

## President U Thein Sein meets Myanmar students in Australia, Governor of New South Wales

NAY PYI TAW, 19 March—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein attended tea party hosted by Mr Richard Marles, the Australian Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Pacific Island Affairs at Senate Alcove of Parliament House in Canberra yesterday evening.

The president met

with Myanmar students in Australia and posed for documentary photo together with them.

Then, the President discussed Mr Tony Abbott, Leader of the opposition in Australian Parliament at Room MG-63 of Parliament House.

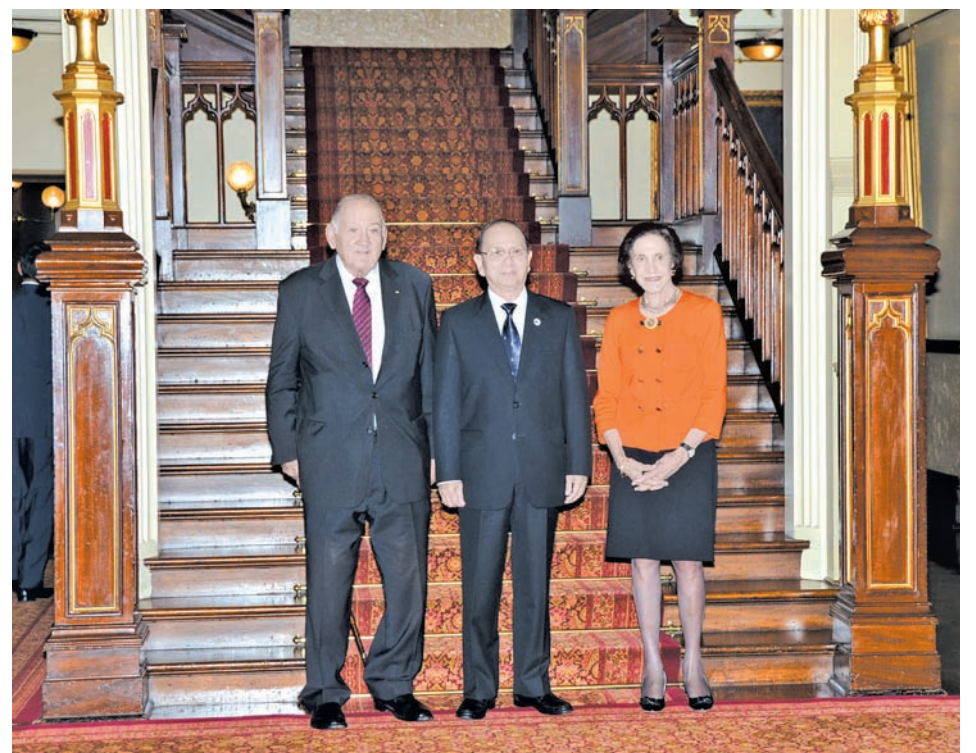
The President and party arrived in Sydney Harbour at 9:45 am local time today.

Then, they observed Sydney Harbour, Opera House, Rose Bay, Shark Island, National Park, Sand Stone, Taronga Zoo and Garden Island from MV Commissioner 2.

In the evening, the President and party were welcomed by Governor of New South Wales Professor Marie Bashir at the Government House in Sydney.

President U Thein Sein signed the visitor's book and posed for a documentary photo with the Governor.

Afterwards, President U Thein Sein met Professor Marie Bashir, Governor of New South Wales at a separate room



President and delegation members. Later, the Governor hosted a lunch to the

MNA

*President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo with Governor of New South Wales Professor Marie Bashir and party.*

MNA

*President U Thein Sein meets with Myanmar students in Australia.*

MNA



*President U Thein Sein shaking hands with Mr Tony Abbott, Leader of the opposition in Australian Parliament.*

MNA



### Tiger Myanmar Amateur Open Golf Championship-2013 kicks off

YANGON, 19 March—Opening of Tiger Myanmar Amateur Open Golf Championship-2013 organized by Myanmar Golf Federation and mainly sponsored by Tiger Golf was held at Danyingon Golf Club in Insein Township, here, this morning.

It was attended by Patron of MGF Maj-Gen Win Hlaing (Retd), Vice-Presi-

dents U Min Thein, U Aung Kyi and U Tint Oo, General Secretary U Aung Hla Han and executive members and officials concerned from Myanmar Brewery Ltd and distinguished guests.

The MGF Patron, Yangon Golf Club's captain U Zaw Min and Managing Director of Myanmar Brewery Ltd Mr. Lim Yew Hoe teed off the tournament.

A total of 127 golfers from Thailand, Singapore, Philippines, and Myanmar participated in the first round.

Srixon/Imperial jade Purified drinking water/100 plus (Isotonic Drink)/ Yangon Golf Club and Elite Express are co-sponsors.

The second round continues tomorrow.

NLM

### Saw mill, timber export rules & regulations relaxed

NAY PYI TAW, 19 March—The Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry has extended the validity of saw mill licence and relaxed the rules and regulations for inspection of forest products.

The validity of licence for saw mill and plywood and for wood-based mills has been extended from one year to five years.

As part of relaxation of the export licence, the ministry has also abolished

the step for submitting the documentation for forest products from the ministry to the Directorate of Trade to export timbers and has kept on the step of sending the document just to the Custom Department. —MNA

**Significant day temperatures (19-3-2013)**

**Chauk Hsinbyugyun Theinzayet** 41°C  
41°C  
41°C

## Replacement of worn iron frame for Bridge No (55) on Myingyan-Thazi railroad

MEIKTILA, 19 March— A replacement of worn iron frames for Bridge No (55) on Myingyan-Thazi railroad between Inngyinsu village and Yaygyo village in Meiktila Township was carried out on 9 March.

“It will take a day to complete essential repair work. The bridge were

damaged due to heavy rainfall in 2010. The aim of repair works is for safety of users. The repair group is consisted of four engineers and 55 workers”, says Senior Engineer U Kyaw Lin. The bridge across Kankaung creek is 42 feet long and 27 feet high.

Kyemon

## Yamethin Township sees fall in chick pea output due to low rainfall

YAMETHIN, 19 March— Due to low rainfall this year, there has been a drop in chick pea yield in villages in Ywadan station of Yamethin Township.

Ywama, Okpho, Teinnyat, Letha, Kyee-in, Thekon, Latpan Kharhla,

Ai-poke and Kalarmyaw villages are home to chick pea growers. As there has been below average rainfall this year, chick pea output decreased. A basket of chick pea is priced at K 15500 in the market.

Kyemon



Photo shows students in front of Basic Education High School No. (2) exam centre in Meiktila on 18 March morning before their fifth day session of matriculation examination for 2013 academic year started.

KYEMON

## Matriculation examination goes on

Photo shows students walking out of Basic Education High School No (1) exam centre in Tatkon Township after their fifth day session of matriculation examination for 2013 academic year was over on 18 March.— KYEMON



Photo shows Myanmar traditional bull cart race at the ceremony to hoist Seinbudaw (diamond bud), Hngetmyatnadaw (pennant-shaped vane) and Htidaw (umbrella) atop historic Kyaikdanote Pagoda in Dalla Township of Yangon Region recently.

KYEMON



## Feasibility study on availability of water in Sagaing Township

SAGAING, 19 March — A four-member formulation mission led by Ms. Sonali Senaratna Sellamuttus, Senior Researcher-Livelihood System of International Water Management Institute (IWMI) have been conducting research work on availability of drinking and agriculture water supplies at Taungyin

village in Sagaing Township since 13 March in cooperation with Myanmar Marketing Research Department Co., Ltd.

The group of experts accompanied by officials of Sagaing District Water Resource Utilization Department carried out collecting data and holding talks with villagers on 13 and 14 March. Under the program, they will conduct research works during the period of three weeks at four villages each in two townships each of Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions that were chosen as the townships with water stress. Their findings will be sent to donor organizations. — Kyemon

## Plantations gutted by wildfire in Myeik Township

MYEIK, 19 March — A forest fire broke out near Sein Han Hill, two miles south-east of Nyaungbinkwin village in Myeik Township of Taninthayi Region at about 3.30 pm on 15 March.

The fire destroyed, a five-acre cashew plantation owned by U Dai Bin of Pyot-aing village, a five-acre cashew plantation by U Tun Soe, a four-acre rubber plantation by U Htay and a five-acre rubber plantation by U Khin Maung Tun. Loss of property in the conflagration amounted to K 40.7 million. The fire died down at about 9.30 pm thanks to collaborative efforts of police members, auxiliary fire brigade members and local people.

Kyemon

## Lake reconstruction in Kanthonesint village of Meiktila Township

MEIKTILA, 19 March— Under the rural region development scheme, reconstruction of the disappearing Kanthonesint Lake on which the local people used to rely for supply of drinking and agriculture water is being carried out at Kywekan village in Meiktila Township of Mandalay Region. “Villagers were longing for reconstruction of the lake as it has run dry for a long time. K 2.4 million has been allocated for reconstruction of the lake. Local people contributed

K 500, 000 plus their labour”, says an official of Meiktila Township General Administration Department.

Kywekan village with poor transport has a population of more than 15000. Upon completion, the lake will be a source for drinking and agriculture water.

“We are happy to see reconstruction of the lake with the aim of ensuring more water supply in the village”, says the village administrator.

Kyemon

## Married woman commits self-immolation in Nay Pyi Taw Zabuthiri Township

NAY PYI TAW, 19 March — A married woman died of severe burns after setting herself ablaze in Nay Pyi Taw Zabuthiri Township on 17 March.

Police Inspector Khin Maung Tun and party of Nay Pyi Taw No (9) Police Station arrived at the scene soon after they had been informed of an outbreak of fire at Room No (23) of Building (4317) in Thukha Theikdi ward of Zabuthiri Township, here, at

about 12.35 am on 17 March.

Investigation revealed that Daw Khin Than Htwe, 33, wife of U Kyawswa Min of Nay Pyi Taw Central Post Office was pronounced dead as she burned herself to death. U Kyaw Swa Min had got burns on his both hands while trying to put out the fire and he was taken to Nay Pyi Taw 1000-bedded Hospital. No (9) Police Station filed a law suit against the case.

MNA

## Thai businessmen eye boosting trade relations with Myanmar

MANDALAY, 19 March— Thai entrepreneurs are interested in making a feasibility study on agricultural prospect in Mandalay and its environs and distributing farm equipment in Myanmar, said Assistant Director-General Mr Matyawongse Amatyakul who led a Thai business delegation representing 26 companies at a meeting between Mandalay Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry

and Thai entrepreneurs held at Mandalay Hill Resort in 7 March. Thai entrepreneurs gave an account of their plan to distribute farm equipment, auto spare parts, construction materials, electrical appliances and various kinds of machines to Myanmar businessmen.

The business delegation will visit Mandalay in May and October and there will be business meeting with Myanmar entrepreneurs, it is learnt. — Kyemon

## WORLD

## Despite US change, Russia sticks to missile-shield demand

MOSCOW, 19 March—Russia reacted coolly on Monday to a change in US plans for a European missile shield that Moscow has vehemently opposed, saying it would stick to its demand for binding guarantees that the system would not be used to shoot down its missiles.

A statement from the Foreign Ministry suggested that the US shift, which analysts say should ease Russia's concern that the shield could compromise its security, is unlikely to end a dispute that has strained relations between the former

Cold War foes.

US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel said on Friday the Pentagon would add 14 new anti-missile interceptors in Alaska, among other steps.

To free up funds, US officials said they were forgoing development of a new interceptor that would have been deployed in central Europe and has been a focus of Russia's stated fear that the shield would weaken its nuclear deterrent.

In its first official response to Hagel's statement, however, Russia said it would continue to



US Secretary of Defence Chuck Hagel.—REUTERS

call for legally binding guarantees and convincing technical evidence that US missile defence systems were not aimed against Russia. "The new plan shows that the United States continues

to adhere to a course aimed at strengthening its global anti-missile defences and increasing their effectiveness," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Reuters

## Six powers' flesh out nuclear proposals in Iran talks

BRUSSELS, 19 March—Six major powers gave Iran more details of their proposals to end a standoff over Teheran's nuclear programme in talks in Istanbul on Monday, the European Union (EU) said.

The EU's short statement on the expert-level talks between the six powers and Iran offered no clue how the proposals were received by the Iranian experts or whether any progress had been made.

The two sides agreed to hold the technical discussions at a 26-27 February meeting between officials in the Kazakh city of Almaty, when the United States, China, Russia, Britain, France and Germany offered modest sanctions relief in return for Teheran curbing its most sensitive nuclear work.

Iran says its nuclear programme is peaceful but Western powers suspect Teheran of seeking nuclear weapons capability.

The statement by Michael Mann, a spokesman for EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton, reaffirmed that Monday's technical talks would be followed by another meeting at the

political level in Almaty on 5-6 April.

Western diplomats have made clear they want to see a substantive response from Iran to the six powers' proposals at the next meeting in Almaty.

In Istanbul, experts from the six powers, led by nuclear expert Stephan Klement, gave Iran further details of the "revised confidence-building proposal" they put forward in Almaty, Mann said.

"The meeting also provided an opportunity for both (six-power) and Iranian experts to explore each other's positions on a number of technical subjects," he said, declining to go beyond the statement.

Reuters



File photo shows a security official stands in front of the Bushehr nuclear reactor, 1,200 km (746 miles) south of Teheran.—REUTERS

## Diplomacy, public diplomacy to mingle during Obama's visit to Israel, West Bank

JERUSALEM, 19 March—As US President Barack Obama's visit to Israel and the West Bank draws near, political instability in the region is believed to be a major talk during his three-day stay, besides his wish to introduce his new team and to garner more popularity among the Israelis after re-election.

Obama's trip is "a combination of diplomacy and public diplomacy," Prof Eytan Gilboa of the Bar-Ilan University said of the landmark visit, Obama's first to Israel as president.

Gilboa said the Israeli public likes Obama as a person but disapproves his relations with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as well as his policies toward Israel and the Mideast. Obama knows this and he needs the Israelis to support his policies on the region.

Yet, the US president

knows his trip cannot only be a friend-making tour. He has tasks.

He has to talk with Israeli leaders over such regional issues as Iran's nuclear aspiration, the Syrian unrest, and the Israeli-Palestinian peace deadlock.

Zalman Shoval, who served twice as Israeli ambassador to the United States in the 1990s, said the No1 issue will go to Iran's nuclear activities, "on which Israeli and the US stances have come closer in the last few months."

Both Obama and Netanyahu have almost completely replaced their teams of national security and foreign policy after securing another term in office. On the US side, Chuck Hagel was appointed the new secretary of defence, and John Kerry the new secretary of state. Both men are said to favour a less

confrontational approach toward Iran's nuclear programme.

In Israel, 62-year-old Moshe Ya'alon will replace Ehud Barak as the defence minister. Though stressing the necessity of protecting Israel from a nuclear Iran, he does refer to an armed attack against Teheran as the last option available.

Xinhua

## UN chief calls for early political solution to Syrian crisis

UNITED NATIONS, 19 March — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Monday called on all parties in Syria and the international community to "seriously reflect" on the two-year Syrian crisis and to "inject urgency towards reaching a political solution."

The secretary-general made the appeal

in a statement issued here by his spokesman, after the Syrian political crisis, which later turned into violence and armed clashes, entered its third year on 15 March.

"Today, the world is watching the consequences with horror," the statement said.

"Indiscriminate air, missile, artillery and bomb attacks against civilian areas continue," the statement said. "Radical elements are taking hold. Well over 70,000 people have been killed. Serious abuses have also been committed, and those responsible must face justice."

"The country is facing a humanitarian crisis, with over three million people displaced from their homes, including one million seeking safety in neighbouring countries,"

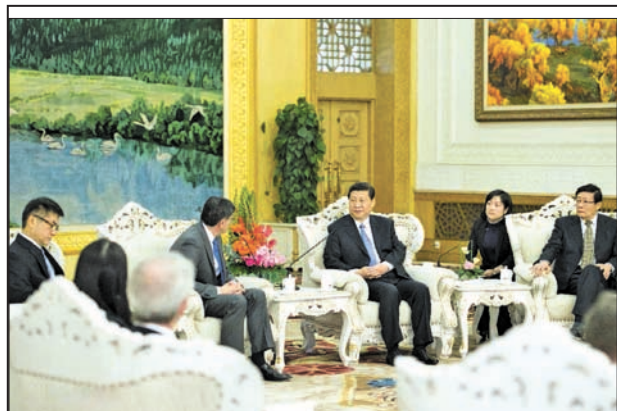
the statement said.

"Cities and villages, including some world heritage sites, have been destroyed. This is the result of a choice to resort to arms over peaceful political dialogue and genuine change," it added.

While calling for reflection and a sense of urgency, the statement said "the end goal is clear to all—there must be an end to violence, a clean break with the past and a transition to a new Syria in which the rights of all communities are protected and the legitimate aspirations of all Syrians for freedom, dignity and justice, are met."

"The sooner a military solution is abandoned the better," it said. "There is no need for more people to die, flee or grieve in Syria."

Xinhua



Chinese President Xi Jinping (3rd R) meets with US Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew (4th R) in Beijing, capital of China, on 19 March, 2013.—XINHUA

## Venezuelan leader Maduro has big poll lead over Capriles

CARACAS, 19 March—Venezuela's acting president, Nicolas Maduro, has a commanding 14-percentage point lead over opposition candidate Henrique Capriles ahead of next month's election, according to the first major poll published since the death of Hugo Chavez.

Maduro would win 49.2 percent of the 14 April vote compared with 34.8 percent for Capriles, according to the survey by pollster Datanalisis that was cited on Monday in a research note by Barclays Bank.

It followed other polls showing a solid lead for the 50-year-old former bus driver who has vowed to continue Chavez's state-centred economic policies built on heavy regulations of business and generous social welfare programmes.

"Considering the short campaign period, the

sympathy effect in the wake of Chavez's death, restrictions on the media, and the demobilization of the opposition after two defeats last year, Maduro remains the favourite," Barclays said.

Capriles, the 40-year-old governor of Miranda state, lost to Chavez in the presidential election last October, and allied candidates swept 20 of the 23 governorships in state elections in December.

Chavez's death two weeks ago convulsed the country and triggered a new election in the South American OPEC nation.

The vote marks the first test of the "Chavismo" movement's ability to maintain the late leader's radical socialism after his death, and it will be crucial for regional allies that depend on Caracas for financing and cheap fuel.—Reuters



Venezuela's acting President Nicolas Maduro (L) greets supporters during the inauguration ceremony of a court at Petare neighbourhood in Caracas on 17 March, 2013 in this handout picture provided by the Miraflores Palace.—REUTERS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

**UAE launches world's largest concentrated solar power plant**



Photo taken on 17 March, 2013 shows the newly launched solar plant Shams 1 in the desert of Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates.—XINHUA

DUBAI, 19 March — United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan inaugurated on Sunday the 100-megawatt solar plant Shams 1 in the desert of Abu Dhabi, the world's largest concentrated solar power

plant in operation. Covering an area of 2.5 square km, the 600-million-US dollars project incorporates the latest in parabolic trough technology and features more than 258,000 mirrors mounted on 768 tracking

parabolic trough collectors, capable of delivering green electricity to 20,000 homes.

The president applauded Shams 1 as a major milestone in the country's economic diversification and a step toward long-term energy security, saying that the plant demonstrated the UAE's commitment to maintaining its position as a major provider of energy. The UAE, a major oil supplier, aims to reduce its dependence on oil and gas for domestic power needs to 75 percent until 2030 from the current 99 percent. As the biggest step so far, Shams 1 will contribute to Abu Dhabi's goal of getting seven percent of its energy from renewable source by 2020.—Xinhua

**Cambodia reports 60 pct rise in internet users last year**

PHNOM PENH, 19 March —Cambodia recorded about 2.7 million internet users as of December last year, a 60 percent rise year-on-year, a senior official said on Thursday.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the ministry of posts and telecommunication, secretary of state Sarak Khan said that the kingdom has 27 internet service providers serving those subscribers.

"It was a sharp rise last year thanks to expanded internet infrastructure and growing knowledge on internet usage," he said.

Meanwhile, he said the country has 6 mobile phone operators. As of last year, those operators had sold out 19.1 million SIM cards, exceeding the country's population of only 14.5 million.

Minister of posts and telecommunication So Khun said in the meeting that the remarkable rise in internet subscriptions and mobile phone usage was thanks to

good internet infrastructure, competitive service fees, and more people's awareness of internet usage.

He said that some 1.7 billion US dollars had been invested in building telecommunication infrastructure in the country in the last 3 years.—Xinhua



Tourists enjoy rape flowers in Jianling Township of Wuyuan County, east China's Jiangxi Province, on 16 March, 2013.

XINHUA

**Google, YouTube under criticism over suicide videos**

WASHINGTON, 19 March —Russian consumer rights watchdog has hit out at search engine Google and YouTube over what it called online suicide instruction videos.

"Google Russia and YouTube LLC express their position based solely on a threat to the freedom of access to information on

the Internet," the Rospotrebnadzor watchdog said in a statement.

The watchdog's statement came after YouTube, Google's video sharing unit, filed a lawsuit against Rospotrebnadzor over a decision to block a video containing alleged "harmful" material. A preliminary hearing into the case began

on Friday.

The watchdog said the video contained instructions on how to commit suicide and violated Russian law on the protection of children from harmful material.

Google said the law could be used to limit access to other forms of content.—PTI

**Vietnam hosts regional forum on waste reduce-reuse-recycling**

HANOI, 19 March—The 4th Asia-Pacific Forum on the Waste Reduce-Reuse-Recycling (3Rs) kicked off here on Monday, with participation of over 200 delegates from 31 countries and territories in the region.

The event was co-chaired by the Vietnamese Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE), Japan's Ministry of Environment and the United Nations' Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) under the theme of "3Rs in the context of Rio+20 — The Future We Want".

Addressing the forum, Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Thien Nhan said that the forum is of significance in terms of environmental protection, and that it would promote policy dialogues at high-ranking level among relevant parties to handle the link between the 3Rs and other related issues including management of the solid waste, sustainable production-consumption, and appropriate materials circulation.

During the three-day forum, participants will focus on solutions to effectively use

struggled to compete with more nimble chip makers in Asia, which outsource most production to be able to react quickly to demand changes, as well as the trend among some phone makers like Samsung to make their own chips.

Sweden's Ericsson, which makes telecom network gear, and Franco-Italian chip maker STMicro, had sought a buyer for ST-Ericsson but found no takers. JP Morgan advised the companies on options for ST-Ericsson, which has not made a profit since it was formed in 2008. "All possible scenarios were considered but the option announced today was always a real possibility," STMicro chief executive Carlo Bozotti told a conference call on Monday.

He added that STMicro had committed to keep making products for ST-Ericsson customers as long as they needed them.

Under the plan, Ericsson will keep around 1,800 employees of ST-Ericsson's total workforce of 4,450 total. Those jobs will mostly be in Sweden, Germany, India and China.—Reuters

PARIS, 19 March—STMicroelectronics and Ericsson will close their loss-making mobile chip joint venture ST-Ericsson by dividing parts of the business between them and shutting the rest with the loss of about 1,600 jobs.

The announcement ends months of speculation about the future of ST-Ericsson, which has been hit by a big drop in orders from top customer Nokia as the phone maker lost market share to Apple and Samsung.

ST-Ericsson has also



People walk past an ST-Ericsson stand at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona on 25 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS

**Sharp to miss 29 March deadline for Qualcomm investment**

TOKYO, 19 March—Sharp Corp said it will miss a 29 March deadline to receive the second half of a \$120 million investment from Qualcomm Inc after it failed to complete a plan to begin fabricating power-saving screens the two companies are jointly developing.

Qualcomm, which paid half the \$120 million in December, set conditions for the remainder that in-

cluded having completed the specifications for the smartphone and tablet PC screens and preparations for their production.

San Diego-based chip maker Qualcomm also said Sharp would have to make an operating profit in the second half of its business year and have at least 100 billion yen (\$1.05 billion) of net assets.

"The financial targets are not the reason for the delay," Sharp spokeswoman

Miyuki Nakayama said. Sharp and Qualcomm will now fall back to a 30 June deadline for the Japanese company to meet conditions for the second payment, she added.

The two companies said in December that Qualcomm, through its Pixtronix subsidiary, would work with Sharp to develop new power-saving screens based on Sharp's IGZO technology.

Missing the second

deadline would add pressure on cash-strapped Sharp as it looks for money to repay a \$2.1 billion convertible bond in September.

Japan's leading LCD panel maker has also failed to renegotiate an agreement for Taipei's Hon Hai Precision Industry Co to buy a 9.9 percent stake, with a 26 March deadline expected to pass with no revised agreement in place.

Reuters



A woman walks past the Sharp Corp's Logo at a train station in Tokyo on 6 March, 2013.—REUTERS

## BUSINESS &amp; HEALTH

## Central banks want Libor replaced with several rates

LONDON, 19 March—The tarnished Libor interest rate benchmark should be replaced with a range of reference rates based on actual market transactions by banks, a global group of central bankers said on Monday.

Barclays (BARC.L), Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) (RBS.L) and UBS (UBSN.VX) have all been fined for rigging the London interbank offered rate, which regulators are now reforming.

The rate is compiled by banks submitting quotes for the rates at which they believe they could borrow from another bank. It is used to price products worth trillions of dollars, ranging from home loans to credit cards, but central bankers signaled that its days ought to be numbered. "It is clear that central banks must play an important role in supporting the development of alternative reference rates," Bank of

England Governor Mervyn King said in a statement. King chairs a committee of central bankers at the Bank for International Settlements, which on Monday published a report on the role central banks could play in creating a choice

of rates. There is demand for greater use of transaction data to produce a range of reference interest rates suitable for different purposes, the report said. It also said that there should be "robust fallback arrangements" to cover the

possibility of a breakdown in the market on which the main reference rate is based. The interbank market, which Libor reflects, dried up completely during the financial crisis of 2007-09.

Reuters

## India's BDR Pharma seeks licence to sell version of Bristol-Myers Squibb cancer drug

MUMBAI, 19 March—India's BDR Pharmaceuticals International Pvt Ltd has applied to the Indian patents office, seeking permission to sell a generic version of Bristol-Myers Squibb Co's cancer drug, dasatinib, through a so-called compulsory licence mechanism, a BDR executive said on Monday.

Under a global Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreement, countries can issue compulsory licenses for certain drugs that are deemed unaffordable to a large

section of their populations.

Early this month, Bayer AG lost an appeal challenging the first-ever compulsory licence issued by

India which allowed Natco Pharma to sell a version of the German drugmaker's cancer treatment Nexavar.

Reuters



Bristol-Myers Squibb cancer drugs

## Housing prices rise in more Chinese cities

BEIJING, 19 March—New home prices rose more steeply in more Chinese cities in February, putting the government in an increasingly complex situation of regulating the bubble-ridden market, official data showed on Monday.

Of a statistical pool of 70 major Chinese cities monitored by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), 66 cities saw home prices increase within 3.1 percent in February from a month earlier, while three saw prices remain unchanged and only one reported price falls.

The figures indicate warming in the housing market since January, when 53 cities reported a growth margin of no more than 2.2 percent. New home prices in Beijing and Guangzhou saw the largest increase of 3.1 percent on a month-on-month basis, followed by Shanghai and Shenzhen with price hikes of 2.3 percent and 2.2 percent, respectively.

East China's Wenzhou reported home prices declining by 0.4 percent from

January, the data showed.

On a year-on-year basis, 62 cities registered rising prices, with Guangzhou showing the biggest rise, of 8.2 percent, up drastically from January's highest

growth rate of 4.7 percent.

Beijing recorded the second-largest year-on-year growth of 7.7 percent. Wenzhou, meanwhile, saw its home prices plunge 10.7 percent from the same period

of last year.

Zhang Dawei, director of Centaline Property's research centre, attributed the growth to panicky home buyers driven into hurried purchases by worries that prices may rise further following the recent gaining streak. In addition, new house supplies in the country's first-tier cities kept falling, which also contributed to the rise, he said. His words were echoed by Su Xuejing, an analyst with the research division of China Securities Co, who believes that pressure continues to be exerted on home prices as the country's housing stock has shrank for two consecutive months.—Xinhua



Photo taken on 18 March, 2013 shows commercial apartment buildings in Yinchuan, capital of northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region.—XINHUA

## ADB warns of asset price bubbles risk in East Asia's bond market

MANILA, 19 March—The Asian Development Bank (ADB) warned on Monday of risk of asset price bubbles as local currency bond markets in East Asia expanded by 12.1 percent last year. According to the Asia Bond Monitor issued on Monday by the ADB, East Asia had 6.5 trillion US dollars in outstanding local currency bonds by the end of 2012 versus 5.7 trillion dollars at the end of 2011. That marked a quarterly increase of 3 percent and an annual increase of 12.1 percent in local currency terms.

Thiam Hee Ng, Senior

Economist in ADB's Office of Regional Economic Integration, said "emerging East Asia is much more resilient than it used to be but governments still need to be careful that the surge in capital inflows doesn't fuel excessive rises in asset prices and that they are prepared for a possible reversal in the flows when the economies of the United States and Europe pick up again." The flows of funds by foreign investors picked up pace in recent years because of low interest rates and slow or negative economic growth in developed economies while emerging

East Asia has enjoyed high growth rates and appreciating currencies.

The fastest-growing bond market in emerging East Asia in 2012 was Vietnam, 42.7 percent bigger than at end 2011, largely due to the rapid expansion in the country's government bond market. The Philippine and Malaysian markets grew 20.5 percent and 19.9 percent respectively, while India's market expanded by a strong 24.3 percent to 1 trillion US dollars. Japan still has the largest market in Asia at 11.7 trillion dollars.

Xinhua

A logo of Swiss pharmaceutical company Roche is pictured in front of a company's building in Rotkreuz, on 12 April, 2012.—REUTERS



## EU expands use of Roche's Pegasys in chronic hepatitis C

ZURICH, 19 March—Roche said on Monday the European Medicines Agency (EMA) has expanded the approval of its drug Pegasys plus ribavirin for the treatment of chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) to children five years of age and older.

The new label for the medicine that was first approved in the European Union over 10 years ago includes children five years and older who have not received treatment and have

tested positive for HCV, Roche said in a statement.

Pegasys, in combination with the antiviral ribavirin, is the foundation of treatment for chronic HCV in adults, Roche said.

Mother-to-child transmission of HCV is the most common route of acquiring the infection in children with approximately 65,000 children estimated to live with chronic HCV in Europe, Roche said.

Reuters



Women sit on a bench in New York's Times Square on 31 May, 2012.—REUTERS

## Novo Nordisk "pleased" with obesity trial results

COPENHAGEN, 19 March—Denmark's Novo Nordisk, the world's biggest insulin producer, said on Monday sufferers of Type 2 diabetes achieved 6 percent weight loss with one of their obesity drugs in a trial.

Novo Nordisk said subjects with Type 2 diabetes achieved 6 percent weight loss with 3 milligrams of liraglutide in the advanced Phase III trial, compared to 2 percent for people who were

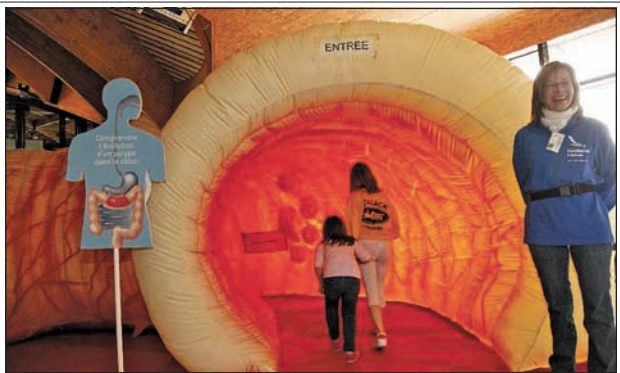
given a placebo.

"We are pleased about the outcome of this trial and look forward to getting the results from the two remaining trials in the SCALE programme", said Mads Krosgaard Thomsen, chief science officer at Novo Nordisk.

The company expects to complete the two remaining Phase III trials in the programme by mid-2013.

Reuters

People enter the colon model introducing colon cancer at a sports centre in Luxembourg, on 17 March, 2013. Nearly 10,000 people took part in the 24-hour relay for life from Saturday to Sunday to collect donations for cancer patients at the sports centre in Luxembourg.—XINHUA



## WORLD

## Jailed Kurdish rebel to make “historic call” to Turkey

ISTANBUL, 19 March— Jailed Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan said he would make a “historic” appeal on Thursday, raising expectations of a ceasefire in a 28-year conflict that has riven Turkey, killing some 40,000 people.

His statement, conveyed from his prison cell via a Kurdish politician, may cement peace talks

with the government that have been progressing tentatively since October.

A ceasefire call, coinciding with the Kurdish new year, could be accompanied by a command to his Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) militants to withdraw to bases in northern Iraq where the PKK says it keeps about half of its 7,000 fighters.

“The statement I am preparing will be a historic call. It will contain satisfying information on the military and political dimensions of a solution,” said Ocalan, who was captured by Turkish special forces in Kenya 14 years ago and long vilified as a murderer and “baby killer” in Turkish media.

“We want to solve the arms problem rapidly and without losing time or another life,” Ocalan said in asking for the support of parliament and political parties to achieve peace in the Kurds’ fight for more autonomy.

The PKK is considered a terrorist group by the United States and the European Union as well as Turkey. But Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan has promoted the contacts since a worsening of the conflict brought rising guerrilla violence and large-scale arrests of Kurdish activists.

Reuters



Selahattin Demirtas (front C), co-chairman of the pro-Kurdish Peace and Democracy Party (BDP), lights a traditional Newroz fire during a rally to celebrate the spring festival of Newroz in Istanbul on 17 March, 2013.—REUTERS



People look at illustrations on display during an exhibition commemorating the abolishment of slavery, at the United Nations (UN) headquarters in New York, on 18 March, 2013. Beginning on Monday, the UN will be hosting a week of activities to highlight the significance of 25 March, the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims and the Transatlantic Slave Trade.—XINHUA

## 13 dead, hundreds homeless from downpours in southeast Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 19 March — Torrential rains in southeast Brazil’s Rio de Janeiro state have killed 13 people and left more than 500 homeless, authorities said on Monday.

A total of 11 people were missing and most of the victims, including an infant and two rescue workers who were buried by a mud-

slide as they tried to save locals, were from Petropolis, a town in a mountainous region that frequently suffers from floods and mudslides.

The downpours began on Sunday evening and continued into Monday, said the local Civil Defence agency, adding that the region saw more than a month’s rainfall in less than 24 hours. Down-

pours are common in Rio state throughout the summer, and the mountain region that’s home to Petropolis is annually one of the areas worst hit by floods. In 2011, the region witnessed Brazil’s worst natural disaster, when downpour from several days killed 918 people, and left 215 missing and thousands homeless.—Xinhua

## New York mayor wants to ban stores from displaying cigarettes

NEW YORK, 19 March — New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg on Monday proposed requiring that cigarettes be hidden from view in retail stores as a means to reduce smoking in what he said would be the first law of its kind in the United States.

Bloomberg plans to introduce to the City Council on Wednesday two bills that would require retail-

ers to keep cigarettes in a drawer, behind a curtain or in some other concealed location.

Some retail trade groups and tobacco companies criticized the proposed display ban as an unnecessary burden.

Bloomberg, a former smoker, is accustomed to industry opposition from previous measures to improve the health of New

Yorkers, including bans on smoking in most offices, restaurants, bars, parks and on beaches.

Bloomberg has also taken steps to curtail the use of trans fats and salt in the city’s restaurants. Last week a court unexpectedly struck down his attempt to limit the size of sugary drinks, in part because it did not go through the City Council.—Reuters



Cigarettes are displayed behind the counter of a store in New York, on 18 March, 2013.—REUTERS

## European Commission urged to set up Europe-wide database of accidents, injuries

BRUSSELS, 19 March— A total of 28 European organizations had urged the European Commission to propose setting up a Europe-wide database of accidents and injuries, according to the European Economic and Social Committee on Monday.

Marking the 15th annual European Consumer Day last Thursday, 28 organizations joined forces to stress the need to tackle the current disorder of data collection, aiming to reduce the number of preventable injuries and healthcare costs.

Roughly 5.7 million people are admitted to hospital annually as a result

of injuries sustained in accidents, while 34 million others are treated as outpatients, according to the statistics provided by the organizations.

The high number of injuries has contributed to significant healthcare costs, estimated at 78 billion euros (101.1 billion US dollars) each year, said the statement.

The organizations said the establishment of a Pan-European Accident and Injury Data System would result in fewer accidents and injuries, and the cost of creating the database would be more than offset by reductions in healthcare costs.

Xinhua

## Syrian air force strikes rebels’ position on borders with Lebanon

DAMASCUS, 19 March — Syrian war jets carried out airstrikes on Monday against rebels’ positions at the country’s borders with Lebanon, a move that came just days after the Syrian Foreign Ministry warned that the army’s patience was running thin with rebel fighters sneaking into Syria from Lebanon, the pan-Arab al-Mayadeen TV said.

The army targeted rebels’ positions at the villages located to the northeast of the borders with Lebanon, the TV said, noting that the army’s airstrike didn’t reach Lebanese territories.

Yet, further information about the airstrike couldn’t be obtained inde-

pendently with the absence of official comments.

Last Thursday, Damascus announced that its forces would fire into Lebanon if “terrorist gangs” continued to infiltrate Syria.

“These past 36 hours, armed terrorist gangs have infiltrated the Syrian territory in large numbers from Lebanon,” said a letter sent by Syria’s Foreign Ministry to its Lebanese counterpart.

“Syrian forces are showing restraint by not striking these gangs inside Lebanese territory to prevent them crossing into Syria, but this will not go on indefinitely,” the ministry added.

The cross-border ten-

sion comes as many Sunni groups in the Lebanon’s northern city of Tripoli were accused of recruiting jihadists to join the fight against the Syrian troops.

On Sunday, Syria’s pro-government *al-Watan* daily said that as high as 15,000 armed fighters are poised to head to Syria after finishing special trainings in Lebanon, adding that hundreds of well-armed jihadists have already entered Syria through the borders with Jordan.

On Saturday, the Syrian army reinforced its posts on the border with Lebanon, namely along the downstream of the Nahr Al Kabir area which separates Lebanon from Syria.

Xinhua

## Car bomb kills seven in eastern Iraq

BAQUBA, 19 March— A car bomb struck an Iraqi police checkpoint in a town in Iraq’s eastern Province of Diyala on Monday, killing seven people and wounding 22, a provincial police source told Xinhua.

The attack occurred in the afternoon when a booby-trapped car parked near a police checkpoint at a parking lot in the town of Baladruz east of the provincial capital city of Baquba, some 65 km northeast of Baghdad, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

“Five policemen and two civilians were killed, while 17 civilians and five policemen were wounded by the blast,” the source said. The huge blast damaged a police vehicle and several nearby civilian cars, the source added. Earlier in the day, the police reportedly said that four people were killed, including a police officer, and seven people wounded in three bomb attacks near Baghdad. Violence is still common in the Iraqi cities despite the dramatic decrease since its peak in 2006 and 2007 when the country was engulfed in sectarian killings.

Xinhua

LOCAL NEWS

Objectives of the 68th Anniversary Armed Forces Day 2013

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

Construction of Hanthawady International Airport to be started in July

NAY PYI TAW, 19 March—A South Korean company is keen to invest in construction of Hanthawady International Airport, said an official of the Ministry of Transport.

“We invited local and foreign companies to construct Hanthawady International Airport. Many local and foreign companies submitted tender applications. Among them, a South Korean company is the keenest to construct it,” he said.

The Ministry of Transport invited tender applications for the new

airport from local and foreign companies in July 2012 to assess their master planning papers for the project.

A total of 30 companies including those from Asia, Europe and the US. Of them, seven companies were on the short list. Finally, the company that has investment, use of construction machinery and work experiences will be chosen.

IIAC company of South Korea expects to invest US\$ 600 million on construction of the new airport.

The company that won the tender for the project

will be announced in June. The selected company is to do its tasks in line with the Foreign Investment Laws of Myanmar.

H a n t h a w a d y International Airport is located in Bago, 48 miles northeast of Yangon. Construction tasks will commence in July and a plan is set to complete the project in 2016.

Myanma Alinn

Heroin seized from woman’s jeans pant

MOMAUk, 19 March—Heroin was seized from the short pant of a woman at Kyauksakhan Village of Momauk Township in Kachin State.

IP Myint Win and party of Bhamo Anti-Drug Special Squad at 3.15 pm on 5 March searched a Pajero driven by Myat Ko Ko from Lwejel to Bhamo at Kyauksakhan Village.

Myanma Alinn

Tube-wells sunk in villages in central Myanmar

KYAUkPADAUNG, 19 March—Magway, Mandalay and Sagaing regions, the central area of Myanmar, got lesser amount of rainfalls than that of previous years.

Climate change has reduced rainfalls of these regions to under 13 inches. As a result, local people and animals faced difficulty in drinking water.

Under the arrangements of the Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation, Water Resource Utilization Department sank tube-wells in Kanpauk, Paukthit and Nabadan villages of Kyaukpadaung Township of Mandalay Region with the use of RG

SPEI (Mdy) awards winners in age-wise chess tournament

MANDALAY, 19 March—The prize presentation of the Invitational Age-wise International Chess Tournament for 2012-2013 was held at the hall of Sports and Physical Education Institute (Mandalay) on 9 March.

It was jointly organized by SPEI (Mandalay) and Mandalay Region Chess Subcommittee.

Principal of the institute U Thein Tun Latt made a speech and Secretary of the subcommittee U Nay Win explained the purpose of tournament and prize awarding.

After that, Principal U Thein Tun Latt, Deputy



Principal U Myint Khaing, Assistant Director U Moe Kyaw Lwin and Secretary of the subcommittee U Nay

Win presented prizes to winners in the U-10, U-12, U 14 and U-16 chess events.

Myanma Alinn

Loans disbursed to small-scale industry workers

MAHLAING, 19 March—Mandalay Region Minister for Planning and Economic U Aung Zan met with small-scale industries entrepreneurs and toddy

palm farmers of Mahlaing Township on 3 March.

The region minister disbursed loans to the entrepreneurs and farmers. The region minister reached out K 3.7

million to 74 bamboo strap makers of Yayyin Village in MyinUhle Village-tract and K 6.75 million to 135 bamboo strap workers from Yayngway Village.

Myanma Alinn

Cattle smugglers arrested in Bamauk

KATHA, 19 March—Commander of Bamauk Township Police Force Police Major Khin Maung Lwin, SIP Thein Tun Win of Pinpon Police Outpost and members of Katha District in Sagaing Region checked 40 cows together with five men on the road to Thayetgon Village, 12 miles of Bamauk Township at 11.30 pm on 8 March.

Those who brought cows were Kyaw Soe, 30 of Pinlebu, Win Maung, 34, Kyaw San Oo, 33 and San Ngwe, 33 of Bamauk. They brought 21 cows and 19 oxen worth K 13.9 million without permission.

Police Major Khin Maung Lwin opened a file of lawsuit against cow smugglers.

Myanma Alinn

Outstanding athletes honoured in Mandalay



MANDALAY, 19 March—A ceremony to honour the winners representing Mandalay Region in the Union Trophy Body-building and Physical Culture Contest held in Yangon took place at the hall of Bahtoo Stadium, here, on 12 March.

Deputy Director of Mandalay Region Sports and Physical Education Department U Wai Zin and Chairman of the Region Body-building and Physical Culture Subcommittee U

Han Myaint made speeches.

Chairman U Han Myaing presented K 300,000 to Aung Aung who stood first in the 80-kilo class and Deputy Director U Wai Zin, K 200,000 to Thin Win in the 90-kilo class body-building event. Member of the subcommittee Daw May Thet Maw (Maw Maw San Htomont) presented K 200,000 to Khaing Wai Lwin who secured the second prize in the above 5 feet and three inches physical culture contest.—Myanma Alinn



Heroin seized in Bamauk Township

KATHA, 19 March—SIP Kyaw Soe Lwin and party of Manhton Police Station of Bamauk Township at 3 am on 9 March acting on tip-off searched the house at NantkhaU Creek, six miles west of Techein Village.

They saw Soe Thein,

41 of Five-Mile Village in Hopin Sub-Township and seized 178.9 grams of heroin worth K 17,890,000 from his jeans bag.

Bamauk Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against the drug possessor.

Myanma Alinn

# PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 20 March, 2013

## Adopt more inclusive strategies in fight against drugs

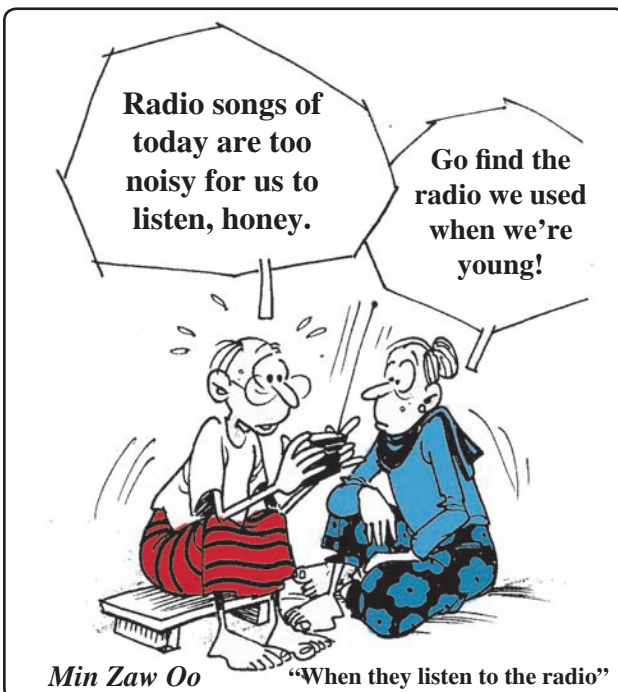
Narcotic drugs pose a grave threat to the entire mankind. A drug addict usually brings social problems to his society. Trying drug, an individual can be easily addicted to it and the abuse can ruin his whole life. If one uses drug through injection, he may be infected with fatal diseases such as HIV/AIDS that takes his life suddenly.

Myanmar has been implementing the 15-year Narcotics Elimination Plan since 1999-2000. Towards this end, concrete steps are being taken with the participation of local people and in collaboration with international organizations and neighboring and regional countries.

Committees for Drug Abuse Control at region/state, district and township levels have been formed to extensively engage in winding down drug related cases and giving educative talks and rehabilitation of drug addicts. Although the committees had made very good progress on the issues they dealt, the abuse of stimulant tablets such as ATS, Ketamine, ICE and Ecstasy is still rampant, resulting in frequent seizure of haul of drugs and taking action against those implicated. Such a development represents a retrograde step and adds a new urgency to drug elimination efforts.

One of the most important responsibilities of a modern society is to educate its young who could easily fall victims to drugs. This undertaking cannot be shouldered lightly or taken for granted. The courage to make a change in one's own life for the better can be most difficult and yet underrated.

As drug problems among the youths are bound to have widespread social ramifications and have proved extremely embarrassing to the process of transition to democracy, the government should adopt more inclusive strategies and a broader vision in order that it can provide a more professional touch in the fight against drugs.



## ARTICLE

# New Discoveries of Prehistoric Rock Art in Badalin Caves

The culture of prehistoric rock art in Badalin Caves is valuable ancient Myanmar cultural heritage. It is very important that every citizen has to keep this cultural heritage. Badalin Caves (N 20° 07.775' E 96° 20.489') are located in Ywangan Township, Taunggyi District in Southern Shan State and 1000 feet above

be concerned with some practical purposes. The rock painters may have wanted to show what kinds of animals they wanted for meat. They also wanted to show how the animal was hunted or trapped. And they wanted to do some magic to have more kills in the next hunt. All the pictures were drawn in outline and filled with red colour. It is the style of

*Professor Dr Yee Yee Aung  
(University of Yangon)*

lime wash, and partly covered by recent Myanmar text. However some fairly clear marks can be seen on the eastern panel, 24.0 x 2.8 meters expense that begins 1.7 meters above ground level. In the upper left

made. Cupules are created by percussion, existing on a horizontal or vertical surface, but mostly horizontally. These cupules must have been made intentionally and must possess some non-utilitarian or symbolic function, even though and additional utilitarian function may be present. And the cupules are typically found in groups, often numbering several hundreds, even a thousand in a single location. Singletons are highly unusual.

The cupules in eastern cave are normally average 5 cm in diameter, but there are also smaller and shallower cupules of around 2 cm, as well as larger ones measuring up to ten centimeters e.g the largest one in Badalin Cave-1 is 11 cm in diameter. In Cave-1, there are four clusters of cupules each arrange on protruding and cover portions of the lime stone wall. The cupules are on vertical and sloping surfaces. Each cluster extends up from ground level.

There are at least 346 cupules, including two isolated examples, 2.5 to 11 cm in diameter. Indeed, there is a crust over the top of all cupules and a small stag stalagmite has formed on the portion of the sloping surface filled with cupules.

To sum up, Myanmar is the only one country where the cupules are found in Mainland Southeast Asia. The new discovery of cupules in Badalin Caves is the most valuable not only for Myanmar Prehistoric Cultural Heritage but also for the Southeast Asian Prehistoric Cultural Heritage. Every citizen must have to keep this cultural heritage.



*Cupules in Badalin Cave-1.*

sea level. By a pack mule track, it is on the west of about one mile from Yayboke and northeast of four miles from Nyaungyat. There are two caves, all facing south and 200 yards apart. In addition to this, from 70 feet above the foot track, the caves are at a good height to be safe against the surprise attack by the enemies.

Cave-1 (Eastern Cave) has the rock art. The unique feature of Cave-1 is its rock art, the only one of its kinds found in Myanmar. Cave-1 is a rock shelter with at least a dozen rock paintings.

As in the letter (E), the cave has three walls coming out of the back wall, and the pictures were drawn on the south side of the middle wall.

The pictures were drawn about ten feet to twelve feet above the cave floor on the central partition. The cave men mostly depicted animal figures except human hands and the blazing sun.

The animals they drew were now extinct. They were ancestors of modern cattle, deer, elephant, horse, pig, rhinoceros, etc. They were drawn mostly in connection with hunting. They may

all rock painters who left many pictures in the caves of Spain and France, though the pictures are not so fine as those of Europe. During the rainy season, lime water ooze out of the wall, giving the pictures a lime wash, obliterating several details.

Cave-2 (Western Cave) is very large, containing nine main caverns connected by narrow passages all in a row of north to the south axis. The entire length is about 800 feet. True to the nature of lime stone caves, percolating water drips down from the roof and the process forming white, glistening stalactites still continues there.

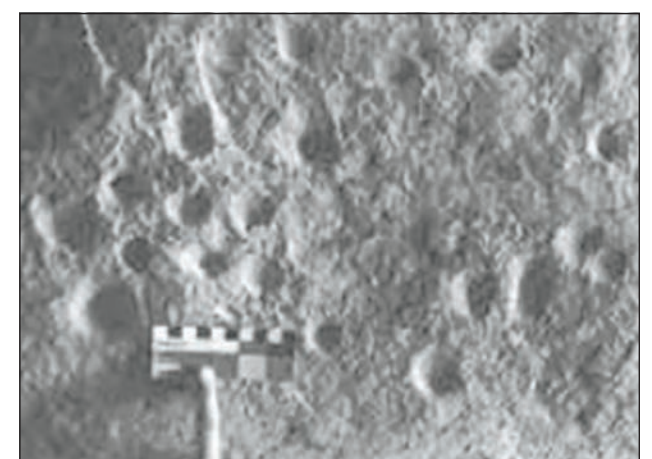
The stalactites also keep soaring higher and higher, sometimes almost meeting the hanging stalactites. Cave-1 (Eastern Cave), on the other hand, is much smaller. It is wide open to day light and fresh air, and is only thirty to forty feet deep horizontally.

Two new discoveries of rock art were made in Badalin Caves. First, at Cave-2 (Western Cave), the researcher noted that the panels either side of the entrance way to the deep caverns have faint remnants of dark red, purple pigment, for the most part fragmented, obscured by

hand corner and across the middle of the upper portion are the remains of several hand prints. Also at Cave-2, the marks were found that appear splash-like and were either made by flicking a large paint-soaked brush or by throwing some string-like material or other matter that was impregnated with paint the wall. These marks are rare in world-wide rock art.

The second is that the "cupules" or cup stones or cup marks are found at Cave-1 (Eastern Cave). The cupules are recently named by world famous archaeologist Robert G. Bednarik in 2003. The cupules are the earliest prehistoric rock art.

These are cup-shaped and it is clear that these are man-



*Cupules in India.*



NATIONAL

## Japan to assist in promoting computerized systems, expanding marine trade



NAY PYI TAW, 19 March—A Japanese delegation held talks with Union Commerce Minister U Win Myint over cooperation in promoting computerized systems in development sectors and expanding marine trade in Myanmar.

During the meeting held at the ministry here today, the Japanese delegation was led by President Mr Shoichi Sakaki of Broad Link Co., Ltd and Mr Fujio Tamaki of Auto Grand Corporation.

MNA

## Union Rail Transportation Minister receives Japanese delegation

NAY PYI TAW, 19 March—Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Zeyar Aung received a delegation led by Vice-Minister for International Affairs Mr Hajime ISHIZU of Ministry

of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) of Japan at his office here yesterday.

They discussed bilateral cooperation in upgrading rail transportation.—MNA

## Myanmar-Korea to cooperate in judiciary sector

NAY PYI TAW, 19 March— Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin received a delegation led by Mr. JEON HAE CHEOL, Member of Legislation and Judiciary Committee of National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, at the Attorney-General of the Union's Office, here, this morning.

General said that the Republic of Korea was the first country to invest in Myanmar. Myanmar had already enacted the new Foreign Investment Law and would become the member of UNCITRAL Rules and New York Convention to settle international disputes, he added. Foreign investors can make win-win investments in the country with local investors, he said.

During the meeting, Mr Jeon Hae Cheol expressed Korean's willingness to make more investment in Myanmar and to set up offices by Korean law farms.

The Attorney-General is also a cabinet member and has to take responsibilities for local and international legal affairs, he said.

MNA

## MRA Chairman leaves for Japan to observe food industry



YANGON, 19 March— At the invitation of Organization to Promote Japanese Restaurant Abroad (JRO) and MOFA of Japan, a 11-member delegation led by Chairman U Nyan Lin, Vice-Chairmen U Khin Aung Tun, U Sonny Aung

Khin, U Aye Kyi and General Secretary U Kyaw Myat Moe of Myanmar Restaurant Association left for Tokyo, Japan on 17 March.

While in Japan up to 28 March, they will visit restaurants foodstuff industries and farms.—NLM

## Myanmar, Japan to promote tourism industry

NAY PYI TAW, 19 March—Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung held talks with a Japanese delegation led by Deputy Minister of International Affairs and Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Mr. Hajime ISHIZU at the ministry, here, yesterday evening.

The meeting focused on further expansion of Japanese airlines, more visit of Japanese tourists, Japan's

support for establishment of vocational training schools in Myanmar and Japan's assistance for human resource development as responsible tourism policy and Myanmar tourism master plan being carried out in Myanmar's tourism industry with the financial and technical assistances of Hanns Seidel Foundation of Germany, Norwegian government and Asian Development Bank.

MNA

## Amyotha Hluttaw accepts motion on settling tax ...

(from page 16) Rights, Democratic Rights and Human Rights of Citizens, the report of the Financial and Legal Affairs Commission on

the budget for the 2011-2012 FY presented by the Union Attorney-General Office.

Two MPs discussed the report 1/2013 of the

## Rules & regulations for applying passport relaxed

NAY PYI TAW, 19 March — Myanmar Passport Issuance Office of the Ministry of Home Affairs has relaxed rules and regulations for applying passport, reducing the number documentation from 14 pages to three pages.

introduced the new system for the people in applying passports by themselves without causing delays, the announcement of the office said.

The relaxation is aimed at minimizing waste of time and cost for applying passports.

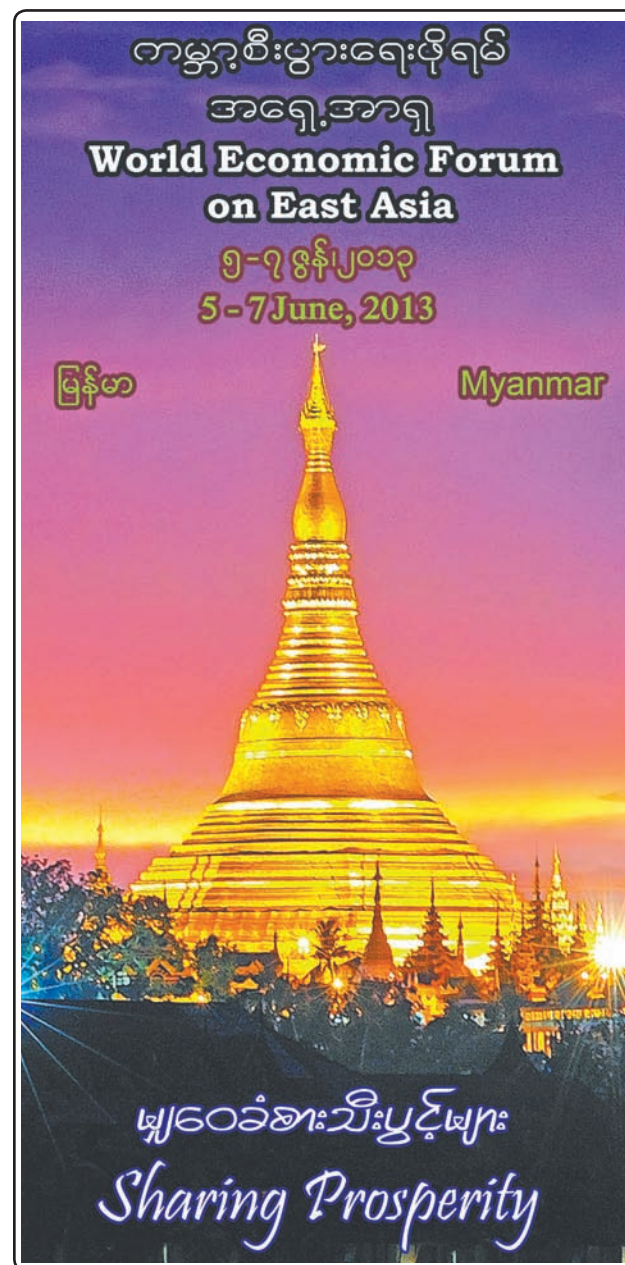
MNA

## China hands over inmate Aung Myat (a) Kham Hong to Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 19 March — Under the agreement between Myanmar and China, a Chinese delegation led by Deputy Director-General Mr Xian Yanmin of Yunnan Province Public Security Department handed over Myanmar citizen Aung Myat (a) Kham Hong, who was temporarily extradited to the

Ministry of Public Security of the People's Republic of China, to Deputy Shan State Police Commander Lt-Col Kyaw Tun and party at the Office of Shan State Deputy Police Commander on 17 March.

Aung Myat (a) Kham Hong was temporarily extradited to China on 10



Amyotha Hluttaw Public Complaints and Petitions Committee.

The committee also reported to the Hluttaw on complaints and appeals lodged by the people about high-interest rate.

Amyotha Hluttaw Mining and Resources

Committee presented its report on trips to Magway Region, Chin State and Sagaing Region from 24 September to 4 October 2012.

The meeting of Amyotha Hluttaw will continue tomorrow.

MNA

## Measures for villages in Latpadaungtaung copper mine project area continue

NAY PYI TAW, 19 March—The respective groups assigned by the committee for implementation of Latpadaungtaung copper

mine project report is making field trips to villages in the project area to scrutinize land records, coordinate reclamation of farmlands and to take necessary measures in employment, education and health sectors.

May 2012 in order to help trial for murder of 13 Chinese sailors took place on 5 October 2011. As the legal process was over, he was handed over to Myanmar.

A legal action will be taken against Aung Myat (a) Kham Hong in Myanmar, it is learnt.

MNA

So far, 259 farmers from four village-tracts were compensated K 844.7 million during the period from 16 to 18 March. The committee for scrutinizing confiscated lands received 14 letters of complaint regarding land compensation and is making arrangements to take necessary measures.

MNA



*European Union Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Francois Hollande and CEO of Ericsson Leif Johansson (R-L) attend a joint Press Conference prior to the European Round Table of Industrialists, at the Chancellery in Berlin, Germany, on 18 March, 2013. The leaders of Germany, France and the European Union Commission pledged to boost growth and competitiveness of the European economy at a meeting on Monday in the German capital.—XINHUA*

## Colombia deploys more police in crime-troubled city

BOGOTA, 19 March— Colombia is sending 1,400 more police officers to patrol the streets in the western city of Medellin as part of an anti-crime programme launched on Monday by President Juan Manuel Santos.

The city, the only one that saw an increase in homicide cases in the first quarter, will also become home to Colombia's national police force headquarters, Santos said while launching the programme.

The Colombian president said he was concerned about the rise in homicides in Medellin and thus came up with the anti-crime programme.

"I have come here to Medellin to place this force at the service of the city, to help combat all kinds of crimes every day, on all fronts," Santos added.

Official figures showed that from the beginning of the year through 13 March, the city registered 335 homicides, 35 more than during the same period last year.

Xinhua

## UN food agency chief urges support for Mali, entire Sahel region

UNITED NATIONS, 19 March— The UN food agency chief on Monday called upon the international community to continue its efforts to help feed people in the Sahel region following her visit to the West African region marred by high levels of food and nutrition insecurity and the current conflict in Mali.

"The executive direc-

tor of the World Food Programme, Ertharin Cousin, said on Monday that the people of Mali continue to suffer the impact of mass displacement and that they urgently need food and other humanitarian assistance," the deputy UN spokesman, Eduardo del Buey, said at a daily news briefing here.

Cousin made the remarks upon her return from

## French hostage in Nigeria speaks of harsh lives in Boko Haram's broadcast

PARIS, 19 March— A man believed to be the head of the French family held hostages in Nigeria said in a newly released recording broadcast that they are living a harsh life, French media reported on Monday.

"We have been arrested for 25 days," the French father who called himself

Moulin Fournier said. He read a statement in French and English when he spoke of the hard conditions of seven hostages, including four children, in the video released by Boko Haram.

"We have very harsh living conditions... we lost our energies and begin to be sick," he was quoted by

channel BFMTV as saying.

He called on French ambassador in Nigeria to make "every effort" to get the family free.

This is the second video of the kidnapped French family being broadcast following the first one being posted on YouTube on 25 Feb.—Xinhua

## NATO dismisses Karzai's accusation as "ridiculous"

BRUSSELS, 19 March— NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said on Monday it was "absolutely ridiculous" for Afghan President Hamid Karzai to accuse the United States of colluding with the Taliban.

"I reject the idea that was publicly launched by President Karzai that one way or the other there is a

so-called collusion between NATO, ISAF, US and the Taliban. It's an absolutely ridiculous idea," Rasmussen said at his monthly Press Conference in Brussels.

On 10 March, Karzai accused the US of conspiring with the Taliban to keep foreign troops in Afghanistan beyond 2014, when NATO is going to end its combat mission.

"Troops from 50 ISAF nations have sacrificed in order to bring progress to Afghanistan," he said. "We fully respect the sovereignty of Afghanistan. But we would also expect acknowledgment from the Afghan side that we have actually invested a lot in blood and treasure in helping President Karzai's country to move forward."—Xinhua



*The ground-to-ground troops are composed of short, medium, long-range and intercontinental ballistic missile troops; engineering troops; combat support, armament technology support and logistics service troops. Conventional warfare tactical missile troops, equipped with the weapon systems, can perform urgent tasks and fulfill sudden attack response requirements.—XINHUA*

## Connecticut panel proposes stricter gun laws after Newtown

WASHINGTON, 19 March—An advisory commission convened by Connecticut's governor after the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School proposed a host of new gun control measures, including required registration of all guns and mandatory background checks for all buyers.

The Sandy Hook Advisory Commission on Monday also recommended an array of classroom security standards, among them a requirement that classroom doors lock from the inside and that all exterior doors be capable of a full perimeter lockdown.

The commission released its recommendations, which were preliminary and non-binding, to Governor Dannel Malloy a little more than three

months after a gunman shot dead 20 school children and six adults at the school in the wealthy Connecticut town of Newtown.

The recommendations would tighten Connecticut gun laws, which are already among the most stringent in the United States. Neighbouring New York state tightened its gun laws a month after the shooting, and President Barack Obama proposed a range of gun control measures a few days after that. The 16-member commission of educators, academics, emergency responders, politicians and mental health professionals called for requiring a certificate of registration for any firearm that would be issued following the completion of a background check.

Reuters



*People hold signs memorializing Sandy Hook Elementary School, where 20 children and six adults were killed in a mass shooting in December, as they participate in the March on Washington for Gun Control on the National Mall in Washington, on 26 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS*

## Most Americans view Iraq War as mistake on eve of anniversary

WASHINGTON, 19 March— Most Americans view the Iraq War as a "mistake" on the eve of the 10th Anniversary of US invasion of the Mideast country, according to poll results released on Monday.

According to a Gallup poll, 53 percent of Americans believe their country "made a mistake sending troops to fight in Iraq," while 42 percent say it was not a mistake.

On the other hand, a slim majority of Americans, about 51 percent, say the war in Afghanistan was not a mistake, while 44 percent believe sending troops to Afghanistan was a mistake.

Unlike the Iraq War, which ended in 2011, the Afghanistan War is an ongoing engagement, with a

scheduled drawdown date of 2014.

Americans initially supported the war, with substantial majorities in 2003 saying the US decision to get involved in Iraq was not a mistake. However, attitudes changed quickly, and by the summer of 2004, a majority of Americans called the war a mistake.

Opinions fluctuated thereafter but, with only one exception since August 2005, a majority has said the war was a mistake each time Gallup has asked the question. Gallup contends that the national fatigue of wars has led some political commentators to warn of a new "American isolationism," which limits or curtails future military action.

Xinhua

## REGIONAL

## Fuel pool cooling system of Fukushima nuclear plant suspended

TOKYO, 19 March—Tokyo Electric Power Co remained unable to resume the spent fuel cooling system at its Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant as of Tuesday morning after the system's suspension on Monday due to a power failure.

The power failure occurred at the crippled nuclear complex before 7 pm on Monday. It has not af-

ected the water injection to the Nos 1 to 3 reactors that suffered core meltdowns in the early days of the nuclear crisis triggered by the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami, said local media.

TEPCO is continuing its probe into the cause of the outage affecting the cooling system for the spent fuel pools of the No 1, 3 and 4 reactors, said reports. *Xinhua*

## Japan to provide Cambodia with nearly 34 mln USD grant aid

PHNOM PENH, 19 March—Cambodia will sign to receive 33.9 million US dollars in grant aid from Japan for three projects in small hydropower dams, healthcare and education, according to a news release from Cambodia's foreign ministry on Monday.

Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign

Minister Hor Namhong and Japanese ambassador to Cambodia Yuji Kumamaru will ink the agreements on Wednesday, the press release said.

One project costs 13.1 million US dollars for the construction and rehabilitation of small hydropower plants in northeastern Ratanakiri Province, another



Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra (R) meets with Belgian Crown Prince Philippe in Bangkok on 18 March, 2013.—XINHUA

is a 14.33 million US dollar grant aid for improvement of Southwestern Preah Sihanouk Province Referral Hospital, and the other is a 6.47 million US dollar aid for improvement of facility and laboratory equipment in the Institute of Technology of Cambodia. Japan is one of the largest donors to Cambodia.—*Xinhua*

## Malaysian customs seize drugs worth 4.5 mln USD

KUALA LUMPUR, 19 March—Malaysian Customs officers has thwarted a drug smuggling attempt by seizing 73 kg methamphetamine valued 14 million ringgit (4.47 million US dollars), officials said on Monday.

Custom officers seized the drugs last week when going after boxes of fresh cut roses imported from India, said Liah Omra, a senior Custom official.

Liah said officers became suspicious after finding that the consignment was imported without a necessary permit. They traced the lorry that carrying the cargo to a house, before finding drugs hidden in some of the flower boxes.

He said some drugs was for distribution in Malaysia while the rest will be transited to other countries.

Two Indian nationals, aged 35 and 40 respectively, were held for investigation. They may face death penalty if convicted, Liah said.—*Xinhua*

## Mongolia highlights role of peacekeepers in UN missions

ULAN BATOR, 19 March—Mongolia held a series of activities on Monday to mark the Army Day and highlighted the role of Mongolian peacekeepers in UN peacekeeping operations.

At a welcome ceremony, President Tsakhia Elbegdorj praised the contribu-

tions made by the Mongolian military to UN peacekeeping missions over the past 10 years.

Elbegdorj said he visited Mongolian peacekeepers in South Sudan in February together with Defence Minister Dashdemberel Bat-Erdene and Chief of the General Staff Biambuu-

Jav.

Mongolia has 850 peacekeepers stationed in South Sudan.

During the past 10 years, more than 5,000 Mongolian servicemen have participated in 14 international peacekeeping operations.

*Xinhua*



Pakistani policemen examine a damaged office following a suicide attack on a court complex in Pakistan's northwest city of Peshawar on 18 March, 2013. At least four people were killed and over 30 others injured including policemen, lawyers and a judge on Monday afternoon when two suicide bombers attacked a local court in Peshawar, local media and officials said. *XINHUA*

## Vietnamese seafood sector to sue DOC for unfair decision

HANOI, 19 March—The Vietnam Association of Seafood Exporters and Producers (VASEP) will go to court to demand that the US Department of Commerce (DOC) change the decision to choose Indonesia as the sole benchmark country to calculate the anti-dumping rate on Vietnam's tra fish, announced the association.

VASEP General Secretary Truong Dinh Hoe told local media on Sunday that the DOC's decision is

extremely unfair, which affects not only Vietnam's seafood export to the US market, but also harms US consumers as they would have to buy seafood products at much higher prices.

VASEP is very dismayed at the DOC's sudden replacement of the reference country and the association also oppose the anti-dumping tax levels the department has imposed on frozen tra fish fillets imported from Vi-

etnam, Hoe told local *Lao Dong* newspaper.

According to VASEP, the DOC is yet to publish its decision on the Federal Register so the decision will not take effect immediately. During the pending time, Vietnamese tra fish exporters and their lawyers will collect and analyze data for the lawsuit, which will be submitted to the US Federal court at a suitable time.

*Xinhua*

## Nepal overcomes India in poverty reduction

KATHMANDU, 19 March—Nepal is more significantly reducing poverty compared to its economically strong neighbour, India, according to a report developed at the University of Oxford and adopted by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Although India made noteworthy improvement in reducing poverty between 1996 and 2006, its economically poorer neighbours like Nepal and Bangladesh progressed at a rate three times higher than itself, the report developed on the basis of Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) read.

The MPI includes poverty indicators such as years of schooling, nutrition, child mortality, covered floor and water availability.

The report, released right on the heels of UN's latest development report published last week, also predicted that countries under the poverty line, such as Nepal, could eradicate acute poverty within 20 years if they continue progressing at

the present rate of poverty reduction.

The poverty reduction rates of Nepal, Bangladesh and India were marked at 4.1 percent, 3.2 percent and 1.2 percent per year respectively, the report read.

It has tagged countries like Nepal, Bangladesh and Rwanda as "star performers." Bolivia, Cambodia, Ghana and Tanzania were also found to have reduced poverty significantly.

The UN has identified international and national aid and development projects investing in schools, health posts, infrastructures and water as the primary key factors for the significant reduction in poverty.

"The success of Nepal and Bangladesh in reducing poverty despite their relatively low income highlights the effectiveness of social policy investments combined with active civil society engagement," Dr Sabina Alkire, director of the university's Human Development Initiative, said in the report.—*Xinhua*



A driver sprinkles salt on the tyres bound with skid-proof chains as vehicles queue to pass the segment of state highway 109 which is covered with snow near Nalong Village in Damxung County, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, on 18 March, 2013. A snowstorm here made an icy road on the segment of state highway 109 near Nalong Village, causing many vehicles truck on the road.—*XINHUA*

## Oil level in Philippines' Boracay beaches 'worrisome'

BORACAY, 19 March—The oil level in the waters of Boracay has reached exceeded the acceptable level and may continue to increase due to the expected influx of tourists in the coming days, an environment official based in central Philippines said on Monday.

The Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources disclosed that

based on its latest monitor, the oil level in Boracay is currently at more than two milligrams per metre.

"While coliform level in this resort island has significantly been reduced, we are worried about the oil level we found in the beaches here. It's still safe to swim in Boracay's waters but the expected increase in tourists due to the summer season could cause the oil level to rise," said EMB regional director

Samson Guillergan in an interview.

Guillergan said among the factors that led to the increase in the oil level in the beaches are the dumping of vegetable oil from food establishments and residential areas, waste water from the bancas, and various water sports activities.

He urged tourists and residents in the area to help maintain the good quality of the beaches of Boracay.

*Xinhua*

## TRADEMARK CAUTION

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Yangon. 20 March 2013

*Scottish First Minister Alex Salmond (R Front) and Malawian President Joyce Banda (L Front) visit the David Livingstone Centre in Blantyre, South Lanarkshire of Scotland, Britain, on 17 March, 2013. The commemoration of the 200th anniversary of Scottish explorer David Livingstone's birth kicked off here on Sunday. Scottish explorer David Livingstone was born on 19 March, 1813.—XINHUA*



## Pair of pandas heads to Canada soon

BEIJING, 19 March—A pair of pandas will leave China for Canada on 25 March and stay there for 10 years, as per an agreement signed by the two countries.

Ershun and Damao, the pandas, will be accompanied by animal protection experts during the flight,

and fresh bamboo will be sent to them regularly after they settle down there, FedEx, which has been commissioned for the trip, announced on Monday.

The two pandas will both stay in the Toronto Zoo and the Calgary Zoo for five years, respectively.

The Chinese Association of Zoological Gardens signed the agreement with the two Canadian zoos in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality in February 2012, during Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper's visit to the municipality.—Xinhua

## Canadian miner discovers 239-carat diamond in Botswana

GABORONE, 19 March—Canadian diamond explorer and mining company, Lucara Diamond Corp, announced on Monday that it has discovered an exceptionally large diamond from its Karowe Mine in Botswana.

Lucara said in a statement that in addition to the 239.2-carat diamond, two more large stones weighing 124.0 carats and 71.1 carats have also been recovered.

According to the company, the diamonds were recovered from the central kimberlite domain which

has only recently become ore feed to the plant as the pit expands towards the south.

The company further said the diamonds will be sent to Antwerp to be studied prior to being sold later in the year.

"The recovery of these large stones is hugely significant to both Lucara and Botswana. To the best of my knowledge, the 239-carat stone is one of the largest diamonds ever to have been recovered from the highly prolific Orapa kimberlite field in over 40 years of production," said

William Lamb, president and chief executive officer of Lucara.

"The recovery of a diamond of this size, the confirmed population of blue diamonds, and the strong operational performance in our first few quarters of operation demonstrate the quality of the assets as well as the competence of the operations team," he added.

Lucara positioned as a new diamond producer has two key assets — Karowe Mine in Botswana and the Mothae Project in Lesotho.

Xinhua



*A frogman makes a description after a diving in the Laoyemiao water area of the Poyang Lake, east China's Jiangxi Province, on 18 March, 2013. Archaeologists discovered a sunk ship in the Laoyemiao area of the Poyang Lake, China's largest freshwater lake on Monday. The Laoyemiao area in the lake is often referred to as "China's Bermuda Triangle" because of the large number of boats that sank mysteriously in the area over the years.*

XINHUA

## US oilfield major Halliburton opens new centre in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 19 March—US NYSE-listed energy products and services provider, Halliburton, opened a new completion tools manufacturing facility in Singapore, the company said on Monday.

The company said the new state-of-the-art facility includes more than 500,000 square feet (46,451 square metres) of manufacturing and administrative space. It also includes technology laboratories and test facilities for its completion tools business.

According to the company, the co-called Completion Tools, represents a product service line that "enables customers to economically and efficiently complete their wells by

providing the design, selection and provision of equipment and services to optimize well production."

Halliburton established its operation in the city-state in 1973, and its Completion Tools leadership team and global headquarters relocated from Houston, Texas, to Singapore in 2011.

The company did not reveal the whole investment of the new facility, but report by the local paper *Straits Times* said it will create around 800 jobs by year-end with positions as managers, engineers and skilled production craftsmen opening up.

At the opening event on Monday, Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister Teo

## BBC moves to new sites from 53-year-old TV building

LONDON, 19 March—The entire BBC news operations have moved to a brand new home in central London on Monday with the last TV network news broadcast from its old Television Centre in west London last night.

The last TV network news from the Television Centre in west London has been broadcast on BBC One. The old TV centre property, which has been sold for redevelopment, opened in 1960 and the news first went out from the site nine years later.

Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, news bulletins on BBC One fronted by the likes of Richard Baker, Angela Rippon, Anna Ford, Moira Stuart, Peter Sissons

and Martyn Lewis attracted audiences of up to 10 million people, said the BBC.

The BBC's Broadcasting House in central London has been extended. The TV news journalists will join those BBC News colleagues that have already moved into their new home - staff working on Newsnight, World TV, the news website and the BBC Red Button news pages, as well as those on radio news other than BBC Radio 5 live.

The former Television Centre, which was sold for 200 million pounds last year, closes on 31 March and will be redeveloped into hotels, flats, a cinema and office space, while retaining some classic studios.—Xinhua

## French national sentenced to 17 years over drug trafficking in Mauritius

PORT-LOUIS, 19 March—A 19-year-old French national was sentenced to 17 years in prison by a Mauritius court for drug trafficking.

The case dates back to March 2012 when Deborah Dangla was caught transporting 6,942 tablets each containing 8 mg of Subutex drug, valued at 366,000 US dollars in her bag while travelling to Mauritius.

At the time of her arrest at the airport, she was aged 18 years. She was later charged at the Court of Assizes for importing Subutex (Bupremorphine).

She pleaded guilty of the charges during the hearing of the case which was presided over by Justice Benjamin Marie-Joseph. The latter concluded that Dangla was a drug trafficker, given that the value of her drugs was over 30,000 dollars.

The judge rejected the argument of the defence that their client was a victim of an organized network who use young people to traffic the drugs, and recalled that the young girl had been informed about the plan to transport the drugs from Paris to Mauritius at least three months before her arrest in Mauritius.

Xinhua



*A man paints an oil paper umbrella in Yuanxiangyuan Village of Kaohsiung City in southeast China's Taiwan, on 18 March, 2013. The Yuanxiangyuan Village has attracted a good many tourists thanks to its burgeoning oil paper umbrella industry.—XINHUA*

## 13 missing after ship sinks in E China

JINAN, 19 March—One person has been rescued and 13 others remain missing after a container ship sank in east China's Bohai Bay on Monday afternoon, local maritime authorities said.

The ship carrying 14

crew members was travelling from the northern coastal city of Tianjin to the coastal city of Taizhou in eastern Zhejiang Province, according to the Yantai Maritime Safety Administration.—Xinhua

ENTERTAINMENT

I'll be a good mom: Bipasha Basu



Bipasha Basu talks about being a mother some day and why her instincts have always worked for her.

NEW DELHI, 19 March—Acting in horror films seems to come naturally to Bipasha Basu. Incidentally, the actress admits she is quite scared of the supernatural. So much so that she even wants to take a break from the genre after her next film in this genre. In a freewheeling chat, Bips also talks about being a mother some day and why her instincts have always worked for her.

**Question:** You seem to be in love with the devil?

**Bipasha Basu:** I did not plan to do back-to-back horror films. But since the stories of both the films were so good and the scope of performance was great, as an actor I would have been foolish not to do them. If this film is a hit, I will say yes, I love the devil! (Laughs)

**Question:** You always had a rather bold image in Bollywood. Are horror films a step to change that image?

**Bipasha Basu:** Horror is bold too. I became an actor quite by chance and everything I have done is based on my gut feeling. It has been an amazing journey with many highs and lows. But when I compare myself to when I started out in the industry, I feel I am a much more evolved actor today. There is no particular thought process involved. But after Vikram Bhatt's horror film, I definitely need to take a break from the horror genre. I don't want to become a horror specialist.

**Question:** Do you think the image of an actress has changed in the industry?

**Bipasha Basu:** The best thing is that married actresses are being accepted today. We have come a long way! There was a point of time when I started out when we were not even supposed to admit having boyfriends. But then when it's an important part of your life, how can you completely deny it?

**Question:** We hear you are quite afraid of scary things?

**Bipasha Basu:** Yes, very much. When people speak very loudly, I jump in fear. That's been the case always and it's not changing.

**Question:** How is Nawazuddin Siddiqui as a co-star?

**Bipasha Basu:** We have a very sweet equation. I talk and he listens! Suparn and I used to talk a lot and he just smiled and listened. He is a thorough gentleman.

**Question:** You had a very young co-star too.

**Bipasha Basu:** I realised I had to be patient. After all, she is five-year-old. At time she said, "Neend aaya hai" and she slept off. And we thought so gayi, shot kaun dega? Suparn reminded us woh bachchi hai. And we turned to our other shots after that. She would say, "bhook lagi hai, mera pack up kitney baje hai?" Suparn thought she was quite a diva! I am going to be a mother someday and I know I will be a very good mother.—PTI

Preity Zinta shares her fitness secrets with fans

MUMBAI, 19 March—Sleep well, early breakfast, exercise and much more came from actress Preity Zinta, who shared some fitness tips with Twitteratis who are following her.

The 38-year-old discussed various health issues and also gave away tips on eating habits and working out.

"It's Sunday and of course, a fun day, so it's time for Sun -

first thing in the morning can cure up to 23 diseases in your body, especially if it's kept overnight in a copper vessel. If you drink water with ice in it while training, it gives more energy. Also, it burns more calories," she added.

*The actress discussed various health issues and also gave away tips on eating habits and working out. PTI*



day chat. Are you guys all ready? Should I suggest a topic today. Sometimes we have serious, hectic chats and sometimes it's all fun and frolic! Today, I think, we'll chat about health, beauty and fitness," Preity posted on Twitter.

"Do you know that eating within 10 mins after waking up is guaranteed to make you lose weight? If you skip breakfast, then god help you, so don't do it... If you don't sleep well, you tend to overeat the next day and in turn increase your chances of putting on weight," Preity posted.

"Having lots of water

The actress, who has worked in movies like Dil Se, Kya Kehna, Mission Kashmir and Dil Chahta Hai, emphasised on working out regularly.

"If you are exercising, it's very important to take steam and massages. Massages help in breaking down lactic acid in the body, which helps with stiffness. It's a misconception that workout drains your energy. On the contrary, it rejuvenates. I feel more energetic afterwards," she wrote.

Preity also feels weight training helps in toning and is a very important part of fitness.—PTI

Bradley Cooper perms hair for David O Russell's next film

LOS ANGELES, 19 March—Silver Linings Playbook star Bradley Cooper seems to be going into some serious hair styling for David O Russell's next film, as the actor was spotted with tiny pink rollers attached to his head on the sets.

Cooper has teamed up again with Russell after Silver Linings Playbook, the film which earned him his first Oscar nomination in the best actor category, reported *Us* magazine. The 38-year-old was photographed wearing an open army-green shirt and permed hair.

"I permed my hair today. We did a camera test today and we were playing with the idea of (my character) having curly hair. Like rollers in the hair!" Bradley Cooper said in an earlier interview.

Bradley Cooper's Silver Linings Playbook co-star Jennifer Lawrence is



Bradley Cooper was last seen in critically acclaimed film Silver Linings Playbook.—PTI

also set to star in the film.

The untitled film is based on Abscam scandal

of the late 1970s and early 1980s in which a US senator and other powerful lead-

ers were convicted in an FBI sting operation.

PTI

*The film titled Jobs features actor Ashton Kutcher in the lead. PTI*



LOS ANGELES, 19 March—The release of Steve Jobs' biopic starring Ashton Kutcher has been de-

Steve Jobs biopic's release delayed

layed since the makers of the film require more time to market the film.

The film was originally set to release on 19 April this year, the 37th anniversary of the founding of Apple Computer.

A new date has yet to be determined, said the *Hollywood Reporter*.

The much-anticipated biopic, directed by Joshua Michael Stern and written by Matthew White-

ly, made its world premiere in January at the Sundance Film Festival.

Jobs chronicles the Apple co-founder's ascension from college dropout to one of the most revered entrepreneurs of the 20th century known for pioneering personal computer revolution.

Portions of the film was shot in the garage where Jobs first set up shop at his family's home in Palo Alto, California.

The film also stars Dermot Mulroney, Josh Gad, Lukas Haas, JK Simmons and Matthew Modine.

PTI

## Comeback king Nadal sets sight on French Open

INDIAN WELLS, (California), 19 March—The fist pump was back, along with the crunching forehand crosscourt winners, energetic movement and the never-say-die attitude.

Most significantly, the 'W' was there as Rafa Nadal on Sunday won his third title in just four events since making his long-awaited return to the ATP Tour after seven months out with an injured left knee.

The Spaniard's pulsating 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory over Juan Martin Del Potro in the final of the BNP Paribas Open served as a timely reminder that the claycourt specialist will once again be the player to beat at the French Open starting in late May.

"He's like always, like in the past, he's playing so solid, so strong," purred Argentine Del Potro who,

while bitterly disappointed after his defeat at Indian Wells, felt Nadal was back to his very best. "He's very strong mentally. He has big talent, as well. He beat very good players here at Indian Wells. He's gonna be fighting for the first position (in the rankings) very soon."

A few weeks ago, clay-court specialist Nadal was not even sure if he would be able to play on the punishing hard courts at Indian Wells, a surface where his all-action, counter-punching game has often been least effective.

However, the world number five decided to return to the California desert venue where he had previously clinched the BNP Paribas Open in 2007 and 2009, and he ended a week of steady progress by landing his 22nd ATP Masters title.



Rafael Nadal of Spain

The Spanish left-hander may initially have had his doubts over how his knee would stand up to his most rigorous test since

returning to the ATP circuit last month, but those soon abated as he passed the test with flying colours.

"It's sort of expected, considering the success throughout his career that he had on all the surfaces," world number one Novak Djokovic said of Nadal's comeback form before the Serb was ousted by Del Potro in the semi-finals.

"Obviously he's building the confidence. He feels good, and he's very motivated, I'm sure, to perform his best. He's been playing great tennis."

Roger Federer, crushed by his long-time rival Nadal in the last eight, never doubted that the Spaniard would thrive and move fluently on his return to the ATP circuit. "He's not going to come back if he's not well," the 31-year-old Swiss said. —Reuters

## Ferdinand pulls out of England squad

LONDON, 19 March—Defender Rio Ferdinand withdrew from the England squad on Monday for their next two World Cup qualifiers after telling coach Roy Hodgson his pre-planned training regime would prevent him from playing.

Hodgson named Ferdinand in his squad for the first time for the Group H qualifiers against San Marino and Montenegro, but said when he announced his squad on Thursday he had not spoken to the player first.

If he had done so, he might have avoided a potentially embarrassing situation following the 34-year-old's withdrawal.

Hodgson had left

Ferdinand was taken following a meeting between the player and Hodgson in London on Sunday.

Hodgson said: "I'm disappointed Rio will not be available, but due to the detailed pre-planned train-

"I was impressed with his commitment to playing for England and I look forward to hopefully selecting him for squads in the future."

Hodgson had said Ferdinand, who made the

snub.

"It was important for me to be able to speak with Roy face to face and explain the situation, and one thing I made clear was that my passion and commitment to represent my country is as



Manchester United's Rio Ferdinand (R) challenges Reading's Garath McCleary during their English Premier League soccer match at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England on 16 March, 2013. REUTERS

the Manchester United centre back out of his Euro 2012 squad for "footballing reasons" amid media speculation it was connected to the John Terry saga.

In a statement on its website (www.thefa.com), the English FA said the decision to withdraw Ferdi-

ing and medical programme he must follow it's not possible.

"However, I was pleased that Rio called and asked to meet with me. It was important to hear from him personally about the way he must manage his body between games."

last of his 81 appearances for England in a friendly against Switzerland in June 2011, was now the best man for the job following a series of excellent performances for United over the last few weeks.

Ferdinand made clear the withdrawal was not a

strong as ever," he said.

"It is disappointing that I won't be able to play a part in the upcoming games but I told Roy that I want to continue to be available for England and I look forward to working with him in the future."

Reuters

## Germany coach Loew wants preliminary ties for small nations

BERLIN, 19 March—Germany coach Joachim Loew believes smaller nations should play in preliminary qualifying matches for World Cups and European Championships.

"The fixture list is overcrowded so we need some sort of remedy," he

told *Kicker* magazine on Monday.

"We could possibly discuss whether it makes sporting sense to play twice against teams such as Kazakhstan, Andorra, San Marino or the Faroe Islands.

"Personally I would like to see the introduction

of a preliminary qualification round," said Loew.

Germany make the long trip to central Asia to face Kazakhstan, 139th in the international rankings, for a World Cup qualifier on Friday before hosting the same opponents four days later.—Reuters



Germany's coach Joachim Loew watches his players warm up before their international friendly soccer match against France at the Stade de France stadium in Saint-Denis, near Paris, on 6 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

## Dominicans beat Dutch, meet Puerto Rico in final

SAN FRANCISCO, 19 March—The Dominican Republic beat the Netherlands 4-1 on Monday to set up an all-Caribbean clash against Puerto Rico in the final of the World Baseball Classic.

The undefeated Dominicans improved to 7-0 in the tournament, erupting for four runs in the fifth inning to take charge after trailing 1-0 on a first-inning run by the Dutch.

The victory, set up by a

brilliant outing by starter Edinson Volquez who combined with three relievers on a four-hitter, avenged a pair of losses to the Dutch in the 2009 tournament that sent the Dominicans packing.

After managing just two hits against Netherlands starter Diegomar Markwell through four innings, the Dominicans found their stroke and registered five hits in their go-ahead rally.

The Dominicans will play for the WBC title on Tuesday against a Puerto Rico (5-3) team they have beaten twice earlier in the 16-team tournament in a pair of two-run victories.

Reuters

Dominican Republic's Edwin Encarnacion hits an RBI against the Netherlands during the fifth inning of the semi-final round of the World Baseball Classic in San Francisco, California, on 18 March, 2013.—REUTERS

## Malaysia will be different says Vettel

MELBOURNE, 19 March—Sebastian Vettel started his campaign to win four successive world titles with third place at Sunday's Australian Grand Prix but the German thinks the season-opener race will prove to be an anomaly over the course of the year.

The 25-year-old showed the raw pace of his Red Bull had not gone away when he took his 37th pole position in a qualifying session delayed by heavy rain on Sunday morning

Albert Park street track.

"Malaysia is a completely different track and from what we have seen today, everything depends on how well people handle the tyres."

"But we will see completely different conditions and will use different tyres so there are too many differences to here."

"We have seen over the past few years that what we have seen in Melbourne has hardly ever become a trend for the next couple of



Red Bull Formula One driver Sebastian Vettel of Germany drives during the Australian F1 Grand Prix at the Albert Park circuit in Melbourne on 17 March, 2013. REUTERS

but later was convincingly beaten in the race by Kimi Raikkonen's Lotus.

Comforted, perhaps, by the fact that it was not until the fourth round in Bahrain last year that he won his first race, Vettel said being outpaced by both Lotus and the Ferrari of Fernando Alonso was not what he expected at Sepang this week.

"What we have seen today was a first glimpse, but we are far from getting an idea of the pecking order," he told the sport's official website after the race on the

races."

Sunday's 58 laps were a riot of entertainment for the fans packed into the Melbourne park with seven leaders over the race, battles between top drivers at what seemed like every turn and a popular surprise winner in the Finnish "Iceman".

The irony was that the sort of spectacle which might convert even the motorsports sceptic to Formula One was precipitated by the topic of conversation most likely to make their eyes glaze over—tyres.—Reuters

GENERAL



Speakers attend the Chinese Businesses in Africa Forum, which was hosted by China Public Diplomacy Association and attended by Chinese enterprises, academics, and African diplomats, in Beijing, capital of China, on 18 March, 2013.

China has been the largest trading partner of Africa since 2009, with China-Africa trade volume skyrocketing from 10 billion US dollars in 2000 to nearly 200 billion US dollars in 2012. Africa is China's second largest contract project market and the fourth largest investment destination. By April 2012, China's stock of direct investment to Africa reached 15.3 billion US dollars.

XINHUA

### 6.1-magnitude quake hits South Sandwich Islands region

HONG KONG, 19 March—An earthquake measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale jolted South Sandwich Islands region at 03:29:00

GMT on Tuesday (11:29:00 Hong Kong Time), the US Geological Survey said.

The epicentre, with a depth of 31.30 km, was

initially determined to be at 58.9152 degrees south latitude and 24.4095 degrees west longitude.

Xinhua

### Inter face UEFA investigation over racism allegations

BERNE, 19 March—Inter Milan risk disciplinary proceedings after their fans were accused of racist behaviour during the Europa League last 16 clash at home to Tottenham Hotspur, UEFA said on Monday.

A statement from European football's governing body said the Serie A club were under investigation for "racist behaviour of supporters, insufficient organization and the throwing of missiles and/or fireworks".

Tottenham striker Emmanuel Adebayor, who scored his side's away goal in a 4-1 defeat in Thursday's second leg, was allegedly subjected to monkey chants and plastic bananas were waved in one section of the half-empty San Siro.

Tottenham manager



Tottenham Hotspur's Emmanuel Adebayor (L) celebrates with his team mate Scott Parker after scoring against Inter Milan during their Europa League soccer match at the San Siro stadium in Milan on 14 March, 2013.—REUTERS

Andre Villas-Boas, whose team went through on away goals after the 4-4 aggregate score, told reporters after the game that it was "very easy" to hear the chanting and said he hoped UEFA

would act.

Last month, Inter were fined 50,000 euros (43,205 pounds) by the Italian league after fans racially abused their former player Mario Balotelli in a derby

with AC Milan.

Meanwhile Lazio, who have a long-standing right wing element among their support, were ordered by UEFA to play two European matches behind closed doors after racism by their fans in Europa League matches against Tottenham, Maribor and Borussia Moenchengladbach.

Italian authorities have long been criticised by anti-racism campaigners for not cracking down hard enough on discrimination in sport.

Italy had appeared to have finally got to grips with its football racism problem in January when Milan's Kevin-Prince Boateng stormed off the field in a friendly against lower league side Pro Patria following abuse from the stands.

Reuters

### WHO, Global Fund calls for filling 1.6-bln-USD fund gap to combat tuberculosis

GENEVA, 19 March—Six million lives could be saved if a 1.6-billion-US dollar annual funding gap to combat tuberculosis (TB) over 2014-2016 is bridged, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria said

on Monday.

It could also enable full treatment for 17 million TB and Multi-drug resistant TB (MDR-TB) patients, according to the WHO.

The organization estimated there is an anticipated demand for 4.8

billion dollars each year, with 3.2 billion dollars projected to be filled by domestic contributions, to fight the disease in 118 low-and middle-income countries that are eligible for financing from the Global Fund.

Nearly 60 percent of

the 1.6-billion-dollar need for donor financing is for the WHO's African Region and MDR-TB treatment is where the greatest increase in funding is needed in the coming years based on current spending patterns.

Xinhua

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(20-3-13 09:30 am ~ 21-3-13 09:30 am) MST

- \* News
- \* "A Place of Great Devotion" Pa O Region
- \* Zaykabar Myanmar Open 2013 (Part-2)
- \* News
- \* Tun Foundation Literary Award Presenting Ceremony
- \* Be Cautious for Safety
- \* SHURE Introduces New Features for better Entertainment Industry
- \* News
- \* "Great Shwedagon" Auspicious Grounds And Devotional Posts
- \* Mon Traditional Dance
- \* News
- \* Astrology & Astronomy
- \* News
- \* Let's study the Words
- \* Education, Living and Health Care Exhibition
- \* News
- \* Tun Foundation Literary Award Presenting Ceremony
- \* Be Cautious for Safety
- \* News
- \* Unique Biodiversity of Indawgyi Lake (Part-V)
- \* 100 Shuttle Silk Fabric and its Key Notes
- \* Myanmar Movies "Invisible Bond"

Myanmar TV

(20-3-2013, Wednesday)

- |   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 7:00 am   | Lectures)                     |
| 1. Paritta By Venerable MinGun Sayadaw              | -Second Year (Maths)          |
| 7:25 am   | 4:50 pm                       |
| 2. To Be healthy Exercise                           | 13. Classical Song            |
| 7:30 am   | 5:00 pm                       |
| 3. Morning News                                     | 14. ASEAN Programmes          |
| 7:40 am   | 5:15 pm                       |
| 4. International News                               | 15. Sing & Enjoy              |
| 7:55 am   | 6:00 pm                       |
| 5. Nice & Sweet Song                                | 16. Evening News              |
| 8:00 am   | 6:15 pm                       |
| 6. Cultural Dances                                  | 17. Weather Report            |
| 8:10 am   | 6:20 pm                       |
| 7. Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions | 18. Documentary               |
| 8:15 am   | 7:00 pm                       |
| 8. Teleplay (Health)                                | 19. News                      |
| 4:05 am   | 7:30 pm                       |
| 9. Songs For Upholding National Spirit              | 20. Alink Wut Yi Music Troupe |
| 4:15 pm   | 8:00                          |
| 10. Dance of National Races                         | 21. News                      |
| 4:20 pm   | 22. People Talks              |
| 11. Musical Programme                               | 23. International News        |
| 4:35 pm   | 24. Weather Report            |
| 12. University of Distance Education (TV)           | 25. Documentary (Interview)   |
|   | 26. TV Drama Series           |
|   | 10:00 pm                      |
|   | 27. News                      |
|   | 28. Myanmar Movie             |

### Peru, Russia ink anti-drug accord

LIMA, 19 March—Peru and Russia on Monday signed a cooperation agreement on battling drug trafficking, Director of the Russian Federal Drug Control Service Victor Ivanov said in Lima. The agreement was signed by Ivanov, currently on an official visit to Peru, and Carmen Masias, president of Peru's National Commission for Development and a Drug-Free Life.

Under the agreement, Russia would help the Andean nation train anti-drug officers and offer technology exchanges to bolster security operations along roads and waterways, Ivanov said.

"This is the culmination of what our two countries agreed to do last year, during my first visit to Peru, and it will allow us to send Russian specialists to train Peruvian officers," said Ivanov.

Ivanov praised the integral anti-drug strategy of Peru's government led by President Ollanta Humala, saying it embodied social programmes as well as preventive measures. Crime-fighting measures alone were not enough to eradicate drug trafficking, said Ivanov, adding an effective strategy must contain social programmes that improve the lives of Peru's farmers and gradually turn them away from growing the coca plants.—Xinhua



Pakistanis take part in a pet show with their pet dogs in eastern Pakistan's Lahore, on 17 March, 2013.—XINHUA

## Vice-President U Nyan Tun leaves for Vietnam to pay goodwill visit

YANGON, 19 March— Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Nyan Tun left here by air at 7.45 pm today to pay a goodwill visit to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

The Vice-President and party were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Region Minister

for Security and Border Affairs Col Tin Win, Charge d' Affaires ai Mr. Tran Phuoc Anh of Vietnamese Embassy and officials.

Delegation members

Union Minister U Aye Myint, Deputy Ministers U Thant Kyaw and U Hset Aung, and officials accompanied Vice-President U Nyan Tun.

MNA

*Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Nyan Tun being seen off at Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and party.—MNA*



## Myanmar citizens held in Thailand to be released soon

NAY PYI TAW, 19 March—Deputy Home Affairs Minister Chief of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun said the government is constantly working on release and rights of Myanmar citizens held abroad and commuting their sentences in response to the question of U Thein Nyunt of Thingangyun Constituency at the Pyithu Hluttaw regular session today.

The deputy minister answered that the government is helping Myanmar citizens behind bars in Thailand in accord with laws, rules and regulations of the neighbouring country and through diplomatic channel.

Thailand is poised to release Myanmar citizens in an amnesty and to commute their sentences on request of Myanmar embassy in



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

Bangkok, he added.

“The MPF chief said there are some 3000 Myanmar citizens being held in Thailand. To my knowledge, the number is more than 10,000,” MP U Thein Nyunt said after the session.



*U Ye Tun of Thandwe Constituency makes question.*

MNA

Deputy Electric Power Minister U Aung Than Oo said the completion of four power grids and more power plants are needed to supply electricity to Rakhine State in response to the question raised by U Ye Tun of Thandwe



*Deputy Minister MPF Chief Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun replies to question.—MNA*

Constituency.

These power grids and power plants are scheduled to complete by December, 2014, he said.

The Hluttaw decided to put the proposal to legislate the emergency healthcare to the injured



*U Thein Nyunt of Thingangyun Constituency raises question.—MNA*

victims of accidents or brawls submitted by Thura U Aung Ko of Kanpetlet Constituency.

Deputy Health Minister Dr Daw Thein Htay, the deputy home affairs minister, Deputy Attorney-General



*Thura U Aung Ko of Kanpetlet Constituency submits proposal.*

MNA

U Tun Tun Oo and Judge of the Supreme Court of the Union U Soe Nyunt made clarifications.

The Pyithu Hluttaw also discussed and approved Central Bank of Myanmar Bill.

MNA

## Amyotha Hluttaw accepts motion on settling tax collection issues



*The 29<sup>th</sup> day sixth regular session of first Amyotha Hluttaw in progress.*

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 19 March — Amyotha Hluttaw today accepted a motion tabled by U Steven Thar Beik of Chin State

constituency No 4 for settling the issues of tax collection by Ministry of Mines and International Revenue Department

and for scrutinizing the properties which were not handled by the privatization commission and state-owned

properties management committee.

U Steven Thar Beik tabled the motion, calling on Ministry of Mines for taking effecting measures to settle the issue of not getting gold from gold mining companies and business men who have been working with the ministry under the production sharing agreement.

He also suggested clarifying the current situation of the properties, buildings and land which were not handed over to the privatization commission and state-owned properties management committee after the commission and

the committee carried out its functions for about 50 years.

In his motion, he also said that it is found that the Internal Revenue Department collected tax from 331 businesses thought there are 1525 businesses that should pay tax to the department.

During today's session, the Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee submitted report on the bill amending the Penal Code

with amendments made by Pyithu Hluttaw.

The Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw informed the Hluttaw that the Hluttaw received the population and census bill with amendments made by Pyithu Hluttaw.

Amyotha Hluttaw also approved the reports of the ASEAN Political and Security Community Committee and the Committee of Fundamental

(See page 9)

### NLD members visit Hluttaws

NAY PYI TAW, 19 March—A total of 125 members of Ottarathiri Township National League for Democracy and 59 members of

Zabuthiri Township NLD observed 29<sup>th</sup> day six regular sessions of first Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw today.

MNA