The New Light of Myanmar

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INSIDE

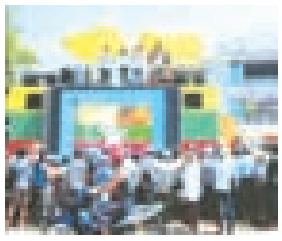
Summer school holidays and pagoda festivals in Central Myanmar

PAGE-9

Bridges under construction in Pyawbwe Tsp

PAGE-9

Campaign to participate in census taking process



PAGE-9

Gov't to implement development projects with foreign loans in dry areas of central Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 6 March — The government will implement development projects in 13 districts of central Myanmar to improve the livelihoods of people suffering hardship in the dry areas.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham said the projects will focus on livestock farming, irrigation, supply of safe drinking water and food, job creation, greening and socio-economic development.

He called on the regional governments and ministries concerned to allocate sufficient funds and cooperate with the Union government in implementing the projects in Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions.

According to Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, the World Bank is planning to grant USD 80 million in loans for the implementation of the development projects from 2012 to 2019.

The Asia Development Bank said it will give USD 12 million for development projects in Mandalay and Magway regions from 2013 to 2016.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham delivers a speech at work coordination meeting on implementing development projects in central dry zone.—MNA

Elaborating on further support, the Vice-President said the Japanese International Cooperation Agency will grant more than USD 4 million from 2012 to 2017 and UN-Habitat will give USD 12.16 million to spend on projects in Sagaing Region this year.

Over USD 2 million from the United Nations Children Fund-UNICEF would be injected into carrying out development tasks in the three dry regions from 2011 to 2015, while USD 1.56 million would come from BAJ in the United States. IFAD will give USD 0.3 million for projects in Magway Region.

The Vice-President in particular stressed the need for building dams, sinking tube wells and establishing river water pumping stations in the dry zones of central Myanmar.

The Union government has recently dredged silted reservoirs in Mandalay Region, he said.

The Ministry of Livestock Breeding, Fishery and Rural Area Development has finalized the project plan for the dry regions and is now working with the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development to include it on the list of state projects.

MNA

INSIDE

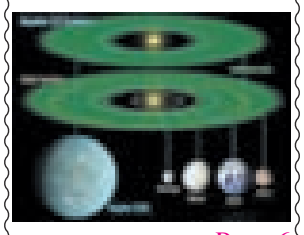
Japan, China, S Korea hold joint disaster drill despite strains

PAGE-3

Thai premier denies Thaksin involvement in political turmoil

PAGE-3

NASA's Kepler confirms first planet in habitable zone of Sun-like star



PAGE-6

Scientists find dinosaur that was scourge of Jurassic Europe

PAGE-6

A worker feeds chicken at a traditional chicken farm.
PHOTO BY: AYE MIN SOE

Zone for chicken farms to be established to prevent bird flu outbreak

TAMU, 6 March — A controlled zone for chicken farms will be established at the border with India to prevent an outbreak of bird flu, the Tamu District Management Committee said.

"We are planning to establish a zone for chicken farms outsideTamu town because the growing number of chicken farms here is causing health hazards to the local population," he said.

The Housing Department is currently working on the project which will also include the construction of bypass roads and an industrial zone, according to U KyawZaw Lin, Chairman of the Tamu District Management Plan.

The chicken farm zone in Tamu would be the ninth in Sagaing Division which comprises 37 townships in central Myanmar.

There are over 30 chicken farms in the district, with the number of chickens per farm varying from 200 to over 1000.

Myanmar has so far not reported any outbreaks of bird flu.

NLM (007)

Shrinking in fishing industry run on *Gah-Hpaung* leads to rising fish-paste prices in delta

KADONKANI (Delta), 6 March—In 2013-2014 fishing season, the number of fishermen engaged in fish-paste industry called *Gah-Hpaung* at the mouth of the sea in delta region reduced significantly. This has led to rising of the price of fish-paste, said owner U Thein. The industry produces first-class fish-paste lack of chemicals. Other fish-paste industries earn 40000 to 50000 Kyat per 100 viss of fish-paste but fish-paste produced from *Gah-Hpaung* industry net 70000 to 90000 Kyat per 100 viss. *Gah-Hpaung* business dates back to ancient time. Owners of the business were prominent persons of certain villages. "After Nargis the business ran short" said U Thein. "As the business has to be run just at the mouth of the river, the rate of fish catching has reduced with less profit. The investors have turned to more profitable industry. Sooner or later the *Gah-Hpaung* industry may disappear from the scene." said owner U Thein. Gar-Hpaung industry is mostly run in the seaside of Bogale Towship in delta.

Min Thitsar Hlaing

Nattaga bridge on Kalay-Tamu road repaired

KALAY, 6 March—People living in villages to the northwest of Kalay have to rely on 30 miles long Kalay-Yazagyo-Tamu road for their transport. Nattaga bridge is one of the bridges on the road. The bridge was damaged last rainy season. Now reapairing of the bridge is underway at a cost of 97.42 million kyat. On completion the bridge will be 238 feet long.—*Junine*

Sunflowers thrive in ChaungU

CHAUNGU, 6 March —Farmers in Kalargyi Village Track, ChaungU Township, Monywa District in Sagaing Region of upper Myanmar are used to cultivate wheat and gram after monsoon paddy. As one of the multi-cropping systems, Farmer U Tun Lin grew sunflower in his field. Now, the hybrid sunflower of Hsihshwekyar-3 strains are thriving in the field.

Daw Yu Yu Win, ChaungU IPRD

Human-trafficking talks given in Wundwin, Meiktila District

WUNDWIN, 6 March—To be free from falling into the snare of human traffickers, police officers from Anti-Human-trafficking Squad gave talks on human trafficking Ohmatwe village in Wundwin Township, Meiktila District recently. The officers gave an account of history of human trafficking, difficulties to be faced while shifting as a migrant workers, definition of human trafficking, human trafficking law and forms of trafficking popular in Myanmar.

The villagers also got pamphlets and VCDs on human trafficking.

Chantha (Meiktila)

Mini Book Corners in Dekkhina Thiri Tsp see more books

NAY PYI TAW, 6 March —Dekkhina Thiri Information and Public Relations Department established book corners in public places such as Dekkhina Thiri Market, 100-bed hospital, Yan Aung Myin Market and Shwe Let Hla pagoda.

The project started on 4 June to provide services to the public on various knowledge. Twelve kinds of books on political, social, economic affairs and others have been added to the book corners monthly. Book corners serve people to broaden their horizons.

District IPRD

Replace the old with new ones

KYAUKTAN, 6 March —To prevent danger of electricity, to enjoy full capacity of electricity, and to reduce poweroutage officials from Yangon Region Electricity Supply Board supervised the replacing of old lamppost with new ones in Kyauktan in Yangon South District on 5 March.

Aung Swe (Shwe Tada)

K 23 m worth of ICE seized in Tachilek

TACHILEK, 6 March— While on duty, Police Inspector Kyaw Thu and group searched a saloon at Maiyang gate on 4 March. Lawta was at the wheel together with Ma Dawta on board the car. The officers found 1 Kg of ICE worth 23 million Kyat. The drug traffickers were taken into custody.—*Maung Yin Kye*

Japan, China, S Korea hold joint disaster drill despite strains

TOKYO, 6 March — Japan, China and South Korea held a joint drill on Thursday to study disaster response, a rare opportunity for the three nations to display unity amid politically charged conflicts over territory and wartime history between Tokyo and its two neighbours.

Some 40 officials from the three countries attended the so-called "tabletop exercise" in Tokyo and discussed emergency responses to serious natural disasters.

Specifically, they conducted the drill at Japan's Foreign Ministry under the assumption that a massive earthquake had hit the Kanto region in eastern Japan, which centers on Tokyo, and confirmed procedures for relief operations. The session was the second of its kind, following one held a year ago. The leaders of the three countries agreed in May 2011 to conduct such drills, two months after the major earthquake and tsunami struck northeastern Japan, triggering a crisis at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.—*Kyodo News*

Sigrid Kaag, head of the United Nations-Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) Joint Mission charged with ridding the munitions from Syria, speaks to Syrian Permanent Representative to the UN Bashar Ja'afari at the UN headquarters in New York, on 5 March, 2014. The special coordinator overseeing the elimination of chemical weapons in Syria said on Wednesday that the end-of-June deadline for the total destruction of the programme was still achievable.
XINHUA

Japan, US to discuss TPP at working level next week

TOKYO, 6 March — Japan and the United States will hold working-level talks connected with an envisioned Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade deal in Washington next week, the Japanese government said on Thursday.

Japan's Deputy Chief Negotiator Hiroshi Oe and Acting Deputy US Trade Representative Wendy Cutler will meet next Tuesday and Wednesday to try to break an impasse over outstanding thorny issues, with the main topic expected to be tariff removal, the Cabinet Office said.

At a ministerial gathering held in Singapore last month, the 12 Pacific Rim countries involved in the TPP talks failed to reach a deal, mainly due to conflicts between Japan and the United States, the two biggest economies among the negotiating members.

Akira Amari, Japan's minister in charge of the TPP, and US Trade Representative Michael Froman met twice on the sidelines of the plenary session, but they remained far apart.

Washington is becoming increasingly frustrated at Tokyo's insistence on retaining tariffs on its sensitive farm products to protect them from an influx of inexpensive foreign products. The US-led TPP aims for abolition of all tariffs. The phase-out period for US auto tariffs is also one of the sticking points.

The 12 nations missed their deadline for striking a deal by the end of 2013. Solving the Japan-U.S. spat is widely seen as the key to concluding the trade pact, but the outlook remains uncertain as both sides are under strong pressure at home not to concede.

Kyodo News

Imperial couple to visit Ise Shrine in late March

TOKYO, 6 March— Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko will visit Ise Shrine in Mie Prefecture in late March following last October's first ceremony in 20 years to transfer the shrine deity to a new building, the Imperial Household Agency said Thursday.

During their visit to the shrine dedicated to the ancestral deities of the imperial family, the imperial sword and jewel among the family's three sacred treasures will be moved to the shrine from Tokyo's imperial palace for the first time in 20 years to mark the transfer.

The other treasure, a mirror, is always kept at the shrine.

After arriving in Ise on 25 March, the imperial couple will visit the Shinto shrine's Geku compound the following morning and its Naiku compound, 4 kilometers from Geku, in the afternoon.

The couple will go to a facility that exhibits materials on the deity-moving ceremony on 27 March and return to Tokyo the next day.

Kyodo News

Thai premier denies Thaksin involvement in political turmoil

BANGKOK, 6 March — Caretaker Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra insisted Thursday her older brother, ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, is not involved in the current political crisis and reiterated unity with military.

Responding reporters' questions, Yingluck refused to say how long the political turmoil would last, but she said all sides should take part in a process to bring normalcy to the country and move reform forward.

She also said Thaksin is not involved with her administration.

"It is not true (Thaksin is involved). I'm doing my job, you can see...please be optimistic, maybe we will have some good news in our country," she said.

On relations with the military, Yingluck said she recently held talks with military leaders on the regular schedule, but the latest meeting with army chief Prayut Chan-ocha on Wednesday was unrelated to rumors about a deepening rift between the government and the military that could lead to a coup.

She said frequent meetings with military leaders could avoid misunderstandings and violence.

"I believe no one wants to see violence or a coup, which is unacceptable in the international community. It is useless to do so," she added.

Rumors of a rift between the Yingluck government and the military have been spreading in local media since government supporters mentioned separatism during a big meeting near the end of February and at a recent rally in northeastern Thailand. Some "redshirts" said on satellite television they wanted to create another country in the north and northeast and banners about separatism have also been seen in some provinces.

But Yingluck, and some redshirt leaders, have said the redshirt movement and the ruling Pheu Thai party have same position -- one country.

Armed forces chief Prayut insisted Thursday the military is neutral in the current political situation and urged the conflicting parties to find a solution instead of "having a quarrel."

"I feel uncomfortable in this situation. We are all Thais, why do we have to fight each other...we help all sides, especially during natural disasters," Prayut said at a press conference.

Kyodo News

EU weighs Russia sanctions as Ukraine diplomacy falters

BRUSSELS / MOSCOW, 6 March —European Union leaders were set to warn but not sanction Russia on Thursday over its military intervention in Ukraine after Moscow rebuffed Western diplomatic efforts to persuade it to pull forces in Crimea back to their bases.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov refused to meet his new Ukrainian counterpart or to launch a "contact group" to seek a solution to the crisis at talks in Paris on Wednesday despite intensive cajoling by US Secretary of State John Kerry. The two men will meet again in Rome on Thursday.

Tension remained high in Ukraine's southern Crimea region, where a senior United Nations envoy was surrounded by a pro-Russian crowd, threatened and forced to get back on his plane and leave the country. An emergency EU summit in Brussels is unlikely to adopt more than symbolic measures against Russia, Europe's biggest gas supplier, because neither industrial powerhouse Germany or financial center Britain are keen to start down that road.

The United States has said it is ready to impose sanctions such as visa bans, asset freezes on individual Russian officials and restrictions on business ties within days rather than weeks.

Russia's ruble currency weakened further on Thursday despite central bank intervention due to what analysts at VTB Capital called a political risk premium.

The European Commission announced an aid package of up to 11 billion euros for Ukraine in the next couple of years provided it reaches an agreement with the International Monetary Fund, entailing painful reforms like ending gas subsidies.

Diplomats said that at most, the 28-nation EU would condemn Russia's so far bloodless seizure of Ukraine's Black Sea province and suspend talks with Moscow on visa liberalization and economic cooperation, while threatening further measures.

Reuters

Russia's national flag (R) and Crimea's regional flag are seen on a building of Council of Ministers in Simferopol, on 5 March, 2014. Russia rebuffed Western demands to withdraw forces in Ukraine's Crimea region to their bases on Wednesday amid a day of high-stakes diplomacy in Paris aimed at easing tensions over Ukraine and averting the risk of war.
REUTERS

Abe asks Iran for efforts to secure nuclear deal with world powers

Tokyo, 6 March — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe asked Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on Wednesday to ensure the Middle Eastern country makes efforts to secure a final agreement with the United States and other world powers on Tehrean's nuclear programme.

"I expect Iran to make efforts to achieve an agreement," Abe told Zarif when they met at the prime minister's office in Tokyo. Zarif promised him Iran will deal with the matter "sincerely."

Iran agreed in November with six powers — Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States — to curb its uranium enrichment in exchange for a partial easing of economic sanctions.

The parties began a new round of talks last month, aiming to achieve a final agreement that addresses international concerns about Iran's nuclear programme.

Japan is among the countries that have imposed sanctions on Iran, resulting in a fall in bilateral trade as well as Japanese investment in the major oil producer.

At the meeting with Abe, Zarif extended Iranian President Hassan Rouhani's invitation for the premier to visit Iran. Zarif also met with Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida later in the day.—*Kyodo News*

US national security advisor to visit Israel in May

Washington, 6 March — Susan Rice will lead a US delegation to the US-Israel Consultative Group to pay her visit to Israel as National Security Advisor in May, the White House announced on Wednesday.

The visit is part of the outcome of Monday's "productive consultations" between President Barack Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the National Security Council said in a statement.

"Ambassador Rice looks forward to her first visit to Israel as National Security Advisor to continue our strategic consultations on a wide range of bilateral and regional issues," Hayden said, without disclosing further details.

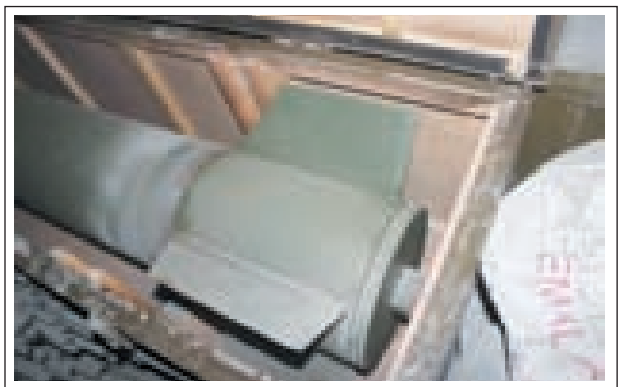
During their talks on Monday, Obama and Netanyahu discussed the Mideast peace talks and Iran's nuclear program, among others.

Israel and the Palestinians have made little progress since they resumed peace talks last July after a three-year halt. Obama urged Netanyahu to make some "tough" decisions in order to move forward on peace talks with the Palestinians, while the hardline Israeli leader blamed the lack of progress on the Palestinians for not have done their part in advancing the peace process.

Netanyahu also reiterated Israel's worries over Iran's nuclear program, despite the initial progress made in the peace talks held by Iran with six major nations, including the United States, Britain, France, China, Russia and Germany.

According to an interim deal signed in November, Iran agreed to halt some nuclear activities and allow more international inspections in exchange for easing some of the US-led crippling economic sanctions.

Xinhua



A handout photo released by the Israeli Army shows a missile on an intercepted ship in the Red Sea, on 5 March, 2014. Israeli Navy on Tuesday seized an Iranian ship that carried advanced weapons heading for the Gaza Strip, the Israeli army said. Israeli commandos raided the Panamanian-flagged Klos C on the maritime border of Sudan and Eritrea, some 1,500 km from Israel's shores.—Xinhua

Photo taken on 10 Feb, 2014 shows Mihoko Ishii (L), a female chief priest serving at the Suwa Shrine in Nambu, Aomori Prefecture, talking with a female worshipper and another priest at the shine.—Kyodo News

Niger extradites Gaddafi's son Saadi to Tripoli, Libya says

Tripoli, 6 March — Niger has extradited Muammar Gaddafi's son Saadi, who just arrived in Tripoli and was brought to a prison, the Libyan government said on Thursday.

The North African country had been seeking the extradition of Saadi, who had fled to the southern neighbour nation after the toppling of Gaddafi in a NATO-backed uprising in 2011. "The Libyan government received today Saadi Gaddafi and he arrived in Tripoli," the cabinet of Prime Minister Ali Zeidan said in a statement.

Saadi, one of Gaddafi's seven sons, was being held by judiciary police forces, the government said. It thanked Niger for its cooperation and said Saadi would be treated according to international justice standards for prisoners.

The website of a government-backed militia showed what it said were pictures of Saadi wearing a blue prison uniform, calling him a criminal. Libyan news websites also ran pictures showing him with his head shaven in prison.

Saadi, who had a career as businessman and professional footballer, is not wanted by the International Criminal Court, as is Gaddafi's most prominent son Saif al-Islam.

But Libya wants to try him for allegedly misappropriating property by force and for alleged armed intimidation when he headed the Libyan Football Federation. The ICC has indicted Saif al-Islam for crimes against humanity. Saif, once viewed as a likely successor to his father, is held by a militia in western Libya, where he is being tried for various charges.

Fighters from the western Zintan region caught Saif al-Islam in the southern desert a month after his father was captured and battered to death by a mob in 2011. The militia has defied an order from the government to deliver him to a jail in the capital.—*Reuters*

Japan's next nuclear disaster to be worse than Fukushima

Taipei, 6 March — A former Japanese mayor known for his strident opposition to nuclear power said on Wednesday that if the Japanese government does not abandon nuclear energy, the country's next nuclear disaster is bound to be worse than that which struck Fukushima three years ago.

Tatsuya Murakami, former mayor of Tokaimura in Ibaraki Prefecture, told a Press conference in Taipei that the Fukushima nuclear disaster is far from over as the worst is yet to come. Ibaraki Prefecture is home to multiple atomic energy facilities including a nuclear fuel processing plant where a deadly radiation accident occurred in 1999. Murakami, who stepped down as mayor last year, said the 1999 accident made him realize that no nuclear power is safe and that accidents are bound to happen.

"I was the first local chief to evacuate my people without waiting for the government's order," he said. "Unfortunately, we didn't learn a lesson from the accident, which I think contributed to the Fukushima incident."

He described as "crazy" that fact that Japan has around 50 nuclear power plants, adding that the Japanese are "too proud" to think that nuclear disasters such as Three Mile Island or Chernobyl would not happen again in Japan.

Murakami was one of the three former Japanese local chiefs invited by a Taiwanese antinuclear group to speak at Wednesday's press conference held ahead of the third anniversary of the 11 March, 2011, nuclear disaster in Fukushima Prefecture.

They are all members of Mayors for a Nuclear Power Free Japan, a network of serving and retired mayors opposed to nuclear power. Katsutaka Idogawa, former mayor of Futaba, Fukushima Prefecture, said the Fukushima incident made him realize the preciousness of human life.

Describing the Japanese government and Tokyo Electric Power Co, the operator of the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, as the "perpetrators" of the 2011 disaster, Idogawa said he felt "angry" that they have little respect for human life.— *Kyodo News*

OSCE sends military monitoring mission to Ukraine

Vienna, 6 March — Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) is sending unarmed military observers to Ukraine in response to its request, the organization announced on Wednesday.

"The OSCE will be better placed (in Ukraine) to foster a political solution to the current crisis through dialogue," OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier said in a statement.

"It is my hope that this military visit will help to de-escalate tensions in Ukraine. By providing an objective assessment of the facts on the ground," said the OSCE chief.

The matter was discussed at a joint meeting of the Permanent Council and the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) in Vienna on Tuesday.

The organization decided to send 35 unarmed military personnel from 18 OSCE states to Ukraine, however, the latter expected all the OSCE states could send military representatives to the country from 5 to 12 March.

The OSCE said the action is under its Vienna Document 2011, which allows for voluntary hosting of visits to dispel concerns about unusual military activities, and is the first time this mechanism has been activated, and the military visit participants are on their way to Ukraine now.—*Xinhua*

Yusuke Katayama, who was indicted for remotely operating other people's personal computers to issue a bomb threat, as well as threatening other violent attacks in 2012, speaks at a press conference in Tokyo on 5 March, 2014, after the Tokyo Court granted him bail. Katayama protested his innocence.
Kyodo News

Workers work at the construction site of Chengdu-Chongqing Passenger Railway in Ziyang, southwest China's Sichuan province, on 5 March, 2014. The 308-km railway will reduce travel time between the two large cities to about one hour. It is part of the Shanghai-Wuhan-Chengdu Railway, or Huhanrong Railway, a major east-west high-speed rail corridor outlined in China's national high-speed railway development plan. XINHUA

Terada to succeed Takesaki as chief Supreme Court justice

TOKYO, 6 March — Justice Itsuro Terada will succeed Hironobu Takesaki as chief justice of the Supreme Court, government and judicial sources said on Thursday.

Terada, 66, will become the top court's 18th chief justice succeeding Takesaki, 69, who will retire at the end of March for health reasons. The personnel change is expected to be approved by the Cabinet on Friday.

Terada is the son of the late Jiro Terada, who was the 10th chief justice of the top court between 1982 and 1985.

Terada, who became an assistant judge in 1974 after graduating from the University of Tokyo, moved to the Justice Ministry in 1981 and stayed at the ministry's Civil Affairs Bureau.

He became one of the top court's 15 justices in December 2010 after serving as head of the Saitama District Court and the Hiroshima High Court.

Kyodo News

Sydney declares "watershed" visa relaxations

SYDNEY, 6 March — As Canada announces a crackdown on migration investment, Australia's largest state, New South Wales (NSW), has seized the initiative on Thursday, announcing a broad relaxation of migration requirements, including the streamlining of two core business and retirement visas. State Deputy Premier and Minister for Trade and Investment, the Hon. Andrew Stoner MP, told a select group of business leaders that the changes make NSW an even more attractive environment for investors. "By streamlining requirements for NSW nomination for these visa pathways, we are giving potential investors and entrepreneurs from overseas even greater confidence that NSW is open for business and ready for business,"Stoner told *Xinhua*.

Dr Caroline Hong, a cross-border SME expert and Chief Executive of CH Asia-Australia, told *Xinhua* that the "Investor Retirement subclass 405" visa is now more accessible for people over 55 years old who have no dependents and want to live in Australia during their retirement years. "My feeling is they have woken up to traditional Chinese family values. Its not a mere question of economy — its about making sure the family unit, as exemplified in China, is not separated by red-tape."

The move is being applauded by Dr Hong and the Australia-China business community, as a "watershed moment" for international business leaders that are often moved to sacrifice family ties in building a better life for those they leave behind. Dr Hong told *Xinhua* the removal of cumbersome obstacles in the streamlined NSW Migration Strategy — comprising of seven key priority action points — will result in a new wave of investment from China.

The state government's efforts to boost high-value migration are already super-charging the NSW economy, with the Commonwealth' s Significant Investor Visa already generating a 155 million for the state.

So far, a total of 308 applications have been nominated for the SIV, with 54 NSW applications approved representing 155 million dollars invested in "Waratah" Bonds. A significant jump is anticipated with nominations under the NSW skilled visa program likely to increase almost four-fold, from 600 two years ago to 4000 in the coming financial year.

Andrew Martin, Sydney-based director of Investment Bank Moelis and Co, told *Xinhua* that the SIV programme is increasingly popular in China and Asia as Australia ripens as a global safe haven.

"The advantage here, having worked closely with the Minister on creating this investment architecture, is that in addition to government bonds, visa holders can access Australian funds — and of course property," Martin said. According to industry sources, the property and bond funds managed by Moelis & Company are market leaders and most popular funds in China.

Xinhua

N Korea rejects South's proposal for talks on family reunions

SEOUL, 6 March — North Korea on Thursday rejected a South Korean proposal for talks to be held next week to discuss holding, on a regular basis, reunions of families separated by the 1950-1953 Korean War, according to South Korea's Unification Ministry.

The ministry said in a statement the head of North Korea's Red Cross Society sent a notice to its counterpart in the South that said the "environment and atmosphere" to hold the proposed Red Cross working-level talks next Wednesday at the truce village of Panmunjeom has not yet been created.

The North also said discussing on such an important humanitarian issue as holding family reunions on a regular basis is not a matter that should be handled at Red Cross talks.

The ministry expressed regret over the rejection, saying reunions of separated families are a "most urgent issue" and they should be held without being linked to other issues.

Pyongyang's rejection came a day after Seoul proposed holding Red Cross talks to discuss South Korean President Park Geun Hye's proposal for regularly scheduled family reunions.

In a speech last Saturday, Park said regular reunions should be held because time is running out for the separated family members, most of whom are in their 70s and 80s and have expressed a strong wish to see their long-lost relatives before they die.

Last month, North and South Korea held the reunion events at the North's Mt Kumgang resort for the first time in more than three years. The two Koreas first arranged temporary reunions for separated family members after a landmark inter-Korean summit in 2000. The reunions so far brought together more than 20,000 family members who had not seen each other since the war.

Kyodo News

Okinawa Pref asks US Air Force for safety measures on fighter jets

NAHA, (Japan), 6 March — The Okinawa prefectural government asked the US Air Force on Wednesday to ensure safety measures for fighter jets after a component fell off an *F-15* jet during a drill the previous day. The US Air Force has suspended drills involving the *F-15s* belonging to the Kadena Air Base since the incident.

After a meeting with a US Air Force officer at the base, Tatsuo Oyakawa, a senior official in charge of military affairs with the prefectural government, told reporters, "I want (the US military) to ensure maintenance (of the jets) and safety control to prevent recurrence of such an incident."

The prefectural government also asked the US military not to resume the drills until measures to prevent a recurrence are taken.

The US officer was quoted as telling Oyakawa that a panel to investigate the cause of the incident has been launched.

Kyodo News

Iran denies Israeli claims of supplying rockets for Gaza

DUBAI, 6 March — Iran rejected on Thursday Israeli allegations that Teheran supplied rockets intended for Palestinian guerrillas in the Gaza Strip.

"This allegation is not true and in principle the message or movement of a ship carrying weapons from Iran to Gaza is not true," Amir Abdollahian, Deputy Foreign Ministry for Arab and African Affairs said, according to official state news agency *IRNA*.

"The allegation is merely based on repetitious and baseless fabrications of the Zionist media," he added.

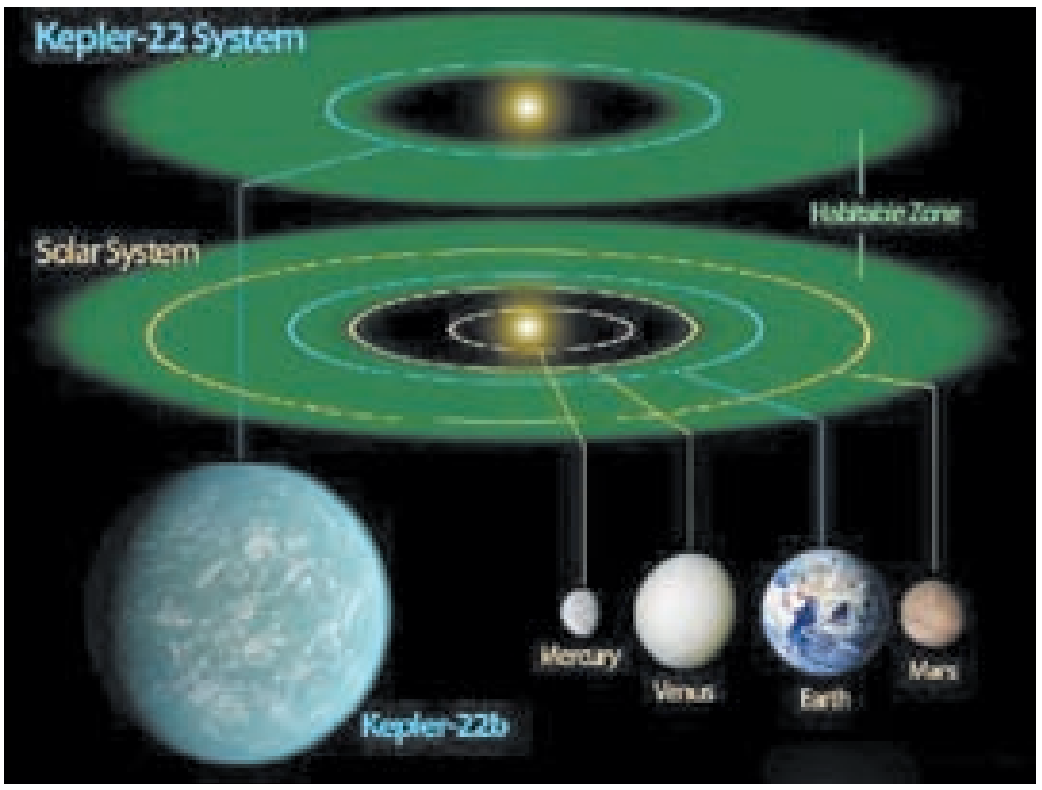
The Israeli military said its navy seized a ship in the Red Sea on Wednesday that was carrying dozens of advanced Iranian-supplied rockets made in Syria and intended for Palestinian guerrillas in the Gaza Strip.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC), Iran's military arm which answers directly to Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei rather than to the president, has also rejected the reports, according to *IRNA*.

Reuters

A woman takes part in a pillow fight as a way to release pressure in Changsha, capital of central China's Hunan Province, on 5 March, 2014, ahead of the International Women's Day on 8 March.—XINHUA

NASA's Kepler confirms first planet in habitable zone of Sun-like star



Kepler-22's star is a bit smaller than our sun, so its habitable zone is slightly closer in. The diagram shows an artist's rendering of the planet comfortably orbiting within the habitable zone, similar to where Earth circles the sun. Kepler-22b has a yearly orbit of 289 days. The planet is the smallest known to orbit in the middle of the habitable zone of a sun-like star. It's about 2.4 times the size of Earth.
XINHUA

WASHINGTON, 6 March — NASA's Kepler mission has confirmed its first planet in the "habitable zone," a region where liquid water could exist on a planet's surface, the US space agency announced on Monday.

The newly-confirmed planet, Kepler-22b, is the smallest yet found to orbit in the middle of the habitable zone of a star similar to Sun.

The planet is about 2.4 times the radius of Earth. Scientists don't yet know if Kepler-22b has a predominantly rocky, gaseous or liquid composition, but its discovery is a step closer to finding Earth-like planets.

Previous research hinted at the existence of near-Earth-size planets in habitable zones, but clear confirmation proved elusive.

Two other small planets orbiting stars smaller and cooler than Sun recently were confirmed on the very edges of the habitable zone, with orbits more closely resembling those of Venus and Mars.

"This is a major milestone on the road to finding Earth's twin," said Douglas Hudgins, Kepler program scientist at the NASA Headquarters in Washington.

"Kepler's results continue to demonstrate the importance of NASA's science missions, which aim to answer some of the biggest questions about our place in the universe."

Xinhua

Scientists find dinosaur that was scourge of Jurassic Europe

WASHINGTON, 6 March — In Europe 150 million years ago, this dude was the biggest, baddest bully in town.

Two scientists in Portugal announced on Wednesday that they have identified the largest carnivorous dinosaur ever found in Europe, a 33-foot-long (10-meter-long) brute called Torvosaurus gurneyi that was the scourge of its domain in the Jurassic Period.

"It was indeed better not to cross the way of this large, carnivorous dinosaur," said paleontologist Christophe Hendrickx of Universidade Nova de Lisboa and Museu da Lourinhã in Portugal.

Torvosaurus gurneyi was an imposing beast. It was bipedal, weighed four to five tons, had a skull almost 4 feet long, boasted powerful jaws lined with blade-shaped teeth four inches long, and may have been covered with an early type of feather, Hendrickx said.

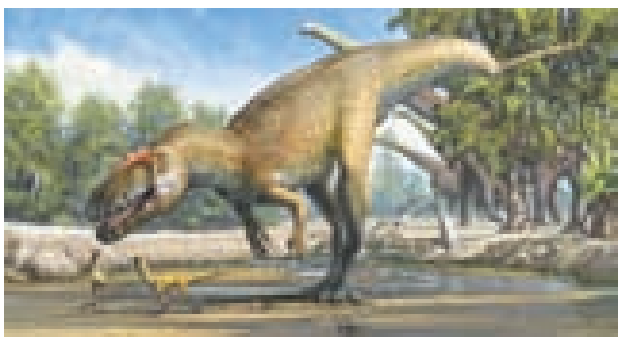
"Torvosaurus gurneyi was obviously a super predator feeding on large prey like herbivorous dinosaurs," Hendrickx said.

Remains of the new species were unearthed in Portugal by an amateur fossil hunter in 2003 in the rock cliffs of Lourinhã, a small town about 45 miles north of Lisbon, Hendrickx said. He said fossilized embryos probably belonging to this species were identified last year in Portugal.

The findings were published in the journal *PLOS ONE*.

At the time that Torvosaurus prowled the landscape, the region was a lush river delta with abundant fresh water and vegetation. The area teemed with dinosaurs and flying reptiles known as pterosaurs, primitive birds, crocodiles, turtles and mouse-sized mammals, according to paleontologist Octávio Mateus, also of Universidade Nova de Lisboa and Museu da Lourinhã.

Reuters



A Torvosaurus gurneyi dinosaur is seen in an undated artist's rendering released on 5 March, 2014.
REUTERS

Scientists confirm Himalayan glacial melting

KATHMANDU, 6 March — Millions of people are under threat from melting of Himalayan glaciers, according to scientists carrying out the most comprehensive ever assessment of climate change in the region.

According to Tuesday's *The Himalayan Times* daily, the findings, published in three reports by the Kathmandu-based International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), show Nepal's glaciers have shrunk by 21 percent and Bhutan's by 22 percent over 30 years.

The reports provide the first authoritative confirmation of the extent of Himalayan glacial melting.

They follow a discredited announcement by scientists in 2007 that the region's glaciers would be gone by 2035. A three-year Sweden-funded research project led by ICIMOD showed 10 glaciers surveyed in the region all are shrinking, with a marked acceleration in loss of ice between 2002 and 2005.

Another study found a significant reduction in snow cover across the region in the last decade. Scientists says the effects of climate change in the Himalayas could be devastating, as the region provides food and energy for 1. 3 billion people living in downstream river basins. —*Xinhua*

Exclusive: DirecTV in talks with Disney on deal for Internet rights

NEW YORK, 6 March — DirecTV is in talks with Walt Disney Co to license the rights to offer Disney's broadcast and cable channels as part of an Internet-based product, DirecTV said on Wednesday.

The deal would mirror a first-of-its kind agreement that Disney and satellite rival Dish Network Corp announced earlier this week.

The Internet rights being discussed are part of a large-scale programming agreement that would replace a deal between the companies that expires in late December. Disney and Dish are in negotiations but the timing of the new deal could be not be learned.

"The deal and terms are not unexpected as the Dish contract was the most recent in the Disney timeline to expire," DirecTV spokesman Darris Gringeri said on Wednesday. "The DirecTV contract is up next and we're in the process of working with Disney on a similar long-term agreement of our own." A Disney spokesman declined to comment.

A new pact could give both Disney and DirecTV, the No 1 satellite operator, an additional revenue source as consumers gravitate toward online video services such as Netflix Inc and watch more television online.

The agreement between Dish and Disney marked the first time that a US pay TV operator has been given the flexibility to offer its content over the Web through smartphones, tablets and computers outside of a pay TV subscription. In that agreement, Disney allows for Dish to stream linear and on-demand content from ABC broadcast stations as well as cable channels, ABC Family, Disney Channel, ESPN and ESPN2. Dish has not revealed plans for its streaming service.

Reuters

A Direct TV dish is seen outside a home in the Queens borough of New York on 29 July, 2013. —REUTERS

Spin of distant black hole measured at half of speed of light

CAPE CANAVERAL, (Florida), 6 March — A supermassive black hole inside a distant quasar spins at about 336 million mph (540 million kph) or roughly half the speed of light, according to research published on Wednesday in the journal *Nature.*

Scientists have measured the spin rates of black holes before but never one so far away.

The newly measured black hole is inside a quasar some 6 billion light years from Earth.

A black hole is a region of space so packed with matter that not even photons of light can escape its gravitational grip.

They leave evidence of their existence as they encounter and swallow cosmic neighbours.

Its rate of spin provides clues about the relationships between the black hole and its host galaxy.

Computer models show that how fast a black hole spins depends on how much material is available for the black hole to consume.

A black hole with a steady supply of gas from nearby merging galaxies, for example, spins faster than one whose feedings are more erratic, a result of fewer neighbour galaxies to consume.

Xinhua

Nine-month-old baby may have been cured of HIV, US scientists say

Boston, 6 March — A 9-month-old baby who was born in California with the HIV virus that leads to AIDS may have been cured as a result of treatments that doctors began just four hours after her birth, medical researchers said on Wednesday.

That child is the second case, following an earlier instance in Mississippi, in which doctors may have brought HIV in a newborn into remission by administering antiretroviral drugs in the first hours of life, said Dr Deborah Persaud, a pediatrics specialist with the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, at a medical conference in Boston.

"The child ... has become HIV-negative," Persaud said, referring to the 9-month-old baby born outside Los Angeles, who is being treated at Miller Children's Hospital. The child's identify was not disclosed.

That child is still receiving a three-drug cocktail of anti-AIDS treatments, while the child born in Mississippi, now 3-1/2 years old, ceased receiving antiretroviral treatments two years ago. Both children were born of mothers infected with HIV, which wipes out the body's immune system and causes AIDS.—*Reuters*

Visitors walk near logos of the Tokyo Stock Exchange (TSE) at the TSE in Tokyo on 30 January, 2014. Reuters

Asian shares win reprieve, euro hobbled ahead of ECB

Tokyo, 6 March — Asian shares enjoyed a reprieve on Thursday as diplomatic efforts moderated the crisis over Ukraine, while the euro came under pressure as investors speculate whether the European Central Bank will ease policy later in the day. Any steps the ECB takes to support the still-fragile euro zone economy could benefit some assets, though gains could be limited ahead of pivotal US payrolls data on Friday.

Japan's Nikkei share average gained 1.1 percent in early trade, while MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan rose 0.4 percent to a nine-week high, with Taiwanese shares at two-year high Wall Street shares finished little changed, with the Standard & Poor's 500 index closing just a hair's breadth below its record closing high set on Tuesday.

"The Ukraine crisis is not over yet so the markets will keep an eye on it. But as long as there is no armed conflict, it will be gradually coming off the radar," said a chief currency trader at a Japanese trading firm.

Although diplomatic efforts between Moscow and Washington over Ukraine have made little obvious headway so far, US Secretary of State John Kerry said discussions would continue in coming days. That assurance was enough to mollify investors' immediate fears of military confrontation, directing their attention instead to what steps the ECB might take to support the economy and ward off deflation. The euro traded at $1.3728, little-changed in early Asia but off two-month high of $1.38255 hit on Friday.

On Wednesday, International Monetary Fund officials called on the ECB to start buying public and private assets or extend more cheap long-term loans to banks, as well as cutting interest rates to a new record low.Yet the ECB may hesitate to buy government bonds, unlike other major central banks such as the U.S. Federal Reserve and the Bank of Japan that have done so, in part for fear such a step could infringe its ban on financing governments directly.

The ECB might explore other policy options, such as cutting rates or stopping "sterilisation" operations that soak up the money it spent buying the bonds of Greece and other countries at the height of the euro zone sovereign debt crisis.

"The chances the ECB will not do any of the steps floated in markets are pretty small. The actual economic impact of ending sterilisation will be small, but the markets will take it as opening the way for further easing in the future," said Arihiro Nagata, head of foreign bond trading at Sumitomo Mitsui Bank.

Reuters

Emerging markets output growth slows to 5-month low in Feb

London, 6 March— Business activity across emerging markets expanded in February at the slowest pace in five months, weighed down by weaker manufacturing in big developing countries such as Russia and China, a survey showed on Thursday.

HSBC's composite emerging markets index of manufacturing and services purchasing managers' surveys slipped for the third month running to 51.1 in February. It stayed under the 2013 average of 51.7 and well below a long-run level of 54.0.

But the monthly index remained above the 50 threshold which marks the difference between expansion and contraction.

Based on data from purchasing managers at about 8,000 firms in 17 countries, the survey showed Chinese factory output stayed below the 50 mark. Manufacturing in Russia, India and Brazil hovered just above 50.

"Emerging economies are struggling to gain traction," said Murat Ulgen, HSBC's chief economist for eastern Europe and sub-Saharan Africa. "This time the weakness came from manufacturing, while services recorded a slight improvement."

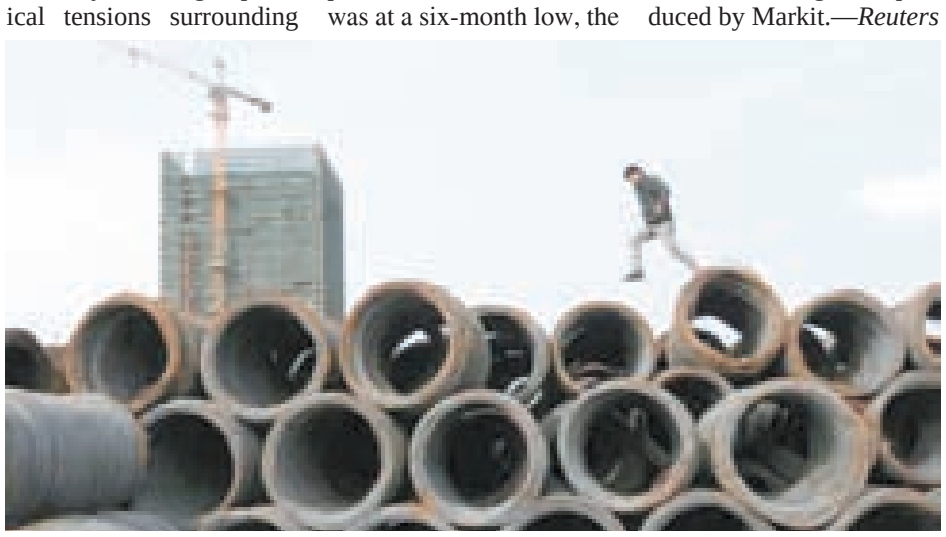
There was little hope for a quick turnaround, Ulgen said, noting tighter global financial conditions, worries about the Chinese economy, and geo-political tensions surrounding Ukraine. "The Ukraine and Russia standoff could undermine Europe's fledgling recovery, and in turn the global trade cycle," he said, warning the crisis posed the biggest risk to recovery in central European countries such as Poland and Czech Republic.

February services activity in the biggest emerging markets rose at a slightly stronger rate than the previous month when it was at a six-month low, the survey showed.

"Conditions are likely to remain subdued in March, with incoming new business rising at the slowest rate in five months," HSBC said.

However, the future output index, which tracks firms' expectations for activity in 12 months' time, picked up in February to an 11-month high.

The HSBC index is calculated using data produced by Markit.—*Reuters*



A customer jumps on piles of steel coils at a steel market in Jiaxing, Zhejiang Province on 21 Feb, 2014.—Reuters

Australian economy still weak despite official data

Sydney, 6 March — Australian economists said the nation's economy is still soft despite latest official figures showing gross domestic product (GDP) rose 0.8 percent in the fourth quarter of 2013, local media reported on Wednesday.

National Australia Bank (NAB) senior economist David de Garis told *the Australian Associated Press (AAP)* that the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) figures released on Wednesday were slightly better than expected, but the domestic economy still looked weak. "The growth is supported by the ramp up in exports," he said. "The domestic economy is still quite soft and domestic final demand only grew by 1.2 percent over the course of last year."—*Xinhua*

Gene therapy may offer 'functional' cure for HIV

New York, 6 March — A strategy to genetically modify cells from people infected with HIV could become a way to control the virus that causes AIDS without using antiviral drugs, according to results from an early-stage trial that were published on Wednesday. Data from the small study of the Sangamo BioSciences therapy, known by the code name SB-728-T, were issued in the New England Journal of Medicine, the first publication of data from a human trial of a technology called "gene editing."

The technique is designed to disrupt a gene, CCR5, used by HIV to infect T-cells, the white blood cells that fight viral infections. A patient's cells are removed and processed to alter the DNA that codes for the CCR5 receptor. The altered cells are multiplied and tested, then infused back into the patient. The Phase 1 trial, led by the University of Pennsylvania, enrolled 12 HIV patients. The study's main goal was safety, but it also showed that the modified T-cells persisted and the presence of HIV DNA decreased, the researchers said.—*Reuters*

Alzheimer's deaths much more common than realized

New York, 6 March— Nearly half a million elderly Americans likely died from Alzheimer's disease in 2010, a figure almost six times higher than previous estimates of annual deaths, according to a new study released on Wednesday.

The Centres for Disease Control and Prevention has estimated that approximately 5 million people are living with Alzheimer's disease in the United States, and that 83,000 die from the condition each year. "Many people do not realize that Alzheimer's is a fatal disease," said lead author Bryan D James of the Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center in Chicago. "Alzheimer's disease starts in the part of your brain that controls your memory and thinking, but over years it spreads to the parts of your brain that control more basic functions such as breathing and swallowing," he told *Reuters* Health in an email.—*Reuters*

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 7 March, 2014

Diversity a source of inspiration

We live in a multicultural world. To ensure peace and stability and to achieve other common goals, regional groups are set up to help overcome differences in ideology and tradition.

At the recent Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation summit (BIMSTEC), Myanmar welcomed leaders from Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal. They all have different ideologies, yet they were all eager to accomplish the BIMSTEC goals—bringing prosperity to the people in the region.

Diversity is not an obstacle, it is an inspiration.

Taking the best from what everyone has to offer creates successful projects.

Despite living in a society with people of diverse views, ideologies, beliefs and cultures, cooperation is a must for the development of our surroundings and our civil society. It paves the way for peace and prosperity.

Peace, prosperity and equality can be brought about by common goals. Tolerance, respect and an open mind are needed to achieve those goals.

Contact us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email wallace.tun@gmail.com with your name and title.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann meets President of Open Society Foundation

***Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann meets with President of Open Society Foundation Mr. George Soros.*—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 6 March—Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann met President of Open Society Foundation Mr. George Soros and party at Hluttaw building on Thursday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Also present at the call were Pyithu Hluttaw Committee Chairmen U Maung Maung Thein and U Hla Myint Oo, and Commission member Daw Aye Aye Mu and officials of the Hluttaw office.

MNA

Myanmar Gazette

NAY PYI TAW, 6 March—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Director U Aung Nyunt Thein of Myanmar Gems Enterprise under the Ministry of Mines as the Managing Director of the same department on probation from the date he assume charge of his duties.—*MNA*

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Nay Pyi Taw
Announcement No. 8/2014
6th Waxing of Tabaung, 1375 ME
(6th March, 2014)

Rakhine National Party allowed as political party

It is hereby announced that Rakhine National Party headquartered at No. 393, Main Road, Lanmadawtaung Ward, Sittway of Rakhine State has been allowed to register as a political party in accord with Article 9 of Political Parties Registration Law as of 6 March. The registration number of the party is 74.

By order,
Tin Tun
Secretary
Union Election Commission

23rd Anniversary of IPRD celebrated

NAY PYI TAW, 6 March—Information and Public Relations Department celebrated its 23rd Anniversary at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday with an address by Union Minister U Aung Kyi.

The ceremony was also attended by Deputy Ministers U Pike Htwe and U Ye Htut, departmental heads, officials and staff of the Ministry.

The officials presented innovation award, media award, outstanding staff award, English language outstanding award, the best trainee award and outstanding literary award to the winners and prizes winners in short-story and photo contests.

MNA

***Union Minister U Aung Kyi addresses 23rd Anniversary of IPRD.*—MNA**

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker receives MarkPlus.Inc's Founder and CEO

NAY PYI TAW, 6 March— Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa met with Founder and CEO of MarkPlus.Inc Hermawan Kartajaya and party at the Hluttaw Committee Building in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday afternoon.

They had a cordial discussion on MarkPlus.Inc's activities, legislative affairs, market research, education and media affairs.

Secretary of Hluttaw Rights Committee Dr Soe Yin, Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission members and officials from the Hluttaw Office.

MNA

Bill to recall Hluttaw representative under discussion

NAY PYI TAW, 6 March — A work coordination meeting on the Bill to recall Hluttaw representative was held at a building in Parliament Complex on Thursday.

It was attended by Chairman of Hluttaw Bill Committee U Ti Khun Myat and members, Secretary of Hluttaw Rights Committee U Soe Yin and members, member of Union Election Commission U Win Ko and officials and members of Pyithu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission.

Bill committee members, legal experts and responsible persons of department concerned held discussions on the Bill submitted by Union Election Commission and 41 points of amendment proposed by the Hluttaw Rights Committee and Hluttaw representatives.

MNA

MWEA members leave for Japan

YANGON, 6 March— Myanmar Women's Entrepreneurs Association members Daw Yin Yin Moe and Daw Khin Myo Thaw on 3 March left here for Japan to attend SMEs' Competitive Business Strategy (ENBS), Training Program at HIDA Tokyo Kenshu Center of Japan from 5 to 11 March.—*NLM*

Summer school holidays and pagoda festivals in Central Myanmar

PATHEINGYI, 6 March— National brethren who reside in Myanmar annually held traditional festivals depending on their region, culture and religion. When summer falls, traditional festivals are held in Central Myanmar without fail.

Shwesettaw, Shwesaryan and Shwemokhtaw pagoda festivals in Central Myanmar are held after the exam of the matriculation students. Shwesettaw Pagoda is situated on the eastern mountain of west Yoma mountain ranges, 36 miles long from Minbu in Magway Region. It is annually held as of 5th Waxing of Tabodwe to 1st Waxing of Myanmar New Year for nearly three months. The guesthouses are being constructed for the pilgrims at the festival. The pilgrims can pay homage to Buddha's footprint and buy local products, herbs, local food and Chin traditional costume at the festival.

Another one is Shwemokhtaw Pagoda Festival and Pakhan Ko Gyi Kyaw Traditional Nat Festival in Htantaw Kuni village, Yesagyo Township in Pakokku District of Magway Region. It is annually held on 1st to 8th Waxing of Tabaung.

Shwesaryan Pagoda, built by Queen Saw Mon Hla, queen of Bagan King Anawrahta, is located on the bank of Dokhtawady River in Shwesaryan Village, Patheingyi Township in Mandalay Region. The products from Shan State, herbs, clothes, Myanmar traditional snacks, food, souvenirs and toys made of today leaves are displayed at the markets during the festival. The pilgrims can take bath in Dokhtawady River and merrymakers will be performed with movie, Anyeint, drama and Myanmar traditional cane-ball.

The festivals in Central Myanmar will be teemed with students and pilgrims during summer holidays.

Aung Kyaw Tun (Patheingyi)

Campaign to participate in census taking process

TAIKKYI, 6 March— Artiste and singers led by Daw Swe Zin Htike made a campaign to participate in nation-wide census taking process in Taikkyi Township in Yangon on 24 March.

Daw Swe Zin Htike shared knowledge on census taking process. A three-member comedy team arranged the games and presented gifts to the attendees. They distributed pamphlets, T-shirts and hats to the resident.

Town's elders, Taikkyi Township Census Taking Committee and entrepreneurs of the township presented K 200,000 to the campaigners.

Over 3000 residents attended this campaign.

Tun Hlaing (Myaing)

Mist covers on roads of Pyapon Tsp

PYAPON, 6 March— The mist is seriously falling in Pyapon District of Ayeyawady Region starting on 1 March.

"The drivers and passengers faced with difficulties in transportation because of the misty road. The Pyapon-Yangon expresses operate along Pyapon-Dala and Pyapon-Kyikelet-Maubin-Hlinethaya lanes crossing Pyapon Bridge. We have to carefully drive and wait for passengers besides the road because of the misty streets," said a taxi driver.

"Numbers of vehicles, motorbikes, bicycles and tri-cycles are getting increasing in Pyapon Township. So, we are worried to meet accidents," said a local people.

MMAL-071

Bridges under construction in Pyawbwe Tsp

PYAWBWE, 6 March— As part of efforts for making rural region development, the authorities are striving for building and renovating bridges before the rainy season in Pyawbwe with the fund of Mandalay Region Development and contribution of the locals. Upon completion, local people in Pyawbwe Township will see smooth transportation and socio-economic development.

NLM-018

Teachers under training for systematic census taking

MEIKTILA, 6 March— A training course on taking population and housing census was opened at Kantaw Mingalar Hall of Meiktila on Thursday, attended by Representative U Saw Htay of Meiktila Constituency (1).

Chairman of district census taking committee deputy commissioner U Tin Maung Soe gave an opening speech on the occasion. Assistant Director of District Immigration and National Registration Department U Htin Aung Kyaw explained the purpose of the course.

A total of 123 trainers and trainees attended opening of the course.

It shares knowledge on systematic census taking at 9 am to 5 pm daily from 6 to 10 March.

Chantha (Meiktila)

Hair styling, makeup and flower decoration course opened in Mawlamyine

YANGON, 5 March— For ensuring poverty alleviation and creating job opportunities for locals, a free hair styling, makeup and flower decoration course was opened at Bokon Ward in Mawlamyine Township of Mon State.

Trainer Daw Mi Mi Ko from Mi Mi Ko Beauty Salon and Flower Decoration of Tamway Township in Yangon is practically teaching a total of 50 trainees at the course from 25 February to 4 March.

Aung Aung

UNESCO says quality of education remains major concern for Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 6 March — The quality of education is still a big concern for Cambodia and the country needs to set a more effective strategy to enhance teaching conditions and quality of education for all learners, Anne Lemaistre, UNESCO representative in Cambodia, said on Thursday.

"I would like to commend the Cambodian Ministry of Education for making a great level of success in terms of enrolment to various education levels, as well as internal efficiency at primary level,"she said at the launching of the 2013/14 UNESCO Education for All Global Monitoring Report.

"However, quality of education remains a big concern towards achieving Universal Primary Education goal due to several factors: quality teacher is one of them,"she said.

She said teachers should be appropriately recruited, continuously trained and professionally supported to improve quality of teaching and learning.

"To achieve quality education for all, the current report suggests strategies to provide the best teachers, including the attraction of the best teachers, the improvement of teacher education and the provision of the right incentives to retain the best teachers,"she said.

Education Minister Hang Chuon Naron said Cambodia sees education as the top priority for social and economic development and has actively worked to improve the quality of teachers.

He said the ministry has policies and strategies to upgrade primary school teachers to basic education teachers through additional training courses and to upgrade teacher level through internal examination.

Xinhua

10 militants killed, 43 arrested in security raids in Egypt's Sinai

AEISH, (Egypt), 6 March— At least ten extremists were killed and some 43 others were arrested on Wednesday during a security raid in Egypt's North Sinai province in northeast of the capital Cairo, a security source told *Xinhua*.

"The extremists exchanged fire with the security forces who managed to destroy 38 houses, 85 huts, 22 vehicles and 30 bikes belonging to the extremists," the source said, noting the raids took place in the cities of Arish, Sheikh Zuweid and Rafah.

The raids are part of a massive military-police campaign on extremist Islamists whose terrorist attacks have recently mounted in the peninsula.

Over the past few weeks, similar security operations in Sinai left dozens of extremists killed and many others arrested.

Xinhua

A car drives through a flooded section in Christchurch, New Zealand, on 5 March, 2014. Residents of earthquake-battered Christchurch were clearing up their flooded properties on Wednesday after the city was hit by a once-in-a-century storm — and scientists warned the quakes have only increased the incidence of floods.
XINHUA

Lao international outbound travel up 40 pct in 2013

VIENTIANE, 6 March — The number of international outbound Lao travelers reached 2.8 million in 2013, an increase of 800,000 from the previous year, reflecting a higher disposable income, according to state-run daily *Vientiane Times* on Thursday.

For Lao PDR's population of approximately 7 million, the figure of 2.8 million outbound travelers accounts for 40 percent of the total population. 2.7 million of the outbound trips were for the purpose of general travel while the remaining 150,000 trips were conducted for the purpose of business or other specific concerns.

In 2011, the number of Lao outbound travelers totaled just 1.7 million, however that number increased by approximately 17 percent to 2 million travellers in 2012. Between 2012 and 2013, outbound travelers increased by around 40 percent.

According to tour operators the increase in demand from Lao consumers for overseas trips and services has increased alongside an increase in disposable income. Tour operators are excited at the opportunities for developing lucrative businesses.

Xinhua

Bahrain says two children injured as bomb explodes

MANAMA, 6 March — Bahrain's interior ministry said on Thursday two children were injured after they were instructed to plant a bomb in the same village where a bomb killed two local policemen and an officer from the United Arab Emirates earlier this week.

The two children, aged 10 and 11, had been instructed by "terrorists" to plant a bomb in Daih, west of the capital Manama, but it exploded as they were handling it causing serious injury to one of them, the statement by the ministry said.

Monday's attack in Daih had raised fears of more violence in the Sunni Muslim-ruled kingdom, where opposition groups led by majority Shi'ites have staged protests for the past three years demanding political reform and an end to perceived discrimination.

Bahrain blacklisted three anti-government groups as terrorist organizations after the blast took place, outlawing the February 14 movement, Saraya al-Ashtar (Ashtar Brigade) and Saraya al-Muqawama (Resistance Brigade).

The little known Saraya al-Ashtar claimed responsibility for Monday's attack in a message on social media that could not be immediately authenticated.—*Reuters*

China's military spending justified

BEIJING, 6 March — China's military expenditure is moderate and Western media's rhetoric of "China's military threat" is groundless and misleading, according to a commentary in Thursday's

China Daily. China's military spend is in line with the country's economic and security conditions, said the commentary signed by Xu Guangyu, a senior adviser to the China Arms Control and Disarmament Association. The country plans to raise its defence budget by 12.2 percent to 808.2 billion yuan (about 132 billion US dollars) in 2014, according to a draft budget report submitted to the country's national legislature for review on Wednesday. China's spending on defence remains quite low compared with regional and global powers, the commentary said.

"To reach a balance, China will rationally increase its military budget in the coming years to improve per-head military expenditure; but that won't change China's firm stance on promoting global arms control and disarmament," it said. "China insists on a peaceful rise and continues making contributions to the peace and stability of the region and the world. Its defensive national defence policy remains unchanged." The newspaper noted that when describing China's increasing military spending as a threat, Western media never mentions that the government's per-capita expenditure on military personnel, "which is the most important index in judging a nation's defense budget, is low compared with that of the developed countries."

According to the article, China's military spending for each of its 2.3 million members of military personnel is a little more than 57,000 US dollars this year, which is very low compared to the United States, which has about 1.44 million military personnel in service with its per-head military spend standing at more than 365,000 dollars, about six times that of China.

Xinhua

Photo taken on 6 March , 2014 shows the site of 2014 Hong Kong Flower Show in south China's Hong Kong. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department of Hong Kong held a press conference Thursday, announcing that the 2014 flower show will be held from March 7 to March 16 at Victoria Park in Causeway Bay.
XINHUA

Safety review of Sendai nuclear plant shows progress

TOKYO, 6 March — Safety assessments of two nuclear reactors at the Sendai plant in southwestern Japan showed progress on Wednesday, as regulators basically approved the plant operator's estimate of the maximum seismic ground motion that could affect the site. The move came as the Nuclear Regulation Authority seeks to narrow down reactors it will place priority on in the assessment. Units handpicked by the NRA are expected to see the review process finish earlier than others and move on to restart their operation.

After the day's safety screening meeting ended, an NRA official suggested that Kyushu Electric Power Co's estimate of the maximum possible seismic ground motion, set at maximum 620 gals in terms of speed of acceleration, was appropriate in principle. The figure is used for facilities' seismic design.

"I recognize the figure should be around that level," the official, who attended the meeting, said.

But he noted that discussions have not finished on some other important issues involving the plant located in Kagoshima Prefecture. According to procedures agreed on in February, the NRA plans to specify which reactor or reactors have cleared the main agendas related to earthquake and tsunami hazards and have no other serious problems in proceeding with the review.

Kyodo News

A volunteer military doctor checks a woman's blood pressure in Shanghai, east China, on 5 March, 2014, on the occasion of the "Lei Feng's Day," which falls on 5 March every year. Lei, a young Chinese soldier in the 1960s, is known for devoting almost all of his spare time and money to selflessly helping the needy. He died after being hit by a falling pole while helping a fellow soldier direct a truck on 15 Aug, 1962.—XINHUA

Tsunami-hit fishermen see Internet as route to revival

ISHINOMAKI, (Japan), 6 March — Kazuki Suzuki, a 32-year-old oyster farmer from Ishinomaki, a Miyagi Prefecture city devastated by the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami, has been marketing his produce through his Yahoo! page for about a year now.

He is just one of an increasing number of young fishermen in the area who are turning to IT devices to thrive after the disaster disrupted traditional fishery operations.

Ishinomaki was long well-known for its rich marine resources and shell-farming, once hosting over 200 food-processing companies.

Besides receiving sales orders, Suzuki uses the Facebook messenger application on his iPad to chat with other oyster farmers on distant coasts to discuss farming techniques and market trends. He also frequently uploads videos and photos to share his farming experiences.

Throughout his 14-year career in the family profession, Suzuki, like many of his colleagues, had not touched a computer or ever felt the desire to use one until the 2011 disaster.

The tsunami washed away many of the local oyster farming facilities and destroyed the traditional distribution chain.

Photo taken on 24 Feb, 2014, shows oyster farmer Kazuki Suzuki handling his iPad at a newly reconstructed community fishery base in Ishinomaki, Miyagi Prefecture, northeastern Japan.—KYODO NEWS

As of January 2014, about half of the local food-processing plants, which used to purchase the majority of local oysters, had yet to resume operations, according to the city government.

Business relations with major retailers have been severed, making it hard for local fishermen to find markets, the fishermen said.

Faced with a tougher business environment, Suzuki bought his first tablet computer in November 2012 and ventured on to the Internet for the first time in his life to start up online direct marketing of his produce.

"I somehow managed to resume farming two months after the tsunami but without any idea where to sell the oysters since many processing companies had disappeared," Suzuki said.

"Seeking solutions, I consulted Yahoo Japan at its local satellite office for advice," he said.

In the meeting, the Tokyo-based portal operator offered technical support for Suzuki on handling IT devices, prompting him to immediately get an iPad.

Kyodo News

Indonesia faces serious problem in battle against drug abuse

JAKARTA, 6 March — Indonesia has to tackle a big problem in its battle against rampant drug abuse in the country as its rehabilitation facilities are barely capable of healing drug abusers.

Despite criminalization against those involved in narcotics activities, be it dealers or users, distribution and demand for the banned substance have been rising in Indonesia which applies harsh punishment for those involving in drug trafficking with maximum sentence of death penalty.

Indonesian legal enforcers have frequently foiled attempts to smuggle in methamphetamine and marijuana by drug traffickers.

The largest country in Southeast Asia region has recorded an increasing number of drug abusers from 3.7 million in 2008 to 4.7 million as of last year. "That figure was 2.2 percent of the population,"Diah Setia Utami, Rehabilitation Deputy at government-sanctioned agency tasked to quell distribution of narcotics BNN (National Narcotics Agency), said at a seminar held Tuesday to launch Vienna-based International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) 2013 report.

"If there is no significant measures to address this issue, the number of drug abusers may increase up to 2.8 percent of population by next year,"Diah said.

Xinhua

Musharraf's lawyers claim to be threatened by Taleban

ISLAMABAD, 6 March — A group of lawyers defending former Pakistani president Pervez Musharraf in high treason case said Wednesday that the Taleban militants have threatened and asked them to dissociate from the case.

The lawyers, who presented a letter in Musharraf's trial court, claimed that the Tehreek-e-Taleban Pakistan (TTP) has sent the letter. The lawyers said the Taleban have asked members of Musharraf's legal team of senior lawyers Ahmed Raza Kasuri, Sharifuddin Pirzada and Anwar Mansoor to detach themselves from the case or they would be killed.

A three-member special court presently hears Musharraf's high treason case in National Library near the Supreme Court and parliament building and in front of some embassies.

The hearing was adjourned on Tuesday a day after a deadly suicide attack on Islamabad's court that had killed a judge and five lawyers. The slain judge, Rafaqat Awan, had rejected a petition for registration of a murder case against Pervez Musharraf.

Musharraf's lawyers told the court that they have received credible reports that the special court will be attacked. They argued that the judges of the special court and the lawyers face danger at the present location of the court. They requested shifting the special court to a safe place.

They also urged the court to allow Musharraf, who last month became the first former army chief to appear in court for treason, to go abroad for medical treatment. However the court had earlier ruled that he will not be allowed to go abroad for treatment.

Xinhua

Children plant trees during a tree planting activity participated by kindergarten children and their parents in Wuzhi County of Jiaozuo City, central China's Henan Province, on 5 March, 2014.—XINHUA

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PACIFIC VIGOROUS VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PACIFIC VIGOROUS VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.3.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COMET SHIPPING CO LTD
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV TAY SON - 2 VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TAY SON - 2 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.3.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T(2) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S RK SHIPPING & TRADING PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301191/2301178/2301177

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (371)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (371) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.3.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVER GREEN SHIPPING LINE
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MUNICH TRADER VOY NO (902)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MUNICH TRADER VOY NO (902) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.3.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CMA CGM
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (037)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (037) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.3.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Invitation to Open Tender

1. Opened Tenders are invited by Myanma Radio and Television, Ministry of Information, for the following machinery to be purchased in foreign currency (USD) and local currency (Kyats);
   (a) DVB-T2 Transmitter (USD) 56 Sets
   (b) Radio FM Transmitter {USD) 25 Sets
   (c) Fiber Line Installation (Kyat) 17 Stations
   (d) Fiber Equipment (Kyat) 20 Stations
   (e) 50 KW SW Transmitter (USD) 1 Set
2. Opened Tender Forms are available from (7-3-2014) till (26-3-2014) daily between (9:30 A.M to 4:30 P.M) at Myanma Radio and Television, Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkone).
3. Opened Tenders are to be submitted in the presence of the tender members on the (28-3-2014) between (9:30 A.M to 4:30 P.M) at Myanma Radio and Television, Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkone). Those tenders exceeding the closing date will not be taken into consideration.
4. Rules regarding the opened tender forms; list of machinery and details are available at the following address.

Machinery Purchasing Committee
Myanma Radio and Television, Nay Pyi Taw
Ministry of Information
Ph: 067-79483, 067-79135, 067-79411

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 Extinguisher (ABCE)	KS

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

Subway service resumes in NE China city

HARBIN, 6 March — Subway service resumed Thursday in Harbin, capital of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, after a two-hour suspension caused by power failure.

Harbin's subway line 1, which opened in September, resumed operation at 12:36 pm, Harbin Metro said in a Press release.

A power failure suspended underground traffic in Harbin at 10:20 am and thousands of passengers were evacuated from trains and stations for safety considerations, the Press release said.

It did not say what caused the power failure.

Line 1 is the only subway route in operation in Harbin. The 17-km route transports approximately 130,000 passengers daily.

The route is part of a planned 340-km underground traffic network to become operational by 2028.

Xinhua

Riders take part in a horse racing during a ceremony marking the start of spring ploughing in Daga Village, Quxu County, Lhasa, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, on 5 March, 2014. The Tibetan village has the tradition to hold the spring farming ceremony on the fourth day of the Tibetan New Year, known as Losar, which falls on 5 March this year.
XINHUA

Houston launches "Sunday Streets Houston" to encourage walking

HOUSTON, 6 March — The US fourth largest city of Houston will close portions of some heavily traveled roads to cars, in a bid to encourage residents to take to the streets for some exercise and entertainment, local media reported om Wednesday. Houston Mayor Annise Parker announced the programme on Wednesday that a combined 2.5 miles (4 km) of two downtown streets will be closed to automotive traffic for four hours on the first Sunday of April, to make way for pedestrians and cyclists.

"It is a way to acquaint ourselves with what is around those streets in a way we don't normally experience it going by car," Parker told *the Houston Chronicle*.—*Xinhua*

ENTERTAINMENT

Israel's prime minister visits Hollywood for premiere of tourism film

Los Angeles, 6 March — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited Hollywood on Tuesday for the premiere of a film to promote tourism to the Holy Land, shifting the spotlight away from his frequent focus on dangers facing his country.

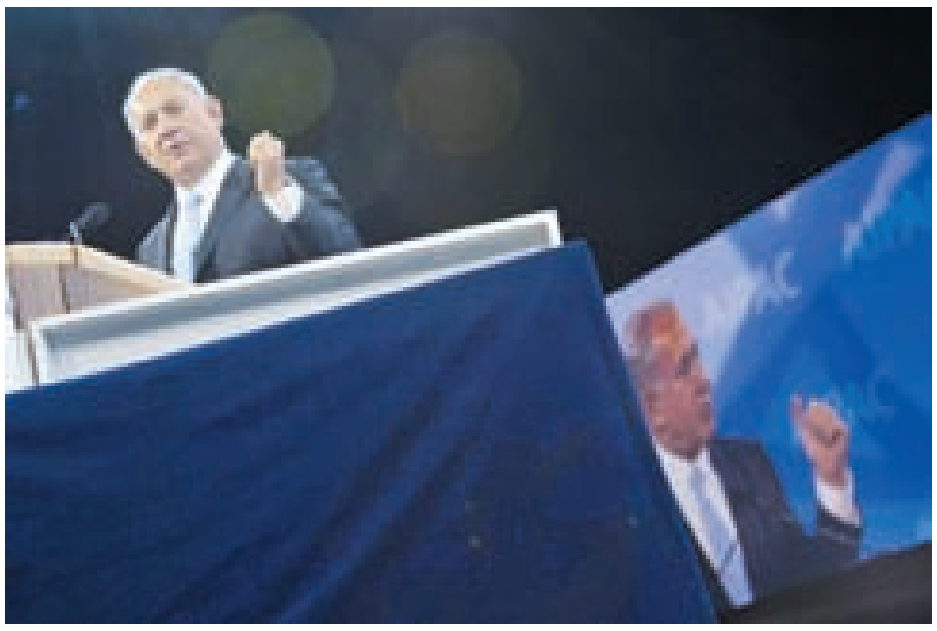
Netanyahu attended the premiere at Paramount Studios of "Israel: The Royal Tour," a one-hour US public television special that is being broadcast this week.

The US-educated Israeli leader played tour guide to the programme's host, US travel journalist Peter Greenberg when the project was shot in Israel in 2012.

Netanyahu attended the event a day after White House talks with President Barack Obama that focused on the Israeli-Palestinian peace process and international efforts to prevent Iran, Israel's arch-enemy, from developing nuclear weapons. Addressing the crowd, Netanyahu said he not only wanted to promote Israeli tourism but also, "to dispel the various calumnies about the State of Israel and to show the real face of the Jewish state."

Israel enjoyed its best year of tourism in 2013, with a record 3.5 million visitors, including 623,000 from the United States.

The industry contributed about $11.4 billion to the Israeli economy last year, according to the Tourism Ministry, which has said it hopes the TV show will bring in an additional 200,000 visitors.



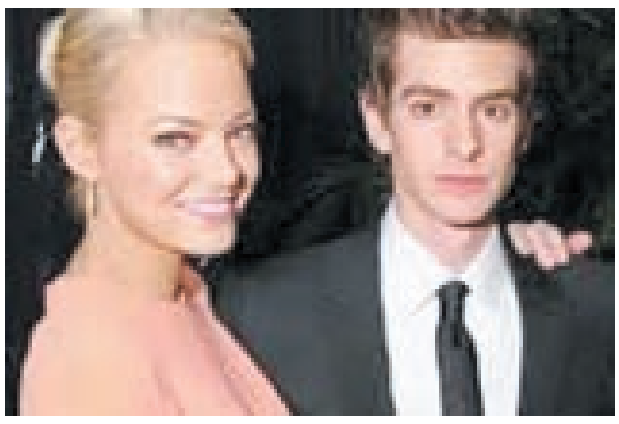
*Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addresses the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) in Washington, on 4 March, 2014.—*Reuters

In the "Royal Tour," Netanyahu guided Greenberg around popular tourist sites such as Jerusalem's walled Old City, Tel Aviv and the ancient desert fortress of Masada.

The Old City was on the itinerary, but Bethlehem, the traditional site of Jesus' birth, was not. The Old City is in a part of Jerusalem that Israel captured in the 1967 Middle East war and annexed, in a move that has not won international recognition.

Bethlehem, a popular destination for Christian pilgrims, is administered by the Palestinian Authority in the occupied West Bank. Filming the "Royal Tour" was not without mishap. Netanyahu tore a tendon while playing in a friendly soccer match between Arab and Jewish youths that took place within the framework of the programme, and had to wear a cast for several weeks.

Reuters



Emma Stone, Garfield skip Oscars due to personal matter?

Los Angeles, 6 March — Hollywood couple Emma Stone and Andrew Garfield have reportedly skipped Oscars due to some personal reason.

The couple's absence is said to have been a serious reason, reported Radar online.

"It was disheartening to learn that Andrew canceled on the Oscars. If it were a fight or something between them one would have just came without the other, but this seemed to be more of something going on with one of their families," a source said.—*PTI*

Comedian Conan O'Brien to host MTV Movie Awards

Los Angeles, 6 March — Comedian and late-night talk-show host Conan O'Brien will host this year's MTV Movie Awards, the unbuttoned show that irreverently honors Hollywood's best kisses and best fight scenes, the MTV network said on Wednesday.

It will be the first time that O'Brien, 50, has hosted the annual show, which will take place on 13 April at the Nokia Theatre in downtown Los Angeles and which serves as lead-in to the summer movie season.

"After eight years of intense negations, I am honoured to announce I am hosting MTV's second most prestigious awards show," the flame-haired comedian quipped in a statement. Nominations will be announced on Thursday. MTV, which is owned by Viacom Inc, said the show will also feature unseen clips from upcoming summer films.

O'Brien, the host of late-night talk show "Conan" on cable network TBS, is known for his oddball, youth-skewed humor, which marked a generational shift when he began a 16-year stint on NBC's "Late Night" talk show in 1993.

The MTV Movie Awards offers a cheeky take on Hollywood's usual black-tie and gown awards season by handing out golden, popcorn-shaped trophies in categories like "best villain" and "best gut-wrenching performance."

The awards categories bestow honors to the year's blockbuster hits likely to have been overlooked by industry stalwarts the Oscars and the Golden Globes.

Previous MTV Movie Awards hosts include actresses Lindsay Lohan and Rebel Wilson, and comedians Sarah Silverman and Jimmy Fallon.

Reuters

*Comedian Conan O'Brien speaks at the White House Correspondents Association Dinner in Washington on 27 April, 2013.—*Reuters

Bieber police video may be released, minus genitalia

Miami, 6 March — A judge on Tuesday ruled that video images of a partially-clad Justin Bieber while the pop singer was in police custody in Florida can be released, but only after blocking out his genitals.

The video clips included Bieber providing a urine sample for a drug test following his arrest by police in Miami Beach in January on a charge of driving under the influence.

Lawyers for Bieber, who turned 20 on 1 March, had argued that the police surveillance video showing him urinating was inappropriate and should be withheld to protect the Canadian singer's privacy.

"The Court finds that there exists a right to privacy as it relates to the exposure and dissemination of the Defendant's genitalia," Miami-Dade County Court Judge William Altfield said in a written ruling.

In a court hearing on the order, Altfield said that despite the public's right to full disclosure, "Bieber has not lost his expectation of dignity."

He said that while people in police custody have less expectation of privacy, they "are not like animals in a zoo to be filmed and photographed at will by the public or media." The judge noted that what was at stake was the public access to evidence in court cases, not the media's First Amendment right to free speech under the US Constitution.

"We want to issue our thanks to the court for spending so much time analyzing this issue ... and finding that even Mr Bieber has a right to privacy," said the singer's Miami attorney, Roy Black.

Bieber was charged with driving under the influence, resisting arrest and using an expired license after Miami Beach police say they caught him drag racing on 23 January. Bieber pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Besides a small amount of alcohol, he had marijuana and prescription medication for anxiety in his system at the time of his arrest, according to prosecutors.

Reuters

Japanese film "Homeland" tiptoes into Fukushima nuclear debate

Tokyo, 6 March —A Japanese farming family is forced from their home by the Fukushima nuclear disaster, living in cramped temporary housing under stress as they wait for permission to return to land worked by their ancestors for generations.

That is the all-too-real backdrop of "Homeland", the first Japanese mass-market film set in Fukushima since the world's worst nuclear crisis in 25 years made the area's name infamous.

Shown at the recent Berlin Film Festival, the movie - called "Ieji" ("The Road Home") in Japanese - features some scenes shot in areas once declared no-go zones by the government due to high radiation levels.

Despite an intense debate about whether to restart the rest of Japan's nuclear reactors that were idled after the disaster, director Nao Kubota said he opted to tell a human story.

"I wanted to make a film that would be relevant for a long time to come, that people could watch in 10, 20, 50 or even 100 years and see that this sort of claustrophobic situation came about," he said. "That's what I want everyone to feel - and it's for that reason that it's not anti-nuclear."—*Reuters*

Okazaki double helps Japan beat New Zealand in World Cup warm-up

TOKYO, 6 March — Underused Manchester United midfielder Shinji Kagawa set up one goal and scored another, and Shinji Okazaki bagged a brace as Japan beat an under-strength New Zealand 4-2 on Wednesday in a warm-up for this summer's World Cup finals.

Masato Morishige was also on target as Japan raced into 4-0 lead after just 17 minutes in wet, chilly conditions at National Stadium but a double from New Zealand's Chris Wood gave the scoreline a little more respectability.

With regular captain Makoto Hasebe of Nuremberg facing a lengthy spell out after recently undergoing two surgeries on his right knee, and Schalke defender Atsuto Uchida and Cerezo Osaka striker Yoichiro Kakitani also missing, Japan coach Alberto Zaccheroni was forced to field a diluted side for the last game before he names his final squad for Brazil.

"For the first 30 minutes, we played very well and were able to execute our game plan," Zaccheroni said. "After that, our pace slowed. New Zealand was a very good opponent for us." Japan got an early scare when Wood shot narrowly wide, but from that moment on the first half resembled little more than a training exercise for the Blue Samurai after Okazaki opened the floodgates in the fourth minute.

The Mainz striker's first touch skidded on the rain-slick surface after a through ball from Kagawa, but he stretched and managed to get a toe to the ball and poke past New Zealand goalkeeper Glen Moss.

Japan defender Masato Morishige (3rd from R) heads his team's third goal during the first half of a friendly against New Zealand at National Stadium in Tokyo on 5 March, 2014. Japan won 4-2.—KYODO NEWS

"I'm glad I could score early when I had the chance," Okazaki said. "That calmed us down some. As the game went on, we had some issues, and there are some areas where I need to do better."

Kagawa, in much need of playing time after being frozen out by manager David Moyes at United, then won and converted a penalty to make it 2-0, and Morishige opened his national team account on 11 minutes, heading Keisuke Honda's free kick. Things got even worse for the visitors when Moss allowed a seemingly innocuous shot from Okazaki slip through his hands and into the back of the net.—*Kyodo News*

China advance in Asian Cup despite loss

DUBAI, 6 March —Iraq beat China 3-1 in a dynamic and fair encounter of a group C game of the Asian Cup group stage, but both teams advance to the next round the Asian Cup 2015 in Australia.

Iraq took a 2-0 lead before the break and continued the tread on the Chinese in the early second half. Younis Mahmoud scored twice in the 23rd and 43rd minutes for the lead.

Ali Adnan managed to make it 3-0 in the 59th minute to push China to the verge of the cliff.

Zhang Xizhe, however, scored a penalty after a foul after 79 minutes to help China advance as the best third-placing team in the group stage.

China records two wins, two draws and two losses for eight points, beating Lebanon, the third place of Group B with identical eight points, by goal difference.

China's goalkeeper Yang Zhi prevented Iraq to score more for the rest of the game when Thailand, meanwhile, managed to score a late goal though losing 5-2 to Lebanon, which sending China through.

Top two teams of the five groups received automatic berths of the final round, which will be hosted by Australia for the first time on January 9-31, 2015.

It was the first match for China under its new French coach Alain Perrin after the Chinese laid off Real Madrid's former manager Juan Antonio Camacho.

Xinhua

Brazil fired by Neymar hat-trick as Spain, France, Germany win

Germany's Mario Goetze is tackled by Chile's Arturo Vidal (R) and Gary Medal (L) during their international friendly soccer match against in Stuttgart on 5 March, 2014.—REUTERS

LONDON, 6 March — Neymar's hat-trick lit up a powerful Brazil performance as the 32 nations taking part in this year's World Cup tested out their squads on a busy night of friendlies on Wednesday which also brought victories for Spain, Germany and France.

Barcelona forward Neymar was unstoppable for tournament hosts Brazil as they demolished a poor South Africa side 5-0 in the Soweto Soccer City stadium which hosted the 2010 final between Spain and the Netherlands.

It was also a good day for Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo who scored twice in Portugal's 5-1 win over Cameroon, making him his country's all-time leading scorer with 49 goals.

But Neymar's Barcelona team mate Lionel Messi had an off-colour night for Argentina in Romania, vomiting on the field early in a dull 0-0 draw in Bucharest.

Home advantage makes Brazil slight favourites to win a sixth World Cup this year, but a host of usual suspects will travel to the south American country with genuine hopes of gate-crashing the Samba party which starts in 99 days. World and European champions Spain are chief among them and they underlined their pedigree with a 1-0 victory over Italy in a repeat of the Euro 2012 final.

Pedro scored the game's only goal in Atletico Madrid's Calderon Stadium.

Germany, also bidding to become Europe's first winner of a World Cup in south America, edged past Chile 1-0 and 1998 winners France, who struggled through qualifying, beat the Netherlands 2-0.

Mario Goetze was on target for Germany in Stuttgart but they were jeered by unhappy fans.

"It was a lucky win," said captain Philipp Lahm. "I can understand the fans, the people paid for their tickets and they wanted to see something.

"We've got work to do and we know that (but) ... we were up against a good Chile team."

Karim Benzema and Blaise Matuidi sealed France's impressive win over the Dutch in Paris.

Neymar was the day's outstanding performer, though, scoring once in the first half and twice after the break to take his tally for his country to 30.

Chelsea's Oscar had opened the scoring and Fernandinho completed the rout.

"I have no doubt that we are ready," PSG's Thiago Silva said on O Globo's website. "This gives us great morale, great motivation. Now we can rest the mind in these three months remaining."

Brazil's Neymar (L) is challenged by South Africa's Siyanda Xulu during their international friendly soccer match at the First National Bank (FNB) Stadium, also known as Soccer City, in Johannesburg on 5 March, 2014.—REUTERS

With time running out for players to book their places in World Cup squads, Wednesday's friendlies provided a valuable opportunity for coaches to examine their options for the last time before naming their provisional squads.

England manager Roy Hodgson was one of them.

France's Karim Benzema (C) celebrates after scoring againts the Netherlands during their international friendly soccer match at the Stade de France in Saint-Denis near Paris, on 5 March, 2014.—REUTERS

He watched his side labour to a 1-0 win over Denmark with Liverpool's Daniel Sturridge scoring late to ensure they did not lose three friendly matches in a row at Wembley having been beaten by Germany and Chile in November.

"Looking at performances, you would have to be a harsh critic to say anybody played poorly tonight," Hodgson said.

"I've been very happy with the attitude and the desire to get on that plane and grab a shirt." World Cup dark horses Belgium drew 2-2 with African qualifiers Ivory Coast, for whom Didier Drogba was on target, while Switzerland and Croatia also shared four goals.

Tim Cahill scored twice to become Australia's all-time top goalscorer, although his side squandered a 3-0 lead to lose 4-3 against Ecuador in a thrilling clash in London.

Reuters

U Ba Than (Advocate)
68 Years

U Ba Than (Advocate) residing at 183/b, Ywetwah St. 19/a Ward, Dagon Myothit (South) township, son of (U Hla Tun Aung + Daw Moe Sein), father of Daw Mya Thandar, U Myo Thann (The New Light of Myanmar Newspaper), U Hla Moe, younger brother of U Oo Tun Tha, husband of Daw Yin Tha, passed away peacefully at home on 6-3-2014 at 5:30 am.
Cremation will take place at Kyesu cemetery on 8-3-2014.
(Bus will leave the residence 12;00 noon on 8-3-2014)

Bereaved family

UN Mission in South Sudan concerned about shooting in Juba

UNITED NATIONS, 6 March — The UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) is concerned about a number of shooting incidents that occurred in the country's capital of Juba on Wednesday, a UN spokesman said.

"Fighting seems to have initially taken place around 9 am local time in the barracks of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in the Jebel area, not far from UN House," UN spokesman Martin Nesirky said at a daily news briefing here.

Additional reports indicated sporadic shooting in several locations in Juba, including around the university and the World Food Programme warehouse, and near the UN Mission Compound in Tomping, he said.

"As of mid-day local time, SPLA troops were deployed across the city, and several roads in and around the capital were also blocked by the authorities," he said. "Currently, the situation appears to be calm in Juba, although security checkpoints remain in the city."

The UNMISS also reported that some 70 additional civilians have sought safety in the UN House site, he said.

"In all, the Mission continues to protect approximately 43,000 civilians at two sites in Juba and more than 77,000 civilians at UN sites throughout the country," he said.

Separately, in Nassir in South Sudan's Upper Nile State, the Mission reported that armed youth continue to fire sporadically in the town.

On Tuesday, a stray bullet hit an office of the UN Mission, but no injuries were sustained. The Mission reiterates its call on all parties to respect the work and sanctity of UN premises.

South Sudan witnessed a conflict which began on 15 December when President Salva Kiir's government said soldiers loyal to former deputy president Riek Machar, dismissed in July, launched an attempted coup.—*Xinhua*

Afghan president's brother withdraws from election, backs ex-minister

Afghan presidential candidate Qayum Karzai speaks during the presidential election debate at a local TV channel studio in Kabul on 8 Feb, 2014 file photo.
REUTERS

KABUL, 6 March — The Afghan president's brother, Qayum Karzai, said on Wednesday he was withdrawing from next month's presidential election and would back former foreign minister Zalmai Rassoul.

The pullout was widely anticipated after Karzai failed to show up for a televised debate this week.

"I will go to every mosque, every room and every guesthouse to get this team elected," Karzai told reporters on the sidelines of a conference after announcing his withdrawal.

"We are hoping to win on the first round. This team represents the only hope for stability in this country." Rassoul said negotiations on the election alliance had been taking place for two to three weeks.

"This is good for Afgthanistan and good for democracy."

The election is taking place against a backdrop of uncertainty and deteriorating security as US-led forces in the country since the Taleban were ousted in 2001 are due to withdraw by the end of the year.

With just under a month to go before the vote, speculation has heightened about allliances between the hopefuls remaining in the race. Both Rassoul and Karzai belong to the majority Pashtun ethnic group.

The main opposition candidate, Abdullah Abdullah, said he was unconcerned about rivals joining forces.

He narrowly lost the 2009 election to incumbent Hamid Karzai. Hamid Karzai is barred by the constitution from seeking a third term. He has not offered his backing to any of the candidates.

Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(7-3-2014, Friday)

6:00 am
1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

6:25 am
2. Physical Exercise

7:00 am
3. News/Weather Report

8:30 am
4. India Drama Series

9:45 am
5. ASEAN Programme

10:00 am
6. News

11:10 am
7. Clever

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

2:50 pm
9. Hyper Sports

3:00 pm
10. News

3:15 pm
11. TV Drama Series

4:25 pm
12. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) Third Year (English)

5:00 pm
13. News

5:15 pm
14. Teleplay

6:00 pm
15. News/Weather Reoprt

6:20 pm
16. Amazing World

7:00 pm
17. News

7:25 pm
18. TV Drama Series

8:35 pm
19. People Talks

8:45 pm
20. Hits Songs of Stars

9:00 pm
21. News
22. Documentary
23. Hyper Sports
24. Traditional Boxing
25. TV Drama Series

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(7-3-14 07:00am~ 8-3-14 07:00am) MST

* Local News
* The land of Silver Mountains (Kayah State)
* World News
* Myanmar Movie Review "Be the Right Herir"
* Local News
* A Day Out With Sarah (Ep-3)
* Word News
* Parent's Day
* Local News
* Myanmar Wedding Dresses
* World News
* In the Studio "Khin Su Shin"
* Local News
* Innovative Handiworks Based On The Art of Line Drawing
* World News
* Independent Filmmaker
* Local News
* Hiker's Journey (Inlay Lake)(Ep-4)
* World News
* Tea Leaves
* Local News
* Mosaic Painting (Precious Stones & Gems)
* World News
* A Girl Guide
* Local News
* Exquisite Myanmar Silk
* World News
* Art Students: Their Dream
* Local News
* "Myanmar's Traditions and Culture" Myanmar Pottery
* World News
* Moving Meditation: Aikido

Chelsea primed to steal a march on title rivals

LONDON, 6 March — Chelsea have a gilt-edged opportunity to open up a seven-point lead at the top of the Premier League this weekend and there is nothing their main title rivals can do about it.

With second-placed Liverpool having a week off and Arsenal and Manchester City in FA Cup action, all the chasers can do is hope Tottenham Hotspur can end one of the longest jinx's in English football and upset the odds at Stamford Bridge.

Twenty four years have passed and 15 managers have come and gone at the north London club since Tottenham last won at Chelsea — a miserable sequence that even the most optimistic Spurs fans would struggle to believe will end on Saturday.

Chelsea are gaining momentum in ominous fashion as the home straight to the title race looms and while Manchester City will have three games in hand after the weekend, a nine-point deficit to Jose Mourinho's side would leave them precious little margin for error.

Perhaps a glimmer of optimism for Liverpool's Brendan Rodgers, Arsenal's Arsene Wenger and City's Manuel Pellegrini is that Tottenham have the best away record in the top flight and are still harbouring top-four hopes themselves.

Despite not playing fluently, they are fifth and victory at Chelsea would leave them just a point behind City and three adrift of arch-rivals Arsenal who they host next week.

Tim Sherwood's side have picked up 29 points on the road this season, winning nine games out of 14.

Chelsea have been strong at home, though, winning 12 and drawing two as Mourinho's incredible statistic of never having lost a league game at Stamford Bridge rolls on.

Reuters

Chelsea's Andre Schurrle (C) celebrates after scoring a goal against Fulham during their English Premier League soccer match at Craven Cottage in London on 1 March, 2014.—REUTERS

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Nay Pyi Taw
Announcement No. 9/2014
6th Waxing of Tabaung, 1375 ME

Formation of Rakhine National Party approved

1. The Union Election Commission gave permission to the Rakhine Nationalities Development Party (RNDP) to register as a political party with the registration No. 28 and with the announcement No. 68/2010 dated 1 June, 2010, and to the Rakhine League for Democracy Party to register as a political party with the registration No. 54, with the announcement No. 28/2012 dated 30 May, 2012.
2. The Rakhine Nationalities Development Party (RNDP) and the Rakhine League for Democracy Party have applied to merge the two parties to form the Rakhine National Party. The Union Election Commission has allowed them to form the with the registration No. 74, with announcement No, 8/2014 dated 6 March, 2014. According to the instruction No. 1/2013 of the Union Election Commission, the registration of the RNDP and the Rakhine League for Democracy Party as political parties would be revoked and the two parties would be dissolved. The properties owned by the two former parties would be delivered to the new Rakhine National Party.
3. Hence, we announce that the registration of the Rakhine Nationalities Development Party (RNDP) and the Rakhine League for Democracy Party as a political party at the Union Election Commission have been revoked and the two parties have been dissolved as from 6 March, 2014.

By Order,
Tin Tun
Secretary
The Union Election Commission

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann meets media

NAY PYI TAW, 6 March—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received media persons at home and abroad at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall of the Hluttaw complex in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday morning.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker made clarifications on the queries raised by the media persons.

MNA

***Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann.*—MNA**

Parliament gives briefing on mobile phone communication, foreign aid

NAY PYI TAW, 6 March — Mobile phone communication was among the main topics during a question-and-answer session at the Pyithu Hluttaw on Thursday, with officials saying that no further networks would be added to the two current networks available on expressways.

Responding to a representative's question about the possibility of all mobile networks working along the Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay Expressway, Deputy Minister for Communications and Information Technology U Win Than said there were no immediate plans to build more CDMA-450 radio stations, and that for the time being only GSM and WCDMA networks are available.

Regarding foreign aid and support by international NGOs, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Daw Thein Thein Htay said a financial repor twhich lists donations from local and foreign donors has been reviewed, and that the government has approved further financial support.

She said that each Myanmar Red Cross Society member dispatched to work on humanitarian projects currently receives K 5,000 in daily allowances and that those helping in emergency situations in remote areas get K 8,000.

Emergency management training and first aid courses are also being conducted and "capacity building" seminars for Red Cross Society volunteers have been organized.

She added that 23 relief supply warehouses have been established across the country and are ready to start operations in case of emergency, e.g. natural disasters.

The amendment of the law on the Utilization of Roads and Bridges was also discussed at today's Pyithu Hluttaw session.Deputy Minister at the President's Office U Thant Shin elaborated on some projects at the today's Amyotha Hluttaw session. "It has been arranged to build wood retaining walls and to dredge sandbanks near Kyangin Cement Plant in accordance with the Ayeyawady River Conservation Master Plan," he said, adding that construction works will be underway in the period from the last week of February to June.

MNA

Commander-in-Chief meets C-in-Cs of ASEAN

NAY PYI TAW, 6 March — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing separately met with the Commanders-in-Chief of Defence Services, who attended the 11th ASEAN Chief of Defence Forces Informal Meeting-ACDFIM, at Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.

During the meeting, the Senior General and party separately had discussions with ASEAN delegates.

They focused on promotion of friendly relations and cooperation among the armed forces and ASEAN Regions.

The C-in-Cs of ASEAN held separate meetings with each other at the same venue on Thursday evening.

Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the Senior General, hosted a dinner to the wives of C-in-Cs of ASEAN at Aureum Palace Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on that day.

The wives of C-in-Cs of ASEAN viewed handicrafts and traditional snacks made by the families of servicemen at Nay Pyi Taw Command. They also viewed the gems at Myanma Gems Museum in Nay Pyi Taw.

The C-in-Cs of ASEAN and their wives attended a dinner hosted by the Senior-General and wife at Banquet Hall of Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday evening.

After the dinner, those present exchanged gifts and the Senior-General and wife presented flower baskets to the entertainers.

Myawady

***Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla pose for documentary photo with chiefs of armed forces from ASEAN countries and their wives.*—MNA**

Correction

Please read "Community and Social Development (CSD) team of Wanbao" instead of "Centre for Sustainable Development" in the fourth line of the third column of the news under the heading of "Salingyi BEPSs get two new school buildings" on page 16 in this daily issued on 27 February, 2014. Error is regretted. *—NLM*

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