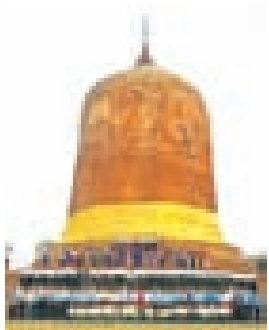


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President U Thein Sein given precepts by leading monks



President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win donate offertories to a Sayadaw.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 March—Monks who will be awarded senior Buddhist titles by the Union Government, attended a donation ceremony near Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday, with

the Buddhist State Committee giving nine precepts to President U Thein Sein and other high-ranking officials.

Dr. Bhaddanta Kumara-Bhivamsa, Chairman of the State Sangha Maha

Nayaka Committee was among the leading monks who gave his blessings to officials including Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Speak-

er Thura U Shwe Mann and, Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo. Several of the officials as well as their wives donated offertories and free meals to the Chairman of SSMNC and to the nuns.—MNA

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Tokyo police to probe leak of Toshiba chip technology

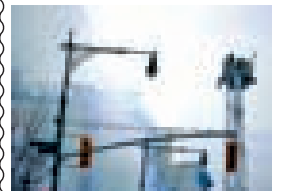
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Myanmar needs to invest in post-harvest sector to boost rice exports

By Aye Min Soe



Farmers plant seedlings in natural water body in Kawa, about 40 miles north east of Yangon.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

YANGON, 13 March — Myanmar needs to upgrade rice mills and construct modern facilities, including dryers, in order to make rice exports more profitable, said Union Commerce Minister U Win Myint at an agricultural exhibition in Yangon March 5. Only 4 percent of Myanmar's rice for export is of high quality and profits have therefore not met expectations. U Win Myint said meeting international standards is a tough call, urging for investment in modern rice mills.

The Myanmar Rice Miller's Association has, meanwhile, announced plans to build modern storage facilities, saying that the current number of "garages" is not enough to store rice for export. The garages in Myanmar can currently only store about 2 million tons of rice. More local storage facilities will ensure that Myanmar rice won't have to be sold to China cheaply anymore.

"We will build one or two garages in each township

as a pilot project, and when we get skilled workers for the garages we will build garages across the country," an official the association, told reporters at a recent meeting of the first general assembly of the Myanmar Rice Federation in Yangon.

The association is planning to build at least five garages in Muse, a town at the China-Myanmar border, according to the association.

Regarding the construction of new rice mills, 322 mills have so far been built, but only 31 mills can produce high-quality rice meeting international standards. The minister said the current challenges cannot be tackled solely by the private sector and called for new investors. He said frequent power cuts and high land prices were some of the problems faced by the sector.

According to the Ministry of Commerce, the country has 69 state-owned rice mills and 10,469 private-owned mills.

Stone laying for retaining wall at Panhlaing bridge



SINGAING, 13 March—Funded by Mandalay Region Government, laying out stone for retaining wall at Panhlaing bridge has been carried out in Anaut Ywathit village in Singaing Township, Mandalay Region. Usually in the rainy season, river water erodes the bank and the bridge was destroyed. Previously, it was constructed for temporary use but now the bridge is under

construction with steel frame and wooden floor.

The stone laying work carried out at a cost

of 5 million kyat is nearing completion.

Tun Tun Naing
(Kyaukse)

Cooperative Syndicate engaged in poverty alleviation in Pathein Tsp

PATHEIN, 13 March—Cooperative Society and Syndicates in Pathein Township, Ayeyawady Region provide loans to vendors and manageable scale breed-

ers. From 6 to 9 March, the group disbursed 211.835 million kyat to 463 members of 30 villages. According to the move, a manageable scale breeder get 50,000 kyat

and a vendor, 30,000 kyat. The interest rate is fixed to just 1.5 kyat for 100 kyat and the borrowers are to pay back the debt within three or ten months. The service pro-

viders do not charge for their service and it is just aiming at improving the rural life said Staff Officer Daw San San Hla Tin of Pathein Township Cooperative Department.

Pathein Hla Kyi

Tomato price drop, but seek ways to earn money

MAHLAING, 13 March—Ways are sought to create job opportunities and increase family income from domestic products in Mahlaing. “During this season, tomato price drops in the market. Instead of selling tomato with 90 or 100 kyat per viss, making tomato sauce and sell the product can earn more money in another way.”

said an instructor of vocational training conducted in Mahlaing. The training was attended by about 70 local women who got training on making tomato sauce. The training was organized by Mandalay Region Women’s Affairs Committee together with Myanmar Horticulture Association.

Aung Htay (Mahlaing)



Solar lamps for villagers

MINBU, 13 March—Magway Region Government donated solar lamps for villagers of Khuntha and Maechaung villages in Minbu District in Magway Region on 11 March. The two villages have no access to electricity. In summer time, the villagers have to face difficulties in lighting their villages and in taking fire preventive measures. To overcome these difficulties the regional government decided to donate 131 sets of solar lamp to Maechaung village and 61 sets to Khuntha village. The devices are automatically rechargeable ones.

Tin Tun Oo (IPRD)



VILLAGE TO VILLAGE ROAD IN DELTA REGION: Smooth transportation is one of the ways to reduce poverty and develop rural areas. With this end in view, a village-to-village road linking Myothi, Kanbalar and Payahla villages is build in Ngaputaw Township in Ayeyawady Region. The road is 13 miles and 4 furlongs long.
Myo KYAW THU



NEW BRIDGE ON KYAUK-PADAUNG-MEIKTILA ROAD: Villagers from Wethachin village in Kyaukpadaung Township in Mandalay Region self-reliantly build a reinforced concrete bridge. The bridge is important for the villagers as it is located on production road linking Khaungye and Hsepaik villages leading to Kyaukpadaung-Meiktila road. Upon completion, the reinforced concrete bridge will be 35 feet long with 12 feet wide motor way and 10 feet high.
Ko NAY (KYAUKPADAUNG)

EU moves toward sanctions on Russians; Obama meets Ukraine PM



Armed men, stand guard outside an Ukrainian military base in the village of Perevalnoye near the Crimean city of Simferopol, on 12 March, 2014.

REUTERS

BRUSSELS/SIMFEROPOL, (Ukraine), 13 March — The European Union agreed on a framework on Wednesday for its first sanctions on Russia since the Cold War, a stronger response to the Ukraine crisis than many expected and a mark of solidarity with Washington in the drive to make Moscow pay for seizing Crimea.

US President Barack Obama warned Russia it faced costs from the West unless it changed course in Ukraine, and pledged to “stand with Ukraine”

as he met with the country’s new prime minister in Washington.

“We will never surrender,” Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk vowed as he and Obama met in a White House show of support for the embattled leader.

“Mr Putin — tear down this wall — the wall of more intimidation and military aggression,” Yatseniuk told reporters in remarks aimed at Russian President Vladimir Putin and a reference to then-President

Ronald Reagan’s challenge to the Soviet Union in a 1987 speech at the Berlin Wall.

But Obama and Yatseniuk outlined a potential diplomatic opening that could give Russians a greater voice in the disputed Crimean region, where a referendum is scheduled for Sunday on whether it should become part of Russia. Yatseniuk told a forum in Washington after his White House meeting that his interim government was ready to have a

dialogue and negotiations with Russia about Moscow’s concerns for the rights of ethnic Russians in Crimea. Asked what a political solution would look like, Yatseniuk said: “If it is about Crimea, we as the Ukrainian government are willing to start a nationwide dialogue (about) how to increase the rights of (the) autonomous republic of Crimea, starting with taxes and ending with other aspects like language issues.”

Reuters

Indian diplomat in US row wins indictment dismissal

NEW YORK/NEW DELHI, 13 March — An Indian diplomat charged in New York with visa fraud and making false statements about her domestic worker has won a dismissal of her federal indictment, in a move that could help smooth over a dispute that has frayed US-India ties.

Devyani Khobragade, who was India’s deputy consul-general in New York, had diplomatic immunity when she sought on 9 January to dismiss the indictment, and thus could not be prosecuted, US District Judge Shira Scheindlin in Manhattan ruled on Wednesday.

New Delhi gave a cautious welcome to the news but it was far from clear if

the matter had been fully resolved. US prosecutors could still seek a fresh indictment, while in India reports emerged that Khobragade’s two children held both US and Indian passports, in apparent violation of Indian rules.

India is due to kick off a general election on 7 April and its major political parties have vied to outdo each other in condemning the US over the Khobragade case, as they seek to match public anger over the row.

Narendra Modi, the prime-ministerial candidate of the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), brought up the diplomat’s “ill-treatment” in a meeting with US ambassador to India Nancy

Powell last month. Modi has topped several recent opinion polls as the most popular choice for prime minister.

US prosecutors have accused Khobragade of making Sangeeta Richard, her housekeeper and nanny, work 100-hour weeks at a salary of just over \$1 an hour, far below the legal minimum US wage of \$7.25 an hour.

They argued that the indictment should stand because Khobragade did not have diplomatic immunity either when she was arrested, or now that she has left the country. They can seek a fresh indictment but it is not yet clear if they will do so.

“As the court indicat-



Indian diplomat Devyani Khobragade (C) arrives with her father Uttam Khobragade (L) at Maharashtra Sadan state guesthouse in New Delhi on 10 Jan, 2014.

REUTERS

ed in its decision, and as Devyani Khobragade has conceded, there is currently no bar to a new indictment

against her for her alleged criminal conduct, and we intend to proceed accordingly,” said James Margo-

lin, a spokesman for US Attorney Preet Bharara in Manhattan.

Reuters

Haze forces Indonesian province to shut down airport

JAKARTA, 13 March — Thick haze from land-clearing bushfires in Riau Province of Sumatra led the closure of a main airport in the province on Thursday, official said here.

The decision to halt operation of Sultan Syarif Kasim II Airport was made by airliners following the worsening of feasibility that impaired operations, said transport ministry Bambang spokesman Ervan. “The airliners decided to stop the airport operation today (Thursday), tomor-

row and the day after tomorrow as the feasibility is very short, it is only 400 meters,” Ervan told *Xinhua* by phone. “The resumption of operation would be done once there is a certainty” on the improvement of air quality particularly feasibility, he said. Days prior to the closure more than 60 flight schedules had been aborted as thick smog worsened feasibility, according to Transport Ministry EE Mangindaan.

The thickening haze has also worsened air qual-

ity in the province, and the number of people suffering from respiratory trouble increased to a staggering 42,000, according to Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, spokesman of national disaster agency.

Indonesia has scrambled to extinguish blaze in the bush as farmers or companies make way for plantations in Riau province, home to the world’s largest palm oil industry. Satellite observation on Tuesday detected 145 hotspots in the province.—*Xinhua*

Japan’s longest-serving mayor to retire

AOMORI, (Japan), 13 March — Japan’s longest-serving mayor announced his intention on Thursday to retire in August after fulfilling his 10th consecutive term in office. Kenji Nakano, 84-year-old mayor of Tsuruta in the northeastern Japan prefecture of Aomori, told the town assembly he has “promised the town’s people to make the 10th term a completion of my work” and that he will not participate in the upcoming mayoral election despite calls for him to serve another term.

Nakano shares the title of Japan’s oldest mayor with Ken Fujii from Ayagawa in Kagawa Prefecture. He was first elected in 1974 after serving four terms on the town council and ran unopposed in four of his 10 elections.—*Kyodo News*

Japan’s ruling bloc eyes approving new weapons export rules

TOKYO, 13 March — Japan’s ruling parties responded positively on Wednesday to government-presented draft new principles on arms exports, as Prime Minister Shinzo Abe tries to update Tokyo’s long-held restrictive policy.

The pacifist junior coalition partner New Komeito party relaxed its stance against the new guidelines, which they fear would open the way for arms exports to be expanded without clear limits, and is now ready to work out details.

At the first project team meeting by lawmakers of Abe’s Liberal Democratic Party and New Komeito to discuss the controversial topic, the government explained the draft principles, seeking to pave the way for Cabinet approval by the

end of March.

The focus has been on New Komeito’s response as a potential rift with it would be detrimental to Abe and the LDP in reworking the country’s security policy in the coming months.

“We want the new rules to be in line with the times and the new environment,” LDP lawmaker Takeshi Iwaya, who heads the party’s security panel, told reporters after the meeting.

The guidelines would mark a major shift in Japan’s postwar security policy based on the war-renouncing Constitution. Abe is also trying to lift the ban on exercising the right of collective self-defense by altering interpretation of the supreme law.

The lawmakers agreed

to call the guidelines “three principles on the transfer of defence equipment,” instead of the current “three principles on weapons exports,” they said.

New Komeito party lawmaker Isamu Ueda, who heads the party’s panel on diplomacy and security, said he believes the new principles will put the brakes on unlimited exports to some extent, although details still need to be worked out.

“We saw the big picture (of the new guidelines),” Ueda told reporters after the meeting.

Under the draft principles, Japan will prohibit the export of weapons to countries involved in conflicts, and if they clearly undermine global peace and security, government sources have said.—*Kyodo News*

Canadian PM marks end of Afghanistan mission

OTTAWA, 13 March—Prime Minister Stephen Harper on Wednesday marked the end of Canada's 13-year-old Afghanistan military mission, as the Canadian flag was lowered at the Kabul headquarters of the NATO-led force for the last time. In a statement, Harper said the end of the mission, Canada's largest overseas military deployment in generations, is a significant milestone in the fight against global terror.

"Over 40,000 Canadian Armed Forces members have fought to defeat the threat of terrorism," he said. "Many have paid the ultimate price."

He promised that Canada will continue to play an important role in supporting efforts that contribute to

building a better future for all Afghans.

Canada, along with Britain and the Netherlands, was among a few countries whose troops were engaged in combat with the Taliban. It played a key role in the south of the country. Official statistics show that since 2001, a total of 158 Canadian military personnel have been killed in Afghanistan, together with a journalist, a diplomat and two civilian contractors.

Critics question whether the mission is worth it, as they fret that Afghanistan would be pulled into fresh turmoil after the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force and American combat troops withdraw from the Central Asian country.—Xinhua

China, EU trade disputes can be solved

BEIJING, 13 March — China and the European Union (EU) can work out a solution to their trade disputes through mutual respect and proper consultations, said Premier Li Keqiang here on Thursday.

Being each other's biggest trading partners, it is natural that the two come across some trade frictions, said Li at a Press conference held after the annual parliamentary session ended.

"As long as the two sides respect each other and engage in proper consultations, problems can be solved," Li said, citing last year's trade dispute case of photovoltaic products as a successful example.

Trade disputes are individual cases and account for a small percentage in the two-way trade, he added.

Both China and EU are strong advocates of multipolar world and greater investment facilitation, so it is an irresistible trend that companies from the two sides enter each other's market and invest mutually, he said. Li expected that China and EU can carry on the negotiation of an investment treaty in a fair, reciprocal and facilitating way, so that there will be greater mutual investment and deeper economic integration between the two sides.

Speaking of the export to EU, Li promoted China's equipment industry at the press conference, saying that Chinese companies can deliver the equipment for building high-speed railways and nuclear plants in the fastest way and at the minimum cost.—Xinhua



Photo taken in June 2013 shows (from L) the No 1 and 2 reactors of the Sendai nuclear power plant of Kyushu Electric Power Co in Kagoshima Prefecture, southwestern Japan. Nuclear regulators decided on 13 March, 2014, to prioritize the safety review of the two reactors, making them potentially the closest to being allowed to restart among Japan's 48 offline commercial reactors.—KYODO NEWS

Sendai nuclear plant emerges as leading candidate to restart

TOKYO, 13 March — Nuclear regulators on Thursday decided to prioritize the safety review of two reactors at Kyushu Electric Power Co's Sendai plant in southwestern Japan, making them potentially the closest to being allowed to restart among Japan's 48 offline commercial reactors.

Currently, a total of 17 reactors at 10 nuclear power plants are subject to inspections to determine whether they satisfy a set of new safety requirements introduced in the wake of the

2011 Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant disaster. But the Nuclear Regulation Authority has decided to narrow down the number of reactors it will place priority on so that the organization can efficiently finish its first safety check-up process based on the new regulations.

During a meeting Thursday, commissioners agreed that the Nos 1 and 2 reactors at the Sendai plant in Kagoshima Prefecture are qualified to move on to the final stage of the review process.

"I understand that the Nos 1 and 2 units at the Sendai plant have cleared major agendas (in regard to the assessment of earthquake and tsunami that could affect the plant), while others have not yet," Chairman Shunichi Tanaka told the meeting.

Toyoshi Fuketa, a commissioner in charge of checking the safety of facilities and countermeasures against severe nuclear accidents, also said he is satisfied so far with Kyushu Electric Power's approach toward serious accidents.

Under procedures agreed earlier, the NRA staff is expected to start devoting efforts to crafting a draft assessment report of the basic policies on the reactors' design and accident response. The document will serve as a certificate showing the inspected reactors have cleared the screening.

After compiling the draft, the NRA plans to solicit public opinion from scientific and technical viewpoints over a period of about four weeks.

Kyodo News

Death toll of New York building collapse rises to three



Firefighters work at the site of explosion in New York's East Harlem neighborhood, on 12 March, 2014. At least two people were killed and 18 others injured when two residential buildings collapsed in an explosion in New York's East Harlem neighbourhood on Wednesday, authorities said.

XINHUA

NEW YORK, 13 March — A powerful explosion leveled two residential buildings in New York's East Harlem neighbourhood on Wednesday morning, killing three people, while nine others remained missing, officials said.

Officials from the local fire department also said 27 people were injured, while the Associated Press quoted the New York City mayor's office as saying more than 60 people were injured.

The blast struck a building at 116th Street and Park Avenue in Upper Manhattan at about 9:30 am (1330 GMT), blowing

out windows in surrounding buildings and sending debris crashing down onto nearby streets.

Two five-story residential buildings next to each other collapsed, with one essentially gone from the blast. Preliminary investigation suggested that the only warning before the blast was a call about a gas leak. Utility company Con Edison said it received the call from a resident in an adjacent building about 15 minutes before the explosion. The company said it sent two workers to the scene after the call, but they arrived two minutes after the explosion.—Xinhua

Leica gives girl of quake-hit area monochrome camera

TOKYO, 13 March — Leica Camera AG of Germany on Wednesday gave an 18-year-old female high school student in Miyagi, one of the three prefectures most harshly stricken by the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami, a high-end digital camera specialized in taking monochrome pictures.

At a Leica shop in Tokyo's posh Ginza shopping area, Andreas Kaufmann, a senior executive of the camera maker, presented the monochrome Leica to Airi Sato, who was chief of the camera club at Shiroishi Technical High School. Sato

told reporters after the ceremony that she "would like to go on photographing the images of the stricken northeastern Japan areas." Sato's home was among many in the area severely damaged by the quake just before she started high school.

She became a member of the school's camera club after being enchanted by the pictures taken by an older student. She has since traveled to various coastal locations ravaged by the quake and tsunami, taking pictures of people dealt harsh blows by the twin natural disasters.—Kyodo News

WORLD

Japan to propose 30 more festivals as UNESCO cultural heritage

TOKYO, 13 March — Japan will propose that 30 more of its traditional festivals be added to the two already registered by UNESCO as an intangible cultural heritage, the Cultural Affairs Agency said on Thursday.

The government will file the proposal with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization by the end of this month, hoping to win their registration in 2015, the agency said. Japan will propose that the 30 festivals in 18 prefectures, including Fukuoka Prefecture's Hakata Gion Yamagasa Festival, be added to the Kyoto Gion festival's Yamahoko float ceremony and the Hitachi Furumono parade in Ibaraki Prefecture that are already on the UNESCO heritage list.—Kyodo News



Rear Adm Patrick Hall (L), the commander of Carrier Strike Group Nine, speaks at a memorial ceremony for the victims of a massive earthquake and tsunami that struck northeastern Japan in March 2011, on the US aircraft carrier Ronald Reagan at the Coronado naval base in California on 11 March, 2014, the disaster's third anniversary. The aircraft carrier was used in the Operation Tomodachi relief mission shortly after the disaster. At right is Capt. Christopher Bolt, the commanding officer of the USS Ronald Reagan.

KYODO NEWS

China welcomes Japan's help in search for missing Malaysia jet

BEIJING, 13 March — China on Wednesday welcomed the Japanese government's decision to send four of its Self-Defence Forces planes to join the international search for a Malaysian jetliner that went missing last weekend, shortly after taking off from Kuala Lumpur en route to Beijing.

"If there are other countries participating in the search and rescue operations, we will welcome and express our appreciation," Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang told a Press conference when

asked about the decision made earlier in the day.

Japanese Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera announced on Wednesday the decision to send two C-130 transport aircraft of the Air Self-Defence Force and two P-3C patrol planes of the Maritime Self-Defence Force, in response to a request for cooperation from the Malaysian government.

It is the first time that the Japanese government has decided to send the country's forces abroad to participate in the search for an aircraft.—Kyodo News

Destruction of Syria's cultural heritage must stop

UNITED NATIONS, 13 March — Top United Nations officials on Wednesday issued a joint statement urging an immediate end to the destruction of cultural heritage in war-torn Syria.

The joint statement was made by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Director-General of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Irina Bokova and UN-League of Arab States Joint Special Representative for Syria Lakhdar Brahimi, as the ongoing Syrian crisis enters its fourth year.

"As the people of Syria continue to endure incalculable human suffering and loss, their country's rich tapestry of cultural heritage is being ripped to shreds," said the joint statement. World Heritage sites have suffered "considerable"

and sometimes "irreversible" damage, the statement said.

Four sites are being used for military purposes or have been transformed into battlefields: Palmyra, an ancient Arabic city in central Syria; Crac des Chevaliers, Syria's best preserved castle from the Crusader of the Middle Ages; the Saint Siméon Church in the Ancient villages of Northern Syria; Aleppo, including the Aleppo Citadel.

"Archaeological sites are being systematically looted and the illicit trafficking of cultural objects has reached unprecedented levels," the statement said, adding that human representations in art are being destroyed by extremist groups intent on eradicating unique testimonies of Syria's rich cultural diversity.—Xinhua

Three more killed in Venezuela unrest, students battle troops

CARACAS, 13 March — Protesters battled soldiers in the streets of Caracas again on Wednesday as three more fatal shootings raised to 25 the death toll

from a month of demonstrations against Venezuela's socialist government.

Thousands of supporters and foes of President Nicolas Maduro took to

the capital's streets for rival rallies marking a month since the first bloodshed in the recent unrest around the South American OPEC nation. Violence began when National Guard troops blocked opposition marchers from leaving Plaza Venezuela to head to the state ombudsman's office. Students threw stones and petrol bombs while security forces fired teargas and turned water cannon on them.

Reuters witnesses saw dozens of people leaving injured. In central Carabobo state, a student, a middle-aged man and an army captain were shot dead in

the latest fatalities from now-daily clashes around the South American nation of 29 million people.

Opposition activists blamed armed government supporters for shooting the student near his home in Valencia city, but the state governor said the shot came from snipers among protesters.

A 42-year-old man was killed during the same disturbances, shot while painting his house, the local mayor said. In the third killing, an army captain died from a gunshot during a clash with "terrorist criminals," government officials said.—Reuters



Anti-government protesters take cover with a shield stolen from the police during clashes with the police in Caracas on 12 March, 2014.—REUTERS

Israeli parliament approves referendum bill

JERUSALEM, 13 March — Israel's parliament approved on Wednesday a basic law which requires a referendum in order to relinquish sovereign Israeli lands amid any future peace agreement.

The law was authorized by 68 parliament members from the coalition. The members of the Israeli opposition did not take part in the discussion and the vote as they are boycotting the discussion of overall three bills pushed for approval this week by the coalition, over what they dubbed the coalition's "political

brutality." There is already a law in place requiring holding a referendum on giving up sovereign lands. However, this amendment to the status of the bill makes it a basic law, which means a key constitutional law that dictates the roles and the conduct of the Israeli authorities and overall state policies.

There are only 14 other basic laws intact since the establishment of the state of Israel and those rules could not be revoked or appealed without a special majority.

Xinhua

Chinese premier vows "zero-tolerance" to corruption

BEIJING, 13 March — China will show "zero-tolerance" to corrupt officials no matter "how senior his position is," Premier Li Ke-qiang said at a Press conference on Thursday after the annual parliamentary session concluded.

"China is a country under rule of law. No matter who he is, and how senior his position is, if he violates Party discipline and the law of the country, he will be punished to the full extent, because everybody is equal before the law," Li said.

"Corruption is a natural enemy of the people's government," Li said. "We

must put the exercise of power and the use of public money under institutional checks."

Li said the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the Chinese government are firm in will and determination to fight corruption, and "that is our consistent position."

Since its 18th National Congress, the CPC has been steadfast in combating corruption and holding corrupt officials accountable, Li said, adding that visible progress has been made in this regard and the Party and the government will carry forward this campaign with perseverance.



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang speaks at a Press conference after the closing meeting of the second annual session of China's 12th National People's Congress (NPC) at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, on 13 March, 2014.—XINHUA

Li said that the government will continue to streamline administration

and delegate government powers.

Xinhua

Antibiotics in early childhood increases risks of milk allergy and asthma

HELSINKI, 13 March — The use of antibiotics in early childhood could increase risks of allergy to cow's milk and asthma, said a latest doctoral dissertation published by the University of Tampere, Finland.

The information of a cohort of Finnish children born from 1996 to 2004 collected from the national registry was used in the study. Among the children, more than 16,000 diagnosed with cow's milk allergy and 20,000 with asthma by the end of 2005 were identified as cases. For each case, one gender, birth date and birth hospital district-matched child

was selected. Information on antibiotic purchases and other related factors was obtained from some other relevant national authorities.

After comparative analysis, the result showed that the children who used antibiotics had a higher risk of developing asthma or cow's milk allergy in early childhood than those who did not use antibiotics.

In addition, a mother's use of antibiotics during perinatal period was also associated with an increased risk of developing both cow's milk allergy and asthma in early childhood.

Despite other risk

factors, the study supported a notion that microbial exposure in both fetal period and early childhood exerts impacts on development of cow's milk allergy and asthma in childhood.

According to the author of the thesis, the prevalence of asthma and allergic diseases in childhood has increased in many industrialized countries in the world since the second half of the twentieth century.

To reduce the prevalence, identifying the factors that may influence the development of asthma and allergic diseases is therefore an important precondition.

Xinhua



Iranian workers carry a cart at Teheran's old main bazaar in downtown Teheran, Iran, on 11 March, 2014. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani vows to reduce inflation rate to 15 percent by the end of the next Iranian calendar year ending on 20 March, 2015. On 1 March, the Statistical Centre of Iran announced that the inflation rate for the eleventh Iranian calendar month, which ended on 19 February, hit 33.7 percent. — XINHUA

Indonesia's stock market set for another boost from earnings



Indonesian traders walk in front of an Indonesia Stock Exchange board in Jakarta, on 12 June, 2013.—REUTERS

SINGAPORE, 13 March — Asia's best performing stock market this year, Indonesia, is now seeing a string of upgrades in corporate earnings forecasts that could give the rally further momentum and cement its lead in the region.

Jakarta's stock market JKSE is basking in the quick turnaround the economy made from last year's

currency crisis, helped by a rise in interest rates and an improvement in the country's huge trade deficit. The index has risen 17.5 percent in dollar terms so far in 2014, with the rupiah's rally contributing to those gains.

Analysts are now counting on other factors to drive the market up by a further 10 to 15 percent.

Indonesia has presidential elections in April, and the stock market has historically rallied after elections.

Besides, domestic demand is strong and companies catering to the Indonesian middle class are seeing a jump in earnings. Consensus estimates for future business profits are rising.

"Once people could see that Indonesia's macro was improving faster than the other countries that are perceived to be risky, then Indonesia's risk premium vanished pretty quickly. That is what led to the initial sharp rally," said Jahanzeb Naseer, research analyst at Credit Suisse in Jakarta.

"From here on, what will differentiate Indonesia is that it is probably starting an upcycle in earnings. That tends to be a much more sustained period of recovery for markets."

So far, earnings have not been upgraded as fast as stock prices, causing a rapid expansion in Indonesia's price-to-earnings (PE) multiples. The consensus PE ratio for Indonesia is 26.3 percent above its long-term average, analysts at Nomura estimate, whereas most others in Asia have PEs at or below long term averages.

Indonesia's PE has expanded 5 percent since early December to 13.4, according to Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S. In the same period, Singapore's PE is down 5 percent, India's is down 3 percent, while South Korea's is up a mere 2 percent. The Jakarta stock market has had a 0.3 percent upward revision in average earnings for the next fiscal year in the past 30 days, the most in Asia, as per Thomson Reuters StarMine.—Reuters

Japan, US make no progress in tariffs on beef, pork

WASHINGTON, 13 March — Japan and the United States moved no closer on Wednesday to overcoming their differences regarding tariffs on Japanese farm produce, including beef and pork, that are an obstacle to conclusion of a Pacific free trade pact, a Japanese official said.

The official hinted most of their two-day talks were dedicated to discussions about the tariffs on meat, which is one of what Tokyo calls five sensitive produce categories in the Trans-Pacific Partnership deal. The lack of progress in the talks between the two biggest economies in the envisioned TPP could diminish the prospect for an agreement on the contentious issue ahead of President Barack Obama's visit

to Japan in late April.

"I cannot say we have made a major breakthrough," Hiroshi Oe, deputy chief Japanese negotiator for the TPP, told reporters after the talks with Wendy Cutler, acting deputy US trade representative. "We especially discussed one of the five (sensitive) items in which American stakeholders are strongly interested," Oe said. The US side has strongly demanded Japan remove tariffs on beef and pork in past negotiations.

"There is still a long way to go," Oe said. "I cannot help saying a big gap remains between our positions." Asked what Obama's planned visit to Japan next month means to the ongoing negotiations, Oe said, "It could be a goal but not the deadline."—Kyodo News

GSK's asthma drug succeeds in two late-stage trials

NEW YORK, 13 March — GlaxoSmithKline Plc said its non-inhaled treatment for a type of severe asthma met the main goals in two late-stage studies.

In one study, the treatment, mepolizumab, showed statistically significant reduction in the frequency of exacerbations in patients of severe eosinophilic asthma compared with a placebo, GSK said on Wednesday.

The second study showed that patients on mepolizumab achieved greater reduction in their oral corticosteroid dose compared with those on

placebo, while maintaining asthma control.

The company said the drug was administered to patients intravenously or through subcutaneous injections every four weeks in the first study.

In the second trial, the drug was administered through subcutaneous injections.

The company said it would file for regulatory approval for the drug globally by the end of the year.

GSK's shares closed 1.5 percent lower at 1670.5 pence on Wednesday on the London Stock Exchange.

Reuters



People exchange money at a foreign currency exchange place at Renmin Plaza Subway Station in east China's Shanghai, on 12 March, 2014. An foreign currency exchange place opened here to provide currency exchange service including Hong Kong dollar, US dollar, euro and so on. XINHUA

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



Students from a robot design team demonstrate the award-winning projects of the latest China Robot Competition in Nantong University, Nantong, east China's Jiangsu Province, on 11 March, 2014. XINHUA

A whale of a find: Fossil sheds light on cetacean sonar's origin

WASHINGTON, 13 March — The deadly threat posed by German submarines during World War One helped spur scientists to develop sonar, using underwater sound signals to locate objects like subs that might be taking aim with a torpedo.

In the 20th century, it was an important technological breakthrough.

But it was old technology as far as whales go. These marine mammals have been using echolocation — bouncing high-frequency sounds off underwater objects — to find prey for tens of millions of years.

US scientists on Wednesday announced the discovery of the most

ancient whale known to have used echolocation—a creature called *Cotylocara macei*, a bit larger than a bottlenose dolphin, that lived about 28 million years ago. The discovery suggests that echolocation evolved in toothed whales — the group that includes modern day varieties like sperm whales, killer whales, dolphins and porpoises — perhaps 32 million to 34 million years ago, the scientists said.

That was relatively soon after whales, around 35 million years ago, split into two major cetacean groups—toothed whales that were active hunters and toothless baleen whales that were filter feeders, straining food like

krill from the ocean.

Jonathan Geisler, an anatomy professor at New York Institute of Technology who led the research published in the *journal Nature*, called echolocation “an amazing trait.”

“It’s a sonar-like system which allows them basically to navigate and find food, particularly in waters where there’s little light, either at great depth or in very turbulent waters with a lot of mud, like estuaries or around marshes,” he added.

Cotylocara, whose fossilized remains include a 22-inch skull, neck vertebrae and ribs, was about 10 to 11 feet long and probably swam in a shallow ocean environment,

feeding on fish and squid, Geisler said. The fossils were unearthed near Summerville, South Carolina, outside Charleston, said College of Charleston geology professor James Carew, another of the researchers.

While *Cotylocara* looked superficially like some smaller modern-day toothed whales, it was not closely related to them.

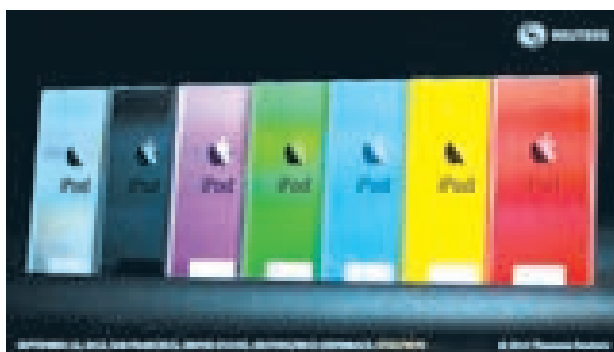
“This is a member of an extinct family that split off very early from other echolocating whales, dolphins and porpoises. They went extinct 25 million or 26 million years ago and they don’t have any living relatives,” Geisler said in a telephone interview.

Reuters

US tech giants' offshore cash piles earn interest from government

LONDON, 13 March — Four of the biggest US technology groups collectively hold an estimated \$124 billion in US Treasury debt, much of it offshore, earning them tax-free interest, the UK's Bureau of Investigative Journalism (BIJ) said on Thursday.

The finding means Apple Inc, Microsoft Corp, Google Inc and Cisco Systems Inc hold a large proportion of the \$254.9 billion held in their foreign subsidiaries in US Treasuries, according to securities filings reviewed by the London-based BIJ, a not-for-profit news organization. Bringing the money home would trigger a tax bill, so the companies keep it offshore, partly to fund foreign expansion but also, executives say, to avoid a



The different colours available for the iPod Touch presented during Apple Inc's iPhone media event in San Francisco, California on 12 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS

tax hit. Democratic party Senator Carl Levin, who has campaigned for years against tax avoidance, was quoted saying by the BIJ that if US corporations invested offshore funds in US government debt, this income should face US taxes.

“Those funds ought to

be treated as having been repatriated and subject to US tax,” Levin said.

Corporations including Apple have lobbied for changes so they would not have to pay US tax on income earned outside the United States and brought home. Many other countries,

including Britain, only tax income earned within their borders, though some international companies have been accused of reducing their bill via sophisticated offshore accounting arrangements.

Some US companies say a “territorial” type of tax system would avoid double taxation and ensure all businesses compete on equal terms. Tax campaigners say it would encourage companies to shift profits overseas.

Google said it responded to tax incentives offered by governments while following tax rules in every country where it operates. The other companies declined comment, but have previously said they pay all the tax they should.

Reuters

Tokyo police to probe leak of Toshiba chip technology

TOKYO, 13 March — Tokyo police will probe a suspected leak of Toshiba Corp technology to a South Korean company that relates to the top Japanese chipmaker's flagship memory chips, the *Yomiuri* newspaper reported on Thursday.

The paper also said police had obtained a warrant for the arrest of a former engineer at a Toshiba-affiliated chipmaker who was suspected of improperly providing technical data to SK Hynix Inc.

A Toshiba spokesman said the company could not comment on the matter while it is the subject of a police investigation. Tokyo police declined to comment.

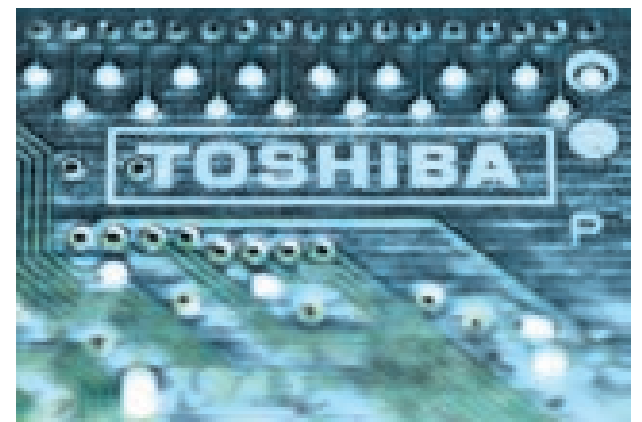
A Hynix spokesman said the company was

checking the report and had no further comment.

This would mark Japan's first criminal investigation into a leak of advanced technology from the IT sector overseas, the paper said.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga, asked about the report at a regular news conference, said it was extremely important for Japan to protect its advanced technology and prevent it from leaking overseas.

Yomiuri quoted investigators as saying the former employee was suspected of providing information relating to Toshiba's NAND flash memory technology to SK Hynix Inc after he started working at the South Korean company.—Reuters



A logo of Toshiba Corp is seen on a printed circuit board in this photo illustration taken in Tokyo on 31 July, 2012.—REUTERS

Web founder Berners-Lee calls for online 'Magna Carta' to protect users

LONDON, 13 March — The inventor of the world wide web, Tim Berners-Lee, called on Wednesday for bill of rights to protect freedom of speech on the Internet and users' rights after leaks about government surveillance of online activity.

Exactly 25 years since the London-born computer scientist invented the web, Berners-Lee said there was a need for a charter like England's historic Magna Carta to help guarantee fundamental principles online.

Web privacy and freedom have come under scrutiny since former US National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden last year leaked a raft of secret documents revealing a vast US government system for monitoring phone and Internet data.

Accusations that NSA was mining personal data of users of Google,

Facebook, Skype and other US companies prompted President Barack Obama to announce reforms in January to scale back the NSA programme and ban eavesdropping on the leaders of close friends and allies of the United States.

Berners-Lee said it was time for a communal decision as he warned that growing surveillance and censorship, in countries such as China, threatened the future of democracy.

“Are we going to continue on the road and just allow the governments to do more and more and more control - more and more surveillance?” he told BBC Radio on Wednesday.

“Or are we going to set up something like a Magna Carta for the world wide web and say, actually, now it's so important, so much part of our lives, that it becomes on a level with human rights?” he said, referring to the 1215 English charter.—Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 14 March, 2014

Brush up on your skills

If a sharp knife is not used, it will get rusty and become useless. A good knife needs sharpening and should be ready for use anytime.

Likewise, skills we have learned will be forgot-

ten if we do not keep practicing and improving. Our talent and skills are for nothing if not used.

Our knowledge will widen if we are willing to constantly learn and make use of what we know.

There has been a sharp rise in the number of graduates who are unable to find a job. It is true that many do not have the connections to get a job, let alone one they would love to do. But some might say they lack the confidence to apply for a position that matches their skills. A graduate in English should apply for a job in teaching or an-

other profession that fits his profile. If the degree does not match the desired job requirements, get the relevant knowledge and apply. Send as many applications as possible, pester them, call them. Sell yourself and believe in your skills and abilities.

Write for 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.



Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than.—MNA



Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint.—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw ...

(from page 16) Region, and installation of two transformers for electrification in the Zagan-Kanmye area.

yan-Kanmye area.

Approving three new Bills, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw gave green light to the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Bill which is aimed at solving disputes between Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw. The Consumer Protection Bill and the Anti-money Laundering Bill were also approved in accordance with the president's comments.

At a question-and-answer session at the National Parliament, the Amyotha

Hluttaw, Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint responded to a question about the expansion of the Yangon-Pyay motorway, which will be upgraded by Max Myanmar Construction Co., Ltd.

He urged the company to extend construction work on the Yangon-Pyay road and expand it to 24

feet in order to ensure the safety of drivers.

Other topics discussed at the Amyotha Hluttaw session were the registration of the Association Bill and Anti-terrorism Bill.

Regarding the registration of the Association Bill, one representative suggested an amendment to allow associations to form with-

out having to pay a fee.

The Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw called on the Bill Committee to take the proposed amendments into consideration. As Pyithu Hluttaw, the People's Parliament, has made amendments to the Anti-terrorism Bill, approval of the bill will be decided at the Union Parliament.—MNA

Low-income households in Mon State to receive free DVB-T2 Set Top Boxes

MAWLAMYINE, 13 March—More than 16,000 free DVB-T2 Set Top Boxes will be handed out to low income-households in Mon State, officials said Thursday.

Speaking at a ceremony at the state government office in Mawlamyine, Mon State Chief Minister U Ohn Myint said the donation by the Ministry of

Information would contribute to the development of Mon State, and said more help was needed in order to spur the modernization and democratization of the country. Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htway said that the donation would facilitate rural development and mark the start of poverty alleviation.

The deputy minister

said the DVB-T2 Set Top Boxes would go to social organizations in Mon State responsible for the distribution of the sets.

A technical team from Myanmar Radio and TV demonstrated the installation of the set top box, saying viewers can choose from a variety of channels including MI, MRTV-4 and Channel-7.—MNA

Development of Banking industry discussed



U Aung Thaung, Pyithu Hluttaw Banks and Monetary Development Committee Chairman holds talks with Jaspal Bindram, Group Executive Director and CEO Asia, from Standard Chartered Bank.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 March—Leading foreign bank experts and Myanmar officials have met to discuss the development of the banking industry.

Jaspal Bindram, Group

Executive Director and CEO Asia, from Standard Chartered Bank discussed future cooperation with U Aung Thaung, Pyithu Hluttaw Banks and Monetary Development Committee

Chairman, and U Maung Maung Thein, Pyithu Hluttaw Economic and Trade Development Committee Chairman. Details of the discussions have not been revealed.—MNA

India to invest in timber sector, Japan to develop infrastructure

NAY PYI TAW, 13 March—Officials from the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry and the Indian Myanmar Chamber of Commerce and Industries met in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday to discuss "investment opportunities" for Indian en-

trepreneurs in Myanmar's wood-based industries.

Union Minister U Win Tun and IMCCI Vice-President A. K. Murarka discussed the establishment of factories and forest plantations, as well as bilateral cooperation with the Myanmar Timber Enterprise.

The minister then met with the General Manager of Sumitomo Corporation Asia and Oceania Pte., discussing road transportation and development of infrastructure being carried out by Sumitomo Corporation in Myanmar.

MNA

Raw opium worth K 41.4 million seized in Tanyan Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 13 March—Police in Tanyan Township in Northern Shan State raided four houses on March 8 following a tip-off, seizing 82.85

kg raw opium worth K 41.4 million.

According to officials, the houses were located in Panmon Village of Tanyan Township. Tanyan

Myoma Police Station has filed a lawsuit against the four house-owners under the Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Myawady



Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htway seen at ceremony to present DVB-T2 Set Top Boxes to low income-households in Mawlamyine, Mon State.—MNA

Cooperation in border affairs and human resources development discussed with U.N.

NAY PYI TAW, 13 March—Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win met with Renata Dessallien, U.N. Resident Coordinator for Myanmar, in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday to discuss a range of issues, including further cooperation on border affairs and human resources development.

Among other topics discussed was U.N. humanitarian aid to two communities in Rakhine State, as well as the government's efforts in the country's peace making process, and the U.N.'s participation in political and social reform processes in Myanmar.

MNA

Chinese officials ...

(from page 16)

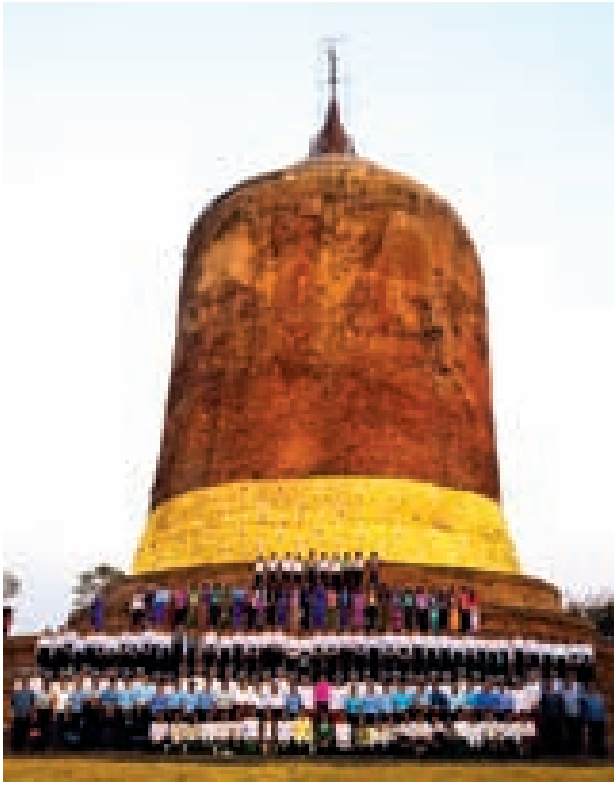
Myanmar officials also received an invitation to attend the opening ceremony of a replica of the Shwedagon Pagoda in China.

The Minister also met with Deputy Director Xue Shu Qi of the Religious Affairs Bureau, but details of the meeting were not revealed.

MNA

LOCAL NEWS

Raising Awareness Through Cultural Tour in Srikestra Nay Pyi Taw 13 March



NAY PYI TAW, 13 March—The Ministry of Culture organized a study tour for the local peoples, students and teachers from University of Pyay, students and teachers from Teacher Education College, trainees from Nurse and Midwife

of Srikestra Ancient City, Rahandar Cave and Pound, Baw Baw Gyi Stupa, Lulin Kyaw Gateway.

While they were visiting around the Srikestra City, Deputy Minister, Daw Sanda Khin explained that the ancient site zones have been demarcated in Myanmar and preserved by Laws. Among these ancient site zones, Halin Ancient City, Beikthano Ancient City, Srikestra Ancient City have been submitted to the World Heritage Centre to be nominated on World Heritage List. The expert from UNESCO visited and evaluated the three ancient cities. The evaluations of three ancient cities were finished successfully due to the supporting of local Administration Teams, safeguarding of Ancient Cities Association and Town elders. That is why, on behalf of Ministry of Culture World like to express sincere gratitude to all local peoples. The nomination of three Pyu Ancient Cities will be decid-

ed as World Heritage Listed in coming 38th Session of World Heritage Committee Meeting which will be held in Qatar in June 2014. If the three Pyu Ancient cities are inscribed as World Heritage Listed, it will be a great pride and honour of Myanmar as the first World Heritage Listed and there will be more job opportunities along with the development of tourism.

There are many ancient monuments which have the criteria laid down by UNESCO, many outstanding architecture and ten kinds of arts and crafts in Srikestra Ancient City. Therefore, the local peoples have responsibility to safeguard the cultural heritage in co-operation with Ministry of Culture.—MNA

Training School, students and teachers from State High School, members of Safeguarding of Srikestra Ancient City Association, responsible persons of Shwe Phone Pwint Library and Museum. They visited the Srikestra Archaeological Museum, Gate way

Ahlon Township Supportive Committee meeting held



YANGON, 13 March—Ahlon Township Development Supportive Committee meeting was held at the hall of Ahlon Township in Yangon Region on Thurs-

day at 9:30 am.

Chairman of Township Development Supportive Committee, the Ward Administrators of Ahlon Township, the Chairman of Ward Development Supportive Committee and officials attended the meeting. The officials made speeches. The Township Development Supportive Committee members replied queries raised by the attendees.

Ko Tin Maung Oo (Ahlon)

Popularity of Hand-woven clothes creates job opportunities in Kyauktaga

KYAUKTADA, 13 March—The popularity of hand-woven cotton clothes from Kyauktaga Township has created job opportunities for local women. A woman can weave three to four clothes a day, earns around 4000K, said Daw Kyi Myint, a local clothes trader.

There are around 300 traditional weaving machines in the township.

Sellers across the country have placed an order the hand-woven clothes, Daw Kyi Myint said. Even Myanmar citizens in foreign



countries contacted local traders and placed order for the clothes.

It costs around K3,000 to K3,500 for a Longyi.

Clothes on traditional designs of ethnic people are also available at the township.

Khin Ko (Kyauktaga)

New school buildings commissioned into service in Myitkyina

MYITKYINA, 13 March—A new basic education pre-primary school building was launched in Sitapu Ward in Myitkyina, Kachin State on 12 March. Officials formally opened the new school building. Secretary of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (Central) Daw Thazin Nwe presented 24-inch TV and DVD Players through officials.

Similarly, a school building was put into service at No (4) Basic Education Primary School in Khatcho Village in Waingmaw Township. The president of MMCWA, patron of state

MCWA and deputy head of Education Department formally opened the school building.

The chairman of state MCWA handed over documents related to the school building through an official and a townselder spoke words of thanks.

They then met with expectant mothers at township MCWA delivery room and presented cash and nutritious food to them.

They also provided the victims at relief camp in Sitapu Ward in Myitkyina with nutritious food and cash assistance.

Kachin State IPRD



Ooredoo Myanmar holds Press Conference

MANDALAY, 13 March—Ooredoo Myanmar held a Press Conference at Sedona Hotel in Mandalay on Wednesday.

At the conference, Chief Marketing Officer of Ooredoo Myanmar Ms Lorna, Public Relation Manager Daw Thiri Kyarnyo and Marketing Manager U Thet Khaing made clarifications on plans of Ooredoo Myanmar Company to give mobile services in Myanmar.

Ooredoo Myanmar was allowed to give mobile services in Myanmar for 15 years. The company



had drawn plans to be able to use 3G mobile communication system anywhere in Myanmar.

The Company had created job opportunities for

30,000 Myanmar women. It played as a main sponsor for Myanmar athletic members in Paralympics Games.

Khin Khin Win (Education)

K 100 million allotted for Natmauk Tsp

NATMAUK, 13 March—Officials of Natmauk Township are stepping up efforts for development tasks in the township to complete the tasks at the end of March.

Government allotted K 100 million to the township

to carry out regional development tasks in 2013-2014 FY.

The fund is injected into constructing roads and bridges, repairing school buildings and health care centres, supplying drinking water and other devel-

opment tasks in Natmauk Township.

Natmauk is one of the townships in Magway Region. It is the place where General Aung Sun who is national hero of Myanmar was born.

MMAL-127

Firefighters contain Barangaroo blaze in Sydney

SYDNEY, 13 March — Firefighters worked through on Wednesday night to contain a fire at the Barangaroo construction site in central Sydney, hoping to have the fire completely extinguished by lunch time, local media reported on Thursday. The fire, believed to have been sparked by a welding accident, broke out in the basement of a building under construction at the Barangaroo site at about 2:00 pm (local time) on Wednesday. Hundreds of office workers in nearby buildings were evacuated following the fire.

The blaze also caused traffic chaos in the city on Wednesday as surrounding roads were closed due to fears a huge crane at the site could collapse.

Major roads were reopened on Thursday morning after engineers checked the crane and assured it was safe. Fire and Rescue New South Wales Superintendent Ian Krimmer told the *Australian Associated Press (AAP)* that hotspots were still burning in two basement areas at 9:30 am (local time) on Thursday, but crews hoped to have the fire fully extinguished in a couple of hours.

Xinhua

Two more arrested over attack on HK journalist

HONG KONG, 13 March — A 55-year-old man and a 37-year-old woman have been arrested in connection with last month's attack on Kevin Lau, a former editor of *Ming Pao* newspaper, Hong Kong police said on Thursday. Mainland police earlier arrested two men in the city of Dongguan, Guangdong Province, who are believed to be the assailants responsible for the 26 February chopper attack on Lau.

Seven other men suspected of being involved in the assault were arrested in Hong Kong on Wednesday, bringing the total number of suspects to 11. Lau remains in hospital following the assault in which he was struck six times on the back and legs with a cleaver, leaving wounds including a 16-centimetre-long gash.—Xinhua

Israel bombs Gaza militants after intensive rocket fire

JERUSALEM, 13 March — Israel bombed 29 targets in the Gaza Strip on Wednesday, the Israeli military said, after Palestinian militants in the coastal territory fired 60 rockets into Israel in the heaviest such barrage since 2012.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he had ordered the military “to take any action necessary to restore calm” to Israel’s south, and that “if there is no quiet in the south then it will be noisy in Gaza, and that’s an understatement.”

The rocket fire, which police said resulted in no casualties, was claimed by the Islamic Jihad group and came a day after Israel killed three of its members in a Gaza air strike. A military spokesman said 60 rockets hit Israel “in a simultaneous coordinated attack,” and five landed in built-up areas.

Israel bombed 29 militant targets in response, he said. Israeli forces fired tank shells in response at what the spokesman described as “two terrorist locations”

in Gaza. Israeli warplanes bombed five militant training camps, Palestinian officials and witnesses said.

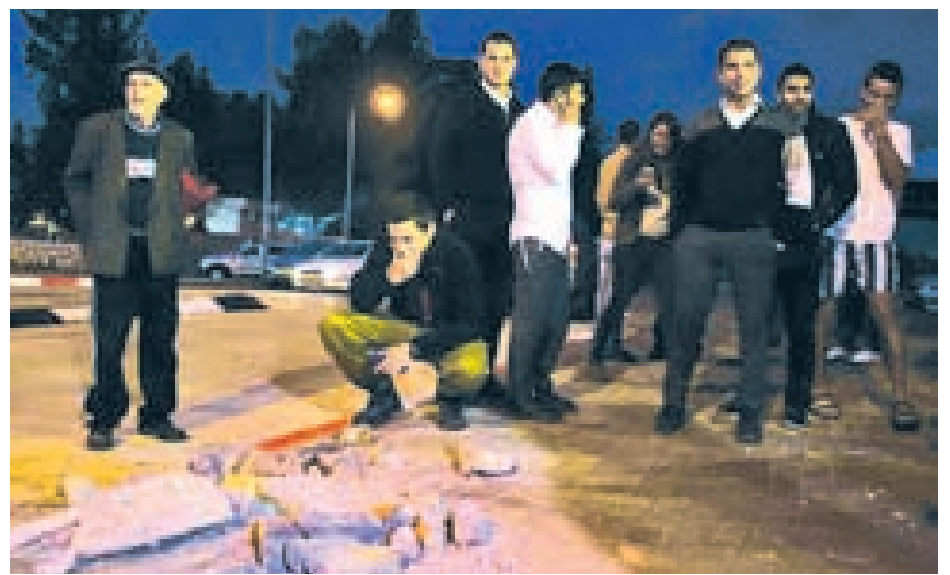
There were no immediate reports from the Palestinian enclave of any casualties.

“It’s a (rocket) barrage such as we haven’t seen for two years,” Haim Yellin, a local Israeli municipal official in the south, told Army Radio, referring to an eight-day war between Israel and Palestinian militants in Gaza in November 2012.

Sirens sounded in several communities across southern Israel to alert residents to take shelter and general warnings urged everyone in the area to remain indoors.

The Israeli military said it targeted and killed the three Islamic Jihad militants on Tuesday after they fired mortar bombs at Israeli soldiers.

Islamic Jihad said at the time that its men had been killed confronting Israeli troops who had entered the Gaza Strip. Commenting on Wednesday’s barrage,



Israeli onlookers survey the damage caused by a rocket which was fired from the Gaza Strip and landed in the southern Israeli town of Sderot on 12 March, 2014. REUTERS

Islamic Jihad said it had fired 90 rockets towards Israel and named the operation “Breaking the Silence.”

Palestinian officials said that after the rocket strikes, Israel had informed them that it was closing the Kerem Shalom crossing, through which goods pass into the Gaza Strip, until further notice.

Israel pulled its soldiers and settlers out of the territory, run by Hamas in 2005. But it maintained a naval and air blockade and severely restricted the overland movement of people and goods across the volatile border.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas issued a statement via his spokesman urging an end to what he

called “Israeli military escalation in the Gaza Strip.” In Washington, the US State Department condemned the rocket attacks and said Israel had a right to defend itself.

“There is no justification for such attacks,” spokeswoman Jen Psaki said in a statement. “We call for these terrorist attacks to cease immediately.”—Reuters

Release of Afghan prisoners exposes root of rift with US

KANDAHAR, (Afghanistan), 13 March — US military commanders believe Hamid Sardar Mohammad is a dangerous Taliban bomb-maker who has attacked foreign and Afghan soldiers. In April last year, US and Afghan forces captured Sardar and placed him in a military prison.

The Afghan government ordered Sardar and 64 other men to be released last month. A quiet man who says he is in his late teens, Sardar headed back to his village in the southern Afghan Province of Kandahar. There, dozens of relatives and villagers paid respects to him outside his mud home. Sardar was never a Taliban insurgent, his family and neighbors say. But thanks to his imprisonment and release, he is now a hero.

“I hate what the Taliban stands for,” Sardar said.

President Hamid Karzai’s decision last month to release the disputed 65 prisoners is a sign of his growing eagerness to assert his independence from his Western backers. Twelve years after Washington and others helped him seize power and with just a few months left in his final term, the Afghan president seems to want to distance himself from his once-closest ally at every opportunity.

But the story of the released prisoners also illustrates just why the gap between Washington and Kabul has opened up so much. The conflicting allegations about Sardar and another detainee whose case Reuters examined show how

Afghanistan and the foreign military forces stationed there so often speak past each other. As the US and NATO forces wind down their combat mission, it’s not just that the different sides disagree on the facts, but that they sometimes seem to be talking about different wars altogether.

The prisoners were part of a much larger group of more than 600 detainees transferred to Afghan authority last year, in what was seen as a milestone in the US and NATO withdrawal.

Afghan officials later released some of those prisoners without US objection. But the United States believes the 65 who were released in February should be tried or investigated further.

The Afghan government and Afghan judicial officials say the 65 had been wrongly imprisoned on charges that did not stand up to examination.

Abdul Shokor Dadras, a member of the Afghan Review Board, a government body set up to examine the cases against detainees transferred from US to Afghan custody, said the board, the attorney general and the country’s intelligence agency conducted investigations into the US allegations.

Reuters

UAE summons Iraq Ambassador over Saudi ‘terrorism’ charge

DUBAI, 13 March — The United Arab Emirates summoned Iraq’s Ambassador on Wednesday to protest against his prime minister’s accusations that its ally Saudi Arabia was funding terrorism, state news agency WAM reported, while Bahrain called the comments “irresponsible”.

Saudi Arabia has already rejected Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki’s assertion on Saturday that it and Qatar were funding Sunni Muslim insurgents fighting in Iraq’s western Anbar Province. Maliki has long had chilly ties with Sunni-led Gulf Arab states, which in turn view him as too close to Shi’ite Muslim Iran. UAE Minister of State

for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash said that Maliki’s statements were “completely untrue and not based on any accurate assessment of the situation in the region with regards to terrorism,” WAM reported.

“The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia plays a prominent role in fighting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations,” WAM quoted Gargash as saying. In Manama, Bahrain also strongly rebuked Maliki’s remarks against Saudi Arabia calling them “irresponsible and contradict the spirit of fraternal and neighborly relations” between the two countries, state news agency BNA reported late on Wednesday.—Reuters

Panda’s death in Zhengzhou caused by parasite disease

ZHENGZHOU, 13 March — The death of a seven-year-old female panda was caused by a parasite disease, a virus analysis has revealed, said Zhengzhou Zoo in central China’s Henan Province on Wednesday evening. Jinyi died on 9 February from a massive hemorrhage and shock triggered by acute gastroenteritis.

The public had questioned whether the death was related to mistreatment of the panda.

The zoo had failed to respond to questions about the animal’s whereabouts, announcing its death four days after the event. It even tried to cover up the death by telling local media Jinyi had been sent back to her hometown in southwest China’s Sichuan Province for mating. The panda’s death angered the public. Netizens uploaded pictures showing Jinyi forced to pose with visitors for photographs last summer.—Xinhua



Prisoners who escaped from Kandahar’s Sarposa jail on Monday are presented to the media after they were recaptured, in Kandahar on 26 April, 2011 file photo. REUTERS

REGIONAL



Two farming machines try to melt snow on cropland for the coming spring ploughing at the Wudalianchi Farm in Heilongjiang reclamation areas in Heihe, northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, on 12 March, 2014. More than 300 farming machines here are busy with melting snow for more than 330,000 hectares of cropland as the spring ploughing season approaches.—XINHUA

Nepal's prime minister announces to step down after constitution promulgation

KATHMANDU, 13 March — Nepal's Prime Minister Sushil Koirala said on Wednesday that he will step down immediately after the promulgation of a new constitution within the next 10 months.

Speaking at a public programme, PM Koirala, who became country's

prime minister on 10 February, said that his main priority is drafting a new democratic constitution from the Constituent Assembly (CA).

"After the promulgation of the new constitution I will give up my post, as I have no interest of remaining in power," Koirala said.

He further added that all the political parties are serious and responsible for the promulgation of new constitution as soon as possible.

Despite the statement from the prime minister, Nepal's Constituent Assembly (CA) has not yet begun the tasks related to drafting the new constitution. Four

months have elapsed since the 19 November elections but CA rules of procedures have not been finalized yet due to the dispute among the parties.

Koirala became prime minister on 10 February with strong backing from the CPN-UML party.

Xinhua

Lacks of skilled labour, quality human capital major concerns for Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 13 March — The shortages of skilled labour and quality human resources are among the greatest challenges facing the Cambodian economy, a new survey revealed on Wednesday.

The survey was done based on the interviews of 355 enterprises nationwide by the International Labour Organization and the Cambodian Federation of Employers and Business Associations (CAMFEBA).

"In terms of skills, over half of Cambodian firms feel that vocational education and training programs do not yet meet the needs of the business community," said the survey report entitled "Enabling Environment for Sustainable Enterprises in Cambodia."

The survey noted that while the quality of education and training providers currently available in the market is good, there are not enough providers.

"It is clear that we need to link the private sector more closely with technical and vocational education and training priorities and curriculum development," CAMFEBA's president Van Sou Ieng said at the report launching. "This needs to be a permanent and qualitative conservation."

The report gave a number of recommendations for the improvements to the general education system such as incorporating practical training, learning, entrepreneurship and innovation into curriculum design along with measures to improve dialogue, cooperation and information exchange among businesses, unions, educators and policy makers. Cambodian Labour Minister Ith Samheng said thirty-two percent of the Cambodian population is under 15 years of age, and between 300,000 and 400,000 young people enter the labour market each year.

"The survey result is crucial for Cambodia to identify weak points so that we can seek effective solutions to the issues," he said.

Xinhua

Seven & i welcomes 1,200 new recruits at ceremony

TOKYO, 13 March — Seven & i Holdings Co held a welcome ceremony on Thursday for 1,219 new recruits, up 39 from a year earlier, joining 14 group companies, ahead of other major companies.

"Serving customers will be a tough job in the face of the consumption tax hike in April," Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Toshifumi Suzuki told them at a Tokyo hotel. "I expect you to be ambitious enough to grow the company into a pioneer in merging the Internet and real outlets (businesses)."

Satsuki Wada, 22, a new recruit of the company's supermarket business

arm YorkMart Co, said "I want to try hard to be flexible to changing consumer needs and contribute to the group's development."

Seven & i holds the annual ceremony every March to allow new staff enough time to familiarize themselves with the job. Many companies hold such ceremonies in April.

The increased number of new recruits follows the business expansions of the group companies.

The convenience store chain Seven-Eleven Japan Co. plans to open a record 1,600 new outlets in fiscal 2014 through next February.

Kyodo News



New recruits of Seven & i Holdings Co and its group companies exercise before a welcome ceremony in Tokyo on 13 March, 2014.

KYODO NEWS

Pakistani PM seeks political consensus for Taliban talks

ISLAMABAD, 13 March — Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Wednesday met a senior opposition leader, Imran Khan, to seek greater consensus for the ongoing peace dialogue with the Taliban militants, officials said.

Imran Khan, whose Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf party rules the northwestern

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, who had been critical at the government's policies, lauded Nawaz Sharif's move to engage the Taliban in talks.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif visited Imran Khan at his residence in Islamabad and both agreed to continue the dialogue process with the Taliban.—Xinhua

Indian air force, navy ready to search for missing Malaysian plane

NEW DELHI, 13 March — Indian Air Force and the Navy have kept their aircraft on standby and are waiting for final instructions for taking part in the search operations for locating the missing Malaysian plane, said Indian Defence Ministry on Wednesday.

"Indian aircraft, reconnaissance assets are ready and on standby. We are waiting for specific

request from Malaysia before commencing operation," Defence Ministry officials told the media.

Malaysia's military has traced what could have been the passenger plane with 239 passengers on-board which was missing since Saturday to an area near India's Andaman and Nicobar Islands, according to media reports.

Xinhua



A female Bornean Gibbon holds a baby at the Ragunan Zoo in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 12 March, 2014.

Indonesia's top Islamic clerical body has issued a religious fatwa against the illegal hunting and trade in endangered animals in the country.

XINHUA

ADVERTISEMENT

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV RIVA WIND VOY NO (22)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV RIVA WIND VOY NO (22) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.3.2014 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 BRIGHT SAIL SHIPPING LTD

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (093)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (093) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.3.2014 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 ORINET OVERSEAS CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ILC FRIENDSHIP VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ILC FRIENDSHIP VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.3.2014 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 RK SHIPPING & TRADING PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301191/2301178/2301177

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

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-197(13-14)	Maintenance/Retest Service for CNG Cascade Jumbo Tube	US\$
(2)	IFB-198(13-14)	Spares for AB 100 Well Servicing Truck	US\$
(3)	IFB-199(13-14)	Spares for KB 150 Well Servicing Truck	US\$
(4)	IFB-200(13-14)	Electrical Spares (4)Items for ZJ70LSR-I Rig	US\$
(5)	IFB-201(13-14)	Spares for SAFE Compressor	US\$
(6)	IFB-202(13-14)	Spares for Komatsu Dozer	US\$
(7)	IFB-203(13-14)	Spares for CAT D3512B Engine	US\$
(8)	IFB-204(13-14)	Spares for CAT D3306 DI Engine	US\$
(9)	IFB-205(13-14)	40 Ton Hydraulic Crawler Crane	US\$
(10)	IFB-206(13-14)	4 1/4" & 3 1/2" Square Kelly with Drive Bushing	US\$
(11)	DMP/L-066(13-14)	Spares for F-1000 Rig Pump Ex D3 T2 SR I & II Rig	Ks
(12)	DMP/L-067(13-14)	Reinforcement Hose Pipes	Ks

Tender Closing Date & Time - 9-4-2014,16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 13th March, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

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

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

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Qty	Remark
(1)	MPPE/MCY/CAP/T/4 (2013-2014)	New 7000 Imperial Gallons Capacity Rigid or Semi-Trailer Aircraft Refueller	2 Nos.	US\$
(2)	MPPE/MCY/CAP/T/5 (2013-2014)	Two-Stage Vertical Filter/Water Separator	4 Nos	US\$
(3)	MPPE/MCY/CAP/T/6 (2013-2014)	400 IGPM Fuel Transfer Centrifugal Pump (Motor Driven) and 300/GPM Fuel Transfer Centrifugal Pump (Engine Driven)	2 Items (each 2 nos)	US\$
(4)	MPPE/MCY/CAP/T/7 (2013-2014)	Fire Fighting Angus Engine Driven Pump With Trailer Inductor	2 Sets	US\$
(5)	MPPE/MCY/T/2 (2013-2014)	Aviation Fuelling Equipment Spare Parts	75 Items	US\$

2. Tender Closing Date & Time - 8-4-2014,12:00 Hrs
3. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 14-3-2014 during office hours and for further detail please contact Phone: 067-411487.

Planning Department
Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise
Ministry of Energy, No(6) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw

TRADEMARK CAUTION
NISSAN JIDOSHA
KABUSHIKI KAISHA (also trading as Nissan Motor Co., Ltd.), a company incorporated in Japan and having its registered office at No.2, Takaracho, Kanagawa-ku, Yokohama-shi Kanagawa-ken, Japan is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademark:

redi- GO
(4/17/2014)
(31 January 2014)

In respect of "automobiles, wagons, trucks, vans, sport utility vehicles, buses, recreational vehicles (RV), spot cars, racing cars, lorries, fork lift trucks, and towing tractors(tractors), and structural parts and fittings therefore, tractors, anti-theft alarms for vehicles, adhesive rubber patches for repairing tubes or tires, all included in International Class 12.

Fraudulent or unauthorised use or actual or colourable imitation of the Mark shall be dealt with according to law.

U Than Maung, Advocate
For NISSAN JIDOSHA
KABUSHIKI KAISHA (also trading as Nissan Motor Co., Ltd.)
C/o Kelvin Chua, Yangon Ltd.,
#1505-1506-1508, 15th Floor
Secura Tower, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union
of Myanmar.
Dated 14 March 2014
um@kcyangon.com

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV YUSHO PRINCESS VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YUSHO PRINCESS VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.3.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W(3) 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 ECL (S'PORE) PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301191/2301178/2301177

MINISTRY OF ELECTRIC POWER
DEPARTMENT OF HYDROPOWER
IMPLEMENTATION
INVITATION TO TENDER

1. Qualified Contractors and/or Joint Ventures are invited to submit Tender Proposals in United State Dollars for the design and construction of the Contract:

"Upper Yeywa Hydropower Project - Construction of Underground Facilities"

2. Closing Date of Tender Acquisition - 9.4.2014(16:00) PM
Tender Submission Date - 9.7.2014 (10: 00) AM
Tender Opening Date - 9.7,2014 (14: 00) PM
3. Tender Invitation Letter and Documents with detailed informations shall be available at the following address.

Tender Invitation Committee
Department of Hydropower Implemettion
Office No. (38), Nay Pyi Taw
Phone : 067 411415, Fax : 067 411081

Weather

Likelihood of slight increase of day temperatures in the Lower Myanmar areas.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Justin Bieber faces 5 May trial date in Florida drunken driving case



Canadian pop singer Justin Bieber is pictured in police custody in Miami Beach, Florida on 23 Jan, 2014 in this Miami Beach Police Department handout released to Reuters on 4 March, 2014. —REUTERS

MIAMI, 13 March—A Miami judge has set a 5 May trial date for pop singer Justin Bieber, who faces charges of driving under the influence, resisting arrest and

using an expired license after police say he was caught drag racing in Miami Beach.

The 20-year-old Bieber has pleaded not guilty to the charges. He did not attend the hearing on Tuesday in a Miami-Dade county court.

The initial March trial date was postponed after lawyers for Bieber and several news organizations argued in court over whether the media should have access to video images of the singer while he was in police custody following his arrest on 23 January.

Police arrested Bieber for drunken driving after officers stopped him in a

rented yellow Lamborghini alongside another driver in a red Ferrari on a main Miami Beach street. Two SUVs had blocked off the road so the singer could race a friend, police said.

Bieber initially resisted arrest, cursed at police officers and later told them he had consumed alcohol, pot and prescription drugs, according to police.

He was released from jail after a judge set bail at \$2,500. If convicted, Bieber could face six months in jail, although experts say he will likely get off with a lighter sentence for his first offense.

Reuters



Colin's equestrian skills made it easier to shoot for the film.

Colin Farrell: Winter's Tale isn't for everyone

LONDON, 13 March — Hollywood star Colin Farrell admits that Winter's Tale, is not for everyone.

The 37-year-old actor, who is starring in the film alongside former Downton Abbey star Jessica Brown Findlay, said the romantic drama will not be a favourite for everybody since it is too sweet, reported Contactmusic.

"It's not for everyone. I know that for some people it will be too sweet. But it's also a very beautiful and very optimistic and very kindly intentioned film that has not a shard of malice in it, and I'm hoping that the people who will enjoy it, will really enjoy it," he said.

Colin's equestrian skills made it easier to film scenes where he rode Athansor, a mysterious white horse who becomes his alter-ego's guardian angel.

"That was a hairy ride, man. People can get thrown off horses, you know? And I don't mind for myself because I've been thrown off horses before, and it's fine, it's cool, you just get back on again."

"I don't even mind how wild the horse is, although the horse we used in the film was pretty cool and mellow. But I did fear riding with Jessica in the back because I'm not that good a horseman."

PTI

Taylor Swift named highest-paid singer by Billboard

LOS ANGELES, 13 March — Taylor Swift has been named 2014's highest-paid singer by a music website as she is believed to have earned a whopping USD 39,699,575.60 in the past 12 months.

In a list compiled by Billboard, Taylor Swift, 24, made a huge sum from the sales of her 2012 album Red that led to her grabbing the top spot, reported Ace Showbiz.

Country singer Kenny Chesney bagged the second place by earning USD

32,956,240.70 from his chart-topping album Life On A Rock, while singer-actor Justin Timberlake came third after making USD 31,463,297.03.

Rounding out the top five are veteran rock bands Bon Jovi and The Rolling Stones, who pocketed USD 29,436,801.04 and USD 26,225,121.71 respectively.

Other musicians, who made it to the top 10 are Beyonce Knowles, Maroon 5, Luke Bryan, Pink and Fleetwood Mac.—PTI



Taylor made the huge sum from the sales of her album Red which was released in 2012.

Deepika Padukone prays at the Golden Temple

MUMBAI, 13 March — Actress Deepika Padukone visited the Golden Temple in Amritsar to offer prayers on 11 March.

Dressed in white salwar kameez, the 28-year-old actress prayed at the Sikh shrine and also donated Rs 1000, said Parampal Singh, ADCP Punjab Police, who accompanied Deepika into the temple.

The Chennai Express star spent over an hour on the temple premises. "I don't want to leave this place and it seems the Almighty is around me," Deepika Padukone told Mr Singh on her way out.

The actress then headed to her hotel near the airport and later left for Mumbai.—PTI



Deepika spent over an hour on the temple premises.



Keith Richards of the Rolling Stones performs at the British Summer Time Festival in Hyde Park in London on 6 July, 2013.—REUTERS

On heels of memoir, Keith Richards to publish children's book

NEW YORK, 13 March — Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards, famous for surviving years of rock 'n' roll excess, will release a children's picture book with illustrations by his daughter Theodora Richards, his publisher said on Tuesday.

The book, "Gus & Me:

The Story of My Granddad and My First Guitar," tells the story of how Richards was first introduced to music by his grandfather and given his first guitar.

The hardcover and ebook will be released on 9 September.

"Gus & Me' invites readers to be in the room at the electrifying moment that Keith holds a guitar in his hands for the first time," Megan Tingley, executive vice president and publisher of Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, said in a statement.

In his memoir, "Life," Richards also recounts the role his grandfather — jazz big band member Theodore Augustus Dupree, who is known as Gus — played in his life. In the best-selling book, Richards, 70, details

his journey from being a shy, only child in London to co-founding the Rolling Stones in 1962 and becoming a rock and roll survivor following years of substance abuse.

"I have just become a grandfather for the fifth time, so I know what I'm talking about," Richards said in a statement about the children's book. "The bond, the special bond, between kids and grandparents is unique and should be treasured. This is a story of one of those magical moments."

"Gus & Me," which was written with Barnaby Harris and Bill Shapiro, will include pen-and-ink collages by Theodora, who was named after her grandfather, as well as photographs from the Richards family collection.—Reuters

Federer advances as Wawrinka, Murray fall at Indian Wells

INDIAN WELLS, 13 March — Roger Federer cruised into the quarter-finals of the PNB Paribas Open at Indian Wells on Wednesday after Wimbledon champion Andy Murray



Andy Murray

and Australian Open winner Stanislas Wawrinka both fell in the fourth round.

In a tournament full of surprises, Federer struck a blow for the old world order with a 6-4, 6-4 win over German Tommy Haas.

The only player left in the men's draw with a higher ranking than world number eight Federer is Serbia's Novak Djokovic, who was due to play Marin Cilic in Wednesday's feature night match.

Wawrinka and Murray joined the big-name casualties when they both crashed to lower-ranked opponents on another day of upsets in

the Californian desert.

Wawrinka suffered his first loss this year when his 13-match winning streak came to a shuddering halt as he was beaten 7-6(1), 4-6, 6-1 by South African Kevin Anderson.

"It wasn't really on my mind that he had won Australia," said Anderson, whose next opponent is Federer. "It feels great to beat somebody who obviously has just won a grand slam." Murray was blown away by Canada's Milos Raonic, one of the biggest servers in men's tennis.

Despite winning the first set, the Scotsman was

unable to contain the raw power of Raonic, who triumphed 4-6, 7-5, 6-3 in a



Roger Federer

little over two hours.

Raonic blasted 15 aces past his bewildered opponent, who is one of the best returners in the game, and won a staggering 83 per cent of points when he landed his first serve. Murray did break Raonic's serve in the opening set and again in the deciding third to lead 2-1 but lost the next four games in a row against the 6ft 5in (1.96 meter) tall Canadian.

"To get broken two consecutive times in that situation isn't good enough. I played poor tennis at that stage. I didn't make enough balls and I missed some really easy shots," Murray told

reporters. "It's tough to win matches like that, because against him, he obviously wins a lot of free points with his serve."

So over the course of the set, if you give up enough unforced errors on basic shots, then with the amount of free points he gets on his serve, that's going to add up to a negative result."

Raonic's next opponent in the quarter-finals will be Ukrainian giant killer Alexandr Dolgoplov who followed up his upset victory over Rafa Nadal on Monday with a comprehensive 6-2 6-4 drubbing of Italy's Fabio Fognini.—Reuters

Ozil's vanishing act a real worry for Arsenal

LONDON, 13 March — When Arsenal paid a club record 42 million pounds (\$69.84 million) for Mesut Ozil last August it was with nights like Tuesday in Munich in mind.

Trailing 2-0 from the first leg of the Champions League last 16 tie against holders Bayern, it was the perfect stage for Germany playmaker Ozil to deliver a grandstand performance.

What transpired, however, was a brief cameo as Ozil vanished at halftime with a hamstring niggle after being virtually invisible for the opening 45 minutes in the Allianz.

Arsenal eventually bowed out after a battling 1-1 draw — Lukas Podolski equalising with a rocket shot after Bastian Schweinsteiger had put Bayern 3-0 up on aggregate — and their season is

in danger of fizzling out.

After setting the pace in the Premier League Arsenal are now seven points behind leaders Chelsea with a game in hand after registering only one league win in their last four.

Their best bet of ending a nine-year wait for silverware rests with the FA Cup where they face second tier Wigan Athletic in



Arsenal's Mesut Ozil reacts after missing a penalty against Bayern Munich during their Champions League round of 16 first leg soccer match at the Emirates Stadium in London on 19 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

the semi-finals. Manager Arsene Wenger will point to long-term injuries to Aaron Ramsey and Theo Walcott, while Jack Wilshere is now also sidelined with a broken foot sustained on England duty.

He also highlighted keeper Wojciech Szczesny's red card in the first leg against Bayern as a turning point in the tie. Ozil's worrying loss of form will be as

perplexing for the Frenchman as his likely three-week lay-off.

He has not scored in the Premier League since before Christmas and, more tellingly, his ability to influence games with a range of passing that made him "king of the assists" earlier in the campaign has waned.

His penalty miss against Bayern in the first leg at the Emirates appeared to drain his already fragile confidence and the way he was jeered by Bayern's fans on Tuesday summed up a horror tie for the former Real Madrid man. Paying so much money for Ozil was always going to be something of a gamble but when he began the season in scintillating form it looked as though the investment could spur Arsenal to silverware.

Reuters

City win shows Barca's strength, says Martino

BARCELONA, 13 March — Barcelona showed their true quality by eliminating Manchester City from the Champions League, their coach Gerardo Martino said in response to questions about a poor run of form by his team. While it was not a vintage performance from the Catalan side, they showed the right intensity and flashes of quality to beat City 2-1 and eliminate the Premier League team 4-1 on aggregate on Wednesday.

In a cagey encounter, it was Lionel Messi who made the breakthrough midway through the second half. City's Pablo Zabaleta was then given a second yellow card for dissent and there were late goals from City's Vincent Kompany and Dani Alves when the tie was all but decided. "We came

through with a 4-1 victory against a very strong side both as a group and individually. If we can play like that against a side like City then it means that we are able to take on any side," Martino told a news conference.

The Argentine was under pressure after Barca lost two of the last three La Liga games against Real Sociedad and Valladolid and they were also beaten in February by Valencia. Those losses cost them first place in the league and they trail Real Madrid by four points.

"It has not been an easy week but we have also played now against a team that was able to go a lot further (in the Champions League). We had to suffer in this game but we are playing in the Champions League," Martino said.—Reuters

Crash ends Hoeffl-Riesch's World Cup hopes

LENZERHEIDE, (Switzerland), 13 March — Germany's Maria Hoeffl-Riesch crashed heavily and was taken to hospital at the World Cup finals in Lenzerheide on Wednesday, ending her chances of winning the overall title.



Germany's Maria Hoeffl-Riesch skis during the women's downhill event during the FIS Alpine Skiing World Cup finals in the Swiss ski resort of Lenzerheide on 12 March, 2014.—REUTERS

Hoeffl-Riesch, the overall champion in 2011, was sent to hospital in nearby Chur with a suspected shoulder injury after crashing in the downhill which was won by Swiss Lara Gut.

The German's team later announced that she would not take part in the final races of the season.

Anna Fenninger was trailing Olympic super combined gold medalist Hoeffl-Riesch by 29 points in the overall World Cup standings before the start but the Austrian finished sixth in the downhill and now leads by 11 points.

Hoeffl-Riesch had already clinched the World Cup downhill title but was unable to receive her crystal globe at the medal ceremony after the day's race.

"It was a strange feel-

ing to do the ceremony without Maria," Fenninger, who won the super-G title at the Sochi Olympics, said. "We don't like it to end this way."

"I hope she'll recover soon and return. I don't think about the overall. I ski my races and try to keep cool. I know that Maria could not be back and that Tina (Maze) needs to win the next three races to beat me but I don't want to think about it."

With Hoeffl-Riesch out of the final races in Lenzerheide, in-form Fenninger has an ideal opportunity to clinch the overall World Cup for the first time.

She holds a solid 235-point lead over third-placed Gut who won the last downhill of the season in one minute 32.31 seconds.—Reuters

Revis joins free-agent pool after being cut by the Bucs

NEW YORK, 13 March — Five-time Pro Bowl cornerback Darrelle Revis joined the free-agent pool on Wednesday when he was cut by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, who found it too expensive to keep the top-flight defender.

Revis was set to make \$16 million in 2014 and if he had remained on Tampa Bay's roster past a Wednesday deadline, the conditional 2014 fourth-round draft pick they traded to the Jets last year as part of the deal to obtain him would have turned into a third-round pick in this year's draft.

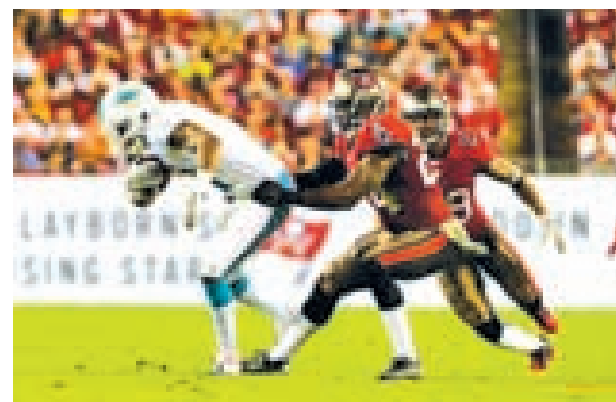
The move put a bow on the transaction that turned out to be a lopsided trade in favour of the New York club.

The Jets also received the No 13 pick in last year's NFL draft for Revis, and selected Defensive Rookie of the Year Sheldon Richardson with the pick.

Revis intercepted two passes in his lone season

with the Bucs, who already began to move on from Revis on Tuesday when the team signed cornerback Alterraun Verner to a four-year, \$26.5 million contract.

Reuters



Tampa Bay Buccaneers cornerback Darrelle Revis (24) tackles Miami Dolphins wide receiver Mike Wallace (11) during the second half at Raymond James Stadium on 11 Nov, 2013.—REUTERS

GENERAL



Competitors' dishes are on display during the Hungarian National Selection for the Bocuse d'Or Europe 2014 in Budapest, Hungary, on 12 March, 2014. Gabor Molnar will represent Hungary in the Bocuse d'Or Europe 2014 in Stockholm in May.—XINHUA

Funding shortage could delay US road, rail projects this summer

WASHINGTON, 13 March — US transportation officials warned lawmakers on Wednesday that dwindling funds for highway and rail projects may cause delays in work this summer during the height of the construction season unless they quickly approve billions of dollars in new funding.

The Highway Trust Fund, which receives money from a federal tax on every gallon of gasoline and diesel fuel sold in the United States, is expected to become insolvent by 2015.

Funding for some programs could fall to dangerously low levels by this summer, forcing the

Department of Transportation to delay payments to states, Peter Rogoff, the department's acting under secretary for policy testified before Congress.

"If the trust fund were to become insolvent, hundreds of thousands of jobs across the nation could be at risk and our ability to address the many road, rail, and transit needs in every state will be severely impeded," Rogoff said.

The highway segment of the trust fund, he said, could fall below \$4 billion by July and the transit segment could fall below \$1 billion in August. The United States levies 18.4 cents per gallon on gasoline and 24.4 cents per

gallon on diesel to pay for transportation projects. But fuel use is now lower than projected as vehicles become more efficient, and that tax is no longer enough to feed the fund.

Congress has enacted temporary patches allowing money from the general fund to be transferred to the Highway Trust Fund to pay for some transportation projects. A temporary measure passed in 2012 to fund surface transportation projects including roads and bridges for two years is set to expire on 30 September.

Transportation officials and some lawmakers fear that if the law lapses it could set the United States

economy back as costly infrastructure projects are delayed.

Testifying before the House of Representatives Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, the officials urged lawmakers to adopt a long-term funding measure and to authorize the \$302 billion sought in President Barack Obama's 2015 budget proposal that would fund the transportation projects for another four years. The Department of Transportation has also warned of a growing "infrastructure deficit" given the number of major projects that need to be undertaken, including the repair or replacement of outdated bridges.—Reuters

Obama administration to endorse cut in drug sentences

WASHINGTON, 13 March — The Obama administration on Thursday plans to throw its weight behind a proposal that it says could cut the average prison sentence for a federal drug defendant by 11 months, a change designed to help reduce the massive U.S. prison population.

Attorney General Eric Holder is scheduled to endorse the idea in a speech to the US Sentencing Commission, a government body that guides federal judges on how long they should sentence people convicted of crimes.

Holder is scheduled to speak at 9 a.m. EDT in Washington.

The United States keeps a larger proportion of its population behind bars than any other country except the Seychelles, according to the International Centre for Prison Studies in London.

The proposed changes would occur within detailed tables that indicate how many months or years a defendant should get. Holder's office says the impact could be wide, affecting about 70 percent of federal drug trafficking defendants in future cases if the commission adopts the proposal. "Certain types of cases result in too many Americans going to prison for far too long, and at times for no truly good public safety reason," Holder will tell the commission, according to an excerpt of his speech released ahead of time by the Justice Department.

Xinhua

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(14-3-14 07:00am~15-3-14 07:00am) MST

- * Local News
- * Creative Costume of Kayah Nationals
- * World News
- * Myanmar Master Class
- * "Still Life (Fruit)"
- * Local News
- * A Day Out With Sarah (Ep-4)
- * World News
- * Photographer: Kyaw Win Hlaing (YUC)
- * Local News
- * Taking an Oath for Life
- * World News
- * TECH School
- * Local News
- * Htan Taw Drums (Part-II) "Dobat"
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No margin for error for Spurs, Arsenal, United and Liverpool

LONDON, 13 March — Two fiercely intense, always passionate, local rivalries with even more spice than usual take centre stage in the Premier League this weekend when Manchester United face Liverpool and Tottenham Hotspur play Arsenal.

The teams occupy four of the top six positions in the table and none can afford to lose in their pursuit of either the title or a top-four finish and the prospect of Champions League football next season.

The other two places in the top six are filled by leaders Chelsea, who travel to Aston Villa, and Manchester City, who are at FA Cup semi-finalists

Hull City.

A win for Chelsea on Saturday would lift them to 69 points and put them 10 clear of Liverpool and Arsenal who are not in action until Sunday.

Manchester City, who were knocked out of the Champions League by Barcelona on Wednesday, are nine points behind Chelsea with three matches in hand. Chelsea will have eight games left after this weekend, City 11. Tottenham start the weekend in fifth place on 53 points with United sixth on 48 and with a game in hand on Spurs. Judging by their entwined histories, more than a century of loathing between the fans, dramas and

controversies — even before this season's earlier meetings are taken into account — events at White Hart Lane and Old Trafford are likely to overshadow everything else. Both Spurs and Arsenal have plenty to prove in their third meeting of the season following Arsenal's 1-0 league win in September and their 2-0 victory in the FA Cup third round at the Emirates in January. Arsenal were knocked out of the Champions League on Tuesday when they drew 1-1 at Bayern Munich but lost 3-1 on aggregate and they come to White Hart Lane without 42.1 million-pound (\$70 million) record signing Mesut Ozil.—Reuters



Manchester United's Wayne Rooney (R) celebrates after scoring a goal during their English Premier League football match against West Bromwich Albion at The Hawthorns in West Bromwich, central England on 8 March, 2014.—REUTERS

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves specials funds for construction, rural electrification

NAY PYI TAW, 13 March—The provision of special funds for construction and electrification in Rakhine State, Bago, Mandalay and Ayeyawady Regions were approved Thursday by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Union Parliament.

The Ministry of Border Affairs will spend K

803.35 million on improving the socio-economic status in Rakhine State, as well as repairing canals, dams and dykes in Toungoo district of Bago Region. In the Zagan-Kanmye area in Mandalay Region, the construction of deep wells will be carried out. The money will be allocated in accordance with the 2013

Union Budget Law which states the provision of special funds for rural development undertakings.

The Ministry of Livestock, Fishery and Rural Development, the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Electric Power and the Ministry of Construction will implement their priority projects using K

16,732.219 million from the Union special funds.

Among the priority tasks are the construction of infrastructure to supply drinking water in Kyauktaw of Rakhine State, preventative measures against bank erosion in Kalay district of Sagaing Region and (See page 8)

Civil Society Organizations invited to help with 2015 Elections



Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye makes a speech at meeting with civil society organization.—MNA

YANGON, 13 March — The Union Election Commission has invited civil society organizations to support the commission in holding the 2015 general elections in order “to

achieve success.”

Speaking to several organizations at a meeting, UEC Chairman U Tin Aye, stressed the importance of the role of CSOs in holding the election

and carrying out democratic reforms.

The Union Election Commission has drafted a “12-chapter strategy” for holding free and fair elections, including a chap-

ter on cooperation with CSOs.

The UEC chairman urged civil society organizations to cooperate with the UEC in counting ballots and preventing malprac-

es, among other things. He said the CSOs need to learn the rules and regulations and directives for an election in order to be also able to work as election observers.—MNA

Foreign grants, aid to be dealt with more efficiently



Union Minister U Soe Thane delivers an address at meeting of Work Committee on Managing Foreign Aid and Grants.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 March — The Work Committee on Managing Foreign Aid and Grants held a meeting Thursday to discuss “monitoring and balancing” the use of foreign aid in order to improve the livelihoods of people faster.

At the meeting, U Soe Thane, Union Minister at the President Office, said ministries need to manage and use the funds in an efficient manner, with no further details mentioned.

The grants and aid Myanmar received from

the United Nations and foreign countries from 2011 up until the year 2016 include about US\$ 200 million from Australia, over 520 million yuan and over US\$ 1 million from China, over US\$ 72 million from Denmark, over 186 million pounds from Britain; over 370 million Euro from the European Union, over 51 billion yen from Japan, over US\$ 82 million from Sweden, over US\$ 50 million from Switzerland, about US\$ 275 million from the United States.

According to officials, about US\$ 90 million came from the Asia Development Bank, over US\$81 million from the World Bank, and about US\$ 60 million from the United Nations Children Fund, UNICEF.

Myanmar also received separate grants from Canada, France, Finland, Germany, India, Italy, Korea, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, International Agricultural Fund, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR and WHO.—MNA

ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Meeting to be held March 17-20

NAY PYI TAW, 13 March—Japanese and Myanmar officials will gather for the 11th Joint Committee on ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership in Nay Pyi Taw from 17 to 21 March to discuss a wide range of

issues, including economic cooperation and investment.

The meeting is organized by the Foreign Economic Relations Department under the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, and will be held along

with six related forums.

Top on the agenda will be the implementation of a partnership agreement, as well as tax relaxation and commodities trade. Around 130 delegates from Japan, ASEAN, and Myanmar ministries are expected to attend the forum.—MNA

Myanmar seeks int'l support for natural resources management, roadmap planned

NAY PYI TAW, 13 March—Myanmar and foreign experts held a seminar on drawing a 10-year framework for natural resources management at the Forestry Department in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.

At the seminar, Union Minister U Win Tun highlighted Myanmar's abundant ecosystem and various biodiversity. He said sustainability was vital in places such as the

Himalayan Mountains in the northern part, the coral reefs in the South, and forests, rivers and creeks in central Myanmar.

Although the government is already facing challenges in implementing poverty alleviation and environmental development projects, balancing economic growth and environmental conservation were equally important.

The result of the dis-

cussions at the seminar will play a vital role in drawing a 10-year strategic plan for conservation, management and sustainability, he said.

The seminar was attended by officials from the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, the Smithsonian Institution (SI), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and Green Economy and Green Growth (GEGG).—MNA

Chinese officials promise aid for Pakokku Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 13 March—Religious scholars from China met with Myanmar officials in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday to discuss aid for Pakokku Township, including the construction of a school building and tube wells.

Most Ven Shi Chaung Zang from the Buddha Tooth Relic Temple in Beijing and Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Hsan Hsint discussed cooperation between the two countries, scholarship programmes for two religious societies. China said it will provide aid for the construction of a school and tube wells in Pakokku Township.

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