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Vice-President discusses animal health, banking sector with foreign officials



NAY PYI TAW, 14 March — Vice-President U Nyan Tun held two separate talks with foreign officials in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday, with one meeting focusing on improvement of animal health and the other held on the development of the banking sector in Myanmar.

Director-General Dr. Bernard Vall of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) led a delegation to discuss laws on veterinary matters, the establishment of animal health and veterinary laboratories, adherence to international standards and close coop-

eration between Myanmar and OIE.

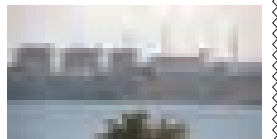
Regarding the talks on the banking service development, Deputy President of Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ Takashi Morimura discussed opening his bank in Myanmar, human resources development in the banking sector, financial assistance for small-and medium-scale economic enterprises and the agricultural sector, infrastructure development for Myanmar's banking service and closer cooperation between the Central Bank of Myanmar and Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ.

MNA

**Vice-President U Nyan Tun shakes hands with
Director-General Dr. Bernard Vall of the World
Organization for Animal Health (OIE).—MNA**

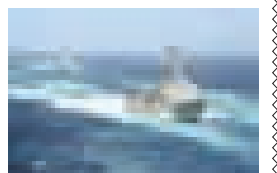
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Japanese government grants US\$ 1,104,672 for eight grass-roots projects for education and health sectors



NAY PYI TAW, 13 March—H.E. Mr. Mikio NUMATA, Ambassador of the Embassy of Japan and Chairman of the Committees from State and Region concerned, signed the grant contracts for eight projects namely the

High School in Pantanaw Township, Ayeyawady Region with US\$ 113,365; the Project for Construction of Two Basic Education Primary Schools in Kyaunggone Township, Ayeyawady Region with US\$ 112,859; the Project for Construction of Rural Health Centre in Ashay Bet Village in Taunggup Township, Rakhine State

with US\$ 103,710; the Project for Construction of Rural Health Centre in Taung Pauk Village, Gwa Township, Rakhine State with US\$ 105,985; the Project for Construction of Rural Health Centre in Zalun Village in Thandwe Township, Rakhine State with US\$ 106,910; the Project for Construction of Isolation Unit Build-

ing at Lashio General Hospital in Lashio Township, Shan State with US\$ 193,894 and the Project for Construction of Kun Long Basic Education High School in Kun Long Township, Shan State with US\$ 246,047 today, under its Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects (GGP) Scheme, totaling US\$ 1,104,672.

The Government of Japan has assisted 677 various grass-roots projects in

Myanmar under the GGP scheme since 1993. Among them, 305 school construction projects, 174 health care projects, 133 public welfare and environment projects and 65 others are included. It is expected that these assistance will further strengthen existing friendly relations between Japan and Myanmar. This year marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relation between the two countries.

MNA

Officials urge chicken farmers to take measures against possible bird flu outbreak

By Aye Min Soe

The Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development has urged chicken farmers to take preventative measures to prevent an outbreak of bird flu, including wearing protective clothes at the farm and keeping good personnel hygiene. According to ministry officials, it is "the time of year" and season in which infectious diseases can be transmitted from chickens, without elaborating further.

The ministry also called on officials to be vigilant when monitoring live-fowl and fowl product imports from neighbouring countries in a bid to prevent the outbreak of



bird flu here. H5N1 bird flu outbreaks occurred in Myanmar in 2006, 2007,

2010 and 2011, with officials saying there have been no reports of fatalities.

**A farmer works at a
chicken farm in
central Myanmar.
Photo: Aye Min Soe**

Media Accreditation for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March —The 11th ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Council Meeting and related meetings will be held at the Grand Amara Hotel in the State guesthouse area from 2 to 4 April, with officials saying local and foreign journalists must register for media accreditation by 27 March.

Accreditation cards will be issued to journalists on 2 April at Grand Amara

Hotel. Information on the meetings is available from the Ministry of Culture, Ph: 067-408384, and information on media accreditation can be obtained from News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ph: 067-412126. For more information journalists should go to www.asean2014.gov.mm, where they will find links on upcoming events and the registration requirements.

MNA

Locals in Myingyan call on authorities to build tube wells

MYINGYAN, 14 March—Farmers in Talokemyo Village in Mandalay Region have called on authorities to build tube wells to allow locals to grow rice.

They have so far been cultivating beans and pulses, corn, wheat, tobacco, onion and wheat, as they do not require as much water as paddy fields. Farmers said the need to improve their livelihoods by cultivating rice, stressing that tube wells and support with irrigation are needed.

According to locals, the nearest canal is three miles away from the village and can not easily be accessed.—Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)

Historic Bawkyo Modedaw Pagoda festival kicks off

HSIPAW, 14 March—The Historic Bawkyo Modedaw Pagoda festival is being held in Hsipaw Township, northern Shan State from 13-16 March. So far, Vocalists Lashio Thein Aung, Tekkatho Ye Aung and Shan singer Sai Kham Khone have performed at the festival.

Shan singers Sai Aung Htee Kham, Sai Laik and Sai Sae Han also put on a show in front of an enthusiastic crowd. Shan Literature events were also held. Officials said the number of festival visitors has been higher than expected.

Ko Latt (Hsipaw)

National Census 2014 signboard set up in Kyauktan



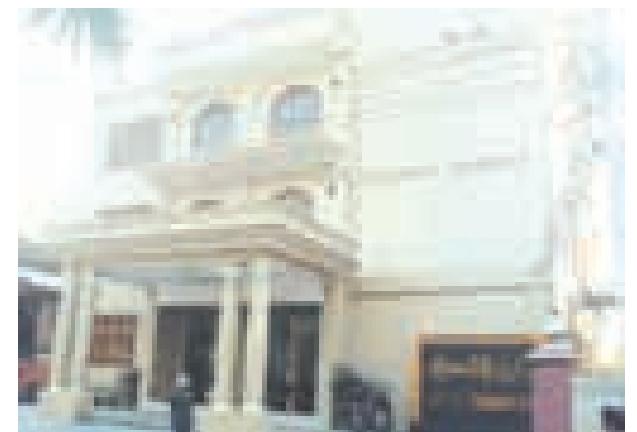
MONGYAWNG, 14 March—17 Thai pilgrims visited the Dhamma Gambiya Cave in Shan State on 13 March. Officials explained the historical background of the cave, with the pilgrims exploring the cave and donating cash for renovation works.

All-round renovation works are being carried out by local authorities and social organizations led by Monglin Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Wimala at Dhamma Gambiya Cave

in Mongyawng Township and development of tourism industry.

Maung Yin Kyay

New hotel opens in Mohnyin, Kachin State



MOHNYIN, 14 March—"Hotel Mohnyin" opened near Shwebo-Myitkyina Motor Road in Ashaesu Ward, Mohnyin Township, Kachin State on 11 March. The hotel has 24/7 air conditioning system, CCTV security cameras, view point, car parking and will offer breakfast services to the customers. Hotel room rates from K 30,000 for a two-bed room to K 50,000 for four-bed room.

The opening of "Hotel Mohnyin" is a symbol of regional development, according to officials. Mohnyin District has a favorable climate to grow agricultural products, and is popular with foreign "investors" who frequent the area to exploit natural resources. Jade, gold and teak can be widely found in Mohnyin. Two colleges for higher education have also opened in the region.

NLM-001

New resurface put on Kyauktaga circular road



KYAUKTAGA, 14 March—A new resurface was put on No.4 circular road on a self reliant basis in Kyauktaga Township in Bago Region on 12 March.

Pyithu Hluttaw representative Dr Khin Maung Swe, Ward administrator U Min Aung and local people actively participated in resurfacing the 800 ft long road.

Construction of RC type bridge financed by Bago Region Government on the road was also carried out. So the local people will see good transportation any season.

Khin Ko (Kyauktaga)

Inter-village earthen road under construction on self reliant basis

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March—An earthen road is under construction on a self reliant basis of the local people in Zeyathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw.

The local residents contributed money to construct the road along Hlekan-Ywathitkon-Kyaukphyi villages that will be 4 miles and 6 furlong in length and 10 feet in width. Upon completion, the residents will have easy access to nearby towns.

Myint Than (Oxygen)



Radar data suggests missing Malaysia plane flown deliberately toward Andamans

KUALA LUMPUR, 14 March — Military radar-tracking evidence suggests a Malaysia Airlines jetliner missing for nearly a week was deliberately flown across the Malay peninsula towards the Andaman Islands, sources familiar with the investigation told *Reuters* on Friday.

Two sources said an unidentified aircraft that investigators believe was Flight MH370 was following a route between navigational waypoints — indicating it was being flown by someone with aviation training — when it was last plotted on military radar off the country's northwest coast. The last plot on the military radar's tracking suggested the plane was flying toward India's Andaman Islands, a chain of isles between the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal, they said. Waypoints are geographic locations, worked out by calculating longitude and latitude, that



The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyers USS Kidd and USS Pinckney are seen en transit in the Pacific Ocean in this US Navy picture taken on 18 May, 2011.

REUTERS

help pilots navigate along established air corridors. A third source familiar with the investigation said inquiries were focusing increasingly on the theory that someone who knew how to fly a plane deliberately diverted the flight,

with 239 people on board, hundreds of miles off its intended course from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing.

"What we can say is we are looking at sabotage, with hijack still on the cards," said that source, a senior Malaysian police

official. All three sources declined to be identified because they were not authorized to speak to the media and due to the sensitivity of the investigation.

Officials at Malaysia's Ministry of Transport, the official point of contact for

information on the investigation, did not return calls seeking comment.

Malaysian police have previously said they were investigating whether any passengers or crew had personal or psychological problems that might shed light on the mystery, along with the possibility of a hijacking, sabotage or mechanical failure. The comments by the three sources are the first clear indication that foul play is the main focus of official suspicions in the Boeing 777's disappearance.

As a result of the new evidence, the sources said, multinational search efforts were being stepped up in the Andaman Sea and also the Indian Ocean. In one of the most baffling mysteries in modern aviation, no trace of the plane nor any sign of wreckage has been found despite a search by the navies and military aircraft of more than a dozen countries.—*Reuters*

US, ASEAN to hold defence ministerial meeting early April in Hawaii

WASHINGTON, 14 March — Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel will host a ministerial meeting with his counterparts from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Hawaii from 1 to 3 April, the Defence Department said on Thursday.

Hagel and the ASEAN defence chiefs will discuss issues including regional security, the Pentagon said.

The defence officials are expected to discuss how to cooperate in humanitarian disaster relief operations in the region, it said.

The United States is set to host the talks after the department pledged to focus on the Asia-Pacific region, including a plan to concentrate 60 percent of its naval fleet in the region by 2020, in a budget blueprint for fiscal 2015 and the Quadrennial Defence Review report.

It will be the first time for the US department to host such a ministerial meeting in the country, according to the Pentagon.

After the US-ASEAN meeting, Hagel plans to visit Japan and China and is considering visiting South Korea, according to sources familiar with Japan-US relations.

Kyodo News

M6.2 quake hits western Japan, injures 14, atomic plant said safe



Fragments of a wall and other objects lie scattered on a sidewalk in Kure, Hiroshima Prefecture, after an earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.2 struck a swath of western Japan in the early morning of 14 March, 2014.—KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 14 March — An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.2 struck a swath of western Japan early Friday morning, registering a strong intensity in parts of Shikoku, Honshu and Kyushu islands but no tsunami was observed, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

A total of 14 people were hurt in Okayama, Hiroshima, Yamaguchi, Kochi and Oita prefectures after the 2:07 am quake, according to local fire-fighters. All are believed to have sustained minor injuries.

Shikoku Electric Power Co said no abnormality was detected in measuring instrument data

at its Ikata nuclear power plant in Ikata, Ehime Prefecture, where lower-5 was registered on the Japanese seismic scale of 7.

The earthquake originated around 78 kilometers underground in Iyonada inland sea sandwiched by three of Japan's largest islands — Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu.

The strongest intensity of upper-5 was registered in Seiyō, Ehime Prefecture. Lower-5 was registered in Kure, Hiroshima Prefecture, Sukumo, Kochi Prefecture, and Usuki, Oita Prefecture. The agency cautioned that quakes of around intensity 4 could occur in the coming week.—*Kyodo News*

Japan to inspect soil at US base in Okinawa for contamination

TOKYO, 14 March — Japan will conduct environmental studies next week on soil at a US military base in Okinawa Prefecture where dozens of metal drums were found abandoned, Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera said on Friday.

"We will take appropriate measures in cooperation with the United States and the city of Ginowan," which hosts part of the Marine

Corps' Camp Foster, Onodera told a Press conference.

Under the status of forces agreement, Japan cannot enter US military bases to conduct environmental studies without permission. It is rare for the United States to allow such an environmental inspection within US bases not planned for return to Japan. Officials from the ministry's local bureau and Ginowan city

detected no unusual odor or colour change in soil at the base when they conducted a visual inspection as part of its cultural property research after gaining permission from the US military, Onodera said. No health problems have been reported so far by residents living around the base, which straddles Ginowan and other towns.

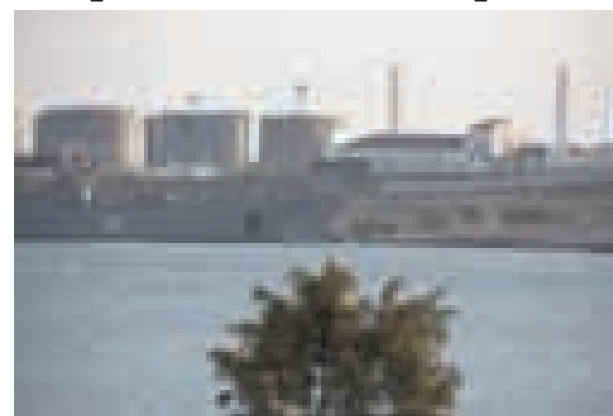
Kyodo News

Russia ships troops into Ukraine, repeats invasion threat

SEVASTOPOL/DONETSK (Ukraine), 14 March—Russia shipped more troops and armor into Crimea on Friday and repeated its threat to invade other parts of Ukraine, showing no sign of listening to Western pleas to back off from the worst confrontation since the Cold War.

Russia's stock markets tumbled and the cost of insuring its debt soared on the last day of trading before pro-Moscow authorities in Crimea hold a vote to join Russia, a move all but certain to lead to U.S. and EU sanctions on Monday.

The Russian Foreign Ministry, responding to the death of at least one protester in Ukraine's eastern city of Donetsk, repeated President Vladimir Putin's declaration of the right to invade to protect Russian citizens and



Trucks drive out of Russian landing craft Yamal 156 near the Crimean port of Sevastopol 14 March, 2014.

REUTERS

"compatriots".

"Russia is aware of its responsibility for the lives of compatriots and fellow citizens in Ukraine and reserves the right to take people under its protection," it said. Ukrainian health authorities say one 22-year-old man was stabbed to death and at least

15 others were being treated in hospital after clashes in Donetsk, the mainly Russian-speaking home city of Ukraine's ousted President Viktor Yanukovich.

Organizers of the anti-Moscow demonstration said the dead man was from their group.

Moscow denies that its forces are intervening in Crimea, an assertion Washington ridicules as "Putin's fiction". Journalists have seen Russian forces operating openly in their thousands over the past two weeks, driving in armored columns of vehicles with Russian license plates and identifying themselves to besieged Ukrainian troops as members of Russia's armed forces.

A *Reuters* reporting team watched a Russian warship unload trucks, troops and at least one armored personnel carrier at Kazachaya bay near Sevastopol on Friday morning. Trucks drove off a ramp from the Yamal 156, a large landing ship that can carry more than 300 troops and up to a dozen APCs.—*Reuters*

New Zealand gov't builds ASEAN links with visit to Indonesia, Vietnam

WELLINGTON, 14 March — New Zealand Economic Development Minister Steven Joyce will visit Indonesia and Vietnam next week in a bid to drum up new trade opportunities with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) bloc and highlight links in energy and education.

"In the past five years, New Zealand's trade with ASEAN countries, including Indonesia and Vietnam, has grown at a rate greater than with any other of our major trading partners except China," Joyce said in a statement on Friday.

"ASEAN is New Zealand's third largest trading partner accounting for 13 percent of New Zealand's total merchandise trade in 2013 and we want to keep building on this strong relationship." In Indonesia, Joyce would open a New Zealand Education Fair in Jakarta, give a keynote speech at the Indonesia New Zealand Renewable Energy Forum and meet key Indonesian ministers.—Xinhua

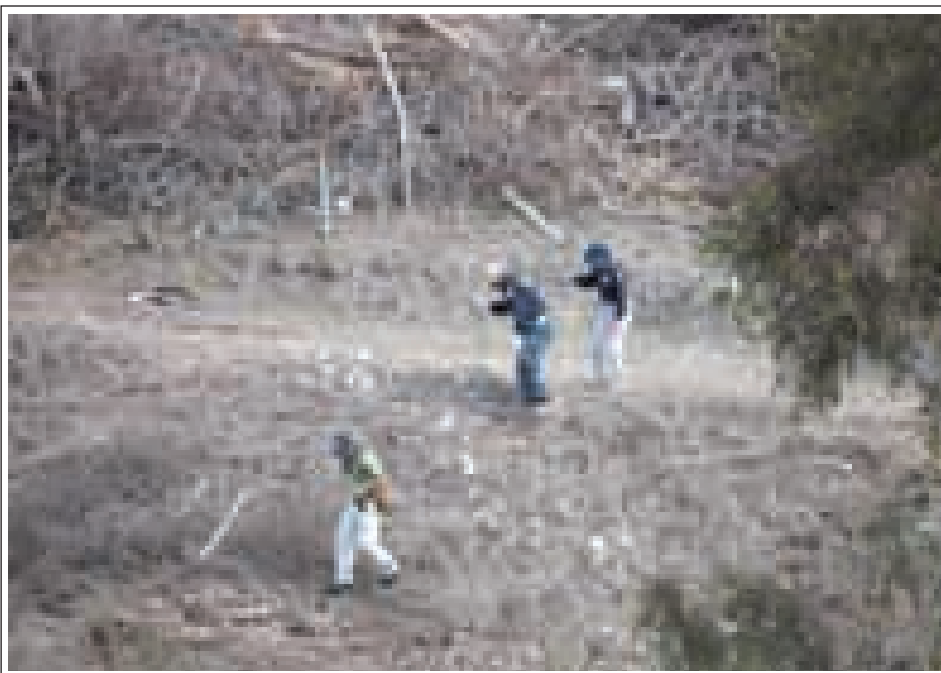
Police serve warrant on Anne Frank book vandalism suspect

TOKYO, 14 March — Police served an arrest warrant on Friday on a man who allegedly vandalized copies of "The Diary of a Young Girl" by Anne Frank and related books in libraries and a bookstore in Tokyo, after the suspect admitted damaging the books, investigative sources said.

The 36-year-old unemployed man, already under arrest for putting up posters in a bookstore where defaced copies of the diary were found, is said to have told the Tokyo police he discarded pages he tore from the books.

The police found some of the pages, and are now investigating his motive.

More than 300 copies of the diary and related books have been reported damaged in 38 libraries in western Tokyo since late February. In security camera footage from some of the libraries, a person thought to be the arrested man is seen taking from the shelves books that were later found damaged, the sources said.—Kyodo News



A search team of federal authorities starts the inspection of the site where human remains are allegedly located, and that could be related to organized crime, at Lomas Encantadas neighbourhood, in the border city of Tijuana, northwest of Mexico, on 13 March, 2014. Federal authorities found on Thursday an allegedly "narco grave" at Lomas Encantadas neighbourhood, where it is supposed that members of drug gangs burned corpses of man and women during 2007, according to local media.

XINHUA

Mediator Brahimi says Syria election now won't aid peace talks

UNITED NATIONS, 14 March — If Syria goes ahead with an election that would likely secure a new term for President Bashar al-Assad, the opposition will probably not be interested in pursuing further peace talks with the government, peace mediator Lakhdar Brahimi said on Thursday.

Assad has not yet announced whether he will stand for a third term, in defiance of protesters, rebel fighters and Western foes who have demanded he go. But in state-controlled parts of Damascus, preparations for his candidacy are unmistakable. "There is to my knowledge no official declaration yet in Damascus that this election is going to take place, but there are

a lot of activities that seem to indicate that there is an election," Brahimi told reporters after briefing the UN Security Council.

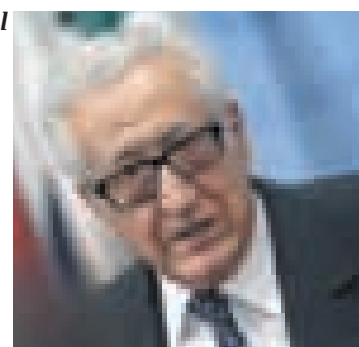
"If there is an election, then my suspicion is that the opposition, all the oppositions, will probably not be interested in talking to the government," he said.

A Western diplomat inside Brahimi's closed-door briefing for the Security Council said Brahimi told its 15 member nations that he doubted another 7-year term for Assad would put an end to the suffering of the Syrian people.

Two rounds of peace talks mediated by UN-Arab League peace mediator Brahimi in Geneva failed to bring the government and opposition any closer to

United Nations Special Envoy Lakhdar Brahimi talks to the media after briefing a United Nations Security Council meeting on Syria at UN headquarters in New York, on 13 March, 2014.

REUTERS



agreement on a transitional government as called for in a declaration adopted at an international conference in the Swiss city in June 2012.

The Security Council president this month, Luxembourg's UN Ambassador Sylvie Lucas, told reporters after the meeting that Brahimi's position was that holding an election at the present time would be "incompatible with the

Geneva process." Several senior Western diplomats told reporters that Brahimi said in private meetings this week that a re-election of Assad would signal a lack of seriousness on the government's part. Syrian Ambassador Bashar Ja'afari did not confirm there would be a presidential vote soon, but said holding elections was a "sovereign domestic matter." — Reuters

Haneda airport's int'l flight terminal building expanded

TOKYO, 14 March — Tokyo's Haneda airport has nearly completed work to expand its terminal for international flights and unveiled the expanded terminal to the press on Thursday before it will start accommodating more flights on 30 March.

With an annex built on the north side of the terminal building, the expanded terminal has total floor space of 23.6 hectares, up from 15.9 hectares, increasing boarding gates to 18 from 10 and security screening areas to two from one.

A worship space was also created at the departure lobby due to an increasing number of tourists to Japan from countries. A large liquid crystal display screen put on the wall

at the waiting space near boarding gates will introduce world heritage sites in various countries.

An eight-story, 313-room hotel with direct access to the departure lobby

will also open in September.

From 30 March, Haneda will increase flight slots between 6 am and 11 pm by 40 round-trip flights a day to allow for long-haul

intercontinental services to and from Europe and Southeast Asia, which are currently restricted to late night and early morning slots.

Kyodo News

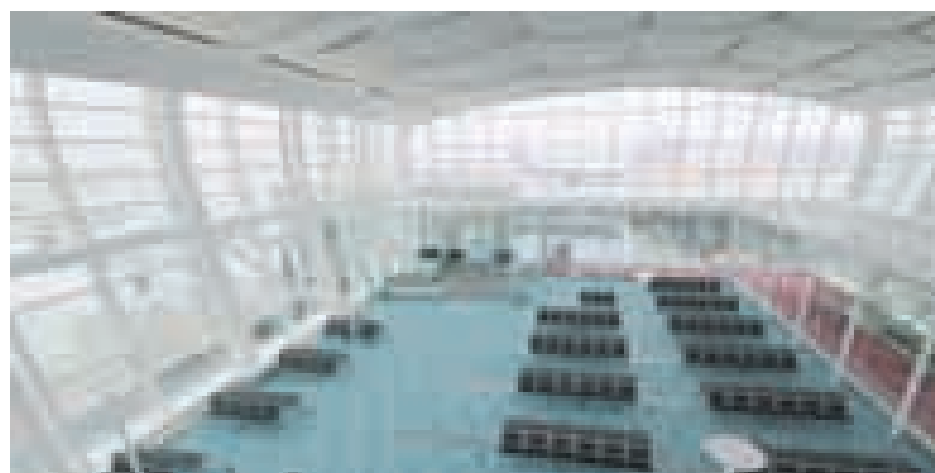


Photo taken on 13 March, 2014, shows a waiting area in the terminal building for international flights at Tokyo's Haneda airport. Having nearly completed work to expand the terminal, the airport unveiled the building to the press the same day.

KYODO NEWS

Japan to host nuclear disarmament meeting in Hiroshima in April

TOKYO, 14 March — Japan will host a foreign ministerial meeting on 11-12 April in Hiroshima to promote nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament, Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida said on Friday.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa and Rose Gottemoeller, US undersecretary of state for arms control and international security, are among participants in the meeting of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative.

"Just before a planned visit to Japan by President (Barack) Obama, I think it is beneficial that the United States will take part in the NPDI meeting to be held in atomic-bombed Hiroshima as a guest," Kishida told reporters, referring to Obama's trip to Japan in late April.—Kyodo News

"Seafloor event" possibly linked to MH370

BEIJING, 14 March — Chinese researchers have detected a "seafloor event" near the waters between Malaysia and Vietnam, an area suspected to be linked with the missing Malaysian jetliner MH370, a university announced on Friday.

The event occurred at about 2:55 am local time on Saturday, about one and a half hours after the plane's last definitive sighting on civilian radar. The area, 116 km northeast from where the last contact with the Boeing plane was recorded, used to be a non-seismic region, according to a research group on seismology and physics of the earth's interior under the University of Science and Technology of China.—Xinhua

Low-intensity bomb explodes at mosque in S India

NEW DELHI, 14 March — A low-intensity bomb exploded in front of a mosque in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu on Friday morning, without causing any casualty, said local media. The incident took place at Nelpettai district of Madurai in the state. A two-wheeler was damaged in the explosion, said Press Trust of India. The area has been cordoned off and investigations are on with the help of experts, said the report.—Xinhua

WORLD

Japan, Lithuania agree to cooperate over Ukraine political unrest

TOKYO, 14 March — Lithuanian Foreign Minister Linas Linkevicius said on Thursday that he and his Japanese counterpart agreed to seek a diplomatic solution to the recent political turmoil in Ukraine.

Both agreed a solution to the crisis “should be political...rather than military,” Linkevicius told *Kyodo News* in Tokyo following a meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida.

Highlighting the importance of both political and financial assistance to the Ukrainian government, he said he believed Japan could play a very significant role in this regard.

On Sunday’s referendum to decide whether Crimea should leave Ukraine to join Russia, he said, “It is really illegitimate and cannot be respected...and it is also a

violation of international law,” especially at a time when the region is under control of foreign troops.

During his five-day visit to Japan from Monday, he also met with executives of Hitachi Ltd. and discussed how to promote a deal with the company to construct the Visaginas nuclear plant in the Baltic country. Although Lithuanians rejected the project to build the plant in a 2012 nonbinding referendum, Linkevicius said the Lithuanian government will continue to promote the plan to reduce energy dependency on Russia.

He said the result of the referendum was rather “emotional,” and that the public needed to be informed well before the vote.

The country now imports 100 percent of gas and 99 percent of oil from



Lithuanian Foreign Minister Linas Linkevicius (L) and Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida shake hands prior to their talks in Tokyo on 13 March, 2014.

KYODO NEWS

Russia, thus, a diversification of energy sources is crucial in terms of energy security, he added.

On Thursday, Linkevicius also met with Toshimitsu Motegi, minister of economy, trade and industry, and Hakubun

Shimomura, minister of education, culture, sports, science and technology, and agreed to enhance economic cooperation in the biotechnology and life science sectors and strengthen cultural ties through student exchanges.—*Kyodo News*

Okinawa town school board ordered to take corrective step on textbook

TOKYO, 14 March — Education minister Hakubun Shimomura on Friday ordered the town education board of Taketomi in Okinawa Prefecture to adopt a junior high school civics textbook known for its conservative views, after the town chose another book instead despite the textbook’s selection by a regional council in 2011.

It is the first time the central government has issued such an order to a municipal government.

“It is the right thing for a law-governed nation to rectify an illegal situation,” Shimomura, minister of education, culture, sports, science and technology, told a Press conference.

Under the law on free distribution of textbooks for compulsory education, schools in a district overseen by a prefectural education board are obliged to use the same textbooks, even though there are no penalties for violation.

In August 2011, the regional textbook adoption council for the Yaeyama District consisting of the town of Taketomi, city of Ishigaki and town of Yonaguni in the southern Japan prefecture chose a civics textbook published by Ikuhoshia Publishing Inc.

The municipal governments of Ishigaki and Yonaguni followed the council’s decision to use the controversial textbook in local junior high schools, but Taketomi rejected the book, saying it does not sufficiently deal with Okinawa’s burden in hosting US bases.

The town of Taketomi independently selected a textbook published by Tokyo Shoseki Co that is considered less conservative.—*Kyodo News*



Displaced Syrians receive food rations at a charity in Damascus, Syria, on 13 March, 2014. The UN’s World Food Programme (WFP) spokesperson Abeer Etefa told Xinhua that 6.5 million Syrians can’t secure their needs without outside aid and are in an urgent need for food assistance after 3 years of crisis.—XINHUA

Financial challenges facing WFP mission in Syria

DAMASCUS, 14 March—The World Food Programme (WFP) in Syria needs a fund of two billion US dollars in 2014 to cover the needs of seven million displaced Syrians in and outside the country, a WFP spokesperson said, noting that securing the fund is one of the major challenges facing the UN programme in conflict-torn Syria.

“Our programme targets seven million Syrians in 2014 and the operation’s cost is two billion dollars,” Abeer Etefa, the WFP’s Middle East and North Africa spokesperson, said in an interview with *Xinhua* on Thursday.

While the Syrian crisis is entering its fourth year, the ability of the international community to continue the flow of funds to WFP mission in Syria has started dwindling.

The WFP now delivers food to about four million Syrians every month, which costs about 40 million dollars per week. Etefa said the humanitarian situation in Syria is “tough.” Many Syrians are suffering from food insecurity and in some cases, hunger. Another challenge facing the WFP is to have access to besieged areas in Syria. “Our latest statistics indicate that 6.5 million Syrians cannot secure their needs without outside aid and are in an urgent need for food assistance,” she said.—*Xinhua*

Knife-wielding assailants attack civilians in China

BEIJING, 14 March —A group of knife-wielding assailants on Friday attacked civilians on a street in Changsha, the capital of the central Chinese Province of Hunan, leaving at least one person dead, according to Chinese media reports.

The attack in the morning happened a day after the National People’s Congress, China’s top legislature, wrapped up its annual session in the capital Beijing.

The state-run *Xinhua News Agency* said at least one body was lying on the ground at the scene, while a local TV station said that one person was shot dead by police.

Days before the nine-day session began on 5 March, a group of knife-wielding assailants stormed through a crowded railway station in the southwestern city of Kunming, leaving at least 29 people dead and more than 140 injured.

China has blamed the 1 March slashing rampage on separatist forces in the far western region of Xinjiang, home to the Muslim Uyghur minority group, describing it as a “premeditated terrorist attack.”

Kyodo News

Former guerrilla wins El Salvador vote; rival protest

SAN SALVADOR, 14 March — A former Marxist guerrilla leader won El Salvador’s presidential election by less than 7,000 votes, final results showed on Thursday, and his right-wing rival continued to press to have the vote annulled.

Salvador Sanchez Ceren of the ruling Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), which as a militant group fought a string of US-backed governments in a 1980-1992 civil war, won 50.11

percent support in Sunday’s vote, results showed.

Challenger Norman Quijano, the 67-year-old former mayor of San Salvador and candidate of the right-wing Nationalist Republican Alliance (Arena) party, had 49.89 percent support. He has filed a claim to annul the election due to fraud.

The electoral tribunal’s president, Eugenio Chicas, said the five-member court unanimously validated the election results, showing that Sanchez

Ceren beat Quijano by 6,364 votes.

“We make an invitation to build for the future, because the FMLN’s presidential ticket, now elected to lead the country, is going to work to unite the country,” Sanchez Ceren said.

Due to the ongoing dispute, the tribunal said it could take until Sunday or Monday to work through Quijano’s legal challenge to the election and settle any remaining doubts.

Reuters



Salvador Sanchez Ceren (L) of the ruling Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) and his running mate Oscar Ortiz hug during a news conference in San Salvador on 13 March, 2014.—REUTERS

Experts see cheaper, easier way to turn natural gas into fuels

WASHINGTON, 14 March — US scientists said on Thursday they have devised a potentially easier, cheaper and cleaner way to turn natural gas into usable fuels and chemicals — a discovery which could lead to natural gas products displacing oil products in the future.

The process would be less complex than conventional methods to turn natural gas into liquid products and it uses much lower heat and inexpensive materials to get the job done, they said. Almost anything — fuel or chemical — that can be made from petroleum also can be made from nat-

ural gas, but it is not done today because the cost of converting natural gas into those materials is much higher, the researchers said.

“Current technologies to convert natural gas into fuels or commodity chemicals are too expensive to compete with products generated from petroleum,” said Roy Periana, director of the Scripps Energy and Materials Center at the Scripps Research Institute in Florida who led the study published in the journal *Science*. The finding comes as natural gas production soars in the United States thanks to methods like hy-

draulic fracturing, known as fracking, and horizontal drilling. The United States stands as the world’s No. 1 natural gas producer, topping even Russia.

“The US has a glut of natural gas, and there are not that many ways to efficiently use it,” said Brigham Young University’s Daniel Ess, another of the researchers.

Methane, ethane and propane are the primary components in natural gas. They are members of a class of molecules known as alkanes. But turning alkanes into other useful forms like gasoline and



Excess natural gas is being flared, or burnt off, at a flare stack at a refinery in Tula in this file photo taken 21 Nov, 2013.—REUTERS

diesel fuel, alcohols or plastics — can be costly olefins — key sources of industrial chemicals and technologies.—Reuters

Auto industry files 18 percent more international patents in 2013

FRANKFURT, 14 March — The car industry’s international patent filings jumped 18 percent in 2013, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) said on Thursday, in part reflecting a push for new technologies to lower exhaust emissions.

“In line with growing investments in research and development, the automobile industry has seen a sharp increase in international patent filings over the last three years,” WIPO said in a statement.

In 2013, 4,275 patents were filed by auto manufacturers, compared with 3,606 in 2012. Patent applications jumped 84 percent from 2010, when 2,322 were filed, WIPO said. Regulators across the world are demanding that auto makers increase fuel efficiency and lower carbon dioxide pollution levels, a challenge that has forced manufacturers to

invest in more efficient engines and new lightweight technologies.

The Obama administration in the United States finalized gas mileage standards in 2012, calling on automakers to boost their corporate average fuel economy (CAFE). Last month, the European Parliament tightened carbon dioxide pollution standards.

The rise in patents comes as car companies are increasingly relying on software and powerful computers to help make cars safer, more entertaining, more fuel efficient and better at solving problems.

The need to lower CO2 emissions has been particularly tough for German manufacturers, who have relied on making high-powered limousines, forcing them to develop new technologies.

Reuters

It only takes 0.5 seconds to make first impression

LONDON, 14 March — People make judgements on others’ trustworthiness in just half a second by hearing their voice, an international research team revealed on Thursday.

In their new study, British researchers from University of Glasgow, together with US researchers, have shown that a simple “Hello” is enough to allow most people to draw conclusions about personality type. And people can make these judgements even without seeing the person they are speaking to.

The researchers played recordings of people saying hello, and asked participants to rank them according to 10 pre-defined personality traits, including trustworthiness, dominance, attractiveness and warmth.

They found that most of the recorded voices elicited the same response from participants and that these opinions were formed rapidly, after hearing the voice for only 300-500 msecs, which is 0.3-0.5 seconds. This suggests the tone of voice when saying hello

directly and immediately informs the first impression of the person to whom you are speaking.

“It is amazing that from such short bursts of speech you can get such a definite impression of a person,” said Dr Phil McAleer, who led the study, adding “Irrespective of whether it is accurate, your impression is the same as what the other listeners get.” He added that this research promises to help in the drive to improve the efficiency of voice-operated systems and learning aids.—Xinhua

Japanese scientists to withdraw STAP cells reports

OSAKA, 14 March — A group of Japanese scientists who had earlier announced their discovery of a new method for creating pluripotent cells, which they call “STAP cells,” are considering withdrawing the statement, local media outlets reported on Friday.

There are several reasons, among which are allegations of the reports containing “manipulated” data, according to the report.

The group’s leader, Haruko Obokata at the Riken Centre for Developmental Biology in Kobe, western Japan, who had reportedly spent some time researching at Harvard University in the United States, announced that they discovered the method in mice by simply exposing body cells to acidic liquids. They named the resulting cells “stimulus-triggered acquisition of pluripotency,” or STAP cells.

But after her sensational announcement in front of cameras in Kobe, researchers all over the world have criticized her because they could not observe the production of cells through such a “simple” method by which the Riken group claimed it soaked lymph corpuscles taken from 7-day-old mice in acidic liquids and cultured them to transplant into mice, where they developed into nerve and muscle tissues, the reports said.—Xinhua



Visitors view “Roboy”, a humanoid robot, at the Swiss Pavilion of the CeBIT tech fair in Hanover, Germany, on 11 March, 2014.—XINHUA

Facebook CEO Zuckerberg phoned Obama to complain about spying

SAN FRANCISCO, 14 March — Facebook Inc Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg blasted the US government’s electronic surveillance practices on Thursday, saying he’d personally called President Barack Obama to voice his displeasure.

“When our engineers work tirelessly to improve security, we imagine we’re protecting you against criminals, not our own government,” Zuckerberg said in a post on his personal Facebook page.

“I’ve called President Obama to express my frustration over the damage the government is creating for all of our future. Unfortunately, it seems like it will take a very long time for true full reform,” the 29-year-old Zuckerberg continued.

The phone call and Zuckerberg’s 300-word missive on Thursday come amid a series of revelations about controversial

government surveillance practices that were leaked by former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden.

“The president spoke last night with Mark Zuckerberg about recent reports in the press about alleged activities by the US intelligence community,” a White House official said.

The official declined further comment and referred to the National Security Agency’s statement released earlier on Thursday saying recent media reports that allege the NSA has infected million of computers around the world malware and that the NSA is impersonating US social media or other websites are inaccurate.

Facebook, which operates the world’s No 1 Internet social network with 1.2 billion users, declined to comment beyond Zuckerberg’s post.

Secret documents

published on news website The Intercept on Wednesday showed that the NSA impersonated Facebook web pages in order to gather information from targets. When those people thought they were logging into Facebook, they were actually communicating with the NSA. The agency then used malicious code on the fake page to break into the targets’ computers and remove data from them.

Last year, Facebook moved to encrypt all its pages, making such impersonation more difficult.

Reuters



Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg

HEALTH & BUSINESS

Asian stocks tumble, yen stands tall as Ukraine crisis darkens mood

TOKYO, 14 March — Asian shares dropped to a one-month low and the yen pushed higher on Friday, as heightened tension in Ukraine ahead of a week-end referendum drove investors out of riskier assets.

Solid US retail sales and employment data also reinforced expectations that the US Federal Reserve will stick to its plan of gradually withdrawing its asset-buying stimulus, while Thursday's disappointing Chinese economic data continued to add to the gloom.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan .MIAPJ0000PUS fell 1.1 percent, touching its lowest

level since mid-February and on track for a weekly loss of more than 2 percent.

Japan's Nikkei stock average .N225 skidded 2.7 percent to a one-month low, on track for a weekly loss of more than 5 percent, as the currency soared.

"Investors are unwinding their long positions in the Nikkei and short positions in the yen," said Kyoya Okazawa, head of global equities and commodity derivatives at BNP Paribas.

"Short-term sellers like commodity trading advisors are also big players today and they are also reacting to the falling copper price," he added.

Russia launched new

military exercises near its border with Ukraine on Thursday, even as the US cautioned that Moscow risked facing serious steps if annexation was the outcome of a referendum planned for Sunday in the Crimea.

The latest developments in the Ukraine crisis sent the perennial safe-haven yen soaring against both the dollar and the euro.

The greenback was down about 0.2 percent on Friday at 101.70 yen, wallowing close to a more than one-week trough of 101.54 yen hit on Thursday, when it tumbled more than one yen from a session high of 102.86 yen.

The common currency

slipped about 0.2 percent on the day to 140.97 yen, after a precipitous fall on Thursday from a session high of 143.38 yen to a low of 140.70 yen.

US data reinforced perceptions that the central bank will stick to its stimulus withdrawal. Retail sales rose 0.3 percent last month, ending two straight months of declines, while separate data from the Labour Department showed initial claims for state unemployment benefits dropped to their lowest level since late November.

"Incoming data in the US suggest the economy is emerging from weather-related distortions to activity," strategists at Barclays

wrote in a note to clients.

"We continue to expect the Fed to taper its monthly pace of asset purchases by another \$10 billion at its meeting next week," they said.

On Wall Street on Thursday, benchmark US stock indices fell more than 1.0 percent, posting their biggest daily losses since early February, with the S&P500 stock index .SPX tumbling 1.17 percent.

The yield on the benchmark 10-year US Treasury note inched down to 2.652 percent in Asian trading from its US close of 2.653 percent.

Data on Thursday showed China's industrial output growth fell short of

forecasts for the combined January/February period, and retail sales also came in weaker than expected. The disappointing figures fuelled fears of a slowdown in the world's second biggest economy.

That continued to weigh on the Australian dollar, considered a proxy for China plays. The Aussie lost about 0.1 percent to \$0.9023.

The euro also remained under pressure after comments from European Central Bank President Mario Draghi, who said the bank has been preparing additional policy steps to guard against deflation taking hold in the euro zone.

Reuters

South Korea can't join Pacific trade talks until US issues fixed

WASHINGTON, 14 March — South Korea will not be welcomed into a planned Pacific free-trade pact until all problems are resolved in carrying out an existing trade deal with the United States, a senior US official said on Thursday.

Two years after the agreement came into force, the United States was still trying to make sure promises to ease the path for US exports into South Korea

were fully met, the official said, pointing to problems with Customs regulations and autos.

The South Korea-US agreement (KORUS) was at the time the second-largest US trade pact after the North American Free Trade Agreement with Canada and Mexico, but now pales beside massive trade deals being negotiated between the United States and Europe and another with 11

Pacific nations, including Japan.

South Korea has flagged its interest in joining the Trans-Pacific Partnership, but the United States will insist on having the bilateral deal working properly first.

"We have made it clear to Korea that to join TPP we would expect full KORUS implementation from them and we are working on issues in that regard in

the customs and autos areas," the US official said on a conference call with reporters.

South Korea, like other interested countries such as Taiwan, would not be allowed to join the TPP until current negotiations are wrapped up. These are being dragged out amid a stand-off between the United States and Japan over farm and auto exports and no deadline has been set for completion.

The US official said many issues with KORUS implementation had been resolved, but there were still problems with how the South Korean customs service verified certificates of origin to prove that goods came from the United States.

"The Korean customs service has in our view been requiring excessive documentation .. and this has caused concern among stakeholders, not only in the manufacturing sector but with respect to agricultural products as well," the official said.

Reuters



Nelson Peltz, one of the principles of the Trian Group, addresses the audience at the HJ Heinz Co annual shareholder's meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on 16 Aug, 2006.—REUTERS

Peltz blasts PepsiCo again, seeks details on operations, strategy

NEW YORK, 14 March — Activist investor Nelson Peltz, who has been pushing PepsiCo Inc (PEP.N) to separate its beverage and snacks businesses, blasted the company yet again on Thursday and demanded answers on operational issues and its corporate strategy.

Peltz's Trian Fund Management, which owns nearly 1 percent of PepsiCo's stock, has been urging the company to split its flourishing snacks division from its sluggish beverage business to create "two leaner and more entrepreneurial companies."

Peltz, in a letter to PepsiCo's board on Thursday, demanded the company give details about its expenses and provide volume growth and market share data for all its beverage categories in North America. He also called for a meeting of shareholders and board members without the presence of PepsiCo's management.

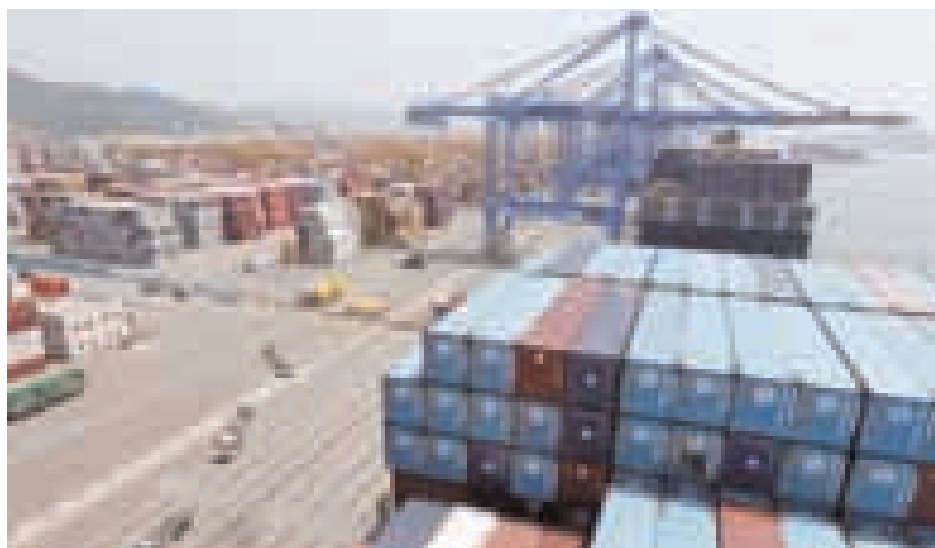
In an email response to Peltz's latest letter, PepsiCo said two of its board members had already met with

Trian without management present. "The board has thoroughly reviewed Trian's proposals and has concluded that they would not maximize shareholder value," PepsiCo said.

The company, known for beverages like Pepsi, Tropicana and Gatorade, also sells snacks such as Lays, Cheetos and Doritos chips, among others.

PepsiCo, like rival Coca-Cola (KO.N), has been battling declining soda sales in developed markets, especially the United States, as health-conscious consumers switch to non-carbonated beverages such as juices and health drinks. Peltz, in his latest letter, also asked PepsiCo to outline plans for its bottling operations, which have been a drag on the company's performance.

"Last fall, management told us that the acquisitions were 'a mistake' and the bottling system was 'in disarray' when the bottlers were acquired, yet we believe the system is operating far less efficiently today," Peltz wrote.—Reuters



Trucks used to transport containers are seen at the Hanjin Shipping container terminal at the Busan New Port in Busan, about 420 km (261 miles) southeast of Seoul, on 8 Aug, 2013 file photo.—REUTERS

Bank of America back in court over \$2.1 billion fraud penalties

NEW YORK, 14 March — A US judge wrestled on Thursday with a US Justice Department request that Bank of America Corp pay \$2.1 billion in penalties after being found liable for fraud over defective mortgages sold by its Countrywide unit.

In a second hearing on the penalties to be imposed on the bank, US District Judge Jed Rakoff in New York said he had not yet decided how to rule in what was one of the few cases to go to trial stemming from

the financial crisis.

But he tested the government's arguments that it should be awarded penalties based on revenue Countrywide Financial Corp earned selling loans to government-sponsored mortgage finance companies Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Rakoff even asked why the government had not sought even more in penalties, based on the \$4.8 billion paid by Fannie and Freddie, rather than seeking just \$2.1 billion based on revenue

earned only on the defective portion of the loans sold by Countrywide.

"I'm interested in the logic," Rakoff said. "It may be there is logic to the \$2.1 billion, but at least to me there is logic under your theory of the case that would lead you to claim a gross gain of \$5 billion."

Assistant US Attorney Pierre Armand, meanwhile, suggested the government would increase its request for penalties from Rebecca Mairone, a former

Countrywide executive, from \$1.1 million to \$1.6 million based on a \$487,000 bonus she recently earned from her employer, JPMorgan Chase & Co.

The hearing followed a verdict by a federal jury in New York in October finding Bank of America and Mairone each liable for fraud in a civil lawsuit centered on a mortgage lending process at Countrywide called the "High Speed Swim Lane," also called "HSSL" or "Hustle."—Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 15 March, 2014

CSOs should become a force in peace process

The civilian government was sworn in three years ago and Myanmar is beginning to see a boom of civil society organizations (CSOs) once subjected to suppression.

President U Thein Sein has met CSOs a number of times since taking office in 2011 and as a result, CSOs now can increasingly speak out and lend their voices to marginalized and vulnerable groups. Many CSOs have said they are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

"It is important and necessary to restore

the long-weakened trust between the government and the people, between institutions and the people, and among the general public," said the president in his address to a forum on peaceful nation-building and the role of civil society last December.

Yet, CSOs are playing only a limited role in the peace process compared to the role they are taking in other fields. Seventy-two civil society groups recently said that they are preparing to play a supporting role in the peace process taking side of armed ethnic groups as the president has not made it clear which role they are to assume though he has invited them to join peace building endeavors.

As the president has stressed, what is needed for the government and armed ethnic groups to sign a nationwide ceasefire—a major step toward lasting peace—is trust building. It doesn't matter which side the CSOs are representing as long as

they can help bring back the long-lost trust—essential for national reconciliation—between ethnic groups and the government and among ethnic communities.

Without internal peace, political and economic reforms will just come to nothing. Looking at the progress of the peace process, Myanmar is now in the final stages of negotiating the signing of a nationwide ceasefire agreement and holding political dialogue.

However, peace negotiations have yet to deliver clear results and CSOs are to facilitate the peace talks in a manner that helps restore the trust between the conflicting parties.

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.



Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Nyan Tun poses for documentary photo with Deputy President of Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ Takashi Morimura in Nay Pyi Taw. (NEWS ON PAGE 1)—MNA

D-G of Myanmar Board of Examinations Department inspect exam centers

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March—Director-General U Myo Nyunt of Myanmar Board of Examinations Department under the Ministry of Education inspected exam centers at A-Lar Basic Education High School in Lewe Township, Thawutti BEHS in Lewe Township, Thabyaybin BEHS in Lewe Township, No.2 BEHS in Lewe Township, and No.12 BEHS in Nay Pyi Taw where students answered Mathematics questions. They will sit for Chemistry exam from 9 a.m to 12 p.m on 17 March.

MNA

Myanmar, UAE sign Air Services Agreement

YANGON, 14 March—An Air Services Agreement between Myanmar and the UAE was signed by U Tin Naing Tun, Director General of the Department of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Transport and Mr Saif Mohamed Al Suwaidi, Director General of the General Civil Aviation Authority of

the UAE, in Abu Dhabi on 10 March.

According to liberalized provisions set in the Agreement, designated airlines from both countries may operate direct flights between Myanmar and the UAE, without any limitations on service frequency and aircraft type.—MNA

Deputy Education Minister leaves for Dubai

YANGON, 14 March—Deputy Minister for Education Dr Zaw Min Aung left Yangon for United Arab Emirates on Friday morning. The Deputy Minister

will attend the 2nd Global Education and Skills Forum to be held from 15 March to 17 March in Dubai.

MNA

Forestry management crucial role for regional development: Environmental Conservation and Forestry Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March—Forestry management plays a crucial role for 600 million people in ASEAN region to develop their socio-economic life, said Environmental Conservation and Forestry Minister U Win Tun at the AFoCo Landmark Programme meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

He said the results

of the AFoCo Landmark Programme will provide technical assistance to the ASEAN regional forestry management and human resources development by establishing training institutes for forest conservation and providing modern technology to solve environmental issues.

The mechanisms and goals of AFoCo should

not only be applied in ASEAN member states but in the whole of Asia, he said.

Officials from ASEAN and Korea signed a Memorandum of Understanding during the meeting, with details of the MoU not yet revealed.

The programme was launched in 2000 as ASEAN-Korea Environmental

Cooperation Project-AKE-COP and aims at ensuring forest preservation, conservation of biodiversity, reducing the impact of climate change, as well as human resources development between ASEAN and Korea.

MNA

Chinese NGO donates sports equipment to universities in Yangon

YANGON, 14 March—Sports equipment worth K 14.8 million were donated to universities in Yangon by the China NGO Network for International Exchanges (CNIE) and Mingala Myanmar on Friday.

Speaking at the donation ceremony at the Yangon University Boat Club

in Kamayut Township in Yangon, Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe said the donation is aimed at improving and raising the standard of sports education.

Mr. Li Jinjun, Vice-Minister of China's International Department and Vice-President of

CNIE presented the sports equipment, with Deputy Secretary General Mr. Shi Guohui of CNIE also donating stationery.—MNA

Chief Minister U Myint Swe and Mr. Shi Guohui enjoying table tennis match.—MNA



NATIONAL

Land grabs and poverty alleviation among topics discussed with EAST WEST Centre officials



Amyotha Hluttaw representatives holding discussions with EAST WEST Centre officials in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March—The peace making process, land grabbing and poverty alleviation were among the top issues discussed Friday at a meeting between Amyotha Hluttaw officials and representatives from the East West Centre which promotes better relations and understanding among the people.

Bagan cultural heritage site welcomes Dutch tourism students

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March—Dutch tourism students have the opportunity to widen their expertise by a visit to the Bagan cultural heritage site which offers unique landscapes and tourism-related places of interest, said Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung in meeting with students from the Tourism University of the Netherlands on Friday. In his welcome address at Bawga Theikdhi Hotel in Bagan, the Union minister said Bagan is one of the top tourist attraction spots of Myanmar. He expressed his belief that the visit to Bagan will leave the students with countless indelible memories as Myanmar has been recently named as World Best Tourist Destination for 2014. Under the arrangement of Khiri Tour Company, the tourism student delegation

led by Professor Dr Theo De Haan arrived in Yangon Tuesday via Thailand for their one-week stay in Myanmar. Before visiting Bagan, they met responsible persons of Myanmar Tourism Federation and tourism students of Yangon University, sharing knowledge on tourism industry separately. The second batch of tourism students from the Netherlands will arrive on Monday.—MNA

Sawn timber worth K 2 million confiscated in Kyaukdaga



KYAUKDAGA, 14 March—A team led by Senior foresters confiscated more than 40 sawn timbers worth about K 2 million after searching a car March 12 following a tipoff. Officials said a team of Township Forest Department officials searched the parked car after witnesses reported them of the illegal timber load. The driver could not be found, with authorities saying the illegal timbers weighted more than 7.7 tons and were seized between mile post Nos. 114/1 and 114/2 on the Yangon-Mandalay old road in Kyaukdaga Township of Bago Region. Officials are investigating the case, and said they are interviewing witnesses to arrest the driver and timber owner.

following a tipoff. Officials said a team of Township Forest Department officials searched the parked car after witnesses reported them of the illegal timber load. The driver could not be found, with authorities saying the illegal timbers weighted more than 7.7 tons and were seized between mile post Nos. 114/1 and 114/2 on the Yangon-Mandalay old road in Kyaukdaga Township of Bago Region. Officials are investigating the case, and said they are interviewing witnesses to arrest the driver and timber owner.

Khin Ko (Kyaukdaga)

Police releases information ..

(from page 16)

The two victims who sustained injuries are Chit San Maung and Win Htet Aung, police said. Officials are calling on the public to assist in the investigation and contact police should they have witnessed the incident

or know more details, by calling one of the following numbers.

01 2300747 (Command Centre of Yangon Region Police Commander Office)

09 5240022 (Police Major-command of Yangon

Region Police Commander Office)

09 8602363 (Police Major-crime of Yangon Region Police Commander Office)

01 201760 (East District Police Commander Office)

01 556865 (Thakayta Police Station). — MNA

Senior South Korean advisors hold talks on aid, politics

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March—Senior advisors of the Korea Development Institute-KDI discussed their researches on regional political affairs with the Myanmar Final Reporting Workshop in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday with an address by Deputy Minister Daw Lae Lae Thein of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development.

The talks focused on Korea's aids to Myanmar in 2013, with officials from several other ministries, including the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development also present at the meeting.

MNA

Myanmar, India discuss bilateral cooperation

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March—Union Minister for Industry U Maung Myint held talks on investment with Dr. M. Sudarsana Natchiappan, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry of the Republic of India on Friday in Nay Pyi Taw.

They discussed the establishment of an industrial zone in Ponnagyun near Sittway and investment in the Kyaukpyu Industrial zone in Rakhine State and steel factories under the ministry.

They also discussed

training of Myanmar locals at the Industrial Training Center in Myingyan in Sagaing Region which was established with the technical assistance of India. The Center teaches about cooperation in manufacturing and telecommunication services, the textile industry, automobile and electronics industries. Both sides also discussed the programme to send Myanmar youths to the India Institute of Management (IIM) to learn about manufacturing, marketing and industrial relations.—MNA

Monastic school in Ayeyawady Region through Japan's grass-root assistance



Children waving miniature flags of two countries at handing over ceremony of school donated by Government of Japan, under its Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects GGP Scheme.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March—The Government of Japan, under its Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects (GGP) Scheme, has extended the assistance totaling US\$ 108,221 for one humanitarian assistance program entitled "The Project for Construction of Buddha Yaungchi Monastic Post Primary School in Ayeyawady Region".

The hand-over and opening ceremony of the said newly constructed school building was held at project site in Ayeyawady

Region on 3 March 2014. Mr Sachio OTAKI, Second Secretary of the Embassy of Japan, committee chairman and committee members of school construction project headed by Chief Monk Sayadaw, students and local residents attended that ceremony.

The project will benefit around 200 students, who are now studying under insufficient learning environment in old religious buildings.

The Government of Japan provided funding for one-story reinforced concrete school building, toilets, and necessary school furniture at that one monastic school through its GGP Scheme. The Government of Japan has helped 677 various grass-root projects in Myanmar under this GGP scheme since 1993, and among them, 305 education projects have been included. It is expected that these assistance will further strengthen existing friendly relations between Japan and Myanmar, which marks 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations this year.—MNA



A NEW BRIDGE FOR VILLAGERS: Smooth transportation in rural areas can surely help reduce poverty. As most of the population are residing in rural regions, authorities concerned are concentrating on development of their regions. Village-to-village road linking Myingyan in Mandalay Region is under construction with K 6 million regional development fund and K 2.5 million contribution from locals. As the construction of the bridge will cost 12 million, more funds are in need to complete the project. On completion the bridge will be 22 feet in length, 19 feet in width and 8 feet in height.

U ZAW MIN NAING (MYINGYAN)

Moenyin downtown road expansion should be completed before rainy season

MOHNYIN, 14 March—Shwebo-Myitkyina motorway passing Moenyin will be expanded to 18 feet with the allotment of K 21 million by Kachin State Government in 2013-14 fiscal year. The expansion task is being undertaken by the Township Public Works with slow progress. The authorities should be anxious on the work to complete before the rainy season,” said a local. The Township Public Works could start the work on 9 January due to various situations.—NLM-001

Meiktila resident to get four traffic lights soon

MEIKTILA, 14 March—Officials from Meiktila arranged a plan to install four digital traffic lights at crowded areas in Meiktila Township.

Mandalay Zarni Electronic Co., has started the works for installation on Wednesday at the junction near bus terminal in Thiri Mingala Ward. The plan is underway to install another three traffic lights in front of the school in Nandawgon Ward and Meiktila Education College and near water tank of Fire Service Department. The company pledged to complete the tasks at the end of May.—NLM-018

Meiktila police expose burglary



MEIKTILA, 14 March — A fertilizer shop owner in Meiktila on 7 September 2013 claimed at a police station that her house was burgled and cash and jewelry worth over 10 million kyat were lost. The police probed into the case and on 6 March this year they were able to expose the suspects involved in burglary and most of the items of the jewelry were confiscated from various gold shops. The police filed lawsuit against the suspects.

NLM- 018

Volunteers get training on caring addicts

PYAY, 14 March—Voluntary services are provided in Shwepyitha Youth Rehabilitation Centre in Pyay. Volunteers who are to take care of drug addicts are given training. At the

courses they get knowledge on the history of Myanmar Anti-Narcotic Association and significance of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law of 1993.—NLM-017



Fire preventive measures taken in Natogyi

NATOGYI, 14 March —Most of the fires outbreak in the country is due to negligence. Fire brigade members in Natogyi Township, Mandalay Region, in the arid zone of Myanmar take fire preventive measures during their

field trips to villages in the township as now is the time ushering into dry season. They taught lessons to villagers on keeping sand, water, ladder, etc. as ways to prevent outbreak of fire.

Than Aung Zaw
(Natogyi)



“Danatheikdi” circular bus line added in Meiktila

MEIKTILA, 14 March—“Danatheikdi” circular bus line launched on 12 March at the bus terminal in Meiktila which will operate along Zaygyi-Aungmyethay-Thegon-Pyaythaya-industrial zone-Thabyaywa Village with 10 vehicles daily.

It is aimed at ensuring smooth transportation for commuters.

Officials fixed the bus fare K 100 in minimum and K 300 in maximum per passenger.

Meiktila is a city in central Myanmar, located on the banks of Lake Meiktila in Mandalay Region, at the junctions of the Bagan-Taunggyi, Yangon-Mandalay and Meiktila-Myingyan highways.

NLM-018

REGIONAL

Megawati approves Jakarta govenor to be presidential candidate

JAKARTA, 14 March — The waiting of the entire Indonesian nation may be paid off soon.

With her “whole heart,” former President Megawati Sukarnoputri, daughter of late President Sukarno, decided not to run again for the nation’s top job as some had expected.

Instead, she determined her choice, approving popular Jakarta Gov Joko Widodo to be candidate from her Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle to run in the 2014 presidential election, a reliable internal source said.

The party senior mem-

ber, who refused to be named due to the sensitivity of the issue, revealed to *Kyodo News* on Thursday he had been summoned by Megawati’s daughter Puan Maharani late Monday during which she told him about the “blessing.”

Wednesday, speculation rose that Megawati, 66, might have approved “Jokowi,” the Jakarta governor’s nickname, as she paid a “quiet trip” to Sukarno’s tomb in the town of Blitar in East Java Province.

Around the same time, journalists covering Jokowi’s activities at the guber-

natorial office failed to find his whereabouts for almost the whole day.

It was found out later Jokowi had traveled to Blitar to accompany Megawati, where she prayed in front of the tomb to apparently ask “direction” from his late father about her decision, media reports said.

“The signs that Megawati will nominate him have been seen these days, but I can only be sure when she announces it by herself,” political analyst Burhanuddin Muhtadi said.

If it is officially confirmed and declared by

Megawati, the most eagerly awaited news may lead her party, popularly known as PDI-Perjuangan, to victory in the country’s parliamentary election on 9 April and the presidential election three months later as predicted by some surveys.

Megawati, who leads PDI-Perjuangan, has carried a mandate from the party members to decide who should be its presidential candidate.

At present, Indonesians are suffering from “Jokowi” fever. The governor has gained respect and popularity after he became the capi-

tal’s leader in 2012.

Jokowi, a member of PDI-Perjuangan, quickly won the hearts of Indonesians following his “blusukan” practice of regularly visiting local communities, particularly in poor areas and small alleys in the capital, spending time in traditional markets and chatting with people about the city’s problems such as floods, transportation and housing.

The problem now is when Megawati will announce Jokowi’s candidacy.

Surveys by some pollsters showed that if PDI-Perjuangan nominates Jokowi

before the parliamentary election, the party will get 27.4 percent of the popular vote, higher than the party’s target of 27.02 percent, and just 15.5 percent otherwise.

The percentage will bring the party into victory after finishing second and third in the 2004 and 2009 legislative elections.

In a recent survey by the daily Kompas, about 43.5 percent of 1,400 respondents said they would vote for Jokowi, while other polls also position him in the top ranks of presidential candidates.

Kyodo News

200 suspected Turkish refugees found in S Thailand

BANGKOK, 14 March — Thai police have found about 200 people who claim to be Turkish refugees at a secret camp in south Thailand’s Songkhla Province, local media reported on Thursday.

These refugees, who identify themselves as Turkish, were detained during a raid on a camp in a mountain rubber plantation on Wednesday night in Songkhla, local police were quoted by the *Bangkok Post* as saying.

“It’s an unprecedented case that there are so many Turkish people arrested here,” said chief of the Immigration Bureau’s Division 6, Thatchai Pitaneelaboot.

According to Thatchai, the refugees who speak Turkish came as families and seemed prepared to head somewhere else “because they kept their belongings ready to move.”

Several suspected minders fled during the raid, he added.

It remains unclear how these people arrived in Thailand, and the police are waiting for an interpreter to help question them.

Police suspected that they were waiting in the camp to be trafficked to Malaysia or Indonesia.

Reportedly, the Turkish embassy said it had no information about the case while the United Nations refugee agency is yet to give a response.

Thailand has long been considered a hub for human trafficking.

Xinhua



A staff member introduces housewares to a visitor and her child during the International Gifts, Premium & Houseware Purchase Exhibition at China International Exhibition Centre in Beijing, capital of China, on 13 March, 2014. The exhibition opened here Thursday. XINHUA

Arms exports to Israel possible under new rules

TOKYO, 14 March — Japan’s new principles on arms exports would not prohibit the transfer of weapons and related technology to Israel, a government official said on Friday, amid concerns about armed conflicts in the Middle East.

“We don’t think Israel will be included,” the government official said during a meeting of the Liberal Democratic Party’s panel on security, referring to countries on which Japan will potentially impose an arms embargo under the new rules. Japan’s closest ally, the United States, is a significant supporter of Israel.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe plans to update the decades-old “three principles” on arms exports, and the ruling bloc is trying to find common ground over how much the restrictive policy should be eased to keep up with the times and revitalize the domestic defence industry.

Under the draft principles presented to the ruling bloc, Japan will prohibit the export of weapons to countries involved in conflicts, and if they clearly undermine global peace and security.

For exports to be allowed, Japan plans to set strict

S Korean president to chair committee on reunification with DPRK

SEOUL, 14 March — South Korean President Park Geun-hye will chair the first-ever quarterly meeting of the preparatory committee on reunification with the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) in April, the presidential office Cheong Wa Dae said on Friday.

The committee, which Park vowed to set up in late February to lay grounds for

the reunification, will be launched next month, the Cheong Wa Dae said in a statement.

The committee will be composed of one chairperson, two vice chairmen and around 50 members from ministries and private sectors. The chairperson will be President Park who will nominate vice chairmen and members.

Xinhua

screening procedures and make sure that the unstated use and transfer of Japanese equipment to a third party will be avoided. The new rules on “defence equipment” rather than “weapons” would mark a major policy change in postwar Japan under the pacifist Constitution. The LDP and its coalition partner, the New Komeito party, have agreed to review the current principles on arms exports, but said details still need to be worked out.

One of the main issues raised by New Komeito is the definition of “countries in conflicts” as the transfer of weapons and technology to such countries, even if unintended, could undermine Japan’s pacifist stance.

The government official told the Friday meeting that the term would mean “countries that the UN Security Council takes action against to maintain or restore global peace and security in the face of an armed attack,” saying Iraq at the time of the Gulf War would fall into that category. For nearly half a century, Japan has, in principle, banned the transfer of weapons to communist states, countries subject to embargoes under UN resolutions and those involved in international conflicts.—*Kyodo News*



Hunter Yukinori Yokota, who runs a game meat business, holds a wild pheasant in Hiroshima on 6 March, 2014.—KYODO NEWS

Thai navy’s Dornier patrol planes join search effort for missing Malaysian airliner

BANGKOK, 14 March — The Thai navy’s patrol aircraft began on Thursday to search the Andaman Sea and the Gulf of Thailand for the Malaysia Airline plane gone missing since last Saturday, but found no trace of it as yet.

The low-flying, turbo-prop-engined Dornier planes have joined the Thai navy’s search mission which started on Monday but still found nothing related to the missing *Boeing 777* plane flight MH 370 with 239 passengers and crew aboard.

One of the Dornier planes has joined the search mission by *HTMS Pattani* fast patrol boat and its helicopter in an extended maritime area around Malaysia’s Langkawi and Perlis islands and north of Indonesia’s Sumatra island while the other has searched the lower part of the Gulf of Thailand for any flotsam which might possibly be related to the airliner.

A few other patrol boats of the Thai navy have remained on stand-by at Pang-nga and Songkla naval stations but not as yet joined the search effort.

Thai navy chief Adm. Narong Pipatanasai commented that the Malaysian authorities who had asked the Thai navy to help search the seas for the missing airliner, which took off from Kuala Lumpur and was bound for Beijing, had not given much information concerning the exact location or direction of the plane had taken before it lost contact with air traffic control.—*Xinhua*

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV HOANG SON SUN VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HOANG SON SUN VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.3.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L 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 HOANG SON CO., LTD
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MVKOTARAKANVOYNO(RKN361)

Consignees of cargo carried on MVKOTARAKAN VOY NO (RKN 361) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.3.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MVKOTATAMPANVOYNO(TPN11A)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (TPN 11A) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.3.2014 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (038)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (038) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.3.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

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 detail informations shall be available at the following address.
Tender Invitation Committee
Department of Hydropower Implemetation
Office No. (38), Nay Pyi Taw
Phone : 067 411415, Fax : 067 411081

Britain's Prince
Phillip hosts first
Chinese Confucian
delegation

LONDON, 14 March
— Britain's Prince Phillip hosted the first senior delegation of Chinese Confucianists at Buckingham Palace Wednesday, discussing the topic of ecological conservation and sustainable development based on Confucian philosophies.

Prince Phillip, 92, talked about the history and reemergence of Confucianism with his Chinese visitors, many of whom were leading academics of the International Confucian Ecology Alliance (ICEA), created to use Confucian wisdom to address urgent ecological issues.

"Prince Phillip was so eager to meet our Confucianist colleagues. We were due to be there at 12.15 pm, but at 12.05 pm, he said: 'Right, come on, let's go and meet them'," recalled Martin Palmer, Secretary General of the Britain-based Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC), and a long-time working partner of Prince Phillip.—Xinhua

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ENTERTAINMENT

Kate Winslet gets her star on Hollywood Walk of Fame

LONDON, 14 March — Oscar-winner Kate Winslet is all set to be honoured with a star on the prestigious Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Kate, 38, who joins the select group of famous personalities after receiving the honour, will be presented with the star by her Titanic director James Cameron and co-star Kathy Bates next week, reported *Daily Express*.

"We are so happy that Kate Winslet will be here on our famous boulevard of dreams receiving her well-deserved star.

We've seen Kate shine in her roles and fans around the world have been anxiously waiting for this special day to come," Ana Martinez, who organises the ceremonies, said.

Kate Winslet will be the 2,520th person to be honoured with a star on the famous tourist attraction.

PTI



Kate has been nominated for an Oscar 6 times, winning Best Actress for *The Reader* in 2009.

Justin Bieber dedicates song to Selena Gomez

LOS ANGELES, 14 March — Pop sensation Justin Bieber dedicated a song to his on-and-off girlfriend Selena Gomez while on stage at 2014 SXSW in Texas.

In a video captured by his fans, Justin, 20, told the crowd, "This next song goes out to my baby," before singing his 2012 hit *As Long As You Love Me*, reported *Us* magazine.

The Canadian singer later tweeted, "Fun taking

the stage with all the other acts. Great people. Had to do a little acoustic set myself. Maybe I should do another one?"

After the performance, Justin and Selena, 21, were spotted spending time together in the beer hall for about another hour. The twosome split back in November 2012 after two years of dating, but have been photographed together multiple times since then.—PTI

Sonakshi Sinha sings for the first time in Hindi Rio 2

MUMBAI, 14 March — Bollywood actress Sonakshi Sinha has not just dubbed but also sung a few lines for Hollywood family entertainer *Rio 2*, which releases here in

April. The vivacious actress has voiced the Hindi version of the movie, playing the character of Jewel the macaw while Imran Khan plays Blu.

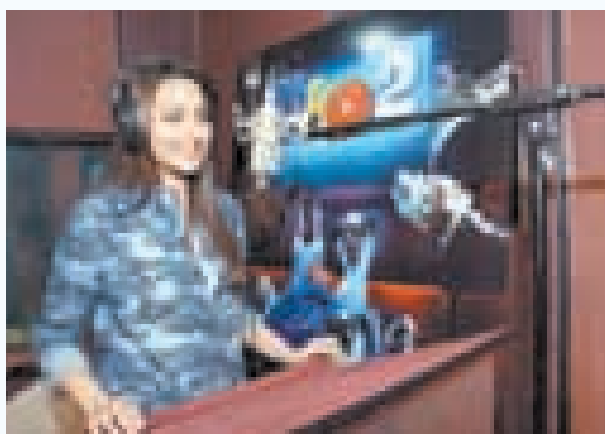
Sonakshi also sings

for an interesting party sequence in the film and says she enjoyed the experience of dubbing.

"I enjoyed dubbing for *Rio 2* because firstly, it's such a fun film, and secondly, because I felt like Imran (Khan) and I were perfect for the characters of Jewel and Blu," the Dabangg girl said in a statement.

"There's a scene where Jewel is dancing and singing, so they made me sing a few lines as well. It was such a new experience! I would have even loved to sing more but unfortunately I am only just a bathroom singer," she added.

PTI



Sonakshi voices Jewel in the Hindi version of the animated movie.



The twosome split back in November 2012 after two years of dating.

Kajol: Ranbir Kapoor is a better actor than Shah Rukh Khan

NEW DELHI, 14 March — Actress Kajol, who has given several hit films in company of superstar Shah Rukh Khan, thinks Ranbir Kapoor scores higher than her long-time good friend and also Aamir Khan in terms of acting capabilities.

In an upcoming episode of *Koffee with Karan*, the host, filmmaker Karan Johar, asks Kajol to rank — talent and acting ability wise — Shah Rukh, Salman Khan, Aamir, Ranbir and Hrithik in order of preference.

The *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge* actress was quick to crown Ranbir, the junior-most among them, as No 1, though the two have not yet shared screen space.

"On the top I would say Ranbir, I think he is fantastic. On second position Shah Rukh and Aamir are on par with each other, there is no up or down in that. Then we come to Salman and so on."

To another question, Kajol said she would like to ask Shah Rukh about his frankness in airing his views.

"Why are you so candid all the time? Don't you know people like to hear nice, pretty lies once in a while," she quipped. From her cousin-actress Rani Mukherji, Kajol wants to know when the *Bunty Aur Babli* star is getting married, a query she would pose to producer-director Aditya Chopra too.

Reports of Rani-Aditya marriage had been doing the round since quite some time.

The 39-year-old *Fanaa* star yearns to spend more time with actor-husband Ajay Devgn. "I don't get enough time with him. I would really like to take him out for a romantic date."

Kajol, who dominated Bollywood in 1990s along with Madhuri Dixit, said she is extremely choosy about doing films. "It (the script) has to be good. I don't want to work with someone who is not going to bring out the best in me. I don't want to work with somebody who is going to depend on me to do the 90 per cent of the work." In the episode to be aired on 16 March, the bubbly and outspoken actress will be seen with her director-cousin Ayan

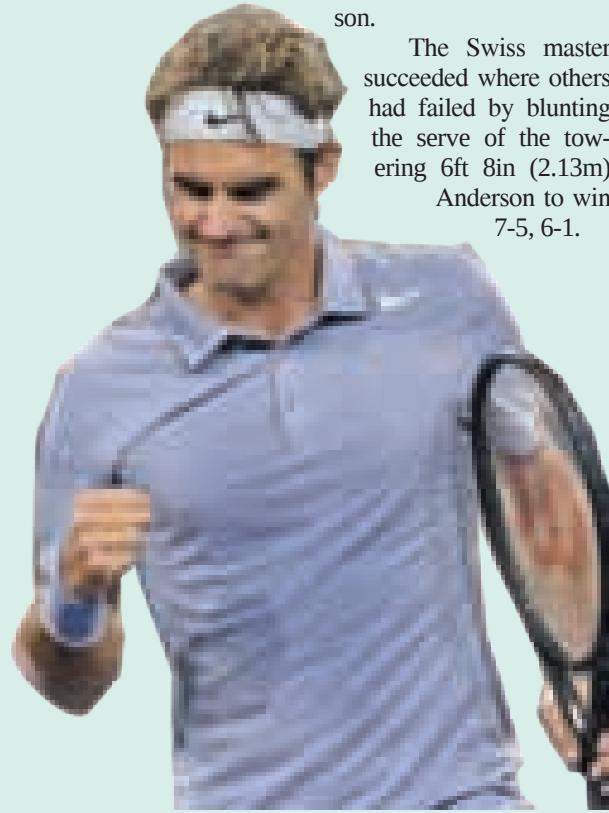
Mukherji.—PTI



Actress Kajol

Federer rolls on at Indian Wells

Roger Federer



INDIAN WELLS, 14 March — Roger Federer charged into the semi-finals of the BNP Paribas Open at Indian Wells on Thursday with a straight sets win over South African Kevin Anderson.

The Swiss master succeeded where others had failed by blunting the serve of the towering 6ft 8in (2.13m) Anderson to win 7-5, 6-1.

Federer faced only one break point in the entire match and reeled off seven games on the trot to clinch the opening set and race to a 5-0 lead in the second.

His reward for winning was a semi-final clash on Saturday with Ukrainian giantkiller Alexandr Dolgoplov, who continued his fairytale run in the Californian desert by defeating big-serving Canadian Milos 6-3, 6-4.

In the women's draw, China's Li Na won her rematch with Slovakia's Dominika Cibulkova to join Italian veteran Flavia Pennetta in the semis.

In her first meeting with Cibulkova since the Australian Open final in January, Li once again proved too strong for her younger opponent, winning 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 in a little over two and a half hours.

Pennetta booked her place in the last four by beating American Sloane Stephens 6-4, 5-7, 6-4 in a seesawing match played in gusting winds.

In a tournament that has

been packed with surprises and high-profile casualties, the 32-year-old Li has been a model of consistency, ferociously battling through each round.

The Chinese top seed, in the absence of world number one Serena Williams, has struggled with her serve all week and committed eight double faults against Cibulkova, four in the opening set and four more in the third when the pressure was on.

The Slovak also made eight doubles while the pair combined for more than 100 unforced errors in a match that was longer and much tighter than their last meeting in Melbourne.

Li got the decisive break late in the third set and then served out for victory to stay on course for her first title at one of the biggest events outside the grand slams.

"Here is different than Australia. Of course score should be different," said Li.

"I think today she played more aggressive. I was feeling if I try to go back like a little bit she was trying to step in to hit the ball.

"Also I was feeling in the second set I think I dropped down a little bit and gave her more chance. She can get a lot of winners." —Reuters

Li Na



Anelka and FA accept five-match ban

LONDON, 14 March — Nicolas Anelka has decided not to appeal against the five-match ban imposed on the West Bromwich Albion striker for his controversial 'quenelle' gesture, the FA said on Thursday.

The 34-year-old French forward was suspended for his goal celebration during a Premier League match against West Ham United.

Anelka had until Thursday to appeal but the FA told Reuters the player had confirmed to them he would not be



West Bromwich Albion's Nicolas Anelka looks on during their English Premier League soccer match against Everton at The Hawthorns in West Bromwich, central England on 20 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

doing so. The soccer body had already said it would not be appealing to extend the sanction either.

"We do not consider there is a real prospect of successfully appealing to extend the sanction," the FA declared on its website.

"Having carefully considered the written rea-

sons of the Independent Regulatory Commission together with our appointed QC, The FA confirm they will not be appealing the sanction imposed on Nicolas Anelka," it added.

"The grounds of appeal available to The FA are limited to legal challenges or to circumstances in which the sanction imposed is 'so unduly lenient as to be unreasonable'."

The regulatory commission had found that the 'quenelle' gesture Anelka used was "strongly associated with anti-Semitic sentiments and anti-Zionist politics".

It ruled that while there was no proof Anelka was "expressing or promoting" anti-Semitism when he used the inverted Nazi salute, the gesture was in itself offensive enough to warrant his five-match ban.—Reuters

Van Persie wants long-term Manchester United stay

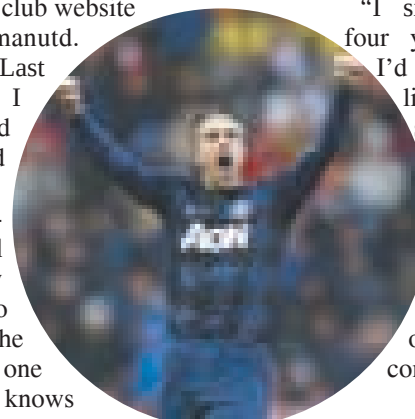
MANCHESTER, 14 March — Robin van Persie is happy at Manchester United and would like to sign a new contract with the triple European champions, the Dutch international striker said on Thursday.

Van Persie, top scorer in the Premier League last season, has struggled for goals this term while British media have reported of his discontent at Old Trafford. He also recently complained about team mates getting in his way on the pitch.

"What I need to address are the situations when people are taking it upon themselves to think

for me, make assumptions or interpret things as if they are me," Van Persie told the club website (www.manutd.com).

"Last time I checked my head was still attached to my body so I'm the only one who knows



Manchester United's Robin Van Persie celebrates after scoring a goal against Stoke City during their English Premier League soccer match at the Britannia Stadium in Stoke-on-Trent, central England, on 1 Feb, 2014.

REUTERS

exactly what I'm feeling. The truth is I'm very happy here.

"I signed for four years and I'd be delighted to stay even longer, beyond the next two years I have left on my contract."

A he a d

of sixth-placed United's home league game with arch-rivals Liverpool on Sunday, Van Persie was full of praise for manager David Moyes who replaced Alex Ferguson when his fellow Scot retired at the end of last season.

"There is no doubt I'm learning new things and progressing with David," he said. "The sessions we have on the training ground are fantastic and I'm learning a lot from them every day. "There is mutual respect between us and the work environment is actually good. He really wants things to work and I want the same."—Reuters

Out of favour Romero is Argentina's No 1 World Cup keeper

BUENOS AIRES, 14 March — Sergio Romero will be Argentina's first-choice goalkeeper at the World Cup in Brazil in June despite spending most of his time at Monaco on the bench, national coach Alejandro Sabella said on Thursday.

The former winners are likely to have one of the strongest attacks at the finals but their defence has come under scrutiny with Romero being criticised for not always commanding his penalty area.

"Romero had a good match and I consider him an excellent goalkeeper

who unfortunately is not getting continuity at his club," said Sabella of the keeper's performance in last week's 0-0 draw with Romania in a friendly in Bucharest.

"Apart from the odd injury he has always been in my team ... the position (at

the World Cup) is his," the coach told the Radio La Red Argentine station.

Sabella said he had decided on around 90 percent of his 23-man World Cup squad.

Argentina have been drawn in Group F with Bos-

nia, Iran and Nigeria.—Reuters

Sampdoria's goalkeeper Sergio Romero gestures during the Italian Serie A soccer match against AC Milan at the San Siro stadium in Milan on 26 Aug, 2012. —REUTERS



GENERAL

About 30 companies join job fair for Saudi students in Japan



Around 30 companies seeking recruits brief Saudi students in Japan about their businesses and job openings at a fair in Tokyo organized by the Saudi Arabian Embassy on 13 March, 2014.—KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 14 March — Around 30 companies seeking recruits briefed Saudi students in Japan on Thursday about their businesses and job openings at a fair organized by the Saudi Arabian Embassy in Tokyo.

It is rare for an embassy to sponsor an event to help nationals studying in Japan to find jobs. This year's job fair, the second of its kind, was held at a Tokyo hotel for around 120 Saudi students who are scheduled to graduate later this month and in March 2015, according to the

embassy. Among the 30 companies were Japanese automakers, electric appliance makers and trading houses.

Around 600 Saudis are currently studying in Japan, following the launch of a major scholarship program in the Middle Eastern country in 2005. Saudi Arabia has been focusing on human resources development as part of efforts to promote economic diversification to cut dependence on its oil industry.

A 34-year-old Saudi student at the graduate school of Tokai University

said at the event, "I hope to play a role in a big project as a worker in a Japanese civil engineering company."

A 25-year-old Saudi participant said, "I hope to contribute to the development of Saudi Arabia by learning about technology at a Japanese company."

An official of Isuzu Motors Ltd. said, "Foreign students who can understand Japanese people's way of thinking are precious human resources for us." Isuzu established an office in Saudi Arabia in 2011.—Kyodo News

Two Yemeni soldiers killed in Shiite rebel attack near capital

SANAA, 14 March — At least two Yemeni soldiers were killed on Thursday when Shiite Houthi rebels attacked an army barracks in the northwest of the capital Sanaa, officials said.

Four other soldiers were also injured in the attack, in which the rebels forced the soldiers to withdraw from Juhaif Mountain in Hamdan area, some 20 km northwest of Sanaa.

The soldiers were deployed to Karatel area to force a ceasefire mediated by the government between Sunni tribal residents of Hamdan Tribe and Shiite rebels who came from their northern stronghold of Saada province to seek control of the northwest entrances of Sanaa, officials said.

Last week, the fighting in Hamdan area between residents and the Shiite rebels left more than 20 people killed as the rebels took over the whole area. The Shiite rebels said they would pull out some of their fighters from Hamdan if the army withdraws. The Shiite Houthi group have managed to seize several towns of northern Provinces of Hajja, al-Jaw and Amran after deadly fightings with Sunni tribal residents over the past months.—Xinhua

MYANMAR TV

(15-3-2014, Saturday)

6:00 am

1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

6:15 am

2. Myitta Pawana By Mingun Sayadaw

7:00 am

3. News/Weather Report

8:30 am

4. India Drama Series

9:00 am

5. News/ International News

10:00 am

6. News

11:30 am

7. Game For Children

12:00 pm

8. News/International News/Weather Report

12:25 pm

9. Round Up of The Week's TV Local News

3:00 pm

10. News

3:15 pm

11. TV Drama Series

4:30 pm

12. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - First Year (Geography)

5:00 pm

13. News

5:30 pm

14. Documentary (AIDS)

6:00 pm

15. News/Weather Report

6:20 pm

16. MRTV's Youth Programme

7:00 pm

17. News

8:35 pm

18. Business News

8:50 pm

19. Hit Songs of Stars

9:00 pm

20. News

21. Myanmar Series

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(15-3-14 07:00am~ 16-3-14 07:00am) MST

- * Local News
- * Myanmar's Traditions and Culture "The Mystique of Shwedagon Pagoda"
- * World News
- * Distinguished Myanmar Ladies "Kalayar Moe"
- * Local News
- * Shwesaryan Pagoda Festival
- * World News
- * Orphanage
- * Local News
- * "Flying Without Wings" My Great Limitless Adventure (Mandalay & Sagaing)
- * World News
- * My Life & My Art
- * Local News
- * Sitagu International Buddhist Academy (Part-1)
- * World News
- * Kyaikhteeyoe: Mountain Drivers
- * 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"
- * World News
- * Nang

Sierra Leone's former president Ahmad Tejan Kabbah dies

FREETOWN, 14 March — Sierra Leone's former President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah died on Thursday at the age of 82, the former president's families said.

Kabbah assumed the presidential office in 1996, ending a decade of military rule. He was briefly ousted by a military coup in 1997, but returned to power the following year with the help of the West African Intervention Force.

He was credited with guiding Sierra Leone through a peace process and put the war to an end. He retired from politics in 2007 after serving two terms in office.—Xinhua

Alonso fastest in first practice in Australia

MELBOURNE, 14 March — Ferrari's Fernando Alonso topped the timesheets in the first free practice at the Australian Grand Prix on Friday as reliability problems saw the new Formula One season open with a whimper rather than a bang.

The twice world champion Spaniard posted a lap of one minute 31.840 seconds with half an hour left in the 90 minute session and held his half-a-second lead over McLaren's second-placed Jenson Button in brilliant sunshine at Albert Park.

After a winter testing in which teams struggled to come to terms with the new turbocharged hybrid

engines, drivers spent much of the session cooling their heels in the garages, while technicians tinkered.

The biggest surprise of the session was trouble for Mercedes, who arrived Down Under optimistic after a promising winter testing.

Having batted away the favourites to win the season-opener tag, Lewis Hamilton was left fuming when his car stopped at turn nine of his installation lap just five minutes into the session.

With the vehicle hauled off by a tow-truck, the 29-year-old Briton walked back to the paddock without taking his

helmet off and suffered the indignity of being stopped by security before retreating into his team's tent.

Mercedes later issued a statement clarifying that his car had come to an automatic halt triggered by an oil pressure alarm, but said they needed to investigate the fault further.

Mercedes-powered Williams fared better, with Valtteri Bottas posting the third-fastest time and his new team mate Felipe Massa shrugging off a radio malfunction to be fourth quickest.

Red Bull, who endured a dismal winter testing, had an encouraging first session, with new



Ferrari Formula One driver Fernando Alonso of Spain looks on in the garage during the first practice session of the Australian F1 Grand Prix at the Albert Park circuit in Melbourne on 14 March, 2014.—REUTERS

driver Daniel Ricciardo finishing fifth ahead of reigning quadruple world champion Sebastian Vettel in seventh.

Hamilton's team mate Nico Rosberg was sixth for Mercedes, while Kimi Raikkonen, taking his first run for Ferrari since returning

to Maranello, was ninth after eighth-placed McLaren debutant Kevin Magnussen.

Lotus waited until 20 minutes left in the session before making an appearance, with driver Pastor Maldonado rolling out of the garage, but he managed only an installation lap before taking a skid through some gravel and coming to a halt in pit-lane.

He and team mate Romain Grosjean were among five drivers that failed to post a lap time, suggesting plenty of work to be done before the second practice session later on Friday.

Reuters

National Planning Bill, Union Budget Bill discussed



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann delivers an address at work coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March—A work coordination meeting on the National Planning Bill and Union Budget Bill for 2014-2015 took place at Parliament Complex on Friday. Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann heard reports presented by committee chairmen of the two legislative

bodies, Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw, the Union ministers, the deputy ministers and officials of Hluttaw Office.

MNA

Announcement for exchanging abolished Foreign Exchange Certificate-FEC

- The Central Bank of Myanmar reiterates that those who have the Foreign Exchange Certificate-FEC can exchange the certificate with foreign currencies or local currency Kyat from 1 April 2013 to 31 March, 2014, in accordance with the following directions.
 - Putting US dollar into the accounts opened at banks by those who want to exchange FECs or exchanging with US dollars.
 - Opening a new account with foreign currency for those who want to exchange FECs.
 - Exchanging the money in Myanmar currency Kyat with daily exchange rate and putting the exchanged money into the accounts of those who exchanged FECs with Myanmar currency Kyat.
 - Opening a new account with Myanmar currency kyat for those who exchange FECs with Myanmar currency.
- Those who have FECs are requested to exchange the abolished FECs with foreign or Myanmar currency at the banks which have license for money exchange. Those who have FECs are requested to exchange FECs not later than 31 March, 2014, the last date of the period of exchange as the abolish program will end on 31 March, 2014.

The Central Bank of Myanmar

Self-administered zones, division in Shan State receive dump trucks

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March—Under the guidelines of the President self-administered zones and division have received 12 dump trucks to carry out regional development tasks, including road transportation and farmland reclamation. Up to now, the local governments have received a total of 36 heavy machines—six excavators, six bulldozers, six road rollers and eighteen dump trucks.

The five self-admin-

istered zones—Danu, Pa-O, Palaung, Kokant and Naga and—Wa self-administered division are in Shan State. The official names of the zones were announced by decree on 20 August 2010.

MNA



World Bank and ADB policies used to establish Thilawa SEZ

YANGON, 14 March—At a meeting in Yangon on Friday, officials discussed the challenges of building the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, stressing that the policies of the World Bank and the Asia Development Bank for implementing economic zones will be used as a directive in establishing the Thilawa Economic Zone. The policies include a wide range of issues, including environmental conservation, officials from the Japanese International Cooperation Agency-JICA said. JICA is assisting in implementing the Individual Responsibility Plan (IRP) for displaced residents of the Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

The plan is aimed at securing the future of the displaced people by providing job training and assisting them in finding jobs near the Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

Ye Khaung Nyunt,
Myat Thandar Maung

Two separate National Education Bills submitted to People's Parliament

NAY PYI TAW, 14 March—The Pyithu Hluttaw Education Promotion Committee and the Ministry of Education put forward respective National Education Bills to Pyithu Hluttaw, the People's Parliament, on Friday. According to the ministry, the submission of the bill is to improve the physical and mental potential of the youth, to turn out law-abiding citizens who uphold code of ethics and democratic practices.

Learning, research and academic administration will be improved through effective use of ICT, and enable each and every cit-

ensure maternity leave and benefits for women employees, he added.

At the question and answer session of Pyithu Hluttaw, Deputy Minister at the President Office U Thant Shin pledged to start conservation work at the "Death Railway Museum" in Thanbyuzayat Township in April. Another question at the session was about the opening of state-run laboratories at hospitals and other institutions. Deputy Minister for Health Dr Daw Thein Thein Htay replied that the National Laboratory Strategic Plan is ongoing to establish well-equipped clinical laboratories of international standards at main hospitals. No plan is available to set them up anywhere else.

Discussions on the Bill to amend the Law on Salaries, Allowances and Insignias of Union-Level Person stopped today's Amyotha Hluttaw, National Parliament, session. All representatives who took part in the discussions seconded the Bill, but some expressed their views that careful consideration should be given before passing the bill as it may have impact on financial market and commodity prices of the country while others called for simultaneous measures to take care of pay rates of all government employees.

Regarding the discussions, the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker called on the Bill Committee to have an extensive discussion with officials concerned and representatives on the bill.—MNA



Deputy Minister

U Thant Shin.—MNA
izen to have access to education and lifelong learning opportunities and to create an educational environment of international standards. The Bill amending the 1951 Leave and Holiday Acts was also presented to the parliament at today's Pyithu Hluttaw session, with Deputy Minister U Htain Aung elaborating on aims and objectives of amendments to the Act. He said the new law will be of great benefit to all employees in addition to workers from the private sector, allowing them to enjoy more leave and holidays. Moreover, the new law will

Police releases information on suspects wanted in Thakayta fatal stabbing

YANGON, 14 March—Police has released information about suspects wanted in connection with a street brawl that left one young man dead and two injured on Yanpyay road in Thakayta Township, Yangon on Wednesday night.

According to ongoing investigation, a man identified as 29-year old Ye Naing, son of U Than Naing residing at Ma/153/154, Yan Aung 1st street in 3/Yanpyay ward is one of the main suspects. Another suspect

has been named as Bawgyi (a) Thein Htaik Aung, 21, son of U Aung Gyi living in Ma/19, 20th street, 3/Yanpyay ward. Both men

are wanted by police in connection with the death of the young man who was identified as Wai Yan Soe.

(See page 9)



Bawgyi (a) Thein Htaik Aung.—YANGON POLICE



Ye Naing.
YANGON POLICE