

## President U Thein Sein sends message of congratulations to Korean PM

NAY PYI TAW, 18 March— His Excellency U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Mr. Chung Hong-Won on his appointment as the Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea.—MNA

## Australian Governor-General welcomes President U Thein Sein

NAY PYI TAW, 18 March—President U Thein Sein received a warm welcome by Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia Ms. Quentin Bryce ACCVO at the Government House in Canberra this morning.

After introducing entourage to each other, the

President and the Governor-General took salute of the Guard of Honour. They posed for documentary photo and the President signed the visitors' book.

They then had a meeting at a separate guest room of the Government House.

Also present at the meeting were Chairman

of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win, Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Tin Naing Thein, U Ohn Myint, U Khin Yi, Dr Mya Aye, Dr Myint Aung, Dr Kan Zaw and Dr Ko

Ko Oo, deputy ministers and senior officers of Australia.

They exchanged views on women's rights, child welfare, poverty alleviation and tourism development.

The Governor-General then hosted a dinner to the President and party.

MNA



President U Thein Sein shakes hands with Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia Ms. Quentin Bryce ACCVO at the Government House in Canberra.

MNA

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein inspects Guard of Honour.

MNA

## Myanmar to ship first batch of rice export to Japan in early May

Japan will join South Korea and Russia as rice importer from Myanmar starting early May. The first batch of Myanmar's rice export to Japan will be shipped in coming May.

According to Myanmar rice industry association, Myanmar will export 5000 tons of Ae-ma-hta rice to Japan in the first shipment.

"Japan invited tender to buy rice. Regional rice producers submitted

tenders. Myanmar was also invited and emerges as a successful bidder. It is the first time we hit the Japanese market," the same source said.

Myanmar Agribusiness Public Corporation Limited will become the first local company exporting rice to Japan with the price of US\$ 490 per ton of rice. Japan has a stringent quality control system as regards imports to the country. Myanmar's

rice was approved to be high quality and clear of chemical residues. Japan's Mitsui Corporation is the buyer of the rice and MAPCO will also try to further export the rice to Japan.

Myanmar's target of 1.5 million rice export in 2012-2013 fiscal year has exceeded by around 0.6 million to date.

Myanma Alinn: 12-3-2013

Trs: HKA

News: Maung Thitsar  
Photo: Tin Soe

Photo shows bags of rice being kept at warehouse before exporting them.



## Redflex Traffic System to trap speedsters on expressway

YANGON, 18 March — Police Col Ne Win of Expressway Traffic Police Corps said that punitive action would be taken against undisciplined vehicles that had exceeded a speed limit of 100 kilometers while driving along Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay Expressway with the use of Redflex Traffic System as of 1 April.

Arrangements have been made to take action against speedsters through Australia-made radar-based system that will record

and regulations during the operation period.

Only one mobile redflex traffic system will be placed along the expressway as the radar-based unit bought by the Ministry of Construction for the expressway traffic police corps cost about 70000 USD. According to the statement issued by Office of Expressway Traffic Police Corps Commander, speedsters will lose their driving licences and wheel tax if they are caught for



the vehicles committing speed-related offences.

Those who violated traffic rules on the expressway will be brought to trial at traffic courts that will be kept open in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw. Although they will face fines of 1500 kyats in accord with the bylaws, they will be liable to a heavy fine of K 30000 under the prescribed rules

speeding. Moreover, they will be fined.

From 2009 when the expressway was put into service to the early March 2013, 398 cases of car accidents that claimed 218 lives and hurt 675 occurred along Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay Expressway.

During the period from 25 March 2009 to 10 March 2010, there were 103 traffic

## Pyu creek Dam Project gaining momentum

NAY PYI TAW, 18 March — On his inspection tour of Pyu creek dam project in Pyu Township of Bago Region on 16 March morning, Deputy Minister for Agriculture

and Irrigation U Khin Zaw oversaw land preparation and foundation work for diversion weir and progress in construction of right canal.

Next, he proceeded to

Kun creek diversion weir project and looked into progress in construction of the diversion weir and sluice gate and laying concrete.

MNA



*Photo shows a donation of nutrition powder for HIV infected children which was in progress at the Head Office of Daewoo Exploration and Production International Ltd recently. Boxes of nutrition powder worth K 35,016,300 were handed over to a responsible person of Special Hospital (Mingaladon).—KYEMON*

## Yangon Region Chief Justice visits courts

YANGON, 18 March — Yangon Region High Court Chief Justice U Win Swe visited Yangon North District Court and Taikkyi Township and Hmawby Township courts on 16 March. In meeting with judges and staff, the chief justice called

for strict adherence to existing laws, bylaws and rules and regulations while performing judicial process, urging them to desist from bribery and corruption. He stressed the need to strive for winning public trust.

Kyemon

accidents, causing 47 dead and 170 wounded. A period of one year from 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011 had seen 73 road accidents in which 38 were killed and 148 injured. The highest number of fatal accidents happened during the period from 1 April 2012 to 5 March 2013, killing 86 and wounding 21, it is learnt according to the statistics. Up to this year, 6,104,072 vehicles passed through the expressway.

Kyemon

PYU, 18 March — Among six townships in Toungoo District of Bago Region, Pyu Township is noted for its high crop yield.

During the 2011-12 cultivation season, monsoon paddy was put on 154356 acres and mungbean on 99143 acres and the township had a bumper harvest of paddy and mungbean.

During the harvest time of monsoon paddy in November and December, rice price remained stable and it was likely to be falling price for some time. Starting



from March, rice price is set to rise gradually. A bag of Thukha (2) rice goes from K 11000 in February to K 15000 in March, a bag of

Manawtun goes from K 12000 to K 14000 and a bag of Taungpyan goes from K 22000.

Kyemon

## Young man arrested in possession of stimulant tablets in Hpa-an Township

HPA-AN, 18 March — A young man was arrested in possessing of narcotics near the archway at the entrance to Banyint Nyi Cave in Banyint Nyi village on Myaingkalay-Thaton motorway in Hpa-an Township of Kayin State on 7 March. A combined force led by Head of Myaingkalay police station Police Sub-inspector

Thet Soe Oo seized seven stimulant tablets in the right hand of Khat Zaw Htoo (a) Chaw Pu, 22, of Naungkyan village of the township while conducting a search of him after stopping his motorbike at the archway. Further investigation revealed that Si Ko (a) Ko Ko Aung, 38, bought him the seized narcotics from Saw Bilu

of Bingyi village. So the combined force launched a search of the house of Saw Bilu, but did not find him who was believed to have run away.

Actions are being taken to charge Khat Zaw Htoo (a) Chaw Pu, Si Ko (a) Ko Ko Aung and Saw Bilu with the drug-related offences.

Kyemon

## Union Minister's inspection tour of Thanlyin Youth Training School

YANGON, 18 March — Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin visited Thanlyin Youth Training School on Kyaikkhauk Pagoda road in Thanlyin

Township, here, yesterday morning. After hearing reports presented by the school head, the Union minister cordially greeted the students and spoke words of encouragement.

Thanlyin Youth

Training School under Social Welfare Department is home to children who are in need of protective custody and juvenile offenders. The school is nurturing them to be good and able citizens of the nation. — MNA

## Jail sentence given to motorbike theft suspects in Dala Township

YANGON, 18 March — Dala Township police members arrested three young men, who are believed to have committed motorbike theft, while they are making a regular patrol at night and filed a lawsuit against them. On 8 March, they were found guilty at Dala Township Court and sentenced to two years in prison with hard labour each.

The three young men—Win Tun Oo (a) Ko Ko, 21, Naing Lin Aung (a) Bogalay, 23, Thet Paing Oo (a) Chat Phaung, 27—had been detained for questioning by Police Sub-inspector Myo Sithu and party who were on patrol in

the township at about 1.30 am on 25 July 2012. The three suspects confessed under interrogation that they had stolen a motorbike from a house in Banyar Dala ward of the township and sold it in Hlinethaya Township. They added that they got K 280,000 for the stolen bike and shared the money among them.

According to their confession, the police confiscated the stolen bike and the suspects were under police custody. As they were found guilty at the court, they were sentenced to two years in prison with hard labour for the theft case.

Kyemon

## Pyu rice market posts rising prices

## WORLD

## Conservatives back Rand Paul in early poll

WASHINGTON, 18 March—Conservative activists picked Senator Rand Paul on Saturday as their preferred presidential nominee for 2016, in an early but often unreliable snapshot of the Republican Party's base.

The Kentucky lawmaker, whose father, former US Representative Ron Paul, ran for president three times, topped the annual straw poll taken at the Conservative Political Action Conference.

Paul captured 25 percent of the vote, narrowly beating out Florida Senator Marco Rubio, who earned

23 percent.

Rick Santorum, a presidential candidate in 2012, finished third and New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, who was snubbed by conference organizers, came in fourth.

Participants in the three-day gathering are often younger-than-average Republican voters and their preference for Paul reflected the libertarian bent of that voting bloc. More than half of the 2,930 people who cast ballots were between the ages of 18 and 25. Many attendees sported "Stand with Rand" stickers, intended to show apprecia-

tion for the senator's recent 13-hour speech on the floor of the Senate objecting to President Barack Obama's policies regarding the use of military drones.

There were 23 names on this year's ballot, including two Republican governors who were not invited to attend the gathering - Christie and Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell.

Former Florida Governor Jeb Bush, the son of a president and brother to another, asked that his name be removed from consideration, citing the distance until the 2016 campaign will begin in earnest. He



Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky gestures at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) at National Harbour, Maryland on 14 March, 2013.

REUTERS

spoke at the conference on Friday. Results of presidential election-year straw polls have proven more

accurate indicators of the eventual Republican nominee than polls taken years in advance.—Reuters

## Italian president urges unity as poll pressure grows



Italy's President Giorgio Napolitano gestures during a news conference following talks with German counterpart Joachim Gauck in Berlin on 28 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS

ROME, 18 March—Italian President Giorgio Napolitano appealed to political leaders on Sunday to work together to form a government, but his appeal fell on deaf ears and pressure grew for a new poll after last month's deadlocked election.

The threat of months of political instability following the inconclusive ballot has triggered warnings across Europe that Italy cannot afford to delay urgent reforms to shore up its massive public debt and boost its sickly economy, now stuck in recession for

over a year.

Napolitano is due to begin consultations with political leaders on Wednesday to see if there is any chance of establishing a government after the election which left parliament split between three deeply opposed forces.

Pier Luigi Bersani, leader of the centre-left Democratic Party (PD), won control of the lower house but fell short in the Senate leaving him dependent on the support of his rivals if he is to form a government.

Bersani said he would tell Napolitano he would not try to reach any set deals in advance but would present proposals to parliament based on attacking corruption and creating jobs.—Reuters

## New Israel housing minister pledges more settlement building

JERUSALEM, 18 March—Israel's new housing minister said on Sunday that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's incoming cabinet would keep expanding Jewish settlements to the same extent as his previous government.

The remarks came two days ahead of a visit by US President Barack Obama who has urged Israel to halt settlement on land that Palestinians seek for a state. They suggested that Netanyahu's new cabinet could prove to be as hawkish as his outgoing coalition.

Housing Minister Uri Ariel, a Jewish settler and member of the pro-settler Jewish Home party, said in a television interview that in occupied territory "building will continue in accordance with what the government's policy has been thus far."

Using the biblical

names for the territory Israel captured in a 1967 war, Ariel told Israel's Channel 10 television the government "will build in Judea and Samaria more or less as it has done previously. I see no reason to change it."

Ariel added that Israel planned the bulk of housing construction for more sparsely populated areas within its sovereign borders in the Negev desert to the south and Galilee region in its north.

He said construction in the West Bank was "not the main story" for his housing plans.

Most world powers see settlements as illegal under international law. Some Israelis claim historical and biblical ties to the West Bank and East Jerusalem, home to some 500,000 settlers, and dispute that building in these areas is illegal.—Reuters

A man inspects rubble and trash in Al-Hamidiya neighbourhood in Homs on 16 March, 2013.

REUTERS



AMMAN, 18 March—Syrian rebels on Sunday seized a Syrian military intelligence compound in the southern Hauran Plain near the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, stepping up attacks in the strategic region which stretches to the outskirts of the capital Damascus, rebel

## Colombian rebels optimistic about peace talks with government

HAVANA, 18 March—Colombia's FARC rebels said on Sunday they were "moderately optimistic" about progress achieved so far in their peace talks with the government to end a decades-old conflict in the country.

"We have achieved enough progress. We are moderately optimistic," said Ricardo Tellez, representative of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, the hemisphere's largest guerrilla army known as the FARC.

Tellez also said the rebel group will attend the Third Rural Reserve Zones Meeting to be held on Friday and Saturday in Colombia's southwest

department of Cauca.

"Nobody can impede this. We will be present, whether the government likes it or not. This is not a challenge. It is a simple reality," said Tellez.

The Rural Reserve Zones in Colombia are autonomous regions in waste land, whose ownership papers were transferred to the people who work there.

These areas were established under the Colombian law, but in the last 20 years only six have been actually set up.

The government delegation headed by former Vice President Humberto de la Calle did not make any comments.

Xinhua

## Syria rebels seize security compound near Golan

commanders said.

The frontier, quiet since Israel and Syria agreed on a US-brokered ceasefire in

have been killed since a peaceful protest movement led by Syria's Sunni Muslim majority broke out two years ago against four decades of family rule by President Bashar al-Assad, who belongs to the minority Alawite sect, and his father, the late Hafez al-Assad.

The demonstrations were met by bullets, eventually sparking a Sunni backlash and a mostly Islamist armed insurgency increasingly spearheaded by the al Qaeda linked al-Nusra Front, creating a political dilemma for regional and Western powers and deepening the Shi'ite-Sunni divide in the Middle East.

The compound near the Yarmouk River in the town of Shagara, 8 km (5 miles) from a ceasefire line with Israel, fell after a five-day siege, the sources said.

"We have completely taken over this security

## SADC says Zimbabwe referendum free, peaceful, transparent

HARARE, 18 March—The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Election Observer Team on Sunday endorsed the conduct of the Zimbabwe constitutional referendum, saying that it was conducted in a free, peaceful and transparent manner.

Team leader and Tanzanian Foreign Minister Bernard Membe told a Press conference in Harare that in general "the mission observed that the referendum was conducted in a free, peaceful and transparent manner."

He said over and above the adherence to SADC principles and guidelines on the conduct of elections, the mission noted the provision of adequate logistical support to the process, prompt accreditation of observers, provision of indelible ink and translucent ballot boxes and the preparedness of the police.

Zimbabweans voted on Saturday to decide on a draft constitution, a key political reform paving the way for general elections later this year. The draft is widely considered to pass as the text was agreed upon by the country's major political parties.—Xinhua

compound this morning. It's a command centre for the shabbiha (pro-Assad militia). They retreated after strong blows dealt to them during a five day siege," said Abu Iyas al-Haurani, a member of the Yarmouk Martyrs Brigade. "Anyone who was arrested in the Yarmouk Valley was sent to this military intelligence headquarters to be tortured and it has a strategic importance. With its fall we have completed our liberation of the town of Shagara," he added.

Another rebel commander said the aim of the attacks in western Hauran is to open a new front in the fight against Assad that would stretch troops deployed in Hauran, cradle of the two-year revolt, and to secure a supply route to the western and southern approaches of Damascus, where battles have been fierce.—Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

After Galaxy S4 launch, Apple explains why iPhone 5 is the best



Apple iPhone 5

NEW DELHI, 18 March— After Samsung unveiled its new flagship smartphone, Galaxy S4, Apple released a webpage explaining why the iPhone 5 is better than smartphones from its rivals. The webpage's banner says, "There's iPhone. And then there's everything else."

The Samsung Galaxy S4 may have powerful specs like an octa-core processor, full HD display, Android 4.2 OS, but Apple has its own reasons that why even then the iPhone 5 stands out in

the crowd.

Apple gives certain reasons that what makes an iPhone unlike anything else. Apple says that the two main reasons are that the phone lets you do so many things and it lets you do so many things so easily. But the company has listed many other reasons to prove why its flagship smartphone is above the competition.

- The iPhone has received eight straight JD Power and Associates awards for customer satisfaction.
- It is thin and light, and thus the iPhone feels substantial in your hand.
- Only the iPhone and other Apple products have retina display.
- The iPhone 5 gives you long battery life so you can easily make it through your day. You get up to 8 hours of talk time, up to 8 hours of browsing over cellular networks, and up to 10 hours of video playback, claims Apple, adding the iPhone has a powerful

battery into such a thin and light design.

- Referring to the processor under the hood, Apple says the iPhone 5 has an A6 chip, which is powerful but not powerhungry. It makes quick work of even the most graphics-intensive apps, and high frame rates make gameplay feel smooth and downright real.
- The iPhone has ultrafast wireless and LTE.
- The iSight camera on iPhone is claimed to be the world's most popular camera. The company says that an 8 megapixel on iPhone 5 captures great photo data, and the hardware and software work together to make behind-the-scenes image and color adjustments. So it's easy for anyone to take impressive photos in various lighting conditions.
- The iPhone has access to the iTunes Store and the App Store, which offers more than 800,000 apps—

all reviewed by Apple to guard against malware. Attacking its rivals, the company says that other mobile platforms have a myriad of fragmented store options, resulting in availability issues, developer frustration, and security risks.

- Only the iPhone has Siri, the intelligent assistant, lets you use your voice to send messages, schedule meetings, place calls, set reminders, and more.
- iCloud takes the experience of using iPhone that much further. It stores your content—your music, photos, apps,



Samsung Galaxy S4

mail, contacts, calendars, documents, and more — and wirelessly pushes it to all your devices.

It seems that Apple has bragged about the features of the iPhone 5 on its new webpage. But are you convinced that the iPhone 5 is the best smartphone?

Here is how Apple should respond to the Samsung Galaxy S4

Samsung's newest, feature-packed Galaxy S4 may put pressure on Apple Inc to accelerate its pace of smartphone design and venture into cheaper devices —both departures from usual practice. The latest Galaxy, unwrapped with much fanfare in New York on Thursday, out-does the iPhone in most technical aspects. But the challenges it encapsulates run deeper than just a simple specifications comparison.

"It would be overstatement to say Apple is far behind," Charles Golvin, analyst with Forrester, said,

but it does need to note the quickening pace of competitive devices being released. "If anything, what Apple needs to respond to is the cadence of their own releases, probably a completely new design every two years and a sort of speed bump every year is not an adequate cadence for Apple to remain at the forefront of smartphone innovation today."

Samsung's apparent ability to go toe-to-toe with Apple on cutting-edge smartphones may prompt the US titan to finally make its own assault on the lower-end of the market that it has famously stayed away from —not least to get into untapped markets like China and India. Many analysts now say Apple has to respond in force to Samsung and other rivals that are grabbing attention. Much of Wall Street is now looking ahead to the next iPhone, but expectations are muted.—PTI

Panasonic considers sale of healthcare business

TOKYO, 18 March— Japan's Panasonic Corp is considering selling its healthcare business to raise cash as the consumer electronics maker fights to end losses with flat-panel televisions, two sources familiar with the matter said on Sunday.

The troubled consumer electronics company has been selling assets, including real estate, to strengthen its finances. "As a part of our growth strategy, we are considering a number of options," a Panasonic spokeswoman said. Panasonic was planning to

sell the profitable healthcare business for about 100 billion yen (\$1.05 billion), *Kyodo* reported, quoting industry sources. The electronics company wanted to sell the entire business to one buyer, although it would also consider selling it off in parts, *Kyodo* said.

Panasonic's healthcare business involves electronic medical chart systems and blood-sugar monitoring devices. The company this month sold a central Tokyo building for around 50 billion yen to two Japanese investors, the third such sale in recent months.—Reuters



A man looks at Panasonic TV sets at an electronic shop in Tokyo on 22 Nov, 2012.

REUTERS



Acer plans to launch its first ever phablet in June

NEW DELHI, 18 March— Acer, the Taipei mobile device and computer manufacturer, had decided to launch its first ever phablet device this year. Work is already underway and as Focus Taipei reports, the Acer phablet is to be unveiled during the upcoming Computex Tech fair in Taipei this June. Till now, many devices falling under the phablet category have been launched by manufacturers including brands like Samsung, Huawei, HTC, Sony and even smaller Indian players like Micromax, Spice and Lava. With the addition of a phablet from Acer, users are likely to get a new option while making a buying decision.

However, Acer in India has not been very active in the recent past and not many devices have been announced or made available by it. We will soon get to

know what Acer plans for the Indian market in future. Technical information about the device's hardware have not been revealed by the company so far, but looking at devices that have been

Work is already underway and Focus Taiwan reports, the Acer phablet is to be unveiled during the upcoming Computex Tech fair in Taipei this June.—PTI

launched by Acer in the past, this one is likely to be a competitor for the big league. Other companies don't target their phablets at any one age or other demographic group, while Acer's device will be targeted at female and elderly users. Will this make the device embarrassing for men to carry around? We will have to wait and see.

PTI

Malls must move beyond shopping to survive in Internet era



People walk through a shopping mall in the western Austrian city of Innsbruck on 20 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

CANNES, 18 March— As growing numbers of shoppers move online, European mall owners are looking to pull in customers by including services that can't be replicated on the Web like hospital care and government offices.

Malls must become more like full-service community centres to survive in the face of a growing list of failed retailers like HMV and Blockbuster, property experts at the annual MIPIM trade fair in Cannes, France, told Reuters.

On the flip side of that retail revolution, the experts see big gains in warehousing as more goods are sent and returned via post.

"The days of the stand-alone mall are numbered," said David Roberts, the chief executive of architect Aedas, one of the five largest practices in the world. The company has been involved in city masterplan projects in Asia, Europe and the Middle East.

"In 20 years time you will find stores that sell books and DVDs replaced by sites that give people a reason to go the mall ... art galleries, education centres and health and spa treatments."

Florencio Beccar, fund manager of CBRE

Global Investors European shopping centre fund, cited the recent purchase of a mall in Germany, saying the fact it included a large medical centre was "a big plus".

"I once saw a clinic in a Brazilian mall where you checked in and are buzzed on a device when they are ready. In the meantime you go shopping," he said. "With the ageing population in Europe you can see that happening more and more."

CBRE Investors, which has about 14 billion euros (\$18.2 billion) of retail property under management in Europe and 5,000 tenants, also owns a mall in southern Sweden with a library and a local municipal office, he said.—Reuters

## BUSINESS &amp; HEALTH

## Cyprus' savers bear brunt of unprecedented bailout

BRUSSELS, 18 March—The euro zone agreed on Saturday to hand Cyprus a bailout worth 10 billion euros (\$13 billion), but demanded depositors in its banks forfeit some money to stave off bankruptcy despite the risk of a wider run on savings.

The eastern Mediterranean island becomes the fifth country after Greece, Ireland, Portugal and Spain to turn to

and anger across the country—eurozone finance ministers forced Cyprus' savers to pay up to 10 percent of their deposits to raise almost 6 billion euros.

Parliament was due to meet on Sunday to vote on the measure, and approval was far from assured. The decision prompted a run on cashpoints, most of which were depleted by mid afternoon, and co-

Russians, but most queuing on Saturday at automatic teller machines appeared to be Cypriots.

President Nicos Anastasiades, elected three weeks ago with a pledge to negotiate a swift bailout, said refusal to agree to terms would have led to the collapse of the two largest banks.

“On Tuesday We would either choose the catastrophic scenario of disorderly bankruptcy or the scenario of a painful but controlled management of the crisis,” Anastasiades said in written statement. In several statements since his election, he had previously categorically ruled out a deposit haircut. “My initial reaction is one of shock,” said Nicholas Papadopoulos, head of parliament's financial affairs committee. “This decision is much worse than what we expected and contrary to what the government was assuring us, right up until last night,” he told Reuters, without saying whether he would back the measure or

whether he thought it would pass.

Papadopoulos is vice-chairman of the Democratic Party, a partner in Cyprus's centre-right ruling coalition and whose support in parliament will be crucial to pass any haircut. Parliament was expected to convene from 1600 local (1400 GMT) on Sunday to discuss the emergency legislation. Without parliamentary approval, a haircut cannot take place.

Reuters



Richard Fisher, president and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, speaks during a conference before the Committee for the Republic Salon at the National Press Club in Washington on 16 Jan, 2013.

REUTERS

## Too-big-to-fail banks are “crony” capitalists

WASHINGTON, 18 March—The largest US banks are “practitioners of crony capitalism,” need to be broken up to ensure they are no longer considered too big to fail, and continue to threaten financial stability, a top Federal Reserve official said on Saturday.

Richard Fisher, President of the Dallas Fed,

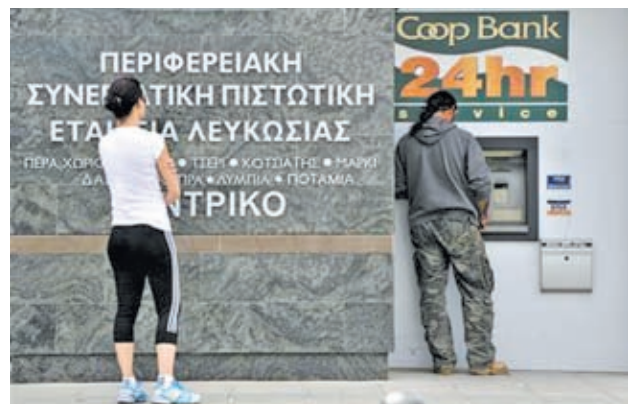
has been a critic of Wall Street's disproportionate influence since the financial crisis.

But he was now taking his message to an unusual audience for a central banker: a high-profile Republican political action committee.

Fisher said the existence of banks that are seen as likely to receive government

bailouts if they fail gives them an unfair advantage, hurting economic competitiveness. “These institutions operate under a privileged status that exacts an unfair tax upon the American people,” he said on the last day of the annual Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC).

Reuters



People gather at an automatic teller machine in Nicosia on 16 March, 2013.—REUTERS

the euro zone for financial help during the region's debt crisis. In a radical departure from previous aid packages—and one that gave rise to incredulity

operative credit societies closed to prevent angry savers withdrawing deposits. Almost half Cyprus's bank depositors are believed to be non-resident

## Cohen's SAC to pay \$616 million in SEC insider trade settlement

STAMFORD, (Connecticut) 18 March—Hedge fund titan Steven A Cohen's firm is paying \$615.7 million to settle charges that it improperly traded in two stocks, in what is the largest-ever, insider trading settlement, US securities regulators said on Friday.

SAC Capital Advisors has long been the focus of a federal insider trading probe, and the settlement removes a major distraction that had prompted some investors to pull their money out of the \$15 billion hedge fund. But it does not end the scrutiny as the US Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation are still investigating SAC's trading of other stocks.

The accord “does not preclude the future filing of additional charges against any person, including Steve Cohen, who is not named as a defendant in these cases,” George Canellos, acting director of the SEC enforcement division, said on a conference call.

Cohen is one of the most successful and best known managers in the \$2.25 trillion hedge fund industry, generating an average annual return of 25 percent over the life of his 20-year-old firm.

The settlements involves two subsidiaries of SAC: CR Intrinsic agreed



An exterior view of the headquarters of SAC Capital Advisors, LP in Stamford, Connecticut, in this picture taken on 13 Dec, 2010.—REUTERS

to pay about \$601.7 million to settle allegations that one of its former employees participated in an insider trading scheme involving

shares of Elan Corp and Wyeth Inc, now a part of Pfizer Inc. And Sigma Capital agreed to pay about \$13.9 million to settle charges

the firm engaged in insider trading in shares of Dell Inc and Nvidia Corp.

The combined payout is nearly four times the biggest previous sanction in an SEC insider trading case, which was the \$156 million that Galleon Group founder Raj Rajaratnam was ordered to pay. That case culminated with Rajaratnam's criminal conviction in May 2011.

In agreeing to settle, neither SAC Capital nor its subsidiaries admitted or denied wrongdoing. SAC Capital's management company and not outside investors will pay the fines, said a person familiar with the hedge fund.

Reuters

## Chinese state-owned railway giant goes into business

BEIJING, 18 March—The China Railway Corporation, which will take over the commercial functions of the former Ministry of Railways (MOR), went into business on Sunday. The company announced its arrival via Sina Weibo, the Chinese equivalent of Twitter, two days after receiving approval from the State Council, China's cabinet. The company will conduct business operations that were previously conducted by the now-defunct MOR, while the

newly formed State Railways Administration will handle the MOR's administrative responsibilities. With registered capital of 1.04 trillion yuan (165.73 billion US dollars), the China Railway Corporation will take over all of the MOR's related assets, liabilities and personnel, as well as shoulder the responsibility of running trains for public welfare, according to a statement posted on the government website.

The wholly state-owned

enterprise is administered by the central government and supervised by the Ministry of Transport, the statement said. The move was made as part of the government's efforts to restructure its cabinet, as well as eliminate a previous situation in which the MOR played roles as both market participant and regulator in the railway sector. The company is expected to address the MOR's high remaining debt and improve the country's massive railway network.

Xinhua



## Petrol price cut by Rs 2 per litre effective midnight tonight

NEW DELHI, 18 March—With international gasoline (petrol) prices softening by more than \$3 a barrel in the last fortnight, state-owned oil marketing firms (OMCs) cut the price of petrol by Rs. 2 per litre, effective midnight, the steepest reduction reduction in rates in nine months.

The cut in petrol price comes after two rounds of hikes since February. As per Petroleum Ministry data, the Singapore benchmark FOB (freight on board) price of petrol fell to \$120.43 a barrel on 13 March from \$123.54 a barrel on 1 March.

After the revision, the fuel will cost Rs 68.34 per litre in Delhi, Rs 75.14 per litre in Mumbai, Rs 71.41 per litre in Chennai, Rs 75.84 per litre in Kolkata, Rs 74.59 per litre in Hyderabad and Rs 75.26 per litre in Bangalore, according to an Indian Oil Press release. In the National Capital Region, the rates are as follows: Faridabad — Rs 69.60 per litre, Gurgaon - Rs

69.40, Noida - Rs 73.69 and Ghaziabad - Rs 73.58.

The oil firms also took into account the rupee-dollar parity before deciding on the price cut for petrol. The Indian currency has gained marginally at Rs 54.44 on 14 March from Rs 54.48 on 1 March against the US dollar, according to data from the Reserve Bank of India. Oil marketing companies have lost Rs 1,130 crore on sale of petrol so far during the current financial year, the release said. In addition to losses on the sale of petrol, oil retailers are suffering an under-recovery of Rs 8.64 on sale of diesel, Rs 33.43/litre on the sale of kerosene and Rs 439 per cylinder on the sale of liquefied petroleum gas.

Total under-recoveries for the three companies—Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum—is expected to be around Rs 1,63,000 crore during current year.

PTI

## WORLD

## Hostage drama in Greek prison ends with convicts' surrender

ATHENS, 18 March—A hostage drama which had started on Saturday night in a prison complex in central Greece ended on Sunday evening without injuries, Greek police announced.

Notorious Albanian convict Alket Rizaj and his two fellow inmates surrendered after having kept five persons, including guards and other inmates, as hos-

tages for almost 24 hours.

They started the hostage drama after a failed attempt to escape the Malandrino prison. The criminals requested a car and cash to escape, threatening to use a makeshift explosive device otherwise.

Rizaj has been serving life imprisonment for murder since 2003 and escaped from another maximum

security prison twice with helicopters in the past, in 2006 and 2009.

Another notorious Greek convict attempted to escape a southern Greece prison complex by helicopter in February this year, but was stopped by prison guards who fired and slightly injured him and his accomplices.

Xinhua

## Iran, UK negotiate to resume bilateral consular ties

TEHRAN, 18 March—Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Consular, Parliamentary and Expatriates' Affairs Hassan Qashqavi said here on Sunday that Teheran and London are negotiating to resume bilateral consular ties, semi-official *Fars news agency* reported. "We are interacting and talking with Britain to resume consular activities," Qashqavi told *Fars*.

In November 2011, thousands of angry Iranian

demonstrators broke into two British embassy compounds following Iran's decision to downgrade its diplomatic ties with Britain in response to its imposed financial sanctions against Teheran. Following the incursion into its embassy in Teheran, Britain withdrew its diplomats from Iran, shut down its embassy in Teheran, ordered the immediate closure of the Iranian embassy in London and demanded that all its staff

leave Britain.

In June 2012, Press TV reported that Iran and Britain had agreed to open interests sections after the two countries shut down their respective embassies.

Oman would be in charge of the Iranian interests section in London while Sweden would represent the British interests in Teheran, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali-Akbar Salehi was quoted by Press TV as saying.—Xinhua



People enjoy early spring scenery in rain at Zhuozheng Garden (Humble Administrator's Garden) in Suzhou, east China's Jiangsu Province, on 17 March, 2013.—XINHUA

## 18 officials punished over SW China coal mine accidents

GUIYANG, 18 March—A total of 18 local government officials in Liupanshui City, southwest China's Guizhou Province, have been punished over three coal mine accidents that left many casualties in recent five months, local authorities announced on Sunday.

Cai Jun, Director of the city's work safety department, Wang Erbin, head

of Shuicheng County, and Deng Zhihong, head of Panxian County were given administrative disciplinary sanctions, according to a statement issued by the Liupanshui Municipal government.

The deputy heads of Shuicheng County and Panxian County respectively, the directors of the two counties' work safety

supervision bureaus and a township head from Shuicheng County were removed from their official posts, it said.

Another two township government officials from Panxian County were dismissed from their posts within the Communist Party of China, according to the statement.

Besides, eight other



Staff put the finishing touches on the giant effigy of St Patrick a saint from Ireland who according to legend drove snakes away from Ireland.

XINHUA

## Russia to send permanent navy fleet to Mediterranean

MOSCOW, 18 March—The Russian Navy would station a permanent task force in the Mediterranean Sea, Admiral Viktor Chirkov said here on Sunday.

"Up to five or six warships must be present in the Mediterranean Sea on a permanent basis," Chirkov said in an interview with a TV station run by the Defence Ministry, adding the squadron would be made up of frigates, cruisers and support vessels.

The task force would be under the command of Russia's Black Sea Fleet, he said.

Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said earlier Monday the navy possessed the capabilities to form a workable squadron in the region. However, he did not give a timetable for the deployment, which would need to ensure logistics and maintenance of warships in the Mediterranean.

Xinhua

## Somalia Al Shabaab retakes southern town

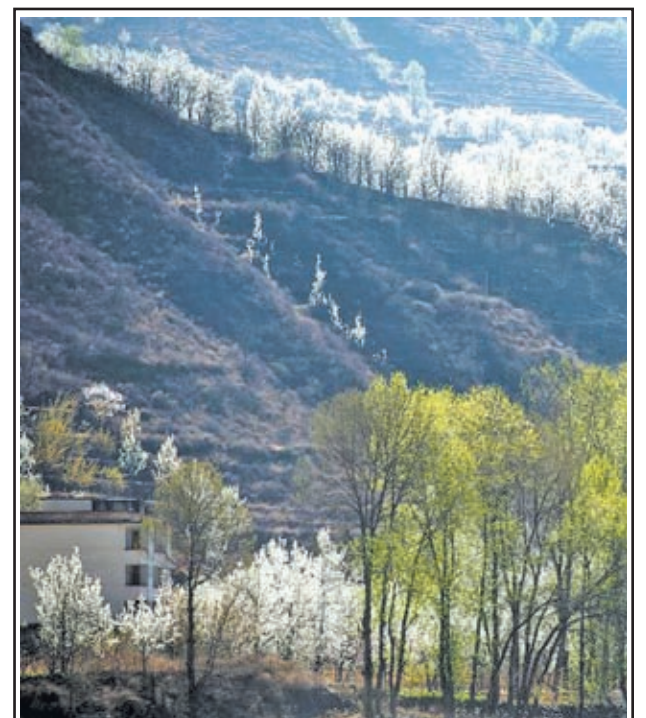
MOGADISHU, 18 March—Somalia's militant group Al Shabaab retook the southern Somali town of Hudur following the withdrawal of allied Ethiopian and Somali government troops based in the area, residents said.

Reports from the region indicate that the fighters arrived in Hudur just hours after the Ethiopian and Somali government troops left and no fighting took place over control of the key town.

Hudur, provincial capital of Bakool region has been under the control of Ethiopian and Somali government forces for the past two years after Ethiopian troops crossed the border into Somalia to chase the rebel fighters from the city.

"Hudur is in the hands of Al Shabaab fighters. The government troops and the Ethiopian left last night (Saturday) and Al Shabaab came early in the morning," a resident in Hudur, who asked not to be named, told *Xinhua*.

Reports from Bakool say that Somali government troops and Ethiopian forces were regrouping on the outskirts of Hudur and that the town remains tensely calm. Residents have begun fleeing for fear of battle between the two sides.—Xinhua



White pear flowers decorate a mountain in Sha'er Township of Jinchuan County, southwest China's Sichuan Province, on 17 March, 2013. The pear flower scenery here attracted a good many tourists.

XINHUA

## Leading Chinese contemporary artist enjoys ground-breaking exhibition at museum in Britain

LONDON, 18 March—A leading Chinese artist has been heralded as "hugely important for contemporary Chinese art," in the wake of a new exhibition of his work at one of Britain's major museums.

Xu Bing, aged 58, is the

vice president of the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing, and is one of China's most acclaimed living artists. In "Landscape/Landscape" at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, several new pieces by Xu Bing are displayed, in the first exhibi-

tion anywhere of his landscape works, which includes works from throughout his career.

Xu Bing addresses the Chinese language through its pictorial qualities and its relationship with the tradition of Chinese landscape paint-

ing. He uses Chinese characters to compose mountains, trees, clouds, and rivers. *Xinhua* spoke to Shelagh Vainker, curator of Chinese art at the Ashmolean Museum, which houses one of Europe's leading collections of Chinese art.—Xinhua

## LOCAL NEWS

**Vehicle with illegal goods seized in Waw**

WAW, 18 March—As express buses and Hilux buses running along Myawady-Yangon route carry only commodities, the passengers face difficulties in travelling.

On 11 March, the officials of the mobile team-2 searched the Hilux driven by Than Aung leaving Hpa-an for Yangon at the strategic road junction of Nyaungkhashe-DaikU and seized illegal goods.

After that, action was taken against the driver under the law.

The Hilux was rebuilt with double body to be able to carry overloads of illegal goods without permission of the Directorate of Road Administration.

*Myanma Alinn*

**Fresh water fish exported to Bangladesh through border trade**

SITWAY, 18 March—Rakhine State Minister for Planning and Economic U Mya Aung, Deputy Director U Yan Naing Myint of Border Trade Department and Assistant General Manager U Soe Paing of Myanma Agricultural Produce Trading inspected arrival of fresh water fish by Annawa

Soe Vessel that docked at jetty in Sittway on 12 March.

The vessel carried 84 tons of fresh water fish from Ayeyawady Region worth US\$ 85215 to be exported to Bangladesh through border trade.

These fish were owned by Shwe Yi Min Company. In-charge of the company

in Rakhine State U Tin Maung Nyunt said that the company has exported fresh fish worth US\$ 3.8 million to Bangladesh in 2012-2013.

About 500 acres of fish breeding ponds of the company are located in Yangon Region.

*Myanma Alinn*

**Train derails between Mawlu, Nantsiaung stations**

INDAW, 18 March—The train derailment occurred between Mawlu and Nantsiaung stations in Indaw Township of Sagaing Region at 11.30 pm on 11 March.

No 37-up train driven by U Kyaw Win Aung and guard U Hla Soe derailed at mile post 609-7,9, but there was no injured.

Workers of Myanmar Railways and Tatmadawmen led by the commanding officer

**Ambulance service for patients**

MAWLAMYINE, 18 March—Asin funeral service association provides ambulance to patients from people of Asin, Zeebyuthaung, Daminseik and Seikgale village of Ye Township as of 4 March.

The patients permitted medical officers may seek help from the association, Tel: 09-8703343 and 09-49803409.—*Myanma Alinn*

participated in repairing the rail track.

No 33-up sleeper train and No 55-up train are stopped at Mawlu Station, 39-up train, 57-up and 41-up trains at Naba station on 12 March morning.

*Myanma Alinn*

**Workshop on agriculture concludes**

YANGON, 18 March—The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry organized the workshop on agriculture, seeds laws, fruits and flowers and vegetable production and import, fertilizers and

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

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

**Mandalay Region sees extended breeding of oxen, milch cows**

MANDALAY, 18 March—Mandalay Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Myint Than accompanied by Vice-President of Myanmar Livestock Breeding Federation Chairman of Mandalay

Region Federation U Win Myint and Chairman of Mandalay Region Fisheries Federation U Myat Htut visited the cow breeding farm of Thalun Breeding Co in Kangyi Village of Patheingyi Township on 9 March.

Vice-Chairman of the company Dr Aung Khaing Than reported on breeding of cows for meat production and future plans.

After visiting the farm, the region minister gave necessary instructions.

Thalun Breeding Farm

**Objectives of the 68<sup>th</sup> 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

**No casualty in food poison in Ponnagon Village of Patheingyi Tsp**

MANDALAY, 18 March—An outbreak of food poison occurred in Ponnagon Village of Yankintaung Village-tract in Patheingyi Township of Mandalay Region at 8.15 am on 9 March.

Under the supervision of Patheingyi Township Administrator U Kyaw Soe, Township Health Officer Dr Daw Khin Myo Naing, Health Assistant Daw Win Win Htet and staff rushed to the scene and performed medical checkups at the villagers.

Members of social



organizations rushed the patients from various villages to Ponnagon Dhammayon to be able to receive medical treatments in time.

At the recent donation ceremony, over 150 local people had meals served from the wellwishers and then suffered from food poisons. Officials concerned transported them to Patheingyi People's Hospital. Of them, about 90 patients really suffered from food poison and the remaining 70 people

were ailing in fever. No one was referred to Mandalay General Hospital because the patients were not in critical health condition. Fourteen patients of 20 were discharged from Patheingyi Hospital, and the remaining six are under treatment. Officials of Food and Drug Administration are conducting inspection at meals of the donation so as to find out root cause of food poisons, said the township medical officer.

*Myanma Alinn*

**International Women's Day observed through on-line**

YANGON, 18 March—The International Women's Day which falls on 8 March was jointly observed by UNDP and UNFPA through on-line social media network on 5 and 6 March.

has 247 oxen, two bulls, one cow and nine milch cows.

They also visited ShweOh milch cow breeding farm of U Tin Win in Kalamataung Village, east of Mandalay-Madaya-Mogok Road.

It was reported that a plan is underway to extend breeding of cows and milch cows in Natogyi Township of Mandalay Region.

*Myanma Alinn*

Hluttaw representative Dr Nyo Nyo Thin, National Programme Officer Gender of UNFPA Daw Khin Zar Naing, Gender Specialists of UNDP Daw Sanda Thant and Regional Advisor on GBV of UNFPA Ms Devana Bruncella De La Puente Forte replied to queries through on-line web page "Myanmar Women's Forum".

This year, questions regarding prevention of violence against women were frankly replied through on-line with the aim of disseminating knowledge about violence against women.

*Myanma Alinn*

# PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 19 March, 2013

## Privatization

Myanmar in her democratic transition is changing herself in form and essence, while exploring every area in search of ways and means that may serve the people best and most effective. She is transforming the whole economic structure, in which the government sector was the bulk in the past.

But now everything has changed, and the private sector is on its way towards taking the lion's share of the economy as per the democratic system and market system we are embracing. As the country is reducing her State-owned sector and boosting the private businesses, it has introduced privatization in certain parts of the government-run businesses.

Normally with the factional or complete sale of state-owned businesses to the private sector, the private sector participation of the national economy grows. This encourages competition in the relevant business areas. And with increased competition, a greater number of job opportunities are generated, superior efficiencies are achieved and the general public also benefits from competitive pricing and improved services.

But privatization also has a darker side to be taken into consideration. Privatization puts greater commercial pressures on staff, as the private sector shareholders and stock markets can be even more demanding on growth and financial returns. The risk of being made redundant in a privatized entity also looms higher than in a State-owned company. It is also important to consider the appropriate measures to address these concerns and ensure that public servants are sufficiently prepared to make the transition through skills training and capacity building.

The encouraging trend is that by transferring ownership to the private sector, future responsibilities and risk associated in operating the privatized companies are effectively assumed by the private sector.

In general, governments undertake privatization programmes as a means of monetizing assets to fund public expenditures and to prevent loss-making State-owned companies from further draining the public exchequer.

## Donors provide selected hockey players with sports gear

YANGON, 18 March—A ceremony to provide sports gear for selected men's and women's Hockey players who will compete in XXVII SEA Games to be held in Myanmar was held at the meeting hall of Theinbyu Artificial Turf Hockey Pitch yesterday.

The ceremony was attended by the President of Myanmar Hockey Federation (MHF)

Member of Yangon City Development Committee U Htin Zaw Win and executives, and donor U Ko Ko Latt, Chairman of Gulf Group of Companies.

The donor explained the purpose of donation and presented sports equipment to the hockey players. The MHF President spoke words of thanks and presented certificates of honour to the donor.—NLM

## ARTICLE

# The great grand Religious Title-Presentation Ceremony of 2013 dedicating to the noblest task for purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of the Buddha Sasana

In order to carefully preserve the noblest task for purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of the Buddha Sasana (teachings of the Omniscient Buddha) at home and abroad, the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar always attaches great importance to the implementation of this noblest task.

In this regard, we all Buddhists throughout the country are very pleased and greatly honored to learn that the President Office of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar issued the Notification No. 1/2013 regarding presenting religious titles on the 65<sup>th</sup> Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar which falls on the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2013.

According to the Notification No. 1/2013 of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the respective religious titles were presented as follows to internal and international outstanding Buddhist monks, Buddhist nuns and laypersons who earnestly carried out the noblest task for promotion, purification, perpetuation and propagation of Buddha Sasana at home and abroad—

**Religious titles for distinctively fulfilling two Dhuras (duties), Gantha Dhura (duty of learning and teaching of the Pitaka Scriptures) and Vipassana Dhura (duty of engaging in meditation)**

(a) Abhidhaja maharathaguru title to four eminent Mahatheras

(Chief monks)

(b) Aggamahapandita title to fifteen eminent Mahatheras including four Mahatheras from abroad, one from Sri Lanka, one from Nepal, one from Thailand and one from the United States of America

(c) Mahadhama-kahitika Bahujanahitadhara title to one eminent monk

(d) Dhama-kahitika Bahujanahitadhara title to three eminent monks

(e) Aggamahaganthavacakapandita title to thirteen eminent monks and two eminent nuns

(f) Mahaganthavacakapandita title to ten eminent monks and one eminent nun

(g) Ganthavacakapandita title to sixteen eminent monks and three eminent nuns including one eminent nun from abroad, Nepal

**Religious titles for excellent missionary works on Buddhism**

Both internal and international outstanding Buddhist monks, nuns and laypersons who distinctively carried out this noblest task of the excellent missionary works on Buddhism at home and abroad were presented these religious titles as follows.

(a) Abhidhaja aggamahasaddhammajotika title to five eminent Mahatheras (Chief monks)

(b) Aggamahasaddhammajotika title to sixteen eminent monks including five eminent monks from

abroad, one from Japan, one from the People's Republic of China, one from Lao PDR, one from Indonesia and one from the United States of America

(c) Mahasaddhammajotikadhaja title to fifteen eminent monks and one Layperson including six eminent monks from abroad, one from Cambodia, one from Singapore, one from the People's Republic of China, one from Bangladesh, one from India and one from England

(d) Saddhammajotikadhaja title to twenty-eight eminent monks, two eminent nuns and four laypersons including three eminent monks from abroad, one from the Republic of Korea, one from Nepal and one from the People's Republic of China and including one layperson from abroad, the People's Republic of China

(e) Aggamahakammathanacariya title to six eminent monks including one eminent monk from abroad, France

(f) Mahakammathanacariya title to five eminent monks including one eminent monk from abroad, Singapore

(g) Kammathanacariya title to six eminent monks including two eminent monks from abroad, one from Thailand and one from Italy

**Religious titles for excellent missionary works on Buddhism (only for laypersons)**

The outstanding laypersons who generously donated and provided the four requisites for this noblest tasks of excellent works on Buddhism at home and abroad were presented the respective religious titles as follows. It is learnt that these religious titles have been presented

since 1991.

**For male**

(a) Aggamahasirisuddhammanijotadhara title to one layperson from abroad, Indonesia,

(b) Sihanuddhammanijotadhara title to five

laypersons

(c) Suddhammanijotadhara title to eleven laypersons

**For female**

(a) Aggamahasirisuddhamma Theingi title to three laypersons

(b) Sihanuddhamma Theingi title to eight laypersons

(c) Suddhamma Theingi title to sixteen laypersons

**The great grand Religious Title-Presentation Ceremony of 2013**

The great grand religious Title-Presentation Ceremony of 2013 for presenting those religious titles to the above-mentioned title recipients will be held in the precinct of the Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw, the capital of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2013 (Full Moon of Tabaung 1374 ME). It is learnt that State (Patron) Ovadaçariya Mahatheras (Chief monks), members of the State Sanghamahanayaka Com-mittee, members of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders and all title recipients have already been invited to attend this very auspicious ceremony.

It is further learnt that the auspicious ceremony for offering of provisions and various articles to title-recipient members of the Sangha including invited members of the Sangha and title recipient elder nuns, will be held on a large scale in the precinct of the Uppatasanti Pagoda in the late afternoon on that day.

All Buddhists, donors and well-wishers are cordially invited to attend this very auspicious ceremony for paying profound respect to the members of the Sangha and sharing merits of good deeds.



President of MHF U Htin Zaw Win presents certificate to U Ko Ko Latt of Gulf Group of Companies for his sports gear donation.—NLM



NATIONAL



President U Thein Sein holds...

(from page 16)  
US\$ 100 million in 2015, thereby contributing towards better socio-economic status of Myanmar people, she added.

The Australian PM vowed to provide school furniture to 620000 primary schools and gave chance of school enrolment to 34000 children and training to 9500 teachers.

She announced, as part of the important program of Australia, the Myanmar-Australia cooperation program on reform process.

She said a \$20 million commitment would strengthen democratic

President U Thein Sein shakes hands with Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia Ms. Julia Gillard.—MNA

institutions, deliver human rights training, improve economic governance and promote the rule of law.

She also revealed that Australia agreed with the Defence Minister on ease of restrictions as regards defence cooperation. Australian would post the military attaché in Myanmar and enhance defence engagements, she said, reiterating that restrictions regarding defence cooperation would be eased.

She also said restrictions would be relaxed on defense interactions in areas including humanitarian and disaster relief as well as peacekeeping and she called it 'a vital first step'.

President U Thein Sein said Australia and Myanmar were partners since yore.

The President said Myanmar would take

Australia as an example in the march towards a peaceful, democratic and prosperous country. He said Australia would assist Myanmar's democratic transition. He also said Myanmar and Australia had turned a new chapter in partnership.

He also said the Australian government had concerned over Myanmar's human rights issues, calling for assistance in the democratic transition. He called the transition of Myanmar as 'three-dimensional transition' that the world had never witnessed before.

He said the government is masterminding transitions from military rule to democracy, from years-long internal conflicts to peace and from centralized economy to market economy for poverty alleviation.

Regeneration and urbanization activities are taking shape in Yangon,

which was once the most beautiful city in Asia, he added.

He expressed thanks for Australia's aids to Yangon Heritage Trust, saying scenic Canberra and Sydney would become good examples.

He called for Australia's assistance for mining trainings as the industry would be driven appropriately in the future. He thanked the Australian government for direct assistance in healthcare, education and vocational education.

He said Australia would help Myanmar normalize international relations. He called on Australian support for not imposing UN resolution against Myanmar in UN General Assembling in 2013.

The two leaders then answered queries raised by journalists.

MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw passes President's recommendations for 2013-Minimum Wage Bill

NAY PYI TAW, 18 March—Pyidaungsu Hluttaw accepted the President's recommendations for the 2013-Minimum Wage Bill after the issue was put to the vote today.

During today's meeting of the six-regular session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, eight MPs today proposed amendments to the controversial Foreign Investment Rules between the two Hluttaws and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw accepted the amendments.

Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Shein put forward

a proposal to discuss the Union Budget Bill-2013 at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and five MPs discussed the policy and fundamental principles of the bill today.

In his discussion, U Aye Mauk of Mahlaing constituency stressed the need for scrutinizing the projects by the joint-financial committee comprising members of the parliament, for formation of district/township level subordinate groups under the committee and transparency for the development infrastructures.

U Maung Toe of Minhla



Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Shein submits proposal.

MNA

constituency suggested that directives and instructions for collecting taxes from the people should be in conformity with the constitution and



U Aye Mauk of Mahlaing Constituency takes part in discussion.

MNA

for reviewing the collecting lacquer tax in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, system and rate of mineral tax by the Ministry of Mines and for reviewing the stamp duty.



U Maung Toe of Minhla Constituency participates in discussion.

MNA

U Sai Maung Tin of Laikha constituency called for reducing the expenditure for the defence sector and for spending more on the development projects of the country.

During today's



U Sai Maung Tin of Laikha Constituency takes part in discussion.

MNA

session, U Sai Tun Sein, member of the commission for scrutinizing land confiscation, presented the section-2 of the commission's report to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

MNA

MoU on granting scholarships signed

YANGON, 18 March—An MoU on cooperation in granting scholarships between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Bayer Thai Co was signed at the UMFCCI's Office yesterday morning.

It was attended by UMFCCI Vice-President U Aung Lwin, general secretary Dr Myo Thet, CEC members, Bayer Thai Co Managing Director Ms. Celina Chew, Director of BTC Mr. Thorsten Schwindt and General Manager Mr.

Hla Kyi (BTC Myanmar Branch), Dr Myint Lwin of the Central Agricultural Research and Training Center (Hlegu) and Rector of Technological University Dr Mya Mya Oo.

UMFCCI Vice-President U Aung Lwin and Bayer Thai Co Managing Director Ms. Celina Chew made opening speeches on the occasion.

Next, the MoU on giving scholarships to three Myanmar students was signed and the documents exchanged.

NLM

Tiger Myanmar Amateur Golf Open on 19-22 March

YANGON, 18 March—Myanmar Golf Federation and Tiger Golf, the title sponsor of the event, held a press conference on Tiger Myanmar Amateur Open Golf Championship 2013 at Yangon Golf Club in Insein Township this afternoon.

MGF Vice-President U Aung Kyi made a speech and amateur golfers from Thailand, Singapore, the Philippines and Myanmar shared their experience of

the previous games.

U Aung Kyi and U Chan Han answered questions raised by journalists.

The event on 19-22 March will be sponsored by Srixon, Imperial Jade Purified Drinking Water, 100 Plus (Isotonic Drink), Yangon Golf Club, and Elite Express.

A total of 127 golfers are expected to participate in the event at Danyingon Golf Club.—NLM

Pre-SEA Games equestrian event continues

NAY PYI TAW, 18 March—Chairman of Myanmar National Sports Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan enjoyed the second day of the pre-SEA Games equestrian event at Wunnatheikdhi horse race course, here, this morning.

Adhita Indra Wardhani from Indonesia stood first, Pakjira Thongpakdi from Thailand, second,

and Nagone Kamolsiri from Thailand, third, in the Dressage Individual Competition.

Clare Khoo from Singapore won first prize, Nagone Kamolsiri from Thailand, second, and Sgt. Mana Sorn Katoak, third, in the Show Jumping Individual Competition.

The Union minister awarded the winners.

MNA



Photo taken on 17 March, 2013 shows the statue of the Four-Armed Avalokitesvara at the Guanyin Temple in Jinchuan County, Aba Tibetan Autonomous Region, southwest China's Sichuan Province. The temple was first built in the seventh century and hosts the shrine to the Four-Armed Avalokitesvara bodhisattva.

XINHUA

## New Chinese foreign minister vows to work for harmonious world

BEIJING, 18 March— Newly appointed Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Sunday that China will assume its due responsibility and make unremitting efforts to build a harmonious world of sustained peace and common prosperity.

In a message posted at the official web site of the Foreign Ministry, the new Foreign Minister said China will continue to pursue the mutually beneficial strategy of opening up to the outside world and advance friendly cooperation with all other countries on the basis of the five principles of peaceful co-existence.

Speaking about China's foreign relations, he said China will firmly safeguard sovereignty, security and development interests of the nation while holding up high the banner of peace, development, cooperation and mutual benefit.

"China is ready to become a good friend and partner of all other countries in the world," Wang said in the message.

He also encouraged people to frequent the Foreign Ministry's web site as a way to know about a growing China of bright future.

"China is an important member of the international community," Wang said.

Xinhua

## Two US high school students found guilty in rape case

WASHINGTON, 18 March — Two high school football players accused of raping a 16-year-old girl last summer were found guilty by a judge in the US state of Ohio on Sunday.

Judge Thomas Lipps read out his ruling against Trent Mays, 17, and Ma'lik Richmond, 16, after reviewing evidence presented over four days of testimony, according to local media reports.

The teens, both students and football players of Steubenville high school in Ohio, were tried as juve-

niles.

The victim was not present when the ruling was read.

Mays was sentenced to a minimum of two years in a juvenile correctional facility, while Richmond was given a sentence of a minimum of one year, but like Mays he could be placed in detention until he is 21.

Mays was also found guilty of disseminating nude images of a minor.

The ruling brings an end to a trial that has gained national attention for lurid text messages, cell phone

pictures and videos, and social media posts surrounding the sexual abuse of the victim girl.

Mays and Richmond were accused of raping the allegedly drunk girl during heavy partying in August 2012.

Before making the announcement, the judge said many of the documents and text messages he learned during the trial were "profane" and "ugly" and the case showed alcohol "as a particular danger to our teenage youth," ABC reported.—Xinhua

## Netanyahu faces major challenges with Israeli new cabinet

JERUSALEM, 18 March— With the 22 January election results, it appeared that Benjamin Netanyahu is one of the strongest prime ministers in Israeli history, second only to the legendary David Ben Gurion, founder of the Israeli state, after heading to be appointed as Prime Minister for the third time. Netanyahu's election for the prime minister's role for the third time corresponds only to Ben Gurion's three-terms in power. Yet it seems that Netanyahu is much weaker than previously envisioned.

Netanyahu's party, Likud-Beytenu, won 31 seats out of 120 seats and it soon became apparent that Netanyahu would be the only politician able to form a coalition. However, the results of the elections were a double-edged sword for the leader who *Time Magazine* termed "King Bibi" earlier this year. The true winners of the elections, it seems, were not Netanyahu and his runner-up Avigdor Lieberman, both expecting at first to receive more than 40 seats in the Knesset (parliament) combined.

It seems that political newcomer Yair Lapid, a former journalist, together with the new prominent leader of the Jewish Home party, Naftali Bennet, were in fact the actual winners of the elections and have had a lot to do with shaping the new government that will be inaugurated on Monday.—Xinhua

## Understanding China key to Australia's economic future

SYDNEY, 18 March— Australia's resource heavy economy is seeking to shift gears as its key source of FDI (foreign direct investment), China, begins to reassess its capital outflow, according to a series of major reports that reflect the critical role China is playing in the global restructuring of FDI. According to an HSBC survey released on Monday, Australia's stability and favourable business conditions attract Chinese investment, however a growing school of thought is calling for government and corporate intervention to ensure Australia's ongoing economic diversification

and innovation. The HSBC survey reveals a large proportion of Chinese companies are expanding offshore into the manufacturing and retail trade sectors rather than mining, Australia's core trading driver—as expected; and are prioritizing markets like Australia that have favourable business and political conditions.

Amongst 250 Chinese companies surveyed, 17 percent were large conglomerates with the remainder being of a corporate or middle market size. Beyond Greater China (Hong Kong and Taiwan), 12 percent of respondents said they had set up an operation in Australia—the

third highest behind the US (22 percent) and Singapore (18 percent).

James Hogan, head of Commercial Banking for HSBC Bank Australia, said, "As the world's 13th largest economy with only the 52nd largest population, increased capital inflow through direct foreign investment is necessary for Australia's continued prosperity."

"With Australia now China's seventh largest trading partner we are clearly front of mind for Chinese companies for exports and imports; however, it is important that we convert these trade links into investment links too."—Xinhua

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe speaks during a convention of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party in Tokyo on 17 March, 2013. KYODO NEWS



## Two prisoners escape from jail by helicopter in Canada

OTTAWA, 18 March— Two prisoners escaped from a jail in Quebec by a helicopter on Sunday afternoon, according to local reports.

The prison break took place around 2:30 pm when a helicopter hovered over the jail and the escapees climbed on board with the help of a rope ladder.

The police have surrounded a wooded area near Entrelacs, where the two inmates, identified as Benjamin Hudon-Barbeau and Danny Provencal, were thought to be hiding.

## Police arrest Zimbabwe PM's aides

HARARE, 18 March— Three officials from Zimbabwean Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai's MDC-T office were arrested on Sunday morning, party spokesman Douglas Mwonzora told Xinhua.

He said no charges had been preferred against them, and that when their lawyer Beatrice Mtetwa went to the police to establish what was happening,

she was also arrested. Sources said the trio might have been arrested on allegations of masquerading as police officers.

Mwonzora added that the police had also searched Tsvangirai's offices in Belgravia, just outside the city center. The arrest occurred just a day after the country held a referendum to decide on a new constitution draft.

Xinhua

Xinhua



Workers install the name plaque of the National Health and Family Planning Commission in Beijing, capital of China, on 17 March, 2013. The newly-founded National Health and Family Planning Commission hung out its name plaque on Sunday morning, replacing the name plaque of the now-defunct Ministry of Health.

XINHUA

## REGIONAL

## Cambodian ruling party affirms support for Hun Sen as PM candidate

PHNOM PENH, 18 March—The ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) concluded its congress on Sunday, fully supporting the candidacy of incumbent Prime Minister Hun Sen for the post of prime minister in the next term if the party continues to win the general election in July, the party's chief said.

Hun Sen, 61, has been in power for 28 years and vowed to stay in the office until he is 90.

"The congress unanimously supports the candidacy of Hun Sen, CPP's Vice-President, as Prime Minister of Cambodia for the fifth legislative term of the



**Cambodian Prime Minister and Cambodian People's Party (CPP) Vice President Hun Sen attends the closing ceremony of the party congress in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 17 March, 2013.—XINHUA**

National Assembly (2013-2018) and terms thereafter," CPP President Chea Sim said in the closing address.

"The congress also reviews the evaluation work in preparation for the party committee at all levels to contest for victory in the 5th legislative term elections of the National Assembly, which will take place on 28 July, 2013," he said. "We have prepared well for the forthcoming elections."

The two-day congress was attended by 2,248 senior members.

The congress adopted the proclamation of the political platform of the party for the construction and de-

fence of the motherland for 2013-2018, according to the congress resolutions released on Sunday.

It added that the congress also clearly certified the participation of the CPP in the forthcoming elections in the spirit of respecting the electoral law, order, procedure and ethical codes of conduct, while sincerely cooperating with every national institution, political parties and circles to guarantee the elections' proceeding in a free, fair and just manner.

The CPP won up to 90 seats out of the 123 parliamentary seats in the last election in July 2008.

Xinhua

## Six other nations to join Philippine-US joint exercise

MANILA, 18 March—Australia, Brunei, Japan, South Korea, Singapore and Thailand will take part in this year's Balikatan joint military exercise to be held in the Philippines next month, apart from the host and the United States, a Philippine military official said here on Sunday.

They will participate in the Multinational Maritime Security Roundtable Discussion for the upcoming Balikatan Exercise 2013, which will run through from 5 to 17 April, said Arnulfo Marcelo Burgos, spokesman of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

However, the six countries will not be taking part in the actual field training exercises which will be

limited to Filipino and US forces alone, Burgos added.

"The roundtable discussion seeks to determine specific humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations in high-traffic international waters, and build response confidence among multi-national partners," said Burgos.

"The event will be one of the highlights of this year's military exercise wherein more than 8,000 soldiers from the AFP and US military are set to participate," he said.

Burgos said the annual Balikatan exercise seeks to "further promote and foster the existing friendship" between the two countries and "advance the security and stability of the region in the near future."—Xinhua



**Graduating cadets toss their caps in the air during a commencement ceremony at Japan's National Defense Academy in Yokosuka, Kanagawa Prefecture, near Tokyo on 17 March, 2013.—KYODO NEWS**

## Funding conditions for S Korean banks improve since 2008 crisis

SEOUL, 18 March—South Korean banks' funding conditions in the global market continued to improve, sending the proportion of short-term foreign debts to the lowest since the 2008 global financial crisis, financial watchdog data showed on Monday.

Short-term foreign debts that mature within one year accounted for 18.1 percent of the total as of the end of January, the lowest since Lehman Brothers collapsed in 2008, according to the Financial Supervisory Service (FSS). External liabilities held by domestic banks totaled 116.4 billion US dollars as of end-

January. After peaking at 50.1 percent as of end-2008, the short-term debt proportion continued to fall to 34.4 percent at the end of 2009 and 26.3 percent as of end-

2011.

Falling dependence on short-term debts came as banks repaid such debts with long-term foreign funds secured in advance. Local banks made efforts to diversify funding sources, raising dependence on Asia and North America instead of reducing dependence on Europe.

Creditworthiness was enhanced after South Korea's sovereign debt rating was upgraded. Global credit rating appraiser Moody's revised up South Korea's sovereign debt rating by one notch to 'Aa3' in August 2012.

The cost of hedging against losses on sovereign debts declined to 66 basis points as of the end of February after surging to 229 basis points in October 2011 when the European fiscal crisis deepened.

Xinhua

## Pakistan, Turkey wrap up 13-day air exercises

ISLAMABAD, 18 March—Pakistan and Turkey have concluded air exercises aimed at excelling in the air combat capability with focus on air power employment in any future conflict, the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) said on Sunday.

The International Air Exercise Indus Viper-II conducted between PAF and Turkish Air Force (TuAF) concluded at an operational air base of Pakistan, the PAF spokesman said.

The Turkish Air Force contingent comprising of five F-16s C&D, combat pilots and ground technical crew, participated in the air exercises conducted from 4 to 16 March.

"Pakistan Air Force emphasizes on the com-

bat training of its air and ground crew and regularly undertakes Air Exercises with Allied Air Forces," the spokesman said in a statement.

Air Exercise Indus Viper II provided an opportunity to combat crew of both the Air Forces to acquaint themselves with applied tactics of air power in real scenario, he said.

To enhance mutual understanding between the two Air Forces, PAF and TuAF have been successfully conducting joint exercises for many decades.

Exercise Indus Viper-II was also planned in the same backdrop and is the second air exercise in this category.

Maj Gen Ares Mehm, Chief of Operations,

TuAF was the chief guest at the culmination ceremony. Air Marshal Waseem ud Din, Deputy Chief of the Air Staff (Operations), PAF and Mr M Babur Hizlan, the Ambassador of Turkey, were also present at the occasion.

Pakistan Air Force conducts such exercises on regular intervals both inland and abroad, the spokesman said.

He said the PAF has been participating in a number of International Air Exercises with some of the best Air Forces of the world, including United States Air Force (USAF), Italian Air Force, Turkish Air Force (TuAF) and Air Forces of other allied countries.

Xinhua

## Nepal's political mechanism recommends election by 18 June

KATHMANDU, 18 March—Nepal's recently-formed high-level political mechanism on Sunday recommended the country's interim government to hold the second Constituent Assembly elections by 18 June this year, local media reported.

The mechanism, comprising leaders of four major political parties, was set up on Saturday as per the 11-point agreement signed by the four parties on 13 March to end a 10-month-long deadlock in Nepal.

The mechanism is chaired on a monthly rotational basis and for the first month, UCPN-Maoist chairperson Prachanda is leading the mechanism. For the second, third and

fourth month, Nepali Congress, CPN-UML and the Madhesi Front will lead the mechanism, respectively.

It has been tasked to assist Interim Election Government, the neutral election government led by Supreme Court Chief Justice Khilraj Regmi, to hold the second general election after the end of the country's civil war in 2006.

Meanwhile, President Ram Baran Yadav on Sunday approved an Ordinance on Constitutional Council submitted by the interim government.

The approval allows the government to fill the vacant posts in constitutional bodies including the Election Commission and thus, promptly push ahead

with the preparatory works for June election.

The ordinance has removed a previous provision of arranging parliamentary hearings before making appointments in constitutional bodies, as Nepal has no legislative body since 27 May last year.

The ordinance further ensures that the speaker of legislative body and main leader of key opposition party will not be required any more in the Constitutional Council.

The incumbent executive head, acting chief justice of Supreme Court and three ministers will be the members of the Council, which has the full authority of making new constitutional appointments.—Xinhua



**The someiyoshino variety of cherry blossoms begin to bloom at Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo on 16 March, 2013. KYODO NEWS**

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV MINDORO VOY NO (135) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.3.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W(2) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
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AGENT FOR: TOKO KAIUN KAISHA LTD**  
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MV JONAS VOY NO ( )**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV JONAS VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.3.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S J POULSEN SHIPPING A/S**  
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Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO (202) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.3.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S EVER GREEN SHIPPING**  
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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE  
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Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
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Consignees of cargo carried on MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (069) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.3.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

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Yangon. 19 March 2013



*Photo taken on 17 March, 2013 shows a pagoda in light fog in Guilin, southwest China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. Guilin, a famous tourist resort, boasts of numerous cultural relics and various Karst land features.*

XINHUA

**Guangxi sees rising trade with ASEAN**

NANNING, 18 March—South China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region saw 1.59 billion US dollars' worth of trade with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in the first two months of 2013, according to new data.

The figure is a 20.8-percent year-on-year increase

compared with the corresponding period in 2012, said the Nanning Customs District of China on Monday. The export value from Guangxi to the ASEAN was 1.21 billion US dollars, a 30.2-percent year-on-year rise. The ASEAN remains the region's largest trade partner, followed

by the United States and the European Union, with which Guangxi respectively racked up a trade volume of 490 million US dollars and 390 million US dollars in the first two months of 2013, showed statistics released by the customs authorities of Nanning, the regional capital.—Xinhua

KABUL, 18 March—Units of Afghan national police during series of operations across the country over the past 24 hours have killed 12 Taleban militants, Interior Ministry said in a

statement released here on Monday.

The operations, according to the statement were conducted in Nangarhar, Kandahar, Uruzgan, Maidan Wardak, Logar, Farah

and Helmand Provinces which have also left eight more militants wounded and four others arrested. However, it did not say if there were any casualties on police.—Xinhua

**11th Obidos Int'l Chocolate Festival concludes in Portugal**

OBIDOS, 18 March—The 11th Obidos International Chocolate Festival concluded here on Sunday with a total of some 150,000 visitors from home and abroad participating in the festival.

The festival, one of the most popular festivals in Portugal, is held annually in the small town of Obidos, some 80 km north of capital Lisbon, and attracts hun-

dreds of thousands of visitors each year. This year's festival started on 23 February, with the theme "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," a well-known US movie. At the festival, a space was created for visitors to see how chocolates were produced and six sculptures depicting locations from the children's book and film were on display.

During the festival

prizes were awarded for the most creative boxes in "My Chocolate Box" competition and an area focusing on chocolate-themed cookery books was also set up.

For the first time at the festival, visitors could try chocolate cocktails at a "research lab" and the usual show-cooking session was held, in which chocolates were used even in meat and fish recipes.—Xinhua



*A pair of mandarin ducks play in a pond at Zhuozheng Garden (Humble Administrator's Garden) in Suzhou, east China's Jiangsu Province, on 17 March, 2013.*

XINHUA

**Afghan police kill 12 Taleban fighters**

ENTERTAINMENT



Madhuri Dixit

### Madhuri Dixit happy with Dedh Ishqiya rushes

MUMBAI, 18 March— who is filming for her movie Dedh Ishqiya in Lucknow, is happy with the first print made of a day's filming.

Actress Madhuri Dixit, who has been busy working on Dedh Ishqiya, is at peace after watching the movie's rushes.

"Another day on the set of Dedh Ishqiya. Saw the rushes and they look great," tweeted Madhuri, who has been filming for the movie in and around Lucknow.

The film, directed by Abhishek Chaubey, is a sequel to the commercially successful Ishqiya.

PTI

### Adele is planning to move to Los Angeles

NEW DELHI, 18 March—British singer Adele—who has five-month-old son Angelo with fiancé Simon Konecki—is planning to move to Los Angeles.

The singer rented Sir Paul McCartney's home in the US city when she was preparing for her performance at the Oscars last month but is now said to be looking for a more permanent base in the city to raise her little boy.

A source told the Daily Mirror newspaper: "Adele can see the benefits of bringing up a child in the US.

"They can be outside, enjoying the weather and loving life out of the spotlight.

"Los Angeles is a great place for children to grow up and she intends on working a lot more with a new album.

"She could afford to put a studio in her house. That way



Adele, who rented Sir Paul McCartney's home in the US city when she was preparing for her performance at the Oscars last month, is looking for a permanent base in the city.—REUTERS

### Looking after Michael Jackson's children, a \$9,000 job?

NEW DELHI, 18 March—Katherine Jackson thinks her grandson deserves \$9,000 a month to help her care for Michael Jackson's children.

The late singer's 82-year-old mother—who acts as a guardian to his children Paris, 15, Blanket, 11, and Prince Michael, 16, alongside their cousin TJ Jackson—has filed legal documents in Los Angeles asking the court to sign off on her request to have

the Michael Jackson Estate pay TJ more than \$9,000 a month.

According to the documents, Katherine claims the 34-year-old former 3T singer, who is married and has three children of his own, initially rejected the figure she suggested saying it was too much, however he eventually agreed to the amount as it is roughly the same salary earned by the children's full-time nanny.

Katherine says the salary is justified because TJ spends an average of 300 hours per month caring for the kids—taking them to various appointments and activities including karate, athletics, guitar lessons and on social outings.

She also claims he helps the children with their homework and attends their school functions.

A judge has yet to rule on the case.

PTI



Singer Michael Jackson died after suffering a cardiac arrest on 25 June, 2009. Seen here, with his mother Katherine Jackson, in a file photo.—PTI

she could beaver away on new music without having to worry."

The Someone Like You hitmaker is said to be taking house-hunting advice from her friend Ayda Field and her husband, pop star Robbie Williams.

The source added: "Adele and her man Simon are looking at a pad in one of the exclusive gated communities of Beverly Hills because Robbie and Ayda have told Adele that she would be able to have enough land not to feel too trapped and she could have the privacy she so desperately needs to enjoy life.

"She knows she's extremely comfortable with money and her lifestyle is very chilled and stress free."

"Her personal life very much comes first right now." The claims come just a month after Adele—who also owns homes in London and Brighton, South East England—reassured fans she wasn't moving to America. Speaking in a video link from the US as she accepted a BRIT Award for British Single of the Year for Skyfall, she said: "I'm not living here by the way, just in case you think that, I'm coming home!"—PTI

### Kanye West urges Kim Kardashian to slow down

LOS ANGELES, 18 March—Rapper Kanye West has urged pregnant girlfriend Kim Kardashian to slow down following a recent health scare.

The reality TV star was briefly hospi-

feeling well from the last few weeks. West has asked her to slow down. Even her mom has been warning her to slow down.

She has been working hard and not taking rest at all,"

ment," the source added.

Doctors have advised her to reduce the work load and do proper exercise.

"Kim's not respecting her pregnancy. She has been running around working out seven



Doctors have advised pregnant Kim to slow down and reduce the work load.—REUTERS

talized after she felt unwell during a plan journey from Paris to Los Angeles earlier this month. Her boyfriend has advised her to relax and take rest.

femalefirst.co.uk quoted a source as saying.

"Kim Kardashian now realises she can't do it all the way she used to. She has to think about the baby's needs. It's definitely an adjust-

days a week. She's working with two different trainers to control her weight, including Tracy Anderson and a pregnancy trainer," the source said.

PTI

### All well, wedding ring being fixed: Miley Cyrus

LOS ANGELES, 18 March—Miley Cyrus has hinted that all is well in her relationship with Liam Hemsworth by revealing the reason behind her missing engagement ring.

The singer-actress says her ring was getting repaired so she could not wear it.

She had fuelled break-up rumours after being spotted without the ring on several occasions while her fiancé Hemsworth is in Australia.

Lindsey J Lee, a Miley backup singer, tweeted, "had to send off my engagement ring today to get fixed... one of the little diamonds fell out..."

Miley responded to Lee, "Ugh that's the worst! I just had a similar situation except when it happens to me then everyone says my wedding is off."

The couple's relationship has been at the centre of media gossip after Hemsworth was seen leaving a party with January Jones.

Miley was forced to take to twitter to clarify that her wedding with the

actor was not off but that did not stop the rumour mills as the couple have been seen together rarely in recent times.

Hemsworth is in Australia while the singer was spotted partying in LA.

PTI



Miley Cyrus

## SPORTS

## Chelsea climb to third as Spurs lose again

LONDON, 18 March—Frank Lampard scored his 200th goal for Chelsea who beat West Ham United 2-0 to move into third place in the Premier League above Tottenham Hotspur who suffered a shock 1-0 home defeat by Fulham on Sunday.

Fulham put a huge dent in Tottenham's Champions League ambitions when former Spurs striker Dimitar Berbatov scored the only goal after 52 minutes.

FA Cup semi-finalists Wigan Athletic stayed in the relegation zone despite Arouna Kone scoring a last-minute goal in a 2-1 home win over Newcastle United and Sunderland continued to flirt with danger after drawing 1-1 with 10-man Norwich City.

The Canaries battled for more than an hour for their point after they were reduced



**Eden Hazard (17) of Chelsea shoots to score against West Ham during their English Premier League soccer match at Stamford Bridge in London, on 17 March, 2013.—REUTERS**

to 10 men when goalkeeper Mark Bunn was sent off for handling outside the penalty area.

Most of the attention was focused on the two London derbies with Spurs and Chelsea involved in an increasingly tight battle for a top-four finish and a place

in next season's Champions League.

West London prevailed in both games with Chelsea's win moving them on to 55 points, one more than Spurs, who have played one more match.

Fulham's victory, only their third at White Hart

Lane in the League since they first played Spurs there 104 years ago, was enough to consolidate their mid-table place and leave Spurs fans nervously dreading another end of season collapse.

Chelsea, on the other hand, have regained form despite the unrest among fans surrounding interim coach Rafa Benitez and their deserved victory followed the 2-2 comeback draw with Manchester United in the FA Cup and a 3-1 win over Steaua Bucharest in the Europa League.

"It is a long race," Benitez told Sky Sports.

"We have to carry on, win our next game and see what the others do. We have to be pleased because we scored two goals and kept a clean sheet, but we could have finished it earlier."

Reuters

## Sauber's Hulkenberg out of Australian Grand Prix

MELBOURNE, 18 March—Sauber driver Nico Hulkenberg will not take part in the Australian Grand Prix after suffering a mechanical failure, the team said on Sunday.

"There is a problem with the fuel system ... for

safety reasons we will not start his car," the team said in post on their Twitter account. German Hulkenberg was to line up 11th on the grid.

The race starts at 5:00 pm local time (0600 GMT).—Reuters



**Sauber Formula One driver Nico Hulkenberg of Germany drives during the second practice session of the Australian F1 Grand Prix at the Albert Park circuit in Melbourne on 15 March, 2013.—REUTERS**

## Williamson, Taylor frustrate England in second test

WELLINGTON, 18 March—Kane Williamson, Ross Taylor and persistent light rain on Sunday ensured that New Zealand's second test against England at the Basin Reserve is most likely to end in a damp draw on Monday.

The hosts were on 162 for two after the rain had disrupted



**New Zealand's Kane Williamson looks up at England's Steven Finn (R) after he avoided being hit by a bouncer during the second day of the second test at the Basin Reserve in Wellington on 15 March, 2013. REUTERS**

much of the fourth day's play with 39 overs lost after lunch and 16 overs at the end of day due to more rain after play had resumed at 1710 local (0410 GMT).

Williamson (55) and Taylor (41) had combined for an unbroken 81-run partnership in New Zealand's second innings after being forced to follow on, though they were still 49 runs from making England bat again,

before they were forced off again at 1730 and despite attempts to restart, play was abandoned at 1755.

"There was still a lot of time left in the game when we arrived here this morning, but in terms of making sure we don't lose the game it (the rain) has helped," New Zealand batsmen Peter Fulton told reporters. "There was a slight chance we could have batted well today and piled on some

runs and put some pressure on England later tomorrow."

New Zealand's Met-Service has forecast a southerly change and persistent rain for the Wellington region throughout Monday and a draw is now the most likely result. "We just have to turn up tomorrow and wait and see how the day turns out. If the weather is good we still have a lot of work to do."

Reuters

## Streelman wins Tampa Bay Championship

NEW YORK, 18 March—Kevin Streelman captured his first PGA Tour title on Sunday with victory in the \$5.5 million Tampa Bay Championship to secure a place in next month's Masters.

The 34-year-old Streelman shot a final round of four-under-par 67 to finish on 10-under, two strokes clear of his nearest rival at the tricky Copperhead layout at Innisbrook Resort.

"That was really cool," he said in a greenside interview with NBC television.

"It just shows that if you follow your dreams anything is possible."

Boo Weekley finished second after closing with a 63, the best single round of the tournament, to catapult himself up the leader board.

Cameron Tringale was third at minus seven after carding a 66 while Justin Leonard, the 1997 British

Open champion, finished tied for fourth at minus six with last year's winner, Englishman Luke Donald, and Australian lefthander Greg Chalmers.

Streelman is anything but an overnight success.

He burnt out three cars driving himself around the United States as a struggling player trying to make

the big time and worked as a caddie to pay his bills.

He joined the PGA Tour in 2008 and his previous best finish was third, which he had done three times. Streelman started the final day in a three-way tie for the lead with Leonard and George Coetzee after a flawless round of 65 on Saturday.—Reuters



**Kevin Streelman of the US tees off on the 13th hole during the first round of the 2011 US Open golf tournament at Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Maryland, on 16 June, 2011.—REUTERS**

## Sharapova hammers Wozniacki in final

INDIAN WELLS, (California), 18 March—Maria Sharapova played aggressively from the start to win her first title since last year's French Open with a 6-2 6-2 demolition of Caroline Wozniacki in the BNP Paribas Open final on Sunday. In a showdown between two former world number ones, the second-seeded Russian overpowered the Dane with a ruthless display, breaking her twice in each set to seal victory in one hour 21 minutes.

Sharapova was in attack mode throughout with an array of deep groundstrokes

and superb serving to claim her second title at Indian Wells after winning for the first time in 2006.

The 25-year-old Russian ended the match in champion style with a 109 mph service winner before raising both arms skywards in celebration. "What makes it so special is when you end up as the champion, that's why I am smiling," a beaming Sharapova said courtside after extending her run of at least one WTA title each year since 2003.

"I really appreciate these moments. This is what I do all the work for. When

you have days like this ... it's a really nice feeling because everything has paid off."

"The scoreline looks a lot easier than I think the match actually was," added the Russian world number three who will rise to two when the rankings are issued on Monday. "It was a tough match, a tough battle, and there were a lot of games that went to deuce and a lot of long games."

"They could have easily swung the other way, especially some opportunities she had in that second set. But I always felt like I was always a foot ahead, especially with

the breaks. I was able to serve well today, and that helped me."

Eighth seed and 2011 Indian Wells champion Wozniacki, who like Sharapova was competing in her third final here, applauded the Russian's high-quality performance.

"She just played too well today," the 22-year-old Dane said. "I tried. I tried to do my best out there, but, yeah, it just wasn't good enough today. I didn't feel like I was playing poorly. I felt like I was playing pretty good tennis out there."

Reuters



**Maria Sharapova of Russia poses with a smaller replica trophy after defeating Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark in their women's singles final match at the BNP Paribas Open WTA tennis tournament in Indian Wells, California on 17 March, 2013.—REUTERS**

GENERAL



Image provided by Presidency of Venezuela shows soldiers attending a ceremony commemorating the 14 years of the late Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, in Caracas, capital of Venezuela, on 17 March, 2013. XINHUA

**Afghan foreign minister visits New Zealand**

WELLINGTON, 18 March—New Zealand Foreign Minister Murray McCully held talks with his Afghan counterpart, Zalmi Rassoul in Wellington on Monday. McCully and Rassoul discussed New Zealand's ongoing commitments to Afghanistan, including providing trainers to the Afghan National Army Officer Academy and personnel to the ISAF Special Operations Forces headquarters.

They also discussed New Zealand's ongoing development programme in Bamyan. "A new chapter in our countries' relationship is about to begin, with New Zealand withdrawing its Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) from Bamyan province in April, in line with the transition process," McCully said in a statement. New Zealand has led the PRT in Bamyan since 2003 and has

contributed to international counter-terrorism efforts and improved security, development and governance in the Province. New Zealand remains committed to Afghanistan and will continue to play its part in international efforts to support the country, McCully said. While in New Zealand, Rassoul will also meet New Zealand Prime Minister John Key and Defence Minister Jonathan Coleman.—Xinhua

**MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL**  
(19-3-13 09:30 am ~ 20-3-13 09:30 am) MST

- \* News
- \* Myanmar Agro-Tech Expo 2013
- \* Conserve Lobsters for Rich Resources
- \* News
- \* Zaykabar Myanmar Open 2013 (Part-1)
- \* News
- \* Beautiful Mon Choral Dance
- \* News
- \* "Great Shwedagon" Reopitory of the Buddhist Scriptures and Archives of Shwedagon Pagoda
- \* News
- \* "Topic on Journal" The Consequences of Climate Change
- \* Let's Speak Myanmar
- \* News
- \* Short Trip With Steve (Mon State)
- \* News
- \* Wearing Earrings
- \* Traffic Count Survey is On-going
- \* Why So Melodious
- \* News
- \* Unique Biodiversity of Indawgyi Lake (Part-IV)
- \* Today's Efficient Youth (Global warming)
- \* Myanmar Movies "Why you hate me, Ko Ko"

**Myanmar TV**

(19-3-2013, Tuesday)

- |                |   |                 |  |
|----------------|---|-----------------|--|
| <b>7:00 am</b> | 1. Paritta By Venerable Min Gun Sayadaw | <b>4:30 pm</b>  | 14. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -First Year (Law) |
| <b>7:25 am</b> | 2. Health Programme                     | <b>4:45 pm</b>  | 15. The Mirror Images of The Mulical Oldies                          |
| <b>7:30 am</b> | 3. Morning News                         | <b>5:15 pm</b>  | 16. SEA Games (Go For Gold) (SWIMMING)                               |
| <b>7:40 am</b> | 4. International News                   | <b>6:00 pm</b>  | 17. Evening News   |
| <b>7:45 am</b> | 5. People Talks                         | <b>6:15 pm</b>  | 18. Weather Report   |
| <b>7:55 am</b> | 6. Nice & Sweet Song                    | <b>6:20 pm</b>  | 19. Sing A Song  |
| <b>8:05 am</b> | 7. Songs of National Races              | <b>6:50 pm</b>  | 20. TV Drama Series  |
| <b>8:15 am</b> | 8. Songs of Yester Year                 | <b>7:00 pm</b>  | 21. News   |
| <b>8:25 am</b> | 9. Documentary                          | <b>7:10 pm</b>  | 22. TV Drama Series  |
| <b>8:40 am</b> | 10. Myitta Pawana By Min Gun Sayadaw    | <b>8:00</b>     | 23. News   |
| <b>4:05 am</b> | 11. Songs For Upholding National Spirit | <b>8:00</b>     | 24. International News   |
| <b>4:15 pm</b> | 12. Musical Programme                   | <b>8:00</b>     | 25. Weather Report   |
| <b>4:20 pm</b> | 13. Documentary                         | <b>10:00 pm</b> | 26. Documentary (Interview)  |
|                |   |                 | 27. Bakery World   |
|                |   |                 | 28. Musical Programme  |
|                |   |                 | <b>10:00 pm</b>  |
|                |   |                 | 29. News   |
|                |   |                 | 30. India Drama Series   |

**Comeback maestro Nadal wins at Indian Wells**

INDIAN WELLS, (California), 18 March—Rafa Nadal added another triumphant chapter to his remarkable comeback story by beating Juan Martin Del Potro in the BNP Paribas Open final on Sunday to win his third title of the year. The Spanish left-hander was sidelined for seven months last year with a left knee injury but has been in stunning form since he returned, reaching four straight finals and compiling a 17-1 record to start the year.



Rafael Nadal of Spain poses with his trophy after he defeated Juan Martin Del Potro of Argentina in the men's singles final match to win the BNP Paribas Open ATP tennis tournament in Indian Wells, California, on 17 March, 2013.—REUTERS

Nadal had to come from a set and 1-3 down to beat Argentine Del Potro 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 and take his 22nd ATP Masters title and a third at Indian Wells. "I'm very, very happy and very emotional," said 11-times grand slam champion Nadal, who flopped to the ground, flat on his back, shaking his fists in celebration after sealing the win over Del Potro. "A lot of things happened the last seven months, to be back here and to have this very heavy trophy with me is amazing, no? It's impossible to have a better comeback, no?"

Happy for everything." "Beating three top-10s, three very important players, to win a title like this is just something unbelievable for me," added the Spaniard, who beat second-ranked Roger Federer in the quarter-finals and sixth-ranked Tomas Berdych in the last four. It was Nadal's 53rd ATP singles title and his first on a hardcourt surface since Tokyo in 2010. The Spaniard made an impressive start, holding serve after a marathon first game where he controlled a series of protracted baseline

rallies, then breaking Del Potro in the second, though it took him four break points. The Argentine was again in trouble on serve in the fourth, serving at 15-40 down, but saved two break points before holding with a booming forehand winner down the line. Nadal surprisingly failed to hold in the fifth after dictating almost every rally, losing the game when 2009 US Open champion Del Potro blasted a backhand crosscourt winner with his service return. Growing in confidence

and continually attacking with his forehand, the towering Argentine again broke Nadal in the ninth when his opponent blasted a forehand long. Del Potro held serve to take the first set in 54 minutes, racing 40-0 up but squandering his first two set points before finishing off with a backhand volley winner at the net and pumping his right fist in delight. An out-of-sorts Nadal failed to hold in the first game of the second set, trailing 30-40 after a blistering forehand pass by the Argentine and then netting a forehand to give Del Potro the break. The next four games went with serve before Nadal, urged on by roars of "Rafa, Rafa, Rafa" that echoed around the Stadium Court, broke Del Potro in the sixth when the Argentine hit a forehand long. Del Potro was also broken in the eighth when Nadal blasted a forehand winner into an open court and the Spaniard then held serve to level the match at one-set all with a 105 mph ace.

**England call up Lescott after Spurs duo withdraw**

LONDON, 18 March—England called up defender Joleon Lescott for this month's World Cup qualifiers against San Marino and Montenegro after Tottenham Hotspur pair Michael Dawson and Aaron Lennon withdrew from the squad through injury on Sunday. Winger Lennon missed his club's 1-0 home defeat by Fulham in the Premier League on Sunday with a damaged groin and a hamstring injury, while centre back Dawson was

taken off at halftime with a hamstring problem. "Manchester City defender Joleon Lescott has been added to the squad, who meet at St George's Park on Monday," the FA said in a statement on its website (www.thefa.com). Roy Hodgson's team are second in qualifying Group H with six matches to play and face struggling San Marino on 22 March before taking on pace-setters Montenegro on 26 March.

Reuters



Manchester City's Joleon Lescott (R) is challenged by Stoke City's Geoff Cameron during their English Premier League soccer match at The Etihad stadium in Manchester, northern England, on 1 January, 2013.

REUTERS

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# President U Thein Sein holds talks on further bilateral cooperation with Australian PM

NAY PYI TAW, 18 March—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein held talks on further bilateral cooperation with Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia Ms. Julia Gillard at the Prime Minister Office inside Parliament Building in Canberra this morning.

While arriving at the Prime Minister Office, the President was welcomed by the Australian Prime Minister.

Next, the President posed for a documentary

photo together with the Australian Prime Minister and signed the visitors' book.

Then the President and the Australian PM exchanged views on mutually beneficial sectors between the two countries.

After the meeting, the President and the Australian PM conducted joint press conference at the latter's office and answered the queries raised by media men.

The Australian PM said that the President's visit to Australia reflected Myanmar reform processes



President U Thein Sein holds talks on further bilateral cooperation with Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia Ms. Julia Gillard at the Prime Minister Office inside Parliament Building in Canberra.—MNA



President U Thein Sein and Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia Ms. Julia Gillard meet the press.

MNA

## Farmers in Latpadaungtaung copper mine project get compensation

NAY PYI TAW, 18 March—A group for scrutinizing confiscated land gave over K335 million to 111 farmers from Phaungkatar and Ywashe village-tracts in the Latpadaungtaung copper mine project yesterday, reaching the total compensation in two days K559.8 million.

So far, 163 have received compensation for the confiscated land.

Groups for scrutinizing confiscated land, for environmental conservation and socio-economic implementation and for removing and reconstructing religious edifices formed by the committee for the investigation commission's report on the project have toured the villages in the project area to make assessment of the situation.—MNA

started since the emergence of civilian government in 2011.

The reform processes led the nation to be in a right place in the region in future and to open the doors of trade and investment sectors for the sake of economic development and prosperity in Myanmar. Great strides and resilience

would be necessary in transition process of Myanmar as there would be more challenges ahead.

She affirmed that Australia would be a partnership for Myanmar, saying that Australia would encourage the move to emergence of civilian government, protection of the rights of citizens,

national reconciliation and raising awareness of peace among ethnic minorities and adherence to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

She continued that Australia showed its friendship, providing practical assistance to Myanmar and Australian Trade Centre was being kept open to be able to facilitate

Australian businesses in Myanmar. The trade commissioner would be appointed soon.

As a first country among western countries, Australia signed development cooperation agreement with Myanmar in January in order to increase Australia's aid to Myanmar up to (See page 9)

## National duty to combat trafficking in person

Greater Mekong Sub-region is constituted with six countries—Myanmar, China, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam. Incidents of trafficking in person are the highest among these countries, said Police Col Win Khaung (Admin & Training) of Myanmar Police Force in an interview on 7 March.

The number of men is 60 million more than women in the other country and their wedding cost is very high, he said.

"In the other country, one-child family is being practised. Women miss the chance to inherit lineage of parents. So, when they find out the expectant mother has female embryo, they make abortion for their lineage. Therefore, abortion rate in the country is always higher than that of Asian countries," said Police Col Win Khaung.

In the other country, the educated women do not focus on marry in general. They want to choose wealthy persons and high ranking persons. Due to expensiveness of wedding, marriage of ordinary people and farmers is few and far between.

"These factors cause trafficking in person in Myanmar for committing forced marriage in other country," explained Head of Office Police Lt-Col Ohnma Yin Mie of Myanmar Anti-Human Trafficking Corp.

Myanmar Police Force cooperates with the authorities of other countries in combating human trafficking. The cooperation could not be performed at full capacity because the other country practises matrimonial mediator companies and mediators due to necessary number of women.

Myanmar women should value themselves and should not be over confident. Some women, who had fallen into victims of human trafficking two or three times, became human traffickers. Their targeted customers were ordinary class people of other

countries, said Daw Ohnma Yi Mie.

As part of efforts to activate national movement for combating human trafficking, Myanmar has formed 26 special squads of anti-human trafficking who are joining hands with international organizations. In 2012, the squads could rescue 161 victims from 120

### Ye Khaung Nyunt



cases of human trafficking and arrest 325 crime brokers. In China, a total of 80 cases of human trafficking occurred in 2012 due to forced marriage, accounting for 67 per cent, according to the Myanmar Anti-Human Trafficking Corp.

Myanma Alinn:  
10-3-2013  
Trs: TTA