

# The New Light of Myanmar

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## Work towards a new and more inclusive Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 6 March — President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein held talks with European Commission President Mr. Jose Manuel Barroso at the office of the European Commission in Brussels of Belgium on yesterday morning.

Also present at the meeting together with the President were Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win, Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Soe Thein and Dr Kan Zaw, the deputy ministers and Myanmar Ambassador to Belgium and European Union U Paw Lwin Sein.

They held cordial discussions on economic and political reform processes in Myanmar and ongoing tasks, peace making process

as the President during this crucial transition period in my country. We embarked on a transition that has never been attempted before. From authoritarian rule to democracy, from a state-centered economy to the one based on a free market, and from a war involving more than a dozen different non-state armed groups, to a just and permanent peace.

When compared to recent past, my government has been able to open up the country in a transparent manner and carry out general political liberalization. In doing so, we were able to reduce the culture of fear that was present in our hearts and our minds and foster a more representative political process in an open society.

Recent political progress can be attributed to four crucial factors: building confidence



*President U Thein Sein meets with European Commission President Mr. Jose Manuel Barroso at office of European Commission in Brussels of Belgium.—MNA*

challenges and tensions during this transition period: some of them may even seem insurmountable at first. I am confident that we will be able to face these challenges with synergy and cooperation of the government, Hluttaw, judiciary, armed forces, ethnic forces, political parties, civil society organizations, and most importantly the Myanmar people.

We are one of the poorest countries in the world. We lack the institutions that are necessary to manage our transition. We will face many challenges and there may well be set-backs. But you have my promise that we will continue this path until we succeed. My government will do everything in its powers to see Myanmar become the democratic, prosperous, and peaceful nation that I know all of our people deeply desire, and deserve.

Much attention is given to the politics of the transition. On the constitution on the past election, the by-elections or future elections, on political parties, politicians and parliament. But I ask you to place in the forefront the plight of the ordinary person in Myanmar, who are unskilled and uneducated, a villager with only a small plot of land or no land, often in debt and with little means

to feed his family, separated for long periods of time from friends and loved ones who must travel to neighbouring countries in search of work for years at a time, living without electricity or running water, and without access to good public health care. For me the most important thing is how we will help these ordinary people, how will we lift or even begin to lift tens of millions of people in Myanmar out of poverty, and make it possible for them to enjoy a better life.

Over the nearly two years my government has been in office, we have worked hard to strengthen democracy. This means not only ending repression and creating the legal framework that can guarantee political freedom, enabling the development of civil society, and nurturing a new democratic culture. During this transition period, we have been able to lay a foundation for democratic institutions such as constitution, governance system with check and balance, national and local legislatures, judiciary, political parties and independent press. Proper implementation is required to give these democratic institutions life. It is important to change the mindset of the people so that people can take root. In solving problems arising

from armed conflicts to industrial relations, the thing I am most proud of is to start a culture of solving these problems through dialogues and discussions.

We will continue tirelessly on the path to peace until we have a peace that is just and durable. Myanmar has experienced internal armed conflict since its independence in 1948. This must stop. We must find a political and negotiated solution. My government is absolutely committed to this goal. We have over the past 18 months signed ceasefires with 10 ethnic armed groups. We will now double our efforts to reach an agreement with the last remaining major non-state armed group, the Kachin Independence Organization.

Current success and progress in the peace process stems from genuine will and desire of all Myanmar people for peace. To move from ceasefire to lasting peace, we must establish an inclusive framework for political dialogues with involvement from all relevant stakeholders and individuals. Moreover, it is important not just to reach peace in the agreements but to show results on the ground in the form of local development and re-building of livelihoods.

We must find ways of addressing long-standing ethnic minority grievances

and discuss and work towards a new and more inclusive Myanmar citizenship and a new and more inclusive Myanmar.

We have also worked hard to make possible the broad-based and sustainable economic growth. We need to reduce poverty, create jobs and join in the profound economic development. We have seen across so much of Asia.

We are thankful for the relaxation of sanctions and the increase in development cooperation. But we should say already that we have no desire to become an aid-dependent country, with tremendous natural resources, and that our economy must learn to harness these resources in the interest of all its peoples, whilst also creating the level playing field that will allow entrepreneurship to thrive and businesses, especially small and medium businesses to grow. We need help now, during this transition, help with healthcare, education and livelihoods, targeted to the poorest, help in training and retraining our people, and help in building the infrastructure we need urgently to turn our economy around. We need help now, but, we hope for in future is cooperation, trade and investment that will help all our economies.



*President U Thein Sein holds press conference.—MNA*

for realization of a lasting peace, further cooperation between Myanmar and EU, fully lifting of economic sanctions and granting GSP (Generalized System of Preferences) to Myanmar, and humanitarian assistance for Kachin and Rakhine States.

Next, a press conference followed and the President made a clarification. He said: I am privileged to serve

and mutual understanding among political forces that were previously hostile and confrontational to each other; re-embracing political tolerance; creating mechanism for peaceful participation of citizens in political process; and regaining trust and support from international community for the reform process.

There is no doubt that we will face many

## More tourists flock to Taungthaman Lake, U Pein Bridge



MANDALAY, 6 March — Taungthaman Lake, U Pein Bridge and Myanmar traditional garments are major tourist attractions in Mandalay where there has been an increase in tourist arrivals. Most of the visitors to the Taungthaman Lake are from the US, Britain, the Netherlands, France, Australia, Japan, Korea and Thailand.

Although necessary measures are being taken for the safety of globetrotters, a ban on begging on U Pein Bridge should be imposed because behaviours of vagrants could tarnish the image of the nation, a tour guide said. — *Kyemon*

## Car crash hurts three persons in Thingangyun Township

YANGON, 6 March — A car crash between a Taxi and a light truck occurred on Thanthuma Road at the top of Nilar street in Thut-waingyi ward of Thingangyun Township, here, on 28 February morning.

The light truck driven by Saw Wai Zan Aung, 35, collided with the taxi driven

by U Myo Nyunt Oo, 43, causing concrete blocks being placed in the middle of the road tilted to one side and damages to windscreens of the two cars. Three persons on the light truck had got minor injuries. Actions are being taken against the car accident.

*Kyemon*



## Blood donation of Mandalay Region freight handling services

MANDALAY, 6 March — The first collective blood donation of Mandalay Region freight handling services took place at Kyweseikan bus terminal on Thayawady Mingyi Street in Chanmyathaya ward of Pyigyidagun Township on 28 February.

It was attended by Mandalay Mayor U Aung

Moung, Central Blood Bank in-charge Dr Daw Khin Mya Mon, Pyigyidagun Township Red Cross Society members, blood donors and guests. A total of 105 blood donors participated in the first blood donation ceremony, contributing 105 bags of blood for the blood bank.

*Kyemon*

## Literary talks in Kengtung

KENGTUNG, 6 March — With the aim of promoting reading habit among the local people, Kengtung Township Writers Association organized a literary talks at the town hall on airport road in Kengtung

on 26 February.

Local people thronged to listen to the talks of Writers Ledwinthar Saw Chit, Nay Win Myint and Khin Khin Htoo and donated cash for the literary talks.

*Kyemon*

## Fire engulfs houses, cowsheds in Mahlaing Township

MAHLAING, 6 March — There was a house fire in Theebinkon village of Ai-ma-yoe village-tract of Mahlaing Township at about 11 am on 1 March. Three houses and three cowsheds were reduced to ashes in the fire.

The fire started from the kitchen of the house of Daw Seik, 65. Then the fire swept through the whole house and engulfed three houses and three cowsheds.

Fire crew of Mahlaing Fire Service Department put out the fire in cooperation with local people.

*Kyemon*

## Union Cup Games go on



LANGKHO, 6 March — Langkho of Shan State (South) had seen an untimely rain at 1 pm on 4 March. As usual at the month of March, the region has high temperatures and local people are to take refuge in shady places in order to

NAY PYI TAW, 6 March — Union Cup Games are in progress at designated places, here. Deputy Minister for Sports U Thaug Htaik enjoyed the final matches of Karatedo tournament being held at Training Centre (2) in Lewe on 4 March.

The deputy minister and officials presented prizes to winners of respective events.

escape from the scorching heat. An old woman said that as the rain poured down, the untimely rainfall had refreshed the whole town, making the environment green. Rain was likely tomorrow, she added.

*Kyemon*

Next, he was among the spectators for the final matches Traditional Boxing (Muay) tournament being held at Training Centre (1).

The deputy minister and officials awarded winners who stood first, second and joint third in men's 54, 57, 60, 63.5, 54 and 50 kilos events and in women's 60 kilos event.

*Kyemon*



## Young woman on a swing dies of sudden collapse of concrete post in Pyu

PYU, 6 March — A young woman was killed in the sudden collapse of the concrete post at a compound of U Win Aung on 4<sup>th</sup> street in Say-yon ward of East Pyu village-tract in Pyu Township of Bago

Region at about 4 pm on 28 February.

Ma Nu Nu Htwe, 20, died of the collapse of the concrete post that had fallen on her stomach while sitting on a swing dangling on a nylon rope which attached

to a five feet tall concrete post and a tree. She was pronounced dead on the spot at the scene of the accident.

Pyu Police Station opened a case and investigation is ongoing.

*Kyemon*

## Untimely rain freshens Langkho of Shan State (South)



## WORLD

## After Chavez, Obama says seeks “constructive relationship” with Venezuela



US President Barack Obama (L) greets his Venezuelan counterpart Hugo Chavez before the opening ceremony of the 5th Summit of the Americas in Port of Spain in this 17 April, 2009 file photo.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 6 March — President Barack Obama on Tuesday said the United States is interested in starting a new relationship with Venezuela after

the death of its socialist president, Hugo Chavez.

“At this challenging time of President Hugo Chavez’s passing, the United States reaffirms its support for the Venezuelan people and its interest in developing a constructive relationship with the Venezuelan government,” Obama said in a statement.

“As Venezuela begins a new chapter in its history, the United States remains committed to policies that promote democratic principles, the rule of law, and respect for human rights,” he said.

Reuters

## US aims to support Israeli defence systems despite budget cuts

WASHINGTON, 6 March — New US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel met with his Israeli counterpart on Tuesday, expressing strong support for Israeli missile and rocket defence systems despite fiscal uncertainty caused by across-the-board spending cuts.

“Secretary Hagel is committed to working with members of Congress to ensure that there is no interruption of funding for Iron Dome, Arrow, and David’s Sling rocket and missile defence systems,” a US defence official said.

Hagel’s nearly two-hour-long talks with Israel’s

Ehud Barak represented his first face-to-face meeting with a foreign counterpart since he took over the Pentagon on 27 February.

Reuters



US Secretary of Defence Chuck Hagel speaks during a news conference about the effects of the ‘sequester’ on military operations, at the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, on 1 March, 2013. — REUTERS

## Mexico wants US ties to focus on economy, education, not drugs

MEXICO CITY, 6 March — Mexico must give greater priority to economic cooperation and education in relations with the United States rather than allowing the fight against organized crime to take centre stage, a senior Mexican official said on Monday.

Mexico has spent the past six years locked in a bloody fight with powerful drug cartels whose killings, kidnappings and extortion have marred the country’s image, particularly in the United States, where it ships nearly 80 percent of its exports.

President Enrique Pena Nieto is keen to rewrite the script, focusing his efforts on the economy, which has grown at a faster pace than the United States’ in the last three years.

Pena Nieto’s conservative predecessor, Felipe

Calderon, staked his name on crushing the gangs, but by the time he left office at the end of November nearly 70,000 people had died in the violence, and his efforts were widely condemned as a failure.

Sergio Alcocer, Mexico’s deputy foreign minister responsible for the



A Mexican flag flies over the border fence between Tijuana, Mexico and San Ysidro, California, on 1 March, 2013.

REUTERS

United States and Canada, said the focus on tackling the cartels and border security meant many of the benefits of Mexico’s ties with the United States had been ignored.

“The US population needs to see Mexico is an important part of daily life,” he said in an interview with

Reuters.

“We’re not just a geographical accident, we’re not a source of problems, on the contrary. We’re an area of opportunity and a source of how problems can be resolved.”

Too often, cross-border debates on security and immigration had obscured the valuable contribution made by Mexican migrants to the United States, while Mexico had not made the most of its northern neighbour in modernizing its economy, Alcocer said.

Calderon spent much of his time issuing warnings about the dangers of organized crime in Mexico, and frequently berated the United States for failing to reduce its appetite for illicit drugs — or cut the supply of illegal weapons heading south.

Reuters

## Russia pessimistic about agreement with US on missile defence

MOSCOW, 6 March — Moscow saw no light in the end of the tunnel regarding Russia-US disputes over missile defence issues, Kremlin Chief of Staff Sergei Ivanov said on Tuesday.

“There is actually a difficult problem of missile technology proliferation. This happens along our, not the US, borders,” Ivanov told Moscow’s *KP daily*.

He said Moscow and Washington “objectively” took different approaches to the security issues because the two countries exist in different geopolitical environment.

“Configuration of the

world powers and global security are changing. We have to take it into account,” the official said, adding that Russia was undertaking all necessary measures to protect itself from new challenges.

Among such measures is modernization of the strategic nuclear ground- and sea-based missiles *Bulava, Yars, Topol-M, Iskander* and prospective frontline aircraft system, Ivanov said.

Russia would develop weapons in the coming 30 to 40 years rather than reduce them as the United States had proposed, the official said.—Xinhua

## Fuel, water shortages continue to affect many communities in Syria

UNITED NATIONS, 6 March — The UN humanitarian arm said that many communities in Syria continued to be affected by the shortages of fuel and water, while the UN health agency reported cases of water-borne and sanitation-related diseases in the Middle East country, a UN spokesman said here on Tuesday.

“The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reports that fuel and water shortages continue to affect many communities in Syria, and contaminated water has become a major public health risk in some areas,” deputy UN spokesman Eduardo del

Buey said at a daily news briefing here.

“The World Health Organization (WHO) has reported cases of water-borne and sanitation-related diseases, including over 80 suspected cases of Hepatitis A and more than 100 new cases of a skin disease, Leishmaniasis, a skin disease,” del Buey said. Despite the security constraints, aid organizations continue to increase deliveries of much-needed assistance, he said, adding that the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) “began a major increase of mobile health services to support 50 medical teams in 12 governorates.”—Xinhua

## Deadly snowstorm slams road, air travel in Midwest

CHICAGO, 6 March — A deadly late-winter storm dumped heavy snow on the Midwestern United States on Tuesday, contributing to numerous automobile accidents and flight cancellations as it headed toward the Northeast and the mid-Atlantic states.

The storm was expected to move eastward over the Ohio Valley and then the central Appalachians and mid-Atlantic states on Wednesday, hitting Washington with its biggest snowfall in possibly two years, the National Weather Service said.

“It will be a wet, heavy, gloppy snow consistent with wallpaper paste,” service spokesman Chris Vaccaro said.

The Washington area was due to get several inches of snow overnight and several more inches on Wednesday, according to the Storm Prediction Centre in Norman, Oklahoma.

In Chicago, where the National Weather Service issued a winter storm warning through midnight, residents girded for between 4 to 8 inches of snow.

During the evening rush hour, wind-whipped snow fell at a heavy rate

throughout the Chicago area, according to the Illinois State Patrol, reducing visibility to less than half a mile and causing delays on roads.

Monique Bond, a spokeswoman with the state patrol, said bad weather may have been a contributing factor in a deadly crash on Interstate Highway 70 in Marshall, Illinois, near the Indiana border.

A female driver headed east on I-70 crossed the median and crashed into a westbound tanker truck. The driver of the car and her young child died in the accident. Most of the other weather-related incidents the state patrol responded to on Tuesday were spinouts involving single vehicles, Bond said.

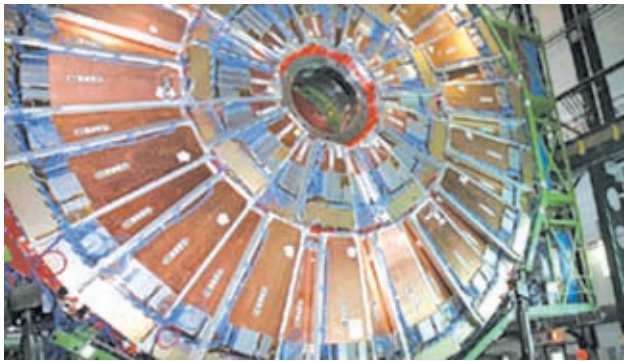
More than six inches of snow fell at O’Hare International Airport, causing 900 flight cancellations, according to the Chicago Department of Aviation.

Southwest Airlines, which cancelled nearly 250 flights out of Chicago’s Midway Airport, resumed flight operations at 6 pm on Tuesday, the city aviation department said. But delays of an hour or more were common.—Reuters



A worker uses a snow blower to clean the steps in front of the Cloud Gate Sculpture, also known as “The Bean” during snow in Chicago on 5 March, 2013.—REUTERS

## India's atomic research centre developing world's largest magnet



NEW DELHI, 6 March—India's state-owned Bhabha Atomic Research Centre is developing what it claims to be the world's largest magnet, weighing 50,000 tons, local media reported on

Tuesday.

The magnet, slated to be several times bigger than the one at the Compact Muon Solenoid detector at CERN in Geneva will play a major role in the India-based Neu-

trino Observatory coming up 4,300 feet below a cave in a mountain in the southern state of Tamil Nadu, *The Times of India* newspaper said. Head of the atomic research centre's nuclear physics division Vivek Datar said that in terms of sheer dimensions the magnet being designed at the Trombay centre will be the largest in the world.

"It will be iron-based, weighing 50,000 tonnes while the weight of the one at CERN ranges between 4,000 and 5,000 tons," he was quoted as saying.—*Xinhua*

## Google controls too much of China's smartphone sector

SHANGHAI, 6 March—Google Inc has too much control over China's smartphone industry via its Android mobile operating system and has discriminated against some local firms, the technology ministry said in a white paper.

The white paper, authored by the research arm of China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, also said China had the ability to create its own mobile operating system. (here)

"Our country's mobile operating system research and development is too dependent on Android," the paper, posted online on Friday but carried by local media on Tuesday, said.

"While the Android system is open source, the core technology and technology roadmap is strictly controlled by Google."

The paper said Google had discriminated against some Chinese companies developing their operating systems by delaying the sharing of codes. Google had also used commercial agreements to restrain the business development of mobile devices of these companies, it added.

A Google spokesman in China declined to comment. The ministry did not recommend any specific policies, regulatory actions or other measures.

Analysts said the white paper, which lauded Chi-



The Google signage is seen at the company's headquarters in New York on 8 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

nese companies such as Baidu Inc, Alibaba Group and Huawei Technologies for creating their own systems, could be a signal to the industry that regulations against Android are on the horizon.—*Reuters*

## How Apple iPhone got its name; it could have also been named the iPad



NEW DELHI, 6 March—What we today know as 'iPhone' could have been named 'iPad'. According to a latest revelation by Ap-

ple advertising lead Ken Segall, Apple had mulled over many names before it adjudicated and ended up calling its smartphone 'iPhone', reports 9to5mac.

According to the report, Ken Segall, at an event at the University of Arizona's Department of Marketing, divulged details regarding the naming behind Apple's popular smartphone iPhone.

Before Apple resolved to call it 'iPhone', it had con-

sidered a few other names 'iPad', 'Telepod', 'Mobi', 'Tripod'. While the iPad ended up being the name for Apple's tablet PC, the name was considered to be used for the smartphone. Imagine had the 'iPhone' been named iPad, what name the 'iPad', Apple's tablet PC, would have been given? iTab?

According to Segall, "Apple considered calling the device 'Telepod' because it sounded like a futuristic twist to the word 'telephone'." Apple had also thought of naming its smartphone 'Mobi' — a shortened version of the word 'mobile'. The report says, The name 'Tripod' did not win out, it did make a big impact on Apple's original presentation and marketing for the iPhone. 'Tripod' stems from the iPhone being a combination phone + iPod + Internet communications device." PTI

## E-tailers embrace same-day delivery, but US shoppers shrug

NEW YORK, 6 March—Same-day delivery, one of the hottest e-commerce trends, is too expensive for most US consumers, raising the risk that this turns into another online shopping fad that goes cold, according to a survey released on Tuesday.

The Boston Consulting Group recently asked 1,500 US consumers what would get them to shop more online and only 9 percent cited same-day delivery. Almost three quarters said free delivery would do the trick, while half of the respondents said lower prices.

The consumers said they would pay \$7.50, on average, to get a \$50 online purchase delivered on the same day, the survey found. That is lower than the fees charged by most retailers and e-commerce companies now providing these ser-

vices, the consulting firm noted.

Same-day delivery has become the latest retail battleground, with Wal-Mart Stores Inc, eBay Inc and several other big companies chasing Amazon.com Inc, which has been offering the service on selected items in certain cities since 2009.

Shutl, a startup backed by United Parcel Service, has offered same-day delivery in the UK for three years and will be launching the service in the US in a few weeks. The US Postal Service and FedEx Corp each have recently started same-day delivery in some areas of the US.

But these players may find little room to make money because same-day delivery is destined to be a niche service, The Boston Consulting Group survey concluded.—*Reuters*

## Now, a glove to write your texts and emails in the air

WASHINGTON, 6 March—Researchers have developed a new innovative 'air-writing' glove system that allows users to write texts and emails in the air with their hand. When the wearer of the gloves draws letters in the air with their hand, the system can identify which letters are being drawn.

Those letters are converted into digital text, which could then be input into an email, text message, or any other type of mobile app, 'Gizmag' reported. The glove developed by a team of computer scientists at Germany's Karlsruhe Institute of Technology is equipped with accelerometers and gyroscopes that detect hand movements.

The system then identifies which letters are being drawn and converts them into digital text, which can then be wirelessly entered into an email, text message or other mobile apps. Once



When the wearer of the gloves draws letters in the air with their hand, the system can identify which letters are being drawn.—PTI

it is determined that letters are indeed being drawn, the computer then sets about identifying the individual letters.

The programme incorporates statistical models of the unique signal patterns for every letter in the alphabet, and can account for differences in individual writing styles. It can also recognise approximately 8,000 words, along with complete sentences.

Christoph Amma, who developed the technology, now hopes to miniaturise the sensors to the point that the glove could be replaced by something less impractical to everyday use, such as a wrist band. Amma also envisions the hardware being incorporated into a smartphone — in that way, a single hand-held device like a cellphone could be used both to detect hand movements, and to process the data.—*PTI*

## USAID launches new projects in Fiji to combat climate change

SUVA, 6 March—The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) launched its new projects for the South Pacific region in Suva on Tuesday, aiming to build community resilience, improve sustainability of clean energy and promote forest management.

Organizations that deal with climate change issues will be allocated funding from USAID to help them promote objectives in the communities.

According to state-run Fiji Broadcasting Corporation, USAID will provide 23.6 million US dollars for coastal community adaptation, 7.5 million dollars for mangrove rehabilitation, 1.5 million dollars for vocational training and education for clean energy and 690,000 dollars will be given to US Peace Corps partnership.

Peace Corp Country Director Eddie Stice said their projects in the area of climate change and environmental awareness would be boosted by the assistance.—*Xinhua*



A photograph of a computer screen showing the website eBay is shown here in Encinitas, California on 22 April, 2009.—REUTERS

## BUSINESS &amp; HEALTH



## China keeps 2013 GDP growth target unchanged at 7.5%

BEIJING, 6 March— China maintains its 2013 gross domestic product (GDP) growth target unchanged at around 7.5 percent this year to leave some leeway for economic restructuring, according to a government work report to be delivered by Premier Wen Jiabao at the annual legislative session on Tuesday.

The targeted growth also aims to create jobs and

improve people's well-being, according to the report.

This marks the second consecutive year for the world's second-largest economy to target growth at 7.5 percent. In 2012, the government cut the forecast rate for the first time in eight years from a long-standing annual goal of 8 percent.

The report says the profound impact of the global financial crisis per-

sists, and the recovery of the world economy is "full of uncertainty and not yet on a stable footing."

However, the report also cites the "considerably increased capacity" of China's manufacturing industry, "significantly improved" infrastructure over the years, high savings rate and large workforce as "favorable conditions and positive factors" to sustain development.—Xinhua

## Meggitt says US unit cleared of 787 fire blame

LONDON, 6 March— Aircraft parts supplier Meggitt (MGTT.L) said a product made by its US unit had been cleared by regulators of causing a battery fire on Boeing's (BA.N) troubled 787 Dreamliner jet.

The British firm said on Tuesday the charger for batteries used on the 787, made by one of its US subsidiaries, Securaplane Technologies, had passed tests conducted by the US National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB).

One battery caught fire onboard a Japan Airlines Co (9201.T) 787 in Boston while another forced an All Nippon Airways Co (9202.T) plane to make

an emergency landing in western Japan in January, prompting regulators in the US, Japan and elsewhere to ground all 50 Dreamliners in operation.

"Our products have been through a lot of tests, including the two damaged units from the fires, and they both re-passed all the required tests. The unit is doing what it is supposed to do," Meggitt's finance director Stephen Young, who will take over as the group's chief executive this summer, told Reuters.

"Boeing are still building up the 787 and at the moment they are still taking products for it but I guess when the car park is full that



The Boeing 787 lands in Everett, Washington travelling with crew only from Fort Worth, Texas on 7 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

may not continue to be the case." No one at Boeing's London office was immediately available to comment. Earlier on Tuesday, Meggitt, which also supplies flight displays and wheels to planemakers, said 2012 pre-tax profit rose 12 percent to

362.8 million pounds (\$547 million), a slowdown on the 26 percent profit growth it delivered in 2011, but ahead of an average forecast of 344.60 million pounds, according to a Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S poll of 13 analysts.—Reuters

## US baby's cure from HIV raises hope, new questions

CHICAGO, 6 March— The remarkable case of a baby being cured of HIV infection in the United States using readily available drugs has raised new hope for eradicating the infection in infants worldwide, but scientists say it will take a lot more research and much more sensitive diagnostics before this hope becomes a reality.

In a medical first for an infant, the Mississippi toddler was born in July 2010 infected with HIV, treated within 30 hours of delivery with aggressive HIV therapy, which continued for 18 months. She is now considered cured of her infection,

tic Infections in Atlanta on Sunday.

"From a clinical perspective, this means that if you can get an infected baby on to antiretroviral drugs immediately after delivery, it's going to be possible to prevent or reverse the infection — essentially cure the baby," said Dr Steven Deeks, an HIV/AIDS researcher at the University of California at San Francisco who is attending the conference, where the case was presented to researchers on Monday.

Deeks and others hailed the findings as a great advance in the search for a cure in babies born infected

## Researchers identify 7 genetic risk factors associated with common eye disorder



WASHINGTON, 6 March — An international group of investigators has identified seven new genetic regions associated with age-related macular degeneration (AMD), a common cause of blindness in older individuals. The findings,

reported online this week in *Nature Genetics*, could point to new biological pathways and therapeutic targets for AMD.

The AMD Gene Consortium, a network of 18 research groups supported by the US National Eye Insti-

tute, also confirmed 12 other genetic loci identified in previous studies. The study represents the most comprehensive genome-wide analysis of genetic variations associated with AMD.

The consortium's efforts have now explained up to 65 percent of the genetics of AMD, said Jonathan Haines, director of the Vanderbilt Centre for Human Genetics Research.

In addition to genetic causes, which may account for about half of all cases of AMD, risk factors include age, smoking, high blood pressure, obesity and diet.

"We're getting closer

and closer to understanding the full list of risk factors for AMD," said Haines, one of the lead authors of the study and principal investigator of the coordinating centre for the consortium.

AMD is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that kills photoreceptor cells in the macula — the region of the retina responsible for sharp, detailed central vision. As AMD advances, it robs individuals of the central vision necessary for everyday activities like reading, driving, watching television and identifying faces.

Xinhua



About 2880 candles are seen lit during a World AIDS Day event in Jakarta on 1 Dec, 2009.

REUTERS

a team of researchers led by Dr Deborah Persaud, a virologist at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, said in a news conference at the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunis-

with HIV. But the researchers said they also suggest the need for better ways to diagnose HIV infection, a process that typically takes up to six weeks.

Reuters

## Shell to build LNG plants in US, Canada for transport fuel

WASHINGTON, 6 March—Royal Dutch Shell (RDSA.L) said it would build two small-scale gas liquefaction units in Louisiana and Ontario as part of an investment plan to unlock value in the use of liquefied natural gas as a transport fuel.

"These two units will form the basis of two new LNG transport corridors in the Great Lakes and Gulf Coast regions," Shell said in a statement on Tuesday.

Shell said it was also working to use natural gas as a fuel in its own operations, which follows an investment decision in 2011 on a similar corridor in Alberta, Canada.

Shell, which has bet the most heavily of all the top oil firms on a future for cleaner-burning natural gas, said it is using its expertise to make LNG a viable fuel option for the commercial market.



Gasoline prices are displayed on a sign-board at a Shell gas station in Encinitas, California, on 19 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS

In the Gulf Coast corridor, Shell plans to install the liquefaction unit at its Geismar Chemicals facility to supply LNG along the Mississippi river and intra-coastal waterway and to exploration areas offshore Gulf of Mexico and onshore Texas and Louisiana. Shell plans to build the liquefaction unit at its Sarnia Manufacturing Centre for the Great Lakes corridor. This project will supply LNG fuel to all five Great Lakes, their bordering US states and Canadian provinces and the St Lawrence Seaway.—Reuters

## WORLD

## Venezuela's Hugo Chavez dies from cancer

CARACAS, 6 March—President Hugo Chavez died on Tuesday after a two-year battle with cancer, ending 14 years of tumultuous and divisive rule that won him passionate support among the poor but hatred from business leaders and wealthy Venezuelans.

The flamboyant 58-year-old had undergone four operations in Cuba for a cancer that was first detected in his pelvic region in mid-2011. He vanished from public view after 11 December surgery that resulted in complications and respiratory infections.

"It's a moment of deep pain," said Vice President Nicolas Maduro, his voice choking during a live TV address.

"His project, his flags will be raised with honour and dignity. Commander, thank you, thank you so much, on behalf of these people whom you protected."

Venezuela's military chiefs quickly pledged loyalty to Maduro, who will be caretaker president until

elections are called within 30 days.

Chavez supporters poured onto the streets, weeping and chanting "Chavez lives!" and "We are Chavez!"

"Don't let anyone try to convince you Chavez has gone—He will always be with us," said the head of Congress, Diosdado Cabello.

State TV broadcast Chavez's emotional last speech to the nation in December, shops in Caracas closed their doors for fear of looting, and condolences poured in from around the world, including messages from film maker Oliver Stone and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

Chavez easily won a new six-year term at an election in October and his death is devastating for millions of supporters who adored his charismatic style, anti-US rhetoric and oil-financed policies that brought subsidized food and free health clinics to long-neglected slums.

Reuters



Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez wears an army uniform and the red beret of his parachute regiment while attending a military parade in Caracas in this 13 April, 2005 file photo.—REUTERS

## Three killed in small plane crash along Iditarod trail

ANCHORAGE, (Alaska) 6 March—A small plane crashed near a mountain checkpoint along the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, killing all three people aboard, state officials said on Tuesday. Searchers found wreckage of the plane, a Cessna 182, on Tuesday near the 4,000-foot level of Rainy Pass in the Alaska Range north of Anchorage.

Rainy Pass is one of the early checkpoints in the 1,000-mile Iditarod, which began in Anchorage on Saturday. The search began late on Monday when the

plane was reported missing, the Alaska National Guard said. It failed to reach its destination of Takotna, an Athabascan village that serves as a race checkpoint 176 miles beyond Rainy Pass. Killed were pilot Ted Smith, 59, a retired Anchorage police officer, and passengers Carolyn Sorvoja, 48, and Rosemarie Sorvoja, 10, the Alaska State Troopers said. All were from Eagle River.

The plane and those aboard were not part of the "Iditarod Air Force," the group of volunteer pilots who ferry supplies and race

officials to checkpoints and take dropped dogs back to Anchorage, said a race spokeswoman.

"All our pilots and all our folks are accounted for," Iditarod spokeswoman Erin McLamon said. But skies above the Iditarod Trail are typically busy during the race with numerous other small aircraft carrying spectators. It was unclear whether the crash victims were following the Iditarod, said Megan Peters, a spokeswoman for the Alaska State Troopers said. She said the two females were mother and daughter.

Reuters

## UN hopes to approve Congo force by end of March



Russian Ambassador to the United Nations Vitaly Churkin speaks to the media after a Security Council meeting at the United Nations in New York on 21 April, 2012.—REUTERS

UNITED NATIONS, 6 March—The UN Security Council hopes to approve by the end of March a special force to combat rebels in the Democratic Republic of Congo, but some members have concerns that need to be addressed first, Russia's UN envoy Vitaly Churkin said on Tuesday.

While Churkin did not

divulge these concerns, some diplomats worry the creation of the intervention force within the existing peacekeeping operation, known as MONUSCO, could lead to two competing units. They want more detail on the new unit's command structure.

"We think it's very important that the interven-

tion force is fully integrated into MONUSCO," said one senior council envoy, speaking on the condition of anonymity. "I don't see opposition" to the proposal, he said, "but we need a lot of clarification."

South Africa, Tanzania and Mozambique are the most likely candidates to supply the several thousand soldiers needed for the intervention force, but diplomats have questions about the ability of those troops to take on the rebel groups, including the M23, which have taken parts of eastern Congo. "A lot of hard work is ahead of us in the next few weeks," Churkin told reporters after UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon briefed the 15-member council on his proposal to strengthen and define MONUSCO's mandate and create the intervention force.

"There are some issues

to be sorted out ... Hopefully by the end of the month we will be able to adopt that mandate" resolution, said Churkin. M23 began taking parts of eastern Congo early last year, accusing the government of failing to honour a 2009 peace deal. That deal ended a previous rebellion and led to the rebels' integration into the army, but they have since deserted. "The intervention brigade will be tasked with containing the expansion of both Congolese and foreign armed groups, neutralizing these groups, and disarming them," Ban told the Security Council on Tuesday.

In practical terms, UN diplomats say, troops in the brigade will have more freedom to open fire without being required to wait until they are attacked first, a limitation that is standard for UN peacekeepers deployed around the world.—Reuters

## Four climbers killed in French Alps avalanche

PARIS, 6 March—Four climbers were killed by an avalanche in the range of the French Alps, Western Europe's highest mountain, local media reported on Tuesday.

The incident, which occurred at 15:35 local time (1435 GMT) at Parpaillon Massif, had left four dead mountaineers and injured a professional guide, the daily *Le Parisien* said.

Mountain rescue teams have been dispatched on the site but unfavourable weather did not facilitate their mission, it added.

Xinhua

Afghan national army soldiers fire an artillery shell during a military exercise in Laghman Province, east Afghanistan, on 5 March, 2013. XINHUA



## US to allow small knives to be carried onto airplanes

WASHINGTON, 6 March—The Transportation Security Administration said on Tuesday that travellers can soon bring small pocket knives on board airplanes for the first time since the 11 September attacks, sparking outrage from flight attendants who said the decision would endanger passengers and crew.

The TSA said effective on 25 April, it would allow small knives with blades that are 2.36 inches or less in length and less than 1/2 inch wide. Other items that will be allowed on board again as part of a passen-

ger's carry-on luggage include billiard cues, ski poles, hockey sticks and lacrosse sticks. Items that had been prohibited like razors, box cutters or knives with a fixed blade are still not allowed on board.

TSA spokesman David Castelvetter said the decision was made to bring US regulations more in line with International Civil Aviation Organization standards and would also help provide a better experience for travelers. "This is part of an overall Risk-Based Security approach, which allows Transportation Se-

curity officers to better focus their efforts on finding higher-threat items such as explosives," he said. The Flight Attendants Union Coalition, which represents nearly 90,000 flight attendants from carriers across the country, called the decision a "poor and shortsighted decision" by the TSA.

"As the last line of defence in the cabin and key aviation partners, we believe that these proposed changes will further endanger the lives of all flight attendants and the passengers we work so hard to keep safe and secure," the coalition said in a statement.

Castelvetter said the TSA has implemented a number of safety measures including reinforced cockpit doors, allowing some pilots to be armed and federal air marshals on board airplanes. He said those measures would help ensure safety of the passengers and crew.—Reuters



Airplanes are seen parked at Los Angeles International Airport in Los Angeles, California on 4 March, 2013.

REUTERS

LOCAL NEWS

**Local authorities destroy poppy plantations in Loikaw Township**

LOIKAW, 6 March—According to information given by a dutiful local that poppy plantation was cultivated one mile west of Thayu Village in Htiseikha Village-tract of Loikaw Township in Kayah State, officials of the Township General

Administration Department, responsible persons of peace organizations, policemen of Kayah State Police Force, Tatmadawmen, departmental personnel and members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade destroyed 1.5 acres of poppy plantation at 9 am on 25 February.

After that, the authorities destroyed three acres of poppy plantation on the bank of Namtabat Creek two miles east of Thayu Village, 10.5 acres one mile north of Namnauk Village and 1.5 acres four furlongs west of Peinchit Monastery.

*Myanma Alinn*

**Free teaching provided to matric students**

YANGON, 6 March—A free teaching was provided to the students who will sit for coming matriculation examination at No 5 Basic Education High School in Kamayut Township from 8.30 am to 4.30 pm every Saturday and Sunday as of 19 January.

The teaching was jointly sponsored by Kamayut Township General Administration Department

and Township Women's Affairs Organization.

On 24 February, Deputy Commissioner U Kyaw Thu Zaw of Yangon West District General Administration Department and Chairperson of District Women's Affairs Organization Daw Myint Myint Kyi viewed the teaching and attended to the needs.

Altogether 20 students are attending the free

teaching class that will last up to 20 March.

*Myanma Alinn*

**Legal affairs lectured at Taunggyi University**

TAUNGGYI, 6 March—Organized by Law Department of Taunggyi University, legal experts gave talks on legal affairs to the students at the multi-purpose hall of the university on 22 February morning.

Part Time Professor U Tin Oo of Law Department of the university extended

greetings. Chief Justice of Shan State High Court U Kywe Kywe and Advocate-General U Maung Maung of the state explained legal affairs and judicial matters.

It was attended by Professor Dr Daw Nweni Win of Law Department and 428 students.

*Myanma Alinn*

**Bamaung Creek Bridge commissioned into service**

PAUKKHAUNG, 6 March—A ceremony to inaugurate Bamaung Creek bridge on Pyahtokyun-Hlegu Road was held in Hlegu Village of Paukkaung Township of Pyay District on 26

February. The bridge was constructed by Bago Region Government spending K 18.5 million from its fund in 2012-2013 fiscal year.

*Myanma Alinn*

**Companies allowed to open foreign exchange counters**

YANGON, 6 March—Central Bank of Myanmar

issued money changer licences to private banks in

the past. As of 21 December, the Central Bank of

Myanmar issues the licences to companies to exchange foreign currency.

So far, three companies are operating exchange of foreign currency in line with the prescribed rules.

A total of 18 banks have been allowed by the Central Bank of Myanmar to open 212 money exchange counters.

Among these private banks, a total of 113 counters went into operation.

The companies allowed by the Central Bank of Myanmar plan to extend their foreign exchange counters at their branches across the nation.—*Myanma Alinn*

**Pathana Desana recited in Pauktaw**

PAUKTAW, 6 March—A ceremony to recite Pathana Desana for the 25<sup>th</sup> time was held in Myintgathit Village of Pauktaw Township in Rakhine State on 28 February morning.

Chief of Minbya Township Hlanpyauk Pavarana Gana Sayadaw Bhaddanta Savara, Presiding Nayaka of Sittway Seikta Thukha Pariyatti Monastery Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita Bhaddanta Nandaka and Myintgathit Monastery



Sayadaw Bhaddanta Suçitta and members of the Sangha, wellwishers and local people. The Pathana recitation was held in Pauktaw up to 3 March.—*Myanma Alinn*

**Free eye surgical operations performed in Mandalay**



MANDALAY, 6 March—Eye specialists from the Chinese Ophthalmic medical team from the first people's hospital of Yunnan Province of China and specialists from Mandalay Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist Hospital jointly performed free surgical operations on eye patients at the Mandalay Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist Hospital on 2 March.

Chief Minister of

Mandalay Region U Ye Myint inspected the eye surgical operations at the specialist hospital and comforted the patients.

The Chief Minister heard reports on surgical operations for the eye patients and achievements up to 28 February presented by Medical Superintendent Dr Tin Tin Moe of the specialist hospital, Professor Dean of Eye Department Dr Yi Yi Aung and surgeons,

Professor Dr Mei Yan and eye specialists from the Chinese hospital.

The Chief Minister, the Chinese Consul-General and eye specialists viewed eye care surgical services being provided to the patients and fulfilled the requirements of patients.

The combined specialist team provided eye care services to 168 people and six monks.

*Myanma Alinn*

**Umbrella, diamond orb hoisted atop Bawkyo Pagoda**

HSIPAW, 6 March—A ceremony to hoist umbrella atop Bawkyo Muhtaw Pagoda built over 2000 years ago by King Thiri Dhammasoka was held on the platform of the pagoda in Bawkyo Pagoda of Hsipaw Township on 25 February morning.

Present on the occasion were members of the Sangha, Chief Minister of Shan State U Sao Aung Myat, the commander of North-East Command, senior military officers, Deputy Commissioner U Soe Naing of Kyaukme District General Administration Department and departmental officials, local people and national races from 11 wards and villages totalling over 120,000.

The Chief Minister shared merits gained. He sprinkled scented water on the tiers of the umbrella before hoisting it atop the pagoda.

The diamond orb was also hoisted atop the pagoda at 9 am.—*Myanma Alinn*

**Yesagyo-Yangon express bus line launched**

YESAGYO, 6 March—With the aim of enabling the people to enjoy fruits of better transport, Kyei Sin Moe express bus line was launched No 5 in Ywapoe Ward of Bogyoke Road in Yesagyo of Magway Region on 27 February.

The express bus will run the Yesagyo-Yangon route. The bus will leave Yesagyo

at 2.30 pm daily. Bus fare is K 11000 per passenger.

The tickets for up and down trip will be K 10,000 each per passenger, said the in-charge of the bus terminal.

Local people are pleased with smooth and convenient transport services along Yesagyo-Yangon route.

*Myanma Alinn*



## PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 7 March, 2013

## Tuition time

Myanmar is known to be a hot country where the summer is the hottest. The scorching summer has begun. The schoolchildren are off schools after the sweating final exam. The summer is the holiday season for the schools in Myanmar. If you think the schoolchildren are taking a long rest before the next term which starts every June, it is not true.

Few or no students fail the exam. A higher grade is guaranteed for an ordinary student. The education system is dubbed 'No fail'. After a week-long break from the school, the students prepare for the next grade, receiving private tuitions. It is true for any ordinary student except some from very poor families and some from elite families. The poor simply spend their hot summer, earning extra income for their family. The rich need no more tuitions as they go to high-fee-paying private schools.

The tuitions which teach the same curriculum with the government schools are still 'essential' in the country even after two years of social reforms due to 'market demand'. The capacity of low-paid government teachers is ever dubious. The school management is even more doubtful. The tuitions offer more creative teaching than the strictly scheduled schools. The tuitions guarantee the students' understanding while the schools run on a calendar which features deadlines for each chapter.

The schools enforce uniformity and never advocate creativity. The syllabuses themselves do not encourage creativity, adding more boring school days. The tuitions represent the need of educational reforms. We need to reform the schools, inspiring creativity of both teachers and students. Regulating the tuitions more strictly is not the answer. It will only cost the service of skilled private teachers. The education reform should have a scheme helping them teach school.

Money spent on education is money worth spending. That's why lawmakers argue constantly for the education budget increase each year at the parliament. We need more money for education, not for the schools only. Money wasted on education is the losing bet on future. Train teachers. Develop creativity. Design better curricula. Create lively school campuses.



Maung Pe Pe

## ARTICLE

## Printing and Publishing Bill: a boost to the print media world

As soon as I read the dailies that carry "Printing and Publishing Bill", I felt happy because I realized that a bill which is drawn in conformity with the democratic system for printers and publishers has emerged.

Seeing the phrase "Abolition of The Press Emergency Powers Act enacted in 1931 and Printers and Publishers Registration Law 1962" stated in Section 28 of Chapter (8) of the Bill made me happy again.

The reason why I was pleased to read is these two laws are totally impractical to the present media world. As everyone knows, the whole media had opposed the pre-publication censorship of the central registration committee under Section 20 of Printers and Publishers Registration Law 1962, saying that it jeopardized the freedom of press. We all passed through such kind of long period. That's why I believe that the news about the abolition of Printers and Publishers Registration Law 1962 after the emergence of new law would be a good news for everyone concerned in the media world. It seems right to say that the bill will be a sovereign law as it provides media men as well as the people with protection.

According to the Bill, it is not absolutely required to worry there would be a reversal of policy that allows censorship as Printers and Publishers Registration Law 1962 will be revoked.

The Bill consists of eight chapters and 28 sections. I made a thorough examination to be able to

know the difference between the Bill and existing laws—The Press Emergency Powers Act 1931 and Printers and Publishers Registration Law 1962.

Sections 3 and 4 of Printers and Publishers Registration Law 1962 require "all printers and publishers are required to sign the letter of confession before a first class magistrate of the area they are living. If not so, printing and publishing shall not be allowed. Sentences for failure to the letter of confession include imprisonment and fine in accord with the Section 16 of Printers and Publishers Registration Law". The Press Emergency Powers Act 1931 also carries similar provision and says "The judge shall have to direct the printers and publishers to submit a deposit."

As the provisions of the two laws are very strict rules for printers and publishers, these provisions are not included in the proposed bill as a point of satisfaction for the media world.

Section 3, Chapter (2) of the Bill requires "printers, publishers and news agencies are to submit their applications to the registration officer", Section 4 carries "the registration official shall issue a licence to the applicants who are consistent with the prescribed rules and regulations for the prescribed period after the payment for the prescribed fees was done". That's why applicants will be granted the permission if they are consistent with prescribed rules and regulations. I am very glad to know that there is no need to wait for a long time and to go through endless red tape to get a permit.

Section 8 (i) of the 1962 Law carries "an registration official concerned shall issue the temporary registration certificates to the applicant after appropriate investigation into the registration was carried out when he received the application of a printer or a publisher" and Section 8 (ii), "the case including a report in which whether he is satisfied with the investigation into the aims of printing and publishing and

contents shown in application and it is agreed that the registration certificate should be issued or not shall be submitted to the central registration committee by an registration official concerned" and Section 8 (iii), "the central registration committee shall have to make an order to issue or not to issue the certificate after taking the case that

Ko Ko Tin  
(Advocate)

was sent in accord with the sub-section (2) into consideration".

It is found that the permanent registration certificate was issued in accord with the decision of the central registration after one more investigation into the temporary registration certificate was conducted by the registration officer. These two certificates are called temporary and permanent certificates by those of media world.

A temporary registration certificate holder is used to wait for ages to receive a registration certificate (permanent) in the past. But the proposed Bill guarantees not to conduct an investigation into the application. Moreover, one stop service can be realized as the certificate will not be described as temporary and permanent one.

The significant point of the Bill is that the registration officer is given power to deal with the registration process directly and formation of central registration committee under Section 5 of the 1962 Law is not included in the Bill. It is sure that everyone welcomes the procedure that will be managed by an official concerned after cutting the bureaucratic red tape.

Five rules stated in Section 7 the Printing and Publishing Bill for the printing and publishing industry to adhere are as follow:-

- Publication of contents detrimental to the relations between one national race and another or among national races and to other faiths;
- Undermining the rule of law and/or inciting

violence;

- Publication of pornographic text;
- Supporting and stimulating crime, brutality, violence, gambling and stimulant drug-related crime;
- Publication of writings and texts contrary to provisions of the constitution and other existing laws.

These provisions are prescribed to safeguard the national security and public morality. The 1931 Press (Emergency Powers) Act Section 4 has nine provisions while the new bill cut it to essential five. I think the addition of the phrase "to one faiths or" before the phrase "to other faiths" would made it complete.

Section 8 of the bill is the provision to declare publications which print texts that go against the Section 7 as "illegal publication". I was amazed by the lack of the provision to search and seize the illegal publications.

Section 14 of 1962 Law prescribes, "Police officer or any person assigned to the case shall seize any newspapers, periodicals, journals, magazines, books and publications against the law at any place; The building suspected to keep such publication shall be searched with the warrant issued by the judge and seize the finds."

Section 15 of 1962 Law goes, "The press printing illegal publication shall be searched and seized with the warrant issued by the judge and submitted to the judge." The 1931 Law prescribes, "After declaration of illegal publication, the police officer shall seize that publication at any place and search the storage and building with the warrant issued by the judge."

The bill omits the provisions of the police search and seizure, the fact that press owners should welcome.

In comparison with Undesirable Publications Act of Singapore and The Printing Presses and Publication Act of Malaysia as regards 'the declaration of illegal publication', they also prescribe provisions to  
(See page 9)



## NATIONAL

# President U Thein Sein meets Presidents of European Council, European Parliament

NAY PYI TAW, 6 March—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein met President of European Council Mr Herman Van Rompuy at the office of the European Council in Brussels in Belgium at 10.45 am local standard time yesterday.

At the meeting, they frankly focused on democratic reforms in Myanmar, political and economic reforms and peace making process, cooperation in education, health, tourism and exchange of culture between Myanmar and EU, raising of human rights and lifting of sanctions.

Afterwards, President U Thein Sein and the President of EC held a press conference and explained matters related to the meeting.

In the afternoon, Vice-President of European Commission and Chief of International Relations

and Security Policy Ms Catherine Ashton hosted a luncheon to the President and party.

At 2.30 pm, the President met President of European Parliament Mr Martin Schulz at the parliament.

At the meeting, they had a cordial discussion on process of political stability in Myanmar, process of economic reform and requirements for lifting sanctions imposed by the EU, support and concerns of European Parliament's MPs about Myanmar politics, and prospects of cooperation between the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and European Parliament.

After that, the President and the President of European Parliament met the press. The President greeted MP Mr Nirj Deva, who founded the EU-Myanmar Friendship Group, and party.

At 6.15 pm, the President received Deputy Prime Minister and Minister



President U Thein Sein meets President of European Council Mr Herman Van Rompuy at the office of the European Council.—MNA

of Foreign Affairs Mr Didier Reynders of Belgium at Sheraton Hotel. In the evening, the President met embassy families at the residence of the Myanmar Ambassador to Belgium and

the EU and presented gifts to them.

While the President arrived at the EU, Myanmar Ambassador to Belgium and the EU U Paw Lwin Sein and Managing Director Mr

Agostino Miozzo of Foreign Relations Department of the EU signed an agreement on cooperation in Crisis

Response between Myanmar and EU in the yesterday afternoon.

MNA

## Union Defence Minister receives UK Ambassador



NAY PYI TAW, 6 March—Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Wai Lwin received UK Ambassador Mr Andrew Richard Heyn at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Defence, here, this afternoon.

Both sides had a cordial discussion on the appointment of UK military attaché to Myanmar, development affairs in Kachin and Rakhine States, military cooperation between Myanmar and UK.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister Commodore Aung Thaw and officials.—MNA

## MISIS exchanges views with ICWA

YANGON, 6 March—The Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) jointly conducted the exchange of views between the two think tanks at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, here, this morning.

Ambassador Rajiv Kumar Bhatia, Director of the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) and UNyunt Maung Shein, Ambassador (Rtd.), Chairman of the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International

Studies (MISIS) delivered the welcomed remarks at the inaugural session.

The issue discussed between the MISIS and the ICWA ranged from Reform Process: Achievements and the Way Forward, Bilateral Political Relations, Defence and Security Cooperation and Bilateral Economic Engagements and Technical Cooperation. The exchange of views was attended by both Myanmar and Indian scholars, as well as officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Indian Embassy.

MNA

## ARTICLE

### Printing and Publishing Bill...

(from page 8)

search and seize newspapers, periodicals, journals, magazines and books which breach the restrictions of the law and take actions, declaring them as 'undesirable publications'.

Chapter 5 Section 9 of the bill prescribes, "Importing foreign publications and exporting local publications shall be carried out in accord with existing laws."

It brings an end to the scrutiny of publications by combined team of customs department and officials of the post office at the airport and the post office under Section 20 of 1931 Press (Emergency Powers) Act. Importers of foreign publications will be able to work without any restrictions in accord with the existing laws.

Section 11 (b) of the bill prescribes, "Any local publications shall

be submitted to the registration official free of charge for registration and copyright matters." In some foreign countries, there are laws to send free copies of publications to any official. To my knowledge, the number of publications has been reduced to 12 to avoid economic damages of publishers. After the bill is approved, the number would be further reduced.

Chapter 7 of the bill 'Offences and Penalties' includes three sections while the 1962 law

includes five.

Sections 16 and 18 of the 1962 law prescribe "the minimum imprisonment of six months or the maximum imprisonment of five years and/or the minimum fine of K 2000 or the maximum fine of K 20,000." Sections 17, 19 and 20 prescribe "the minimum imprisonment of one year or the maximum imprisonment of seven years and/or the minimum fine of K 3000 or the maximum fine of K 30,000." These provisions of 1962 Law

drew criticisms from the men of letters. The law should no more be valid in this new age.

Section 20 of the printing and publishing bill enforces the fine from K 5 million to K 10 million of imprisonment of six months. Section 21 prescribes the fine from K 1 million to K 5 million or the imprisonment of three months. Section 22 enforces the fine from K 0.1 million to 0.3 million or the imprisonment of seven days. These are appropriate penalties and

not too strict.

The offences in the 1962 Law are cognizable offences. Those in the bill enforce the optional fines and are not cognizable ones. The lawsuits shall be filed at the court, assuring the secure future for the media world.

I imagine the men of letters, legal practitioners and the people discussing the bill, wearing beaming smiles. I would like to welcome the emergence of the new bill commensurate with the current age.

Trs: YM+HKA

# Hluttaw representative's call for granting general amnesty rejected

NAY PYI TAW, 6 March—Daw Nan Wah Nu of Kunhing Constituency asked about plans for dissemination of knowledge about existing laws, bylaws and procedures wide and far up to rural regions at Pyithu Hluttaw session today, calling the rule of law as a prerequisite for flourishing of democracy.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann called it as the “massive task”, admitting that even the parliamentarians do not know them in detail. Daw Nan Wah Nu also called for publishing books on laws in ethnic languages, saying that such books are not easily accessible to the general public.

U Khine Maung Yi of Ahlon Constituency asked the government for granting a general amnesty only to receive the negative answer from Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung.

U Khine Maung Yi

called for embracing “Let bygones be bygones” attitude on the road forward. Though the blunt answer of the Union minister just



**A&I Deputy Minister U Ohn Than making clarification.—MNA**

came to his disappointment, the Speaker promised to take actions as a member of legislature.

The responsible agencies still seem to be fond of answering questions with vague answers and the parliament rather looks like a “paper-reading” and

“statistics-citing” parliament, making clear that ministries still cannot walk out of the conception of “quantities measurement”.



**Union Minister U Soe Maung making clarification.—MNA**

Some questions were clearly evaded and some just answered with “what are being done” and not “how effective they have been”.

U Aung Zin of Pazundaung Constituency asked the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry to

provide low-interest loans to farmers against the security of their farms as farmers currently are only allowed to take out loans at the State-recognized banks while the procedures are complicated and there are no such banks opened near



**Hluttaw Representative U Aung Zin from Pazundaung Constituency raising queries.—MNA**

villages.

The Deputy Agriculture and Irrigation Minister just mentioned the provisions

and procedures, leaving out the question of accessibility of banks. He only said that the ministry is trying to take complete farmland census as quickly as possible.

Daw Khin Saw Wai of Yathedaung Constituency asked for adoption of a policy to bring about 30 per cent representation of women in respective legislative, executive and judicial bodies at Union and region/state level.

However, according

to answer of the representatives from judicial and executive institutions, the proportion of women in such institutions is more than 30 per cent and some even reaching to over 60 per cent. The Speaker as regards to her questions amusingly said: “If only the women were elected for the next term according to public wish, then we could see a true ladies’ parliament.”—NLM



**Hluttaw Representative from Ahlon Constituency U Khine Maung Yi raising queries.—MNA**



**Hluttaw Representative Daw Nan Wah Nu of Kunhing Constituency raising queries.—MNA**

## Complete removal of sanction relies on US

### Congress

NAY PYI TAW, 6 March—Hluttaw representatives held discussions on the proposal on urging the Union government to review the grant of the licenses for mining plots in forest reserves and protected forests, giving the priority to the poorest Chin State for the reason of poverty alleviation tasks, which is submitted by U Zone Hle Htan of Chin State Constituency No. 2 at today’s Amyotha Hluttaw.

Regarding the proposal, Union Minister for Mines Dr

Myint Aung replied that the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry would provide assistance with least environmental damages for Chin State development.

Five representatives discussed the proposal urging the Union government to ask the government of the United States of America to completely remove of sanctions on gems and jewellery, which is submitted by U Hla Swe of Magway Region Constituency No. 12.

U San Pyae of Kachin

State Constituency No. 7 said that due to the sanction, both countries had to suffer the losses. Providing assistance and cooperation would bring about human rights and democracy rights.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Zin Yaw replied that thanks to Myanmar’s political reforms, the country had seen international recognitions, assistances and lifting of sanctions. The complete removal of sanction relied on US Congress and needed cooperation

between governments, legal and technical experts, Hluttaw representatives, political parties and all social community. The proposal was approved by Hluttaw.

Hluttaw agreed to discuss the proposal urging the Union government to allow the farmers do farming in farm lands and crop lands and villages included in forest reserve and protected forest reserves submitted by U Saw Taw Pa Lae of Kayin State Constituency No. 7.

MNA



**Amyotha Hluttaw representatives attends 22<sup>nd</sup> day session.—MNA**

## Ambassador U Kyaw Myo Htut presents his credentials to the King of Norway

NAY PYI TAW, 7 March—U Kyaw Myo Htut, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Norway, presented his Credentials to His Majesty King Harald V, King of Norway, on 28 February 2013, in Oslo.—MNA

## Liaison office of KNU/KNLA Brigade-1 opened

NAY PYI TAW, 6 March—Opening of the Liaison Office of KNU/KNLA Brigade (1) yesterday took place in Naungbo Village, Thaton Township in Mon State.

Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Zeyar Aung, in his opening speech, said that the Union government is making great strides in peace making process. Only desire and goodwill could help us overcome challenges.

Next, Mon State Chief Minister U Ohn Myint and KNU Chairman General Mutu Say Phoe made speeches.

Union Minister U Zeyar Aung, the Chief Minister, South-East Command

Commander Maj-Gen Tin Maung Win, the KNU Chairman, Commander of KNU/KNLA Brigade (1) Brig-Gen Saw Kyaw Linn formally opened the office.

State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Htay Myint Aung handed over documents related to the office to Chairman of Thaton District KNU U Saw Pa Nu, and Max Myanmar Co Chairman U Zaw Zaw presented other related documents to Commander of KNU/KNLA Brigade (1) Brig-Gen Saw Kyaw Linn.

National race dance troupes of Mon State Culture Committee staged their *Yein* dance with the song entitled “Learn Mon Literature”.

MNA

## REGIONAL



Russian Minister of Defence General Sergei Shoigu (L) and Vietnamese Minister of National Defence General Phung Quang Thanh attend a Press briefing after holding talks in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 5 March, 2013.  
REUTERS

## Vietnam, Russia to lift defence ties to new height

HANOI, 6 March — Vietnam and Russian defence ministers met in Vietnam's capital Hanoi on Tuesday to discuss measures to lift bilateral defence ties to a new height

"At the meeting, the two sides discussed issues of implementing the consensus reached by the two countries' leaders, exchange of visits by high-ranking military officials, cooperation in military engineering, human resources training, and weapons purchase," said Vietnamese Defence Minister Phung Quang Thanh during a Press briefing after the meeting.

The two sides also agreed on establishment of a deputy ministerial level

defence dialogue, Thanh added.

The two ministers also discussed about cooperation at the biennial regional multilateral defence forum ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM+).

Thanh said that Vietnam wanted to invite veterans of Russia and other former Soviet Union countries to visit Vietnam in order to strengthen relations.

Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said that the two sides have worked on issues which are vital to the relationship between the two countries, creating stronger impetus to the cooperation in specific areas.

"We will join efforts to usher in a new development

of the Vietnamese navy. Vietnam's submarine force is expected to be established this year," Shoigu said.

The Russian defence minister spoke highly of Vietnam's decision to develop its navy force in coordination with Russia's leading companies. Shoigu expressed his hope that a resort for Russian army men would be built in Vietnam.

Thanh unveiled that the Vietnamese government has allowed Russia to set up a ship maintenance facility at Vietnam's Cam Ranh port in central Khanh Hoa Province after the Press briefing. Shoigu is on a two-day visit to Vietnam at the invitation of his Vietnamese counterpart.—Xinhua

## Cambodian PM hails China for its non-biased foreign policy toward developing nations

PHNOM PENH, 6 March — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen on Tuesday hailed China for its non-biased foreign policy toward developing countries, saying such policy will make China get more friends among developing nations.

"All developing countries in the world want 'equal status, equal rights', and China has honoured this point, so I believe that China will have more friends in the world because there are a lot of developing countries," the premier said during a groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of a China-funded road

in eastern Kampong Cham Province.

"Cambodia and other developing countries are pleased with China's foreign policy that gives value to the opinions of developing countries. We are poor, small, developing countries, but China honours us and treats us equal status, equal rights," he said.

The premier said that China is the only developing country among the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, and China has provided the importance for the weak voice of developing countries.—Xinhua



A man walks through a flooded area with a boat in Cawang, East Jakarta, Indonesia, on 5 March, 2013. The National Disaster Mitigation Agency (BNPB) on Tuesday warned that Jakarta could experience another big flood this week, as many areas in the city have already been swamped after the water level at Bogor's Katulampa dam reached 250 centimetres on Monday.—XINHUA

## Philippines lifts workers' deployment ban on Iraq, Yemen, Eritrea

MANILA, 6 March — The Philippine government has lifted the ban on the deployment of Filipino workers to Iraq, Yemen and Eritrea, a senior government official said here on Tuesday. Labour Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz said that the lifting of the ban was contained in three separate resolutions issued by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration

(POEA) Governing Board, which she chairs.

She said that Iraq, Yemen, and Eritrea are now included in the list of "compliant countries" under the Amended Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act.

With the lifting of the deployment ban, Baldoz said that the government will now allow the overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) to work in these countries.

But in the case of Iraq, she said that before dispatching the returning workers or the rehires to Iraq, Manila has to receive first the list of areas identified as "no-go" zones by the Iraqi government. The Philippines had imposed deployment ban on the three countries due to unstable peace and order situation, which could put the lives of OFWs at risk.

Xinhua

## 5.4-magnitude quake hits Ryukyu Islands, Japan

HONG KONG, 6 March — An earthquake measuring 5.4 on the Richter scale jolted Ryukyu Islands, Japan at 20:32:44 GMT on Tuesday, the US Geological Survey said.

The epicentre, with a depth of 31.60 km, was initially determined to be at 27.6324 degrees north latitude and 128.2323 degrees east longitude.—Xinhua



Visitors wait to enter the 30th Hong Kong International Jewellery Show in Hong Kong, south China, on 5 March, 2013. The jewellery show held by Hong Kong Trade Development Council kicked off on Tuesday. More than 3,300 jewelers from 49 countries and regions attended the show.

XINHUA

## Vietnam-China sea tourism service completes trial run

HANOI, 6 March — The trial run of the sea tourism route connecting China's Beihai and Vietnam's Ha Long Bay completed successfully on Tuesday.

The Beiyu speedboat 16 of China's Xin'ao Corporation carrying 22 crew members docked at Tuan Chau port in Vietnam's northeastern Quang Ninh Province, Vietnam's state-run news agency reported.

After the trial run, the sea tourism route is scheduled to be put into operation in early April this year with frequency of two times a

week, carrying around 800 passengers each time.

The opening of the sea route is expected to boost sea tourism service between China and Vietnam.

Some seven million tourists came to Quang Ninh Province known for its World Heritage Site Ha Long Bay resort last year, up 8 percent over the previous year, with international tourists accounting for around 2.4 million, according to Quang Ninh Provincial Department of Culture, Sports and Tourism.

Xinhua



A citizen donates blood in Taiyuan, capital of north China's Shanxi Province, on 5 March, 2013, as an effort to learn from Lei Feng, a young Chinese soldier in the 1960s, who is known for devoting almost all of his spare time and money to selflessly helping the needy. Lei died after being hit by a falling pole while helping a fellow soldier direct a truck on 15 Aug, 1962. A year later, late Chinese leader Chairman Mao Zedong called on the nation to follow Lei's example, and 5 March of every year is designated as "Lei Feng Day."—XINHUA

## Dairy prices rise as New Zealand drought declaration extended

WELLINGTON, 6 March — The New Zealand government on Wednesday declared a state of drought across much of the top half of the North Island and warned further declarations could follow soon if the dry weather continued.

The continuing dry weather pushed up global dairy prices on Wednesday as it hit production, with dairy giant Fonterra seeing its highest prices since June 2011 on the Global Dairy Trade Trade Weighted Index.

Minister for Primary Industries Nathan Guy said

a state of drought had been officially declared in South Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty and Hawkes Bay regions, following on from last week's declaration in the far north Northland region.

"This is recognition that farmers across the North Island are facing extremely difficult conditions," Guy said in a statement.

The declaration meant that extra government funding would be available to farmers in severe hardship.

"The entire North Is-

land is dry, and I am keeping a close eye on other parts of the East Coast, as well as Wairarapa, Manawatu and Taranaki (regions). Farmers badly need some rainfall during March and April to help prepare for the winter and set up for next spring," he said.

Federated Farmers Waikato provincial president James Houghton said the extended period of hot and dry weather over the last two months had left dairy and sheep and beef farmers with parched paddocks and burnt and stunted feed crops.

"The moisture deficit is so high in many places that even if it started raining tonight, it could be about four weeks before grass recovers enough for stock to graze on," Houghton said in a statement.

The National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) issued a statement on Wednesday, saying many North Island regions had recorded rainfall totals around half of summer normal, while some of the drought-affected areas had received about a third of normal summer rainfall.—Xinhua

## Mongolia holds saker falcon festival

ULAN BATOR, 6 March—Mongolia held a saker falcon festival on Tuesday to celebrate the Asian country's national bird.

The festival, rich in ethnic characteristics, took place in Genghis Khan camp outside the capital of Ulan Bator.

Twenty Kazakh falconers from western Mongolia rode past the podium on horseback as the sakers spread their wings for the audience.

A hunting competition was held following the opening ceremony. Under the guidance of the masters, the saker falcons caught rabbits, foxes and other prey before a "King Saker Falcon" was selected by both professional judges and tourists.

Tsedevdamba Oyungerel, minister of culture, sports and tourism, said Mongolia would declare the event a traditional Mongolian festival and celebrate it annually to promote tourism.

The saker falcon was named Mongolia's national bird last year.—Xinhua

## More green cars feature in Geneva motor show

GENEVA, 6 March—More green cars than ever before will feature at the Geneva Motor Show this year, which will open to public from 7 to 17 March.

More than 30 manufacturers will present some 90 models of green cars, powered by alternative technologies or with less than 100g/km CO2 emissions. The world premiere of the Volvo V60 Plug-in Hybrid and the European premiere of Chevrolet Spark electric vehicle is also expected at the show.

Andre Hefti, managing director of the Geneva Motor Show, said the development and proliferation of

alternative fuel vehicles, including electric, hybrid and fuel cell, is one of the main draws of the motor show this year.

"There is practically no major manufacturer that does not include at least one in its range," he was quoted as saying by the *Motor Show Magazine*.

The 83rd Geneva Motor Show will also have some 260 manufacturers presenting 900 models of vehicles, among which more than 130 will make their world or European debut.

The event is expected to attract more than 700,000 visitors.—Xinhua

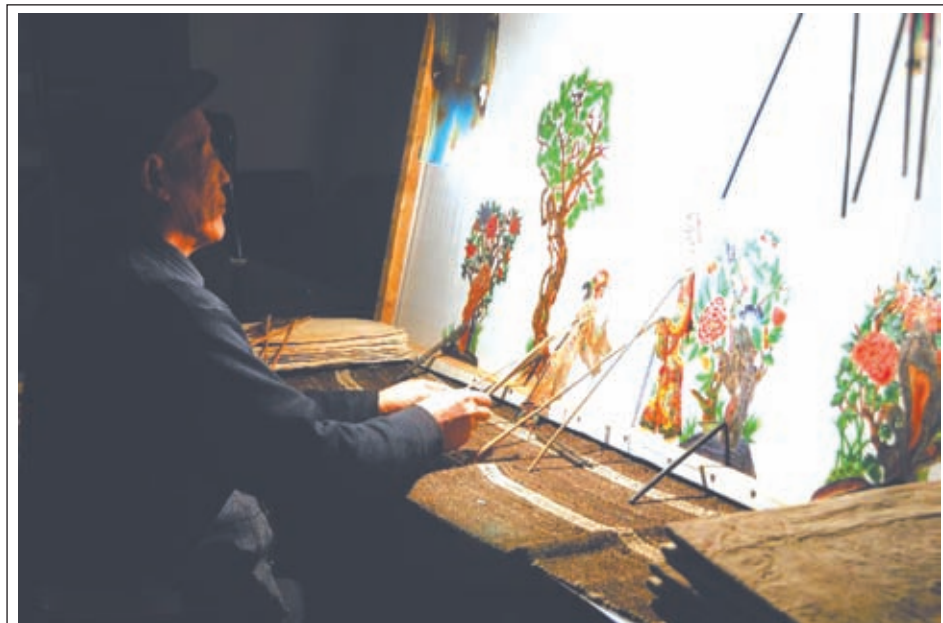
## Indian market increasingly catches

### Poland's interest

WARSAW, 6 March—Polish companies are increasingly interested in the Indian market, Poland's Economy Ministry said in a statement summing up the results of a recently completed Polish trade mission to India. According to the statement, the main themes of the mission included trade cooperation, promotion of Poland's economy, incen-

tives for investing in Poland and Poland's strategic partnership in the CeBIT 2013 IT fair in Hannover.

Deputy Economy Minister Dariusz Bogdan discussed cooperation in the coal, energy and environment protection sectors with India's Secretary of Ministry of Commerce and Industry Shri Saurabh Chandra and with Secretary of Ministry of



A folk artist presents *Daoqing* (a folk operetta originated from the chanting of Taoist scriptures) shadow play backstage in Huanxian County, northwest China's Gansu Province, late on 4 March, 2013. The county has made great efforts to preserve and promote the folk performing art in recent years. Huanxian now boasts 52 shadow play troupes.—XINHUA

## Daughter of "Cocaine Kingpin" kidnapped in Bulgaria

SOFIA, 6 March—Three masked men abducted the 10-year-old daughter of a convicted Bulgarian gangland boss on Tuesday, police said, in a brazen attack underscoring the Balkan country's failure to tackle rampant organized crime.

The European Union's poorest member state has been repeatedly criticised by Brussels for doing too little to fight corruption and gangsterism. The failure to implement rule of law topped the government last month.

Driving an SUV, the three men blocked a car taking the daughter of Evelin Banev to school, shot and wounded its driver and abducted the girl, police said in a statement. The driver was hospitalised but his life was not in danger, doctors said.

"Police blocked roads into and out of (the capital) Sofia. All operational and search measures are being

taken to establish the location of the child," the police statement said.

Banev, 49, was arrested in Italy last May in an international police operation dubbed "Cocaine Kingpins" involving Bulgarian, Italian, French, Swiss and Spanish authorities. Italian police said Banev's gang was responsible for smuggling around 40 tonnes of cocaine into Italy per year.

A Bulgarian court last month sentenced Banev — known as "Brendo" — to 7 1/2 years in prison for laundering drug-dealing profits of over 2 million euros (£1.72 million). Italy handed him to Bulgaria for that trial but he is now back in an Italian jail awaiting trial for drug trafficking.

Successive governments have failed to solve hundreds of high-profile contract killings that have plagued Sofia and other cities since the late 1990s. The issue has contributed to Bulgaria's exclusion from the EU's passport-free Schengen zone.

But Tuesday's abduction was the first since 2009, when police arrested 25 people in connection with 16 kidnappings of rich and famous Bulgarians for ransom. Last April a Sofia court sentenced four of the accused to at least 16 years in jail. (\$1 = 0.7687 euros)

Reuters



Artists from Greenray Theater perform during a rehearsal press conference of the play "Temperature of a Single Man" in Taipei of southeast China's Taiwan, on 3 March, 2013. Greenray Theater's play, "Temperature of a Single Man", will debut here on 15 March, 2013.—XINHUA

## Vietnamese children at risk of vitamin deficiency

HANOI, 6 March—Over 50 percent of Vietnamese children fail to get enough vitamins A, B1, C and D, or iron in their daily meals, the National Institute of Nutrition said on Tuesday.

The institute's recent surveys showed that the rate of vitamin-deficient Vietnamese children is higher than those in other three countries in the region, namely Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand.

Surveys on nutrition in Southeast Asia conducted by the Vietnam Nutrition

Association and the Friesland Campina Institute took place at the same time in each country for comparison.

Results revealed that the number of children in urban areas lacking vitamins was higher than that in rural areas. Girls in urban areas led the list, accounting for 50 percent. Nutritionists said the most serious consequence of vitamin deficiency is that it will affect the children's height or lead to rickets.

Xinhua

## World's oldest living woman celebrates 115th birthday

OSAKA, 6 March—The world's oldest woman celebrated on Tuesday her 115th birthday in the western Japanese city of Osaka, local Press reported.

Misao Okawa, who was born to a clothing merchant in 1898 and now lives in central Osaka, received a bouquet of flowers from care staff at the dining room of a nursing home, and enjoyed her birthday cake with the staff and friends at lunchtime on Tuesday, ac-

cording to the daily *Asahi Shimbun*.

Replying to a congratulatory message sent with a gift by the mayor of Osaka, she told reporters that she was deeply obliged to the mayor's special arrangements which were delivered to "such an aged person like her."

The report said Okawa married in 1919 and has three children, four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.—Xinhua

Samantha Cameron, the wife of Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron, poses for pictures with a tray of cakes, in Downing Street, central London on 5 March, 2013. The cakes will be sold to raise money for the charities supported by Red Nose Day which is fall on 15 March. XINHUA



Don't  
Smoke

ENTERTAINMENT

Taylor Swift slams Tina Fey, Amy Poehler on love life joke



Country pop singer Taylor Swift

LOS ANGELES, 6 March — Country pop singer Taylor Swift hit back at comedians Tina Fey and Amy Poehler for mocking her love life at Hollywood's Golden Globe Awards this year, calling the jab sexist in an interview with magazine *Vanity Fair* on Tuesday. During the awards broadcast, hosts Fey and Poehler threw a barb at the singer, telling her to "stay away" from actor Michael J Fox's 23-year-old son. The Grammy-winning singer is well known for documenting her personal relationships in her songs, often leaving little clues in the lyrics that hint at the subject.

She has been linked to high profile celebrities such as John Mayer, Jake Gyllenhaal, Taylor Lautner, Joe Jonas and more recently, Conor Kennedy and One Direction's Harry Styles. In the *Vanity Fair* interview, Swift, 23, responded to the Golden Globes incident by citing a saying told to her by talk show host Katie Couric that "there's a special place in hell for women who don't help other women."—Reuters

Bieber apologizes to angry fans for late UK show

LONDON, 6 March — Canadian singer Justin Bieber apologized on Tuesday after fans booed him for turning up nearly two hours late to a London concert, blaming technical issues for his late performance. The 19-year-old teen idol had been scheduled to take the stage at London's O2 Arena at 8.30 pm but said in a Twitter message that the time was pushed back to 9.35 pm due to "some technical issues".

Many fans, and the venue itself, appeared not to have got the message after complaints poured in that Bieber was nearly two hours late when he finally appeared at around 10.20 pm. "Last night I was scheduled after 3 opening acts to go on stage at 935 not 830 but because of some technical issues," Bieber wrote on Twitter, the micro-blogging



Canadian singer Justin Bieber

site where he boasts the largest following of more than 35 million people. "I got on at 10:10..so..I was 40 min late to stage. there is no excuse for that and I apologize for anyone we upset. However it was great show and I'm proud of that."—Reuters

"Django" and "Ted" lead comedies, superheros at MTV Movie Award

LOS ANGELES, 6 March — "Django Unchained" and raunchy comedy "Ted" landed seven MTV Movie Awards nominations on Tuesday, leading a slew of comedies and superhero blockbust-

ers among the nominees at the annual film awards voted for by youth audiences. Oscar-winner Jennifer Lawrence, 22, landed five nominations, including Best Female Performance for her role as young



Cast members Samuel L Jackson (L-R) Quentin Tarantino, Kerry Washington, Jamie Foxx and Christoph Waltz pose on the red carpet for the German premiere for Tarantino's latest movie "Django Unchained" in Berlin on 8 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

widow Tiffany in quirky comedy "Silver Linings Playbook," as well as Best Kiss, Best On-Screen Duo and Best Musical Moment with her co-star Bradley Cooper. Cooper, 38, who plays bipolar character Pat in "Silver Linings," tied with Seth MacFarlane as pot-smoking foul-mouthed bear Ted for four nominations each.

Reuters

Turning 40 was best for Rachel Weisz

LOS ANGELES, 6 March — Actress Rachel Weisz says turning 40 was one of the "best years" of her life — both professionally and personally.

The 42-year-old actress didn't mind reaching the milestone age because she married

James Bond star Daniel Craig in 2011, and took on more "interesting" and "complicated" characters on the stage as well as the big screen, reports femalefirst.co.uk. "When I turned 40 it was one of the best years of my life; I played Blanche in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Hester Collyer in *The Deep Blue Sea* and got mar-

ried — none of which I'd ever done before. As you age, the characters you play get more interesting, more complicated," Weisz told *Daily Telegraph*.

PTI



Shah Rukh Khan

Shah Rukh Khan to act in R Balki's next movie

NEW DELHI, 6 March — Looks like superstar Shah Rukh Khan's plate is full this year with films like *Chennai Express* and *Happy New Year* in the pipeline. And if rumours are to be believed the Baadshah Khan will soon be seen in director R Balki's next movie. There are also rumours doing the rounds that Amitabh Bachchan and Sridevi will also feature in

the yet untitled project. In a recent interview to NDTV, Sridevi confirmed that she would be acting in R Balki's upcoming movie.

R Balki has already directed Amitabh Bachchan in critically acclaimed films like *Cheeni Kum* and *Paa*. Reportedly, the movie will be a short film dealing with a sensitive issue and Shah Rukh Khan will be the face of the project.—PTI



Actress Rachel Weisz

## SPORTS

## Panama, Canada, US, Mexico lead CONCACAF U-17 Championship

PANAMA CITY, 6 March — Panama, Canada, the United States and Mexico will lead Group A, B, C and D respectively, in the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) U-17 Championship, to be held in Panama from 6 to 19 April, according to the draw held on Tuesday in Panama City.

The Panamanian team



will face Barbados and Jamaica in the Agustin Muquita Sanchez stadium in La Chorrera in western Panama Province (state), while Group B, including Canada, Costa Rica and Trinidad and Tobago, will also play in La Chorrera. The teams will compete for four slots in the FIFA U-17 World Championship in the United Arab Emirates from 17 October to 8 November.

Groups C includes US, Guatemala and Haiti and Group D has Mexico, Honduras and Cuba. Both groups will play in Rommel Fernandez stadium in Panama City, said CONCACAF President Jeffrey Webb.—Xinhua

## Madrid knocks out Man United to reach Champions League quarters

MANCHESTER, 6 March — Nani's controversial red card became the turning point of the battle at Old Trafford on Tuesday as Real Madrid knocked out Manchester United 3-2 on aggregate to reach the last eight of Champions League. United, who paved the way for a promising quarterfinal berth after a first leg 1-1 draw at Madrid, seemed on course three minutes after the restart.

Danny Welbeck and Robin van Persie's shots were both denied by Real's blocks. However, defender Sergio Ramos failed to clear Nani's subsequent low cross and kicked it past his keeper Diego Lopez to score an own goal. United, with the lead, suffered a huge blow just seven minutes later. Nani, a ceaseless threat to visitors on the left flank, was shown a straight

red card after he made a aerial challenge on Real's right back Alvaro Arbeloa. "Independent of the decision, the best team lost," said Real manager Jose Mourinho after the tie. "I doubt that 11 against 11 we win the match," he added.

Real showed their bench depth in the 66th minute. The ex-Tottenham playmaker Luka Modric came off the bench, rounded one United player at the edge of the box and then delivered a 20-yard powerful shot to beat keeper David de Gea. Just three minutes later, Cristiano Ronaldo, who returned to Old Trafford for the first time since his 2009's move to Real, stunned the home team as the Portugese winger picked up a sharp low cross from Gonzalo Higuain at far post to seal the 2-1 victory. In front of the fanatic

## NBA's Lakers, Rockets to tour Asia in October



NEW YORK, 6 March— Kobe Bryant and Jeremy Lin are set to visit Asia in October with Los Angeles Lakers and Houston Rockets for a series of exhibition games, the National Basketball Association announced on Tuesday. The Lakers will play two games in China against the Golden State Warriors, beginning with an 15 October contest at the MasterCard Centre arena. Three days later the

same two teams will square off in Shanghai at the Mercedes-Benz Arena.

Lin's Rockets will play in both China's Taipei province and the Philippines. Houston faces the Indiana Pacers on 13 October at the Taipei Arena. They start their Asia swing with an 10 October contest against the Pacers in Manila. It has been just over a year since "Linsanity" gripped New York Knicks fans and propelled break-out star Lin to global fame. Lin, who was born in Los Angeles, is the first American of Chinese descent to play in the NBA.

Bryant's Lakers will be playing for the first time in China. Five-time NBA

champion Bryant has been co-authoring a blog in Chinese for several years. Last month Bryant joined the Twitter-like Chinese microblogging site Sina Weibo,



getting thousands of followers in just the first few hours. The Lakers vs Warriors and Rockets vs Pacers games highlight a total of eight NBA overseas games in October.

Xinhua



Neymar

## Neymar rejects Barca talk

RIO DE JANEIRO, 6 March — Neymar has rejected the latest reports linking him with a move to Barcelona by insisting he has still not considered leaving Brazilian club Santos. Last week Barcelona defender and Neymar's Brazil teammate Daniel Alves claimed the striker had already agreed to join the Catalan outfit after next year's World Cup.

"Daniel Alves is a good friend but if I say that (Lionel) Messi is coming to Santos, would you believe me?" Neymar said. "I appreciate what Daniel is saying but I am happy here." According to Spanish media, Barcelona has made a down payment of 10 million euros for the starlet, whose contract with Santos expires in July next year. Among the clubs jostling with Barcelona for the 21-year-old's signature are Real Madrid, Chelsea and Manchester City.

In a thinly-veiled swipe at Alves, Neymar called for an end to speculation about his future. "Those who say that I am ready to leave don't know anything about my life," he said. "When I feel ready to leave I will leave. It's my decision to make and nobody else's. I am happy at Santos."

Xinhua

Real Madrid's Luka Modric (C) scores against Manchester United during their Champions League soccer match at Old Trafford stadium in Manchester.—XINHUA

74,959 crowd, Ronaldo lowered his head, waved



arms and made few celebrations.

"It was unbelievable. It was an emotional moment for me tonight," said Ronaldo, referring to the warm welcome he got from Unit-

ed fans before the kick-off. United manager Sir Alex Ferguson protested against the red card decision during the match. He didn't attend the post-match Press conference. "It's a distraught

dresser room and a distraught manager. That's why I am sitting here," said assistant manager Mike Phelan. He said the decision was disappointing and spoiled the game.—Xinhua

## Atletico Madrid coach Simeone signs four year deal



Atletico Madrid coach Diego Simeone

MADRID, 6 March— Atletico Madrid have announced an agreement to extend the contract of coach, Diego Simeone for a further four seasons. The Argentinean, whose current deal was due to expire at the end

of the current season, has agreed a new contact to keep him at the club until the end of June 2017.

The deal, which was announced at around 17:30 local time on the Atletico Madrid website, is a reward

for the excellent work which Simeone has done in the Vicente Calderon Stadium since replacing Gregorio Manzano as Atletico coach at the end of December 2011. Simeone resurrected a side that was looking doomed to mid-table obscurity and led them to the 2012 Europa League title, defeating Athletic Club Bilbao 3-0 in the final which was held in Bucharest.

He was able to impart the fighting spirit which won him the affections of the Atletico Madrid supporters during two spells as a player with the club,

between 1994-97 and 2003-05 into his squad, which became incredibly difficult to beat. This season's work with Atletico Madrid has been equally impressive and his side is currently second in the BBVA Primera Liga table, all be it 11 points behind league leaders FC Barcelona. However, importantly for Atletico fans the club is ahead of bitter local rivals, Real Madrid in the classification and under Simeone's leadership the club last week qualified for the final of the Copa del Rey after defeating Sevilla in the semi-final.—Xinhua



Costa Rican artists perform during the opening ceremony of the 2013 San Jose Central American Games at the National Stadium in San Jose, Costa Rica, on 3 March, 2013.—XINHUA

GENERAL

Taipei, Netherlands advance in World Baseball Classic

NEW YORK, 6 March — Taipei and the Netherlands advanced to the second round of the World Baseball Classic on Tuesday, joining Japan and Cuba for the next phase of the elite, 16-team tournament in Tokyo. Baltimore Orioles prospect Jonathan Schoop belted a two-run homer to lead the Dutch team to a 4-1 victory over Australia for their second win in Pool B round-robin play in Taichung, Taipei.

Taipei also advanced in Pool B despite losing 3-2 to 2009 finalists South Korea, who could not overcome an earlier 5-0 loss to the Netherlands and were eliminated by a tiebreaker. Dutch starter Robbie Cordesmans had three 1-2-3 innings in five frames, and yielded only two hits while striking out three. Robbie pitched a great game," said manager Hensley Meulens, the batting coach for the World Series champion San Francisco Giants. "Five innings and no runs. That was the key to our win today."



Netherlands' players celebrate after defeating Australia at their World Baseball Classic (WBC) qualifying first round game in Taichung on 5 March, 2013.— REUTERS

Ray Chang's clutch two-run single in the bottom of the eighth inning capped a five-run rally that propelled China to their first victory, a 5-2 win over Brazil in Pool A that clinched them an automatic berth in the 2017 Classic. Unbeaten Cuba and Japan, the two-time defending champions, play the Pool A finale on Wednesday to determine seeding for the second round that begins on Friday at the Tokyo Dome.

The other two first-round pools get underway

on Thursday. Venezuela meets the Dominican Republic to open Pool C play in San Juan, Puerto Rico, with Spain and the host team playing on Friday. Team USA, with reigning National League Cy Young winner RA Dickey on the mound, play their first game on Friday in Phoenix against Mexico, after Italy and Mexico begin competition in Pool D Canada round out the group and open against Italy on Friday.

Reuters

Georgiou leads Africa qualifying for the Open

JOHANNESBURG, 6 March — The motivation of returning to the British Open spurred Andrew Georgiou to a opening round of 65 on Tuesday at the African qualifying tournament for the oldest major.

The 26-year-old was one of three qualifiers from last year's event and wants another chance to compete for the Claret Jug.

"It helps having done it once before," he told reporters at the Royal Johannesburg and Kensington golf club. "There are a lot of great memories from last year and knowing what is in store for you really motivates." But with just three places on offer again, and a field of 75 to compete against, he will need much of the same in Wednesday's second and final round.

Georgiou leads from Englishman Darren Lloyd and South Africans Justin Harding and Jake Roos who each shot 66.

Reuters

Fox takes aim at ESPN with national sports TV channel

NEW YORK, 6 March — News Corp introduced a long-rumored national cable television sports channel, Fox Sports 1, on Tuesday, aiming to compete with leader ESPN in an increasingly crowded TV sports marketplace. Fox will launch the channel on 17 August in 90 million homes, executives of the network said at an event in New York City. Fox's entry into the 24-hour sports network fray means that all four major broadcast

networks will have a cable channel devoted entirely to sports.

Fox Sports 1 will carry college basketball games from conferences such as the Big 12 and Pac 12, college football games including a Notre Dame versus Stanford matchup, and Major League Baseball games starting in 2014. NASCAR, Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) matches and soccer will also appear on the new network.

The rationale behind

the new sports networks is simple: sports programming, essentially the last bastion of TV programming that viewers watch live instead of time-shifted via DVR, can be used to grab a slice of the lucrative market dominated by sports juggernaut ESPN, whose ownership by Walt Disney Co gives Disney's ABC network a sports channel.

CBS and NBC have their own sports channels.

Reuters



Ernie Els of South Africa hits the ball on the 18th green during second round play in the Honda Classic PGA golf tournament in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida on 1 March, 2013.

REUTERS

MIAMI, 6 March — British Open champion Ernie Els says he regrets not advising Rory McIlroy against walking out of the Honda Classic last week but understands the pressure the world number one is feeling.

McIlroy, who was playing with South African Els at PGA National, withdrew after slumping to seven over par through eight holes of his second round on Friday.

Initially he said he was not in a "good place men-

tally" before later blaming a painful wisdom truth for his withdrawal.

The Northern Irishman has since conceded he was wrong to walk out on the tournament where he was the defending champion but the experienced Els wishes he had said something to him.

"I must say, when I shook his hand on 18, I wanted to say something to him, but I didn't, and I kind of regret that.

It was obviously a heat of the moment thing. He is

who he is.

You've got to respect what the individual at that moment is like, and he wanted to get off," Els told a news conference.

"We obviously heard that he had his wisdom tooth was bothering him, and if that was the reason, that was that.

I would have been out of my depth at that stage to say something to him if something was bothering him.

So I didn't, but I thought I should have,"

he said. McIlroy is facing intense scrutiny of his poor start to the year after switching to Nike clubs and Els, a former world number one in 1997 and 1998, said the status can be a burden. "I wouldn't say lonely is the word, but you're exposed. People look at you and you're kind of the leader of the pack.

In a way, you have to act accordingly. You have to show that you're number one in your game. You've got to perform," he said.

Reuters

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(7-3-13 09:30 am ~ 8-3-13 09:30 am) MST

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- \* 66th Mon National Day
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- \* News
- \* Lovely Homes for Beautiful Pet Fishes
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- \* Youth's vista on Sport
- \* News
- \* Exclusive Interview with World Bank & IFC High Officials Mr Axel Van Trotsenburg & Ms Karin Finkelston
- \* News
- \* Culture Stage
- \* News
- \* Seminar on Women's Right and Protection
- \* Inle's Beauty for Eternity
- \* News
- \* A Warm Welcome from the Golden Land
- \* Myanmar Movies "Venus Flytrap"

Myanmar TV

(7-3-2013, Thursday)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>7:00 am</b>   | <b>6:15 pm</b>                                      |
| 1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw   | 9. Weather Report                                   |
| <b>7:20 am</b>   | <b>6:20 pm</b>                                      |
| 2. Union Cup Games (Live Broadcast) (Football-Women, Final) (Yangon Region Vs Ayeyawaddy Region) | 10. Approaching Science Discovery World             |
| <b>9:20 am</b>   | <b>6:40 pm</b>                                      |
| 3. People Talks  | 11. TV Drama Series                                 |
| <b>3:20 pm</b>   | <b>6:50 pm</b>                                      |
| 4. Union Cup Games (Live Broadcast) (Football-Men, Final) (Yangon Region Vs Mandalay Region)     | 12. People Talks                                    |
| <b>5:20 pm</b>   | <b>7:00 pm</b>                                      |
| 5. Musical Programme   | 13. News  |
| <b>5:30 pm</b>   | <b>7:10 pm</b>                                      |
| 6. Performance With Song   | 14. TV Drama Series                                 |
| <b>5:45 pm</b>   | <b>8:00 pm</b>                                      |
| 7. People Talks  | 15. News  |
| <b>6:00 pm</b>   | 16. International News                              |
| 8. Evening News  | 17. Weather Report                                  |
|  | 18. Documentary (SEA Games)                         |
|  | 19. CLEVER  |
|  | 20. Song Programme                                  |
|  | 21. Road to 27 <sup>th</sup> SEA GAMES (Yachting-2) |
|  | <b>10:00 pm</b>                                     |
|  | 27. News  |
|  | 28. TV Drama Series                                 |



Co-President and Chief Operating Officer of Fox Media Group Randy Freer (C) stands on stage with Fox Sports television personalities during the conclusion of a presentation to announce Fox's new sports network "Fox Sports 1" in New York, on 5 March, 2013.

REUTERS

Els regrets not talking McIlroy out of walk-off

## We will continue tirelessly on the path to peace until we have a peace that is just and durable

NAY PYI TAW, 6 March— President U Thein Sein explained Myanmar's reform processes at a meeting with the Chairman of European Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs and members, at European parliament in Brussels of Belgium yesterday evening.

The President said; Myanmar is working tirelessly for democratic change and for a lasting peace. We must couple these efforts with broad-based growth, new jobs and rising incomes. We asked that EU end all sanctions and actively help us in ensuring that no other sanctions remain in place.

I would also like to take this opportunity to share some important changes that are reshaping the labour environment in Myanmar. My government has made it a priority to tackle forced labour and have made significant progress in that area. We have worked within International Labour Organization's Tripartite System with other stakeholders to implement measures that improve workplace conditions. I believe we are on track to eradicate forced labour. More than that, I see the seeds of freedom of association beginning to sprout in Myanmar. My government has worked hard to implement regulations allowing the formation and registration of labour unions.

I would strongly like to

urge the EU leader to adopt the EU commission's proposal to restore Myanmar's trade preferences. The removal of tariffs and quotas and the reinstatement of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) will go a long way towards opening up EU markets for Myanmar exports and provide impetus for the implementation of the export-oriented economic and industrial development strategies. The preferential access to the EU market would allow Myanmar to benefit not only from employment and production creation but also from greater export earning potential. Moreover, it will have profound impact on our pursuit of poverty alleviation goals as well as raising the standard of living for Myanmar workers in the labour intensive industries and other related sectors. Lastly, trade and economic development is fundamental for the recent political reforms to take root and ensure future political stability in Myanmar.

I would also like to take this time to discuss the steps my government is taking to build investor confidence and promote responsible investment in Myanmar. Myanmar is ready to work with the international investors as an equal partner. My office worked hand in hand with the legislative branch to promulgate the Foreign Direct Investment Law in the later part of last year. We are currently



*President U Thein Sein explains Myanmar's reform processes in meeting with the Chairman of European Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs.—MNA*

working to implement procedures and processes that are more transparent, accountable, legitimate and predictable. The FDI law is just one dimension in an integrated framework for political, economic, social and legal priorities that will determine the counters of Myanmar's investment regime. My government is also forging ahead to reform and bring Myanmar's Arbitration System in line with the accepted international standards. While encouraging investment, it is important to promote the welfare of the Myanmar People and protect the environment upon which their livelihoods

depend. I have recently formed the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI) Leading Authority in Myanmar to take the necessary actions to deliver on our commitment to implement EITI. In line with peoples' wishes for responsible investment, my Government is serious about establishing a framework for dialogue about the governance of Myanmar's natural resources.

We will continue tirelessly on the path to peace until we have a peace that is just and durable. Myanmar has experienced internal armed conflict since its independence in 1948. This must stop. We must

find a political and negotiated solution. My government is absolutely committed to this goal. We have over the past 18 months signed ceasefires with no fewer than ten non-state armed groups. We will now double our efforts to reach an agreement with the last remaining major non-state armed group, the Kachin Independence Organization.

Current success and progress in the peace process stems from genuine will and desire of all Myanmar People for peace. To move from ceasefires to lasting peace, we must establish an inclusive framework

for political dialogues with involvement from all relevant stakeholders and individuals.

We must find ways of addressing long-standing grievances and discuss and work towards a new and more inclusive Myanmar citizenship and a new and more inclusive Myanmar.

Myanmar Peace Centre was recently established to serve as a focal point for all peace related activities in the country. I would like to personally thank European Union for generous support to be financial and technical in establishing Myanmar Peace Center.—MNA

## Union Minister inspects arrival of farm and rice milling equipment from Korea and Japan

NAY PYI TAW, 6 March— The agriculturists from the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation Department in cooperation with private

sector is carrying out a task of transforming conventional farming into mechanized one centered at Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing met those from Alliance Stars Co., Ltd and viewed worksite for setting up

rice mill bought from Japan in Pobbathiri Township, here, this morning.

On arrival at temporary warehouse in which modern power tillers are being kept, Specialist Mr Scott Mun of KUJE Co., Ltd of Korea and Chairman of Alliance Stars U Tin Lin Pyae explained capacity of modern power tillers.

Moreover they reported on available of farming equipment with three years guarantee to the Union Minister.

The Union Minister visited the temporary warehouse in which Japan-made rice milling equipment are being kept.—MNA



*Union A&I Minister U Myint Hlaing views rice milling equipment.—MNA*

## Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw IRC meets USAID delegation

NAY PYI TAW, 6 March— Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Committee for International Relations U Hla Myint Oo received a delegation led by Assistant Administrator Mr. Gregory A. Beck of United States Agency for International Development (USAID) at Hall No. (1) of the Hluttaw Complex, here, this morning.

The meeting focused on

### Visitors observe Hluttaws

NAY PYI TAW, 6 March— The 130-trainee group led by the Principal of Central Training School of USDP, 18 members of National League for Democracy in Magway of Magway Region, 21 Representatives

assistance for the parliament under the programme of USAID, exchange of experience on parliamentary affairs between Myanmar Parliament and the United States Congress, conducting more seminars and workshops under the programme of the National Democratic Institute, and exchange visits of the two countries.—MNA

of Mandalay Region Hluttaw and 53 members of USDP in Thakayta Township of Yangon Region visited the 22<sup>nd</sup> day sixth regular session of first Pyithu and Amyotha Hluttaws today.

MNA