

President U Thein Sein observes nursery, trial of Hamilton Jet speed boat, Auckland Museum

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein visited Shipherd nurseries in southern part of Auckland, New Zealand, this morning.

The President heard reports on growing of different kinds of rose and other flowers through greenhouse system and exporting of it to the market by nursery in charge Mr. Frans Van Dorsser.

Then, the President and party visited the greenhouse garden.

Afterwards, they

went to milch cow farm in Kara Kar where they were conducted the breeding of milch cow and milk production by local farmer Mr. Murray Shaw.

The President and party raised questions over milk production.

In the evening, the President and party proceeded to Auckland Marine Rescue Centre where they were clarified the production of speed boats and the process of marine rescue by Hamilton Jet speed boat production project by Manager Mr. Brent

Cleand.

The President and party observed the trial run of Hamilton Jet boat. They also visited Auckland War Memorial Museum and observed cultural artifacts. Director Mr. Rob Clare explained the historical background of the museum.

The President met the Myanmar ambassador to New Zealand and embassy staff families, Myanmar students studying in New Zealand and presented souvenirs to them.

MNA



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein observing the trial run of Hamilton Jet speed boats at Auckland Marine Rescue Centre.—MNA



President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein cordially greets Myanmar students studying in New Zealand.

MNA

Viettel Group donates computers, cash

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March—A donation ceremony of computers and cash by Viettel Group of Viet Nam to the Ministry of Education and Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association was held at the

meeting hall of MMCWA (Central) this morning.

Mr Nguyen Duy Tho, Director-General of Viettel Group, presented computers and cash to Education Ministry and MMCWA.

“The computers would

be distributed to schools under the Ministry of Education and cash would be spent on reconstruction of schools in storm- and quake-hit areas,” said President of MMCWA Dr Mon Mon Aung.—MNA

Daewoo E & P donates cash for HIV infected children

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March—A ceremony to donate nutrition powder for children living with HIV through Specialist Hospital Mingaladon was held at head office of Daewoo E & P on 4 March.

Package of nutrition powder worth K 35,016,300

was handed over to Specialist Hospital Mingaladon by Daewoo E & P on behalf of Shwe Consortium.

Since 2006, in consideration of Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR), on behalf of Shwe Consortium, Daewoo E & P has provided ARV drugs for

opportunistic infections and supplementary food items of nutrition powder worth around US\$ 300,000 for the HIV infected.

Daewoo E & P will continue to provide drugs and nutrition powder to HIV infected children in coming years.—NLM



Smuggle goods confiscated in Waw Township



WAW, 16 March — Mobile Team-2 confiscated smuggled goods while searching vehicles carrying goods which are not included in customs forms at mile post No (81/4) near Sathwarchon village in Waw Township of Bago Region on 12 March.

The team seized 50 water coolers, five cartoons of fish sauce, 64 packages of tower and 50 bottles of soft drink worth K 2,696,000 on the

vehicle driven by Kyaw Oo. Likewise, the team confiscated 15 cartoons of beer which were hidden in a box near fuel tank and at a place for spare tyre on the vehicle by Than Win.

Kyemon

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March — According to the Ministry of Construction, each road section of Yangon-Mandalay Ex-pressway is being upgraded paving it with asphalt.

Tarmacking of each road section is being carried out mainly at accident-prone road sections with turns and weak foundation. "It is found that car accidents are frequent

at the road sections with turns and weak foundation on the expressway. That's why the expressway is being upgraded to be equipped with standard characteristics of a road with the aim of mitigating road accident and ensuring road safety along the expressway," an official of Yangon-Mandalay Expressway Police Commander Office

said.

The Yangon-Mandalay Expressway was put into service in March 2009 and an average number of vehicles running on the expressway are 10000 a day.

Kyemon

Deputy Minister inspects construction works at University of Forestry (Yezin)

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March — Deputy Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Aye Myint Maung made an inspection tour of University of Forestry (Yezin) where he oversaw construction of a two-storey school building and housing for faculty members on 12 March.

The deputy minister stressed the need to be

equipped with teaching aids that facilitate e-learning and e-education at the theater which is under construction so that the theater can be used as multipurpose one. Moreover, he called for timely completion of construction works meeting set standard. Upon completion of the school building, it can admit 624 students.

MNA

Woman killed in road accident in Pyay Township

PYAY, 16 March — A woman died of severe injuries while she was taken to the hospital after she was knocked down by a motorbike on Pyay-Paukhaung road in Pyay on 10 March. The motorbike driven by Htein Win, 31, of West Ghetto in Paungdale village-tract of Pyay Township hit Daw

Ma Myint, 58, of Kalarkan village of Hmawzar village-tract in Pyay Township who was crossing over the road at about 7.30 am on that day. Daw Ma Myint was seriously wounded in the incident and died of severe injuries while she was taken to Pyay hospital.

Kyemon



Fuel shop fire in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 16 March — An outbreak of fire at a private fuel shop on 19th Street between 86th and 87th streets in Mandalay caused a public panic as a haul of fuel containers were found at the shop after the flame flickered and went out.

A fire broke out at That-tant-yaung fuel shop at about 2.50 pm on 12 March. According to the responsible persons of fire services department, the

outbreak of fire was due to static electricity while filling fuel from a plastic container to a metal jar.

Although there was no spread of fire to nearby houses, the fire gutted the whole shop, destroying furniture, 50 gallons of petrol and 25 gallons of diesel. As soon as the fire started, the crowds of local people fought the fire with the use of fire extinguishers and they were joined by about 100 fire

fighters accompanied by 11 fire trucks. They struggled to control the fire and put out it at about 3.15 pm. Soon after the flame went out, the news of finding out the fuel storage came as a shock to local people. But the fire did not lick the fuel containers.

Two women and one fire officer were wounded in the fire. Shop assistant Hein Thiha, 24, was charged with the cause of fire by police.

Kyemon

Monk killed after being run over by train

OTTWIN, 16 March — A monk, who is believed to be struck by a train, was found dead at a place between mile post Nos (158/15) and (158/16) on Yangon-Mandalay rail road near Ottwin railway station in Bago ward of Ottwin

Township on 11 March morning. As Railway Officer of the station U Kyaw Kyaw Oo informed Ottwin police station of the death of a monk, Police Inspector Thein Kyaw and party rushed there and made necessary investigation. Investigation revealed that the

monk died of severe injuries after being run over by No (933) Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw up-train at about 3 pm on that day. Ottwin police field a case about the death of the monk and investigating is ongoing to identify the name of monk.

Kyemon

Car crash causes sever injury to speedster in Mayangon Township

YANGON, 16 March — A car went out of control and hit the pavement of Thamaing Butayon Street in Mayangon Township at about 11.20 pm on 5 March, leaving the driver seriously wounded. The victim of the car accident was taken to North Okkalapa Hospital.

The car driven by Kyaw Zaw Lwin, 42, of Hlinethaya Township skidded out of control and crashed into the pavement at the corner of Thamaing Butayon street

and Tabinshwehti street. The car accident caused heavily damage to the car and severe injury to the speedster.

Kyemon



Houses burnt to the ground due to spread of wildfire

YADASHE, 16 March — Due to the spread of forest fire, 19 houses and some granaries were reduced to ashes at Tatso village, which is adjacent to a reserved forest, in Daung-inn-kone village-tract of Yedashe Township on 10 March.

With the intense heat, a forest fire broke out, 1.5 furlongs south of the village. The fire spread quickly and gutted 19 houses and some granaries in the village. As villagers struggled to control the fire, the flames of the wildfire went down at about

4 pm. Officials concerned and fire crews rushed there overnight and put out the fire. The fire left 76 people of 19 households homeless. The fire victims were given temporary shelters at the monastery in the village and provided with foodstuff, clothing and kitchen utensils. Apart from 19 houses and some granaries, two engines, a cart, over 600 baskets of paddy and 30 baskets of rice and 50 baskets of groundnut were destroyed in the spreading wildfire.

Kyemon

Young man drowns while trying to remove fishing hook underwater

BAGO, 16 March — As Myohla police station was informed that a young man died of drowning in Sittoung River near Chaungkyo village in Yedashe Township on March 9, police members led by Police Sub-inspector Nann Oo rushed to the scene of incident and carried out investigation into the case. Investigation revealed that Shan Aye, 19, drowned while he was trying to remove the fishing hook underwater together with his friend, Thant Zin Aung. Before the fatal accident

happened to him, he was enjoying fishing by the river together with his friends, Thant Zin Aung and Thant Zin Soe. Although Thant Zin Aung was rescued by nearby people from drowning, Shan Aye was found dead underwater.

The dead body of the victim was taken to Swa station hospital for further investigation whether there is foul play and other suspicions. Myohla police station filed the case and investigation is ongoing.

Kyemon

WORLD

Obama touts 2-billion-dollar fund for energy research



US President Barack Obama remarks on the topic of energy policies at the Argonne National Laboratory outside Chicago, the United States, on 15 March, 2013. Obama announced that he would ask the Congress to create an energy security trust to fund research into alternatives to gasoline. —XINHUA

CHICAGO, 16 March—US President Barack Obama on Friday called for the set up of a 2-billion-dollar Energy Security Trust during a speech made at the Argonne National Laboratory outside Chicago, which will bolster clean energy research and development in the US.

“We have to keep investing in scientific research,” Obama said, lamenting the impact of the federal budget sequester on US research. “We can’t afford to miss these opportunities while the rest of the world races forward.”

The fund builds on an idea Obama floated during his State of the Union speech to boost energy self-sufficiency as domestic

production increases and demand falls.

Obama’s idea enjoys some bipartisan and business support, but is likely to encounter strong resistance from Congressional Republicans, who will portray it as a tax on energy producers. However, the White House says the money will come from growth in drilling revenue from leases on public lands and waters over the next decade and is not a new tax.

The Argonne research facility, is one of the US Department of Energy’s largest national laboratories for scientific and engineering research focusing on energy, the environment and national security. —Xinhua

US drone strikes violate Pakistan’s sovereignty

UNITED NATIONS, 16 March—The United States has violated Pakistan’s sovereignty and shattered tribal structures with unmanned drone strikes in its counterterrorism operations near the Afghan border, a UN human rights investigator said in a statement on Friday.

UN special rapporteur on human rights and counterterrorism, Ben Emmerson, visited Pakistan for three days this week as part of his investigation into the civilian impact of the use of drones and other forms of targeted killings.

“As a matter of international law, the US drone campaign in Pakistan is ... being conducted without the consent of the elected representatives of the people, or the legitimate Government of the State,” Emmerson said in a statement issued by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva.

“It involves the use of force on the territory of another state without its consent and is therefore a violation of Pakistan’s sovereignty,” he said.

Emmerson said in January he would investigate 25 drone strikes in Pakistan, Yemen, Somalia, Afghanistan and the Palestinian territories. He is expected to present his final report to the UN General

Assembly in October.

Washington had little to say about Emmerson’s statement. “We’ve seen his press release. I’m obviously not going to speak about classified information here,” State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said. “We have a strong ongoing counterterrorism dialogue with Pakistan and that will continue.”—Reuters



The United Nations logo is displayed on a door at UN headquarters in New York on 26 Feb, 2011.

REUTERS

Gridlocked Italian parliament fails to elect speakers

ROME, 16 March—Italy’s new parliament sat on Friday for the first time since an inconclusive general election produced a political stalemate that meant deputies and senators were unable even to elect speakers for either chamber.

The February election gave the centre left a majority in the lower house but not in the Senate, leaving it unable to form a government and raising the spectre of a return to the polls and the threat of renewed market turmoil.

Centre-left leader Pier Luigi Bersani has so far ruled out any deal with Berlusconi’s centre-right bloc, the second-biggest force in parliament. But his overtures to the major new force in Italian politics—Beppe Grillo’s anti-establishment 5-Star

Movement—have been rebuffed.

“We are ready for anything,” Roberta Lombardi, the 5-Star Movement’s leader in the lower house, told reporters when asked if she was prepared to go back to the ballot box.

Only once the two speakers have been elected can President Giorgio Napolitano begin formal consultations with party leaders to see if there is any prospect of forming a government.

But in a stark symptom of the stalemate, the 630 lower house deputies and 315 senators sitting on Friday failed to elect either. Voting in both houses will resume on Saturday.

After the votes, Berlusconi accused Bersani’s Democratic Party (PD) for “irresponsible tactical manoeuvres” that “ignore

the election result,” according to a statement posted on his Facebook page.

Berlusconi said a government “not only must be found but will be found” and harangued Bersani for ignoring his overtures to form a left-right government.

Businesses, bankers and foreign governments have all voiced hope that

Italy can form a government capable of reforms needed to lift the euro zone’s third-largest economy out of stagnation.

The fiery Grillo has promised not to support any government not led by his own movement. He has rejected any backroom deal with the parties he blames for dragging Italy into crisis.

Reuters



Parliamentarians sit at the Senate in Rome, in this general view taken on 15 March, 2013.—REUTERS

Japan seeks to join US-led Pacific trade talks, reform hopes rise



Japan’s Prime Minister Shinzo Abe speaks during a news conference at his official residence in Tokyo on 15 March, 2013. REUTERS

Partnership (TPP) launches the “third arrow” in Abe’s policy triad following the fiscal pump priming and hyper-easy monetary measures he has pushed since returning to office in December after his Liberal Democratic Party’s (LDP) big election win.

“Emerging countries in

Asia are shifting to an open economy one after another. If Japan alone remains an inward-looking economy, there would be no chance for growth,” Abe told a news conference “This is our last chance. If we miss this opportunity, Japan will be left behind.” The government estimates that joining the

TPP will boost Japan’s gross domestic product by 3.2 trillion yen (\$33.3 billion), or 0.66 percentage points, offsetting the negative impact on agriculture by boosting exports in other sectors and domestic private consumption.

“Abenomics” has been playing to rave reviews in the Tokyo stock market and with voters, around 70 percent of whom support the prime minister.

Business executives and economists say the real test, though, will be whether Abe buckles down to more controversial reforms such as deregulation, which can hurt vested interests.—Reuters

Netanyahu signs coalition deal with major political allies

JERUSALEM, 16 March — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s Likud-Beytenu party signed a coalition agreement with the Jewish Home party on Friday, after weeks of negotiations, local media reported.

Shortly after the ink of the deal, the other major political ally, Yesh Atid, led by Yair Lapid, also signed its coalition agreement with the Likud-Beytenu party.

The signing of the agreements is made at the nick of time, as Saturday was the deadline to form a new government imposed on Netanyahu.

In the past three days, political parties have

already signaled reaching final understandings but disagreements over several topics like the identity of the next Education Minister and the amount of ministers in the next government, prolonged the negotiations until the very last minute.

As part of the agreement, the Jewish Home’s chief Naftali Bennet will be appointed to the “Economy and Industry” position, an upgraded version of what was formerly known as the Industry, Trade and Labour ministry.

In addition, lawmaker Uri Ariel will become the Housing Minister responsible, among others,

over the construction in the West Bank settlements.

The party would also get another minister’s appointment and two deputy-ministers appointment and will get to head the parliament’s Finance Committee. The new government will be inaugurated in upcoming Monday.

The Likud-Beytenu party won 31 seats out of a possible 120 in the parliament in the 22 January elections. Israeli President Shimon Peres appointed Netanyahu to build a new government after 80 lawmakers recommended him for the task.

Xinhua

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



Bad weather may postpone landing of Russian spacecraft

Moscow, 16 March—The landing of a Russian spacecraft to Earth might be postponed as bad weather conditions could hamper rescue of the crew, said an official on Thursday.

“The unfavourable weather conditions— heavy rain at the place of landing — makes the work of rescuers very hard,” Andrei Pryanishnikov, representative of the Russian aviation security watchdog Rosaviatsia, told *Interfax* news agency.

Rosaviatsia is in charge of search and retrieval of the cosmonauts from the landing spacecraft module. The rescue squad consists of three planes, 14 helicopters and seven ground vehicles. All of them have arrived at the landing area near the town of Arkalyk in Kazakhstan.

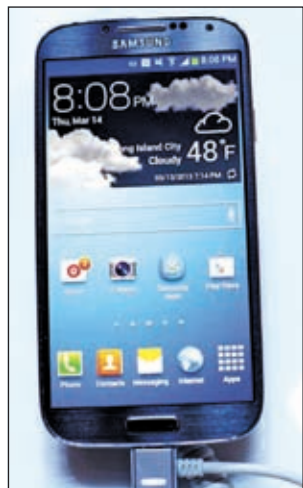
Russia’s Mission Control Centre said on its website that the undocking of the *Soyuz TMA-06M* from the International Space Station (ISS) was scheduled for Friday at 04:30 Moscow time (0030 GMT).

Landing of the 33/34 ISS mission comprised of two Russian cosmonauts and one US astronaut was planned at 07:57 Moscow time (0357 GMT). Canadian

Chris Hadfield took over the command of the ISS 34/35 crew which also included Russian Roman Romanenko and US Thomas Mashburn, said Russian Space Agency, Roscosmos. According to Roscosmos, the final decision on whether to postpone *Soyuz’s* landing will be made a few hours before the undocking.

Xinhua

Samsung Electronics unveils Galaxy S4 smartphone



SEOUL, 16 March— Samsung Electronics, the world’s largest maker of memory chips, mobile phones and display panels,

BRUSSELS, 16 March— EU governments failed to agree a ban on three widely used pesticides linked to the decline of honeybees on Friday, but the European Commission could force one through by the summer unless member states agree a compromise.

A sharp fall in bee populations around the world, partly due to a phenomenon known as colony collapse disorder, has fuelled concerns over the impact of widespread use of pesticides, notably the neonicotinoids class.

Syngeta and Bayer, leading global producers of neonicotinoids, say the harmful effects on bees is unproven and that a ban would cost the EU economy billions.

But campaign groups and some scientists accuse

governments of caving into pressure from the agribusiness lobby.

Under EU rules, member states now have two months to reach a compromise or the Commission will be free to adopt the proposal.

“Forcing through the ban is one of the options available to us but first we need to reflect politically on the best way to proceed,” said EU health spokesman Frederic Vincent.

The Commission, which could also try to get a majority for a compromise proposal, put forward the restrictions in January after the EU’s food safety watchdog EFSA said neonicotinoids posed an acute risk to honeybee health.

However, the survey found no link between use of the pesticides and the specific problem of colony collapse.

Bees and other insects

unveiled on Friday its new flagship smartphone Galaxy S4.

Galaxy S4 featured a 5-inch Full HD Super AMOLED display with a resolution of 1920 by 1080. It had a pixel density of 441 pixel per inch (ppi).

It came with a “dual camera” function that allows simultaneous use of both front and rear cameras. Users can select eight different ways to combine the two photos taken by both cameras.

The newest model of Galaxy S series supported 3G network as well as the 4G LTE, which allows it to function in most LTE

coverage areas and enable global LTE roaming.

The model came with 1.9GHz quad-core processor and 1.6 GHz Octa-core processor, running on 4.2.2 Jelly Bean, the latest version of Android operating system (OS).

“Following the successful Galaxy S series, this phone is yet another great proof point of people-inspired innovation,” said Shin Jongkyun, president and head of Samsung’s mobile business. “At Samsung we’ll never stop pursuing innovation conceived by people, so we can inspire them in return.”

Xinhua



A man walks in front of a company logo outside an Apple store in downtown Shanghai on 24 Jan, 2013.

REUTERS

Western companies in the past, hitting the sales and stocks of its targets in a retail market that is forecast to be the world’s largest in three years. Last year “3:15”, one of the most widely watched shows in China, singled out fast-food giant McDonald’s Corp and

French hypermarket chain Carrefour SA for food safety violations.

The companies were forced to apologize and their shares slumped as China’s army of half a billion microbloggers unleashed their anger online.—*Reuters*

EU could impose pesticide ban to protect bees

are crucial in pollinating most crops in Europe but neonicotinoids are used on more than 8 million hectares to boost yields of rapeseed, wheat and other staples.

The proposal would ban neonicotinoids on all crops

except winter cereals and plants not attractive to bees, such as sugar beet. It would apply from 1 July, 2013, ensuring this spring’s maize sowing is unaffected, with a review after two years.

Reuters



A bee collects nectar from a sunflower on a field near the northern Swiss town Leibstadt.

REUTERS

Birds had four wings before setting on two

WASHINGTON, 16 March—In order to achieve bipedal flight, birds first had to ditch two hind wings over the course of their evolution, according to a study to be published on Friday in the journal *Science*.

Recently, several fossils have shown that some dinosaurs had large feathers on both fore limbs and hind limbs.

But, until now, no examples of this four-winged body plan have been described in birds—or even in their most recently extinct relatives.

Xiaoting Zheng, of Linyi University in China,

and colleagues studied fossils in China’s Shandong Tianyu Museum of Nature and identified 11 primitive bird species with clear signs of feathered hind legs.

These findings suggest that this four-winged condition preceded the two-winged body plan, and that birds have gradually lost the feathers on their hind limbs over evolutionary time.

Such a transition from four wings to two probably happened while the birds were gaining more scales on their hind limbs and using them more for terrestrial locomotion, according to the researchers.—*Xinhua*

China TV consumer show criticizes Apple and Volkswagen

SHANGHAI, 16 March— Technology giant Apple Inc and car maker Volkswagen AG were singled out by state-run China Central Television (CCTV) in its annual corporate malpractice expose. On its “3.15” investigative special aired late on Friday, CCTV said that Chinese customers were not given the same post-sales service from Apple as it gave to users in other markets.

The report also said that the direct shift gearbox (DSG) transmission, a long-standing issue for Volkswagen, was causing cars to speed up or slow down during driving. Volkswagen,

which plans to almost double production capacity in China to 4 million cars in the next five years, promised action in response to the “3:15” show, whose name refers to the date of World Consumer Rights Day.

“We take this report very seriously and we will quickly make contact with our consumers to resolve the issue,” it said on its official Chinese Weibo microblog.

Apple officials in China and Apple’s headquarters in Cupertino, California, were not immediately available for comment. The television show has named and shamed a number of prominent

Brazil launches billion-dollar programme to boost innovation

RIO DE JANEIRO, 16 March—Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff unveiled a 16-billion-US-dollar plan on Thursday to encourage companies to invest in technological innovation. The government will allocate 32.9 billion reais (16.6 billion dollars) in the next two years for research and development by companies under a programme dubbed “Innovate.” The programme is the result of collaboration between private and public sectors, Rousseff said, adding innovation was a government strategy to spur development.

Brazil needs to add

more value to its products, otherwise it is merely a commodities producer, she said. The programme will target seven main areas: agribusiness, energy, oil and gas, healthcare, defence, information and communication technology, and environmental sustainability. A state-controlled company, the Brazilian Industrial Research Corporation (Embrapii), will be established to boost productivity in the industrial sector and promote cooperation between private companies and state-owned research institutions.

Xinhua

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Green tea, coffee may help lower stroke risk

WASHINGTON, 16 March—Green tea and coffee may help lower the risk of stroke, especially when both are taken as a regular part of the diet, according to a research published on Thursday in *Stroke: Journal of the American Heart Association*.

“This is the first large-scale study to examine the combined effects of both green tea and coffee on stroke risks,” said Yoshihiro Kokubo, lead author of the study at Japan’s National Cerebral and Cardiovascular Centre. “You may make a small but positive lifestyle change to help lower the risk of stroke by adding daily green tea to your diet.”

Researchers asked 83,269 Japanese adults about their green tea and coffee drinking habits, following them for an average span of 13 years. They found that



the more green tea or coffee people drink, the lower their stroke risks. People who drank at least one cup of coffee daily had about a 20-percent lower risk of stroke compared to those who rarely drank it. People who drank two to three cups of green tea daily had a 14-percent lower risk of stroke and those who had at least four cups had a 20-percent lower risk, compared to those who rarely drank it.

And people who drank

at least one cup of coffee or two cups of green tea daily had a 32-percent lower risk of intracerebral hemorrhage, compared to those who rarely drank either beverage. Intracerebral hemorrhage happens when a blood vessel bursts and bleeds inside the brain. About 13 percent of strokes are hemorrhagic. Participants in the study were 45 to 74 years old, almost evenly divided in gender, and were free from cancer and cardiovascular disease.

During the 13 years of follow-up, researchers reviewed the participants’ hospital medical records and death certificates, collecting data about heart disease, strokes and causes of death. They adjusted their findings to account for age, sex and lifestyle factors like smoking, alcohol, weight, diet and exercise.

Tea and coffee are the most popular drinks in the world after water, which suggests that these results may also apply in America and other countries, the researchers said. It’s unclear how green tea affects stroke risks.—*Xinhua*

Macao’s per capita GDP reaches 76,588 USD in 2012

MACAO, 16 March—Macao’s GDP for the whole year of 2012 reached 348.2 billion patacas (47.7 billion US dollars), with per capita GDP amounting to 611,930 patacas (76,588 US dollars), the city’s Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) said on Friday.

Macao’s GDP rose by 9.9 percent in real terms last year and economic growth for the fourth quarter of last year stood at 8.5 percent in real terms, according to the DSEC figures. Macao’s per capita GDP in 2012 rose by

80,207 patacas over 2011, an increase of 15.08 percent year-on-year.

The DSEC said that growth in exports of services and the escalating domestic demand are principal driving forces of the economic expansion.

Analyzed by major components, exports of gaming services increased by 6.9 percent and total visitor spending rose 6.4 percent. In respect of domestic demand, private consumption expenditure increased by 9.1 percent.—*Xinhua*

Rapid HIV treatment points to “functional cure” for AIDS

LONDON, 16 March—Treating people with HIV rapidly after they have become infected with the virus that causes AIDS may be enough to achieve a “functional cure” in a small proportion of patients diagnosed early, according to new research.

Scientists in France who followed 14 patients who were treated very swiftly with HIV drugs but then stopped treatment found that even when they had been off therapy for more than seven years, they still showed no



An HIV-infected patient displays medicine at a hospital in Payao Province, about 600 km (373 miles) north of Bangkok on 28 Nov, 2007.—REUTERS

signs of the virus rebounding. The research, published in the journal *PLoS Pathogens*, follows news earlier this month about a baby girl in Mississippi in the United States being effectively cured of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) after receiving very early treatment. Christine Rouzioux, a professor at Necker Hospital and University Paris Descartes and a member of the initial team who identified HIV 30 years ago, said the new results showed the number of infected cells circulating in the blood of these patients, known as “post-treatment controllers”, kept falling even without treatment for many years.

“Early treatment in these patients may have limited the establishment

of viral reservoirs, the extent of viral mutations, and preserved immune responses. A combination of those may contribute to control infection in post-treatment controllers,” she said. “The shrinking of viral reservoirs ... closely matches the definition of ‘functional’ cure,” she said. A functional cure describes when the virus is reduced to such low levels that it is kept at bay even without continuing treatment.

The virus, however, is still detectable in the body. Most of the some 34 million people with HIV across the world will have to take anti-AIDS drugs known as antiretroviral therapy for the whole of their lives.

Reuters

Young Australians getting fatter and lack of exercise

CANBERRA, 16 March—Thirty percent of young Australians aged between 15 and 24 are overweight or obese, and more than half of them lead sedentary lifestyles, although the Australian youth’s smoking rate is among the lowest in the world, a latest research report showed on Friday.

The study, by the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY), found young Australians are getting fatter and using more drugs. It also said teenage pregnancy rates are well above the international average and youth unemployment is rising. This snapshot, which ARACY said is the first of its kind in Australia, has prompted a call for a new way to curb the social and health issues plaguing youngsters.

According to the report, the rate of youth suicide is falling but Australia is still ranked only 20th of 33 countries in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Australia actually ranked poorly on early childhood measures, ARACY chief executive Lance Emerson said in a programme of ABC. “For example, we know that quality preschool education is a really effective way of getting kids off to a good start,

yet our participation rates aren’t as high as they should be,” he said. “Around 23 percent of children are entering primary school with significant developmental vulnerability, which means they’re going to find it really hard to catch up.”

Xinhua

Merck anesthesia-reversal agent faces new delay



A view of the Merck & Co campus in Linden, New Jersey.—REUTERS

NEW JERSEY, 16 March—The Food and Drug Administration will not complete its review of Merck & Co’s experimental medicine to reverse the effects of anesthesia until the second half of 2013, representing a three-month delay, the drugmaker said. Merck acquired the product, called sugammadex, through

its merger in 2009 with Schering-Plough Corp. The product has faced numerous regulatory delays but is deemed by many analysts and doctors to be one of the biggest advances in anesthesia in decades.

The FDA in 2008 said it could not approve sugammadex until Merck provided more clinical trial data related to allergic reactions and blood clots, possible side effects of the drug.

Merck early this year said it had completed the necessary trials and that the FDA had accepted the company’s resubmitted marketing application for the

drug. Merck spokeswoman Pam Eisele on Friday said the FDA, in notifying the drugmaker about the expected delay in making a decision on the drug, did not cite any new safety issues. “We’ve maintained regular meetings and discussions with the FDA, with a commitment to making sugammadex available in the United States,” she said. Sugammadex is already sold in 75 countries under the brand name Bridion and had 2012 global sales of \$261 million. That makes it a modest-sized product for Merck, the second-largest US drugmaker.

Reuters

Consumer prices post largest increase in nearly four years

WASHINGTON, 16 March—Consumer prices recorded their largest increase in nearly four years in February as the cost of gasoline surged, but there was little sign of a broad pickup in inflation to trouble the Federal Reserve. Other data on Friday showed factory activity in New York state moderated in March. That suggests overall manufacturing remained on a steady growth path, which should give the central

bank no reason to scale back monetary support.

“I have my doubts whether the Fed is that concerned about inflation right now. The way the data has been playing out it gives them a free hand to be extremely aggressive to bring down unemployment,” said Stephen Stanley, chief economist at Pierpont Securities in Stamford, Connecticut. The Labour Department said its Consumer Price Index

increased 0.7 percent last month, the largest gain since June 2009, after being flat in January. Gasoline accounted for about three quarters of the spike in consumer inflation. Economists polled by *Reuters* had expected the CPI to advance 0.5 percent. In the 12 months through February, consumer prices rose 2.0 percent, the largest gain since October. They had increased 1.6 percent in January.

Fed officials are likely to dismiss the gasoline-driven jump in price pressures as temporary. Policymakers meet next week to assess the economy and are widely expected to keep purchasing \$85 billion in bonds per month in an effort to spur even stronger economic growth. The Fed has said it would keep up asset purchases until it saw a substantial improvement in the labor market outlook.

Reuters



Tasha heads to checkout at a Walmart Store in Chicago, on 23 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

WORLD

Fireworks blast kills at least 11 Catholic pilgrims in Mexico



Soldiers and investigators inspect the site of an explosion in the village of Jesus Tepactepec, near the state capital Tlaxcala on 15 March, 2013.—REUTERS

TLAXCALA, 16 March—At least 11 people were killed and 36 others injured on Friday when a truck containing fireworks exploded in a freak accident in the central Mexican state of Tlaxcala, casting a pall over a Catholic procession in honour of a local patron saint.

The explosion was ignited when a stray firework fell into a truck carrying

more fireworks, said Jose Mateo Morales, director of emergency services for Tlaxcala state.

The fireworks were set to be used in a ceremony honouring Jesus Tepactepec, patron saint of a village named after him in the municipality of Nativitas. The blast happened on the highway just outside the village.

Reuters

Spain to restrict early retirement

MADRID, 16 March—Spain will make it harder for people to take early retirement, in order to increase contributions to the social security system and make it more sustainable, Labour Minister Fatima Banez said at a news conference on Friday.

The new measures will save the social security system 4.5 billion euros a year when they have taken full effect in 2027, the minister said. Companies will be penalised for letting go older workers, under the new measures. The government will also raise the minimum amount of contributions a worker must make in order to be eligible for early retirement.

“Today early retirement and partial retirement cost the system more than 9 billion euros a year. When these measures go into effect, we will save half of that amount every year,” Banez said.

One out of two Spaniards retire before the current legal age of 65, and the current effective age of retirement is 63, Banez said.

In 2011 the then Socialist government reformed pensions to phase in a higher retirement age of 67, by 2027, and to increase the number of years of contributions required to be

eligible for a state pension. Brussels has recommended that Spain take additional measures to reinforce its social security system, such as introducing more quickly a stability factor that would be applied to make periodic adjustments for demographic factors.

Reuters

Three killed in small plane crash in Florida

MIAMI, 16 March—Three people were killed on Friday when a small plane crashed and burst into flames shortly after takeoff from a South Florida airport, authorities said.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said the Piper PA31 aircraft crashed into a warehouse area near Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport around 4:20 pm EDT.

Shannon Vezina, a spokeswoman for the City of Fort Lauderdale, said all three people on board the twin-engine aircraft died.

“Shortly after takeoff the aircraft had some sort of difficulty,” she said.

“It attempted to circle back and land at the airport. Unfortunately it was unsuccessful,” Vezina said, adding that the plane plowed through numerous vehicles

DENVER, 16 March—Two wind-driven wildfires erupted in northern Colorado on Friday, prompting the evacuation of about 50 residents and signaling an early start to the wildfire season in the parched Rocky Mountain west.

The larger of the two blazes that prompted the evacuations, the Soldier Canyon Fire, has charred about 800 acres near Lory State Park, Poudre Fire Authority Captain Patrick Love told Reuters.

“We’ve been experiencing strong, erratic winds

from the north all afternoon,” Love said.

Along with the winds, unseasonably high temperatures and low humidity have fanned the fire that is burning about 75 miles northwest of Denver, he said.

No structures have been lost and no injuries have been reported, Love said, but the evacuations were ordered in case winds push the flames toward residential neighbourhoods.

A second, smaller fire broke out west of the town of LaPorte, six miles north

of Fort Collins, the Larimer County Office of Emergency Management said in a statement. Officials had no estimate on its size.

The causes of the fires were under investigation on Friday.

The early-season wildfires could be a bad omen for drought-stricken Colorado, which had one of its worst ever wildfire seasons in 2012.

All of Colorado is experiencing moderate to exceptional drought conditions, according to the US Drought Monitor.

Snowpack levels in the Colorado mountains are below the annual average. The state’s high-population urban corridor and farmers on the eastern plains rely on melting mountain snow for drinking water and irrigation.

Larimer County was particularly hard hit by wildfires in 2012. The so-called High Park Fire blackened more than 87,000 acres, killed an elderly woman, and destroyed nearly 260 homes. It was the second-largest wildfire on record in Colorado.—Reuters

UK police examine 600 new hacking claims at Murdoch paper

LONDON, 16 March—British police are investigating an estimated 600 new allegations of phone hacking at Rupert Murdoch’s now defunct *News of the World* newspaper, *Britain’s Guardian* newspaper said on Friday. The news comes at a sensitive time for the British media, with a divisive parliamentary vote on how to regulate Britain’s famously aggressive newspapers due to be held on Monday.

Prime Minister David Cameron is pushing for a form of self-regulation, while the opposition and his Liberal Democrat coalition partners want any new regulatory framework to be backed by new legislation.

Citing unnamed sources, *the Guardian* said new hacking information had

been obtained from the phone records of an “insider” who is now being lined up as a prosecution witness, and that more details would emerge in court on Monday.

News International, the British newspaper arm of Murdoch’s News Corp media empire, was not immediately available for comment.

Scores of celebrities, politicians, crime victims and others have sued or demanded compensation from News International since hacking revelations emerged two years ago.

Britons were shocked to learn that News of the World journalists had hacked the phone of a murdered school girl, but the practice is now known to have been more extensive.

Allegations of phone

hacking have since spread to another newspaper, *the Sunday Mirror*, and police



arrested four former editors from the tabloid on Thursday, sending shares in parent company *Trinity Mirror* tumbling.

The Guardian said the same insider behind new allegations of phone hacking at the *News of the World* also

Copies of the final edition of the News of the World are printed on the presses at the News International print works in Waltham Cross, southern England on 9 July, 2011.—REUTERS

led to the arrests at the *Sunday Mirror*.

On Friday, British media reported that Richard Wallace, a former editor of *the Daily Mirror*, *the Sunday Mirror*’s sister paper, was questioned by police but was not arrested.—Reuters

Schools evacuated in Belfast bomb alert

DUBLIN, 16 March—Two schools and several dozen homes were evacuated in Belfast on Friday after a suspected mortar bomb was found near a police station in the Northern Ireland capital.

The alert followed two bomb attacks on law-enforcement targets in the past two weeks that police said were likely carried out by Irish nationalist militants.

A suspicious object described as a “mortar type device” was discovered on waste ground about 500 metres from the rear of New Barnsley police station in the north of the city.

“Those who are behind this attack had very clear and, I believe, murderous intent,” Superintendent Emma Bond told reporters as army bomb disposal experts continued to work on defusing the device.

The alert came after police intercepted a van car-

rying four mortar bombs in Londonderry earlier this month, which authorities said was likely destined for a police station.

Last weekend three police officers escaped injury when a bomb detonated yards from them while they patrolled a coastal path on the outskirts of north Belfast on foot.

A 1998 peace deal largely ended more than three decades of violence in the British-controlled province between mainly Catholic Irish nationalists seeking union with Ireland and predominantly Protestant unionists who want to remain part of the United Kingdom.

But dissident nationalists, who include former operatives who split from the Irish Republican Army after it declared a ceasefire, still stage sporadic gun and bomb attacks.—Reuters



Firefighters hose down the scene of a fire in this video screen capture courtesy NBC6, after a small twin-engine plane crashed into parked vehicles and burned shortly after takeoff from Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport in Fort Lauderdale, Florida on 15 March, 2013. Three people are reported killed in the incident.—REUTERS

in a parking lot before slamming into a building and being engulfed in flames.

There were no injuries on the ground despite extensive damage in the parking lot, which was an impound facility for repossessed vehicles, authorities said.

Reuters

LOCAL NEWS

Border Affairs Dy Minister holds talks with US Special Representative and Policy Coordinator for Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March—Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Zaw Win, Secretary of the work committee for development of rural areas and national races, held a meeting with Mr Patrick Murphy, Special Re-presentative and Policy Coordinator for Myanmar, US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Derek Mitchell and Ms Cecili Brewer of the US Department of State at his office here today.

During the meeting, they discussed matters on short-term and long-term plans for prevalence of peace, rule of law and rehabilitation in Rakhine State.



The deputy minister also expressed his belief that assistance of the US and EU-member countries for poverty reduction tasks

in Myanmar would help achieve the target.

The government has reached ceasefire agreements with ethnic

armed groups and has stepped up efforts for achieving eternal peace in the country.

MNA

FFS of Indaw Township Cooperative Society donates bags of rice

INDAW, 16 March—A total of 12 villages from FFS of Indaw Township Cooperative Society of Katha District in Sagaing Region donated 33 bags of rice to needy families on 6 March morning.

The ceremony was

New constable course concludes

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March—The new constable course (part II) No. 6/2013 concluded at the No. 2 Police Training Depot (Wethigan) on 8 March.

Commandant of the training depot Lt-Col Aung Soe Win made a speech and presented prizes to outstanding trainees.

Altogether 44 trainees attended the course.—MNA

UMFCCI, KITA to promote economic sector

YANGON, 16 March—Vice-Presidents U Mya Han and U Aung Lwin and CEC members of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry met with Vice-President Mr Ahn, Hyun-Ho of Korea International Trade Association (KITA) and party of the Republic of Korea at the

held at the railway station in Indaw.

Chairman of FFS U Hsan Pe handed over the bags of rice to Daw Mary Sai Moon who is a representative of HIV/AIDS Project being implemented by Myitta Development Foundation (Myitkyina) of Kachin State.

The bags of rice will be provided to needy families through Myitta Development Foundation.

Myanma Alinn

Workshop on agriculture on 18 March

YANGON, 16 March—The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry will organize the workshop on agriculture, seeds laws, fruits and flowers and vegetable production and import, fertilizers and

Librarian course conducted in Putao

PUTAO, 16 March—The librarian course No. 1/2013 for library committee members of village libraries was opened at the hall of Putao District Information and Public Relations Department on 5 March with the aim of raising librarianship knowledge of the local people.

Staff Officer of District IPRD U Aung Kyaw Tun explained the purpose of opening the training course and advantages and gave lectures to the trainees.

Altogether 22 trainees

pesticides at its office tower on Minye Kyawswa Road in Lanmadaw Township on 18 March morning.

The workshop will be attended by representatives of Asia & Pacific Seed Association of Bangkok of Thailand.—Myanma Alinn

from 11 villages of Putao and Machanbaw townships attended the course on 5 and 6 March.—Myanma Alinn

Post-graduate Course and Training Workshop conducted on Acute and Chronic Liver Disease

YANGON, 16 March—Jointly organized by Liver Department of University of Medicine-1, Gastroenterology and Hepatology Society of Myanmar Medical Association and University of Pennsylvania of the United States of America, the MSD (Merck & Co Inc) sponsored the Postgraduate Course and Training Workshop on Acute and Chronic Liver Diseases at the hall of Yangon University of Medicine-1 in Lanmadaw Township

from 8 am to 7 pm on 18 February and at Sedona Hotel in Mandalay from 3 pm to 7 pm on 19 February. The discussions were participated by professors and specialists of the Gastroenterology and Hepatology Department of Liver Department of Myanmar, University of Pennsylvania of the US and Prince of Songkla University and Mahidol University of Thailand.

Also present at the workshop were Departmental personnel

and health officials from Yangon General Hospital, New Yangon General Hospital and Yangon University of Medicine-1, and students from post-graduate courses under the Ministry of Health.

At present, they are making concerted efforts for conducting effectively treatments on PegIntron medicine that can cure the Hepatitis C disease of the patients in Myanmar in joining hands with the liver specialists of Myanmar.

Moe Thuzar Soe-NLM

Mobile library serves students in Tamway Township

YANGON, 16 March—Head of Tamway Township Information and Public Relations Department of Yangon Region Daw Hla Hla Myint and staff on 8 March conducted tasks of mobile library in Tamwaylay ward of the township for easy reading of students on summer holidays.

Head of department Daw Hla Hla Myint gave talks on uplift of living standard through literature.

Then, the staff displayed various subjects of books, publications and documentary photos.

The ward administrators and volunteers contributed to successfully carrying out of mobile library.

Myanma Alinn



Objectives of the 68th Anniversary Armed Forces Day 2013

1. To uphold the national policy namely non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty
2. To play the leading role in the national politics by the Tatmadaw joining hands with all national races with Union Spirit and the true patriotism in line with the Constitution
3. To crush all destructive elements at home and abroad through the strength of State, People and Tatmadaw
4. To build up a strong, competent, modern, patriotic Tatmadaw to safeguard the security and sovereignty of the nation

Donate Blood

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 17 March, 2013

Partnership for peace and prosperity

Emphasizing on regional cooperation among Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam in political, economic and cultural arenas, Thai ex-PM Thaksin Shinawatra at the special ASEAN Summit in Bangkok on 29 April 2003 initiated an idea of developing a strategy to go into a partnership among the group of five countries for economic cooperation.

Stressing the need to bridge economic gap and to promote and share prosperity in the sub-region, leaders of four countries — Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand— adopted the Bagan Declaration on 12 November 2003 in Bagan to create the economic cooperation framework called “Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy” or “ACMECS”. Vietnam’s membership of the organization on 10 May 2004 has increased ACMECS to 5 member countries.

Reaffirming their commitment to achieve success in implementing the targets of the Bagan Declaration for the sake of regional peace and stability and sustainable development, leaders at ACMECS 5 in Vientiane of Lao PDR recently reviewed the implementation of Phnom Penh Declaration and 2010-2012 Action Plan and adopted Vientiane Declaration and 2013-2015 Action Plan. Myanmar also affirmed its commitment to strengthening partnership for successful realization of the action plan of ACMECS and vowed to make concrete steps for successful holding of ACMECS 6 on its soil in 2014.

Outlining key goals to be achieved ahead of ASEAN Economic Community, leaders at ACMECS 5 agreed to make better transport connectivity among member countries, encouraging full use of existing road networks and development of air linkages and establishment of economic corridors to promote business and tourism flow.

Concerning agriculture, ACMECS 5 Summit stressed the need to expedite rice cooperation mechanism as a drive to increase rice production and to secure food security in the five countries.

Addressing the Summit, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham envisaged striving for emergence of East-West Economic Corridor and North-South Economic Corridor of ACMECS, highlighting Myanmar’s strategic location and the attractive prospect of having access to the thriving markets of the two emerging powers.

BBC covers TV news on Htamanthi sanctuary

HOMALIN, 16 March—A 12-member crew of BBC together with officials of Ministry of Information arrived at Homalin Airport on 9 March to telecast TV news at Homalin sanctuary in Homalin Township.

The TV crew plans to cover the TV news on

natural scenic beauty and wildlives around Htamanthi camp with the use of hot-air balloons from 11 to 20 March.

Homalin Township is constituted with 12 forest reserves on over 600,000 acres of land.

Myanma Alinn

ARTICLE

Eco and cultural touristic attraction Sacred Shwe Myin Tin Hill Range

Among many old towns around Nay Pyi Taw, the capital of Myanmar, Yamethin is noted for producing good quality paddy due to fertile soil and abundance of fresh water supplied by rain through streams, springs, lakes and falls naturally formed in eastern Shan mountains under thick green cover. There is old Myanmar saying “လယ်မှာ တောင်တွင်း၊ စပါးမှာ ရမည်းသင်း” [Taungdwin is noted for fields and Yamethin is noted for paddy].

About seven miles to the east of Yamethin town lies Sacred Shwe Myin Tin Hill Range in Myina Sanpya village circle. 1008 feet high above sea level Shwe Myin Tin Hill Range is locally called “Shwe Yin Mi” or “Shwe Yin Kyaw” or “Taung Pulu”.

Take a far look to the north-east direction from Yamethin town, emerald green eastern Yoma Range will appear in your view. Thickly forested and well-fed by clear rain water, the Range is shrouded by haze and mist. In Zabudipa Ok Hsaung Kyann [an old Treatise on old Myanmar geography and history] this Range is mentioned “located in the middle of Tampadipa country”. So it was called Keylatha Range.

The legend of this Hill Range tells the tale of a natural cave near Pan Tin Hill to the east of Keylatha hill. It is believed to be a cave den in which Lord Gotama Buddha in one of his previous existences as lion king had lived. In that cave, there also lived a big Fly created by the deities. The Fly was golden and very beautiful. It had mighty power. Its beak was like thunder and its wings could make a daily one flight around the universe.

The King of Meikthila Kingdom had a dream that if he could get that mighty golden Fly, he would become “Chakaravan” [universal monarch] ruling all cardinal continents. Fore-seeing the flourish of Buddha Sasana in the areas of Yamethin, Sukka Deva the Thunder god gave

that dream to the king. The king sent out his two sons, Surasi the elder and Neyru the younger with many armed forces to capture the mighty golden Fly.

Shwe Yin Myin Hill

The mighty golden Fly’s attempts to escape the capture by the chasers took it to many distant places such as Haing Tet, Hlaing Tet, Shwe Htot Kone villages and from them to Min Wun hill range. Later King Sri Dhamma Soka built memorial pagodas there. They still stand today— Shwe Umin hill and Shwe Umin Pagoda, Winmang Pagoda at Winmana village and Shwe Yin Hmyaw Pagoda on Shwe Yin

Thamaing of Shwe Yin Myin pagoda of Yamethin by Yin Khe Maung Maung “King Alaung Sithu of Bagan brought a Buddha statue “La bone shin” from Zimme of Thagala with pomp and ceremony. He wanted to enshrine it in a pagoda on a hill. He saw the golden Fly resting on the summit of that hill. So the hill was named Shwe Yin Tin.”

There was yet a second version. King Kyanzittha of Bagan came to Yamethin. He kept his royal steed on this hill. So it was called Shwe Myin Tin Hill which corrupts to Shwe Myin Tin. **Religious and archaeological monuments**

Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

Hmyaw Hill, which lies about 10 miles to the south-east of the town Meikthila. It’s annual festival takes place in Tabaung [March].

When the golden Fly looked back from Shwe Yin Hmyaw Hill, it saw the two princes were still chasing. So it continued its flight and took rest at Panthwin [Today Padwin] village, which later came to be called Shwe Yin Saing village. King Asoka built Shwe Yin Saing Pagoda there.

The golden Fly took rest on the embankment of Meikthila Lake with Min Wun Hill range in the background. Later King Alaung Sithu of Bagan built Shwe Yin Tin Pagoda on the hill which was later called Shwe Yin Tin Hill. From there the golden Fly flew to the forest of golden peacock and hid there for sometimes. Later that forest came to be called Shwe Yin Pone [the place where the golden Fly hid].

During its continued flight to escape from the capture by two princes, the golden Fly rested on Keylatha hill, Do Nwe hill, Taung Pa Choke hill, Pan Tin hill, Limestone hill, Elephant hill, and to the west of Kyey Ni lake and to the north-east on a hill, the golden Fly was spotted by the chasers. That hill came to be called “Shwe Yin Myin”.

There is another version. According to

on, at and around Shwe Myin Tin Hill Range

The hill range is rich in biodiversity. Several medicinal plants and trees, timber trees and rare orchids thrive due to fertile soil and fresh water. Ingyin [Sal tree], Tharaphi [Ochrocapus Siamensis], Pon Nyet [Calophyllum Inophyllum], Yin Mar [Chukrasis Tabularis], Saga [Champac Michelia], Gant Gaw [Mesua ferrea], Maha Hleyga, Saykalama, Win U white and red, Pinku gamone, Mikwin gamone, Nat gamone, Kyauk gamone, Let Htot Kyi and Ta zoe hto grow wild. Wild birds and animals haunt the entire range. Local names of the hills, lakes, and villages suggest deposits of gold, copper, lime, and other metals, minerals and rocks. There are isolated communities in the valleys who are washing and panning gold foils from streams and lakes.

Legend says that Gotama Buddha in his previous existence as a Jackdaw bird had inhabited this hill for seven times. Therefore, Buddha Sasana arrived there at the early date of history.

Monuments

Shwe Yin Kyaw Zedi stands on the summit of Shwe Yin Kyaw Hill where the golden Fly flew and passed over from Shwe Yin Pone [present Pinyinpa

village]. Locals call it Taung Pulu.

Shwe Yin Mi Zedi is on the eastern branch of Shwe Myin Tin Hill. It is a religious monument to commemorate the capture of the golden Fly which became totally exhausted and gave itself up to the chasers.

Sakka deva the Thunder god with his retinue came down to pay homage to the Zedi and enshrined sacred relics of Buddha in it. Later Sri Dhamma Asoka visited it to enshrine sacred relics in it and built the western cause way leading up to the Zedi. King Anawrahta and King Kyanzittha of Bagan paid state visit to the Zedi. The latter built the cause way, stone steps and monuments on the north side of the hill. Later royal visitors from Bagan were King Alaung Sithu and Narapati Sithu who added more sacred relics into the Zedi and religious buildings on the summit.

King Nga Zi Shin of Pinya Period and King Moe Hnyin Mintara of Inwa Period, and his young son King Narapati and chief queen Saw Sala Devi paid state visits to the Zedi to perform religious deeds. Monuments built by this queen still stand on east and west sides of the southern cause way.

King Bodawpaya of Amarapura and his chief queen marched with his armed forces to Shwe Myin Tin Pagoda. He made stops at Nan Lone village and Taung Pachote village. He stayed at a temporary palace at Nandaw Kone. With the guide who was a novice monk Thuzeya the king went up to the summit to worship the Zedi. The king built the southern cause way.

World renowned Hermit U Khanti came to the hill in 1899 and lived on the hill for 8 years, meditating and building religious monuments. The cause way he built on the south side had 152 apartments with 545 stone steps. It was an iron and steel structure.

(See page 9)

NATIONAL

Anarchic acts, mobocracy, misuse of democracy damage the nation: Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann offers religious objects to the Sayadaw.

MNA

YANGON, 16 March— if anarchic acts, mobocracy and misuse of democracy

are neglected,” said Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann.

“Today, governance is not administered by men, but by principles,” said the Speaker in meeting with local people in Dala Township, Yangon Region, this noon.

This era sees the governance characterized by wishes, voices and opinions of the people, said the Speaker stressing that both the government and civilians are to abide by whatever legislation once it is enacted. He warned against acts putting the nation into the reverse



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann cordially greets local people in Dala.—MNA

direction. Challenges are unavoidable in changing from one system to

another, nonetheless, democratization and market economy must be continued, said the Speaker calling for public participation and the rule of law.

He called participation of the entire nation essential in building modern, developed, disciplined, and democratic nation.

New golden umbrella was hoisted atop historic Kyaik Danok Hair Relic Pagoda in Dala Township in Yangon Region earlier in the morning.

Abhidhaja Maha Ratha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Abbot

of Nyaungdon Monastery Bhaddanta Chandavara, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and wife, Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein, Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, officials and donors attended the ceremony.

MNA

Dr Tin Shwe literary award presentation held

YANGON, 16 March— Union Minister for Information U Aung Kyi shared his perception that the biggest difficulty facing Myanmar in democratization process is shortfall in intellectuality and competency at Dr Tin Shwe Literary Award Presentation at Traders Hotel here this morning.

The Union minister called for changing values, beliefs, attitude and social principles in line with democratic cause. He urged the literati and writers to try as much as they can to provide the various subjects to the people in sheer quantity with passion, quoting late Dr Tin Shwe as saying: “Share all what you’ve learnt in this life before you die.”

Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Writers

Association U Kyaw Win (Anthropologist Kyaw Win) extended greetings. U Htay Myaing (Dagon Tayar) won honorary literary award which was received by U Maung Maung Oo (Hein Latt) on behalf of him.

Among the literary winners were Dr Daw Yi Yi Hla (Yuwady Khin Oo), Dr Maung Thin, Dr Sein Lin (Surgeon and Cancer Specialist), and Ohnmar Shar. U Maung Maung Oo (Hein Latt) and literary award winners spoke words of thanks to conclude the presentation.

MNA

MWA Vice-Chairman U Kyaw Win (Anthropologist Kyaw Win) presents award to writer Ohnmar Shar.

MNA



Eco and cultural touristic attraction...

(from page 8)

On the west side is the wooden cause way built by Monk U Nandiya. It has 147 apartments and 579 stone steps.

Ashin Silasara, a missionary monk of Theingone repaired and renovated monuments looted and destroyed by treasure hunters.

Among lay donors, Broker U Toe and wife Daw Thiri of Sanpya Theingone village preceded Hermit U Khanti in the maintenance, renovation and development of Shwe Myin Tin hill range. It was Hermit U Khanti who raised the height of the Zedi, and enshrined 28 statues of 28

Buddhas in the Zedi.

Five wonders of the sacred Hill

1. Among strange rock formations, is a big rock in the shape of a frog of 27 feet high at the north side of the archway of western cause way. Four Zedis stand on this rock frog, maintained and renovated by U Thein Nyunt and Daw Yin Shwe of Sanpya Theingone village.

2. A spring well on the surface of a big boulder at the midway uphill by the western cause way. The spring well measures a cubit in diameter, and 3 cubits in circumference, and over a cubit in depth. It produces abundance of cold and clear and therapeutic water.

People believe its water is panacea curing all diseases.

3. A big rock formation in the design of a big trunk. Its legend tells the story—the guardian spirit opened the rock trunk and invited a poor cowboy to take some treasures from it. On his return home with the treasures he took, he told his friend about his story. His friend went to the rock trunk to take treasures but the trunk suddenly closed up cutting off his hand. Today this rock trunk is called Kyauk Hnyat Kyi.

4. On the north side of the hill is the cause way built by King Kyanzittha of Bagan. To the west of this cause way at the foot of the hill is a natural pond stretching about 4 cubits into the hill. How deep and how long it goes into the

hill is unknown. The water in the pond is supplied by sub-terrestrial springs. People believe its water is potent for longevity, good look, pleasant voice and good smell.

5. At the eastern branch of the hill, there is a big cavern with smooth walls known as Zawgyi Gu. [Alchemists’ Cave] in which Zawgyis and forest monks meditated.

Grotesquely shaped rock formations and stones, thickly green covered hill ranges and natural aquatic bodies created by springs, streams and falls make Shwe Myin Tin hill range the most sacred and attractive place in Yamethin District.

There is a big Buddha Image of lacquered wicker work of 7 feet 5 inches high, now gilt, in a sumptuous

image house to the west of Shwe Myin Tin Zedi. It is said to have been donated by King Kyanzittha of Bagan. The design and gesture of the Image indicate Bagan Period.

During his study tour, the writer of this article had interviews with forest monks, villagers and cowboys of the locality. He gathered from them first hand information and knowledge about the hill range of the past and present. They told him about visits of foreigners, tourists as well as scholars and researchers and botanists and archaeologists. Some collected stones, rocks, rare orchids, plants, insects especially butterfly. As the writer listened to them, he saw vehicles of different kinds, bicycles, motorbikes,

trucks, cars, old army jeeps etc commuting on the main high way with overloaded logs, stones, rocks, lime stones and other forest products, destroying the road very badly. Cowboys told him that some gold merchants came to collect gold foils from gold washers and panners in the remote valleys. They brought food ration to swap. On the way to and from Yamethin he had to make two stops. At tea shop and local restaurants the writer learnt from the public the potentials of the sacred Shwe Myin Tin hill range not only as a religiously and culturally attractive spot, but also as a big storage of economic resources for people’s prosperity in the near future.

WORLD

Romania vows to support Turkey's EU membership



Photo released by the Presidential Palace of Turkey shows Turkish President Abdullah Gul meeting with visiting Romanian Foreign Minister Titus Corlatean at the presidential Cankaya Palace in Ankara, Turkey, on 14 March, 2013.—XINHUA

ANKARA, 16 March—Visiting Romanian Foreign Minister Titus Corlatean on Thursday expressed his country's support for Turkey's membership in the European Union (EU).

Speaking at a joint Press conference with his Turkish counterpart Ahmet Davutoglu in the Turkish capital of Ankara, Corlatean said Romania supported Turkey's EU process.

He said "Romania supports the opening of chapters in Turkey's EU accession process. Because, we

believe this would create a win-win situation for both Turkey and the EU member states."

Turkey's growing clout in the region, both economically and politically, may have given a boost to Turkey's membership bid. Most EU member states support Turkish membership, while the other few led by Germany and France are finding it increasingly difficult to make their case against Turkey.

The 27-member bloc's highest decision-making

body, the EU Council, reiterated last December the bloc's commitment to active accession negotiations with Turkey, while calling for a new momentum in these negotiations, which was interpreted as an indication that France and Germany increasingly find themselves isolated in the bloc in their opposition to Turkish membership.

During her visit to Turkey last month, German Chancellor Angela Merkel pressed Ankara to open its ports and airports to ships and planes from Cyprus, while expressing her support for reviving the stalled accession talks between Turkey and the EU.

Turkey opened accession talks with the EU in 2005 but has only been able to finish talks on one of the 35 chapters that a candidate country has to complete before joining the bloc. No chapter has been opened for talks for the past two and a half years.—Xinhua

Austria fears for its Golan observers, wants Syria arms ban kept

VIENNA, 16 March—Austria, fearing for the safety of its peacekeepers on the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, said on Friday it opposed a French push to lift a European Union ban on arming Syrian rebels battling President Bashar al-Assad. Austrian Defence Minister Gerald Klug also demanded United Nations guarantees that the observers can be rotated and get supplies via Syria, amid growing concerns about their security.

He spoke a day after French President Francois Hollande said Paris and London would urge EU governments on Friday to increase help to Assad's opponents after a two-year-old uprising.

Other EU governments, including Germany, have resisted any scrapping of the arms embargo, saying this would fuel violence, especially if Western-supplied arms reached militant Islamists.

"One can never rule out whose hands more weapons will end up in, and that's why I am against this suggestion," Klug, who took office on Monday, told national broadcaster ORF.

The vulnerability of the 1,000-member UN-peacekeeping force on the Golan was highlighted last week when Syrian rebels detained 21 unarmed observers, all Filipinos, for three days.

The UN troops have since scaled back patrols, diplomats told *Reuters* on Thursday. Diplomats at UN headquarters in New York have expressed concern over the future of the UN-Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), whose mission began in 1974. Austria, the only participating EU state, contributes 375 peacekeepers to UNDOF.

Asked whether there were evacuation plans for the Austrians, Klug called this a "very sensitive sub-

ject".

"I demand from the U.N. that we get assurances that supplies and troop rotations are possible via Syria. In addition we demand that the contingent that is being withdrawn by Croatia is replenished by the UN," he said.

Japan announced its withdrawal from UNDOF three months ago due to the violence in Syria. Croatia said last month it would also pull out its troops as a precaution after reports, which it denied, that Croatian arms had been shipped to Syrian rebels.

Two Austrian peacekeepers were wounded in November when their convoy came under fire near Damascus airport.

Once the Croatians leave, UNDOF will have contingents only from Austria, India and the Philippines. A senior Western diplomat has said Manila is considering pulling its troops out.—*Reuters*

France finds horsemeat in beef imported via Netherlands

MARSEILLE, 16 March—Horsemeat has been found in France in a shipment of 320 tonnes of meat labelled "pure beef" that was imported from eastern Europe via the Netherlands, a local prosecutor said on Friday. The horsemeat, found during tests in the south-eastern city of Cavillon in meat intended for use in ready-made meals, was the latest in a scandal that has spread across Europe since equine DNA was found in beef products in Ireland in January.

"The tests, carried out three weeks ago, have shown the presence of horsemeat in most batches," Vaucluse prosecutor Yannick Blanc told *Reuters*.

The meat came from



Metal horse heads are seen above a closed horsemeat butcher shop in Paris on 16 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

various eastern European countries and transited through the warehouses of Dutch companies Draap Trading and Windmeijer Meat Trading, the prosecutor said. The firms could not immediately be reached for

comment. Last month, after a senior Romanian food safety official identified Draap Trading as a buyer of horsemeat from Romania, a lawyer for Draap official Jan Fasen denied all allegations, including of being a major

player in a fraud network.

No horsemeat was found in one batch that came directly from Romania without going through the Netherlands, Blanc said.

A spokesman from the Dutch food safety authority declined to comment about the specific case but said there was a continuing investigation to trace the supply chain for beef potentially containing horsemeat, imported to the Netherlands and then re-exported to France.

French President Francois Hollande called last month for compulsory labelling and traceability of meat used in processed foods in Europe to prevent a repeat of the horsemeat scandal.

Reuters

Mozambique, Australia sign agreement on mining development in Mozambique

MAPUTO, 16 March—Australia is to develop the mining sector in Mozambique, under an agreement signed on Thursday evening in Canberra of Australia, according to Radio Mozambique and the Mozambican Television on Friday.

The two stations reported that the accord was signed by Mozambican foreign minister, Oldemiro Baloi, and Australian secretary of

parliament, Richard Marles. Baloi was quoted by the radio and the TVM as saying the accord aims to the developing his country's mining sector, and has an essential component of institutional capacity and training of human capital.

The Mozambican government wants the wealth from the mineral resources exploration to be benefited by all Mozambicans.—Xinhua

Eight Iraqi soldiers killed in ambush

BAGHDAD, 16 March—Eight soldiers in the Iraqi army were killed in an ambush by unknown gunmen on Friday in the north part of the country, police said.

The attack took place in AL Rayash village, north of Baiji, about 200 km north of the capital city Baghdad, a local police source told *Xinhua*.

The soldiers, who were on vacation, were going from Mosul to their base in

Taji, 40 km north Baghdad, when they were attacked by the unidentified gunmen, he said.

No one has so far claimed responsibility for the attack, but al-Qaeda front in Iraq frequently claimed the responsibility of most deadly attacks in the country, raising fears that the terrorist group could return to widespread violence.

Xinhua

South African bus crash kills 22, toll could rise

CAPE TOWN, 16 March—At least 22 people were killed in South Africa on Friday when a double-decker bus crashed into the side of a mountain while navigating the dangerous Hex River Pass 140 km (80 miles) northeast of Cape Town, police said.

"It appears as if the brakes failed and the driver lost control," said Kenny Africa, the police traffic spokesman for the Western Cape Province. Two children were among the dead and 44 passengers were injured. "We are recovering more bodies and the death toll may rise," Africa told

Reuters from the accident scene, adding it was unclear how many people were on board the bus.

The pass, situated in the picturesque Hex River Valley, is notorious for accidents because its straight and long descent allows vehicles to gather momentum before it leads suddenly into a dangerously sharp left turn.

Road use is the primary means of travel in Africa's largest economy, and the government has introduced tough laws to clamp down on reckless driving and poorly-maintained vehicles as it tries to curb an annual toll of some 14,000 deaths.—*Reuters*



A man driving an electric car enters a power station in Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province, on 15 March, 2013. Hangzhou launched a rental service of electric vehicles recently, offering a three-month term with a fee of 998 Yuan per-month.

XINHUA

REGIONAL



Guests attend the celebration party of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between Ivory Coast and China, in Beijing, capital of China, on 15 March, 2013.—XINHUA

Sri Lanka to launch massive tourism campaign in Russia, Ukraine

COLOMBO, 16 March—The Sri Lankan government on Friday said it will launch a massive tourism campaign in Russia and Ukraine in order to attract more tourists to visit the island nation.

The Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau (SLTPB) said that with the objective of furthering the propagation of the tourism industry, the Sri Lankan Embassy in Russia with the support of the SLTPB has organized a three-week tourism promotional campaign, the “Mega Tourism Road Show” in Russia and Ukraine.

The road show will commence on 17 March

with the activation of the shopping mall “Mega Dybenko” in St Petersburg followed by three week long Mega Road Show in Moscow and Kiev. Major events conducted during the campaign are shopping mall activation, workshops on Sri Lankan tourism, cultural shows, photo exhibitions, Press conferences and participation in world renowned travel and trade fairs; MITT 2013 in Moscow, UITT 2013 in Kiev and Ukrainian Travel Forum 2013, the SLTPB said.

“For the last three years the industry has grown from strength to strength

with 2012 recording an all time high tourist arrivals of 1,005,605 thus making the island as a popular and hot tourist destination. On the contrary, it is of utmost importance that the tourism industry and destination be promoted and advertised well in order to attract more tourists keeping in view the ambition of the government,” the SLTPB said in a statement.

Sri Lanka’s tourist arrivals rose 13.4 percent year-on-year in January this year, government data showed on Wednesday, with the number of foreign visitors rising for the 45th straight month since the end of a 30 year civil war in May 2009 against Tamil Tiger rebels.—Xinhua

Singapore’s new private home sales fall sharply in February

SINGAPORE, 16 March—A total of 708 units of new private homes were sold in Singapore in February, down by almost 65 percent from January’s 2,016 units, according to official figures released on Friday.

Analysts said the sharp fall may be attributable to the Lunar New Year holidays, fewer launches and the government’s latest round of cooling measures.

However, it may be still too early to gauge the effectiveness of the latest round of cooling measures.

With executive con-

miniums included, 917 units of new homes changed hands in February, compared to 2,272 units in January. Singapore government has announced seven rounds of cooling measures over the past several years since the economy rebounded from the downturn in the aftermath of the 2008 global financial crisis. The latest round, announced in early January after housing prices rose to record highs in 2012, included extra stamp duties and tighter rules for housing loans aimed to rein in speculation.—Xinhua

Indonesia secures contract to produce more helicopters for armed forces

JAKARTA, 16 March—Indonesia’s state-run aircraft manufacturer PT Dirgantara Indonesia (PTDI) has secured another contract to produce 16 Bell 412 EP helicopters for the military worth 170 million US dollars, a senior PTDI official said on Friday.

PTDI President Director Budi Santoso said that delivery on the 16 helicopters was scheduled next year as production would take at least one year.

A contract was signed in March last year to pro-

duce six Bell 412 helicopters which were handed over to the armed forces on Friday.

“The procurement contract on those six helicopters was worth 65 million US dollars,” he said, quoted by the detik online.

Bell 412 EP is the advanced version of Bell 412 series, designed as multipurpose helicopter. It is fitted by Pratt and Whitney PT6T-3D twin engines, using four blades in its main rotor and two blades in its tail rotor and is capable to board up to 13 people.—Xinhua

Philippines acts to avoid water crisis

MANILA, 16 March—The Philippine government is working on measures to prevent any water crisis in the country, a senior government official said on Friday.

In a Press briefing, deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte said that water czar, Public Works and Highways Secretary Rogelio Singson, has been coordinating with local government officials on certain measures to ensure the water situation in the Philippines.

“So far, there’s no problem on that front. But the secretary is also well aware of what needs to be

done in order to prevent an event like that (water crisis) from happening,” she said.

Valte issued the statement in response to a study conducted by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) raising concern on the water situation in 37 economies, including the Philippines.

“Public utilities responsible for providing water and sanitation services to communities in India and the Philippines were found to lack capacity in all aspects of sustainability, including effective functioning, financing and demand responsiveness,” said the ADB report on Asian Wa-

ter Development Outlook 2013.

This is worrisome because these governments are increasing investment to meet the Millennium Development Goals without committing the necessary investment to building the capacity to adequately maintain existing systems, the report said.

Without better focused programmes to ensure that water services reach—and continue to reach—all communities, poorly designed investments may reinforce existing inequities and exacerbate social injustice, it added.

Xinhua

A rescued miner is helped to get to the surface after a rock outburst took place at the Junde Coal Mine in Hegang City, northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province, on 15 March, 2013. Sixteen miners had been rescued and four others remained trapped underground in the coal mine accident which occurred early Friday. The coal mine is owned by the state-owned Heilongjiang Longmay Mining Holding Group.—XINHUA



Cambodia warns of dangers from lightning, thunderstorms

PHNOM PENH, 16 March—Cambodia announced on Friday that dangerous natural phenomena such as lightning and thunderstorms will happen in Cambodia from mid-March to late June this year and urged the public to be vigilant. “These natural phenomena could cause harm to humans, animals and properties,” said the

announcement of the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology signed by Minister Lim Kean Hor.

“Such phenomena often happen at areas with very hot weather and clouds are made up in mushroom-like shapes before evolving to black clouds that cause rain. At the same time, lightning and thunderstorms will occur,” it said.

“The ministry would like to appeal to all people to pay high attention to these phenomena in order to avoid dangers.”

The notice was issued after a strong rain and wind hit some provinces in the country’s northwest on Thursday afternoon and killed four people and injured four others. About 400 houses were destroyed.

Among the four deaths, three were due to houses collapsed on them and one was struck by lightning.

According to a report of the National Committee for Disaster Management, lightning strikes killed 103 Cambodian people and injured 72 others last year, while violent storms claimed five lives and injured 37 others.—Xinhua

Vietnam to host ASEAN education ministers’ conference

HANOI, 16 March—Vietnam will host the 47th Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Council (SEAMEC) conference from 19 to 21 March, the Vietnamese Ministry of Education and Training announced on Friday.

SEAMEC is a forum for regional education ministers to discuss initiatives and policies in the ASEAN region, and set forth guidelines to implement projects of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) and its

affiliates.

During the three-day conference, major events will take place, including the signing of legal documents of SEAMEO on life-long learning; approval of the resolution on organizing the ceremony to admit

the UK as the 8th aligned member of SEAMEO.

As scheduled, the SEAMEO Forum, a project funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) will also be launched, and SEAMEO Declaration on cooperation strategy towards development of the region will be signed on this occasion. Participants will review implementation of the resolution adopted at the 46th SEAMEC over the past two years, and suggest activities to be done in the coming years.

This will be the second time Vietnam hosts such kind of regional conference. The Vietnamese Ministry of Education and Training will chair the SEAMEO for the 2013-2015 periods.

Xinhua



Pakistani rangers take part in an operation against criminal gangs in a troubled area in Karachi, southern Pakistan, on 15 March, 2013. More than 300 personnel of Pakistan rangers took part in the operation and arrested at least 24 suspects, local media reported.—XINHUA

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SINGAPORE BRIDGE VOY NO (035)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINGAPORE BRIDGE VOY NO (035) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.3.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the bylaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Canada's Prime Minister Stephen Harper speaks during a dinner in honour of France's Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault's (not pictured) visit to Ottawa on 13 March, 2013.—REUTERS

Croatia to withdraw troops from UN mission in Golan Heights

UNITED NATIONS, 16 March—Croatia has decided to pull all its military personnel out of the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), which is monitoring the ceasefire line between Syria and the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, but no specific time for the withdrawal has been set, Eduardo del Buey, the deputy UN spokesman, told reporters here on Thursday.

“On 28 February, the Permanent Mission of Croatia (to the United Nations) has informed the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations that the government of Croatia had decided to withdraw all Croatian military personnel from UNDOF due to the deteriorating security situation,” del Buey said in response to a question at a daily news briefing here.

“From 27 February, all operations of the Croatian contingent within UNDOF were restricted to static activities,” he said. “The timeline for their

withdrawal has not yet been set.”

At present, the mission has 1,008 troops, del Buey said, adding that current troop contributors to UNDOF include the Philippines, India, Austria, and Croatia, which has some 100 troops in the UN peacekeeping mission. The UNDOF has been in the Golan Heights since 1974.

Xinhua

Slovakia to deploy 150 soldiers to Afghanistan

BRATISLAVA, 16 March—Slovakia is to send up to 150 soldiers to the International Security Assistance Force mission in Afghanistan within two tours of duty as part of the Special Operation Training Group, Slovak Defence Minister Martin Glvac said on Thursday.

“The exact numbers will be known after talks with our coalition allies,” said Glvac. The expenses for deployment of Slovak soldiers will be covered by the Defence Ministry budget and be financially

assisted by the United States with 20 million euros (25.9 million US dollars) in total.

“The change in configuration that was approved today reflects the latest developments and the needs of our allies. On one hand, we are extending the activities of our unit in Kandahar by another year, while on the other, we're preparing to send a special unit,” said Slovak Foreign and European Affairs Minister Miroslav Lajcak.

Xinhua

China envoy says there was no \$8 billion South Sudan aid offer

BEIJING, 16 March—China never promised South Sudan \$8 billion in development funds when South Sudanese President Salva Kiir visited Beijing in April, but much more than this could be offered if the country achieves lasting peace, a senior diplomat said on Thursday.

South Sudan's government announced the figure following the trip, and until now Beijing has neither confirmed nor denied it.

Speaking to Reuters in an interview, China's special envoy to Africa, Zhong Jianhua, who has helped in mediation efforts between

the two Sudans and knows both countries well, said there was no \$8 billion development deal.

“If there was any promise, it was that after South Sudan achieves peace with Sudan then it is a very promising country and can ramp up development, and then China is willing to play a development role in South Sudan and help them. But those plans have to wait for peace before we can talk about this,” Zhong said, sitting in a meeting room inside the Foreign Ministry.

“I don't believe that

Canada to keep C-17 with Mali mission as long as needed

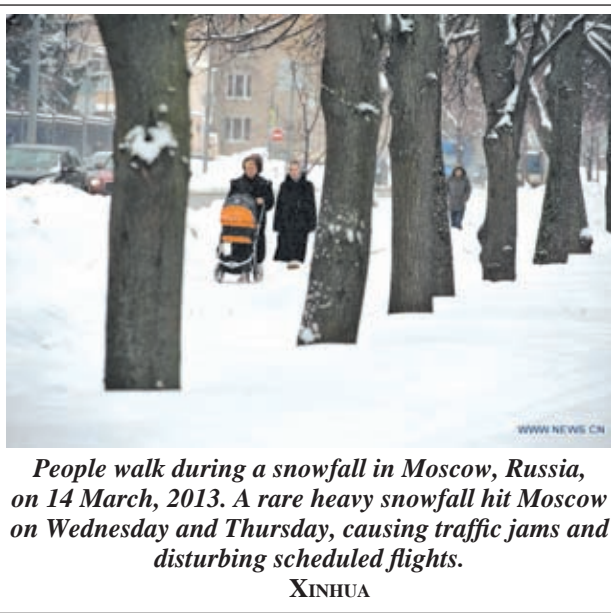
OTTAWA, 16 March—Canada will extend the loan of its C-17 military cargo plane to France's military operations against Islamic rebels in Mali as long as it's needed, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said on Thursday.

“We're obviously very pleased to assist with our plane and its team. It will remain there as long as we feel there's a need,” Harper

told a joint news conference with French Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault.

The plane first flew in the Mali operation on 15 January, and in mid-February, Canada extended the mission until 15 March. Harper reiterated Canada would not take a combat military role in Mali but would provide development and humanitarian aid.

Reuters



People walk during a snowfall in Moscow, Russia, on 14 March, 2013. A rare heavy snowfall hit Moscow on Wednesday and Thursday, causing traffic jams and disturbing scheduled flights.

XINHUA

UN envoy to travel to North Africa next week

UNITED NATIONS, 16 March—The UN envoy dealing with Western Sahara, Christopher Ross, will travel to North Africa next week for consultations on the next phase of negotiations aimed at resolving the long-running conflict in the region, a UN spokesman announced here on Friday.

“The current conflict in Mali and the heightened risks of instability and insecurity in the Sahel and beyond make a solution to the Western Sahara conflict more urgent than ever,”



File photo shows Zhong Jianhua, China's special Envoy to Africa, poses for a photograph during an interview with Reuters at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Beijing.—REUTERS

this is something both sides acknowledged following the visit. This was not mentioned in any of the official Chinese reports following the visit; there was nothing about \$8 billion,” he added.

“It's not impossible—maybe in the future, and maybe not only \$8 billion,” Zhong said, without elaborating. “Certainly, it needs a development plan, and a big one at that. It faces a lot of challenges. I've been to Juba many times. Running water, electricity, road lights, bridges—it needs a lot.”

Relations between the two Sudans soured soon

after South Sudan achieved independence in 2011 following a long and bloody civil war, due to arguments over oil revenues and territory.

Landlocked South Sudan shut down its 350,000 barrel-per-day crude output in January last year in a row with Sudan over how much it should pay to send the oil through Sudanese pipelines to the Red Sea. South Sudan said on Tuesday it would be ready to restart oil production within three weeks after finalising a deal to resolve bitter border and security disputes with Sudan.

Reuters

More Americans use mobile device while driving than Europeans

WASHINGTON, 16 March—A study has found that 69 percent of US drivers talked on their cell phone while driving compared to 21 percent of drivers from the United Kingdom.

The study released on Thursday by the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also found that 31 percent of drivers in the United

States reported that they had read or sent text messages or emails while driving, compared to 15 percent of drivers in Spain.

The study, published in CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, examined two specific types of self-reported distracted driving behaviours: cell phone use while driving and reading or sending text or e-mail messages while driving, among drivers aged 18-64 years in the United States and in seven European countries (Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, and the United Kingdom) within the 30 days before they were surveyed.

“The cell phone can be a fatal distraction for those who use it while they drive,” CDC Director Tom Frieden said in a statement. “Driving and dialing or texting don't mix. If you are driving, pull over to a safe place and stop before you use your cell phone.”

Xinhua

Xinhua

ENTERTAINMENT

Depeche Mode, 'pessimists at heart,' never imagined longevity

AUSTIN, 16 March—Depeche Mode has come a long way since its 1980s debut as part of Britain's New Wave scene, and as it prepares to tour behind its 13th album, no one appears more surprised at the group's longevity than the band members themselves.

The British synthpop pioneers—singer Dave Gahan, guitarist-keyboardist Martin Gore and keyboardist Andy Fletcher—are marking their fourth decade in the music industry with the release of "Delta Machine" on 26 March.

"We've always been pessimists at heart, so we never think further ahead than whatever's coming next," Gore, 51, told Reuters at the South by Southwest Music Conference this week.

The band has sold more than 100 million records worldwide since its 1981 debut album "Speak & Spell," thanks to hits along the way like 1984's "People are People" and 1989's "Personal Jesus."

Depeche Mode's textured sound and moody lyrics made it one of the biggest bands to emerge from the British New Wave in the early 1980s, alongside groups such as The Boomtown Rats.

The title "Delta Machine" reflects the musicians' contradictory sounds—they're influenced by the Delta blues, but they also use technology like computers and synthesizers.

"We feel like our music is a blend of organic and inorganic," Gore said.

Reuters

From L-R, Martin Gore, Dave Gahan and Andrew Fletcher of British band Depeche Mode pose during a photocall before a press conference in Paris to announce the dates for their 2013/2014 world tour on 23 Oct, 2012.

REUTERS



Ang Lee moves into TV after 'Life of Pi' Oscar win

LOS ANGELES, 16 March—Double Oscar winner Ang Lee is moving over to television after winning the Best Director Academy Award last month for "Life of Pi."

Cable channel FX

said on Thursday that the Chinese filmmaker will direct the pilot episode of its drama "Tyrant," about an unassuming American family drawn into the affairs of a turbulent Middle Eastern nation.

It is Lee's first venture into directing for television and his first project since 2012's "Life of Pi," the tale of a young Indian boy shipwrecked with a tiger that won four Oscars in February.

Production is due to start in the summer but no broadcast date or casting has been announced. Howard Gordon and Gideon Raff—the team behind Emmy-winning psychological thriller "Homeland"—are the executive producers.

"Ang Lee has demonstrated time and again an ability to present characters with such depth and specificity that they reveal the universal human condition," FX President John Landgraf said in a statement.—Reuters



Ang Lee holds his award for Best Director for "Life of Pi" at the 2013 Vanity Fair Oscars Party in West Hollywood, California on 25 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

Cindy Crawford's marriage to Richard Gere was a "great chapter" in her life

NEW DELHI, 16 March—47-year-old supermodel Cindy Crawford has revealed her first marriage to the Arbitrage actor, Richard Gere, 63, was a great chapter in her life.

Cindy has been happily married to Rande Gerber since 1998, with whom she shares son Presley, 13, and 11-year-old daughter Kaia. She told 'Oprah's Master Class': "I just think your twenties, for women, is such a time when you're starting to come into your own and feel your own power and connect to your inner strength, and it's hard to do that—it's hard to change—in a relationship, because what one person might have signed up for, all of a sudden, you're not that anymore."

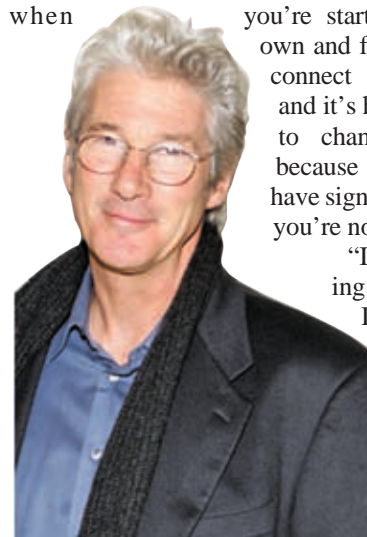
"I think I was more willing at 22 to be, like, 'Okay, I'll follow,' but then you start going, 'Well, I don't want to just follow—I want to lead sometimes and I want to walk side by side sometimes.'"

PTI



Cindy and Richard's marriage broke down because of their 17-year age gap but she credits him with teaching her a lot about the world.

PTI



Kristen Stewart is planning a romantic reunion with Robert Pattinson

NEW DELHI, 16 March—22-year-old actress Kristen Stewart—whose relationship with her Twilight Saga co-star Robert Pattinson has been strained since her fling with married director Rupert Sanders was exposed last August—is reportedly planning a "special romantic reunion".

A source close to the on/off couple told OK! Magazine: "Kristen's got a very special night planned for Rob when he gets back. She wants to surprise him by waiting in the backseat of a limo at the airport."

It's rare for celeb couples to do that because it doubles the chances of a security issue. So he'll be really surprised when he gets in that limo. "Rob has

a huge group of friends who are all dying to take him out, but Kristen's told them to back off until she's had some time alone." Robert has already been informed to be ready for romance upon his return. The insider

said Kristen "told him she wants him all to herself in the first 24 hours he's back. He'll be jet-lagged of course, but she's got a relaxing night planned with a bottle of wine, pizza, and the two of them. That's all

they both want."

The pair are both said to have really missed each other during their time apart and can't wait to spend some quality time on their relationship.

The source said: "They provide huge comfort to each other and it was hell hitting that Oscar red carpet on crutches without him. That night really brought home how much she needs him in her life."—PTI

Kristen and Rob have been on again-off again ever since she was caught kissing a married director. But the couple are said to be keen to repair their relationship now.

PTI



Bradley Cooper may have found a new girlfriend

NEW DELHI, 16 March—Bradley Cooper has invited British model Suki Waterhouse to visit him in Los Angeles.

The 38-year-old Silver Linings Playbook star—who split from actress Zoe Saldana for the second time late last year—has reportedly asked the 20-year-old British model to fly over for a second date with him after he became smitten with her when they met at the Elle Style Awards in London last month.

A source close to the model told gossip website RadarOnline.com: "Bradley has been texting Suki every day since they met."

He wants her to come to Los Angeles and visit him; he's intrigued by her

and she's very interested in him." "Suki had so much fun with Bradley when he was in the UK and wants to hang out with him again in the States.—PTI



Bradley has been smitten with model Suki ever since he met her at an award show last month.—PTI

Nigeria striker Martins joins Seattle Sounders

LONDON, 16 March—Former Inter Milan and Newcastle United striker Obafemi Martins has signed for the Seattle Sounders, the Major League Soccer club said on Friday.

The 28-year-old, recalled to Nigeria's squad last week after being left out of their victorious African Nations Cup campaign at the start of the year, bought himself out of his deal with La Liga team Levante on Monday.

According to Spanish media, his contract with Levante was worth three million euros (\$3.9 million).

Martins joined the Spanish club at the beginning of the season on a free transfer from Russia's Rubin Kazan and is their top league scorer with seven goals.

The speedy forward should form an effective

strike partnership with US international Eddie Johnson at the Sounders. Seattle's average league attendance last year was 43,144, making them by far the best supported team in the league.

"The move is consistent with our promise to the fans," majority owner Joe Roth told the team's website (www.soundersfc.com). "Our supporters are the best in Major League Soccer and deserve a team that competes each and every year. Obafemi is an

electrifying talent who has international experience at the highest level."

Martins has also played in Germany for VfL Wolfsburg and was on loan with Birmingham City when he scored the winning goal in their shock 2-1 English League Cup final victory over Arsenal at Wembley in 2011.

Reuters



Levante's Obafemi Martins celebrates after he scored against Olympiakos Piraeus during their Europa League soccer match at the Ciudad de Valencia stadium in Valencia, on 14 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

Stefani retains halfway lead at Tampa Bay Championship

LONDON, 16 March—PGA Tour rookie Shawn Stefani held his nerve as the field closed in on him to retain the outright lead after the second round of the Tampa Bay Championship on Friday.

Leading by two shots overnight, Stefani followed his opening round 65 with a one-under-par 70 at the

Copperhead layout at Innisbrook Resort to reach the halfway stage at seven-under. The 31-year-old briefly lost his lead but regained it when he drained a 14-foot birdie putt on the 15th hole.

"The lead is one thing, but lead Stefani told reporters. "I wasn't any more nervous than I am any round. I'm always a little

bit excited about playing and I get a little nervous, which I enjoy."

Stefani finished the day in front but his lead was cut in half as Australia's Adam Scott and South Korea's KJ Choi both moved to six under. Scott shot a flawless 66 while Choi, already a double winner of the Tampa Bay Championship, carded a 67, including an eagle-three at the first hole.

"To go bogey-free anywhere is good, and I think (to do it) here is particularly good," Scott said.

"It's quite a tricky golf course, and mistakes are easily made."

Scott finished third behind Tiger Woods at last week's Honda Classic and is back in form after his meltdown at last year's British Open.

With victory seemingly in his grasp, Scott bo-

geyed the last four holes to allow South Africa's Ernie Els to slip past him and win by a stroke.

Scott and Els remain close friends and Scott revealed that the pair made a flying trip to Augusta together at the start of a week for a practice round before the Masters.

"Whether he won it, or I helped him win it a little bit—it doesn't matter. He won it," Scott said. "It probably eased the pain a little bit that he's a close friend of mine, and I could feel some happiness for him."

Four players—Brian Harman, Harris English, Jason Dufner and Peter Tomasulo - finished tied for fourth at minus five. Dufner matched Scott's 66 while Harman and English both bogeyed their final holes to miss out on the chance to finish higher.—Reuters



Rookie Shawn Stefani

Murray ousted by Del Potro, Djokovic cruises

INDIAN WELLS, (California) 16 March—Erratic serving cost Andy Murray dearly as the US Open champion was knocked out of the BNP Paribas Open quarter-finals 6-7, 6-3, 6-1 by Argentina's

exit from the ATP Masters 1000 event at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden.

Seventh-seeded Del Potro will next face world number one Novak Djokovic, who was barely tested

as he demolished Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 6-3, 6-1 earlier on Friday to extend his unbeaten run to 22 matches.

The first two quarter-finals were completed on Thursday, Rafa Nadal contin-

uing his impressive comeback by thumping long-time rival Roger Federer 6-4, 6-2 and Czech Tomas Berdych sweeping past big-serving South African Kevin Anderson 6-4, 6-4. "It was a tough match, I didn't serve particularly well," Murray told reporters after serving eight aces and eight double faults during a match lasting just over two-and-a-half hours.

"There were a lot of long rallies. Very warm conditions the first set or two, and sometimes on the serve if your legs are just a little bit tired you can miss serves.—Reuters

Juan Martin Del Potro on Friday. Though the British world number three edged a close first set 7-5 on the tiebreak, he lost serve once in the second and three times in the third to make a premature

Reuters



Musician and rapper Redfoo set for US Open bid

INDIAN WELLS, (California) 16 March—Victoria Azarenka's boyfriend, American musician and rapper Redfoo, has entered the US Open national playoffs in a bid to earn a spot in the final grand slam of the year.

Redfoo, who will play under his given name of Stefan Gordy, has entered the Northern California sectional qualifying tournament in Salinas from 18-23 June, the United States Tennis Association (USTA) said on Friday.

"As a kid, it's always been a dream of mine to play professional tennis," the 37-year-old Redfoo said in a statement.

"Thanks to the US Open national playoffs for giving good players with a dream the chance to qualify for one of the biggest tournaments — the US Open.



Victoria Azarenka of Belarus (R) laughs with her boyfriend singer Redfoo, also known as Stefan Gordy of the band LMFAO, during a practice session as she prepares for the BNP Paribas Open WTA tennis tournament in Indian Wells, California, on 6 March, 2013.—REUTERS

Every day I see my dream!" Redfoo, whose father Berry Gordy founded the fabled Motown record label, played tennis as a junior and has been a frequent spectator at the grand slam events in recent years.

Over the past 10 days, he has been watching the BNP Paribas Open at Indian Wells where his girlfriend Azarenka, the Australian Open champion and world number two, was the top seed.

The Belarusian is unbeaten after 17 matches this season, but withdrew before her quarter-final

against eighth-seeded Dane Wozniacki on Thursday with an inflamed right ankle.

Asked earlier during the tournament what it was like to have a celebrity as a romantic partner, Azarenka told reporters: "Well, it makes it more difficult to go have a coffee, that's for sure."

"And for the rest, I really don't pay attention to that so much. We just enjoy each other's company, having fun. Redfoo, I don't even call him that. I just call him Stefan."

Reuters

Unconvincing Chan completes world hat-trick

LONDON, 16 March—Patrick Chan put a season of frustration behind him by completing a hat-trick of world titles on Friday with a victory that establishes the Canadian as the man to beat going into next year's Sochi Olympics.

Although his sloppy free skate to Puccini's "La Boheme" did not come close to capturing the magic or

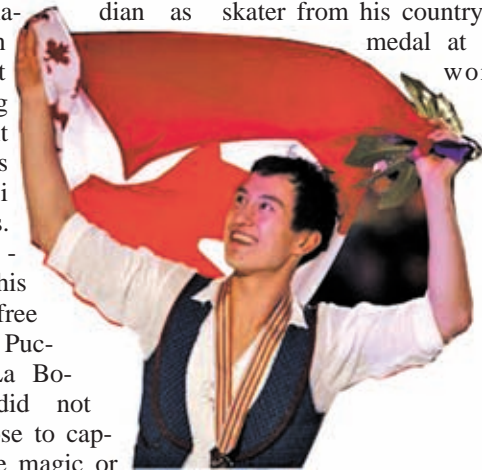
Kazakhstan's Denis Ten delivered the performance of the night easily winning the free skate to take silver with a mark of 266.48, becoming the first skater from his country to medal at the world

Patrick Chan of Canada carries his country's flag as he celebrates his gold medal finish after the presentation ceremony at the ISU World Figure Skating Championships in London on 15 March, 2013.

REUTERS

record marks he received for Wednesday's short programme, Chan did just enough scoring 267.78 to become first skater since Russia's Alexei Yagudin (1998-2000) to claim three consecutive world titles.

Reuters



GENERAL

Six injured in Syrian tanker explosion in northern Lebanon

BEIRUT, 16 March—A Syrian tanker loaded with diesel exploded in Lebanon's northern port city of Tripoli on Friday, leaving six people injured, a security source confirmed to *Xinhua*.

One of the trucks, which were set ablaze late Thursday, exploded early

Friday, injuring six people, among them three children, the source said.

Young men in the Bab el Tebbaneh Sunni neighbourhood of Tripoli set ablaze three trucks and damaged four others with Syrian plate numbers in protest of transporting diesel to Syria.

The Lebanese side has forbidden Syrian trucks from entering Lebanon through the Arida border crossing checkpoint, for fear of being attacked again, according to the source.

The truck drivers are unharmed and have been released, the source said.

Xinhua

Two guerrilla groups claim responsibility for Athens bomb attack

ATHENS, 16 March—Two Greek guerrilla groups claimed on Friday responsibility for a bomb attack at a courier firm in Athens on 10 March, which caused material damage, while warning of more violence ahead, local media reported.

The so-called "Informal Anarchist Federation" and the "International Revolutionary Front- Intact Revolutionary Cell" groups released a statement saying that Sunday's attack was to "take revenge" on an employee of the firm who helped in the arrest of

terrorists two years ago.

In November 2010 a parcel bomb addressed to a foreign embassy in Athens went off at the hands of an employee inside the same courier company.

The incident triggered a police investigation which led to the arrest of members of the "Conspiracy of the Nuclei of Fire."

Accusing the employee for "deadly curiosity," extremists threatened that they intend to attack more targets on their black list, including police officers and judges presiding over the trials of "Conspiracy

of the Nuclei of Fire" members. Greece has a long history of domestic terrorism. Following the outbreak of the debt crisis in 2009 which has led the country to the brink of bankruptcy, several groups have linked attacks with harsh austerity measures implemented to resolve the crisis.

In January, unidentified assailants opened fire at the ruling party headquarters, and a few days later, a strong bomb blast occurred inside a shopping mall, slightly injuring two guards.

Xinhua

Bobs Worth lands Cheltenham Gold Cup

LONDON, 16 March—Irish jockey Barry Geraghty won the Cheltenham Gold Cup on a horse he once owned when favourite Bobs Worth prevailed in stamina-sapping conditions to land British jump racing's showpiece event on Friday.

Geraghty was patient and timed his run to perfection on the 11-4 chance to win by seven lengths in the three mile and a quarter slog on ground softened up by persistent heavy rain on the final day of the four-day Festival.

The jockey purchased Bobs Worth, now an eight-year-old, as a yearling for 16,000 euros (13,842 pounds) before sending him to the sales ring for a small profit three years later.

Bobs Worth, whose victory was worth 313,225 pounds to his owners, has



Barry Geraghty on Bobs Worth (L) jumps the final fence ahead of Sam Waley-Cohen on Long Run and goes on to win The Gold Cup at the Cheltenham Festival horse racing meet in Gloucestershire, western England on 15 March, 2013.—REUTERS

won nine of his 12 starts for Nicky Henderson who has two Gold Cup wins after Long Run's 2011 triumph and is the most successful trainer ever at the Festival with 50 victories.

"It was brilliant,"

Geraghty told *BBC* radio. "He is such a great little horse who just loves the job."

"We had faith in the horse. Nicky knew he would have him fit enough—he knows how to get them

ready for Cheltenham," added Geraghty who was also celebrating his second Gold Cup success after piloting Kicking King to victory in 2005.

Bobs Worth jumped to the front at the last of the 22 fences and powered up the hill to finish clear of Sir Des Champs (4-1), the mount of champion jockey Tony McCoy, and stablemate Long Run (7-2) who was forced to settle for third again as he did last year.

Geraghty said his joy was tempered by sadness over the serious neck injuries sustained by compatriot JT McNamara in a fall at the track on Thursday. "I would love to be happier but all we're thinking about is John Thomas McNamara. I just hope and pray he's okay," he said.—*Reuters*

Nigeria beefs up security for airports after robbery incident

LAGOS, 16 March—The Nigerian government has beefed up security at the Lagos Murtala Mohammed International Airport (MM-IA), and other areas of the airport to forestall future armed robbery incident.

The new security measure came on the heels

of the recent robbery which snuffed lives out of two police officers and one of the robbers. Also, the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) on Thursday ordered all the operators of Bureau de change operating across airports in the country

to leave the airports environment immediately.

Spokesperson for the organization Yakubu Dati told reporters in Lagos that preliminary reports have shown that the activities of operators of Bureau de change had been attracting attention of armed robbers

to the airports, adding that such would no longer be condoned.

Dati said the organization's task force would begin to implement the order for the currency hawkers to begin to leave the airports environment.

Xinhua

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(17-3-13 09:30 am ~ 18-3-13 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * Realising partnership Opportunities for Myanmar and Hong Kong
- * Myanmar Movies Impact "If you had old stories" (Part-1)
- * Teashop Culture
- * Glue Sniffing
- * "Great Shwedagon" (Episode-6) Planetary Post on the Platform of Shwedagon Pagoda
- * Coples that will never lode (Sand Painting)
- * Myanmar President wraps up His 5-Country Tour in Europe
- * US-Myanmar Trade and Investment Relation
- * News
- * Endlesswonders..... (Htukant Tein Temple)
- * e-pension Easy anf Convenient System for Pensioners
- * Teashop Culture
- * Glue Sniffing
- * Unique Biodiversity of Indawgyi Lake (Part-II)
- * "Acute & Chronic Liver Disease" training Workshop
- * Pleasant Pindaya
- * Myanmar Movies "Page 15"

Myanmar TV

(17-3-2013, Sunday)

- | | | | |
|-----------------|--|-----------------------|--|
| 7:00 am | 1. Paritta By Venerable Min Gun Sayadaw | 4:05 pm | 15. Songs For Upholding National Spirit |
| 7:25 am | 2. Health Programme | 4:10 pm | 16. Teleplay (Health) |
| 7:30 am | 3. Morning News | 4:45 pm | 17. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Third Year (Myanmar) |
| 7:40 am | 4. International News | 5:15 pm | 18. Sing & Enjoy |
| 7:55 am | 5. (38) Phyar Mingalars | 6:00 pm | 19. Evening News |
| 8:10 am | 6. SEA GAMES (Go for Gold) (EQUESTRIAN) | 6:15 pm | 20. Weather Report |
| 8:45 am | 7. Teleplay (Traffic) | 6:20 pm | 21. Cartoon Series |
| 11:00 am | 8. Martial Song | 6:40 pm | 22. TV Drama Series |
| 11:10 am | 9. Musical Programme | 7:00 pm | 23. News |
| 11:25 am | 10. Round Up Of The Week's TV International News | 7:10 pm | 24. TV Drama Series |
| 11:50 am | 11. Myanmar Movies | 8:00 | 25. News |
| 1:50 pm | 12. Solo Favourites | 8:00 | 26. International News |
| 2:35 pm | 13. Documentary | 8:00 | 27. Weather Report |
| 4:00 pm | 14. Opening Song | 10:00 pm | 28. Tamnyethnar Takwetsar |
| | | 10:00 pm | 29. TV Drama Series |
| | | 30. News | |
| | | 31. New Melody | |

Heavy rain forecast in S China

BEIJING, 16 March—Heavy rainfall will hit most of south China over the next three days, meteorological authorities forecast on Saturday. Regions south of the Yellow and Huaihe rivers, including parts of the Jianghuai and Jiangnan plains, regions south of the Yangtze River and the eastern parts of south China, will see moderate to heavy rain, the National Meteorological Centre (NMC) said in an online statement.

From Saturday to Sunday morning, heavy rain or thunderstorms are expected in parts of Anhui, Hubei, Guizhou, Hunan and

Jiangxi Provinces, with the rainy weather spreading further east to affect Shanghai and the Provinces of Jiangsu and Zhejiang the following day, the centre said.

The NMC also forecast temperature drops of up to 10 degrees Celsius and high winds in parts of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, northeast China and north China from Saturday evening through Monday due to a strong cold snap.

Some areas of Inner Mongolia and neighbouring Gansu Province will be hit by sandstorms from Sunday to Monday, the centre added.

Xinhua



Visitors read comic books at C3 in Hong Kong 2013, a Japanese anime (animation products) expo, in south China's Hong Kong, on 15 March, 2013. The three-day expo was inaugurated on Friday at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.—XINHUA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham calls for timely completion of ASEAN Summit venues



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham visits construction sites of Ruby Hall and Jade Villa in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

NAYPYITAW, 16 March— Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham visited Ruby Hall and Jade Villa construction sites in Dekkhinathiri Township today and called for timely completion of the buildings where ASEAN summits and meetings will be held in 2014.

During the work coordination meeting with special development projects supervisory committee and responsible personnel from construction companies at the Ruby Hall construction site in Dekkhinathiri Township today, the vice-president stressed the need for stepping

up the project to complete the buildings fully equipped with necessary systems.

He also urged ministries concerned which are responsible for reception, transportation, hosting, entertaining, security and media for ASEAN summits and meetings to cooperate

with the construction companies to be able to host the summits and meetings in 2014 in style.

U Kan Chun, Secretary of the special development project supervisory committee and member of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, and the chief executive

officer of Shwetaung Development Company reported on composition of Ruby Hall and Jade Villa buildings, progress of the construction works and tasks to be carried out, progress of water and power supply and communications.

Deputy ministers

from Ministry of Home Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Information, Culture and Hotels & Tourism and the deputy chief of Myanmar Police Force discussed necessary measures to be taken for the buildings to meet international standards.

MNA

Committee meets for implementing Latpadaungtaung Copper Mine Project Investigation Commission's report



Chairman of the committee for implementing the report of Investigation Commission on Latpadaungtaung Copper Mine Project Union Minister U Hla Tun making a speech at the coordination meeting.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March—A committee for implementing the report of Investigation Commission on Latpadaungtaung Copper Mine Project held a coordination meeting at the Win Unity Resort Hotel in Monywa yesterday.

Speaking at the meeting, Chairman of the committee Union Minister U Hla Tun, said that the committee would form

groups for scrutinizing lands, environmental conservation, socio-economic development, moving and re-building religious buildings to be able to speed up the works of the committee.

He also stressed the need for settling issues related to compensation for land grabs, reclamation of farmland, revising contracts, environmental conservation and health

care and safety at work-sites, getting international certificates, creating new job opportunities for local people and socio economic development of the local people.

To settle the issues, authorities concerned should reach out to the grass root and should carry out the tasks in accordance with the law, he said.

During the meeting, Vice-chairmen of the

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March— Union Minister for Information has invited representatives of the Myanmar Press Council (Temporary) to discuss the Printing and Publishing Bill on 23 March.

committee Sagaing Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye and Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo reported on tasks which should be prioritized for giving compensation for lands and creating job opportunities.

Members of the committee Lt-Gen Ko Ko, U Win Tun and deputy ministers discussed facts and figures related to the Latpadaungtaung Copper Mine, environment conservation and ecological system, and socio-economy and job-opportunities for local people.

After the meeting, Committee chairman U Hla Tun and party visited the project in a motorcade, and held a meeting with Mr Geng Yi, Managing Director of Myanmar Wanbao Co Ltd.

MNA

Union Information Minister invites MPC (Temporary) to discuss Printing and Publishing Bill

The meeting will focus on advices and suggestions for amending the bill to

be submitted to the Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee.

MNA

Government budget reviewed

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March — Ministry of Finance and Revenue has taken steps to review the budget of the government at the ministry here yesterday.

At the meeting to mark the launching of the plan, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Dr Maung Maung Thein has clarified the macro economy, receipts, expenditure, budget allocations among regions and states, education, health and energy sectors that would be taken on the first step of the review process. The meeting was

participated by international development partners led by Mr Kanthan Shankar, Country Manager of WB to Myanmar, representatives from AusAID, DFID and ADB, the Central Bank of Myanmar, Myanma Economic Bank, Internal Revenue Department, Planning Department, Project Appraisal and Progress Reporting Department, Education Planning and Training Department, Health Planning Department and Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise.

MNA

Summary of observations at 9:30 hr MST on 16.3.2013

Bay Inference

Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

State of the Sea

Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days

Generally fair in the whole country.—NLM