said. US Secretary of State John Kerry has said he is discussing with Colombia and other nations the possibility of international mediation in Venezuela.

To try to ease the crisis, 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.

They say they don't want to provide the government with a "photo op," though the 51-year-old president again offered on Friday to hold discussions with them - in public or private.

Opposition protesters are demanding that Maduro quit over grievances that include high inflation, shocking rate of violent crime, shortage of basic foods in stores, and what they call his heavy-handed repression of political rivals.

About a thousand opposition protesters gathered in the Santa Monica neighbourhood of the capital Caracas on Saturday, beeping car and motorcycle horns, and waving placards bearing slogans such as "I'm swapping Carnival 2014 for a free Venezuela!"

"I want democracy," said opposition supporter Nora Duenas, 69, as she stood in the open door of her car while banging together cooking implements above her head. "I want us to be able to live together in a democratic country where everyone has the freedom to think what they want - but without Maduro, because he's too Communist."—*Reuters*

Ihor Kharchenko, Ukraine's ambassador to Japan, is interviewed by Kyodo News at the Ukrainian Embassy in Tokyo on 1 March, 2014. **KYODO NEWS**

Crimea crisis should be solved diplomatically

TOKYO, 2 March —The Ukrainian Ambassador to Japan on Saturday called for "all possible diplomatic efforts" to defuse tensions in the Crimea region of Ukraine, where unidentified armed forces have seized control of airports and government buildings.

In an interview with *Kyodo News*, Ambassador Ihor Kharchenko expressed concerns over "a crisis situation" in Crimea. Although he stopped short of identifying the armed troops, the envoy said "we see on TV that Russian military are roaming around on Crimean roads."

Russia has said it is "not involved in internal Ukrainian matters," but information from media reports provided "all the grounds to question what Russian official sources are claiming," Kharchenko said.

"What we heard from the Ukrainian interior minister is that the situation can be described as actually an invasion," the ambassador said.—*Kyodo News*

Photo taken with a cell phone on 2 March, 2014 shows people on the square of the Kunming Railway Station in Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province. The order at the railway station has been restored to normal after an overnight terrorist attack which left 29 people dead and 130 others injured.— **XINHUA**

Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida answers reporters' questions after attending the second Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development, in Jakarta on 1 March, 2014.— **KYODO NEWS**

Iran to start developing project of Bushehr nuclear plant in April

TEHERAN, 2 March — As talks are going on over Iran's controversial nuclear program, the Islamic republic plans to begin developing project of Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant in southern the country in April, an Iranian atomic official said on Saturday.

Asghar Zare'an, deputy director for Protection and Security at the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), said the developing stage of the plant would begin on 9 April, the National Nuclear Technology Day, according to Press TV.

Earlier, the AEOI announced that it was in negotiations with the Russian side over the construction of the second phase of Bushehr nuclear power plant. Iran's first nuclear power plant, the Bushehr plant, was first constructed in 1975 by several German companies. However, the work was halted when the United States imposed an embargo on hi-tech supplies to Iran after the 1979 revolution. Russia signed a contract with Iran to complete the construction in 1998. —*Xinhua*

Majority of disaster-hit municipality heads say recovery slow

SENDAI, 2 March—More than half of the 42 mayors of cities, towns and villages in northeastern Japan hit hard by the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami view reconstruction work as slow or stalled, a *Kyodo News* survey showed Sunday. In the survey conducted in February ahead of the third anniversary of the disaster that triggered a major nuclear crisis, 22 mayors said recovery is behind schedule, while 17 said recovery work is proceeding as planned and no mayor said work is ahead of schedule.

The chiefs of the towns of Namie and Futaba in Fukushima Prefecture said there has been no progress at all on reconstruction, with all residents having evacuated their homes near the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant.

In Iwate and Miyagi prefectures, municipality heads said rebuilding of homes and infrastructure such as roads, railway and port facilities has been slow, while those in Fukushima Prefecture said they have seen delays in radiation cleanup, compensation for affected people and work to deal with the nuclear crisis at the plant.

Among the 42 municipality chiefs in the three prefectures covered by the survey, 40 said they think the memory of the calamity has faded among many people.—*Kyodo News*

Legislators listen to the speech made by Argentina's President Cristina Fernandez during the inaugural assembly of the 132nd regular session of the National Congress in Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina, on March 1, 2014. —XINHUA

Washington talks decisive for Mideast peace process

RAMALLAH, 2 March —The upcoming Palestinian-Israeli talks in Washington could be decisive for the future of the Middle East peace process, analysts and officials say, noting if no deal is sealed, a nine-month ultimatum for the talks could be extended.

US President Barack Obama is slated to meet soon with visiting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and later Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas at the White House.

Observers believe it could be a "decisive moment" for the future of the Middle East peace process.

The United States sponsors the direct peace talks between the two sides. US Secretary of State John Kerry helped start these talks in late July last year, and also set a nine-month deadline for them to sign a framework peace agreement. But no significant progress has been made in the talks so far.

Netanyahu is heading to Washington on Sunday to meet with Obama, and Abbas will meet with the US president on 17 March. Reports unveiled that Obama will exert pressure on the two leaders to accept the US-sponsored framework agreement.

Obama's invitation to both Netanyahu and Abbas came after Kerry and Abbas failed last week in Paris to bridge their gap on the framework agreement.

Mekhemer Abu Se'da, a political science professor at al-Azhar University in Gaza, said it's obvious that the talks have reached a deadlock, and the Washington talks aim to find a way out of the current stalemate.

"Any new American ideas won't end the impasse; therefore the US intends to extend the nine-month ultimatum for the talks to avoid failure and give the parties more time to explore solutions and ideas," says Abu Se'da.

The professor warns that a collapse of the peace negotiations " would certainly have negative consequences on the US image in the world and on the ties between Israel and the Palestinians."

Samir Aawd, a West Bank-based political analyst agrees with Se' da. He said if the two sides fail to reach an agreement this time, "the United States will at least announce an extension of the talks."

Xinhua

Pro-Russian forces seize airports in Crimea

KIEV, 2 March, —Pro-Russian armed troops have seized three airports in Ukraine's autonomous region of Crimea, raising the possibility of its separation from Ukraine, local reports said on Saturday.

Defence Minister Ihor Tenyukh of Ukraine's new government formed after the ouster of pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovych said on Saturday about 6,000 Russian military personnel have been brought into Crimea.

Meanwhile the Russian Foreign Ministry, in a statement issued Saturday, accused the new Ukraine government of trying to destabilize Crimea.

US President Barack Obama said Friday he is "deeply concerned" by reports of Russian military movement in Crimea, south of Ukraine.

US media quoted a senior US official as saying Obama and European leaders would consider skipping a Group of Eight summit to be held in Sochi in June if Russia intervenes militarily in Ukraine.

"Any violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity would be deeply destabilizing, which is not in the interest of Ukraine, Russia, or Europe," Obama said in a statement, warning there would be "costs for any military intervention in Ukraine."

Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida, in a statement issued Saturday, urged all parties to "exercise maximum restraint and take responsible action" as well as to "respect the rule of law and territorial integrity."

The UN Security Council held an emergency meeting on Friday to discuss the crisis. Ukraine's UN Ambassador Yuriy Sergeyev told reporters after the session that his country's national authority is being challenged.—*Kyodo News*

Libyan High National Electoral Commission Chairman Nuri al-Abbar (L) speaks during a press conference to announce the preliminary results of the election to choose a commission to draft a new constitutionin in Tripoli, Libya, on March 1, 2014.
XINHUA

Demonstrators cover themselves during a protest in Altamira, in the municipality of Chacao, east of Caracas, Venezuela, on 28 Feb, 2014. 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.
XINHUA

Pakistan welcomes Taleban's ceasefire

ISLAMABAD, 2 March — A Pakistani government committee, formed for peace talks with the Taleban militants, on Saturday welcomed ceasefire by the Taleban as a positive step that could revive the stalled dialogue process.

The Tehrik-e-Taleban Pakistan's spokesman Shahidullah Shahid said the group has declared a ceasefire for a month and the leadership has asked all the Taleban groups to respect the ceasefire and stop attacks. He also urged the government to "give a positive response" to the Taleban decision to make progress in the fragile peace process. The Taleban had earlier refused to stop attacks that had led to a deadlock in the peace talks started last month.

The Taleban announcement has raised hopes for restoration of the dialogue process. Coordinator of the government peace committee Irfan Siddiqui said the Taleban announcement is a "breakthrough" in the seventeen- day dialogue process. "We will wait for formal communication on the ceasefire from the TTP and review it objectively. Once a written document is received, the government Committee will consider resuming the dialogue process," Siddiqui told state radio in an interview.

He said the dialogue process was proceeding well but violent activities by the other side caused setback. "Therefore, it was felt that there will be no point in continuing the dialogue." He expressed the hope that nothing will recur to derail the dialogue process again as series of the Taleban attacks and execution of 23 security personnel last month stalled the dialogue.

Member of Taleban dialogue committee, Professor Ibrahim, said all the Taleban groups would be bound to observe ceasefire. "The Taleban ceasefire will help make dialogue process successful," Siddiqui said, adding both the committees played a pivotal role during dialogue and peace process in the country.—*Xinhua*

LG Chem CEO says mulls electric car battery plant in China

SEOUL, 2 March — Chief executive of LG Chem said that the South Korean company was considering building an electric vehicle battery plant in China, expecting Beijing's efforts to tackle air pollution to drive demand.

Park Jin-soo also said LG Chem, which currently supplies electric-car batteries for General Motors Co's Volt and Renault cars, will double the number of its customers to 20 in the near future.

"We are considering it (the China car battery plant), which should be in line with market demand," Park said at a press briefing on Friday embargoed until Sunday morning.

LG Chem currently has a factory in Nanjing, China producing small batteries for smartphones and other mobile devices, and Park said the firm is looking at not only Nanjing and other sites for the potential car battery factory.

China's Finance Ministry said last month it will extend a programme of subsidies for buyers of electric-powered vehicles after the current subsidy regime, part of efforts to combat pollution in cities, expires in 2015.

The subsidies were designed to help China meet a goal of putting half a million new-energy vehicles, defined as all-electric battery vehicles and heavily electrified "near all-electric" plug-in hybrids, on the road by 2015 and 5 million by 2020.

LG Chem's crosstown rival, Samsung SDI, said in January that it will form a joint venture in China to spend $600 million on building a car battery plant in Xi'an, Shaanxi province, by next year and on other electric car battery-related businesses over the next five years. — *Reuters*

An employee rests a hand on a table displaying iPads as part of the display is reflected on a glass surface at the Passeig de Gracia Apple store in Barcelona on 26 July , 2012. — REUTERS

Honey, can you pick up a tablet at the grocery store?

BARCELONA, 2 March — Originally derided as a pricey niche product for geeks, tablet computers have become so common that supermarkets are now selling their own brands, pushing out low-cost rivals.

The shifting nature of the market underscores how millions of people are choosing simpler devices to surf the web, send emails and shop, putting pressure on traditional PC companies.

And since Apple pioneered the tablet in early 2010, the gadgets now available at the lower end of the market are becoming commodity items that non-technology companies can order from Asian contractors using common components."

Reference designs for tablets and smartphones from companies like Qualcomm have drastically reduced barriers to entry and increased commoditization pressure in the hardware industry," said Sameer Singh, Hyderabad-based tech analyst. "This opens the door for not only players that can survive on low margins, but also for companies that use hardware as a channel for something else."

Tesco in Britain and Carrefour in France are selling their own branded tablets pitched at customers unwilling to pay $400 or more for an Apple or Samsung product.The retailers are not only trying to cash in on booming tablet sales, but also to nudge people to buy everything from films to groceries from their online stores, pushed through their devices, a lesson learned from Amazon and Google.Traditional computer makers including Asus, Acer, HP, Lenovo, Dell, Sony, LG will continue to be squeezed, said Gartner analyst Tracy Tsai.

Reuters

China expects to launch cargo ship into space around 2016

BEIJING, 2 March — China is expected to launch a cargo ship into space around 2016 to serve the *Tiangong-2* space laboratory, a leading space scientist said Sunday. The cargo ship, named "Tianzhou" or "Heavenly Vessel" in Chinese, will be delivered by the newly-developed *Long March-7* carrier rocket and dock with *Tiangong-2* automatically, said Zhou Jianping, chief designer of China's manned space programme, in an exclusive interview with *Xinhua*.

Cargo transportation system that supplies goods and propellants is a key technology China must master to build its own space station, said Zhou, a member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, the country's top political advisory body. *Tiangong-1*, China's first space lab and target orbiter, was sent to orbit on 29 Sept, 2011. China is expected to launch the *Tiangong-2* space lab around 2015."A manned spaceship has limited transportation capacity and costs highly," said Zhou ahead of the annual session of the advisory body, which is scheduled to open on Monday.

"But a cargo ship will not return to the Earth and does not need to carry people in its launching and docking processes, which makes its transportation of goods more economical and efficient," he said. The Tianzhou cargo ship can send supplies to the space station, including propellants, living necessities for astronauts and equipment for scientific research. It can destroy various wasted materials, he said.

It can also send large-sized facilities and equipment for the construction of the space station, he added. Three cabin structures are being designed for the Tianzhou cargo ship, a fully-enclosed one, a semi-open one and a wholly-open one, he said. The loading capacity of the cargo ship will reach the world-class level and will be even better than some developed countries, he said.

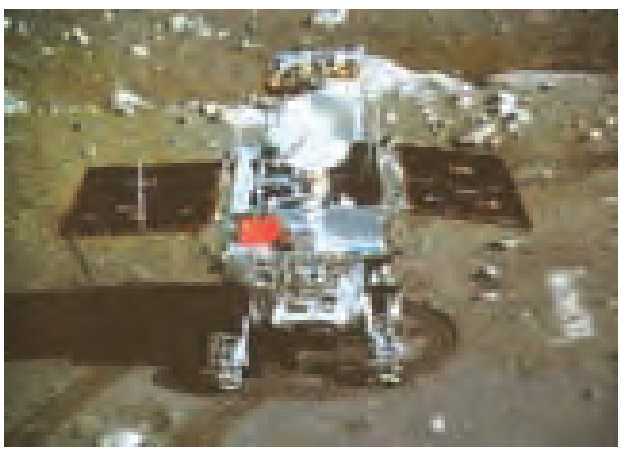
Xinhua

Control circuit malfunction troubles China's Yutu

BEIJING, 2 March — China's Yutu (Jade Rabbit) moon rover suffered a control circuit malfunction in its driving unit, which troubled its dormancy in extremely low temperature, a scientist said on Saturday. The control circuit problem prevented Yutu from entering the second dormancy as planned, Ye Peijian, chief scientist of the Chang'e-3 programme, told *Xinhua* in an exclusive interview.

"Normal dormancy needs Yutu to fold its mast and solar panels," said Ye. "The driving unit malfunction prevented Yutu to do those actions." Ye, a member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, the country's top political advisory body, added, "This means Yutu had to go through the lunar night in extremely low temperatures."

Yutu, named after the pet rabbit of the lunar goddess Chang'e in Chinese mythology, touched



down on the moon's surface on 15 December, a few hours after lunar probe Chang'e-3 landed.The rover was designed to roam the lunar surface for at least three months to survey the moon's geological structure and surface substances and look for natural resources.

Xinhua

India to send mission to probe Sun by 2020

NEW DELHI, 2 March — India will send a mission to probe the Sun by 2020, local media quoted a top space official as reporting on Saturday.

"The Aditya mission to the Sun has been planned between 2017 and 2020. The mission would be around the Earth. A few equipment are being planned for that," the state-owned Indian Space Research Organization's chief K. Radhakrishnan told the media in the southern city of Chennai Friday.Aditya was planned in 2008 to study the solar corona. This part of the Sun has temperatures of over 1 million degrees, with raging solar winds that reach a velocity of up to 1,000 km a second.

The satellite, which will carry as its payload an advanced solar coronagraph, will weigh just 400 kg. It was initially projected to cost 10 million US dollars, but due to an upgraded mission profile, it is now estimated to cost 20 million US dollars.It is likely to be placed into a near Earth orbit of 800 km. The mission will study the fundamental problems of coronal heating, and other phenomena that take place in the Earth's magnetosphere.

Xinhua

China becomes world's largest goods trader

BEIJING, 2 March — China was the largest goods trading nation in 2013, a Ministry of Commerce statement said on Saturday, citing data from the World Trade Organization (WTO). China's goods trade topped 4.16 trillion US dollars last year, including 2.21 trillion dollars in exports and 1.95 trillion dollars in imports, the statement said.

This is a milestone in foreign trade for China as a developing country and a great achievement, said Yao Jian, ministry spokesman. The country's exports and imports have leapfrogged in 35 years of reforms and opening-up, especially after China's entry into the WTO, he said.

China now is the largest trade partner for over 120 countries and regions and imported nearly 2 trillion US dollars of goods annually, providing lots of jobs and investment opportunities for global trade partners, Yao said.

Though it is the largest trading nation, China still has a long way to go before becoming a strong trading country because its exports are of relatively low added value, it has relatively few independent brands, the marketing network is not sound enough, and its products are of relatively low quality, he stressed.

Facing new challenges, China should actively promote models of growth, restructure the economy and step up cooperation with trade partners to achieve mutual benefit, Yao said. — *Xinhua*

Elbit Systems wins homeland security contract

Trucks are seen reflected making their way through the Advanced Spectroscopic Portal (ASP) at the New York Container Terminal in New York on 11 April, 2007.
REUTERS

TELAVIV, 2 March — Israeli defence electronics company Elbit Systems said the US Department of Homeland Security Customs and Border Protection (CBP) awarded its subsidiary a contract to deploy border surveillance technology in southern Arizona.

Known as the Integrated Fixed Tower contract, it includes a base period quantity and options that CBP may exercise over several years. Currently, CBP awarded the base period quantity for a portion of the $145 million total contract amount, to be implemented over one year, Elbit said on Sunday.

"Arizonans have been waiting more than a decade for the Department of Homeland Security to place the needed technology along our border to support the Border Patrol and fully secure our southern border," US Senator John McCain of Arizona said in a separate statement.

"If this technology is developed, integrated and fielded correctly, these Integrated Fixed Towers in southern Arizona, coupled with the tremendous work of the Border Patrol, will give our agents the ability to detect, evaluate, and respond to all illegal entries crossing our border."

Reuters

Mattress covers may not help with dust mite allergies

NEW YORK, 2 March — Based on two dozen clinical trials, US researchers find that expensive mattress covers make no difference in reducing dust mite allergies or their symptoms. Up to 40 percent of the world population has allergies, and dust mites are thought to be one of the most common causes. Doctors often tell patients to buy special mattress and pillow covers despite a lack of evidence they relieve the problem, the authors say.

"Based on this analysis which combines data from many different studies, there doesn't seem to be any benefit to using dust mite covers to prevent allergic disease or to prevent symptoms," lead author Whitney Arroyave told Reuters Health. Arroyave, a researcher with the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine in New Orleans, and her colleagues combined results from 24 trials of methods to reduce dust mite exposure and prevent allergy signs and symptoms.

Reuters

Dengue fever on the rise in Malaysia

BEIJING, 2 March — The World Health Organization calls Dengue fever one of the greatest threats to global health. The WHO says a hundred million new cases are reported each year — mainly in urban areas of the tropics. Despite attempts to control the mosquitoes that spread the disease, the number of cases in Malaysia has witnessed a serious spike already this year.

Municipal crews swoop into action after several reports of dengue fever in this Kuala Lumpur suburb. They fog using chemicals aimed at controlling the aedes Egypti mosquitoes that spread dengue, which can breed in as little as a tablespoon of clear, stagnant water. Municipal health workers follow up on every dengue case. It's in high density, lower income developments like this where dengue is most rampant.

To combat the disease, one Kuala Lumpur suburb is enlisting a mosquito species that's benign to humans — the toxo. It's four times the size of the aedes Egypti and feeds only on plant nectar. But it's beefy larvae devour the larvae of the dengue carrying species.

But there's a drawback. The toxo requires large amounts of vegetation to survive, so this method won't work in places that are urban jungle alone.Conventional methods like inspections, fogging and public education will remain crucial. Only a combination of a concerted campaign against the mosquitoes — and the public apathy that helps nurture them — is going to turn the tide against this 21st century plague. — *Xinhua*

Greece's legendary winery looks to future to China

PATRAS, (Greece), 2 March — On a green hill at the outskirts of the city port of Patras at Peloponnese peninsula, some 200 km west of Athens, are the headquarters of Achaia Clauss, a legendary winery in Greece with a history going back to the 19th century, which has conquered the hearts of both Greek as well as foreign wine lovers. Amidst the economic crisis which has hit all sectors of the local economy in recent years, the company founded in 1861 by the Bavarian Gustav Clauss and run by Greek entrepreneurs for decades today looks to the future going East, as far away as China, Tonia Rapti, our tour guide, told *Xinhua* during a visit on Saturday.

With a 6-million-liter annual production and 70 percent exports in over 40 countries and regions worldwide so far, the vast Chinese market seems the next reasonable step for the winery, the retired PR officer explained."We are currently making efforts to export to China. Our future undoubtedly lies there," she stressed. Rapti talks like she is still working at the stone-made castle like facilities set up in 1861 by Clauss, who is considered as a pioneer in the industrialization of wine production in Greece. After a business trip he fell in love with the beauty of the natural landscape and a local girl. He created a company and a big family.After 33 years working at the winery, Rapti feels as a retired member of this extended family.

Her younger colleague Yorgos is a fourth generation worker at Achaia Clauss. One of his predecessors worked for the production of the first wine produced in modern Greece in 1873: Mavrodaphne, she explained while showing us the barrel which still contains it. A liquor with a red ruby colour, named after Daphne, Gustav's late fiance, Mavrodaphne is one of the company's best seller products. It is the wine used in the Holy Communion in Greek Orthodox Church.The 1873 wine is not for sale, but a bottle containing a few drops of the 1896 production, the year of the first modern Olympics, reaches up to 1,500 euros (2,055 US dollars), while a three-year-old wine costs about 5 euros. In one of the big oak carved barrels at the Imperial Cellar, Athena, the goddess of wisdom in ancient Greek mythology, is depicted offering wine to Hercules.

At the end of the tour, after taking a look at the two biggest barrels in Greece manufactured in 1882 in Trieste and each containing 13,195 liters of Mavrodaphne, Rapti and her colleagues offer visitors a unique opportunity to taste some of the excellent quality wine. The winery, located among the vineyards, is one of the topmost tourist sites in the region, attracting some 100,000 visitors per year. Before the crisis, the numbers were double. Still visitors leave the site impressed.—*Xinhua*

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 3 March, 2014

Establish commercial fruit, vegetable farms

With the rising popularity of healthy eating habits across the globe today, eating fruit after a meal has become a habit among the people not only in the West but also in the East. Nowadays there has been an increase in fruit consumption today as the intake of fruit is good for health. Different kinds of fruit on the table in hotel can also be seen on the family table.

It is time to change from the system of growing fruit and vegetable on a manageable scale into commercial farming system. A sudden influx of visitors in the years to come will make enormous demands on fruit. A good plan is required for ensuring a significant increase in domestic fruit and vegetables production.

In his address at a farmer educative farmland in Nay Pyi Taw on 1 March, President U Thein Sein stressed the need for establishment of commercial farms in regions and states for production of marketable fruit and vegetables which are favourable to the climates of the respective regions.

So, respective regions and states should be under consideration for designation as fruit cultivation areas. It is necessary to produce a wide range of marketable fruit and vegetables with a competitive advantage in order to have access to a highly competitive international market.

But, success in commercial fruit and vegetable production cannot be brought about by farmer alone. It needs financial capital, technology and market access that are vital to the development of this sector. Only when a hi-tech agriculture develops in the country, will Myanmar, agro-based country, be transformed itself into a country with mechanized farming and advanced agricultural technology.

Nonetheless, it is required to boost fruit and vegetable production due to a possible surge in fruit and vegetable consumption. With the increased establishment of commercial fruit and vegetable farms across the nation, incomes of local people will be generated and agricultural success can be realized.

President U Thein Sein receives Norwegian Foreign Minister

President U Thein Sein and party pose for documentary photo with delegation led by Norwegian Foreign Minister Mr Borge Brende.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March—President U Thein Sein received Norwegian Foreign Minister Mr Borge Brende and party at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on Sunday morning.

Both sides discussed Norwegian assistance in internal peace making process and further cooperation in hydropower sector, oil and natural gas production, human resources development and environmental conservation.

Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Aung Kyi and U Soe Thane and officials concerned were also present at the call. The Norwegian Foreign Minister was accompanied by the Norwegian Ambassador to Myanmar—*MNA*

President opens Yezin University of Agriculture convocation hall, attends prize awarding ceremony to mark Peasants' Day

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March—President U Thein Sein attended the opening ceremony of convocation building to mark the 90th anniversary of Yezin Agricultural University in Pyinmana Township in Nay Pyi Taw on Sunday.

The Agricultural University in Myanmar began its course in 1924 with the establishment of the Burma Agricultural College and Research Institute of Mandalay, offering a 3-year diploma course. In 1938, the college became a constituent college of Yangon University. In 1947, the college reopened in Mandalay as a major agriculture department of Yangon University. In 1958, the college was changed the major agriculture department of Mandalay University under the Ministry of Education. In 1964, the college was upgraded to a separate university. The university was moved to Yezin in Pyinmana Township in 1973 and it was renamed "Yezin Agricultural University" in 1998.

Union Minister for Information U Aung Kyi awards prize to winner in music composition contest to mark Peasants' Day.
MNA

The convocation building is 180 feet long and wide and 45 feet high. The construction started on 31 May, 2012. It comprises convocation hall, meeting hall, student affairs department, account department and computer room on the ground floor and rector's office and other rooms are on the first floor.

The President and party also attended the prizes awarding ceremony to mark the Peasants' Day at the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Nay Pyi Taw on Sunday.

The President and dignitaries awarded prizes to a poet and musicians.

To mark the Peasants' Day, fruit and vegetables show was held at Setsetyo 900-acre farmland in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Sunday morning.

MNA

16th BIMSTEC SOM reaches ...

(from page 1)

help member countries ensuring getting quick information on storms and natural disasters as they would work together with India, which is considered as an expert for meteorology in the Bay of Bengal region, said U Kyaw Moe Oo, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Meterology and Hydrology.

Myanmar which is taking a leading role in cooperation in two sectors : agriculture and energy sectors: among 14 cooperation areas of BIMSTEC, has invited investment in the two sectors.

Myanmar would make ensure transparency in selecting its partners and would give priority to those which have experience and technology in energy sector, said U Pe Zin Tun, Director General of Energy Planning Department of the Ministry of Energy, a participant of the meeting.

Regarding the cooperation in the agriculture sector, there are nine proposed projects and two is led by Myanmar.

To implement the proposed projects, Myanmar would face difficulties to move forward without donors and development partners, said Dr Thanda Kyi, Director of Agricultural Planning of the Ministry Agriculture and Irrigation, a participant of the meeting.

Regarding the projects, other members of the BIMSTEC have asked Myanmar to host 4th expert group meeting.

BIMSTEC includes Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Nepal and Bhutan. —*NLM*

Natsinchaung Bridge put into commissioned

MEIKTILA, 2 March—Natsinchaung Bridge, the life-blood for the dwellers from ten villages in Meiktila was collapsed in October 2013 due to heavy rains. The officials reconstructed 80 ft long, 14 ft wide new Natsinchaung wooden type bridge in 2013-14 FY for the convenience of locals.

As the bridge was completed by cent per cent, the locals can pass on it conveniently, said an official from Township Development Affairs Committee.

"I want to express thanks to officials and staff from township development affairs committee, township development supportive committee and township management committee who contribute to construction of new bridge," said a local.

Similarly, Thedaw Bridge is being reconstructed. Upon completion, it will facilitate road transportation for the dwellers from twenty-five villages.

Chan Tha (Meiktila)

Rural Development

Creating cookstoves market in Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March—The Myanmar Stoves Campaign is being developed and managed by Orbis Development Partners with funding from the SLOW LIFE Foundation. The Campaign aimed to stimulate a market for clean cookstoves in order to prove access to modern techno-logy to families across the rural areas in Myanmar.

The vast majority of the rural population in Myanmar uses wood as a source of household fuel. By bringing clean cookstoves to rural communities in Myanmar through a network of certified village entrepreneurs, families are able to reduce their wood usage by over 60 percent. The modern technology brings important health benefits too by eliminating toxic fumes and household air pollution.

Rural customers pay 15,000 kyats ($ 15) per stove and are given the flexibility to pay in installments over five months which dramatically increases affordability. Hence, most community members are able to afford and receive long term benefits from the fuel efficient stoves. Surveys conducted during 2012 and 2013 showed a doubling of the cost of fuelwood that is increasingly being purchases by families as local forests disappear. In some cases monthly expenses for fuelwood can reach up to 40% of total household expenses, a major cause for poverty in the country.

The first phase of the campaign is targeting 25,000 households in villages across Pyawbwe Township, Mandalay Region. During the first week of the campaign over 800 stoves were ordered and more than 600 stoves are now being used in Pyawbwe Township every day.

The Myanmar Stoves Campaign will be the first registered emission reduction project in Myanmar. It will bring carbon finance to the country for the first time. Currently, out of a total of 11,091 CDM projects, there are only two CDM projects under development in Myanmar. Both projects involve the construction of hydropower dams. These projects under development in Myanmar. Both projects involve the construction of hydropower dams.

This project chose to register as a voluntary project with the Gold Standard Foundation which has significantly higher sustainable development and social standards. An annual sustainable development assessment of the project will be conducted by the Foundation.

July Moe

2nd Annual Championship Bee-2014

YANGON, 2 March—To reach international level National Bee competitions, Spelling Bee competition of the 2nd Annual Championship Bee-2014 took place at a branch of Brain Works Total Schools in Kamayut Township in Yangon on Saturday.

Prize winning students at the competition will have opportunities to visit Disneyland in Hong Kong with their parents.—*MNA*

Mandalay Thingyan to be on grand scale

MANDALAY, 2 March—Myanmar Traditional Maha Thingyan Water Festival, participated by all nationals across the country regardless of age and religion enter 40 days countdown.

Mandalay Mayor Maha Thingyan Central Pandal is under construction as of 18 February. Mandalay City Development Committee and Committee for holding 2014 Mandalay Mayor Maha Thingyan Festival will arrange to hold Myanmar Traditional Thingyan Festival on a grand scale. As Mandalay Mayor Maha Thingyan Festival will include colour photo and Thingyan decorated-car contests, decent prizes will be presented to the winners.

Tin Maung (Sub-printing House)

Locals earn income from unloading at Bhamo Port

BHAMO, 2 March—The passenger river cruise vessels that ply between Bhamo and Mandalay route are docking at Nyaung-bintha Port due to siltation along Ayeyawady River near Bhamo in Kachin State.

Manawzeya Mandalar Vessel Association is running Bhamo-Katha route from Myoma Ward Dock daily.

The commodities from two-storey vessel that is stationary at Nyaungbintha Port were taken by boats to send Bhamo Port, said a worker. The local people are satisfied for creation of job opportunities for them.

Hsimeekhon-Nan Yi

Sri Lanka probes suspected third mass grave

COLOMBO, 2 March — Sri Lankan authorities have launched investigations into the discovery of human bones from a location where fierce fighting took place between Tamil Tiger rebels and the military in 2009, the police said on Saturday. At least nine human bones and skeletal remains were found from a suspected mass grave in Pudukudiruppu in the Northern Mullaitivu town, the third such grave to have been discovered over the past two years.

Police spokesman Ajith Rohana said that the human bones and skeletal remains had been found when private land in the area was being cleared.

The human bones have been sent for further investigations. The police spokesman said that an identity card was also recovered from the location.

The police spokesman said that the area was under LTTE control for 20 years before it was captured by the army in 2009.

Meanwhile, the army says some interested parties are attempting to portray the discovery of the bones as evidence of an incident for which the government and security forces should be held responsible.

"There is no factual basis for such conclusions and we reject these false and misleading allegations. It is deplorable that such premature conclusions are drawn without allowing the investigations to proceed without hindrance. Such assertions are misleading the local public as well as the international community, " the army said in a statement. — *Xinhua*

Cowgirls attend the annual Houston Rodeo parade in Houston, the United States, on 1 March, 2014. — XINHUA

California governor signs $687 million drought relief legislation

California Governor Jerry Brown announces emergency drought legislation at the CalO ES State Operations Center in Mather, California, on 19 Feb, 2014.
REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 2 March — California Governor Jerry Brown on Saturday signed into law a $687 million drought-relief package to deal with a water shortage he has called the worst in the state's modern history. "This legislation marks a crucial step — but Californians must continue to take every action possible to conserve water," Brown, a Democrat, said in a statement. The largest share of the drought relief package — $549 million — comes from accelerated spending of bond money voters previously approved in two ballot propositions.

Those measures will fund storm water recapturing, expanded use of recycled water, better management of groundwater storage and stronger water conservation measures.

The legislation also has a programme to deal with contaminants that become more concentrated in groundwater when less water is available to dilute them. In addition, the legislation appropriates $25.3 million in food assistance and $21 million in housing assistance to people affected by the drought, such as farm workers who have lost employment in bone-dry agricultural fields.

While much of the United States has been pummeled by a series of snow storms, California in recent months has struggled with a drought that threatens to inflict the worst water crisis in recorded state history. California grows half the nation's fruits and vegetables and is the top state by value of agricultural goods produced. Large-scale crop losses in the state could lead to higher consumer prices, especially for tree and vine produce grown only here.

A large winter storm soaked many parts of the state on Friday and Saturday, but officials said the precipitation would be too little to offset the ongoing drought.

"Obviously this rain helps, but we need a lot more to get caught up," said Carol Smith, meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Oxnard just northwest of Los Angeles.—*Reuters*

Son of Egypt's Morsi arrested for drug possession

CAIRO, 2 March — A son of Egypt's ousted president Mohamed Morsi was arrested Saturday in possession of hashish in a Cairo western suburb, official news agency *MENA* reported.

In a car with tinted windows, Abdullah, Morsi's youngest son, was arrested along with another person smoking hashish cigarettes, *MENA* quoted an interior ministry source as saying.

Abdullah confessed his possession of the drug and the two persons were referred to the prosecution for further investigations.

Meanwhile, Morsi's elder son Ousama posted on his twitter account that his brother was kidnapped by the police and the charges were fabricated.

"The incident of kidnapping and then arresting Abdullah Morsi is to defame the honest people," Ousama said, noting the charges are very funny and absurd.

Xinhua

Iraq death toll exceeds 700 in February

BAGHDAD, 2 March — More than 700 people died in violence in Iraq in February, not including nearly 300 reported deaths in western Anbar Province, where security forces have been battling Sunni Muslim rebels since January, the United Nations said on Saturday. The world body said local authorities had recorded 298 civilian deaths in Anbar, but that it could not confirm the figures independently due to the chaos in the desert region.

Outside Anbar, the bloodshed was worst in Baghdad, where 239 civilians were killed, followed by Salahuddin Province to the north with 121 dead. A total of 1,381 people were wounded.

The United Nations said it had confirmed 703 deaths in Iraq in February, compared to 733 in January, excluding Anbar.

The figures suggest that violence has not abated since 2013 when 7,818 civilians were killed. That was Iraq's deadliest year since 2008, when the civilian death toll stood at 6,787.

Municipal workers clean up the site of a car bomb attack in Baghdad's Karaada district on 26 Feb, 2014.
REUTERS

The bloodshed remains below the levels seen in 2006 and 2007 when sectarian Shi'ite-Sunni killings reached their peak. Insecurity worsened dramatically in April when troops and police forcibly cleared a Sunni protest camp north of Baghdad, killing dozens of protesters, most of them unarmed. The bloodshed sparked widespread clashes pitting Sunni fighters against the Shi'ite-led government and marked the start of a relentless bombing campaign by al-Qaeda-linked militants against mostly Shi'ite targets.

The growing power of Sunni militants, who have profited from the civil war in neighbouring Syria, prompted Prime Minister Nuri Maliki to order an offensive in western Anbar in December.—*Reuters*

Filipe Nyusi to run for presidential election on behalf of Mozambique's ruling party

MAPUTO, 2 March — Defence Minister Filipe Nyusi was chosen on Saturday night to be Mozambique's ruling party candidate for this year's presidential election slated for October.

The southern African country is now struggling to solve its political crisis with a revived rebel movement. Nyusi, 55, was born in the northern Province of Cabo Delgado. He had been a mechanical engineer before fully engaged in politics as the country's defence minister.

Prior to his appointment to the cabinet by the current president Armando Guebuza, Nyusi worked for the state-owned Mozambique Ports and Railways authority. Guebuza, 71, has led Mozambique since 2005 and will step down later this year after serving a maximum of two terms in office.—*Xinhua*

People transfer an injured man to a hospital in northwest Pakistan's Peshawar, on 1 March, 2014. The death toll rose to 14 in the bomb attacks that hit the vehicles of security personnel in Pakistan's northwestern tribal region of Khyber Agency on Saturday, officials said.
XINHUA

Kyoto University warned by gov't about lax iPS research laboratory control

KYOTO, 2 March — Kyoto University's laboratory conducting experiments on induced pluripotent stem cells has been warned by the science ministry about its careless control of genetically engineered mice, sources familiar with the matter said on Saturday.

A total of 21 mice, including five genetically engineered ones, were found in a room other than those designated for keeping them at the university's Center for iPS Cell Research and Application, the sources said.

All 21 mice were found in a room for cleaning breeding cases. They are believed to have been taken to the room unnoticed in the breeding cases filled with wooden chips, the sources said.

Shinya Yamanaka, who heads the research center, apologized for the incident and said keeping mice from escaping the facility is among the priorities of the research operations there.

The research centre currently keeps about 4,000 mice and 60 percent-70 percent of them are genetically engineered.

Kyodo News

***Shinya Yamanaka (R), who heads Kyoto University's Center for iPS Cell Research and Application, apologizes during a Press conference at the university in Kyoto on 1 March, 2014.* —KYODO NEWS**

China discovers huge oil, gas deposits

BEIJING, 2 March — China discovered nearly 1.1 billion tonnes of oil deposits and 616.4 billion cubic meters of natural gas reserves in 2013, said the Ministry of Land and Resources.

Of the new discoveries, 202 million tonnes of oil and 381.9 billion cubic meters of natural gas can be exploited with the current technologies, according to the ministry.

The production of oil and natural gas last year stood at 210 million tonnes and 117.6 billion cubic meters, rising 1.4 percent and 9.1 percent year-on-year, respectively.

"Oil and natural gas discoveries maintained a strong momentum in 2013 with steady production increase as China strengthened its exploration efforts and made breakthroughs," said the ministry.

China is one of the world's largest energy consumers, and a large part of its demands, especially in oil and natural gas, depends on imports.—*Xinhua*

Kidnapped Filipino-Chinese student escapes in S Philippines

ZAMBOANGA CITY, (Philippines), 2 March — A Filipino- Chinese college student, who was kidnapped in southern Philippine Province of Zamboanga del Sur last Thursday, managed to escape from his captors on the following day, local police said on Saturday.

According to Ariel Huesca, the spokesman for regional police office, the kidnapped victim, identified as Stephen Tan, escaped from his abductors during transportation at around 1:30 pm on Friday in Little Baguio village, Imelda town in Zamboanga Sibugay, a neighbour Province of Zamboanga del Sur.

Initial police investigation disclosed that the victim managed to escape from his abductors after the latter took off his blindfold while he was being transported. Then, Tan jumped from a cliff. His abductors chased him, but he was able to hide at a grassy portion and later sought help from locals to contact his family.—*Xinhua*

China closes 5,000 illegal clinics

BEIJING, 2 March — China has closed 5,088 illegal clinics in three months amid a crackdown on illicit medical practices, the country's health authority has announced.

A year-long campaign began in October targeting unlicensed clinics and unqualified doctors, according to a National Health and Family Planning Commission (NHFPC) statement.

In the first three months, the authorities received 7,316 reports and complaints from the public, out of which 6,538 have been settled.

Health authorities at all levels investigated 30,462 cases of illegal practices and revoked licenses of 121 medical and family planning clinics for violations, the statement said.

A total of 964 cases have been transferred to the police for further investigation.

The police have investigated 767 cases and busted 22 groups.

Military departments have closed 46 unauthorized medical websites and investigated 13 people who posed as military doctors, according to the statement.

The campaign was launched by six Chinese authorities, including the NHFPC, the Ministry of Public Security and the health department with the Chinese People's Liberation Army General Logistics Department.

The statement said the six authorities recently issued a circular, urging better efforts to crack down on unqualified medical cosmetic services, including those carried out by unlicensed foreign doctors, as well as illegal.—*Xinhua*

S Korea to launch new opposition coalition party ahead of local elections

SEOUL, 2 March — South Korea's main opposition party chief and a political heavyweight agreed on Sunday to launch a new coalition party ahead of local elections in June, which are widely seen as a mid-term confidence vote for the Park Geun-hye administration.

Democratic Party leader Kim Han-gil and independent lawmaker Ahn Chul-soo said at a joint press conference that both sides agreed to form a unified political party as soon as possible to realize the transfer of power in the 2017 presidential election.

Ahn, who contested the 2012 presidential election as an independent candidate, dropped out of the race to support Democratic Party candidate Moon Jae-in. Moon was defeated by ruling Saenuri Party candidate Park Geun-hye by a narrow margin. The businessman-turned-politician planned to launch his own New Political Vision Party, and decided to form a coalition with Kim to jointly fight against the Saenuri Party in the upcoming June 4 local elections.

The two political heavyweights also agreed to keep the 2012 presidential campaign pledge of abolishing the party nomination system for candidates in local elections.

The pledge to scrap the nomination system under which political parties put up candidates was made by both the ruling and opposition parties as well as Ahn in order to get rid of chronic political woe such as bribing the party into nomination.

Xinhua

***Candidates for the 2014 independent recruitment of universities wait to enter a testing site in Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province, on 1 March, 2014. A total of 26 universities which are qualified for independent recruitment held written examinations simultaneously on Saturday.—*XINHUA**

***Dong people participate in a log raft parade on the Rongjiang River in Meilin Township of Sanjiang Dong Autonomous County in Liuzhou, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 1 March, 2014.* XINHUA**

Xi vows punishment on terrorists, careful rescue for victims

BEIJING, 2 March — Chinese president Xi Jinping has urged the law enforcement to investigate and solve the case of Kunming terrorist attack with all-out efforts and punish the terrorists in accordance with the law.

More than 10 terrorist suspects attacked people at the square and ticket hall of Kunming Railway Station at 9:20 pm on Saturday, killing at least 28 civilians and injuring 113 others.

Police shot dead five attackers and are hunting for the rest.

Xi stressed the careful rescue and treatment of injured civilians and proper handling of the dead.

He ordered relevant parties to firmly suppress terrorists' rampant momentum, be fully aware of the grave and complex anti-terrorism situation and strengthen bottomline thinking.

The president, also head of China's national security commission, asked law enforcement to crack down on violent terrorist activities in all forms, safeguard social stability and guarantee the safety of people's lives and property.

Xinhua

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Sakura Tower, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Dated 3 March 2014

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE

(5/2014)

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-193(13-14)	70 Ton (4x4) Rough Terrain Mobile Crane	US$
(2)	IFB-194(13-14)	Blow Out Preventers	US$
(3)	IFB-195(13-14)	Spares for Annular Blow Out Preventer	US$
(4)	IFB-196(13-14)	Spares for Stand Line Manifold	US$
(5)	DMP/L-065(13-14)	8Kg & 2Kg Dry Chemical Powder Fire KS Extinguisher (ABCE)	

Tender Closing Date & Time - 31-3-2014, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 3rd March, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph: +95 67 - 411097/411206

A kid has his hair cut on the Leijie Square in Hefei, capital of east China's Anhui Province, on 2 March, 2014, on the occasion of the second day of the second lunar month, known in Chinese as Er Yue Er, "a time for the dragon to raise its head", as a Chinese saying goes.—Xinhua

Crack found in dam in Washington state, authorities lower water levels

Seattle, 2 March — A 65-foot-long (20-meter-long) crack has appeared along the base of a dam in Washington state, posing no danger to the public but prompting utility managers to lower water levels to assess needed repairs, a utility spokesman said.

The 2-inch-wide (5-cm-wide) crack appeared in the spillway of the 8,320-feet-long (2535-meter-long) Wanapum Dam, a large hydroelectric power plant on the Columbia River that currently can generate more than 1,000 megawatts of power, the utility said late Friday.

The spillway is a channel that allows surplus water to escape and is used for the controlled release of flows from a dam.

"As a precautionary measure, the water above Wanapum Dam (forebay) is being drawn down to reduce the pressure on the spillway while inspectors investigate," Grant County Public Utility District spokesman Thomas Stredwick said.

The dam, about 18 miles upstream from Priest Rapids Dam in a rural part of central Washington, was still generating electricity, Stredwick said. But lower water flows during repairs could force the utility to buy power on the open market and affect the broader Columbia River hydroelectric system.

Stredwick said the dams coordinate to generate energy on a regional scope, and therefore if Wanapum is impacted, that affects dams upstream as well as below.

The water level had dropped by about 12 feet by Saturday with a target reduction of 20 feet to be reached by Monday.

There was no imminent threat of flooding.

The utility serves about 46,000 customers in Grant County and sells electricity across the Pacific Northwest's coordinated electric power grid.

Xinhua

16 Afghan militants killed in two operations

Kabul, 2 March — Sixteen Taleban militants were killed in two military operations carried out by the Afghan security forces, officials said on Sunday.

Nine militants were killed and five others wounded when Afghan army commandos launched an operation in Dar-e-Sangara area of Alingar district in the eastern Province of Laghman early Sunday morning, the provincial government said in a statement.

Four militants, including a would-be suicide bomber, were also detained, the statement said, adding a Taleban local leader named Abdul Jabbar was among the dead.

On Saturday, seven militants, including their leader named Hajji Rahis were killed when the army conducted a cleanup operation in southern Helmand province, according to Colonel Mohammad Rassoul Zazi of the Army Corps 215 Maiwand.

The army specialists also defused 20 roadside bombs, Zazi noted.

Xinhua

Whooper swans fly at sunrise in Rongcheng City, east China's Shandong Province, on 2 March, 2014. With the temperature rising, swans have begun to fly to the north from Rongcheng where they spent the winter.

Xinhua

Indonesia reiterates support for Palestinian independence

Jakarta, 2 March — Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono reaffirmed here Saturday that Indonesia will consistently support the establishment of an independent State of Palestine and the recognition of a full member state status in the United Nations (UN). Yudhoyono made the remarks at the opening ceremony of the second Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development (CEAPAD) held here.

"An independent and economically viable State of Palestine and not to mention a full member state of the UN will surely contribute to global peace and stability in the Middle East," Yudhoyono said.

The UN General Assembly in late 2012 approved a resolution, granting Palestine non-member observer state status at the UN, a long-sought victory for the Palestinians.

Real independence, however, will remain a dream until Palestine negotiates a peace deal with Israel, who warned that the resolution will only delay a lasting solution.

Yudhoyono called on all participants in the meeting to support the Palestinian pursuit for independence, saying the people of Palestine have been struggling to realize this dream for more than five and a half decades. "Providing them with capacity building is critical," the president said, adding that his country will continue to provide Palestine with not only political support, but also economic and development assistance.

Rami Hamdallah, Palestinian prime minister, expressed gratitude for the collective efforts by the donor nations at the opening ceremony, saying he still believes the two-state vision can be envisaged and realized despite obstacle ahead. Last July, the United States succeeded in brokering the resumption of direct peace talks between Israel and Palestine after three years of halt. The talks are scheduled to last for nine months until 29 April.—*Xinhua*

F/A-18 fighter jet crashes during training in Nevada

Washington, 2 March — A US Navy *F/A-18C Hornet* fighter jet crashed Saturday during a training mission near a Nevada air base, the Navy said.

The status of the pilot was not immediately clear, Navy spokesman Commander Ryan Perry said in a statement.

Perry said an investigation would be conducted to determine the cause of the crash, which occurred on a training range about 70 miles east of Naval Air Station Fallon in Nevada.

Navy personnel are headed to the scene, he said.

The *F/A-18C Hornet* is a single-seat fighter jet built by Boeing Co beginning in 1987. It is powered by two *F404-GE-402* enhanced performance turbofan engines built by General Electric Co.

Reuters

Japan's Fukuda wins international junior violin competition

TOKYO, 2 March — A 14-year-old Japanese junior high school student, Rennosuke Fukuda, won first prize in the junior division of the Yehudi Menuhin International Violin Competition held Saturday in Austin, Texas.

The violin contest for young players known as the Menuhin Competition has produced many winners who have gone to become internationally renowned soloists.

Daniel Lozakovitj, 12, of Sweden won second prize and Ludvig Gudim, 15, of Norway came third.

Kyodo News

'12 Years a Slave,' Oscar frontrunners sweep Spirit Awards

Producer Brad Pitt, actress Lupita Nyong'o and director Steve McQueen pose with their awards for "12 Years a Slave" backstage at the 2014 Film Independent Spirit Awards in Santa Monica, California on 1 March, 2014. —REUTERS

SANTA MONICA, (California), 2 March — Harrowing slavery drama "12 Years a Slave" swept the Independent Spirit Awards on Saturday with five wins, just one day ahead of the Oscar ceremony on Sunday. "12 Years a Slave" won five of its seven nominations at the awards show for independent movies made on small budgets, including the top award for best feature.

Oscar frontrunners Cate Blanchett, Matthew McConaughey, Jared Leto and Lupita Nyong'o also took home Spirit Award trophies on the eve of the movie industry's biggest honours. "12 Years a Slave" producer-director Steve McQueen dedicated the best picture Spirit Award to lead actor Chiwetel Ejiofor and supporting star Michael Fassbender, who were both nominated but did not win.

"Michael Fassbender is a genius, he's brave, he's feminine, he's masculine ... that's what Michael Fassbender is. Chiwetel was the soul and heart of this movie, and gave the most nuanced performance you've ever seen," McQueen said.

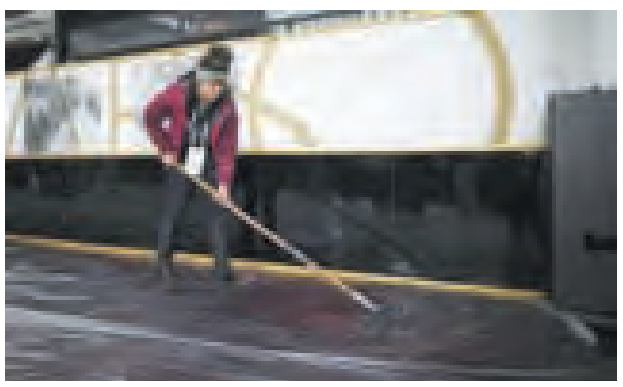
McQueen also won best director, and is a strong contender in the Oscars director race on Sunday. The Spirit Awards, held in a giant tent on California's Santa Monica beach, is usually a sunny and crisp affair. But this year guests were armed with umbrellas and rain boots as bursts of heavy rain pattered on the tent. —*Reuters*

Fashion disaster? Downpour douses Oscars red carpet

LOS ANGELES, 2 March — The most glamorous of all runways, the 500-foot-long Oscars red carpet, might be a fashion disaster on Sunday.A rare heavy rain storm on Friday in Southern California has soaked parts of the red carpet laid down on Hollywood Boulevard, where movie stars and Tinseltown powerbrokers will make their grand entrance to the Academy Awards, film's highest honours.

Dozens of workers spent the morning securing the red carpet from the pelting rain and overflowing street gutters 48 hours before hundreds of attendees will parade designer gowns, extravagant jewels and tailored tuxedos.Workers cleared pools of water that had collected atop the tent built to shield stars from the rain while others hustled to plug any leaks and a team wielding squeegees pushed standing water out of the protective plastic over the red carpet.

"It has been a challenge, a lot of water in a short amount of time," said Joe Lewis, the associate producer of arrivals for Hollywood's biggest night. "There is no perfect science to (a) rain plan. It is going to rain, there is going to be water, we have got to protect as best we can."The rain began in Los Angeles on Thursday evening and according to the National Weather Service is not expected to let up until Sunday morning, hours before Hollywood's movie stars begin their walk across the red carpet at 3 pm PST (2300 GMT).



A worker brushes water off the red carpet during preparations for the 86th Academy Awards in Hollywood, California, on 1 March, 2014. —REUTERS

"I think the carpet is probably wet underneath us, which is going to be a problem in a couple days," said Doug Neal, the stage manager of the Oscars red carpet show. "But we are well protected. They have put this up a few days ago so I think we will be alright."While the rain is a welcome sight for many in California, which is mired in its third year of a debilitating drought, high winds and debris caused road closures, power outages and about 1,000 homes in the Los Angeles area were ordered to be evacuated due to possible mudslides.

Reuters

Comedy on gender confusion sweeps French Cesar film awards

PARIS, 2 March — A comedy about a young man who worships his mother and whose entire family treats him as a girl since childhood swept five trophies at the French Cesar awards ceremony including Best Film and Best Actor. Actor and director Guillaume Gallienne plays himself and impersonates his mother — often in the same scene — in the autobiographical film "Me, Myself and Mum", which also took the award for best first film.

Adapted from a popular play, the film follows Gallienne through his childhood and adolescence, from dressing up in women's clothing in his bedroom to heartbreak at a British boarding school and clubbing in the Paris gay scene. "This Cesar (award) is for my mother," Gallienne said in his acceptance speech at the Cesar ceremony — France's version of the Oscars - in Paris late on Friday.

However, the jury was less enthusiastic about "Blue is the Warmest Colour", a drama about a stormy relationship between two adolescent girls which won the top Palme d'Or award at the Cannes film festival in May. One of the film's stars, the 20-year-old Adele Exarchopoulos, nevertheless took home an award for best new female actress.

In a boon for paparazzis, actress Julie Gayet made her first public appearance at the ceremony since the tabloid Closer published photos which it said showed President Francois Hollande making visits to her at an apartment in Paris. The 41-year-old Gayet, who has appeared in French films since the mid-1990s, left with no award, having been bested by actress Adele Haenel for the prize of best female supporting role in the film "Suzanne".

Reuters

French actor Guillaume Gallienne (C) holds his trophy during a photocall after receiving the Best Actor, Best first Film, Best adaptated Screenplay and best film awards in the film "Les garcons et Guillaume, a table!'' (Me, Myself and Mum) at the 39th Cesar Awards ceremony in Paris on 28 Feb, 2014. REUTERS

Toronto's oft-lampooned mayor to guest on "Jimmy Kimmel"

TORONTO, 2 March — Toronto Mayor Rob Ford, who became a popular target for late-night TV hosts after admitting to smoking crack cocaine in a "drunken stupor", will appear on "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" and may join the comedian at the Oscars, Canadian media reported on Saturday. The Toronto Sun newspaper said Ford is scheduled to be on the Jimmy Kimmel show Monday night and is "looking forward to promoting Toronto on the world stage."

The article also quoted Ford as saying he would attend this year's Academy Awards, though another report by a local TV news channel said a plan for Ford to attend the ceremony with Kimmel was not confirmed. The mayor's office did not immediately respond to a call seeking comment. But the mayor's spokesman sent a photo on his Twitter account showing Ford being met at the airport in Los Angeles by Kimmel.

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford (C) celebrates Team Canada's gold medal win over Sweden in the men's ice hockey gold medal game at the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympic Games, in Toronto, on 23 Feb, 2014.— REUTERS

Ford, who last year pledged he would stay away from drugs and alcohol, has had other embarrassing episodes since last year's crack scandal. In January, a video of Ford ranting in a Jamaican accent and slurring his words at a suburban eatery was posted online. He conceded he had been drinking the night the video was shot, but described it as a "minor setback" and said his personal life did not interfere with his job. Ford, who has been stripped of many of his powers by the city council, has refused calls to step down and said he expects to be returned to office in October's municipal elections.

Reuters

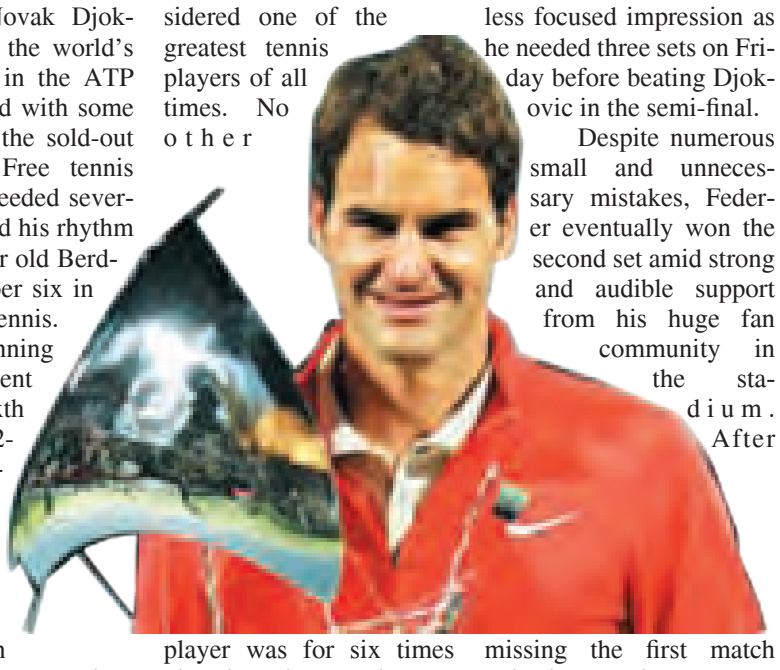
Federer beats Berdych to win Dubai Open for sixth time

DUBAI, 2 March — In the final of the 22nd Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships, Swiss Roger Federer defeated Tomas Berdych from the Czech Republic in a tough match in three sets 3-6, 6-4, 6-3 here on Saturday, cashing in 465,830 US dollars worth of prize money.

Like in the semi-final against Novak Djokovic, Federer, the world's number eight in the ATP ranking, started with some difficulties in the sold-out Dubai Duty Free tennis stadium and needed several points to find his rhythm against 28-year old Berdych, the number six in global men's tennis.

After winning the tournament for the sixth time, the 32-year old Federer said "It sounds good, I am very happy with my game, Tomas had an advantage and I got a little lucky," the tennis ace said in his typical modest style. Asked how he managed the turnaround after losing the first set, Federer said "I stayed calm and really started to play better, but it remained till the end a really tough match. Tomas is a great player and I wish Tomas all the best for the coming weeks."

With 17 Grand Slam titles and overall 302 weeks he held number one in the world, Federer is considered one of the greatest tennis players of all times. No other player was for six times victorious in Dubai's 22-year tournament history (Djokovic won four times, Federer was the runner-up in 2011 when he lost against the Serbian). During the 1st set Berdych made lots of mistakes, but Federer also could not benefit from it as the Swiss hit the ball several times too far. Both players rarely appeared at the net and tried to keep each other at bay with long, risky shots close to the baseline. The Swiss left a somewhat tired and less focused impression as he needed three sets on Friday before beating Djokovic in the semi-final.



Despite numerous small and unnecessary mistakes, Federer eventually won the second set amid strong and audible support from his huge fan community in the stadium. After missing the first match point in the third set when he led 5-2, Federer showed his entire class and completed the last set 6-3.

Xinhua

Steady McIlroy has two-stroke lead at Honda Classic

CARY, (N.C.), 2 March — Rory McIlroy was steady rather than spectacular as he extended his lead to two strokes after the third round at the $6 million Honda Classic in south Florida on Saturday. McIlroy missed only one green on the water-lined back nine as he compiled a one-under-par 69 in a moderate breeze at PGA National in Palm Beach Gardens. "I thought 69 in the conditions was a pretty good score," the 24-year-old from Northern Ireland told Golf Channel.

"You can't really get away with anything (on this golf course). You really have to be in control with your ball and for the most part this week I have been." Two-time major champion McIlroy, whose gallery included fiancée, tennis player Caroline Wozniacki, posted a 12-under 198 total. American Russell Henley (68), boosted by an unlikely eagle at the par-four 14th, moved into second place on 10-under, with Scotsman Russell Knox (68) alone in third position on nine-under. Tiger Woods had his best round of the year, a 65, to move within seven strokes.

Zimbabwean Brendon de Jonge started the day one stroke from the lead, but finished it eight behind after an error-strewn 76.

Henley recorded his eagle with a wedge from 150 yards. His ball stayed in the air for almost six seconds, landed a couple of inches beyond the cup and found the hole on the first bounce. "It felt like a really great swing," said Henley. "It was a pretty cool feeling." Henley produced an encore when he rammed home a 50-foot putt from the fringe at the par-three 17th. His ball was motoring at speed when it hit the back of the hole, jumped a couple of inches in the air and dropped in.

"I hit it a little too hard but it felt really good coming off the clubface," he said. Henley, 24, who has won once on the PGA Tour, knows he likely needs a hot final round to catch McIlroy, who has won the past three times when he has held the 54-hole lead. His advantage could have been larger, because birdie putts at the final two holes shaved the cup without dropping.

"I'm comfortable playing with the lead," said McIlroy, the 2012 champion. "If you're playing with the lead, you've got to let the guys come to you. It's going to make the job of the other guys very difficult if you're not making mistakes." Woods, who made the cut on the number, took advantage of his early tee time to equal the best round of the day. "Yesterday I didn't hit the ball very well. Today I struck the ball well and made some putts (but) I missed my share as well. I just had a good feel (on the greens)," he said.

Reuters

Pardew sees red, Chelsea and Liverpool march on

LONDON, 2 March — Newcastle United manager Alan Pardew was fined and warned by his club after he was sent off for headbutting a Hull City player while Chelsea and Liverpool claimed convincing away wins in the Premier League on Saturday.

Pardew was fined 100,000 pounds ($167,600) and given a formal warning by Newcastle who said his behaviour was "unacceptable", while FA chairman Greg Dyke said the governing body would investigate the incident.

Pardew was sent to the stands by referee Kevin Friend when he headbutted Hull midfielder David Meyler on the sideline after 72 minutes of Newcastle's 4-1 win at Hull's KC Stadium and he is likely to face a hefty FA fine and a touchline ban.

In the title race, Germany international Andre Schuerrle scored a hat-trick as leaders Chelsea went four points clear with a 3-1 victory at neighbors Fulham while Liverpool jumped into second spot with a 3-0 win at Southampton.

Brendan Rodgers' side leapfrogged Arsenal and Manchester City after the Gunners suffered a surprising 1-0 defeat at Stoke City due to a second-half Jon Walters penalty. Manchester City were without a league match as they play Sunderland in the Capital One (League) Cup final on Sunday.

***Newcastle United's manager Alan Pardew (top centre) watches from the stand after being sent off during their English Premier League soccer match against Hull City at the KC Stadium in Hull, northern England on 1 March, 2014.—*REUTERS**

The results left Chelsea top with 63 points from 28 games, followed by Liverpool on 59 ahead of Arsenal on goal difference.

Fourth-placed City, who have two matches in hand on the clubs above them, have 57 points.

Reuters

Ancelotti happy to take biling as favourites for Madrid derby

MADRID, 2 March — Atletico Madrid coach Diego Simeone has looked to shrug off the banner of favourites for the Madrid derby in the Vicente Calderon Stadium on Sunday. A win for Atletico would lift them back above their neighbours, while defeat would see Real Madrid open up a six point lead over Atletico and virtually rule them out of the title race. Meanwhile Real Madrid will travel across town after winning both legs of the recent Copa del Rey semifinal between the two teams, although Atletico did beat Real Madrid 1-0 in the Santiago Bernabeu earlier this season.

In terms of form, Real Madrid visit the Calderon on the back of a 6-1 thrashing of Schalke 04 in the Champions League, while last weekend saw Atletico lose 3-0 away to Osasuna. "The team that is leader in the league is the favorite to win; that is logical because the side that is first is the best. So the game means we are waiting for the best team, we need to make the best effort and hope for the result," said Simeone, who added that Real Madrid were in their best form of the season. "They played very well in midweek and they come to the Calderon on the back of a great result and as a side that's feared in all of Europe," he added.

Reuters

Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti

Relegaton battle in focus in Spanish La Liga

MADRID, 2 March — With Real Madrid taking on Atletico Madrid and Barcelona playing at home to Almeria on Sunday, the focus shifted to the battle to avoid relegation in Spanish La Liga on Saturday. Fourth from bottom Malaga wasted a good chance to climb away from trouble as they could only draw 1-1 at home to third bottom Valladolid.

Roque Santa Cruz scored a powerful header from a corner after 13 minutes to put Malaga on track, but Valladolid levelled on the half hour when Sebastian Larsson finished off a flowing move to establish the final score in a game Valladolid almost won in the final move of the game when Javi Guerra saw his shot saved by Willy Caballero.

Levante are looking towards Europe, rather than looking to avoid the drop after defeating Osasuna 2-0.

Papa Diop and Ruben Garcia scored the first half goals to give the Valencia based side the points and Levante held on with few problems after Victor Casadesus was sent off for a wild challenge in midfield.

Reuters

Trinidad and Tobago footballer dies after heart attack

PORT OF SPAIN, 2 March — Kevon Carter, a 30-year-old Trinidad and Tobago national footballer, died after training with his club team due to suspected heart attack, local media reported on Saturday.

Carter complained of chest pains and nausea when training with his club Defence Force Friday morning. After taking a pain killer, Carter began vomiting and was rushed to hospital and died. Carter had never showed any sign of heart disease before, Defence Force's assistant coach Marvin Gordon told local media. As a forward of the Trinidad and Tobago national team, Carter scored five goals in 31 national appearances.

In December, 22-year-old Trinidad and Tobago national defender Akeem Adams died due to heart problems in Hungary.

Xinhua

Japanese sake, shochu promotions planned at soccer World Cup

TOKYO, 2 March — A Japanese company plans a series of events during the upcoming soccer World Cup in Brazil to increase overseas consumption of Japanese "sake" rice wine and "shochu" distilled spirits.Tokyo-based distributor Hasegawasaketen Inc. said it will organize events in Sao Paulo in June to familiarize consumers with sake, shochu and Japanese cuisine. For the promotional campaign, Hasegawasaketen will be joined by internationally renowned Japanese soccer player Hidetoshi Nakata, a sake aficionado who formerly played midfield for Japan's national team. He is now retired from the game.

Ahead of the World Cup which begins in mid-June, Hasegawasaketen has secured official approval from FIFA, soccer's world governing body, for the bottles of 14 brands of "sake" wines and "shochu" distilled spirits from 12 Japanese brewers and distilleries to carry the World Cup in Brazil logo.

Kyodo News

Engineering vehicles drive piles into the earth on the working site of the Shanghai-Nantong Yangtze River Bridge in Nantong, east China's Jiangsu Province, on 1 March, 2014. The construction of the Shanghai-Nantong Yangtze River Bridge has begun here and the bridge is expected to shorten the travel time from Nantong to east China's Shanghai to one hour by train.—XINHUA

Iran says abducted border guards freed in Pakistan

DUBAI, 2 March — Five Iranian border guards reportedly seized and held captive in Pakistan for three weeks have been freed, an Iranian military official has been quoted as saying, although Pakistani authorities said they had no knowledge of the incident.

Iran's official news agency *IRNA* said the Iranians, abducted by Sunni Muslim militants on February 6 in the restive Sistan-Baluchistan province, were among 11 foreign hostages freed in an operation by Pakistani forces.

Its Fars news agency on Saturday also quoted General Massoud Jazaerisemi as saying: "Five Iranian troops who had been kidnapped on our eastern borders and transferred to Pakistan were freed."

He did not elaborate on the circumstances of the release, only saying that "the country's entire police and security apparatus were involved in this matter".

However, Pakistani authorities appeared to have no knowledge of the operation.

The government-run paramilitary Frontier Corps, which has primary responsibility for security in Baluchistan, said they had freed three Africans kidnapped by drug traffickers in Baluchistan on Saturday but had not recovered the Iranians.

A security official and the foreign office said on Sunday they were unaware of the incident.

The impoverished and relatively lawless Sistan-Baluchistan province has been a hotbed of rebellion by a disgruntled Sunni minority in predominantly Shi'ite Iran.

Angry over a spate of cross-border attacks by the so-called Jaish al-Adl (Army of Justice), Iran warned two weeks ago that it might pursue the rebels into Pakistani territory, provoking an angry warning from Islamabad.

Iran accuses both Pakistan and Saudi Arabia of supporting an armed Sunni rebellion.

Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif enjoys warm relations with Saudi Arabia, which sheltered him after an earlier military coup forced him into exile. Sharif's cash-strapped government is also hoping for financial aid from the Saudis. Saudi Arabia and Iran are rivals for influence in the Muslim world.

Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(3-3-2014, Monday)

6:00 am
1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

6:30 am
2. Nice & Sweet Song

7:00 am
3. News/Weather Report

8:45 am
4. Documentary (ASEAN)

9:30 am
5. Cartoon Series

10:00 am
6. News

11:00 am
7. New Melody

12:00 am
8. News/International News/Weather Report

2:30 pm
9. Song Of Yeater Years

3:00 pm
10. News

3:20 pm
11. Cute Little Dancer

4:25 pm
12. University Of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - Second Years (Economic)

4:45 pm
13. Songs Programme

5:00 pm
14. News

6:00 pm
15. News/Weather Reoprt

6:20 pm
16. Documentary (BIMSTEC)

7:00 pm
17. News

7:25 pm
18. TV Drama Series

8:35 pm
19. People Talks

9:00 pm
20. News
21. Documentary
22. TV Drama Series

MYANMAR INTRNATIONAL

(3-3-14 07:00am~ 4-3-14 07:00am) MST

* Local News
* Tapestry: A Genuine Myanmar Handicraft
* World News
* Kyaikhteeyoe: My Father The Porter
* Local News
* Secret Places For Yummy Food (Ep-13) (Suzuki Restaurant)
* World News
* Dhamma School
* Local News
* Journey To Unimaginable Spots (Ep-5)
* World News
* A Person with Faith
* Local News
* Moe Ne' Keeps Its Tradition Alive
* World News
* Porcelain and Glass
* 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"

Bayern, Dortmund victorious in German Bundesliga

BERLIN, 2 March — Arjen Robben donated a hat trick as Bayern continues their relentless run while Dortmund take over the second place by courtesy of Leverkusen's 1-0 loss to Mainz at the 23rd round of the German Bundesliga on Saturday. Bayern Munich march on as they humiliated Schalke 5-1 to inflict the "Royal Blues" the sixth loss of the season.

The Bavarians staged a faultless performance during the first half, as Schalke had absolutely no chance to threat Bayern defence. The hosts ensured a bright start as David Alaba opened the scoring with a deflected free kick goal at the third minute.

The "Royal Blues" were shocked when Bayern doubled their lead at the 15th minute through Robben, who made use of a through ball by Mario Mandzukic to beat custodian Ralf Faehrmann with a lob. Schalke porous defence allowed Bayern to score another goal as Mandzukic had all time and space to head home Alaba's cross inside the box at the 24th minute. Schalke were absolutely hapless against Bayern's dominance as the front runners made it 4-0 thanks to the brace by Robben, who finished his solo run into the far post corner four minutes later.

However, things changed at the second half since Schalke were able to disrupt Bayern's build up play. Although no Schalke player scored a consolation goal, it was Bayern's Rafinha who reduced the arrears for the visitors when he cleared a corner into his own goal at the 64th minute. Nonetheless, things changed from bad to worse when Kyriakos Papadopoulos was sent off with a straight red card following a professional fould to cause a penalty, which was converted by Robben who wrapped up his hat trick at the 77th minute. Bayern tighten their top spot with 65 points whereas Schalke stuck on fourth place with 41 points.

Dortmund celebrated their eighth win on home soil as they cruised to a 3-0 victory over Nuremberg. Thus the "BVB" oust Leverkusen from the second place in the table. Juergen Klopp's men staged a dominant performance as they created 12 attempts during the first half while Nuremberg approached just once BVB's goal.

Xinhua

3rd Waxing of Tabaung 1375 ME

The New Light of Myanmar

Monday, 3 March, 2014

Union FM receives Sri Lankan counterpart

Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin shakes hands with His Excellency Professor G.L. Peiris, Minister for External Affairs of Sri Lanka.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 2 March—Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin met with His Excellency Professor G.L. Peiris, Minister for External Affairs of Sri Lanka at the Minister's office on Sunday morning.

The Sri Lankan Foreign Minister is in Nay Pyi Taw to attend the 14th BIMSTEC Ministerial meeting being held from 1 to 4 March.

At the meeting, they discussed and exchanged views on enhancing the existing friendly bilateral relations and cooperation in a cordial manner.

MNA

Pre-monsoon Rain/Squalls Warning

Nay Pyi Taw, 2 March — During the pre-monsoon period of March to Mid-May, isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in the afternoon or evening accompanied with 35 mph to 40 mph surface wind, hails, thunder and lightning, due to the rising day temperature in the whole country.

Public is advised to take necessary awareness with the Weather News and Warning, announced the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

NLM

Union FM sends felicitations to Bulgarian counterpart

Nay Pyi Taw, 3 March—U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Kristian Vigenin, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Bulgaria, which falls on 3 March 2014.—*MNA*

Agricultural sector cooperation still weak in BIMSTEC

Nay Pyi Taw, 2 March—As Myanmar is an agro-based country, 70 percent of population is engaging in agricultural sector. It is natural that Myanmar is a leading country in agricultural sector, an important role in 14 priority sectors of BIMSTEC, said Director Daw Thanda Kyi at 4th Expert Working Group Meeting at MICC in Nay Pyi Taw on Sunday.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation organized three meetings, first in Nay Pyi Taw in 2007, second in India in 2008 and third in Sri Lanka in 2010.

It is learnt that regional cooperation of BIMSTEC includes not only agriculture sector but also livestock breeding sector and the remaining tasks to be implemented by BIMSTEC are technical and investment cooperation.

Agricultural sector cooperation is still weak in BIMSTEC. Out of proposed nine common projects in agriculture sector, Myanmar leads two prioritized sectors. We need assistance of the donors. We may face difficulties without donors and development partnerships, she added.

She continued that regional cooperation is required, saying there is technical and economic cooperation in ASEAN and South Asia as Bay of Bengal Initiative. When Free Trade Zone emerges, there will be more cooperation about trade sector.

Aung:Ye:Nanda:Myat

First Oversea Job Fair concluded

Union Minister U Aye Myint views round booths at First Oversea Job Fair.

MNA

Yangon, 2 March—Under the supervision of the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, Myanmar Oversea Employment Service Entrepreneur Association organized First Oversea Job Fair at MICT Park in Hline Township in Yangon on 1 March, with an address by Union Minister U Aye Myint.

The Union minister said that Myanmar Oversea Employment Service Entrepreneur Association was formed in 2013 enabling Myanmar workers to hunt jobs abroad. As 184 employment agencies have already been allowed to formed, those who wish to work abroad are to register at legal employment agencies and go abroad by through legal channels, he added. He continued that similar job fairs have been held nine times in Yangon and four times in Mandalay totaling 13 times. He called them for holding job fairs in the regions and states.

A total of 59 booths from 58 oversea employment agencies are displayed at two-day oversea job fair. At the beginning of the fair, an agreement between 757 Myanmar employees selected by the Thai entrepreneurs and employer was signed under the accountability of six employment agencies.

MNA

Union S & T Minister visits Sagaing Technological University

Nay Pyi Taw, 2 March—Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo visited Technological University (Sagaing) in Sagaing on 28 February.

The Union minister called the officials for teaching and learning through information and technology system, holding seminars, doing practical works in accord with syllabus, construction of labs and workshops and striving for improvement of English subject.—*MNA*

Union Finance Minister attends meetings in Australia

Nay Pyi Taw, 2 March—A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Finance U Win Shein attended G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting at Sofital Sydney Wentworth Hotel in Sydney, Australia on 22-23 February.

Vice-Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar Daw Khin Saw Oo and Advisor to the President Dr Zaw Oo also attended G-20 Deputy Finance Ministers and Vice-Governors of Central Bank Meeting on 21 February.

World economic situation, investment and infrastructures, International Monetary Fund's reform, international tax system and financial sector regulations were among the topics of the meeting. After the meeting, the G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors released press communiqué that reflects the resolutions of the meeting.

They met with Australian-Myanmar entrepreneurs on 21 February and clarified investment opportunities in mining industry.—*MNA*

Prospect of Myanmar's resources discussed

Yangon, 2 March—Deputy Minister for Energy U Aung Htoo attended a round-table discussion on prospects for Myanmar's natural resources and energy sector at Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies on Diplomat Avenue, in Dagon Township, Yangon on Sunday.

Norwegian Foreign Minister Mr. Borge Brende said that Norway is ready to provide technical assistance for development of energy and electricity sectors in Myanmar. Norway will share her knowledge how to exploit the energy without environmental impact, he added.

Daw Kyi Kyi Hla, a member of Myanmar ISIS, said that Myanmar's sustainable development is depending on environmental conservation. Emphasis should be put on renewable energy sector, preservation of biodiversity and rare animals to achieve harmonious development, she added.

The entrepreneurs are responsible for development of country's economic sector, she said.—*MNA*

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