

President U Thein Sein attends ceremony of offering religious titles to venerable monks, nuns and laypersons

NAY PYI TAW, 4 March—President U Thein Sein offered religious titles to venerable Buddhist monks at Sasana Maha Beikman building in the precinct of Uppatasanti Pagoda where the religious title and rice offering for 2015 took place on Wednesday.

Vice Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee abbot of Dhamma Paragu Pali Tekkatho monastery in Monywa Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Ariyalankara gave words of Sammodaniya Ovada-katha.

The President offered an Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru title and insignia to abbot of Dhammawdaya Pariyatti monastery in Kengtung Bhaddanta Ajeya.

Vice Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun presented Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru titles and insignias to abbot of Dhamma Paragu Pali Tekkatho monastery in Monywa Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Ariyalankara and abbot of



President U Thein Sein presents certificate of Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru title to abbot of Dhammawdaya Pariyatti monastery in Kengtung Bhaddanta Ajeya.
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Maha Withutayama (Middle) monastery in Pakokku Bhaddanta Viçara.

Speaker of Pyidaungsu and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann presented an Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru title and insignia to abbot of Maha Gandayon Monastery in Amarapura Township Bhaddanta Indobhasabhivamsa.

Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, Commander-in-Chief of

Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Mya Thein and Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye offered titles of Abhidhaja Agga Maha

Saddhammajotika and insignias to four venerable Buddhist monks.

Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Deputy Speaker of

Pyithu Hluttaw Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa, union ministers and officials presented religious titles to venerable Buddhist monks.

Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, wife of Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham; (See page 3)

Monks called for staying away from student protest in Letpadan, Bago region

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb—Senior Buddhist monks in Yangon region signed and issued a letter of request to monks to stay away from the protest students who are preparing for marching from Letpadan, Bago region to Yangon, while examinations of matriculation students near.

The elder monks from prominent monasteries suggested the protest monks avoid conflict among monks and to wipe out public concerns about instability of the country.

The letter dated March 3 said that the elder monks understand the will of protest monks against National Education Law together with the students for the emergence of a better education system.

However, the prominent monks reminded that

the amendment of education law will be discussed soon by representatives of political parties, the National Network for Education Reform and Leading Democratic Education Movement in Hluttaw.

The senior monks also urged the protest monks to go back to their respective monasteries for learning Buddhist treatises and practising meditation which are fundamental tasks for the monks.

The letter was signed by Bhaddanta Angisa (Shwegyin), Bhaddanta Paññobhasa (Weluwun), Bhaddanta Uttamaçara (Maha Dwara), Bhaddanta Sirinda (Mula Dwara), Bhaddanta Panditasara (Hgnettwin), Bhaddanta Narinda and Bhaddanta Vannita.

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UNICEF Myanmar calls for funding of social protection strategy in new budget

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 4 March—UNICEF Myanmar has urged the country's parliamentarians to ensure sufficient funding for the first national social protection strategy, approved by the government last December, including payments for children, people with disabilities and the elderly.

With the country's new budget currently before parliament, the time is right to implement a social protection system for 2015-2016 FY, UNICEF Myanmar said.

At a briefing Saturday, a presentation of the strategy suggested cash benefits for early childhood and maternity, cash allowances for children aged between 3 and 15, disability allowances and social pensions for senior citizens.

The key features include the provision of K15, 000 per month for 30 months to expectant mothers and children to age 2, K8, 000 per month to children aged 3 to 15, K16, 000

per month for children and K30, 000 for adults with disabilities, and K25, 000 per month to those aged 65 and above.

Other goals include school meals, public employment and vocational educational training (VET), as well as the integration of social protection services.

UNICEF representa-

tive for Myanmar Bertrand Bainvel said it is vital to ensure "the most vulnerable families and children in Myanmar society are not by-passed by the current economic and social change."

"For the past two years, we have been discussing the opportunities for Myanmar to invest a

great part of its revenues into services for families and children, and in particular to the social protection strategy," he said.

"It now all depends on policy makers, including the Parliamentarians, to make social protection a reality for millions of children and their

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A cash benefit of K8, 000 per month for children aged 3-15 is one of the main features of Myanmar's first national social protection strategy. Some 11 million children are expected to be beneficiaries once the strategy is fully implemented.—PHOTO: YE MYINT

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Sightseers beat path to beautiful Kawthoung on Myanmar's southern tip



A panoramic view on Kawthoung, the southern most part of Myanmar seen with sea and mountain range in background.—MOHT

KAWTHOUNG, 4 March — With stunning panoramas of ocean and rolling hills, Kawthoung has become a lure for sightseers at the southern

tip of Myanmar.

Settlers established a village in Maliwan in 1859, which eventually grew to become the border town known as Kawthoung. The

town area now includes Bawah and Snake islands, sharing a border with Thailand to the east part and facing the Indian Ocean to the west.

The town is home to people of the Salon, or Mawkin, ethnic group, as well as Indian, Malay and Cantonese people.

Visitors can reach

Kawthoung from Yangon, Dawei and Myeik by plane or car. Tourists can also access Kawthoung within 40 minutes by motorboat from Ranong in Thailand.

The area's Taninthayi mountain range is home to nearly 200 species of evergreen plants and mangrove forests. In addition to 519 coral reefs, the Taninthayi Region is home to hundreds of bird, fish and mammal species.

Significantly, over 100 Indian pied hornbills inhabit Thahtay Island, close to Kawthoung. Myeik archipelago is comprised of over 800 islands, including 20 which are home to Indian pied hornbills.

Known as the Sea Gypsies due to their nomadic, sea-based lifestyle, more than 700 Salon people live on the islands in Kawthoung District. Tourists often come to watch

them aboard their "Kaban" boats.

Kawthoung's other tourist attractions include Bayintnaung Cape, Bayintnaung monument park, Mwedaw Island, Myoma Bridge, Pyidaungaye Pagoda, 555 Hillcock, Shwepyitha Ananda Pagoda and Museum, Pulontontone Beach and Bridge, as well as Maliwan Waterfall and hot spring.

On 1 March, 191 amateur cyclists from Thailand held a Thai-Myanmar friendship cycling activity from Myoma Bridge in Annawa ward, Kawthoung, to Maliwan Village, under the arrangements of Kawthoung District Chamber of Commerce and Ranong District Tourism and Sports Department of Thailand.

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Thai amateur cyclists participate in Thai-Myanmar friendship cycling activity.—MOHT



Tourists visiting mangrove forests in Kawthoung.—MOHT

Community policing training to improve police capacity

KAYAN, 4 March — Police officers at the Myoma station in Kayan, Yangon

Region, this week began a professional development course on community polic-

ing. The two-week course comes as the Ministry of Home Affairs is placing emphasis on reforming the Myanmar Police Force, in particular improving community policing.

In launching the course on Tuesday, Commander of Yangon South District Police Force Police Lt-Col Kyi Lwin outlined important aspects of community policing activities to the 16 officers undertaking the training.

The opening ceremony was also attended by commander of Township Police Force Police Major Kyee Lwin and officials.

Ko Min (Kayan)



Police seize over 300,000 stimulant tablets in Tachilek Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 4 March — Members of two anti-drug squads from Nay Pyi Taw and Tachilek, together with military servicemen from a local battalion, seized drugs and weapons during an

operation in Tachilek Township.

The combine team seized 302,000 stimulant tablets, 3 kilograms of caffeine, a pistol, a rifle and two magazines, after stopping a sports utility ve-

hicle about one mile from Tachilek-Tahlay Road.

Investigators charged the driver, Kya Shi Bo, 38, under the Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Police Information



NATIONAL

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Daw Khin Aye Myint, wife of Vice President U Nyan Tun; and Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the commander-in-chief of defence services also offered Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita, Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita and Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja titles to six nuns.

Wives of Vice-Senior General Soe Win and Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa and Union Ministers Dr Daw Khin San Yi and Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin also presented Ganthavacaka Pandita and Saddhamma Jotikadhaja titles to seven nuns.

President U Thein

Sein presented Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadhara titles and insignias to two laypersons.

Vice Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann, the Chief Justice of the Union, the senior general, the chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union and the chairman of the Union Election Commission presented titles to the laypersons.

Daw Nan Shwe Hmon and Daw Khin Aye Myint, wives of the senior general, the vice-senior general, the deputy speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw, the union ministers and deputy minister Daw Sanda Khin gave titles to the laypersons.

President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win donate provisions to a venerable monk at Up-patasanti Pagoda.

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After the ceremony, President U Thein Sein, wife Daw Khin Khin Win and State dignitaries together with departmental

heads and staff families, religious and social organizations, companies and well-wishers offered rice and provisions to members

of the Sangha and nuns along the entrance road to the pagoda and the circular road.

At the today's cere-

mony, religious titles were presented to 150 venerable monks and 13 nuns at home and abroad and 41 laypersons.—MNA

Union minister visits Danu and Pa-O self-administered zones

NAY PYI TAW, 4 March—Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun met with the chairman and executive committee members and leading members of the leading body of Danu Self-Administered Zone at the self-administered zone office on Wednesday.

Also present were

Chief Minister of Shan State U Sao Aung Myat, ministers of the state government and officials.

At the meeting, the union minister said that the zone is witnessing considerable development during the 4 years of the democratic government and it is necessary to accelerate the development momen-

tum while some changes cannot be carried out overnight. In conclusion, he urged the leading body to exert efforts based on willingness to do good for the people.

Then, Chairman U Htoo Ko Ko of the leading body and the chief minister reported on regional development tasks to the

union minister. During the four year period of the incumbent government, 25 miles of asphalt roads, 50 miles of gravel roads and 120 miles of earthen roads were added to the regional transportation network while supply of drinking water for 167 villages and supply of electricity for 122 villages were made

available.

In the afternoon, the union minister paid homage to Buddha images in ShweUMin natural cave in Pindaya where Danu nationals were celebrating their fifth gathering day which will be organized until 5 March. During his tour of Shan State, the union minister also attended the ceremony to hoist the diamond orb and pennant-shape vane atop the Myitta Khantan Htansan

Pagoda, which is a replica of the Shwedagon Pagoda, in Hopong in Pa-O Self-Administered Zone.

Also present at the ceremony were the chairman of Shan State Sangha Nayaka Committee and monks, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Khin Aung Myint, the chief minister and people. The union minister, the commander-in-chief and the chief minister hoisted the diamond orb and pennant-shape vane atop the pagoda.

The pagoda was built with the cash donation of the local people.—MNA

NPED minister returns from meeting with ASEAN economic chiefs



Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw poses for documentary photo with delegates of ASEAN Economic Minister's Retreat.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 4 March — Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr. Kan Zaw returned from Malaysia on Tuesday after meeting his counterparts from the 10-member Association of Southeast

Asian Nations.

The February 28 to March 1 meeting, titled "21st ASEAN Economic Minister's Retreat," was also attended by the Vice-Secretary of ASEAN and staff of the ASEAN Secretariat Office.

The Retreat was chaired by Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Malaysia's Minister of International Trade and Industry. Malaysia is the Chair of ASEAN for 2015.

At 5 p.m on February 28, Dr. Kan Zaw took part in

a discussion with economic ministers at the Renaissance Hotel before attending a dinner hosted by Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed.

From 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., the meeting at the hotel discussed matters related to the framework of AEC 2025 and possible mechanism for the effectiveness of agreements reached by economic councils of ASEAN+1 countries. The ministers also exchanged views on financial and technological requirements for issuing ASEAN Business Travel Cards for businesspeople from the member countries.

On the sideline of the retreat on March 1, the ministers discussed report of chairman of ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ABAC). The report includes establishment of small and medium scale industrial banks, financial services, formation of a group with financial market expertise, and opportunities for migration of skilled workers such as engineers and architects. The discussion also

included the list of priorities for Malaysia as a rotating chairmanship of ASEAN in 2015, the remaining tasks for establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community this year and clearance of non-traffic barriers to trade. The ministers then approved the joint media statement. The ministers visited Rantau Panjang in Kelantan State bordering with Thailand and looked around border trade zones.

Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw was interviewed by Bernama news agency of Malaysia at the Renaissance, and explained economic reform programmes and targets, as well as foreign direct investments in Myanmar.

Director General of the Foreign Economic Relations Department also attended the 8th meeting on Promotion of ASEAN Economic Cooperation Beyond 2015 on February 27 and the preliminary discussion of high-ranking ASEAN economic officers on February 28.—MNA

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families, right now, from the 2015/2016 budget."

Positioning itself with Thailand as the two countries in ASEAN with the most progressive vision on social protection for families and children, the Myanmar government adopted the country's first national social protection strategy last December.

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement developed the strategy in cooperation with UN agencies including UNICEF, development partners and NGOs.

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Students of State School of Fine Arts take to stage in graduation show

MANDALAY, 4 March — Students of the State School of Fine Arts strutted their stuff on stage this week during a graduation show at the National Theatre in Aungmyethazan Township.

The audience included Deputy Minister for Culture U Than Swe, Mandalay Region Minister for Finance Dr Myint Kyu and Director-General U Yan Naing Oo of Department of Fine Arts.

Before the students took to the stage, Deputy Minister U Than Swe and the region minister viewed graduation works of students in paintings and sculptures displayed at the



theatre. The principal of the school, which is run by the Department of Fine

Arts under the Ministry of Culture, presented completion certificates and prizes

to 25 students and outstanding ones.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Rare Oriental skylark still found at Minsontaung Sanctuary in Natogyi Tsp



NATOGYI, 4 March — More than 60 species of birds, including four that are endangered, inhabit Natogyi Township, a dry region in central Myanmar, according to bird watcher U Myint Shwe.

Members of the Myanmar Birds and Nature Association recently visited Minsontaung forest

reserve in Natogyi Township, Mandalay Region, to observe the rare Oriental skylark (*Alauda gulgula*) in its natural habitat.

The administrator of Minsontaung Sanctuary has been teaching students and local youth about the plight of endangered birds.

Khin Zar Mon Myint (Law)

Construction of weir brings much-needed water supply to dry region

MANDALAY, 4 March — Water supply for local consumption and farmland irrigation around parched Kyauktaing Village in Pyawbwe Township will receive a much-needed boost through the construction of a diversion weir being built by the Mandalay Region government.

Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint, along with region ministers U Myint Than and U Kyaw Myint, viewed the progress of the diversion weir. Irrigation Department's Deputy Director U Khin Zaw provided a briefing on the progress of construction.

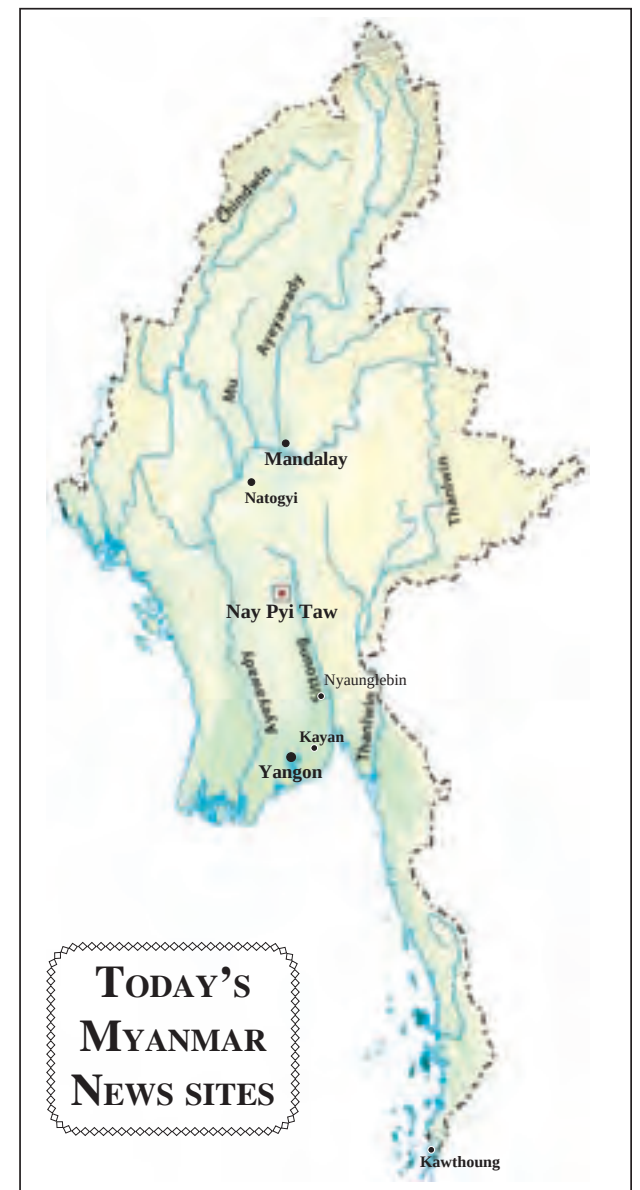
On his way to the construction site, the

chief minister looked into dredging of the 100 square foot, six foot deep Magyigon lake, capable of storing 200,000 gallons of water, in Magyigon Village, Yamethin Township, next to Pyawbwe Township.

The lake with earthen embankments will improve water access for the 354 households in the village.

The chief minister also viewed the dredging of the 712-year-old Kyeen Lake near Yamethin. Upon completion, the lake will irrigate 1,700 acres of summer paddy and supply potable water to local residents.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



Graduates of midwife course make way for new trainee intake



NYAUNGLEBIN, 4 March — A newly inaugurated midwife training course culminated this week with a graduation ceremony at the Township People's Hospital in Nyaunglebin Township, Bago Region.

The course was introduced as part of the government's push to raise health standards and narrow the development gap between rural and urban areas.

At the ceremony Tuesday, Township Administrator U Thein Zaw Kan and Head of Township Health Department Dr Khin Zaw gave an overview of the training course.

Township officials and Chairperson of Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Nang Shwe Nwe presented certificates to all trainees and honoured outstanding trainees with prizes.

After concluding the 1/2014 course, health officials opened the new course No. 1/2015 to recruit more trainees.

At present, altogether 20 trainees from wards and villages in Nyaunglebin Township area are studying midwifery science in the six-month long course.

Nay Lin (Nyaunglebin)

Electricians install one 100-KVA transformer at combine office of General Administration Department in Pobbathiri Township on 3 March, aimed at supplying electricity to departmental offices.

SHWE YE YINT



Australian convicts transferred to Indonesian island for execution



An armoured police vehicle believed to be carrying two Australian prisoners, arrives at the port to take a ferry to the prison island of Nusa Kambangan, where upcoming executions are expected to take place, in Cilacap, Central Java on 4 March, 2015.

REUTERS

CILACAP, (Indonesia), 4 March — Two convicted Australian drug smugglers were transferred on Wednesday from a Bali prison to an island for execution along with other foreigners, underlining Indonesia's determination to use the death penalty despite international criticism.

The planned executions of Myuran Sukumaran, 33, and Andrew Chan,

31, have ratcheted up diplomatic tensions between Australia and Indonesia following repeated pleas for mercy on their behalf. They are among a group of up to 11 convicts, mostly foreigners, scheduled to go before a firing squad on the prison island of Nusakambangan.

Sukumaran and Chan left Bali's Kerobokan Prison in an armoured van with a police escort before dawn

and were taken to Denpasar airport for a flight to the Javanese port of Cilacap for the trip to Nusakambangan, witnesses said.

Armoured vans boarded a boat in Cilacap and the Australians arrived at Nusakambangan soon after.

A Frenchman and a Brazilian are already on the island. Also facing execution are citizens of the Philippines, Ghana and Ni-

geria, as well as Indonesia.

Indonesian Attorney General HM Prasetyo, who had previously said all 11 would be executed, said on Wednesday his office was still evaluating how many would go before firing squads. All had been convicted on drug offences.

"We want to send a message to all parties, to the people of the world, that Indonesia is trying hard to battle drug crimes," Prasetyo said.

A spokesman for Prasetyo's office confirmed the transfer of the two Australians but the usual public 72-hour notice of any execution is yet to be issued.

Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott said he was "revolted by the prospect of these executions", after Indonesian President Joko Widodo recently told others to stay out of his country's sovereign affairs.

Widodo has adopted a tough stance against drug traffickers and others on death row, denying clemency appeals. Executions were resumed in 2013 after a five-year gap and nationals from Brazil, Malawi, the Netherlands, Nigeria and Vietnam have been among those put in front of a firing squad.

"I think there are millions of Australians who feel sick to their stomachs about what's likely to happen to these two men who committed a terrible crime, a terrible crime," Abbott told Australian Broadcasting Corp radio.

"The position of Australia is that we abhor drug crime but we abhor the death penalty as well, which we think is beneath a country like Indonesia," he said. Chan and Sukumaran were convicted in 2005 as the ringleaders of the so-called Bali Nine, who were arrested at Denpasar airport for trying to smuggle 8 kg (18 lb) of heroin to Australia.

The Australian government has stressed they have been rehabilitated in prison, where they mentored younger inmates, and has warned of potential political repercussions if the executions go ahead.

A survey by the Sydney-based Lowy Institute think tank showed strong public disapproval of the executions, with 62 percent of the 1,211 people surveyed opposing the move. A social media campaign is urging Australians to boycott Bali, a popular destination.

Putra Surya Atmaja, head of the provincial prison division in Bali, told reporters Sukumaran and Chan were being transferred after having "plenty of chances and time with the family".

The pair have made numerous appeals against their death penalty sentence. One of those, which challenges Widodo's refusal of clemency, is still outstanding.

Peter Morrissey, a Melbourne-based lawyer for the men, said it would be a breach of the rule of law if the executions went ahead before that was resolved.

Asked before the early-morning transfer if the pair were prepared for execution, Morrissey said: "They're coming to terms with that ... it's a very raw time for them."

Abbott said Australia's lobbying on their behalf had shown some promise, but he no longer wanted to hold out false hope.

"There were some suggestions earlier that perhaps at least some people in the Indonesian systems were having second thoughts but I'm afraid those signals seem to be dissipating," he said.—Reuters

Nepal tells Mount Everest litterbugs to take out the trash

KATHMANDU, 4 March — Six decades after the first conquest of the world's highest peak, tons of rubbish and human waste abandoned by hundreds of Mount Everest climbers is starting to raise a stink.

Nepal is cracking down on the mountaineers who seek to emulate the 1953 feat of Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay, in the process giving the 8,850-metre (29,035-foot) peak the dubious honour of being the world's highest garbage dump.

About 300 mountaineers and as many Sherpa guides battle the elements on Everest's icy slopes during the annual climbing season, which begins in March and runs until May.

But in the absence of toilets climbers must squat in the open or hunker down behind rocks to do their business. Now Nepal has threatened stricter enforcement of penalties to persuade climbers to clean up after themselves and carry litter back to base camp.



Rubbish collected at Everest base camp with the Himalayan range seen at the background in Nepal, on 3 May 2011. — REUTERS

A 2014 rule for a garbage deposit of \$4,000 to be forfeited by any expedition from which a climber fails to bring back 8 kg (17.6 lbs) of trash and human waste, will be strictly enforced this year, a tourism official said.

Human excrement is a bigger problem than the oxygen bottles, torn tents, broken ladders, and cans or wrappers teams left be-

hind, said Ang Tshering Sherpa, chief of the Nepal Mountaineering Association.

"Discarded in ice pits, the human waste remains under the snow," Sherpa told reporters on Tuesday. "When washed down by glaciers (when the snow melts), it comes out in the open."

Human waste piling up over decades gave off

an "unpleasant odour" and posed a health hazard to people dependent on water from rivers fed by the region's melting glaciers, Sherpa said.

Climbers said it was hard to estimate how much human waste remained frozen under the snow, but they agreed the mountain's surface was much cleaner after the NMA's monitoring efforts.—Reuters

Pakistan, India diplomats discuss bilateral, regional relations

ISLAMABAD, 4 March — Pakistani Foreign Secretary Aizaz Chaudri said on Tuesday that a decision to resume dialogue with India would be considered by both countries in light of discussions he had with his visiting Indian counterpart Subrahmanyam Jaishankar.

"Both sides will reflect on the discussions held on Tuesday and decide how to proceed further," Chaudri said after the meeting, adding that they have agreed to work together on bilateral concerns and narrow their differences.

Jaishankar, who is on a familiarization visit to the member countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, told reporters, "We engaged each other's concerns and interests in an open manner. We agreed to work together to find common ground and narrow differences."

He added, "I reiterated our known concerns on

cross-border terrorism including the Bombay attack. We agreed that peace on the border was vital." The 2008 terror attacks in the city, now called Mumbai, killed 166 people. Chaudri said that Pakistan raised the question of Indian intervention in Baluchistan Province. It is Jaishankar's first visit to Pakistan since assuming the office of external affairs secretary in January. He earlier said the main purpose of his visit was to discuss SAARC.

After meeting Chaudri, Jaishankar said, "We discussed ideas and matters to take SAARC forward. Pakistan will be the next SAARC chairman, and India would like to work with Pakistan to help SAARC achieve its potential."

Jaishankar is scheduled to leave Wednesday for Afghanistan, another SAARC member, after calling on Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Tuesday.

Kyodo News

After Netanyahu warnings, US, Iran resume talks

MONTREUX, (Switzerland), 4 March — The US and Iranian foreign ministers began a third day of talks over Iran's nuclear programme on Wednesday, just hours after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had warned that the deal being negotiated was a serious mistake.

US Secretary of State John Kerry and Iran's Mohammad Javad Zarif resumed their discussions in the Swiss lakeside town of Montreux, hoping to work out a framework deal by late March.

However, Netanyahu's controversial speech to the US Congress on Tuesday, where he harshly criticized the diplomatic efforts to resolve the dispute, will make it harder for the Obama administration to sell the potential deal back home.

Netanyahu argued that rather than preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear arms, a deal would "all but guarantee" that it would one day get the atomic bomb, putting Israel, the wider



US Secretary of State John Kerry (2nd L) meets his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Javad Zarif (2nd R) for a new round of nuclear negotiations in Montreux on 2 March, 2015.
REUTERS

region and US interests at risk.

US President Barack Obama responded within hours saying that Netanyahu had offered no "viable alternatives" to the current course of negotiations.

Iran and world powers are trying to put a framework agreement in place by the end of the month, despite the misgivings

of Israel, US congressional Republicans and some Gulf Arab states. Such an accord would be followed by a comprehensive agreement to be completed by the end of June.

The aim of the negotiations is to persuade Iran to restrain its nuclear programme in exchange for relief from sanctions that

have crippled the oil exporter's economy.

The United States and some of its allies, notably Israel, suspect Iran of using its civil nuclear program as a cover to develop a nuclear weapons capability. Iran denies this, saying it is for peaceful purposes such as generating electricity.—Reuters

Cambodian parliament's 1st vice-president voices support to Chinese investment

PHNOM PENH, 4 March — Kem Sokha, first vice-president of Cambodia's National Assembly, on Wednesday lent his support to Chinese investors in Cambodia and urged them to focus on quality and transparency in their projects.

Kem Sokha, who is also the vice-president of the main opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party, made the remarks during a rare meeting with Chinese Ambassador to Cambodia Bu Jian-guo.

"I informed the ambassador that even though we are in the opposition party, we need to cooperate with China comprehensively, and we welcome and support investments from Chinese investors," he briefed reporters after a one-and-a-half hour meeting.

"For the issues related to investments such as hydropower dam projects, I do not blame the Chinese government and the Chinese investors," he said.

Kem Sokha said he had, through the ambassador, proposed the Chinese government to advise her investors to focus on quality and transparency in their investment projects so that Cambodian people will feel warmth with those investments.

Kem Sokha said he met with Ambassador Bu in his capacity as the first vice-president of the National Assembly.

According to Kem Sokha, Ambassador Bu said China wishes to see long-term cooperation with Cambodia and Chinese investment in Cambodia is to help the people of Cambodia.

The ambassador said the Chinese government is strongly committed to fighting against corruption and always advises all Chinese investors to abide by Cambodian laws and respect the people of Cambodia.

Xinhua

Western leaders hint at more Russian sanctions over Ukraine

WASHINGTON, 4 March — US President Barack Obama and European leaders on Tuesday warned Russia that they were ready to step up sanctions if there were further violations of a ceasefire agreement in Ukraine, officials said.

The threats came in statements issued after a video conference that brought together Obama and the leaders of Britain, France, Germany and Italy, as well as the head of the European Council.

The virtual meeting took place amid continuing violence in Ukraine despite the two-week-old ceasefire accord reached in Minsk.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Obama used the call to condemn Russia for not

following through on its agreements.

"It was an opportunity ... for the president to condemn the continuing failure of Russia and the separatists it backs to abide by the commitments to which they agreed," Earnest said.

The top US military officer, Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Martin Dempsey, told a Senate hearing on Tuesday the United States should "absolutely" consider providing lethal weapons to Ukraine.

He acknowledged that Russia could take Ukraine if it wanted. But Dempsey said the United States should look for opportunities to level the playing field between Ukrainian forces and separatists, in the unlikely event "the

Russians are actually telling the truth" when they deny aiding their sympathizers in Ukraine.

Obama and the European leaders agreed that a major breach of the ceasefire pact would make a "strong reaction from the international community" necessary, the office of French President Francois Hollande said in a statement.

"Leaders will be ready to decide on further sanctions if the Minsk agreements are further violated," said a European Union statement that was echoed by one from German Chancellor Angela Merkel's spokesman.

The French statement also said the parties wanted to bolster the resources of monitors from the Organization for Security and

Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), a European rights and security watchdog.

European leaders on Monday said they agreed that the OSCE needed a broader role as observers of the ceasefire and removal of weapons.

On Tuesday, Kiev announced its highest casualty toll in several days, with three Ukrainian servicemen dead and nine wounded.

Later this week, Ukraine's parliament is expected to back Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko's request for international peacekeepers to monitor the conflict.

That idea, however, has faced a chilly reception in Europe.—Reuters

More than 30 killed in mine blast in rebel east Ukraine

DONETSK, 4 March — An early morning mine blast in the eastern Ukrainian rebel stronghold of Donetsk killed more than 30 people and injured 14, a local official said on Wednesday.

Approximately 70 people were working underground at the time of the explosion, a local emergencies ministry official told the Donetsk separatist press service as saying.

Previously, local officials had said 70 people were trapped underground. It was not clear if some of them were now being listed as killed and injured.

The cause of the blast in the Zasyadko coal mine was not immediately clear.

The head of a local mining safety service Vladimir Tsybalenko, said poisonous gases released by the explosion were being removed to clear the way

for rescue workers to reach the blast's epicentre.

"According to preliminary information, more than 30 people were killed. Rescue workers have not yet come to the place of the explosion, they are removing the poisonous gas and then will go down," he said.

An explosion at Zasyadko in 2007 killed 106 people.

Reuters

Michelle Obama to discuss girls' education with Akie Abe in Japan

WASHINGTON, 4 March — US first lady Michelle Obama said on Tuesday that as part of her visit to Japan later this month she will discuss Japan-US cooperation in promoting girls' education globally with Akie Abe, wife of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

"I'll be starting with a visit with Mrs. Akie Abe...who also shares our passion for girls' education and is eager to partner with us in this work," she said in a pre-

pared statement.

Obama, who is set to visit Japan on 18-20 March, made the comments at the White House during the announcement of the US government's "Let Girls Learn" initiative.

The White House also announced a plan to deepen cooperation between the US volunteer organization Peace Corps and the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers.—Kyodo News

US Democrats, State Department defend Hillary Clinton over email flap



Former secretary of state Hillary Clinton delivers dinner remarks at EMILY's List 30th Anniversary Gala in Washington on 3 March, 2015.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 4 March — Democrats scrambled on Tuesday to contain the fallout for Hillary Clinton, their favoured 2016 presidential candidate, after allegations she inappropriately used her personal email for work while secretary of state.

The Clinton camp quickly sought to discredit

a New York Times report published late Monday that said her exclusive use of a personal email account from 2009 through 2013 and a lack of email preservation may have run afoul of the Federal Records Act.

The report got wide play, largely because it fuels a political narrative from Republicans that

Clinton and her husband, former President Bill Clinton, are obsessed with secrecy and seek to play by a different set of rules.

Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill, however, said Clinton had followed both the “letter and spirit of the rules” while she was secretary of state.

Clinton made no reference to the debate over her email use on Tuesday night when she delivered a 30-minute speech at a gala dinner in Washington for Emily's List, a political organisation that helps elect Democratic women who support access to abortion.

The State Department also defended Clinton, with spokeswoman Marie Harf saying, “There was no prohibition on using a non-state.gov account for official business, as long as it's preserved.”

Democratic lawmak-

ers and party loyalists tried to cast Clinton's use of personal email as nothing unusual. They noted that previous secretaries of state, including Colin Powell, used personal accounts. They also pointed out that when Republican George W Bush was president, senior adviser Karl Rove had used an address through the Republican National Committee to conduct some business.

A National Public Radio report said Chuck Hagel had not used an official account when he was defence secretary.

It is unclear what the damage from the report will be. The rules governing high-level officials' emails have been in flux in recent years, so it is far from certain that any formal action will be taken against Clinton.

Reuters

Turkish plane skids off runway at Nepali airport, all 227 passengers on board safe

KATHMANDU, 4 March — A Turkish Airlines Flight TK 726 skidded off the runway while landing at the Nepal's Tribhuvan International Airport on Wednesday morning at 8 am local time, airport officials told *Xinhua*.

General Manager of the airport Birendra Shrestha said all 227 passengers on board are safe. “There are no human casualties.”

All passengers and

crew were rescued from the emergency exit after the nose cone of the plane touched the runway when landing.

Officials said the plane touched the runway due to poor visibility.

Several domestic and international flights were affected due to heavy fog in the Nepal's only international airport following the incessant rainfall over the past three days.—*Xinhua*



A Turkish Airlines plane lies on the field at Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu, Nepal on 4 March, 2015. —XINHUA

China's defence budget growth rate drops to around 10 pct

BEIJING, 4 March— China will raise its defence budget by around 10 percent this year, compared with last year's 12.2 percent, a spokeswoman for the annual session of the country's top legislature said on Wednesday.

Speaking to reporters at a Press conference a day ahead of the Third Session of the 12th National People's Congress (NPC), Fu Ying said the exact figure will be published in a draft budget report on Thursday.

“I can give you a rough idea. The recommended growth rate for national defence in the draft 2015 budget report is about 10 percent,” Fu said.

“To tell the truth, there is still a gap between China's armed forces [and foreign counterparts] in terms of overall military equipment. We still need more time,” she said, adding that capital support is needed for the modernization of China's national defence and its army.

China's defence budget rose by 12.2 percent last year, riding on a multi-year run of double-digit increases. A growth rate of about 10 percent could be the lowest in five years.

Fu said as a big country, China needs an army that can safeguard its national security and people.

“Lagging behind leaves one vulnerable to attacks. That is a lesson we have learned from history,” she said.

“Compared with major countries in the world, the road to China's defence modernization is indeed a difficult one,” Fu noted. “We have to rely on ourselves for most of our military equipment and research. Sometimes we have to do these from the very beginning,” she said.

The spokeswoman nonetheless noted that China's defense policy is defensive in nature, which is “clearly defined in the country's Constitution.”

Xinhua

South Korea's Asiana settles US court claims by 72 passengers in San Francisco jet crash

SEOUL/LOS ANGELES, 4 March— South Korea's Asiana Airlines Inc 020560.KS has settled compensation claims filed in US courts by 72 people who were passengers on a flight that crashed at San Francisco's main airport in 2013, without disclosing financial terms.

A spokesman for the carrier on Wednesday confirmed the settlement, disclosed in a court document. The plane's manufacturer, Boeing Co BA.N, and Air Cruisers Co, which made the evacuation slides, also settled claims, according

to the document, filed by attorneys in US District Court for the Northern District of California.

The settlement is the first instance in which the airline has settled in the US after passengers went to US courts, but Asiana had previously settled with passengers out of court or outside the United States, the spokesman said. He declined to say how many passengers it has now settled with in total.

Boeing and Air Cruisers, now called Zodiac Aero Evacuation Systems according to its website but

listed as Air Cruisers on the court document, could not be immediately reached for comment.

The 6 July, 2013 crash occurred when an Asiana Boeing 777 jet's tail struck a seawall short of the runway at San Francisco International Airport, sending the aircraft into a spin. Three teenage passengers from China died in the crash, more than 180 passengers out of around 300 on board sustained injuries.

The three passengers who died were not represented in the latest settlements, said Brian Alexan-

der, an attorney with law firm Kreindler & Kreindler which represents their families. Alexander, who also represents other passengers, said in most cases Asiana and Boeing are making payouts as part of the settlements, but declined to discuss any terms.

Last year, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) said Boeing should consider modifying flight controls on the 777 jetliner in response to the Asiana Airlines crash.

The agency also said the pilots for the Seoul-based airline committed at least 20 errors in the final 14 miles of approach to the airport. It cited “mishandling” by pilots as the probable cause of the crash.

Asiana said it accepted NTSB's principal finding that the final responsibility for control of an abnormal situation lies with the pilots. At the time, Boeing said it disagreed with the agency's recommendations. The South Korean transport ministry decided to suspend flights on Asiana's Incheon-San Francisco route for 45 days after the crash as a penalty. The carrier has submitted a court claim in Seoul against the ministry's move, and a decision is still pending.

Reuters



US National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) investigators work at the scene of the Asiana Airlines Flight 214 crash site at San Francisco International Airport in San Francisco, California in this handout photo released on 7 July, 2013.

REUTERS

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 5 March, 2015

Trust is built on mutual respect

By Aung Khin

Trust is intangible, but it is an intellectual asset. While always needed, it is sometimes in short supply. For leaders of state to have the trust of the people, they must demonstrate competence, integrity and benevolence. The same can be said for the relationship between parents and children. The trust that subordinates place in their leaders ought to be reciprocated.

For parents and children, a certain level of

disagreement is not uncommon. However, mutual respect can help reduce hurt feelings and animosity during times of family tensions. On the one hand, children should respect the authority of their parents, and on the other, elders must also respect and nurture the younger generation's ability to make their own choices. Such mutual understanding is also important for building reciprocal trust between the administration and people. If a misunderstanding causes tempers to rise, provided there is respect, the conflict should be resolved easily.

Trust cannot be made by words alone. Promises must be backed by action, as a basic element of functioning relationships in organizations. A certain amount of time is often needed to establish trust. Feelings of insecurity can be the source of problems such as teasing, conflicts and disputes. Mental well-being is largely supported by positive attitudes such as appreciation, respect, openness, and honesty.

Distrust is associated with negative expecta-

tions and a lack of confidence in the other. It also involves the belief that someone may not care about the welfare of others and may act harmfully.

Mutual trust is integral to ensuring cooperation and maintaining interpersonal and inter-group relationships within organizations.

Communication and cooperation are improved by trust, which in turn can positively impact productivity. But the benefits to an organization from mutual trust cannot be realised in the absence of sincerity and honesty.

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FASHION, MUSIC AND DANCE ARE ADORED AND CHERISHED BY HUMANS IRRESPECTIVE OF DIFFERENT RACES, TRIBES AND CLANS

BY TOMMY PAUK

Each country has its own traditional fashion, music and dance in the world. Respective people cherish and preserve their own traditional fashion, music and dance as their identity. The civilized people across the world adore and cherish fashions, music and dance irrespective of different races, tribes and clans. Fashions, music and dance are created by humans, but music is a gift of universe for mankind. Thus music becomes an entertainer or comforter for human beings while struggling their lives. Music is an essential partner for us to enjoy human life.

Fashions are not stable in human society as the age or era goes on naturally. Some are very popular for a short time. It is absolutely human-nature that humans always wish to create new fashions especially casual dresses, hair-styles and jewelry ornaments of both men and women for vanity fares. In this case, respective traditional dresses are not taken into consideration as fashions. Traditional dresses identify specific tribe or clan or race separately. eg. Indian nationals wear doti and sari; Japanese women wear Kimono dress; Myanmar men wear longgyi (like sarong) and Myanmar women wear Htomain (like maxi-skirt)

etc. However, we also value the traditional dresses of different nationalities. We even love to wear the traditional dresses of different nationalities. We humans adorn our physique with fashionable dresses and jewelry ornaments so that our appearances will be pretty, attractive and gorgeous. The changing fashions of human dresses depict the age and era of the human civilization. Generally speaking, fashion is a new style in dress, hair-dressing, adorning with jewelry ornament. Nowadays, a fashion of shaved-head is popular among men those who are male celebrities and soccer players especially in western countries. Fashion repeats itself. For example, in the 20th century, the famed Hollywood male movie star named Yul Brynner had kept a fashion of shaved-head. We prefer to wear fashionable dress with delicate jewelry adornments. Fashion may also dominate art and literature too. However, fashions in art and literature may come and go due to circumstances. Today's fashions might become old-fashioned in the future and thus the new fashions will appear. New fashions are actually created by humans which are in line with the existing age and era. Manufacturing fashion products is a lucrative business in the world.

Basically and naturally we humans always bother about our look or appearance. We want our look or appearance to be more attractive or beautiful. The new fashion designs for dresses or outer garments of women are popular among young women worldwide.

Since music is a universal gift for not only human beings but also for animals. N.B. (nota bene). According to the research made by scientists, it says that the animals do enjoy the taste of music in nature or man-made music. We can enjoy the taste of any music created by any race or tribe or clan on earth. Music makes us feel relaxed, emotional, amused, excited, active, pleasant, gentle, happy and sad. It arouses our mental feeling through a sense of hearing. It also touches our hearts with its tunefulness, rhythm and harmony. We play music to enjoy it by ourselves or to entertain to the listeners concerned. The musical sound can also be heard in nature i.e. singing of birds, the flowing sound of waterfalls in the jungle and rhythmic sound of waves breaking on the sea beach. Man enjoys beauty of nature and musical sound produced by nature tune-fully. Man has to create music by using man-made musical instruments in order to express feelings, ten-

der emotions, excitement nonverbally. There is no man who does not like to enjoy music on earth. Music is a gift of God for living things on earth as well. In human life, music has influenced us from the infant stage to adult stage. Lullabies are used to soothe babies to sleep soundly. Nowadays, Music therapy is used in many settings, including schools, rehabilitation centers, hospitals, hospice, nursing homes, community centers, and sometimes even in the home. Music is naturally beneficial for anyone. In addition, music has no boundary. A piece of music expresses us a specific emotion and we are touched by that emotion. Egg. When we listen to the romantic songs or music we feel romantic emotion; blues music makes us feel sad or melancholy (lamenting folk music of African and Americans).

Basically songs come from our hearts to express and expose with suitable music. Every society has its own traditional musical instruments and songs used for their traditional or customary ceremonies or occasions or events etc. Music is possessed by every civilized society in the world. Ritual ceremonies or traditional festivals or religious ceremonies are observed or ushered or held with music and songs.

POEM:

Ode to The Ayeyawady

Way up North in the snowy mountains of Myanmar
takes source the twin rivers, Maykha and Malikha
each tumbling down past many a scenic place
comes together, and like lovers embrace
to form the Ayeyawady, through picturesque land winding,
joined on it's way like vassals, homage to the king paying,
by myriad of streams on its either side
flows south the river Ayeyawady deep and wide.
In the heart of the country meets the river Chindwin
from the mountains West of the North, beginning
and given a second life, Ayeyawady flows on
past Bagan the ancient city of renown
past fields and hills of gold and green
most beautiful sights ever to be seen,
till it reaches the sea and ere the end of it's journey,
breaks up to form the delta of Ayeyawady
as if to share it's life-giving waters, to irrigate
the land for life sustaining grains to cultivate.
May the bounteous Ayeyawady flow sublime
giving life to the land till the end of time.

Lokethar

In Myanmar, ceremonial cremation of the Buddhist monks relic is normally held with a particular piece of music and song of honor for the departed monk. N.B (nota bene) The laymen (both man and woman) sing a funeral song or dirge extolling the virtues of the departed Buddhist monk. Likewise, in Christianity, the Christians sing gospel songs played by gospel music. The followers of Hinduism also pay homage to the gods and goddesses or worship the images of the gods and goddesses with music known as Gee Ta Puja. Music is involved in both secular life and in spiritual life.

We have created proper music and song from the cradle music and song to

the funeral music and song. So up to the last stage of life, music is used to express human feelings such as sorrow, joy and mourning etc. There is no one who does not love music in the human society. The soft and gentle tune of music touches our hearts. Music conveys or expresses feelings or emotions to the listeners concerned. Normally, it intends not only to portray the image but also to entertain the listeners. Music dominates or arouses our state of mind e.g. Myanma Boxing is played on the square-ring with music which arouses the two boxers to be energetic and bold enough to fight each other actively. As we all know that music is a universal gift, we humans (See page 9)

Yangon crowded with pilgrims and holiday-makers on fullmoon day



Pilgrims and local people visit Shwedagon Pagoda on Fullmoon Day of Taboung in Yangon.—MNA

YANGON, 4 March — Pagodas around Yangon were packed with pilgrims on the Fullmoon day of Taboung, which falls on Wednesday. Pilgrims took the five precepts, practised meditation, did meritorious deeds and offered food to

the public while parks were filled with holiday makers.

The merit-sharing ceremony of the 2603rd Anniversary of Shwedagon Pagoda Buddha Pujaniya Taboung Festival was held at the Chanthagyi Prayer Hall at Yahu corner of the pagoda

on Wednesday.

The congregation took the five precepts from a State Ovadacariya Sayadaw and made donation to monks before sharing merit after hearing sermon from a monk.

The pagoda festival was held from 23 February

Laukkai military court sentence illegal drug traffickers

NAY PYI TAW, 4 March — Military court in Laukkai area sentenced six illegal drug traffickers to 10 years in prison each last month.

One of the drug traffickers named Lio Wai was sentenced to 10-year imprisonment on February 23 after seizing 200 stimulant

tablets from him on February 13.

Two drug-traffickers, namely Kyan Kyi Yong alias Ar Hong and Aik Rong, were also sentenced to 10-year imprisonment each on February 23 after being arrested with eight kilogram of Ice and 280 tablets of stimulant tablets on

February 18.

Moreover, Wu Kaw Hai, Li Shin Hwa and Chaing Yin were sentenced to up to 10-years imprisonment on February 27 for trafficking of 0.35 kilogram Ice, 1.453 kilogram of Ephedrine and 1,550 stimulant tablets on February 25.

Police Information

FASHION, MUSIC AND DANCE ARE ADORED...

(from page 8)

can understand, enjoy and appreciate any piece of music. In this case, knowing or understanding of language is not very important. According to human feelings and reflection of life, music may vary from one person or group to another person or another group. The Individual or individual listener has own choice to listen to a particular kind of music. Some of the types of music are classified as classical music, opera music, jazz music, soul music, blues music, house music, rap music, techno music, rock and pop music, heavy metal music,

country music, folk music, reggae music and world music etc. Music belongs to every human being and even the mad man enjoys and plays music. In other words, everyone enjoys music as it pleases their hearts softly and gently. At least, whistling sound can please him or her when he or she produces it. It is a kind of self-entertainment indeed. It naturally shows that music comforts and entertains human beings in various ways. Dancing shows or depicts the sign of human amusement, emotion, mirth, happiness and relaxation exercises. This is a kind of physical exercise

which looks artistic and attractive. Consequently, it can reduce stress and extra-fat from our body. So dancing gives us benefit of good health by using our body movement systematically and rhythmically. Apart from learning an art of dancing, normal people enjoy dancing merrily in every society. By viewing or seeing any type of dancing, we get some sensation and taste of its movement naturally. There are various kinds of dances in the world under the diverse cultures of races in the world. For example, tribal dances and traditional dances (including both oriental and occidental) etc. We humans love to enjoy seeing or watching any

Police disperse garment workers

YANGON, 4 Feb — Garment workers in Shwepyitha industrial zone, Yangon, were dispersed by security police Wednesday after unsuccessful discussion with local government authorities.

The workers who demanded increasing salaries from the E-Land Myanmar garment factory staged illegal protest at the industrial zone and started marching to Yangon City Hall.

At 5 am on Wednesday, meal was offered to Buddha images at the pagoda.

Yi Yi Myint

With the help of locals

in the afternoon, police scattered protesters and detained 15 persons in the crowd, including two reporters from Democratic Voice of Burma and 7 Day media, who were then released for not taking part in the protest after warning them of observing media ethics when authorities are taking their duties in accordance with the law.

The remaining detainees are still under investigation by Yangon region government.—MNA



Officials meet with protesting workers.—MNA

NNER meets protest students, officials

NAY PYI TAW, 4 March — Leaders of National Network for Education Reform met student protesters and local authorities in Letpadan, Bago region, Wednesday.

The students continue staging sit-in protest near Aung Myay Beikman Monastery defying order of

township administrative officer to halt protest.

The 10 members of NNER, including Dr Thein Lwin and Dr Kyaw Thu, discussed with Colonel Thet Tun, Bago region's Security and Border Affairs Minister, and with protest students before returning to Yangon.

Kyaw Ko Ko from the

All Burma Federation of Student Unions (ABFSU) is also taking part in sit-in protest together with around 131 protesters— 50 male students and 19 female students, as well as 34 men and 16 women from other groups and 12 monks, according to the reports.

MNA

we love it and cherish it. That is why, nowadays, cultural exchange programs are being conducted among nations in the world. In this regard, it includes music and dance of course. In addition, when we play music and perform dance, we use the traditional or international musical instruments harmoniously. Music and dancing are our very soul indeed. Dancing can make our body and mind healthy. For example; Kung fu Martial arts movement and Aerobic cal-

isthenics exercise are played by music and dancing. Their movements are rather synchronous and rhythmic in line with the played back music.

A society without music is gloomy and miserable. A society without fashion seems like a primitive one. A society without dance is totally uncivilized. We humans wish to enjoy genuinely pleasant, comfortable and happy atmosphere with fashions, music and dance throughout our lives. !!!!!

Tommy Pauk is the pseudonym of U Thein Swe, who is B.A (English) and (Registered Law) R.L.I. degrees holder. He has English Teaching experience at Yangon University English Department and Workers' college in Yangon, and now is working as freelance writer and English Teacher cum Translator/Interpreter for foreign firms.

Two Malaysians identified in IS beheading video from Syria

KUALA LUMPUR, 4 March — Malaysian authorities have identified two Malaysians in a video by the Islamic State of a beheading that is believed to have taken place in Syria.

Mohd Faris Anuar and Muhamad Wanndy Muhammad Jedi, aged 20 and 25 respectively, were identified as the men in-

volved in the beheading of a Syrian man in a video posted to Facebook on 22 February, said Ayub Khan Mydin, the police counter-terrorism division's deputy chief.

Wanndy traveled with his wife Nor Mahmudah Ahmad to Syria on 26 January, while Faris went last September, said Ayub Khan.

Malaysia is expected to tighten anti-terror laws used to curb militant activities when parliament resumes this month.

Prime Minister Najib Razak said last November that stronger laws were needed to curb militants, who now have the equipment and logistics to plan "lone wolf" attacks, establish IS cells and form con-

nections with other militant groups in the region.

The country has arrested 40 citizens suspected of militancy and identified 39 Malaysians already in Syria and Iraq.

Malaysian militants have used Facebook and other social media sites to lure recruits, attracting thousands of followers online.—Reuters

Desertions, casualties cut Afghan forces sharply in 2014 — US

WASHINGTON, 4 March — The number of Afghan security forces fell sharply during 2014, thanks partly to desertions and casualties, according to newly declassified US military data released on Tuesday that could add to the debate over planned US troop withdrawals.

The US strategy in Afghanistan hinges on the ability of Afghan forces to secure the country despite a still-resilient Taliban insurgency and increasingly limited support from the shrinking foreign forces supporting them.

President Barack Obama's administration, which is under pressure from Kabul and Congress to slow the withdrawal, again signalled on Tuesday it was open to adjusting plans to

cut US forces by nearly half this year.

"A plan is something you adjust over time. And so I think we can adjust our plan over the next year or two," US Defence Secretary Ash Carter told a Senate hearing.

The Afghan national army's (ANA) total numbers fell to 169,203, down 15,636 or 8.5 percent, between February and November last year, a US government watchdog reported in data confirmed by the US military.

"This is the lowest assigned ANA force strength since August 2011," the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction said in a report, noting the ANA levels include Afghan air force personnel.—Reuters

UN adopts South Sudan sanctions resolution, presses for truce

NEW YORK, 4 March — The UN Security Council on Tuesday unanimously adopted a resolution paving the way for sanctions that could be imposed on both the South Sudan government and rebel forces that are effectively engaged in a civil war.

Drafted by the United States, the document increases pressure on the two sides to achieve steps for peace, including the implementation of a cease-fire and the establishment of a transitional government of national unity.

South Sudan's Ambassador Francis Deng criticized the move, saying that sanctions were not productive.

"Frustration cannot be a sound rationale for the Security Council to take such an important decision on issues pertaining to the maintenance of international peace and security," he said, adding that what President Salva Kiir and the government needs are "encouragement and support, not condemnation."

The United Nations maintains a peacekeeping

operation in South Sudan. Japan also contributes troops from its Ground Self-Defence Force.

US Ambassador Samantha Power said after the resolution passed that it will send a "very clear signal to those who continue to choose war over peace."

The resolution denounces both sides for having repeatedly violated truce agreements.

Any individual or entity, designated by a sanctions committee to be set up under the resolution, who is determined to have

"engaged in, directly or indirectly, actions or policies that threaten the peace, security or stability of South Sudan," could be subject to travel bans and asset freezes for an initial period of one year.

An arms embargo is also possible if the parties cannot abide by a peace agreement.

In the course of negotiations on the draft, a reference welcoming mediation efforts by China was added, apparently at the request of Beijing.

Kyodo News

More than 120 militants killed in fresh raids: Afghan gov't

KABUL, 4 March — Some 121 Taliban militants have been killed while nine others detained in fresh military operations across Afghanistan, the country's Interior Ministry said on Wednesday. "In past 24 hours, the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) conducted several operations in Nangarhar, Takhar, Kunduz, Sari Pul, Kandahar, Zabul, Uruzgan, Ghazni, Herat, Farah and Helmand provinces. As a result 121 armed Taliban members were killed, one wounded and nine others arrested by the ANSF," the

ministry said in a statement providing daily operational updates. About 23 foreign fighters were among the killed, the statement said, adding "the Taliban suffered the heaviest casualty in Khak Afghan district of Zabul province."

The ANSF also seized weapons and defused three roadside bombs planted by the militants over the same period, the statement said, without mentioning if there were any casualties on the side of the government security forces.—Xinhua



US soldiers from D Troop of the 3rd Cavalry Regiment walk on a hill after finishing with a training exercise near forward operating base Gamberi in the Laghman province of Afghanistan on 30 Dec, 2014. — REUTERS

Abandoned villa now a symbol of Boko Haram losses in former stronghold

DIKWA, (Nigeria) 4 March — A black and white Boko Haram flag still flutters on top of a deserted villa in the Nigerian town of Dikwa, overlooking a courtyard filled with dirty mattresses and charred vehicles.

Inside the villa's pink and white walls, blood trickled into corridors and a pile of insurgents' bodies lay in a heap in a wardrobe.

The scene was the result of a dawn attack by troops from neighbouring Chad, who are driving deep into Nigerian territory in an offensive aimed at helping end a six-year insurgency that has killed thousands and now sucking in neighbouring armies.

"They resisted ferociously. This huge villa was their command centre," a Chadian soldier who fought in the battle told a Reuters reporter visiting the town

after fighting subsided. Colonel Azem Bermandoa, a Chad army spokesman, said more than 100 of the militants died in the battle for Dikwa, a town at a major crossroad some 80 km (50 miles) east of Maiduguri, the capital of Nigeria's northeastern Borno state.

"They came to hide here as we advanced," another Chadian soldier said, pointing to the bodies in the wardrobe.

In an apparent last act of defiance, a Boko Haram suicide bomber climbed into a truck carrying gas canisters and blew it up, killing one Chadian soldier and injuring 34.

Bermandoa said Chadian troops chased the remaining fighters about 15 km out of the town, where many walls are now sprayed with bullets and most houses lie deserted.

In this part of Nige-

ria — until now, Boko Haram's heartland — residents have learned to flee the Sunni militants' bid to carve out an Islamic caliphate.

But the tide finally appears to be turning against them as Chad has spearheaded a regional push

against the group and Nigerian forces notch up some military gains as well.

Chad's victory at Dikwa is one that Nigeria would have like to have called its own. Its army chief previously said his soldiers listed Dikwa as a town that troops wanted to

recapture before elections, due to have been held in February but pushed back to March due to insecurity.

Chadian forces had planned to take the town last month, but were ordered back by Nigeria, which said it planned to attack it. But a Chadian sol-

dier in Dikwa said the closest Nigerian soldiers got to the town during Monday's fighting was 50 km away.

Chad's army, considered one of the best in the region and backed by a strong air force, first deployed to help Cameroon fend off Boko Haram and is now pressing southwest into Nigerian territory after capturing the border town of Gambaru last month.

That victory starved Boko Haram militants of supplies, said Ryan Cummings, chief Africa analyst at crisis management group Red24. "The major challenge that the Nigerian army faced was that Dikwa served as forward base for Boko Haram and was readily being supplied with resources and combatants from Boko Haram positions along the Nigeria-Cameroon border," he said.—Reuters



A burnt pickup truck is seen in front of a building that Boko Haram insurgents used as their base before being driven out by the Chadian military in Dikwa on 2 March, 2015. — REUTERS

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Toyota passes Ford as No 2 in February US auto sales, hybrid sales down

NEW YORK, 4 March — Despite harsh winter weather in the latter part of the month and slowing hybrid sales, Toyota Motor Corp posted double-digit sales growth and surpassed Ford Motor Co to become the second largest automaker in the US, the first time since August, data released by Autodata Corp showed on Monday.

Opting for less-fuel efficient sport utility vehicles and pickups amid continued lingering low gas prices, consumers have turned away from hybrids with Toyota reporting a 6.6 percent slide in sales of its Prius lineup. Honda Motor Co said its hybrids sales plummeted 22.3 percent in the month.

And although the snow and ice in the country's northeast may have kept some consumers away from showrooms, a resurging economy and a strengthening job market offset the negative impacts

of the winter weather.

Dealers sold 1,257,619 vehicles in February, 5.3 percent more than the year before, continuing a twelve-month streak of year-on-year gains. The total translates to 16.23 million units in annualized sales, staying above the 16 million threshold for the ninth month in a row, according to the US research company.

Among Japanese automakers, Toyota posted a 13.3 percent increase, selling 180,467 vehicles in the month. Toyota said its robust growth was driven by consumer demand for the light truck segment, such as the RAV4 SUV that set a February record.

Nissan sold 118,436 vehicles, up 2.7 percent from a year ago, surpassing Honda for the second month in a row as the country's fifth largest automaker. Its Rogue SUV, Versa subcompact and Sentra sedan hit double-digit in-

creases in the month while its luxury Infiniti brand sold almost 20 percent more in the month.

Honda sold 105,466 vehicles in the month, up 5 percent from a year before. The company said the 80 percent increase in sales of both its Fit subcompact and Pilot SUV pointed to consumer demand for its broad lineup.

Fuji Heavy Industries Ltd., the maker of Subaru cars, sold 41,358 units in the month, up 18.5 percent.

Among the three major US automakers, General Motors Co posted a 4.2 percent increase in sales, selling 231,378 vehicles in the month. The Detroit-based company said sales of its SUVs, pickups and vans were up 36 percent as it focused on gaining market share in the light-duty, heavy-duty and midsize segments.

Ford Motor Co sold 179,673 vehicles in the month, down 2 percent

from a year before, making it the third largest automaker in the country. Despite the overall decrease, Ford said sales of its key F-Series truck lineup were up 7 percent and its Explorer SUV sold 32 percent more compared to the year before. FCA US LLC, the maker of Chrysler cars, sold 160,250 cars in the month, up 5.8 percent from a year ago. The fourth-largest automaker in the country said its Jeep brand and nine FCA vehicles, including the Jeep Patriot SUV and the Chrysler 200 sedan broke a sales record for the month.

"In spite of snow and bitter cold that slowed auto sales in many regions of the country, FCA US still turned in a 6 percent sales increase and extended our year-over-year sales streak to 59-consecutive months," Reid Bigland, Chrysler's Head of US Sales, said in a Press release.

Kyodo News

Indian central bank cuts key interest rate again

NEW DELHI, 4 March, —India's central bank on Wednesday lowered the repo rate, or the rate at which it lends to commercial banks, by 0.25 percentage point to 7.5 percent for the second rate cut this year.

The Reserve Bank of India, which reduced the rate by the same margin in mid-January, decided on the additional cut, effective immediately, at its monetary policy meeting.

The move is aimed at supporting the economy amid a weakened upward pressure on prices due to factors such as the drop in crude oil prices as well as an easing of inflation worries.

At its policy meeting in February, the bank decided to keep the interest rate intact while paying close attention to the budget situation and inflation condition.

Kyodo News

Large breakfast, small dinner tied to better diabetes blood sugar

NEW YORK, 4 March — Big breakfasts and small dinners might be a healthier way to eat for people with type 2 diabetes, according to a small new study. Diabetics in the study who ate big breakfasts and small dinners had fewer episodes of high blood sugar than those who ate small breakfasts and large dinners, researchers found. Blood sugar — also known as blood glucose — is controlled by the body's internal clock, with larger blood sugar peaks after evening meals, Dr Daniela Jakubowicz told Reuters Health in an email.

People with type 2 diabetes often time their meals in opposition to their internal clock, said Jakubowicz, a researcher at Tel Aviv University's Wolfson Medical Centre in Israel.

"They frequently skip breakfast while eating a high-calorie dinner," she said, adding that skipping breakfast is linked to obesity and poor blood sugar control. The new study in-

volved eight men and ten women with type 2 diabetes, ages 30 to 70, who were being treated with either the diabetes drug metformin and dietary advice or diet advice alone.

Type 2 is the most common form of diabetes and is often linked to obesity. In type 2 diabetes, the body's cells are resistant to the hormone insulin, or the body doesn't make enough of it. Insulin gives blood sugar access to the body's cells to be used as fuel.

The participants were randomly assigned to follow a meal plan that consisted of either a 700-calorie breakfast and 200-calorie dinner or a 200-calorie breakfast and a 700-calorie dinner. Both diets included a 600-calorie lunch.

After following the assigned meal plans for six days at home, the participants spent a day at the clinic, where blood tests were taken. They repeated the experiment two weeks later with the other diet plan. — Reuters

Cancer gene capable of slowing cancer growth: Austrian researchers

VIENNA, 4 March — The suppression of the known cancer gene "STAT3" may actually be counter productive in the fight against some cancers, an international research team including two Austrian researchers found, local media reported on Tuesday.

Beatrice Grabner and Emilio Casanova from the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Cancer Research in Vienna said the results of their study, published in the journal *Nature Communications*, show that particularly for smokers, the STAT3 gene can inhibit

the growth and aggressiveness of tumours. Researchers told the APA on Tuesday that the STAT3 gene can indeed drive tumour growth in some forms of lung cancer, and because of this, drugs are currently being developed to block its activity.

If, however, during the presence of lung tumours, another gene known as "KRAS" is changed in certain ways, STAT3 can play an "unexpected tumor-suppressive role." Such changes to KRAS occur mainly in patients with a history of smoking, the researchers said. — Xinhua

Britain agrees sale of Eurostar stake to British, Canadian funds



Eurostar trains stand at St Pancras International Station in London, on 17 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

LONDON, 4 March — Britain agreed to sell its 40 percent stake in the Eurostar rail link for 585 million pounds (\$899.79 million) to a consortium comprising the Canadian public pension fund Caisse de Depot du Placement du Quebec (CDPQ) and the British asset manager Hermes.

The government announced the deal for its stake in the high-speed rail link between Britain and continental Europe on Wednesday following

a competitive sale process begun in October by finance minister George Osborne.

Osborne said the price tag had "exceeded expectations". According to 2013/14 government accounts, the share capital value of the stake was 325 million pounds. Investment bank UBS advised the government on the sale.

The deal is part of a trend for institutional investors such as pension funds and insurers to push

into infrastructure projects as they are squeezed by low interest rates globally.

Such investments are high-yielding and match the long-term liabilities in pension and savings schemes, but a lack of attractive schemes has pushed up prices.

The finance ministry said it expected the deal to be completed by the second quarter of 2015.

The consortium, Patina Rail LLP, will result in CDPQ, which has an infrastructure investment

portfolio valued at more than 10 billion Canadian dollars (\$8.02 billion), owning a 30 percent stake in Eurostar.

Hermes Infrastructure, part of British-based fund Hermes Investment Management, will take a 10 percent stake.

The sale is part of a national plan to raise 20 billion pounds by selling off publicly owned assets to pay down Britain's national debts and help rebalance the country's books.

The deal will generate an additional 172 million pounds for the UK Treasury upon completion because Eurostar has agreed to redeem the government's preference shares, a finance ministry statement said.

The remaining 60 percent of Eurostar is held by French rail operator SNCF, which has a 55 percent stake, and Belgian national rail operator SNCB, which has a 5 percent stake.

Successful completion of the deal depends on regulatory approval and existing shareholders not exercising their option to acquire the British stake at a 15 percent premium, the Treasury said. — Reuters

Fugitive ex-NSA contractor Snowden seeks to come home — lawyer

Moscow, 4 March—A Russian lawyer for Edward Snowden said on Tuesday the fugitive former US spy agency contractor who leaked details of the government's mass surveillance programmes was working with American and German lawyers to return home.

In Washington, US officials said they would welcome Snowden's return to the United States but he would have to face criminal charges which have been filed against him.

Snowden's lawyer, Anatoly Kucherena, who

has links to the Kremlin, was speaking at a news conference to present a book he has written about his client. Moscow granted Snowden asylum in 2013, straining already tense ties with Washington.

"I won't keep it secret that he... wants to return back home. And we are doing everything possible now to solve this issue. There is a group of US lawyers, there is also a group of German lawyers and I'm dealing with it on the Russian side."

The United States wants Snowden to stand

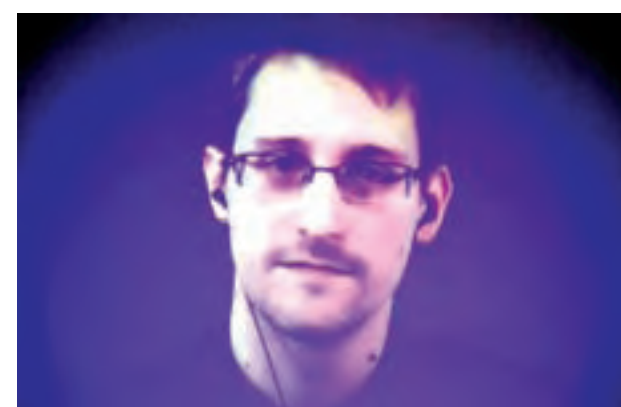
trial for leaking extensive secrets of electronic surveillance programmes by the National Security Agency (NSA). Russia has repeatedly refused to extradite him.

Snowden has said in the past he would like to return home if he was assured he would be given a fair trial. A deeply divisive figure, he is praised by some as a civil rights campaigner and whistleblower and condemned by others as a traitor who compromised US security. Kucherena said in August Snowden had been given a three-year Russian

residence permit.

US Justice Department spokesman Marc Raimondi told *Reuters*: "It remains our position that Mr. Snowden should return to the United States and face the charges filed against him. If he does, he will be accorded full due process and protections."

The US position is that "Snowden is not a whistleblower. He is accused of leaking classified information and there is no question his actions have inflicted serious harms on our national security," Raimondi said.—*Reuters*



Former US National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden, who is in Moscow, is seen on a giant screen during a live video conference for an interview as part of Amnesty International's annual Write for Rights campaign at the Gaité Lyrique in Paris on 10 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

Homeless man shot dead by LAPD had served time for bank robbery

LOS ANGELES, 4 March — A homeless man whose fatal shooting by Los Angeles police stirred an uproar among civil rights activists and fellow skid row residents was a convicted bank robber paroled from federal prison last year, according to a law-enforcement source and records.

Authorities have yet to publicly name the man they say was shot to death on Sunday when he grabbed for an officer's holstered gun during a scuffle as police sought to take him into custody as a suspect in a reported robbery.

But a law-enforcement source told *Reuters* that the *Los Angeles Times* had correctly identified him as Charley Saturmin Robinet, a 39-year-old French national who had served time for a bank robbery conviction.

The *Times* reported that Robinet, accused of pistol-whipping a teller during a 2000 bank holdup

north of Los Angeles, told investigators at the time that he robbed the bank to cover the cost of acting classes at the Beverly Hills Playhouse.

An account the newspaper published about the case at the time ran with the cheeky headline: "Robber Won't Be Stealing the Show Any Time Soon."

Federal prison and court records examined by *Reuters* show Robinet was sentenced to 15 years in prison and was freed from a federal halfway house in May under a three-year supervised-release order.

Sunday's fatal shooting, which is under investigation, marked the latest in a string of incidents that have put law-enforcement agencies across the country under heightened scrutiny over the use of lethal force, especially against minorities, the poor and the mentally ill.

Caught on video filmed by a bystander that

circulated widely on the Internet, the shooting triggered protests and calls by civil rights activists for a special police commission hearing on police use of force on skid row.

Critics said it highlighted heavy-handed tactics routinely used by police in dealing with homeless people, many of whom suffer psychiatric problems.

Police Chief Charlie Beck said all the officers involved had been trained, some extensively, in handling mental illness on the job, and appeared to have "acted compassionately up until the time that force was required."

About 200 protesters gathered on Tuesday at the site on skid row, a blighted mile-square area downtown inhabited by some 3,500 homeless people, where the man known on the streets by the nickname "Africa" was slain.

Reuters



Firefighters try to put out a fire at a slum area in Manila, the Philippines, on 3 March, 2015. The fire razed 50 homes, hours after more than 5,000 shanties were razed in the same slum area. More than 10,000 families were displaced after a 12-hour fire destroyed 5,000 houses in Metro Manila, capital city of the Philippines, said local authorities on Tuesday. — XINHUA

Mixed messages on third Greek bailout talks

MADRID/ATHENS, 4 March — Euro zone countries are discussing a third bailout for Greece worth 30 billion to 50 billion euros, Spain's economy minister said on Monday, but EU officials said there were no such talks.

Speaking at an event in Pamplona, northern Spain, Economy Minister Luis de Guindos said the new rescue plan would set more flexible conditions for Greece, which had no alternative other than European support.

But the spokeswoman for Jeroen Dijsselbloem, who chairs the euro zone finance ministers' group, said there was no discussion of a third bailout and senior euro zone officials concurred.

"Euro zone finance ministers are not discussing a third bailout," spokeswoman Simone Boitelle said. Greek leftist Prime

Minister Alexis Tsipras used a televised address on Friday to deny his country would need another international programme.

Greece has acute and immediate funding problems to overcome, despite the four-month extension to its existing bailout it negotiated with the euro zone last month. To win that, Tsipras had to give up on key pledges made during his election campaign.

The extension averted a banking meltdown. But Greece still faces a steep decline in revenues and is expected to run out of cash by the end of March, possibly sooner.

The new government in Athens sought to assure it can cover its funding needs this month, including repaying a 1.5-billion-euro loan to the International Monetary Fund.

"We are confident that the repayments will be

made in full, particularly to the IMF, and there will be liquidity to get us through the end of the four-month period," Greek Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis said during a late-night talk show on Greek TV. "March is sorted."

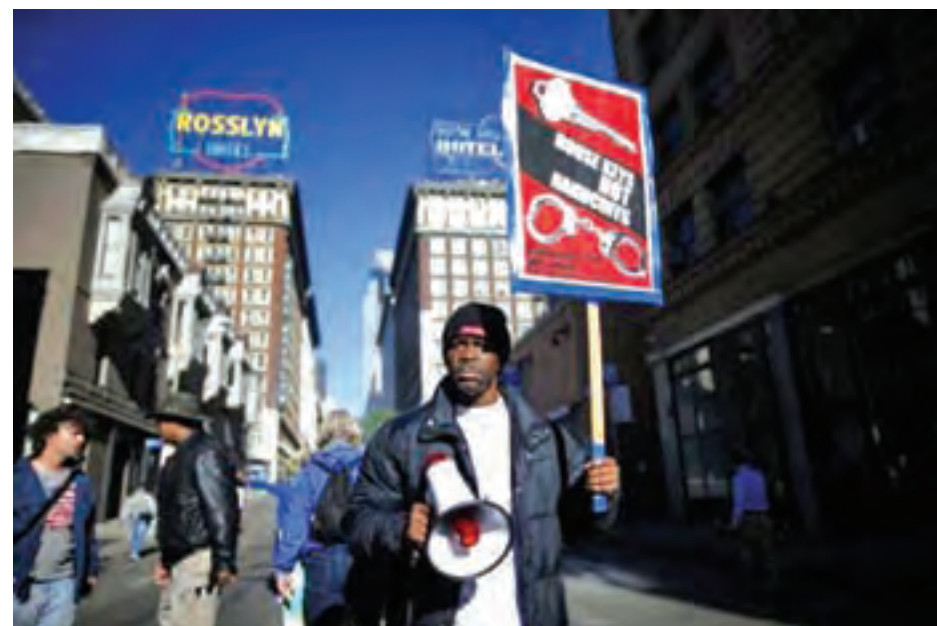
Most of Greece's options appear to have been shut off, for now at least.

A request for 1.9 billion euros in profits the European Central Bank made on buying Greek bonds will not be granted until Greece has completed promised reforms.

Athens has also sought permission to issue more short-term treasury bills, having reached a cap of 15 billion euros set by its lenders. The euro zone has made clear it does not want to see that limit lifted.

Dutch Finance Minister Dijsselbloem offered a potential escape route.

Reuters



People protest against the killing of a homeless man by police in Los Angeles, California on 3 March, 2015.—REUTERS

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

Consultation on the Modernization of Myanmar Investment Law

In order to modernize the Myanmar Investment Law, the Directorate of the Investment and Company Administration (DICA) is currently preparing a new Myanmar Investment Law with the assistance of International Finance Corporation (IFC). The draft law in English language has now been uploaded on DICA's website: (www.dica.gov.mm). The draft law in Myanmar language is also being uploaded on the DICA website as it become available.

Interest parties are invited to provide any comments and feedback on the draft law by email at policylegal.dica@gmail.com, by post or fax by 26 March 2015 at the details set out below:

Yangon Office: No. 1 Thitsar Road, Yankin Township, Yangon
Fax: 01-658135

Nay Pyi Taw Office: Building No.32, Nay Pyi Taw
Phone: 067-406124, Fax: 067-406306

Mandalay Office: Corner of 26th and 84th Street, East Zay Cho Market, 2nd Floor, Chan Aye Thar Zan Township, Mandalay, Mandalay Region
Fax: 02-686660

Shan State Office: No. 139, Sat San Tun Road, Zay Pine Yut, Taunggyi, Shan State
Fax: 081-2124974

Mon State Office: No. 401, Toe Chae Kan Nar Road, Mayangone Quarter, Mawlamyine Township, Mon State
Fax: 057-23385

Consultation on the Reform of the Myanmar Companies Act 1914

In order to modernize the Myanmar Companies Act 1914, the Directorate of the Investment and Company Administration (DICA) is currently preparing a new Companies Law with the assistance of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The draft chapters of the Companies Law in English language (including Part 5 and Part 6) have now been uploaded on DICA's website: (www.dica.gov.mm).

Interest parties are invited to provide any comments and feedback on the draft law by email at lawreform.dica.mm@gmail.com, by post or fax at the details set out below:

Yangon Office: No. 1 Thitsar Road, Yankin Township, Yangon
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Shan State Office: No.139, Sat San Tun Road, Zay Pine Yut, Taunggyi, Shan State

Mon State Office: No. 401, Toe Chae Kan Nar Road, Mayangone Quarter, Mawlamyine Township, Mon State

Directorate of Investment and Company Administration

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV IRRAWADDY STAR VOY NO (1006N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV IRRAWADDY STAR VOY NO (1006N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.3.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER (2/2015) [TENDER NO. MPPE/ JET A1 / T / 1 (2014-2015)]

1. Open Tender is invited for the Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the supply of JET A1 (282,000 bbl±10%)
2. Tender Closing Date & Time - 16-3-2015, 12:00 Hrs
3. Tender Opening Date & Time - 16-3-2015, 13:00 Hrs
4. Delivery Time - 1st April 2015 to 31st August 2015
5. Tender documents and details information are available at the Department of Finance, the Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, During office hours commencing 5-3-2015 on payment of Myanmar Kyat one Hundred Thousand (Kyat 100,000) per set.
6. Only bid from tender who has purchased tender document officially from the Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director
Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise
Ministry of Energy, No(6) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw
Contact Phone No. 067-411487 / 411486 / 411280

630 killed in labour accidents in Vietnam in 2014

HANOI, 4 March — Some 630 people were killed in 6,709 labour accidents across Vietnam in 2014, local press said on Wednesday.

The statistics was released in a report by Vietnam's Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MoLISA) on the situation of labour accidents in 2014, local Thoi Bao Kinh Te Viet Nam (Vietnam Investment Review) reported. Labour accidents happened across the country last year left 6,941 injured. Compared to 2013, the number of labour

accidents in 2014 rose 0.2 percent while death rate hiked 0.47 percent, it said.

Labour accidents caused damage worth 98.54 billion Vietnamese dong (4.61 million US dollars), it added. Localities with most deadly labour accidents included southern Ho Chi Minh City, central Thanh Hoa, northern Quang Ninh and capital Hanoi.

Labour accidents mainly occur in areas of construction, mineral exploitation and mechanics among others, according to MoLISA.

Xinhua

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (4/2015)

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-166(14-15)	Maintenance / Requirement for Pipeline Centre (PLC) Daw Nyein	US\$
(2)	IFB-167(14-15)	Spares for National Torque Converter (21) Items	US\$
(3)	IFB-168(14-15)	Electrical Spares (14) Items for D ₃ T ₂ Rigs	US\$
(4)	IFB-169(14-15)	5" Drill Pipe (1000) M	US\$
(5)	IFB-170(14-15)	Maintenance / Requirement for Ywama Gas Distribution Station (GDS)	US\$
(6)	DMP/L-042(14-15)	UPS with Stabilizer (Online System, 10KW) & Auto Start Electric Generator (20 KVA)	Ks
(7)	DMP/L-043(14-15)	Echosounder (1) Lot	Ks
(8)	DMP/L-044(14-15)	Spares for F 1600 Rig Pump (5) Items	Ks

Tender Closing Date & Time - 31-3-2015, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 3rd March, 2015 at the Finance Department, Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

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

Kenya burns 15 tonnes of contraband ivory, vows action on poachers

NAIROBI, 4 March — Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta on Tuesday set ablaze 15 tonnes of contraband ivory and vowed to intensify the ongoing war against wildlife crimes in the country.

Kenyatta burnt the ivory stockpile in the presence

of dignitaries from government, foreign missions and conservation groups during the occasion to mark the World Wildlife Day.

"In the last three years, poaching and illicit wildlife trafficking have become a growing challenge for Kenya. These crimes threaten

our biodiversity, security and peace," said the president.

Kenyatta said the East African nation has developed robust legal frameworks and invested in state-of-the-art technology to strengthen the war against wildlife crimes. He noted the passage of 2013 Wildlife Act, acquisition of new technology and recruitment of rangers have enhanced response to poaching.

Kenya is among African countries that have experienced an increase in poaching of elephants. Conservation groups have raised alarm that Kenya's elephant population has sharply declined due to poaching.

According to the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), Africa was home to an estimated 500,000 elephants, but has been losing 30,000 annually from poaching.

Xinhua



A Kenyan armed ranger puts an ivory into fire in Nairobi, Kenya, on 3 March, 2015. Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta on Tuesday set ablaze 15 tonnes of contraband ivory and vowed to intensify the ongoing war against wildlife crimes in the country. According to the UN Environment Program (UNEP), Africa was home to an estimated 500,000 elephants, but has been losing 30,000 annually from poaching.—XINHUA

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy in the South-east Bay and generally fair in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 5th March, 2015: Light rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin and Chin States, weather will be partly cloudy in Lower Sagaing and Mandalay Regions, Northern Shan, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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Tribeca Film Festival showcases movies about 'everyday life'

NEW YORK, 4 March—Feature films from 31 countries, many of them about the struggles of everyday life and featuring stars such as Richard Gere, James Franco and Dakota Fanning will be screened at the 14th Tribeca Film Festival.

More than 6,200 films, from countries ranging from Costa Rica and Iceland to Albania and South Africa, were submitted for the festival, which runs from 15 to 26 April.

Half of its slate of 97 feature-length films, including selections for the world narrative and documentary feature competitions and entries for its "Viewpoints" section, were announced by organizers on Tuesday.

"We were inspired by, and really admire the ambition and risk-taking of the filmmakers who are striving to capture the emotion and complexities of everyday life in this year's submissions," Frederic Boyer, artistic director of the festival, said in a statement.

In "Franny," from director/writer Andrew Renzi, Gere is a rich eccentric who gets involved in the lives of the daughter of a dead friend, played by Fanning, and her husband.



Robert De Niro poses on the red carpet upon arriving for the 2014 Tribeca Film Festival opening night screening of 'Time Is Illmatic' in New York on 16 April, 2014.—REUTERS

Franco is a novelist suffering from writer's block in the crime thriller, "The Adderall Diaries," which also stars Amber Heard and Cynthia Nixon and is based on the best-selling memoir of the same name by Stephen Elliott. "Meadowland," with Olivia Wilde and Luke Wilson, follows the strained relationship of a couple whose son goes missing.

This year's festival will open with the world premiere of "Live from New York!," about the NBC late night comedy sketch show "Saturday Night Live."

Films in the documentary competition include "Havana Motor Club,"

about drag racers preparing for a race in Cuba, and "In Transit," which travels America's busiest long-distance train route from Chicago to Seattle.

"Autism in Love" tells the story of adults with the disorder and "Thank You for Playing" details a couple's efforts to make a videogame about their son's fight against cancer.

The Tribeca Film Festival was founded in 2001 by actor Robert De Niro, film producer Jane Rosenthal and investor Craig Hatkoff to revitalise the downtown New York neighbourhood following the 11 September attacks on the World Trade Center.

Reuters



Dolce & Gabbana show on 1 March, 2015 at Milan Fashion Week takes inspiration from motherhood.—XINHUA

Beyonce, Cara Delevingne to collaborate



Pop star Beyonce Knowles and supermodel Cara Delevingne have hinted that they are planning to collaborate.—PTI

LOS ANGELES, 4 March — Pop star Beyonce Knowles and supermodel

Cara Delevingne have hinted that they are planning to collaborate.

The two stars posted on Instagram over the weekend similar pictures taken in a recording studio, prompting speculations that the duo was doing a collaboration, reported Ace Showbiz.

Beyonce, 3, posted one photo of her left hand on a soundboard. Around the same time, 22-year-old Delevingne also shared a picture of her own hand resting on the same soundboard.

Details on the singer and the model's project are still unavailable.—PTI

Documentary on 2012 Delhi gang rape banned in India

NEW DELHI, 4 March — A documentary film about the fatal gang rape of a woman in New Delhi in 2012 has been banned in India over concerns that derogatory comments made by one of the rapists could create an atmosphere of fear and tension, a police official said.

Leslee Udwin's "India's Daughter" features conversations with Mukesh Singh and fellow convicts who raped and tortured a 23-year-old woman on a moving bus in December 2012, sparking nationwide protests and forcing India to toughen anti-rape laws.

Comments released to the media this week showed that in the film, Singh

blames the victim for the crime and resisting rape. He also says women are more responsible than men for rapes.

"A court has passed (an) order prohibiting the publication and transmission of the interview till further orders," said Rajan Bhagat, a spokesman for Delhi Police.

"He (Mukesh) had made offensive and derogatory remarks against women, creating an atmosphere of fear and tension with the possibility of public outcry."

Singh's comments in "India's Daughter" have grabbed headlines in Indian newspapers and sparked outrage on social media.



British filmmaker Leslee Udwin poses for a picture after addressing a news conference in New Delhi on 3 March, 2015.—REUTERS

The film had been scheduled to premiere in

India and several countries such as Britain and Den-

mark on 8 March on International Women's Day. Udwin, a rape victim herself, said the film would be released worldwide as planned.

"I am deeply saddened by this ban, this is not reasoned behaviour," Udwin told Reuters on Wednesday, adding she would never agree to cutting the about nine-minute footage of Singh's interview in the documentary.

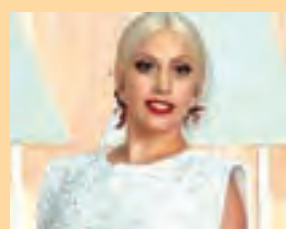
The rape victim's parents support the film, she said.

Udwin, producer of the 1999 British cult comedy "East is East" and its sequel, said she was inspired to make the film after watching thousands of people

taking to the streets across India in protest against the Delhi gang rape.

The British filmmaker worked with an Indian journalist for two years to film the hour-long documentary, culled from 31 hours of interviews with the rapists in Delhi's Tihar Jail, South Asia's largest prison complex.

Four men including Singh were sentenced to death, but their execution was later stayed on appeal by India's Supreme Court. One of the defendants hanged himself in prison, while another, who was under 18 at the time of the attack, was sentenced to three years in juvenile detention.—Reuters



Lady Gaga suffers wardrobe malfunction

LOS ANGELES, 4 March — Pop sensation Lady Gaga has suffered a nip slip while filming a new commercial in New York City.

The 'Cheek to Cheek' singer, 28, was filming in

the backseat of a limo, and tried to cover up the wardrobe malfunction with her neon fur stole, reported Us magazine.

Newly engaged to 'Chicago Fire' actor Taylor

Kinney, the Oscars showstopper is no stranger to risque wardrobe malfunctions.

At this year's Grammy Awards last month, Gaga accidentally flashed

her modesty in a silver Brandon Maxwell dress with a plunging neckline and a thigh-high slit as she posed alongside her 88-year-old collaborator Tony Bennett.—PTI

GENERAL

Smithsonian okays selfies, bans them on a stick

WASHINGTON, 4 March — Millions of museum visitors in the US capital will no longer be able to take pictures of themselves in front of a T-rex dinosaur using a camera

mounted on a rod.

The Smithsonian Institution on Tuesday banned the use of so-called “selfie sticks” in its complex of museums, the world’s biggest, citing the need to

protect visitors and museum objects, especially in crowded conditions.

“We encourage museum visitors to take selfies and share their experiences - and leave the selfie sticks

in their bags,” the Smithsonian said in a statement.

The move follows similar restrictions on the tourist item at other destinations, including New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art.

It is the first change in years to the Smithsonian’s rules, amid the sudden spike in popularity of visitors wanting to capture better snapshots of themselves with the sticks.

“I can’t think of any recent change that’s been similar to this,” spokesman John Gibbons said. “I don’t think 10 years ago that you could have predicted there would even be such a thing, let alone that it would be so popular.” Gibbons said the rule change was not inspired by any particular incident, but was meant to be preventative.

Reuters

mitv Myanmar International

(5-3-2015 07:00 am~ 6-3-2015 07:00 am) MST

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People use a ‘selfie’ stick to take a photo in front of the frozen fountain in Bryant Park in the Manhattan borough of New York on 14 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

4G predicted to cover three quarters of Latin America by 2020

BARCELONA, 4 March— 4G-LTE networks were predicted to cover over 75 percent of Latin America, according to data published by the mobile industry representatives GSMA at the Mobile World Congress on Tuesday. The GSMA calculates that the increasing speed of 4G deployment means that 76 percent of the population in the region will have LTE access: 35 percent more than at the end of 2014.

As a result of this there will be a corresponding rise in 4G connections in Latin America and the current figure is expected to rise from less than 10 percent to around 25 percent over the next five years, with the total number of mobile connections predicted to expand from the current 709 million to 889 million by 2020, when 245 million of those connections will be made by 4G.

GSMA highlights that Latin American mobile operators are playing a major role in 4G expansion and predicts Capital Expenditure in the 4G network will total 193 billion U.S. dollars between 2014 and 2020, while pointing out operators in the region have invested around 8 billion dollars in spectrum licenses between 2012 and 2015, mainly with the aim of supporting 4G deployment.

Reuters

Sport lacks future ‘star’, says Indonesia’s Taufik

BIRMINGHAM, (England) 4 March — A stark warning about the future direction of the men’s game was issued on Tuesday by two of badminton’s recent greats on the eve of the All-England Championships.

As the world’s best prepared for this season’s first Premier Superseries, with China seeded to win four of the five titles, Indonesia’s Taufik Hidayat, the 2004 Olympic champion, said the game was “only about Lee Chong Wei and Lin Dan at the moment.”

That long-lasting rivalry, however, will not continue in Birmingham, as Malaysia’s Lee is still suspended indefinitely for failing a doping test at last August’s world championships.

Lee, who won silver

medals at the 2008 and 2012 Olympics, remains confident he can clear his name when a Badminton World Federation panel conducts a hearing into the case.

With Lee missing, Taufik said he could not predict the next big rivalry to excite the sport, largely due to inconsistency among the players at the top of the men’s game.

“For a great player, we will have to wait five more years as the standard is going up and down,” said twice All-England runner-up Taufik, who retired in 2013.

“Everyone has a different style. After (Lee) Chong Wei and Lin leave, who else is there? Chen Long [the current world number one] perhaps, but he is not like these two. He has a different style and a different

character.

“Badminton needs an icon like Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal in tennis. It is a question of how you become a champion and stay at the top.”

Taufik’s view was echoed by Denmark’s former world number one Peter Gade.

“The combination of finding a true star is a complex thing,” said Gade, the last European to win the men’s title here in 1999. “We need to see some of the younger players coming through and show that they have the full package.”

Gade and Taufik were speaking at a Yonex event to celebrate a major sponsorship deal with Lin, indicating the Chinese will be a regular on the world circuit ahead of an expected tilt at a third Olympic title.

Lin, looking relaxed in a suit during a question and answer session, last appeared at the championships in 2012 when he won his last All-England crown.

“I have played here 12 times and won five titles,” he said ahead of his first round match on Wednesday against Hong Kong’s Wei Nan. “The history is very special.”

On his great rival, Lee, he added: “He’s not only my opponent, but also my good friend. I’m hopeful he will make a swift comeback.”—Reuters



Indonesia’s Taufik Hidayat plays against Czech Republic’s Petr Koukal during their men’s singles group play stage badminton match at the Wembley Arena during the London 2012 Olympic Games on 28 July, 2012.—REUTERS

Discovery adds online adventure channel to reach Web generation



The Discovery Communications headquarters building is seen in Silver Spring, Maryland on 3 Dec, 2009.

REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 4 March — Cable network operator Discovery Communications Inc said it is boosting investment in original Web video with a new channel focused on adventurers, in an effort to reach younger audiences who have grown up watching media online.

The owner of The Discovery Channel and Animal Planet launched the ad-supported free online network called Seeker on Tuesday and will pitch it to advertisers in May during the newfronts, an annual showcase of digital content.

Michelob Ultra, owned by Anheuser-Busch InBev, has signed on as the channel’s first sponsor.

Seeker will feature more than a dozen original series created specifically for the network. Many are produced and hosted by journalist Laura Ling, who was held captive in a North

Korean prison in 2009.

That experience inspired “Rituals with Laura Ling,” a series that will examine how people survive under pressure. Major media companies such as Discovery are trying to connect with younger viewers who turn to the Internet and social media more often than traditional television, and are more likely to shun the pay TV subscriptions that fuel Discovery’s core business.

Discovery believes those audiences crave uplifting stories that can be shared, a counterpoint to humorous “fail” videos that go viral, Colin Decker, general manager of Discovery Digital Networks, told Reuters in an interview on Monday. Seeker aims to fill that void.

“There is a very powerful appetite in this Web video generation for content that inspires,” Decker said.

Reuters

Immobile double puts Dortmund in Cup last eight



Borussia Dortmund's Italian striker *Ciro Immobile* scores a goal against *Dynamo Dresden* during *German Cup (DFB Pokal)* soccer match against in *Dresden* on 3 March, 2015.—REUTERS

BERLIN, 4 March — Borussia Dortmund's *Ciro Immobile* struck twice in the second half to secure a 2-0 victory at third tier *Dynamo Dresden* and a place in the German Cup quarter-finals on Tuesday.

The Italian, criticised

for a lack of Bundesliga goals this season, pounced on a cross-field pass from *Dynamo's* *Michael Hefele* to snatch the lead five minutes after the break on a bumpy pitch that resembled a ploughed field in parts.

Dortmund, last sea-

son's finalists, struggled to play the flowing game that has won their last four league matches and *Mats Hummels* almost gifted *Dynamo* an equaliser when his backpass bounced awkwardly and was intercepted before keeper *Mitch*

Langerak cleared.

"You cannot expect to play good football on a pitch like that," Dortmund coach *Juergen Klopp* told reporters. "This pitch is quite something and we had to play very simple football on it." Dortmund's substitute striker *Adrian Ramos* almost got a second but his shot squeezed past a defender and hit the near post before rolling along the line and being cleared.

However, *Immobile*, who suffered a facial injury in the first half from *Hefele's* elbow, scored again when he slotted in from a *Jakub Blaszczykowski* cut-back in the box near the final whistle.

Dortmund winger *Marco Reus*, who missed much of 2014 with a string of ankle injuries, limped off midway through the first half, though his injury may not be too serious.

"I was told it may just be a knock on the leg. But I don't know if he will be fit for the league at the weekend," *Klopp* said.

Reuters

Referee East back in action after wrongful Brown dismissal



Referee Roger East

LONDON, 4 March — Referee *Roger East* returns to action in the Premier League on Tuesday, a day after the FA ruled he mistakenly dismissed *Sunderland* defender *Wes Brown* at *Old Trafford* on Saturday.

East will be the fourth official when *Southampton* host *Crystal Palace*, having

come in for heavy criticism for sending off former *Manchester United* defender *Brown* at his former club at the weekend for a foul on *Radamel Falcao*.

Replays showed it was *John O'Shea* who committed the foul, which resulted in a penalty, but East told the match officials' body *PGMOL* it was not a case

of mistaken identity and he had dismissed *Brown* because the defender made contact with *Falcao*.

The FA announced on Monday that it had overturned the red card and one-match suspension after *Brown* successfully appealed on the grounds of wrongful dismissal.

Reuters

CONMEBOL to back Blatter in FIFA election



FIFA President Sepp Blatter arrives at Hotel Bourbon in Luque on 3 March, 2015.—REUTERS

ASUNCION, 4 March — The South American Football Confederation (CONMEBOL) will support *Sepp Blatter's* re-election as FIFA president in May, a CONMEBOL source told *Reuters* on Tuesday.

Blatter, who has headed FIFA since 1998, flew into *Asuncion* on Tuesday on the eve of CONMEBOL's congress that will hand its president, *Paraguayan Juan Angel Napout*, another four-year term.

The source, who asked not to be named, was at CONMEBOL's executive committee meeting on Tuesday where South America gave *Blatter* its support as the Swiss seeks a fifth term in office.

He is running against *Michael van Praag* of the Netherlands, former Portugal great *Luis Figo* and FIFA Vice President *Prince Ali bin al-Hussein* of Jordan, who are all expected at the congress along with *Blatter*.

The FIFA chief arrived in *Asuncion*, where the temperature topped 34 degrees Celsius, in a private

jet and immediately went by helicopter for lunch with *Paraguay President Horacio Cartes*.

The lunch at the presidential residence, *Mburuvicha Roga*, which means "the chief's house" in the native *Guarani* language, was attended by officials of CONMEBOL's member nations and other confederations.

Blatter will hold a news conference after the congress where he is set to face questions about the 29 May FIFA election, a proposed debate among presidential candidates and the prospect of holding the 2022 World Cup in *Qatar* in November and December. *Blatter* and UEFA president *Michel Platini*, who is also in *Asuncion* for Wednesday's congress, declined to speak to the media.

South America has been a region friendly to *Blatter* and his Brazilian predecessor *Joao Havelange* and is expected to support FIFA's proposal to play the *Qatar* finals in November/December.

Reuters

Olympiakos chief Marinakis fines players for poor displays

ATHENS, 4 March — *Olympiakos* *Piraeus* president *Evangelos Marinakis* has fined his team 500,000 euros (363,859 pounds) for below-par performances which have seen them eliminated from Europe and endangered their domestic league and cup prospects.

The Greek champions' recent derby reverse to arch-rivals *Panathinaikos*, a 4-2 aggregate defeat by *Ukraine's Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk* in the Europa League last 32 and a 1-1 Greek Cup draw with second division *AEK Athens* have left *Marinakis* fuming.

The outspoken shipping magnate made an appearance on Monday at the club's training ground, where who is a frequent visitor, and gave a strong verbal warning to players and staff.

"I'll tell you something very important and non-negotiable; *Olympiakos* is the largest Greek club and for each of you it is an honour to play for this team and for this club," *Marinakis* told the players

according to local media reports.

"You must have mutual respect and honour *Olympiakos*, and anyone who has a problem with that or doesn't like it here, it's time to have the guts to get up and leave — and that applies to everyone.

"We understand your expectations and that you can get yourself in the shop window by playing in the Champions League here but as long as you're playing for *Olympiakos* you will give everything and sacrifice for this shirt."

Olympiakos, who sacked their Spanish manager *Michel* in January and replaced him with Portuguese *Vitor Pereira*, are three points ahead of *Panathinaikos* in the Super League standings with nine matches remaining.

But *Marinakis* warned there was no room for complacency.

"You must win the league championship and the Greek Cup, nothing else is in my mind right now, and it should be the same for you all," he said.



Dnipro's players attend a training session at Olympiakos' Karaiskaki stadium in Piraeus, near Athens on 25 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

Olympiakos are through to the quarter-finals of the Greek Cup where they visit second division *AEK Athens* in the

return on March 10 following a 1-1 draw in last month's first leg.

Reuters