

President U Thein Sein pays goodwill visits to New Zealand, Australian Commonwealth



NAY PYI TAW, 13 March—At the invitation of New Zealand Prime Minister Mr John Key and Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia Ms Quentin Bryce, President U Thein Sein of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar left here this afternoon by Special Flight to pay goodwill visits to New Zealand and the Australian Commonwealth.

The president was seen off at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Vice-President U Nyan Tun, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe

Win, Union ministers, the Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command and departmental heads.

The President was accompanied by Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye, Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win, Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Tin Naing Thein, U Ohn Myint, U Khin Yi, Dr Mya Aye, Dr Myint Aung, Dr Kan Zaw and Dr Ko Ko Oo, deputy ministers Dr Win Myint and U Ye Htut and departmental heads.

MNA

President U Thein Sein of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar being seen off at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Vice-President U Nyan Tun and officials before his departure for New Zealand and Australian Commonwealth.

MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham calls on Laotian President, Cambodian PM, visits pagodas in Vientiane

NAY PYI TAW, 13 March—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham called on President of Lao People's Democratic Republic Mr Choummaly Sayasone at the Presidential Palace Haw Kham in Vientiane at 2 pm yesterday.

Also present at the call were Union Minister U Soe Maung, Deputy Ministers and officials, the Laotian Minister at the President Office, the Laotian deputy minister of Foreign Affairs, the Laotian deputy minister of Home Affairs, Laotian

UN executive boards satisfied with role of Union Attorney-General Office

NAY PYI TAW, 13 March—Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin received legal experts from Nishimura & Asahi Law Firm of Japan and heads of six UN executive boards separately at his office today.

The Japanese law firm sought permission from the Attorney-General of the Union to set up their branch in Myanmar to offer legal advice to Japanese

companies and investors.

The heads of UN executive boards that were here to observe the developments in Myanmar expressed their satisfaction of the role of the Attorney-General Office in implementing the rule of law.

The Attorney-General appealed for assistance in inbound international investment to help facilitate ongoing economic reforms.

MNA



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham poses for documentary photo together with President of Lao People's Democratic Republic Mr Choummaly Sayasone.—MNA

Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Nilahath Sayarth and senior officers.

They cordially discussed further

strengthening of bilateral relations, promotion of cooperation between the two countries while Myanmar is taking the chair of ASEAN,

further cooperation in all sectors so as to improve mutual understanding similar to that of ASEAN, ACMECS and GMS,

cooperation in construction of Myanmar-Lao Mekong Friendship Bridge, placing emphasis on cooperation in (See page 8)

LOCAL NEWS

Diamond orb, pennant-shaped vane for Lawkananda Pagoda conveyed



NYAUNGU, 13 March—Diamond orb, gem casket, pennant-shaped vane, screw-pine and tiers to be hoisted atop Lawkananda Pagoda was conveyed by Asian

Wings airlines from Yangon to Bagan NyaungU airport on 8 March.

These religious objects were then carried from NyaungU Airport

to Lawkananda Pagoda with the participation of Ovadaçariya Sayadaws, departmental officials of NyaungU District, members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees, drum troupe, religious association and students of Bagan Basic Education High School of NyaungU District.

The conveyance team passed Mani Sithu Market in Bagan and then went along NyaungU-Bagan Road to the pagoda. After that, the religious objects were kept at the temporary pavilion.

The diamond orb and pennant-shaped vane will be hoisted atop the pagoda on 26 March (Fullmoon Day of Tabaung).

Myanma Alinn

Breeders urged to increase breeding of milch cows, production of dairy products

NAY PYI TAW, 13 March—Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Khin Maung Aye visited Unison milch cow breeding farms of U Maung Maung Lwin and Nan Wai Milk Powder Factory in Shwemyo Township, the integrated

farm of U Maung Thin in Nyaunglunt West Village and cow breeding farm, pasture land, rice mill and condensed milk factory of U Khin Maung Win in Tawma Village in Meiktila Township on 9 March.

He made inspections of farms to choose awards in

line with the rules of breeding performance award scrutiny committee.

The deputy minister gave instructions on progress of breeding tasks, assistance of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries for the breeders and dairy producers.

MNA



Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Khin Maung Aye inspects integrated farm of U Maung Thin in Nyaunglunt (West) Village in Tatkon Township.—MNA

Military medics give free treatment to local people

MYAUNGMYA, 13 March—A mobile military medical team comprising specialists arrived in Myaungmya on 4 March by Tatmadaw vessel. They

were welcomed by local authorities and people.

The medical team led by Col Kyin Tun provided free health care services to 697 patients at Khadawhmi

prayer hall on 9th street in Myaungmya up to 5 March. The team transferred necessary patients to Patheingyi General Hospital.

Myanma Alinn

Age-wise international chess tournament kicks off in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 13 March—Under the directives of the Union Minister for Sports, Sports and Physical Education Institute (Mandalay) and Mandalay Region Chess Subcommittee jointly organized the age-wise international chess tournament 2012-2013 at

the hall of the institute on 6 March morning.

Principal of the institute Director U Thein Tun Latt extended greetings and launched the tournament.

Present on the occasion were officials of the institute, the secretary and members of Mandalay Region Chess

Subcommittee, referees, match commissioners, students from the institute and basic education students from Mandalay totalling 100.

Myanma Alinn

Myanmar archery team leaves for Thailand

YANGON, 13 March—A 12-member delegation led by President of Myanmar Archery Federation Dr Phyo Ko Ko Tint Hsan and Director U Kyaw Oo of Ministry of Sports as deputy leader comprising Deputy Director U Ye Myint Tun (Manager) of Sports and Physical Education Department, Mr Lee Song Bong (Chief Coach), IP Myat Thuza Myint of the Ministry of Home Affairs, coach officer Ye Min Swe of Ministry of Sports and archers Thin Thin Khaing, San Yu Htwe, Thazin Aung, Aung Hngein, Yaw Sein Ya and Aye Aye Thin left here by air on 9 March to take part in the First Asian Archery Grand Prix to be held in Bangkok from 9 to 15

March and to attend the Asian Archery Federation Meeting on 10 March.—MNA

The president of Myanmar Archery Federation, officials and archery seen at Yangon International Airport before departure for Bangkok of Thailand.



Self-reliant bridge across Pyu Creek under construction

PYU, 13 March—Pyu Creek originates from Bago mountain range, six miles west of Pyu Township.

The swift current of Pyu Creek was a natural barrier for local people.

As of 7 January, Engineer U Kyaw Lin and party are building the bridge which is 328 feet long and nine feet wide with the contribution of local people from U Sein Su Village. A plan is underway to complete the bridge at the end of March.

On completion, the bridge will be used for two-ton vehicles and it will contribute to smooth transportation for the local people.—Myanma Alinn

Deputy Minister for Education U Aye Kyu, Ayeyawady Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U San Maung, Director-General of Education Department U Eikdi Hla, deputy commissioner U Kan Win of District General Administration Department and wellwisher U Win Ko Ko formally opened the school

building.

Member of the Board of Trustees U Khin Win handed over documents related to the school to Township Education Officer Daw Aye Thein.

The new school building is 120 feet long, 30 feet wide and 15 feet high. The building is constructed at a cost of K 30 million.

Myanma Alinn

Boarding fire at Shwepyitha garment factory

YANGON, 13 March—A fire broke out at a two-storey hostel comprising 28 rooms of Ayeyawady Garment Factory Company at No 29/56 at the corner of Minlan and Nwethagi streets in Ward 2 of Shwepyitha Township in Yangon Region at 12.30 pm on 9 March.

The fire started from mosquito coil committed by Daw Khin Saw Win, 52.

A total of 80 members of Fire Services Department and 100 members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade together with local people controlled outbreak of the fire with the use of 26 fire engines, four management vehicles, three fire extinguishing machines and one water bowser from townships in Yangon North District at 1.10 pm and put it out at 1.30 pm.

Myanma Alinn



WORLD

Russia and US in tit for tat at United Nations over Sudan, South Sudan

UNITED NATIONS, 13 March—The United States and Russia traded swipes at the UN Security Council on Tuesday over proposed statements about peace progress in Sudan and South Sudan, with Russia's UN envoy accusing the US ambassador of bizarre behaviour and making outlandish claims. It was the latest in a series of tense

public exchanges between Moscow and Washington, whose relations have become increasingly frosty in recent months because of disagreements over how to deal with Syria and human rights in Russia.

UN special envoy for Sudan and South Sudan, Haile Menkerios, briefed the 15-member council on efforts by neighbouring

states to implement a deal mediated by the African Union in September to resolve a conflict over oil and land. South Sudan seceded from Sudan in July 2011. US Ambassador to the United Nations, Susan Rice, said the United States had been working for the past two weeks to negotiate a broad statement by the council welcoming positive developments, but also noting areas lacking progress.

"Unfortunately perhaps in the interests of derailing such a (statement), the Russian Federation—tabled a draft statement which only discussed a very narrow aspect of the substance of the larger statement," Rice told reporters. "We objected to the issuance of a statement—divorced from the larger set of issues."

Reuters

Obama "finalizing" nominations for top economic and trade positions

WASHINGTON, 13 March—President Barack Obama appears to be nearing a decision on nominations for three top economic and trade positions, the president of the Export-Import Bank said on Tuesday. "From what I understand, the White House is finalizing its economic and trade team," Ex-Im President Fred Hochberg said in an interview. Hochberg said he would like to continue serving in the Obama administration but will be forced to leave his Ex-Im Bank job by July unless he is renominated by Congress. Hochberg is one of three members of the Ex-Im Bank board whose terms expired in January. They can stay until July before being required to leave.

Trade Representative Ron Kirk has announced plans to return to the



private sector and former Commerce Secretary John Bryson left last year because of a health problem. Deputy Commerce Secretary Rebecca Blank has been acting secretary, but she recently applied for the chancellor position at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, suggesting she could soon leave the administration. Many names have been mentioned

as possible replacements for Kirk, including Hochberg, White House aides Jeffrey Zients and Mike Froman, Commerce Undersecretary Francisco Sanchez and Treasury Undersecretary Lael Brainard. Chicago businesswoman Penny Pritzker has been mentioned as a leading candidate for the Commerce Department job.

Reuters



US Ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice sits in a Security Council meeting regarding Libya at the UN Headquarters in New York on 12 March, 2012.

REUTERS

US spy chief says Syrian opposition remains disorganized

WASHINGTON, 13 March—Forces seeking to oust Syrian President Bashar Al Assad are gaining strength and territory, but the Syrian opposition remains fragmented and is grappling with an infusion of militant foreign fighters, Director of National Intelligence James Clapper said on Tuesday.

Two years into an uprising against Assad's rule, US intelligence agencies do not know how long the Syrian leader will keep his hold on the country, Clapper said at a Senate Intelligence Committee on global security threats.

"The question comes up, 'How long will Assad last?' And our standard answer is, 'His days are

numbered. We just don't know the number.' Our assessment is that he is very committed to hanging in there and sustaining his control of the regime," Clapper told the Senate panel. Assad's government is losing territory and experiencing shortages in manpower and logistics, Clapper said.

But at the same time, there are "literally hundreds" of cells of opposition fighters over which leaders are struggling to impose more centralized command and control. Clapper noted a growing presence among Assad's opponents of foreign fighters, many associated with the Nusra Front, an



Director of National Intelligence James Clapper testifies before a Senate Intelligence Committee hearing on "Current and Projected National Security Threats to the United States" on Capitol Hill in Washington on 12 March, 2013.—REUTERS

offshoot of al-Qaeda in Iraq that has gained strength in Syria partly by offering services to a population beaten down by two years of civil war.

"They are, where they can, providing more and more municipal services in what is a very terrible situation from a

humanitarian standpoint," Clapper said. US and European officials have recently said that their governments will be stepping up efforts to provide "non-lethal" aid and training to non-Islamist rebel factions fighting Assad.

Reuters

Sanctions on the DPRK not goal

BEIJING, 13 March—China on Tuesday reaffirmed its opposition to Pyongyang's nuclear tests, and committed to determining peaceful means for achieving the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

"China maintains that sanctions shall not be the objective, and we urges relevant parties to stick to dialogues and explore effective ways of attaining lasting peace and stability in the region under the framework of the six-party talks," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said at a

daily Press briefing. Hua made the remarks when asked to comment on the US unilateral sanctions on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

She did not directly comment on the actions of the United Nations Security Council. The UN Security Council on Thursday unanimously passed resolution 2094, condemning the DPRK's third nuclear test, which took place on 12 February. The DPRK also conducted nuclear tests in 2006 and 2009.—Xinhua

Britain, France, push EU to drop Syria arms ban

LONDON/PARIS, 13 March—Britain and France raised the pressure on other European Union members on Tuesday to lift a ban on supplying arms to Syria, where anti-government rebels are outgunned by forces loyal to President Bashar al-Assad. Britain warned that it could break with the embargo altogether, which requires unanimous agreement by the EU's 27 members to take effect, while France hinted it would push to get the bloc to agree to amend the ban to allow the supply of arms.

The arms embargo is part of a package of EU sanctions on Syria that currently roll over every three months, with the last extension unanimously agreed by the EU last month and which came into effect on 1 March. Without unani-

mous agreement to either renew or amend the ban in three months' time, the embargo lapses. "I hope that we can persuade our European partners, if and when a further change becomes necessary, they will agree with us," Cameron told a parliamentary committee when asked whether Britain could "veto" the embargo.

"But if we can't, then it's not out of the question we might have to do things in our own way. It's possible," he added.

Britain has not explicitly said it wants to arm the rebels, but repeatedly has said it does not rule out the option, depending on events on the ground. In France, Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said "a new balance of power" has to be created in Syria.

Reuters



Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard delivers a speech in front of the Foundation Stone at the Centenary of Canberra Foundation Stone Ceremony in Canberra, Australia, on 12 March, 2013. Canberra marked its 100th anniversary on Tuesday.—XINHUA



Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron gestures as he speaks during a news conference in Riga on 28 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Baseball-sized snail destroyed in Australia to protect crops

SYDNEY, 13 March—A baseball-sized snail with an insatiable appetite for hundreds of plants including cocoa and papaya has been seized and destroyed by Australian officials, who said it posed a huge threat to local agriculture.

The animal was found creeping across a Brisbane shipping container yard and identified as a giant African snail, an East African pest capable of growing up to 30 cm (12 inches) long and one kg (2.2 lb) in weight.

It is known to eat 500 different species of crops, fruits, native Australian plants and even other giant

African snails, according to an Australian government website.

“Giant African snails are one of the world’s largest and most damaging land snails,” said Paul Nixon, acting regional manager at the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, in a statement.

The snail can lay 1,200 eggs a year, tolerates extreme temperatures and has few natural enemies in Australia. It also carries parasites that can infect humans with the disease meningitis, which can in some cases be fatal.

The last major Austral-

ian outbreak of the snail was in 1977, when 300 giant snails were exterminated in Queensland in an intensive eight-month campaign of community education, baiting and snail collection.

The snail was destroyed and officials inspected the container yard and found no evidence of additional snails, eggs or snail trails. They will continue surveillance into next week. “Australia’s strict biosecurity requirements and responsive system has so far kept these pests out of Australia, and we want to keep it that way,” Nixon said.—Reuters

Google updates Gmail Offline app for Chrome, web apps for iOS, Android, BlackBerry



NEW YORK, 13 March—Google has updated the Gmail Offline app for Chrome as well as mobile web apps for Android, iOS, BlackBerry and Kindle Fire devices, bringing

a refreshed user interface. It’s interesting to note that Google has left Windows Phone out of the list, with the two companies being at loggerheads at several occasions in the recent past.

While Google has not provided a detailed changelog, it does mention that the update includes the changes

that were first pushed to the Gmail native app for iPhone and iPad in December 2012, and would include a refreshed user interface in addition to new features such as improved search and integration with Google Calendar.

The update had brought profile pictures in messages, some new animations such as swivels and transitions in addition to infinite scrolling in the message lists. The update had also introduces the ability to sign-in to multiple accounts, RSVP to Google Calendar invites as well as +1 and comment on Google+ posts directly from the app.

Reuters

Mozilla says it’s not planning to build a browser for iOS



uct at Mozilla said that the company is not working on a new browser for iOS and does not have any plans to do so. The development was reported by CNET.

Sullivan mentioned that the limitations imposed by Apple is an impediment to the company’s plans of making the browser that it actually wants to.

It’s worth noting that Apple requires third-party browsers to use the built-in UIWebView for rendering.

It uses the Nitro

JavaScript engine for its own browser, Safari, while developers cannot use their own rendering and javascript engines in their iOS browser apps, giving Safari a big edge in terms of performance.

In addition to these limitations, Apple does not allow users to set a third-party browser as their default browser app.

Mozilla had pulled its Firefox Home app from the App Store in September 2012 and had said that it intended to focus its resources on other projects.

It had made the source code available on GitHub, though.

The app was not a

browser and just enabled Firefox users to access to their desktop history, open tabs and bookmarks, and open them on their iOS devices.

It’s also interesting to note that Google had made available the Chrome browser on iOS, last year, though it has to abide by the limitations imposed by Apple.

Opera also offers its Opera Mini browser on the App Store, which renders webpages on its own servers.

However, Opera is all set to unveil a new mobile browser which would be based on WebKit, for iOS.

Reuters

HP director defends chairman Lane



A Hewlett-Packard logo is seen at the company’s Executive Briefing Centre in Palo Alto, California on 16 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO, 13 March—Hewlett-Packard Co’s (HPQ N) lead independent director defended Chairman Ray Lane and two fellow board members on Monday, contesting a recommendation from proxy adviser ISS that shareholders oust them for their role in the mis-managed acquisition of Autonomy Plc in 2011.

In a detailed letter to shareholders on Monday ahead of the company’s annual general meeting, Rajiv Gupta said the board has laid a solid foundation for HP’s turnaround and warned that ejecting longtime directors would de-stabilize the company. “Losing some of our directors in an abrupt and disorderly manner could undermine our efforts to stabilize the company,” Gupta, a former CEO of specialty materials maker Rohm & Haas DOWRH. UL, wrote on Monday. “What the company needs now is stability and consistency of leadership so that the Board and the manage-

ment team can devote all of their focus and energy towards executing on our strategic plan.”

HP CEO Meg Whitman is trying to revive a company once synonymous with Silicon Valley but fell on hard times in a contracting personal computing market, by re-focusing the sprawling corporation on enterprise computing services. Gupta did not address the Autonomy angle in his letter, but outlined the credentials of all three men that leading proxy adviser ISS recommended against. In particular, he highlighted Lane’s global and management experience as former Chief Operating Officer of software giant Oracle Corp (ORCL.O). Leading proxy adviser ISS, closely followed by investors seeking guidance on controversial issues, last week suggested voting against Lane, a managing partner at high-powered Silicon Valley venture capital firm Kleiner Perkins.

Reuters

Ladbrokes signs software deal to boost online presence

LONDON, 13 March—Ladbrokes Plc, Britain’s second-largest bookmaker, has positioned itself for a stronger push into online and mobile gambling through a tie-up with a specialist software developer.

Shares in Ladbrokes jumped to their highest in five years, encouraged by the prospect of the company taking a bigger share of the fast-growing online market via the deal with Playtech Ltd, a developer of software platforms for online poker, bingo and other games.

The betting firm will take on 40 staff from Playtech to form a new digital marketing team, the companies said on Monday. Ladbrokes’ customers will get access to Playtech’s 200 casino games this year, before their gaming assets are eventually merged onto one platform.

Ladbrokes, a familiar sight in Britain’s town centres with 2,200 retail outlets, has struggled to keep up with the online offering of UK market leader William Hill Plc.

Earlier this month, William Hill took full control of the internet venture it previously ran with Playtech, buying out the latter’s stake for 424 million pounds (\$633 million) as it looks to expand online.

The online gambling sector is seeing a wave of consolidation and deals amid signs that the US is readying to legalize it. Online gambling firm 888 announced two US agreements on Monday.

Ladbrokes said the deal with Playtech should help spur its own growth, but declined to say how much it expected to profit.

“I’m very confident that over the next five years

this is going to allow us to accelerate (underlying earnings growth),” Ladbrokes Chief Executive Richard Glynn told Reuters, noting the company’s online offering would become more comparable to what is available from its stores.

Following its William Hill windfall, Playtech will be entitled to royalties generated under a software agreement with Ladbrokes and a “success fee” based

on 27.5 percent of any increase in Ladbrokes core earnings for 2017.

“This is to replicate the financial success of other joint ventures including William Hill,” Mor Weizer, chief executive of Playtech, told Reuters.

He added that basing the calculation on 2017 earnings would give the collaboration time to take effect.

Reuters



A man watches television screens in a Ladbrokes bookmaker in London on 19 Feb, 2009.—REUTERS

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Walgreen sued over Vitamin E supplement claims

NEW YORK, 13 March—Walgreen Co has been sued by a California woman who accused the largest US drug-store chain of deceiving customers into believing its Vitamin E dietary supplement contributes to cardiovascular health.

The complaint, filed on Friday in federal court in Chicago, challenges a label on Walgreen's Vitamin E 400 IU Dietary Supplement that says the product "naturally contributes to cardiovascular health by helping to protect LDL cholesterol from oxidation which may cause cellular damage."

Andrea Trujillo, the

plaintiff, said the representation was false and misleading because clinical studies show that Vitamin E does not work as the retailer advertised.

Trujillo claimed to have paid \$12 each for several bottles of the supplement at a Walgreen's in her hometown of Bakersfield, California.

"Plaintiff used the product as directed, and consistent with the scientific evidence that the product is not effective, the product did not work," the complaint said. The statement in question has not been evaluated by the US Food and Drug



Shoppers walk by at the Walgreens' Times Square store in New York on 17 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

Administration, according to the label, which was reproduced in the complaint.

Walgreen spokesman Jim Graham declined to comment. A lawyer for Trujillo did not immediately respond to a request for comment. According to

the National Institutes of Health, Vitamin E has an antioxidant function that protects cells from damage caused by so-called free radicals, which can contribute to the development of cardiovascular disease and cancer.—Reuters

Gold price closes higher in Hong Kong

HONG KONG, 13 March—The gold price in Hong Kong moved up 10 HK dollars to close at 14,698 HK dollars per tael on Tuesday, according to the Chinese Gold and Silver Exchange Society.

The price is equivalent to 1,589.92 US dollars a troy ounce, up 1.08 US dollars at the latest exchange rate of 1 US dollar against 7.76 HK dollars.

Xinhua

Japan extracts gas from methane hydrate offshore, 1st case in world



TOKYO, 13 March—Japan on Tuesday extracted natural gas from a next-generation energy source called methane hydrate in the seabed in Pacific waters off central Japan, the first such case in the world, the Economy, Trade and Industry Ministry said.

"We started production

Photo from a Kyodo News helicopter shows the deep-sea drilling vessel "Chikyu" in the Pacific off Aichi Prefecture, central Japan, on 12 March, 2013. KYODO NEWS

of a certain amount of methane gas from around 9:30 am," a ministry official said, noting that if the gas is extracted stably for about two weeks in the ongoing trial it would be a "major step" toward future commercial development of the resource. Methane hydrate is believed to exist across a wide area of seabed in waters surrounding Japan, with its deposits estimated to be sufficient to cover domestic consumption of natural gas for about 100 years.—Kyodo News

Pentagon needs \$12.6 billion per year through 2037 for F-35

WASHINGTON, 13 March—The Pentagon needs to budget \$12.6 billion each year through 2037 to finish developing and paying for all the Lockheed Martin Corp F-35 fighters it plans to buy, according to a report released by a congressional watchdog agency on Monday. This amounts to \$2 billion more in projected annual funding needs than the Government Accountability Office (GAO)

had included in a draft report obtained and published by Reuters on Saturday.

The draft report excluded the cost of the fighter's single engine, which is built by Pratt & Whitney, a unit of United Technologies Corp, said Joe DellaVedova, a spokesman for the Pentagon's F-35 programme office. The report said the Pentagon was expected to shell out \$316

billion through 2037 on the remaining development and purchase of the radar-evading warplane, on top of billions of dollars already spent, for a total programme mecost of around \$400 billion.

"Overall, the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter programme is now moving in the right direction after a long, expensive, and arduous learning process. It still has tremendous challenges ahead," GAO concluded in its annual report to Congress on the F-35, the Pentagon's costliest weapons programme.

The F-35 is an advanced fighter meant to serve the US Air Force, Navy and Marines for decades to come. The programme, which has seen costs rise 70 percent from initial projections amid numerous technical complications, is facing a critical phase in which any new setbacks or reductions in orders from the US military and its allies would further boost the cost per plane.—Reuters



Workers can be seen on the moving line and forward fuselage assembly areas for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter at Lockheed Martin Corp's factory located in Fort Worth, Texas in this 13 Oct, 2011 handout photo provided by Lockheed Martin.—REUTERS

AIG shareholders win class-action status in lawsuit versus US

NEW YORK, 13 March—Two groups of American International Group Inc (AIG) shareholders won class-action status from a federal judge on Monday in a \$25 billion lawsuit by former Chief Executive Maurice "Hank" Greenberg over alleged losses caused by the US government's bailout of the insurer.

US Court of Federal Claims Judge Thomas Wheeler also appointed Greenberg's lawyer, David Boies, of Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP, as lead counsel for the classes.

Greenberg's Starr International Co, once AIG's largest shareholder

It said that by taking a 79.9 percent AIG stake and then conducting a reverse stock split without letting existing shareholders vote, the government conducted an illegal taking that violated the 5th Amendment of the US Constitution.

Citing Boies' estimate that "tens of thousands" of shareholders might be affected, Wheeler said "class certification is by far the most efficient method of adjudicating these claims."

He distinguished the case from the US Supreme Court's 2011 rejection of class status for more than 1 million Wal-Mart Stores Inc (WMT.N) workers



A new sign is displayed over the entrance to the AIG headquarters offices in New York's financial district, on 9 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

with a 12 percent stake, sued the United States in 2011 over what eventually became a \$182.3 billion bailout for the New York-based insurer.

alleging gender bias, saying the AIG claims are "based on the same exact government action" rather than "literally millions" of separate actions.—Reuters

Euro zone crisis not over, says ECB's Weidmann

FRANKFURT, 13 March—The euro zone crisis is not over, France is slipping on reforms and the Bundesbank has set aside billions in new provisions for what it sees as risky European Central Bank moves, Germany's central bank said on Tuesday.

Presenting Bundesbank 2012 results that showed a sharp increase in its risk provisions, the German central bank's chief, Jens Weidmann, urged governments to tackle the roots of their troubles with

reforms.

Weidmann, a member of the ECB's Governing Council, opposed the bank's yet-to-be-used bond-buy plan agreed last September and believes euro zone governments must shape up their economies to exit the crisis rather than looking to the ECB for help.

"The crisis is not over despite the recent calm on financial markets," Weidmann told a news conference.

There was uncertainty about the reform course in

Italy and Cyprus, he said, adding: "The reform course in France seems to have floundered".

The ECB's other German policymaker, Joerg Asmussen, late last month urged France to take "concrete and measurable" steps to bring down its budget deficit, telling Reuters Paris faced a test of its credibility.

The Bundesbank is concerned about risks the ECB has taken on to help banks through the crisis, for example by accepting lower-rated assets in return for cash, exposing it to larger losses if a bank fails to repay. The Bundesbank said it increased its risk buffers by 6.7 billion euros to 14.4 billion euros.

Germany, Europe's economic powerhouse expanded robustly during the first two years of the euro zone crisis but growth slowed last year and the economy shrank 0.6 percent in the fourth quarter.

Reuters



President of German Bundesbank Jens Weidmann reacts on the podium during the Frankfurt Euro Finance Week in Frankfurt on 19 Nov, 2012.

REUTERS

WORLD

Venezuela to probe Chavez cancer poisoning accusation

CARACAS, 13 March—Venezuela will set up a formal inquiry into claims that deceased President Hugo Chavez's cancer was the result of poisoning by his enemies abroad, the government said. Foes of the government view the accusation as a typical Chavez-style conspiracy theory intended to feed fears of "imperialist" threats to Venezuela's socialist system and distract people from daily problems. Acting President Nicolas Maduro vowed to open an investigation into the claims, first raised by Chavez after he was diagnosed with the disease in 2011.

"We will seek the truth," Maduro told regional TV network Telesur. "We have the intuition that our commander Chavez was poisoned by dark forces that wanted him out of the way." Foreign scientists will be invited to join a state committee to probe the accusation, he said. Maduro, 50, is Chavez's handpicked successor and is running as the government's candidate in a snap presidential election on 14 April that was



Venezuela's acting President, Nicolas Maduro, gestures to supporters after he registered as a candidate for president in the April 14th election outside the national election board in Caracas on 11 March, 2013.

REUTERS

triggered by the president's death last week.

He is trying to keep voters' attention firmly focused on Chavez to benefit from the outpouring of grief among his millions of supporters. The opposition is centering its campaign on portraying Maduro, as an incompetent who, they say, is exploiting Chavez's demise. "Let's take the president (Chavez) away from the political debate, out of respect for his memory, his family, his supporters," opposition candidate Hen-

rique Capriles' campaign chief Henri Falcon told reporters. Polls from before Chavez's death gave Maduro a lead over Capriles of more than 10 percentage points. Capriles lost to Chavez by 11 percentage points in October.

Capriles has tried to jump-start his campaign with accusations that Maduro and other senior officials lied about the details of Chavez's illness, hiding the gravity of his condition from Venezuelans. That sparked a torrent of

attacks, with senior government officials using words like "Nazi" and "fascist" to describe Capriles, who has Jewish ancestors. In a televised message, Information Minister Ernesto Villegas read a letter to the "sick opposition" from the late president's daughter, Maria Gabriela Chavez, who has at times been viewed as a possible future successor.

"Stop playing with the pain of a nation and a devastated family," she wrote. "It is unfair, inhuman, unacceptable that they now say we were lying about the date of his (death) ... Focus on politics, don't play dirty." Capriles was quick to respond with a flurry of tweets. "Never, in all these years, have I offended the president or his family. If one word has been taken thus by his family, I'm sorry," he wrote on Twitter. "I don't offend families as they have mine. They have even called me a Nazi, when my great-grandparents were murdered in a Nazi concentration camp," he added, referring to the government.

Reuters

Israeli troops kill Palestinian, wound two in West Bank clash

HEBRON, (West Bank), 13 March—Israeli troops killed a Palestinian on Tuesday during a confrontation with a stone-throwing crowd in a flashpoint district of the occupied West Bank, both sides said. The incident in Fuwar, near the city of Hebron, stoked tensions ahead of a visit by US President Barack Obama next week that has been billed as a bid to encourage new peacemaking.

Witnesses said Israeli soldiers raided Fuwar and opened fire after coming under a barrage of rocks from local Palestinians. Hospital officials said a 25-year-old man died after being shot in the head and two others were wounded by the Israelis. Citing the results of an initial investigation, an Israeli military spokeswoman said the troops had been attacked with fire-bombs on a nearby road and pursued the assailants into Fuwar, where they encountered the stone-throwers.

"Feeling a threat to their lives, they (the sol-

diers) fired toward the assaulters," the spokeswoman said, confirming that a Palestinian was killed in the shooting. Obama is expected to fly in on 20 March for separate talks with Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and, in the West Bank, with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. Netanyahu and Abbas last held talks about internationally-backed plans for founding a Palestinian state alongside Israel in late 2010.

Palestinian frustration at the stalled diplomacy has been fanned by Israel's expansion of West Bank settlements and a rift between Abbas's administration the armed Hamas who run the Gaza Strip and reject coexistence with the Jewish state. Palestinians have also taken to the streets to protest against Israel's jailing of thousands of their countrymen. The resulting confrontations, often bloody, have drawn warnings on both sides that a full Palestinian revolt could be brewing.

Reuters

No position change on Falkland Islands following referendum, says US

WASHINGTON, 13 March—The Obama administration on Tuesday said that its position regarding the Falkland Islands, known as the Malvinas to the Argentines, remains unchanged, but acknowledged that the Falklands residents have clearly expressed their preference in a recent referendum.

"The residents have clearly expressed their preference for a continued relationship with the United Kingdom," US State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said of the two-day referendum that ended on

Monday on the islands, in which 99.8 percent of participating voters chose to keep the archipelago a self-governing British overseas territory.

"That said, we obviously recognize that there are competing claims," Nuland told reporters at a regular news briefing here. "Our formal position has not changed. We recognize the de facto UK administration of the islands, but we take no position on sovereignty claims."

The islands, inhabited by less than 3,000 people, have

been under British control since 1833, but are claimed by Argentina as well. The two countries fought a brief war in June 1982, resulting in the death of 649 Argentines and 255 British soldiers.

Most countries in the Western Hemisphere stand behind Argentina, while the United States has called for a peaceful resolution of the dispute. The vast majority of the Falklands residents are of British descent. Argentina has dismissed the referendum as a meaningless publicity stunt that carries no international legitimacy.—Xinhua



Palestinian workers collect parts of a vehicle entered via a huge tunnels for smuggling cars and spare parts beneath the border between Egypt and southern Gaza Strip in Rafah on 11 March, 2013.—XINHUA

Syria denies declaration of general mobilization

DAMASCUS, 13 March—Syria's state media on Tuesday rubbished as unfounded media reports that the Syrian army has declared a state of general mobilization. While denying the reports of general alert circulating on some anti-Syrian government Arab TVs, the state TV said "joining the military service is a sacred duty." "Our valiant troops are on the highest readiness and ability to defend the security of the homeland and citizens from terrorism," according to a statement carried out by the state TV. The controversy about a possible declaration of general mobilization has started since Friday, when Syria's prominent Sheikh Said Ramadan al-Bouti called on the country's grand Mufti to declare the general

alert.

On Sunday, Syria's Supreme Iftaa Council, the highest clergy council in the country, issued a statement calling on the Syrian public to support the Syrian army and the youth to join the service to defend the country, the heritage and religion from what the statement branded as the enemies wanting to rip the country in pieces. The state media clarified in its statement that the Iftaa Council's statement was about the regular obligatory service not mobilization. Earlier in the day, the pro-government *al-Watan* newspaper cited sources as saying that the Syrian army "is so well," noting however that the citizens should start to take part in defending their areas.

"The Syrian army has enough manpower and equipment for many years to come in the war to defend Syria," the source was cited by the paper as saying, stressing, however, that "this doesn't mean that Syrians should only be confined to watch the news of battles without taking part each according to his ability." While the idea of general mobilization does not seem sound in the midst of the conflict that has been ripping Syria apart, such move needs to be announced by the president himself to take effect. Such an idea has come as the Syrian troops have become stretched out in urban battles in several cities as part of the war of attrition that the West-backed rebels have been waging.—Xinhua



Experts inspect minefield No 64, 3.5 kilometres from Puerto Argentino (Port Stanley), on the Malvinas Islands (Falkland Islands), on 12 March, 2013. During the 1982 war between Argentina and Britain, some 16,000 mines were estimated to be left on the islands by Argentina. The British government commissioned a mine action plan through technology best available currently to perform the work.—XINHUA

LOCAL NEWS

Mandalay B secures champion in quadripartite football tournament



MANDALAY, 13 March—The quadripartite football tournament of Mandalay and Sagaing selected footballers was held at Bahtoo Stadium in Mandalay on 5 March.

In the final match, Mandalay B team emerged champion with a 5-2 win over Sagaing team. After the match, Management Director Daw Yu Yu Aye, on behalf of Managing Director

Daw Moe Moe Tun of Tuk-Tuk and spare part trading of Moe Thauk Hnin Co Ltd which was main sponsor presented championship trophy to Mandalay B team.

Myanma Alinn

Modern lab technology shared in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 13 March—Organized by SML Medical Center (Mandalay Branch), the talks on modern lab technology was held at Shwepyitha Hotel in Mandalay on 23 February.

Mandalay Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Hlaing and region ministers, specialists, clinic owners, doctors and lab

technicians attended the talks.

Liver specialist professor U Than Sit gave talks on hepatitis B and its therapies and Regional & Scientific Affairs Manager Ms Ahila Padmana Than on modern lab technology.

Later, they replied to queries raised by those present.—Myanma Alinn

Knowledge about human trafficking disseminated

NAY PYI TAW, 13 March—Talks on anti-human trafficking and crime reduction was held at the administrative office in Aungzabu Ward of Zabuthiri Township on 4 March evening.

Writer Tekkatho Nay Win Aung acted master of ceremonies. Ten reporters from News and Periodicals Enterprise under the Ministry of Information asked about matters related to human trafficking. Police Col Win Khaung of Myanmar Police Force replied to queries.

At the talks, Ward Administrator U Maung Maung Thein made a speech. Police Col Win Khaung explained human trafficking and its victims and then donated books to the ward administrator.

Myanma Alinn

UMFCCI to hold subject-wise talks

YANGON, 13 March—UMFCCI will hold subject-wise talks at its office tower on Minye Kyawswa Road in Lanmadaw Township on 20 March.

Dr Linda Yuen-Ching Lim (Professor of Strategy)

of Stephen M Ross School of Business University of Michigan (USA) will give lecture with the title of Western & Asian Business Models: Which is more competitive.

Myanma Alinn

Assistance for people from project areas of Upper Paunglaung Hydropower Plant explained

PINLAUNG, 13 March—A ceremony to make clarification on Upper Paunglaung Hydropower Project in Pinlaung Township was held at the hall of the Hydropower Implementation Department near Konchaing Village in the third week of February.

Shan State Minister for Electric and Industry U Sai Tun Yin and Kayan National Race Minister U Laurence made speeches.

The departmental officials explained progress of the hydropower plant implementation.

Ward and village administrators and village elders from 10 villages of Thabyegon Village-tract and 12 villages from Hteinbin Village-tract reported on difficulties in the resettlement from the wetland area of Paunglaung Station. The departmental officials explained fulfilment of the department and cooperation of local people.

The hydropower project is located 26 miles of Pynmana and 15 miles of the power station. It was built with the aim of generating 32 kilowatt hour millions per year.

The department is carrying out resettlement of 9374 people from 2246 households of Hteinbin and Thabyegon village-tracts, reclamation of housing plots, provisions of assistance for

health, religious, education and administrative fields, construction of better status of buildings for them, assistance of construction materials for the local people to build their housings as they like, provision of agricultural and horticultural farms, construction of inter-village roads and road related buildings, installation of power line to new villages for supply of electricity from Upper Paunglaung Hydropower Plant and installation of housing electric meters.

Myanma Alinn

Judges, judicial officers take oath in Sagaing Region

MONYWA, 13 March—With a view to ensuring establishment of best judicial estate for the people in practising judicial power by judges and judicial officers at different courts in Sagaing Region and ensuring emergence of reliable judicial estate for the people, judges and judicial officers at different levels of courts in Sagaing Region took oaths for the second time in the presence of Sagaing Region Chief Justice U San Ko and Sagaing Region High Court Judge U Win Myint on 7 March.

It was participated by one assistant director, 17 township level judges and two deputy judicial officers,

totalling 20. The first ceremony to take oaths by judges and judicial officers of Sagaing Region was held

officers, totalling 63 took oaths in the presence of the Chief Justice of the region.

Myanma Alinn



on 13 February.

At that time, two deputy directors, 51 township level judges and 10 judicial

Development undertakings carried out in Sagaing

SAGAING, 13 March—The chairman of Sagaing Townselders and party make utmost efforts for fulfilling requirement of dwellers.

They carried out sanitation with the use of trawlergy donated by Sayadaw Ashin Chekinda in

addition supply of water to rural areas.

They donated one Samsung 43-inch TV worth K 1 million to Sagaing General Hospital through Medical Superintendent Dr Su Su Dway.

Myanma Alinn

Vehicles with unlicensed commodities turns over

WAW, 13 March—A vehicle that was driven along the detour of Hsathwachon Village in Waw Township of Bago Region turned over on the road recently.

According to the information by a dutiful people, officials of Mobile Team No 2 inspected the vehicle.

The vehicle driven by Ko Hla Shein of Hpa-an Township was loaded with 11 packets of fruits including

packets of orchid imported from Thailand without any custom duty weighing 2573.45 kilos.

Taking permission from the authorities, the mobile team auctioned the commodities from the vehicles on Nyaungkhashe-DaikU Road at 10 am on 7 March as the goods could spoil easily. Maung Win Ko Ko, son of U Nyunt Hlaing purchased these goods at K 1.7 million.—Myanma Alinn

Eindu-Gyaing-Kawkareik-Thingan Nyinaung road section being upgraded



THINGAN NYINAUNG, 13 March—Public Works of the Ministry of Construction spent the special maintenance fund of the Union Government on upgrading of motor roads and placing of asphalt along the roads in 2012-2013 fiscal year.

This year, a plan was set by the local authorities to complete construction of asphalt road along 73 miles long section of Eindu-Gyaing-Kawkareik-Thingan Nyinaung Road.

Public Works has completed the placing of

asphalt on 25 miles and four furlongs long section from Eindu to Gyaing in Kayin State spending K 550 million of the Government fund.

Kawkareik and Myawady Township Public Works of Myawady District are engaged in construction for 55 miles long Gyaing-Kawkareik-Thingan Nyinaung road section by spending K 578 million of the Union government's fund. In this regard, a plan is underway to place asphalt on 17 miles long Gyaing-Kawkareik section and 38 miles long Kawkareik-Myawady-Than-gan Nyinaung section except seven-mile section on hilly area in the 2012-2013 fiscal year.—Myanma Alinn

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 14 March, 2013

Artisanal businesses can help reduce poverty

There are 10 kinds of arts which have been flourished in the country since the time of kingdoms. There are three groups of artisanal products: utensils useful for daily purposes, decorations and arts such as paintings, sculptures, embroidery, lacquer wares etc.

Artistes in urban and suburban areas are relying on making artisanal products for their livelihood and the number of local and foreign tourists which are the main customers of their products.

The products in the third group are value-added and quality artisanal products and only middle-class people and tourists can buy them and the Myanmar traditional artisanal products hold great potential for growth and for penetrating foreign markets if they are added value.

In most developing countries, artisanal products play an important role in creating job opportunities and the small and medium businesses including artisanal product business have become the second job providers after the agriculture sector in those countries.

In India, export value of artisanal products makes up 25 % of the country's GDP, and the business has created jobs for 1.3 million people.

Artisanal product business is a kind of enterprises based on creativity and can become an industry. Only when SMEs grow up, will industries develop.

Today is the right time to encourage the Myanmar traditional artisanal businesses which are scattering across the country as the country and market are opening up.

Loans with low interest rate, technical support and creating market channels are a sine qua non for encouraging the small-scale businesses so that they can grow up.

Being labour intensive works, the artisanal business would create job opportunities and reduce the poverty in the country when they are booming in the country.

Diplomats visit relief camps in Rakhine State

NAY PYI TAW, 13 March.—Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Zaw Win, Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Kyaw Kyaw Win, US ambassador to Myanmar Mr Derek James Mitchell and four members, Charge d' Affaires ai of Australia Embassy Ms Ruth Stewart, Charge d' Affaires ai of British Embassy Mr Maltthw Hedgas held talks with Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin and State ministers, Charge d' Affaires ai Ms Babara UNOCHA, state-level departmental officials, at Sittway Airport, on 11

The meeting focused on relief camps, construction of makeshift camps, cooperation with UN and international organizations, humanitarian aids, education, health and local businesses.

In the afternoon, the deputy minister and party met victims at Ohntawng relief camp and construction of Shu-khinthar road.

On 12 March, they visited Kyeinnipyin relief camp in Pauktaw Township, Setyonesu relief camp in Sittway and Aungmingalar ward relief camp.

MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham calls on Laotian...

(from page 1)

culture, tourism, religion, education and agriculture sectors between the two countries and promoting cooperation in all sectors in the future.

The Vice-President also called on Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen at Sananhnakhet Room of Don Chan Palace Hotel in Vientiane at 5.30 pm.

Also present were Union Minister U Soe Maung and Deputy Ministers, Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Hor Hamhong, Cambodian



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham makes donation at That Luang Pagoda in Vientiane.—MNA

Minister of Commerce Mr Cham Prasidh and senior officer.

Their discussions focused on further

strengthening of friendly ties between the two countries, sharing of experience by Cambodia to Myanmar's chairmanship in 2014,

active cooperation in culture, tourism, trade, investment, agriculture and forest sectors between the two countries and investment of Cambodian entre-prenneurs in Myanmar.

Yesterday morning, the Vice-President and party paid homage to That Luang Pagoda in Vientiane. They also visited Kaysone Phomvihan Museum, Ho Phra Ked Temple and Wat Sisaket Temple.—MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham visits Kaysone Phomvihan Museum in Vientiane.—MNA



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham attends...

(from page 16)

Foreign Investment Law. Myanmar has massive work force that would facilitate labour-intensive industries. He highlighted the suspension of EU and US economic sanctions and US's general license for Myanmar. US also issued general license to four Myanmar banks recently.

Myanmar was implementing three special economic zones, he added. He pointed out the importance of Dawei Deep Sea Port and Dawei Special

Economic Zone.

He firmly believed that the region would see development through practical cooperation and continued implementation of CLMV's future processes. He also expressed thanks to partner countries, Japan and ASEAN Secretariat. Myanmar would host the 7th CLMV summit, he added.

The 6th CLMV Summit joint declaration was then confirmed and the date and venue for the 7th summit fixed. In his address to mark the Myanmar's hosting of

the 7th Summit, the Vice-President said delights for reviewing the implementation of plans laid down during the 5th CLMV summit and reaching agreement on future plans.

He also said that he firmly believed that the agreements on future plans reached during the 6th CLMV summit would help improve the living standard and economic development of the regional people.

He also pledged that Myanmar would make its best to successfully host the 7th summit and he expressed thanks for the warm receptions of the previous host countries.

eternal peace in the country, and contributions to social, economic, education, health sectors and food sufficiency of the national races in the areas where they are seeking for eternal peace. The Nippon Foundation Chairman, for his part, discussed plans for providing more humanitarian assistance.

MNA

The 6th CLMV Summit served as a reminder of resolutions made at 2004 Vientiane Summit in Laos, 2005 Kuala Lumpur Summit in Malaysia, 2007 Cebu Summit in the Philippines, 2008 Hanoi Summit in Vietnam and 2010 Phnom Penh in Cambodia and reaffirmed the commitment to maintain traditional neighborliness among CLMV members and serve common interests.

The Summit saw leaders reviewed progress in implementation of projects adopted at the 5th Summit to bridge development gap among CLMV members in moving toward ASEAN Community 2015, exchanging views on implementation of CLMV integration and economic cooperation adopted in 2014 and aim of CLMV future cooperation and future plans. The Vice-President and party attended the dinner hosted by Laotian Prime Minister in the evening together with the attendees of 5th ACMECS Summit and 6th CLMV Summit.—MNA

More Nippon humanitarian assistance for national races

NAY PYI TAW, 13 March.—Union Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint received Chairman of the Nippon Foundation of Japan and Japanese Government's Special Envoy for National

Reconciliation in Myanmar Mr. Yohei Sasakawa and party at the ministry, here, this morning.

During the meeting, they discussed progress of peace talks being held with national race armed groups to foster

NATIONAL

No plans to buy, supply power due to huge investment

NAY PYI TAW, 13 March—Ministry of Electric Power has no plans to buy electric power from foreign countries to supply to the people sufficiently as it is required to inject a huge investment into building power grids and sub-power stations to link with grid of foreign countries, said Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Aung Than Oo during today meeting of the Pyithu Hluttaw.

In his answer to the question raised by U Phyo Min Thein of Hlegu constituency **whether there is a plan to buy electric power from foreign countries for Sufficient Power Supply,**



Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Aung Than Oo replies to queries.—MNA

the deputy minister also said that local authorities of border areas have bought power from Thailand to



Deputy Minister for Transport U Han Sein replies to questions. MNA

supply power to Mawtaung Village in Myeik District, Taninthayi Region, and Myawady and Phayathonsu



U Phyo Min Thein of Hlegu Constituency raises question. MNA

in Myawady District, Kayin State and Tachilek in Shan State (East).

The ministry has

allowed local and foreign investors to buy power from neighbouring countries and sell to local people when they asked permission from the ministry through the remaining regional governments, he added.

During the meeting, Deputy Minister for Transport U Han Sein clarified the plan for maintenance and improvement of the Ayeyawady River in his answer to the question raised by U Aye Pe of Cocogyun constituency.

Regarding the project for maintenance and improvement of the Ayeyawady River, the deputy minister said Department of Water Resources and

Improvement of River Systems of the Ministry of Transport and SBE nv Engineering Co Ltd from Belgium signed an MoU on potential for maintenance and improvement of the river on 11 Feb, 2013.

It will take six months to explore the potential for improvement of the Ayeyawady River at the cost of 800,000 euros and Flanders State Government of Belgium and SBE company will share the cost, he added.

The MoU would help not only improve the Ayeyawady River system but also bring benefits to hydro power production, irrigation, tourism and navigation in the country, he said.—MNA

Health Ministry agrees with legal enactment allowing second-degree related donors in kidney transplantation

NAY PYI TAW, 13 March — Legislators at today's Amyotha Hluttaw session were unanimous on the proposal urging the Union government to give the green light to the enactment of laws allowing second-degree related donor as well as first-degree related donors in kidney transplant of living donors submitted by U Hmat Gyi of Mandalay Region Constituency No (9).

"I agree with the proposal," says Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin in support of the amendment to the law. "There is nothing to be afraid of disadvantages of organ graft while there is plenty of opportunity for a great advantage guaranteed by advancements in medical science and suggestions from legal and social point of views. If second-degree related donation is allowed,

there will be more chances for patients who failed to receive renal graft from their first-degree related donors", says the Union minister.

In an interview with U Phone Myint Aung of Yangon Region Constituency No (3), he supported the proposal, saying that kidney transplant should be allowed not only from living donors but also from deceased ones as such kind of generous offer is not contrary to the region. But he stressed the need of a panel to take measures against organ trafficking and forced donation.

Six lawmakers took part in the discussions on the proposal of U Khin Maung Yi of Ayeyawady Region Constituency No (6) that urges all stakeholders including three pillars of the State that can shape



U Phone Myint Aung of Yangon Region Constituency No (3). NLM

the future of the nation to avoid the situations that could lead the country into the deviation from the right track and to put the country's sole aim at the forefront for the sake of the nation and its people. They



U Myat Ko of Sagaing Region Constituency (12).—NLM

expressed their colorful different point of views in support of the proposal. Dr Banyar Aung Moe of Mon State Constituency No (7) called for the need to be equipped with the skillful tackle in quelling the protests instead of



U Shu Maung of Shan State Constituency No (8).—NLM

feeling concerns about the demonstrations. U Hla Swe of Magway Constituency No (12) stressed the need of strict adherence to the existing laws but there is a right to amend necessary points, urging all walks of life to make self-disciplined

commitments in pursuit of the sole aim of the nation so that the country will not be rolling back.

With regards to the proposal, U Myat Ko of Sagaing Region Constituency (12) gave his opinion in the interview with him that he supported the proposal as the legislature, executive and judiciary are three pillars of crucial importance to the country which is pursuing its sole aim on the right track.

"Myanmar has been declared a nation moving towards democracy to be able to stand tall among the world nations. We have been repeating our firm stance that Myanmar's reforms could not be reversed. That's why we, all parliamentarians, and all stakeholders have to be on the right track to democracy, says U Shu Maung of Shan State Constituency No (8).

NLM

Ywataw-Natmauk railroad section inaugurated



NAY PYI TAW, 13 March— An inauguration of Ywataw-Natmauk railroad section took place at Natmauk station's yard in Magway Region this morning.

In his opening speech, Union Minister Rail Transportation U

Union Minister U Aung Min presents gifts to passengers on maiden trip of Ywataw-Natmauk train.

MNA

Zeyar Aung said that upon completion of Natmauk-Kanpya railroad section including the newly opened Ywataw-Natmauk railroad section of Pyawbwe-Ywataw-Natmauk-Magway Railroad, there would be an easy access to Mandalay Region and to Kachin State from Magway Region, to Shan State from Pyawbwe of Magway Region, and to Pyawbwe, Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon via Magway.

Next, Magway Region Chief Minister U Phone Maw Shwe and Union Minister at the President

Office U Aung Min extended greetings.

Union Ministers U Aung Min and U Zeyar Aung and the Chief Minister formally opened the railroad section. Union Minister U Zeyar Aung unveiled the stone inscription of the railroad section.

It is learnt that the railroad section with 35.42 miles length is a part of the Pyawbwe-Ywataw-Natmauk-Magway railroad construction project. And it is the first inauguration of railroad section in the time of the current government.

MNA

WORLD

Mexico telecoms reform pits America Movil vs Televisa

MEXICO CITY, 13 March — Mexico's ambitious bid to overhaul its phone and television markets threatens to eat into revenue of the major players, telecoms tycoon Carlos Slim and TV mogul Emilio Azcarraga, and may force the two to seek new business on each other's turf. A new bill aims to stir up competition in the telecoms sector by allowing increased foreign ownership of media and phone companies, and giving regulators the power to force players controlling more than 50 percent of the market to sell some assets.

The planned reform has been hailed as the boldest attempt to shake up the market since Slim, the world's richest man, first acquired former fixed-line phone monopoly Telmex in 1990. Telmex is now part of Slim's telecommunica-



The logo of America Movil is seen on the wall of the reception area in the company's corporate offices in Mexico City on 13 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

tions giant America Movil, whose shares have been hit since the reform was presented on Monday. Investors have also sold off shares of Azcarraga's broadcasting giant Televisa, albeit less so. Uncertainty over how the reforms will be implemented could put further pressure on the share prices of both

companies.

"We believe that the net risks introduced by this proposal are higher for America Movil than for Televisa, but negative for both," wrote analyst Gregorio Tomassi at Brazil's Itau bank. Requiring Televisa to offer its public TV channels to rivals for either a reduced rate or free

could wipe around 3 percent from the company's core profit, Tomassi estimated. Tough-sounding elements such as forcing dominant companies to sell assets, as well as opening up the market to greater foreign investment would mean lower future revenue for both America Movil and Televisa, analysts agreed. "I think the government is being aggressive," said Rogelio Gallegos, who manages 8 billion pesos (\$640 million) in equity at Mexico City-based Actinver, adding that he expected Televisa and America Movil shares to fall further still.

Important details of the reform, such as how regulators might force dominant companies to restructure to meet a 50 percent market-share cap, are still to be worked out.

Reuters

Australia to boost its cultural industry with a new cultural policy

CANBERRA, 13 March —Australian government will implement a new cultural policy to boost its cultural industry and create jobs and encourage a new generation of artists, Arts Minister Simon Crean announced in Canberra on Wednesday. The new cultural policy, called Creative Australia, will set aside a total of 235 million (almost 241.9 million USD) over four years to implement the policy.

According to his speech at the National Press Club today, federal government will boost spending on the Australia Council by 75.3 million (almost 77.54 million USD) over four years under a new national cultural policy. He said the

Australia Council will get a "clear mandate" to support and promote vibrant and distinctively Australian creative arts.

According to the policy, the arts body, Creative Partnerships Australia, will receive 8.6 million (almost 8.85million USD) in additional funding to build partnerships between artists, business and private donors. And an extra 20.8 million (almost 21.42 million USD) will go to arts training over four years and 20 million (almost 20.59 million USD) will be spent on attracting international film production. In addition, Video game design, indigenous arts and digital production are also a part of the policy.—Xinhua

Venezuela invites int'l organizations to observe presidential election

CARACAS, 13 March — Venezuelan electoral authorities said on Tuesday that they had invited international organizations to observe the upcoming presidential election. Invitations had been extended to the Union of South American Nations, the Southern Common Market and some 50 other international bodies, said the National Electoral Council (CNE).

The race to determine the successor of Hugo Chavez, who died on 5 March, will be held on 14 April, and some 18.9 million

people are eligible to vote, according to the CNE. So far the CNE has recognized seven of the eight applicants for candidacy, including acting President Nicolas Maduro from the ruling party and opposition leader Henrique Capriles. The application of Pana Change party nominee Gonzalo Contreras was rejected for failure to submit his management plan. According to the Venezuelan constitution, a new and direct general election must be held within 30 days after the death of a head of state.

Xinhua

Brazilian, Spanish DMs eye stronger defence cooperation

BRASILIA, 13 March — Defence ministers of Brazil and Spain met here on Tuesday and voiced their readiness to strengthen the two countries' cooperation in defence. "It is important that Brazil and Spain maintain tight relations, because we have shared principles,"

said Brazil's Celso Amorim after the meeting with Pedro Morenes.

In the meeting, the two pledged to continue defence collaboration, especially in promoting the exchanges of technology and defense materials. They also discussed, among others, natural dis-

aster prevention, military equipment purchases and cyber-security cooperation. At a Press conference held on the same day at the Spanish Embassy in Brasilia, Morenes said Spain is interested in helping with the development of the Brazilian defence industry.—Xinhua

Turkish Cultural Year events to start in China in March

ANKARA, 13 March — The events of the 2013 Turkish Culture Year will begin in China in March, Turkish Culture and Tourism Minister Omer Celik said here on Tuesday.

"In recent years, the Turkish government is very concerned about the development of cultural relations

between Turkey and China, and the Chinese government is attaching great importance to the further development of cultural exchange with Turkey with the creation of many promising opportunities," Celik said at a Press conference in Turkey's capital Ankara.

For his part, Chinese

Ambassador to Turkey Gong Xiaosheng said that "Through in-depth exchanges of the artists and the peoples of China and Turkey, we believe that the Chinese and Turkish cultural activities and cooperation will be promoted in various fields."

Xinhua



Relatives of the miners wait at the site of the accident in Shuicheng County, southwest China's Guizhou Province, on 13 March, 2013. Twenty-one miners were killed and four others were missing in a coal and gas outburst on Tuesday evening at Machang Coal Mine which belongs to Gemudi Company of Guizhou Water & Mining Group. Eighty-three miners were working underground when the accident took place, and 58 of them managed to get to the ground safely.

XINHUA

Four Russians killed in UN helicopter crash in Congo

UNITED NATIONS, 13 March — Four Russians were killed when a UN-contracted cargo helicopter crashed in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said on Tuesday. The helicopter crashed on Saturday on a thickly wooded mountainside around 20 km (12 miles) west of Bukavu airport. Russia's Foreign Ministry said it was an Mi-8 helicopter owned by UTair and blamed the crash on adverse weather conditions.

A UN rescue team was only able to reach the crash site on Tuesday. In a statement Ban, offered "his sincerest condolences and sympathy to the families and friends of the victims,

and to the Government of the Russian Federation" and said the UN mission in Congo was investigating the cause of the crash.

The United Nations has an estimated 17,000 peacekeepers in Congo, and operates an extensive aviation network to counter an almost total lack of roads in the vast central African country.

The peacekeepers have been stretched thin by a rebellion in the resource-rich east of Congo and the UN Security Council is considering creating a special intervention force, which one senior council diplomat has said would be able to "search and destroy" the M23 rebels and other armed groups in the country.

Reuters



6.0-magnitude quake hits Kamchatka Peninsula, Russia

BEIJING, 13 March — A 6.0-magnitude earthquake jolted Kamchatka Peninsula, Russia, at 11:12 am Wednesday Beijing Time, according to the China Earthquake Networks Centre (CENC).

The epicentre, with a depth of 10 km, was monitored at 60.2 degrees north latitude and 163.3 degrees east longitude.—Xinhua

REGIONAL



People stand in front of the statue of Dr Sun Yat-sen at Dr Sun Yat-sen's Mausoleum in Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province, on 12 March, 2013. People gathered here on Tuesday to commemorate the 88th anniversary of the passing away of Dr Sun Yat-sen, a revered revolutionary leader who played a pivotal role in overthrowing imperial rule in China.—XINHUA

Death toll rises in clashes between Malaysian forces and Filipino armed group

KUALA LUMPUR, 13 March—Another Malaysian soldier and three Filipino militants were killed on Tuesday in clashes on Borneo Island, bringing the death toll to 66 since a 200-strong Filipino armed group arrived in Malaysia's

Sabah state a month ago to stake a territorial claim.

Malaysian Armed Forces Chief Gen. Zulkifeli Mohamad Zain said his soldiers were engaged in a "mopping up" operation in the Tanjung Batu area near Lahad Datu town on Sa-

bah's east coast when they happened upon five armed men on Tuesday morning.

One Malaysian soldier died and three Filipino militants were killed during the ensuing exchange of gunfire.

Kyodo News

Sri Lankan police arrest 45 people heading to Australia

COLOMBO, 13 March—The Sri Lankan police on Wednesday arrested 45 asylum seekers preparing to leave for Australia by boat illegally. Of those arrested are 43 minority Tamils and 2 Sinhalese nationals, the police said in the north western town of Marawila said. The police said that the Tamils are all residents of the northern town of Jaffna which was affected by the 30 year war between Tamil Tiger rebels and the Sri Lankan army.

The police found food, mobile telephones and clothes in the possession of the asylum seekers who were preparing for the journey to Australia. Last year the Sri Lankan Navy prevented over 3,000 asylum seekers sailing to Australia. Under a plan announced by the Australian Foreign Ministry, Australia is to provide Sri Lanka with additional surveillance and electronic equipment to expand the island's capacity to target smuggling operations and better identify vessel departure times and locations.

Xinhua

China says willing to discuss cyber security with the US

BEIJING, 13 March — China offered on Tuesday to talk with the United States about cyber security amid an escalating war of words between the two sides on computer hacking, but suspicion is as deep in Beijing as it is in Washington about the accusations and counter-accusations. The world's two leading economies have been squaring off for months over the issue of cyber attacks, each accusing the other of hacking into sensitive government and corporate websites.

A US computer security company said last month that a secretive Chinese military unit was likely behind a series of hacking attacks mostly targeting the United States.

On Monday, US National Security Advisor Tom Donilon called on China to acknowledge the scope of the problem and enter a dialogue with the United States on ways to establish acceptable behaviour. China, in response, said it was happy to talk.

"China is willing, on the basis of the principles of mutual respect and mutual trust, to have constructive dialogue and coopera-



Part of the building of 'Unit 61398', is seen in the outskirts of Shanghai on 19 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

tion on this issue with the international community including the United States to maintain the security, openness and peace of the Internet", Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chuying said at a daily news briefing. "Internet security is a global issue. In fact, China is a marginalized group in this regard, and one of the biggest victims of hacking attacks," she added, echoing a common refrain from Chinese officials.

Two major Chinese military websites, including that of the Defence Ministry, were subject to

Proceedings initiated for China's leadership change

BEIJING, 13 March—The change of China's leadership for a new term of five years was formally initiated by the national legislature, with a candidate list discussed by the presidium of the first session of the 12th National People's Congress (NPC) on Tuesday afternoon. Presided over by Zhang Dejiang, the presidium's executive chairman, the meeting made a decision that the list of candidates to the 12th NPC Standing Committee chairman, vice chairpersons, secretary-general and members, as well as president and vice president of the People's Republic of China and chairman of the Central Military Commission of the PRC, will be tabled by the presidium to



The presidium of the first session of the 12th National People's Congress (NPC) hold their third meeting at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, on 12 March, 2013.—XINHUA

NPC delegations for discussion and consultation. The Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee recommended the candidates for state leaders to the session's presidium.

Entrusted by the CPC Central Committee, Liu Yunshan, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, made explanations to the presidium on the candidates for the state leadership positions. "Electing and appointing leaders of the state for a new term is one of the major tasks for this session," Liu said. "The CPC Central Committee has placed great importance on recommending candidates for the state leadership positions, and

has made an overall consideration when arranging the personnel changeover for the 18th CPC National Congress." Besides strict political and professional qualifications, the CPC Central Committee has also considered whether the candidates would meet the requirements of the positions and improve the leadership's lineup, Liu said.

The CPC Central Committee has maintained that after some senior comrades retire, the state organs should be enriched by younger comrades in a bid to realize a smooth handover between generations, increase vitality of the leadership and better handle new situations and tasks, Liu said.—Xinhua

Thai rosewood gets international protection to curb China trade

BANGKOK, 13 March —Thai rosewood, which fetches exorbitant prices on the international market, was granted protection under international law on Tuesday, with China the main target, but it was not immediately clear how much effect it will have.

A 1989 National Logging Ban already prohibits logging of all rosewood and other precious wood species in Thailand. But huge demand and weak law enforcement means Thai rosewood is smuggled into neighboring countries and shipped to end-users, principally China.

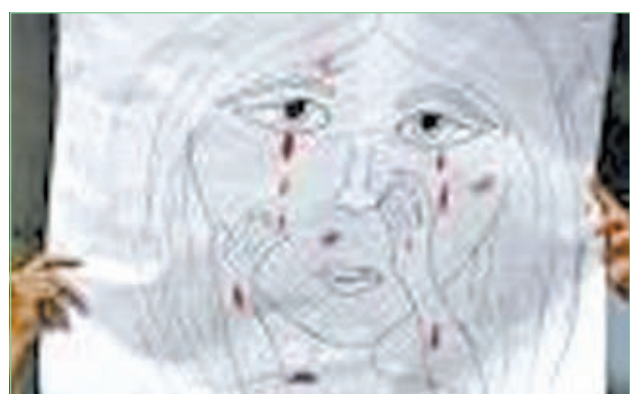
Member states at the annual Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) voted to list Thai rosewood under Appendix II of the CITES which regulates trade of threatened species through logging permits and agreed quotas. "This is a significant step forward for this desperately threatened species. Finally we have a legal tool to use in China, the main

destination and where rosewood prices on the black market are spurring a flood of smuggling," said Faith Doherty, head of the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) Forests Campaign.

Rising demand from China's wealthy elite led to a 40 percent increase in traditional rosewood furniture production by Chinese companies in 2010 with prices increasing by 15-40 percent annually, fuelled by speculative investments in "rare wood" products by rich Chinese, says the EIA.

Illegal rosewood logging is dogged by violence and corruption fuelled by its high market price. Thai rosewood can fetch up to \$50,000 per cubic meter. Even the smallest log is valuable. Last year, 45 Cambodian loggers were shot dead by Thai authorities while out searching for rosewood, according to the Cambodian government, although the Thai authorities dispute that figure.

Reuters



Cabinet divided, GoM set up on rape bill

NEW DELHI, 13 March —Amid persisting differences in the Cabinet, the tough law against rape and other crimes was today referred to a Group of Ministers which held its first meeting and reported substantial progress in evolving a consensus.

The Group of Ministers (GoM) is expected to finalise its task tomorrow to pave the way for the Union Cabinet to consider the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2013 afresh on Thursday.—PTI

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BBC RHINE VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BBC RHINE VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14-3.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BBC CHARTERING &
LOGISTIC GMBH & CO KG

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MODERN PEAK VOY NO (25)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MODERN PEAK VOY NO (25) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14-3.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: NYK LINE

Phone No: 256924/256914

INVITATION FOR OPENED TENDER
(TENDER NO. 3(T)MPE/CONDENSATE(1)/2012-2013)

1. Opened Tender is invited for the Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the Conveyance of Yetagun Condensate 1.75 Mbbls (±5%) from Yetagun Marine Terminal Offshore to No.(1) Refinery (Thanlyin).
2. Tender Closing Date : 8-4-2013 at (12:00) noon.
3. Tender Opening Date : 8-4-2013 at (13:00) hrs.
4. Delivery Time : 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014
5. Tender Documents and details information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours commencing 14-3-2013 on payment of the Myanmar Kyat One Hundred Thousand (Kyat 100,000) per set.
6. Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender document officially from Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (541)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (541) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14-3.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA RANCAK VOY NO (705)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RANCAK VOY NO (705) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14-3.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797



Walt Disney International
Chairman Andy Bird.

Walt Disney
head seeks
regulatory
certainty for
govt

MUMBAI, 13 March — Asking for certainty in business environment in the country, global entertainment giant Walt Disney International Chairman Andy Bird today said clear policies and firm decisions can attract greater investment to India.

"It's critical for everyone involved to at least understand what the rules of the marketplace are and to be fairly confident that those rules are not going to change unexpectedly," Bird said in keynote address at the 14th edition of the Fici-Frames here. — PTI

Need to build
cultural
bridge
between India
and US

MUMBAI, 13 March — US filmmaker Steven Spielberg, who made several trips to India as a backpacker in '70s and '80s, feels Americans need to be more aware of Indian cinema and the director is keen to "build the cultural bridge" between the two countries.

"I am not as aware of Indian cinema as I should be sitting here.

PTI



US filmmaker Steven
Spielberg.

Egypt refuses 750 million USD urgent aid loan from IMF

CAIRO, 13 March — Egypt's Finance Minister Al-Morsi Hegazy said on Tuesday in a press statement that Egypt refused an urgent aid loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimated at 750 million US dollars.

The minister said that the government made the decision out of concerns that such an urgent loan could bring about risks on the na-

tional economy, adding that the Egyptian economy is on its way to recovery and stability. Hegazy also said that the Egyptian government has fulfilled the preparation of a reforming economic and social program, noting that Egypt, as a member in the IMF has the right of getting a loan tantamount to 300 percent of its share in the fund, which means about 4.8 billion US dollars. Egypt is cur-



rently struggling for a rescue loan of 4.8 billion US dollars from the IMF to survive a

severe financial crisis created by two years of turmoil and instability following the upheaval in early 2011 that ousted former President Hosni Mubarak.

Egypt's Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Hesham Qandil tries to knock all the doors to relieve the ailing economy as the budget deficit is expected to reach 26.74 billion US dollars in the fiscal year 2012-2013. — Xinhua



Stunning! Killer whales prey on penguins. — XINHUA

Fire in ATC hits flight operations
at Chennai Airport

CHENNAI, 13 March — Flight operations were affected after a minor fire broke out in the air traffic control room at Chennai Airport in the wee hours to-

day.

The flames were noticed by the staff at around 2.45 am, official sources said, adding five five tenders were pressed into service and the blaze was

doused within 20 minutes. There was no report of any casualty but computers and the ceiling in the ATC hall was damaged in the fire, sources said. — PTI

Eight killed, 120 wounded in attacks
in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 13 March — A suicide bomber killed five people and wounded 120 others in northern Iraq on Monday, while three people were killed in two other attacks in central Iraq, the police said.

A suicide bomber blew up his explosive-laden car near the police headquarters in the town of al-Debis, some 45 km northwest of Kirkuk city, killing five people and wounding 120 others, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Three of the killed were policemen and some 65 of the wounded were students in a nearby secondary school, the source said.

The huge blast caused severe damages to the police headquarters as well as to the school and a government building, the source added. The ethnically-mixed Province of Kirkuk and its capital Kirkuk City, some 250 km north of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, are part of the disputed areas between the Kurds and both

Arabs and Turkomans.

In a separate incident, two civilians were killed by gunmen using silenced weapons in Sabie al-Bour area in north of Baghdad, an Interior Ministry source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

In Iraq's eastern province of Diyala, gunmen on a motorcycle shot dead a blacksmith near the provincial capital city of Baquba, some 65 km northeast of Baghdad, a provincial police source anonymously told Xinhua. — Xinhua

ENTERTAINMENT

Bride wars? Brangelina, Jennifer Aniston's wedding dates may clash

LOS ANGELES, 13 March —Actress Jennifer Aniston-Justin Theroux's wedding date is likely to clash with Brad Pitt-Angelina Jolie's.

Brad Pitt, who was married to Aniston in the past, will reportedly obtain a marriage licence by end of this month, which will entitle him to marry with-

in 90 days and this can be close to Aniston's wedding date, which is yet to be announced.

"Brad and Angelina left themselves short of

time to sort out their wedding because of the licence deadline. A few months is nothing when you're planning a wedding especially one as major as theirs," thesun.co.uk quoted a source as saying.

"Everything points to them getting married in May just after the Cannes Film Festival ends, because they've got their hearts set on tying the knot in France," the source added.

If the wedding dates clash, there can be a split in Hollywood celebrities attending the two big weddings. "All that goodwill would go out the window if Brad's wedding date comes close to hers. Jennifer will see it as an attempt to upstage her and there will be a battle over Hollywood guests," a source said.

"She knows they will be judged on who had the better wedding by pulling in the biggest stars," the source added.—PTI



If the two big fat weddings take place on the same day it may result in battle over Hollywood guests.—PTI



Television personality Barbara Walters arrives for the premiere of the film "Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps" in New York on 20 Sept, 2010.—REUTERS

Barbara Walters denies reports Hasselbeck leaving "The View"

NEW YORK, 13 March —Barbara Walters on Monday denied reports that Elisabeth Hasselbeck was leaving the daytime television talk show "The View," saying the co-host gave the show "perspective and balance."

US Weekly magazine on Friday first reported Hasselbeck, 35, would leave the ABC talk show at the end of the season in August, citing an unnamed source who said Hasselbeck's outspoken conservative views did not attract enough viewers. Deadline.com and the Hollywood Reporter also reported that Hasselbeck's contract would not be renewed.

"There is a particularly false story that keeps getting picked up about Elisabeth's alleged departure, saying that we don't approve of her conservative views," Walters, who created the long-running talk show, said on Monday's programme.

"The truth is we love Elisabeth. I like her personally and she's just a wonderful person," Walters said.

"But beyond that, we value and appreciate her point of view, it's important to us because Elisabeth helps give the show perspective and balance," Walters said. "So we have no plans for Elisabeth to leave."

ABC had previously released a statement following the reports saying only that Hasselbeck "is a valued member of 'The View' and has a long-term contract."

Hasselbeck joined the long-running women-oriented talk show in 2003 and became known for her heated arguments with former co-host and liberal Rosie O'Donnell. Co-host Joy Behar, who has been with the programme since its debut in 1997, said on Thursday that she would leave the show after the current season.—Reuters

Justin Bieber concert in Portugal canceled

LONDON, 13 March—Canadian singer Justin Bieber has canceled one of two planned concerts in Portugal this week, the venue in Lisbon said on its website on Monday.

A source close to the singer, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the cancellation was not linked to Bieber's collapse on-stage in London last week, which forced the teen sensation to take a 20-minute break for oxygen and later to visit a hospital.

"Due to unforeseen circumstances, Justin Bieber was forced to cancel the second performance in Portugal, 12 March," a statement said on the website of the Pavilhao Atlantico.

"The Canadian singer is eager to play for the Portuguese fans on 11 March," it added. Ticket holders for the canceled gig were entitled to a refund if they claimed it within a month.

The Bieber source did not give a reason for the cancellation, but local media in Portugal reported that tickets sales for the 12 March gig, which was added to his itinerary in February, were lower than organizers had hoped.

Bieber described his visit to London as a "rough week". As well as the collapse, the 19-year-old was caught on film in an explosive-filled altercation with a photographer, showed up nearly two hours late for a



Canadian pop star Justin Bieber is held back by a member of his security team as he confronts a photographer outside his hotel in central London in this still image taken from video on 8 March, 2013.

REUTERS

show leading to widespread anger and was labeled a "pop brat" by a leading tabloid.

Discovered on YouTube in 2008, Bieber has built an online following of

tens of millions of fans and is one of the pop world's biggest stars. In February, he became the youngest artist to land five chart-topping albums in the key US market.—Reuters

Iron Man 3 to release in India before the US

MUMBAI, 13 March—Superhero film Iron Man 3, starring Robert Downey Jr as industrialist Tony Stark aka Iron Man, will hit Indian screens on 26 April, a week before it releases in the US.

The third film in the series will see Stark embark on a journey of revenge as his world is reduced to rubble by a malevolent enemy.

As he fights his way back, Stark discovers the answer to the question that has secretly haunted him: does the man make the suit or does the suit make the man?

Starring Robert Downey Jr, Gwyneth Paltrow, Don Cheadle, Guy Pearce, Rebecca Hall, Stephanie Szostak, James

Badge Dale with Jon Favreau and Ben Kingsley, Marvel's Iron Man 3 is directed by Shane Black.

The screenplay is by Drew Pearce and Shane Black and is based on Marvel's iconic Super Hero Iron Man, who first appeared on the pages of Tales of Suspense in 1963 and had his solo comic book debut with The Invincible Iron Man in May of 1968.—PTI

Starring Robert Downey Jr and Gwyneth Paltrow, Iron Man 3 is directed by Shane Black.



SPORTS

Magical Messi helps Barca to stunning victory

BARCELONA, 13 March—A fired-up Lionel Messi answered his critics by inspiring Barcelona to a sensational Champions League comeback against AC Milan on Tuesday with two goals in a 4-0 home win to help them reach the quarter-finals. A rampant Barca, all-but written off after a surprise 2-0 reverse at Milan's San Siro stadium in last month's last 16, first leg, came storming back at the seven-times European Cup winners to progress 4-2 on aggregate after a memorable night.

They looked to Messi to spark a fightback and the four-times World Player of the Year did not disappoint with a scintillating display backed up by midfield trio Xavi, Andres Iniesta and Sergio Busquets and full-backs Jordi Alba and Daniel Alves.

Barca were ahead at the Nou Camp in the fifth minute through Messi's



Barcelona's Lionel Messi (C) is challenged by AC Milan's Riccardo Montolivo (R) and AC Milan's K?vin Constant looks on during their Champions League round of 16 second leg soccer match at Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on 12 March, 2013.—REUTERS

brilliant curling effort and the Argentina forward, who has suffered rare criticism in recent weeks, leveled the tie on aggregate five minutes before halftime with a low drive. Barcelona ruthlessly dominated, with Milan struggling to get the ball out of their own half for long periods, and David Villa struck a third 10 min-

utes after the break before Jordi Alba netted a breakaway goal in the second minute of added time.

Before Alba's effort finally killed the tie, Milan had pressed forward looking for the goal that could have sent them through and there was a palpable release of tension in the giant arena when the Spain

fullback's shot hit the back of the net before the celebrations began in earnest. Barca's win makes them the first team in the Champions League to ever overturn a two-goal first leg deficit without the benefit of an away goal while only four sides had successfully fought back from a deficit of more than one goal.

"We started really fired up, as you have seen," Villa told Spanish television.

"The early goal helped us a lot, but it was something we looked for from the first minute," added the Spain forward, who has struggled for form since returning from a broken leg sustained at the end of 2011. "We believed we could do it from the first minute, in fact from the final whistle of the last game," he said.

"We are delighted for the fans. We always believed we could do it. For them, and with them, we have done it."—Reuters

Perfection once again within reach, says Kim

LONDON, 13 March—Just two competitions into her comeback, South Korean Olympic champion Kim Yuna believes figure skating perfection is once again within her reach as she returns to the world championship stage. Kim, who produced a flawless display and record scores to win gold at the 2010

free programme without any mistakes," Kim told reporters following her training session. "That in itself is a huge accomplishment.

"Delivering a clean program requires a lot of practice and I truly believe that if I do practice a lot I can deliver such perfection

once again."

Returning to the ice in a bid to defend her Olympic title next year at the Sochi Winter Games, Queen Yuna, as Kim is known to her legions of fans around the world, has displayed few signs of rust in her comeback.

After a 20-month absence, Kim made her long-awaited return to competition in December

in Dortmund, Germany winning the NRW Trophy with what was then a season best score then confirmed her form in January storming to victory at the Korean national championships.

"I did think about coming back to the ice for a long time and what motivated

me is skating is something I am best at," explained Kim. "It is something I love so I wanted to give it one more try."

The 22-year-old skater has now set her sights on adding a second world title to her glittering resume setting up a mouth-watering rematch with arch-rival Mao Asada of Japan in what promises to be one of the highlights of the championship which begins on Wednesday with the pairs' and men's short programmes. World champion in 2008 and 2010, Asada saw her reign interrupted in 2009 when Kim lifted the crown then was beaten to the gold medal in Vancouver by her Korean rival.

The two skaters will go head-to-head in London for the first time since the 2011 worlds when Kim took silver and Asada slumped to sixth.—Reuters



Kim Yuna of South Korea skates during practice sessions at the ISU World Figure Skating Championships in London, Ontario, on 12 March, 2013.—REUTERS

Bolt, Ennis win top Laureus awards

RIO DE JANEIRO, 13 March—Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt and British heptathlete Jessica Ennis won the Laureus World Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year Awards on Monday following their success at the 2012 London Olympic Games.

The team of the year award went to Europe's Ryder Cup team after their stunning victory over the United States at Medinah last Sep-

tember. Bolt, who also won the award in 2009 and 2010, won gold in the 100, 200 and 4x100 metres relay in London to repeat his medal haul from Beijing. He was not there in person to receive the award at Rio's Theatro Municipal but appeared via a hologram.

Wearing a suit and tie and holding the trophy in his hands, Bolt promised to defend his Olympic titles at the 2016 Rio Games. "Definitely I will be here in 2016," he



Olympic gold medal sprinter Usain Bolt arrives for the 2013 NBA All-Star basketball game in Houston, Texas, on 17 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

said. Also nominated for the award was American swimmer Michael Phelps, who won four gold and two silver medals in London to become the most decorated Olympian of all time.

Phelps was given a new award for Exceptional Achievement, which he collected at the gala ceremony in the 2016 Olympics host city just hours after participating in a swimming class for children at a Rio slum.—Reuters

Sharapova, Azarenka advance at Indian Wells

INDIAN WELLS, 13 March—Former champion Maria Sharapova raised her game when it mattered to storm into the BNP Paribas Open quarter-finals with a 7-5, 6-0 victory over Spaniard Lara Arruabarrena-Vicino on Tuesday.

Australian Open champion Victoria Azarenka also cruised into the last eight, pounding Poland's Urszula Radwanska 6-3, 6-1 in a match lasting just under 90 minutes despite being hampered by a sore ankle.

Fifth seed Petra Kvitova advanced with a comfortable 6-2, 6-3 win over fellow Czech Klara Zakopalova but third seed Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland was knocked out, losing 6-1, 4-6, 7-5.



Maria Sharapova

Perez "desperate" for first win with McLaren

LONDON, 13 March—McLaren expect their new Formula One signing Sergio Perez to win races this season and the 23-year-old Mexican is "desperate" to do so. After two years with Sauber, Perez has moved up to one of the sport's most successful teams as replacement for 2008 world champion Lewis Hamilton following the Briton's departure for a new challenge with Mercedes.

"As a Formula One driver, you dream to win your first race. It's something you have dreamed of all your life," Perez told British reporters ahead of his McLaren debut in Sunday's Melbourne season-opener.

"I have no idea what it feels like. I have to be honest, I am desperate for winning. I

Russian world number three Sharapova won a tight opening set then swept through the second in only 22 minutes to reach the quarter-finals at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden for a third consecutive year.

The second seed will next meet Italy's Sara Errani, a 6-3, 6-2 winner against Frenchwoman Marion Bartoli earlier in the day, in a rematch of last year's French Open final clinched by the Russian.

"I stepped up my game in the second set," Sharapova, who was champion here in 2006 and a losing finalist last year, said courtside after wrapping up victory in one hour 18 minutes. "The first set was so up and down I had to buckle down, stepping into the returns and getting in a

few more first serves. It was a slow start.

Reuters

haven't won a race yet in my (F1) career so I am desperate to get a win," he added.

"But when I ... start the season I will just drive normally, I will not be driving desperately to get my win. I need to be consistent, I need to score points and I know the win will come at some point."

Perez has not scored a point since he was announced as McLaren's new signing, a run of six races since he was 10th in Singapore last September.

Before that he had chalked up three podiums, including two second places, for a solid mid-table Swiss team who make the most of their limited resources but rarely challenge for victories.

Reuters



McLaren's Formula One driver Sergio Perez of Mexico drives during a training session at Circuit de Catalunya racetrack in Montmelo, near Barcelona, on 2 March, 2013.—REUTERS

GENERAL

Fourteen dead, eight injured in China bus crash



Rescuers conduct a rescue operation at the accident site after a sleeper coach fell off the Jingzhou Yangtze River Bridge in Jingzhou, central China's Hubei Province, on 12 March, 2013.—XINHUA

JINGZHOU, (Hubei), 13 March—Fourteen people died and eight were injured after a sleeper coach plunged off a bridge on the Yangtze River in central

China's Hubei Province on Tuesday evening. Two of the injured are in critical condition, the health bureau in Jingzhou City said in a Press release on Wednesday

morning.

Emergency treatment continued overnight, but doctors are uncertain if they will survive, it said. Of the other six injured, the release said four cases are serious but stable.

The double-decker coach, owned by a transport company in Enshi, went through the guardrail of the Jingzhou Yangtze River Bridge and hit the ground at around 7 pm.

The vehicle had 36 seats and was carrying 22 people from the provincial capital Wuhan to Enshi. Authorities are yet to identify the victims, most of whom were migrants. An investigation has been launched.—Xinhua

Uruguay tries to curb hooliganism with generosity

MONTEVIDEO, 13 March—Uruguayan Interior Minister Eduardo Bonomi on Tuesday said the government gave away tickets to soccer matches to foster goodwill between rival fans. "We are betting that a sense of cooperation will prevail," said Bonomi, in a radio interview.

Days ago, a controversy brewed after it became known that in 2012 the Interior Ministry

distributed free tickets to qualification matches between Uruguayan national teams Penarol and Nacional. The giveaway was designed to "change the logic of confrontation with the logic of cooperation," Bonomi told local radio station El Espectador.

Bonomi was quick to add that the ministry did not give away tickets to a Libertadores Cup match 15 days ago, when Penarol

fans had run-ins with fans of visiting Argentine team Velez.

Bonomi, who has come under fire from some opposition legislators for the unusual tactic to curb soccer hooliganism, said some fans simply prefer confrontation to cooperation. Violent clashes between rival fans have killed at least five people in the last two decades in Uruguay.

Xinhua

Djokovic, Murray into last 16 at Indian Wells

INDIAN WELLS, (California) 13 March—Australian Open champion Novak Djokovic recovered from a poor start while third seed Andy Murray displayed much sharper form as they both advanced to the fourth round of the BNP Paribas Open on Tuesday.

Top seed Djokovic beat Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov 7-6, 6-1 in an error-strewn match on the Stadium Court in hot afternoon conditions at Indian Wells before Scotsman Murray overcame Taiwan's Lu Yen-Hsun 6-3, 6-2 in an evening encounter.

Seventh seed Juan Martin Del Potro of Argentina brushed aside Germany's Bjoern Phau 6-2, 7-5 while eighth-seeded Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga withstood a fast start by Mardy Fish to overcome the American 7-6, 7-6. Djokovic came from 2-5 down to win his opening set 7-4 on the

tiebreak, then broke his opponent's serve in the second and sixth games of the second set to seal victory in just over an hour. Dimitrov, who at 21 was the youngest player left in the draw, made four double faults when serving for the first set at 5-3 and his challenge then quickly folded. Serb Djokovic extended his winning streak

to 20 matches, his last defeat coming in October to big-serving American Sam Querrey in the second round of the ATP Masters 1000 event in Paris.

Intriguingly the pair will meet again in the last 16 at Indian Wells, Querrey having scraped past Australian Marinko Matosevic 7-6, 6-7, 7-5 earlier in the day. "I tried



Novak Djokovic of Serbia returns a shot against Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria during their men's singles match at the BNP Paribas Open ATP tennis tournament in Indian Wells, California, on 12 March, 2013.

REUTERS

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL
(14-3-13 09:30 am ~ 15-3-13 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * Myanmar Perparation for ASEAN Chair 2014 Orientation Workshop
- * Single Market...Common Standard
- * News
- * A Way for Food Sufficiency
- * News
- * Today's Fashiol Trend
- * Myanma Lottery Market
- * News
- * "Great Shwedagon" (Episode-3) The Prayer Hall And Buddha Images on the Platform of Shwedagon Pagoda (Part-2)
- * Mya Nan San Kyaw Golden Palace
- * Shrimp Cold Storage From Kyauk Phyu
- * "Beautiful Dance Patterns in Three Different Times" (Part-2)
- * To be Upgraded National Museum
- * News
- * Today's Fashion Trend
- * Myanma Lottery Market
- * Traveling in Shan Mountain Plateau (Pindaya Natural Cave)
- * Myanmar Movies "Misdeeds"

Myanmar TV

(14-3-2013, Thursday)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 7:00 am | Education (IV Lectures) Third Year (Oriental) |
| 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw | 5:00 pm |
| 7:25 am | 16. Teleplay (Traffic) |
| 2. To Be Healthy Exercise | 5:05 pm |
| 7:30 am | 17. Science & Envoriment |
| 3. Morning News | 5:15 pm |
| 7:40 am | 18. India Drama Series |
| 4. International News | 5:45 pm |
| 7:45 am | 19. People Talks |
| 5. People Talks | 6:00 pm |
| 8:00 am | 20. Evening News |
| 6. Documentary | 6:15 pm |
| 8:15 am | 21. Weather Report |
| 7. Dance Variety | 6:20 pm |
| 8:20 am | 22. Approaching Science Discovery World |
| 8. Road to 27 SEA Games (Wushu) | 6:50 pm |
| 8:40 am | 23. TV Drama Series |
| 9. Dance of National Races | 7:00 pm |
| 8:50 am | 24. News |
| 10. Musical Programme | 7:10 pm |
| 4:00 pm | 25. TV Drama Series |
| 11. Opening Song | 8:00 pm |
| 4:05 pm | 26. News |
| 12. Songs For Upholding National Spirit | 27. International News |
| 4:15 pm | 28. Weather Report |
| 13. Cute Little Dancer | 29. CLEVER |
| 4:25 pm | 30. Documentary |
| 14. Musical Programme | 31. Aurora Band (Interview) |
| 4:35 pm | 10:00 pm |
| 15. University Of Distance | 32. News |
| | 33. TV Drama Series |

"Star Trek" rifle, Green Hornet's car lead Hollywood auction

LOS ANGELES, 13 March—A futuristic prop "Star Trek" rifle, Superman's suit and Green Hornet's car are



The "Black Beauty," a heavily weaponized, technically advanced super car built for the 2011 film "The Green Hornet" a 1965 Imperial Crown Four Door Sedan is pictured in this undated publicity photograph courtesy of Julien's Auction.

REUTERS

the top-billed items in a Hollywood auction next month, when fans and collectors will have a chance to own memorabilia from film sets and actor closets. The one-of-a-kind Phaser laser rifle carried by actor William Shatner as Captain James T Kirk in the second pilot for "Star Trek" from 1966 is expected to fetch between \$50,000 and \$70,000, Julien's Auctions said on Monday.

A black Imperial Crown car called "Black Beauty," belonging to The Green Hornet and used in the 2011 film starring Seth Rogen as the masked vigilante, is expected to fetch between \$40,000 and \$60,000. It was the only one

to survive the production of the film.

The rifle and car will be joining more than 800 lots of items at the "Hollywood Legends" auction spanning decades of Hollywood film history.

A hot collector item is a Superman flying outfit, with red cape and boots, worn by late actor Christopher Reeve in "Superman IV" and expected to fetch between \$20,000 and \$30,000.

Items belonging to Marilyn Monroe, including a cocktail dress and collections of photographs from films and model shoots, are also on the auction block.

The light brown wool cocktail dress is expected to pull in between \$5,000 and \$7,000, while photographs from the actress's famous "last sitting" shoot before her death in 1962 are priced upward of \$600.

A collection of late actress Brittany Murphy's personal and film-set effects, including movie scripts, jewelry, lingerie, designer gowns, passports and intimate photos shot by late husband Simon Monjack, are also up for bids, expected to fetch between \$400 and \$3,000.—Reuters

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham attends 6th CLMV Summit



Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham poses for documentary photo with CLMV countries leaders at 6th CLMV Summit.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 March—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham took part in the 6th CLMV

Summit at Don Chan Palace in Vientiane of Laos yesterday.

It was also attended

by Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen, Lao Prime Minister Mr Thongsing Thammavong, Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Nguyen Tan Dung, ASEAN Secretary-General Mr Le Luong

Minh, ministries, deputy ministers, high-ranking officials and businessmen from CLMV countries.

Prime Minister of Laos Mr Thongsing Thammavong delivered an inaugural address. The Lao Prime Minister, the Cambodian Prime Minister, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, the Vietnamese Prime Minister and the ASEAN Secretary-General made discussions.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, in his address, said CLMV have become more developed by promoting cooperation in the social, economic and culture sectors of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam.

He affirmed that Myanmar would make close cooperation with rest of the countries. He continued to say that he has chance to hold discussions with the partner countries on speeding up CLMV cooperation at the summit.

He recognized respective departments' successful implementation of projects for 2015 ASEAN Community, especially fourth economic ministerial meeting held in Cambodia in

August, 2012.

He also hailed successful holding of first CLMV tourism ministerial meeting, implementation of tourism industry for 2013-2015 and joint declaration held in Vietnam in September, 2012. He also applauded successful test-run of ACMECS Single Visa Scheme between Cambodia and Thailand.

It is heartening to see progress in trade, investment, cooperation of agriculture, industry, energy, transport and ICT and human resource development, he added.

Friendship Bridge project between Myanmar and Laos will be materialized soon. The bridge would contribute to development of tourism industry and trade in the region as well as the golden triangle region.

To be a leading country in agriculture, industry and energy sectors, Myanmar is making efforts for promoting cooperation of these sectors. Myanmar is also making efforts not only for regional food sufficiency but also for world food sufficiency.

He said that Myanmar has already enacted the new (See page 8)

Vice-President U Nyan Tun receives representatives from UN Executive Boards

NAY PYI TAW, 13 March—U Nyan Tun, Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received representatives of Executive Boards of the United Nations led by Brazilian Ambassador Mr Antonino Marques Porto at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, this morning.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Ministers U Win Myint, Dr Myo Myint and Dr Daw Thein

Thein Htay and departmental officials. The UN delegation was accompanied by UN Resident Coordinator to Myanmar Mr Ashok Nigam.

At the call, they discussed cooperation with UN Agencies for realizing the UN Millennium Development Goals and contributions of the UN agencies to development of social and economic sectors of Myanmar in the reform process.

MNA

Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Nyan Tun poses for documentary photo with representatives from UN Executive Boards.—MNA

Union Commerce Minister holds talks with US guests

NAY PYI TAW, 13 March—Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint received a delegation led by Chief Executive Officer Mr Robert Anton Knutson of Omni Advisors LLC of the US at the meeting hall of the Ministry, here, this morning.

They discussed the

matters of trade, investment, finance and trade policy between Myanmar and the US, upgrading of agriculture sector, more investment in energy sector, development of timber, fishery and shrimp sectors, resumption of GSP and formation of Myanmar-US Economic Council.

MNA



French-Myanmar Postgraduate Course on Hepatology conducted

YANGON, 13 March—An opening ceremony of French-Myanmar Postgraduate Course on Hepatology, organized by Gastroenterology and Hepatology Society

of Myanmar Medical Association was held at Traders Hotel, here, on 11 March with an address by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe.

Chairperson of

Gastroenterology and Hepatology Society Professor Daw Than Than Swe of MMA, French Hepatologist Professor Mr Ariane Mallat and Course Organizing Committee

Chairman Professor U Win Naing extended greetings.

Next, the chief minister and officials formally cut the ribbon to open the medical equipment showrooms.

Later, the post-graduate course on hepatology followed.

MNA