

President U Thein Sein felicitates President of Ghana

NAY PYI TAW, 6 March—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. John Dramani Mahama, President of the Republic of Ghana, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Ghana, which falls on 6 March 2014.—MNA



President U Thein Sein receives Bhutan PM, C-in-Cs of ASEAN

NAY PYI TAW, 5 March—A delegation led by Prime Minister of Bhutan Lyonchhen Tshering Tobgay paid a call on President U Thein Sein at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday.

At the call, both sides discussed bilateral cooperation in religious affairs, health, culture and agriculture sectors, improving of tourism industry, exchange experiences on agriculture

President U Thein Sein shakes hands with Prime Minister of H.E. Bhutan Lyonchhen Tshering Tobgay.—MNA

sector, prospect for direct operating flights between the two countries and exchange visits among the senior officials of the two countries.

Myanmar has established diplomatic ties with Bhutan since 1 February, 2012. The Bhutanese PM's visit to Myanmar is the first time.

In the evening, the President received the Commanders in-Chief of Defence Services from ASEAN at the same venue.

During the meeting, they had a discussion on further strengthening relations among the ASEAN countries, exchange experienc-

es and building up strong armed forces to prevent the countries and current affairs of political, economic, social and current administrative reform process.

Also present on the occasion were Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior-General Min Aung Hlaing, Union Ministers Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Lt-Gen Wai Lwin and U Aung Min, Deputy Minister U Thant Kyaw and officials.

Commander of Royal Brunei Armed Forces Maj-Gen Dato Seri Pahlawan Mohd Tawih Bin Abdullah, Deputy Chief of Defense of Royal Cambodian Armed Forces Gen. Eth Sarath,

Commander of Indonesian Armed Forces Gen. Dr. Moeldoko, Deputy Chief of Staff for the Lao Armed Forces Brig-Gen. Khamlieng Outhakasone, Chief of Royal Malaysian Air Force Gen. Tan Sri Dato' Sri (Dr) Zulkifeli Bin Mohd , Zin, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Gen. Emmanuel T Bautista, Chief of Defence Force of the Singapore Lt-Gen Ng Chee Meng, Chief of Defense Force of the Royal Thai Armed Forces Gen Tanasak Patimapragorn and Chief of the General Staff of the Vietnam People's Army Sr. Lt-Gen Do Ba Ty.

MNA



President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo with C-in-Cs of ASEAN countries.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw to host 18th ASEAN Finance Ministers' Meeting (AFMM), related meetings on 1-5 April

Media persons are informed to register not later than 25 March

NAY PYI TAW, 5 March—18th ASEAN Finance Ministers' Meeting (AFMM) and related meetings will be held at Myanmar International Convention Center (MICC) in Nay Pyi Taw from 1 to 5 April.

The media persons at home and abroad who want to cover news at the meetings are to press 18th ASEAN Finance Ministers' Meeting (AFMM) on Upcoming Events at the Home Page of www.asean2014.gov.mm. They must press Registration Link to take MEDIA REGISTRATION FORM and fill it completely in order to make Go. The media

persons are requested to register not later than 25 March and media accreditation cards will be issued to them as of 1 April at MICC.

International journalists are to apply visa through nearby embassies and those wishing to know about the meetings and media accreditation cards are to enquire Ph-067-410198, International Relations Department, Ministry of Finance and Ph-067-412126, the News and Periodicals Enterprise.

MNA

Myanmar government condemns knife attack in China

NAY PYI TAW, 5 March—The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar strongly condemns the brutal and senseless attack by knife-wielding assailants on 1st March 2014 in Kunming Railway Station, the People's Republic of China which caused numerous deaths and injuries to innocent lives.

The Government and people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar express their deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolences to the victims of the terrorist attack and their families as well as to the people and the Government of the People's Republic of China and wish those injured a quick recovery.

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar remains committed to working closely with the Government of the People's Republic of China and international community in combating terrorism around the world.—MNA

Myanmar & Thai businessmen meet in Mandalay



MANDALAY, 5 March—Mandalay Hill Resort Hotel hosted a meeting of Myanmar and Thai businessmen on 3 March. The two sides discussed trade and investment between the two countries. “Together with industrialists from five townships from north-eastern Thailand, I’m here to study making invest-

ment in Myanmar.” said Thai Chamber of Industry Chairman Mr Chalothon. According to Vice-President of MRCCI U Soe Myint, Thai businessmen had a fruitful result in discussing trade matters after the new government took office.

As Myanmar government is pursuing market system, companies are mushrooming in the country with over 2000 based in Mandalay alone. Steps are now taken to establish stock market in the country with the help of a Japanese company. The vice-president explained trade of Myanmar with neighbouring countries including Thailand which stands as a second largest trade partner of Myanmar.

Kyaw Htoo (Mandalay)

Census Taking Process

Population and Housing Census clarified

WETLET, 5 March—Teachers were briefed on taking of population and housing census in Wetlet of Shwebo District in Sagaing Region of upper Myanmar recently. With audio-visual aids, they were clarified on the census by Secretary of

Wetlet Township Census Committee U Myo Nyunt. Teachers raised questions on the census taking process which were replied by Chairman of the committee U Win Htay and the secretary.

Nan Myin (IPRD)



Census taking process gets momentum in Taikkyi

TAIKKYI, 5 March—“To enabling locals to be ready when the census taking process begins, field trips have been made to reach right down the villages.” said Township Immigration Department officer U Zaw Win. According to

the department, altogether 96 talks on census have been given to people at 94 villages during the field trips in Taikkyi Township in Yangon Region. The process will start on 30 March this year.

Tun Hlaing (Myaing)

DRUG, CRIME

Opium seized in Lashio

LASHIO, 5 March—An Anti-Drug Squad led by Police Inspector Zaw Linn Kyaw, acting on a tip off, searched a car at Hopeik Toll Gate on 2 March. Khin Maung Wai was at the wheel with Thiha Yazar

on board the car. The squad found 13.3 Kg of opium worth 20.25 million Kyat under the front seat of the car. Police station concerned filed lawsuit against them.—Han Htay (District IPRD)



Murderer arrested

MYAWADY, 5 March—Police from Myawady Police Station managed to arrest a murderer within 16 hours on 28 February. On 27 February, Hla Myint residing in Myawady had a quarrel with Poh Sanay at a workshop. Hla Myint hit

Poh Sanay’s head with a hammer, then, slashed him to death with a sword. Hla Myint managed to escape the scene but police’s diligence led to the arrest of the murder suspect.

Htun Htun Htwe (Hpa-an)

SINGAING GETS NEW SCHOOL BUILDING:

Ministry of Education allowed construction of a new school building at a cost of 108.8 million Kyat for Hinnyu Affiliate Basic Education High School in Singaing Mandalay Region in 2013-2014 fiscal year. Photo shows 100% completion of the building.

TUN TUN NAING (KYAUKSE)



World War II bomb found in Ayeyawady Construction site in Meiktila

MEIKTILA, 5 March—Digging works for construction of New Meiktila General Hospital of Ayeyawady Construction found an iron material looks like World War II

bomb. The material is 3 feet long and 27 inches in circumference. Officials observed the bomb and handed it over to the Engineer Regiment.

NLM-018

Accident claims woman’s life

TAIKKYI, 5 March—A pickup passenger truck from No. 220 Bus Line hit a roadside tree on Yangon-Pyay Highway on 1 March. Driver Soe Min Hteik got injured together with other passengers who

were rushed to Taikkyi Hospital. Among them a woman named Daw Nwe Nwe Thinn, 47, died at the hospital. Action has been taken against driver Soe Min Hteik.

Tun Hlaing (Myaing)



Never Late to Repair: Myoma Market Road in Magway was repaired by Township Development Committee. The repairing will be completed on 6 March 2014.

KAUNG THU TA (MINBU)

WORLD

China pledges stable growth, deepening reform

BEIJING, 5 March — China keeps its economic growth target unchanged at around 7.5 percent this year as the government looks to achieve stable growth while driving through reforms for a more balanced model.

“On the basis of careful comparison and repeatedly weighing various factors as well as considering what is needed and what is possible, we set a growth target of around 7.5 percent,” said the government work report delivered by Premier Li Keqiang at the parliament’s annual session on Wednesday.

This is the third consecutive year that the government put the goal at 7.5 percent. China’s economy expanded 7.7 percent last year, well above the

government goal, but a set of data that pointed to softening manufacturing activity in recent months renewed concerns on the growth outlook of the world’s second largest economy.

Describing the economy as at a critical juncture where the paths upward is “particularly steep” amid challenges from at home and abroad, the premier stressed that China must keep economic development as the central task and maintain a “proper economic growth rate”.

He reiterated that reform is the top priority for the government’s work this year, four months after a key meeting last November outlined a wide-ranging reform package. To ensure the economy stay within a



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang delivers the government work report during the opening meeting of the second session of the 12th National People’s Congress (NPC) at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, on 5 March, 2014.

XINHUA

“proper range”, the government promised to continue to implement a proactive fiscal policy and a prudent monetary policy.

It projected a budget

deficit of 1.35 trillion yuan, an increase of 150 billion yuan over last year, and a 13-percent rise in broad money supply in 2014, while vowing to keep in-

flation at around 3.5 percent and create 10 million more urban jobs to ensure the registered urban unemployment rate does not rise above 4.6 percent.—Xinhua

S Korea proposes inter-Korean talks on family reunions next week

SEOUL, 5 March — South Korea on Wednesday proposed to North Korea that talks be held next Wednesday at the truce village of Panmunjeom to discuss holding, on a regular basis, reunions of families separated by the 1950-1953 Korean War.

“We anticipate North Korea’s positive response to our offer in consideration of the pains and sufferings of the separated families,” South Korea’s Unification Ministry spokeswoman Park Soo Jin said in a news briefing.

The offer for the talks between Red Cross officials of the two sides is a follow-up move after South Korean President Park Geun Hye proposed to North Korea earlier this month that the two Koreas hold regularly scheduled reunions. The offer was conveyed to the North’s side through a liaison channel at Panmunjeom.

In a speech Saturday Park said regular family reunions should be held because time is running out for the separated family members, most of whom are in their 70s and 80s and have expressed a strong wish to see their long-lost relatives before they die. Last month, North and South Korea held the reunion events at a resort at the North’s Mt Kumgang resort for the first time in more than three years.

Kyodo News

Japan, Denmark eye cooperation on maritime security, FTA



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (R front) holds talks with his Danish counterpart Helle Thorning-Schmidt (L front) at Abe’s office in Tokyo on 4 March, 2014. —Kyodo News

TOKYO, 5 March — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his Danish counterpart Helle Thorning-Schmidt agreed on Tuesday to

strengthen bilateral cooperation on maritime security and pledged to seek the early conclusion of a free trade agreement between Japan

and the European Union.

Abe explained Japan’s policy to make contributions to global peace and security during the talks at the prime minister’s office with Thorning-Schmidt, who agreed on the importance of promoting the rule of law and free trade.

With Japan facing a tough decision on its future energy mix and the third anniversary next week of the nuclear crisis at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear complex, the two leaders agreed to seek cooperation in renewable energy and encourage private-sector partnerships, the Japanese government said.

“We’d like to work together in such fields as peace-building, (development in) the Arctic region, and empowerment of women, and further bilateral relations,” Abe told a Press conference after the talks. One of Abe’s top priorities is to put the deflation-mired economy on a path of sustainable recovery, and he has been calling for more women to join the workforce while implementing his “Abenomics” policy package. Japan and the European Union launched negotiations last year on a free trade accord.

“Trade and cooperation have thrived for many years

but it still holds tremendous potential. I believe that one of the best ways to fulfill this potential is to finalize the free trade agreement between Japan and the European Union,” Thorning-Schmidt said earlier in the day at a meeting in Tokyo to commemorate the relaunch of the Japan-Denmark Parliamentary Friendship League.

The league includes around 40 members of the Japanese parliament, including former Prime Minister Naoto Kan and New Komeito party leader Natsuo Yamaguchi. LDP lower house member Taro Kono chairs the group.

Kyodo News

Lackluster Netanyahu-Obama meeting reflects confusing peace process

JERUSALEM, 5 March — During Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s recent visit to Washington DC, US President Barack Obama strongly criticized Israel’s continued settlement building, but came short of pressuring Netanyahu to rein in the construction, a move many analysts attribute to the uncertainty surrounding the peace process.

“The meeting itself is in a way a reflection of the situation on the international scene and the limitation of both sides to move the peace process (forward),” Oded Eran from the Institute of National Security Studies in Tel Aviv, told Xinhua. Eran says Obama

didn’t pressure Netanyahu because the Palestinians so far haven’t made their positions clear.

“Netanyahu is basically saying ‘yes’ but that’s not identical to the other side, the other side is still asking questions, still making demands, which is part of the process,” Eran said.

Eytan Gilboa, a professor of the Bar-Ilan University says that part of the reason why the process is shrouded in uncertainty is because there are still a number of issues to be addressed.

“It’s not clear whether the deadline set by (US Secretary of State John) Kerry as 29 April is still in effect or there were all

kinds of leaks suggesting that the deadline might be extended. It’s not clear what kind of document the US is going to present is it going to be binding or not,” Gilboa said.

Kerry proposed a framework agreement that would serve as a base for the final status negotiations on 28 April, however, Kerry has recently requested the two sides extend the peace talks past this deadline in light of the lack of progress. “There is a lot of confusion and after the meeting the confusion hasn’t been clarified and (Palestinian President) Mahmoud Abbas is scheduled to arrive in Washington on 17 March and



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speaks at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee Conference (AIPAC) at the Washington Convention Centre in Washington DC, the United States, on 4 March, 2014.

XINHUA

only after this meeting we will be able to know if the two leaders will accept the framework,” Gilboa said.

Despite the confusion, the US, Israel and the Palestinians, are trying to salvage the negotiations even

if no framework is in place by the end of April, according to observers.

Xinhua

Obama projects budget deficit will drop to \$564 bil in FY 2015

WASHINGTON, 5 March — US President Barack Obama released his budget blueprint on Tuesday projecting the deficit will shrink to \$564 billion for fiscal 2015 from \$649 billion in the current year on the back of the economic recovery. The Obama administration estimated the ratio of the budget deficit to gross domestic product will

fall to around 3 percent, a level widely regarded as the threshold for maintaining fiscal discipline, in fiscal 2015 and 2016.

The expected deficit for fiscal 2015, which starts 1 October, will represent 3.1 percent of US GDP, down from 3.7 percent in fiscal 2014, falling to 2.8 percent the following year. The figure compares with 10.1 per-

cent in fiscal 2009 when the global financial crisis hit.

The blueprint forecasts the deficit will stay around \$500 billion for the next 10 years, with the Obama administration planning to secure revenues worth \$1 trillion over a decade through measures such as tax hikes on the wealthy. However, the Congressional Budget Office recently warned that

the annual deficit is likely to top \$1 trillion in fiscal 2022. The budget plan sent to Congress the same day featured outlays aimed at boosting educational services and infrastructure investment ahead of the country's midterm elections in November.

"It's a roadmap for creating jobs with good wages and expanding opportunity

for all Americans," Obama said in a speech delivered in Washington.

The administration seeks \$495.6 billion for defense spending, excluding military expenses for overseas operations, for fiscal 2015, almost unchanged from \$496.0 billion the previous year. For the overseas contingency operations, the administration requested

\$79.4 billion, down from \$85.2 billion the previous year, ahead of the planned withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan.

Expenditures for fiscal 2015 are estimated to total \$3.9 trillion, up from \$3.65 trillion in fiscal 2014, while revenues will rise to \$3.34 trillion from \$3 trillion, according to the budget plan.

Kyodo News

Okinawa's Kerama Islands designated Japan's 31st national park

TOKYO, 5 March — The Japanese government on Wednesday designated Okinawa's Kerama Islands, known for their coral reefs and biological diversity, as the country's 31st national park.

It is the first such designation since 1987, when Hokkaido's Kushiro Marshland became a national park. The announcement was scheduled to coincide with "Coral Day," which is celebrated in Okinawa on March 5.

Minister of the Envi-

ronment Nobuteru Ishihara will attend a ceremony celebrating the creation of the new park on Saturday in Okinawa's capital Naha.

The Kerama Islands National Park is located to the west of Naha and comprises more than 30 islands and their coastal waters within a 7-kilometer radius.

The designation includes 3,520 hectares of dry land and 94,750 hectares of ocean.

The crystal-blue waters, affectionately dubbed "Kerama Blue," are known

to host 248 varieties of coral, as well as humpback whales, and have become a popular spot for scuba divers. The Environment Ministry will restrict the harvesting of coral, as well as development, in waters shallower than 30 meters.

In a Press conference on Tuesday, Ishihara said "last year, I was moved by the area's coral reefs and white sand beaches," and called on people to visit "Japan's beautiful national parks."

Kyodo News



Photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter in August 2013 shows the Kerama Islands in Okinawa Prefecture. Japanese Environment Minister Nobuteru Ishihara said on 24 Dec, 2013, that the Kerama Islands will be designated as a national park in March 2014. —KYODO NEWS

UN anti-narcotics panel calls for greater stock in prevention, treatment of drug abuse

UNITED NATIONS, 5 March — Prescription drug abuse in North America and drug trafficking in Latin America, Europe and other parts of the world are major issues of concern, but investment in prevention and treatment of drug abuse can lead to significant savings in health-care and crime-related costs, a UN panel said in a report released on Tuesday.

"Every dollar spent on drug abuse prevention can save the government up to ten dollars in later costs," the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), an independent United Nations body tasked with

monitoring the production and consumption of narcotics worldwide, said in its annual report.

Only one in six drug users receive the treatment he or she needs at a cost of 35 billion US dollars per year, and most commonly, to fight addictions to heroin, cannabis or cocaine, according to its findings. Increasingly, prescription drug abuse — often legally obtained medication by a friend or a family member who no longer needs it or is not using it for medical purposes — is outpacing the rates for illegal drugs in some countries.

"There is an erroneous

perception that prescription drugs are less susceptible to abuse than 'illicit' drugs," said INCB President Raymond Yans. Prescription drug abuse is a "serious and growing threat to public health" in North America, which the INCB said is the region with the highest drug-related mortality in the world. One way to tackle this abuse is by addressing the root causes of excessive supply, such as so-called "doctor shopping" by visiting numerous doctors to fraudulently get prescription drugs, overprescribing medication, or filling several prescriptions simultaneously.

Xinhua



"Hina" dolls set out for a seaborne journey on a tiny boat in a Girls' Day ritual to wish girls healthy growth and happiness at Awashima Shrine on the coast of Wakayama, western Japan, on 3 March, 2014. KYODO NEWS

Quakes aggravate flooding woes in storm-hit Christchurch

WELLINGTON, 5 March — Residents of earthquake-battered Christchurch were clearing up their flooded properties on Wednesday after the city was hit by a once-in-a-century storm — and scientists warned the quakes have only increased the incidence of floods.

Roads and houses were flooded, communities cut off and schools closed on Wednesday in the wake of the fierce storm that lasted for 24 hours.

River levels in Christchurch were dropping with the outgoing tide and as rainfall eased, but further rain was expected, Christchurch Mayor Lianne Dalziel said in a statement.

Christchurch residents were urged to stay home if possible and to stay off the roads. About 4,000 homes were without power Wednesday. "This was a significant, escalating event that moved very quickly from a one-in-five-year event to a one-in-100-year event," said Dalziel.

Xinhua



Misao Okawa, recognized as the world's oldest person by Guinness World Records, eats birthday cake at a nursing home in Osaka on 5 March, 2014, as she turns 116. She became the oldest living person in the world in June 2013.

KYODO NEWS

France mulls "all necessary pressure" to end Ukrainian crisis

PARIS, 5 March — France and its European partners would "apply all necessary pressure including sanctions" to seek a political solution to Ukrainian crisis, French President Francois Hollande said on Tuesday.

During an annual dinner with representative council of Jewish institutions, Hollande said "Russia has taken the risk of a dangerous escalation," by "deploying soldiers in Crimean peninsula."

"In these circumstances, France's role with Europe is to apply all necessary pressure including sanctions to find the way of dialogue and seek a political solution to this crisis," he added.

At a televised press conference on Tuesday, Russian President Vladimir Putin called events in Ukraine a coup and argued that the use of force was Russia's last resort to solving the ongoing crisis.

Xinhua

WORLD

Russia supports Tunisia's political transition: Lavrov

TUNIS, 5 March — Russia is ready to support the political transition in Tunisia by means of investment and tourism, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Tuesday.

"We are examining the means to reinforce Russian investment in Tunisia and to multiply the number of Russian tourists in Tunisia," said Lavrov. He said that Russia is working towards strengthening cooperation with Tunisia on different levels ranging from security to tourism and culture.

The visiting Russian foreign minister also said that Tunisia and Russia share many similar positions regarding regional and international issues, like the situation in Syria and Libya. Tunisia is currently considering the possibility of resuming consular services in Syria despite the ongoing crisis there.

Xinhua

Ammunition warehouse explodes in Jakarta Bay, causes many casualties

JAKARTA, 5 March — An explosion on Wednesday at an Indonesian Navy ammunition warehouse in Jakarta Bay has caused many casualties, according to police and media reports.

It was not immediately clear whether the explosion at Tanjung Priok Harbour in North Jakarta caused any deaths, but police said at least 44 people have been evacuated to hospitals.

Jakarta-based private radio station Elshinta reported there were at least 20 victims.

Kyodo News

Fijian PM resigns as military commander, ready to contest upcoming general election

SUVA, 5 March — Fijian Prime Minister Commodore Voreqe Bainimarama on Wednesday resigned as the South Pacific island country's military commander, putting an end to his 39 years of service and getting ready to contest the general election that the government has pledged to hold by the end of September this year.

In an emotional speech to members of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF) as he officially handed over the commander post to Brigadier Gen-

eral Mosese Tikoitoga in a church service at the Queen Elizabeth Barracks on Wednesday, Bainimarama urged soldiers to support the government and Fiji as a whole.

Fijian President Ratu Epeli Nailatikau has signed off the government gazette that confirmed the new commander's appointment, Bainimarama said in the indigenous Fijian language, asking members of the RFMF to give their full support to the new commander.

Tikoitoga "is well

known to you all as your Land Force Commander and has given more than 32 years of distinguished service to the RFMF," Bainimarama said, "I am confident that you will give him the same loyalty and support that you have given me over the past 15 years." "Today, I leave behind my 39-year career in the RFMF to become a civilian and lead a political movement to contest the 2014 general election — a political movement that we all started together," the prime minister said, "I have

to admit to a feeling of regret because I am leaving a job that I dearly love. I will miss you all and the camaraderie of military life." The former naval officer referred to the 2006 coup he led and by which he came to power as a revolution. "I am intensely conscious of the solemn duty that rests with me to continue the revolution that we began together seven years ago — to create a new Fiji, a better Fiji for ourselves and for future generations," Bainimarama said.

Xinhua



Colombia's President Juan Manuel Santos (C) raises hands with several heads of political parties and his campaign team during the signing of his candidacy for the upcoming presidential elections in Bogota, capital of Colombia, on 4 March, 2014. Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos along with his vice president candidate German Vargas Lleras registered his candidacy for presidential elections which will be held on 25 May.—XINHUA

Venezuela marks anniversary of Chavez's death with pomp and protests

CARACAS, 5 March — Followers of the late Venezuelan leader Hugo Chavez will flood the nation's streets on Wednesday to mark the anniversary of his death, a sad but welcome distraction for his would-be successor, who has struggled for a month to contain violent protests.

A year after Chavez succumbed to cancer, his self-proclaimed "son", President Nicolas Maduro, faces a determined challenge to his rule from an explosion of anti-government demonstrations that have led to clashes with security forces and 18 deaths.

Wednesday's military parade and other events to honor 'El Comandante' are a chance for Maduro, 51,



Children dressed as late Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez salute during the Carnival festival in Caracas on 4 March, 2014.—REUTERS

to reclaim the streets and show opponents that he too can mobilize.

"This anniversary is enormously sad. There's not a single day I don't remember Hugo," Chavez's

cousin, Guillermo Frias, 60, said from Los Rastrojos village in rural Barinas state, where the pair used to play baseball in the street as kids.

"He changed Vene-

zuela forever, and we cannot go back. Maduro also is a poor man, like us. He's handling things fine. Perhaps he just needs a stronger hand."

Tens of thousands of 'Chavistas' are expected at rallies in Caracas and elsewhere in honour of the socialist whose 14-year rule won him the adoration of many of Venezuela's poorest, while alienating the middle and upper classes.

Maduro will preside over a parade in the capital before going to the hilltop military museum where Chavez led a 1992 coup attempt that launched his political career, and where his remains have been laid to rest in a marble sarcophagus.—Reuters

Crime, skill shortage hamper S Africa economic growth

JOHANNESBURG, 5 March — Rising crime, skill shortage and poor service delivery hamper South Africa's economic growth and social stability, international audit and advisory firm Grant Thornton said on Tuesday.

Among these factors, crime is "heavily" affecting South Africa's economic growth, Grant Thornton said in its International Business Report (IBR) released in Johannesburg.

According to the group's IBR quarterly tracker survey, 66 percent of South African business executives said that they, their staff and immediate family members were affected by personal security threat in 2013.

Andrew Hannington, chief executive officer of the group, said the figure is 14 percent higher than the number recorded in December 2012 and it is a shocking 20 percent higher than the figure in the fourth quarter of 2011.

"Poverty is the core cause of criminal activity — South Africa's struggling economy, weak currency and striking unions no doubt directly result in the climbing figure," he said. "Crime is totally unacceptable and more focus needs to be given to this scourge now, ensuring that crime will not continue to impact our daily lives," Hannington said.

Contrary to popular perceptions, the richest Gauteng Province is not the worst-affected region among South Africa's nine provinces, the survey showed.—Xinhua



Nanchu, new alpha male of a monkey colony at the Takasaki Mountain Natural Park in Oita, southwestern Japan, eats a sliced apple during his inauguration ceremony on 2 March, 2014.—KYODO NEWS

S&P 500 ends at a record; Ukraine-Russia tensions ease

NEW YORK, 5 March — US stocks rallied on Tuesday, with the S&P 500 closing at a record as concerns about a confrontation between Russia and Ukraine eased, and the market recovered more than all of the previous session's hefty losses. President Vladimir Putin delivered a robust defence of Russia's actions in Crimea on Tuesday, saying he would use force in Ukraine only as a last resort. His comments relieved investors' fears that East-West tension over the former Soviet republic could lead to war.

The day's gains followed Wall Street's worst day in a month, when investors sold stocks and other risky assets as tensions escalated between Ukraine and Russia. Global stocks rebounded on Tuesday while gold, the Japanese yen and Treasuries prices fell. Crude oil prices, up more than 2 percent on Monday, reversed some of that session's gain in trading on Tuesday. "Monday's selling and Tuesday's stark reversal have become commonplace in traders' calendars in 2014," said Andrew



Goldman Sachs Sr floor trader Jay Woods (R) works at the post that trades RadioShack, on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on 4 March, 2014.

REUTERS

Wilkinson, chief market analyst at Interactive Brokers LLC in Greenwich, Connecticut.

"Investors have clearly got an appetite for equities displaying strong momentum, no matter whether geopolitical risks or fears for the health of the recovery stand in their path." The CBOE Volatility Index .VIX, Wall Street's fear barometer, slid 11.9 percent to end at 14.10 on Tuesday. That was a sharp reversal from Monday, when the VIX rose 14 percent. The Dow Jones industrial average .DJI jumped 227.85 points or 1.41 percent, to

end at 16,395.88. The S&P 500 .SPX gained 28.18 points or 1.53 percent, to finish at 1,873.91. The Nasdaq Composite .IXIC climbed 74.671 points or 1.75 percent, to close at 4,351.972.

The S&P 500 ended at a record high for the second time since Friday, when the broad index finished February with a milestone. In Tuesday's session, industrials and financials ranked among the biggest gainers. The benchmark index is up 1.4 percent for the year. The Wilshire 5000 Index .W5000 closed above 20,000 for the first

time. The index has gained 193.55 percent or \$15.9 trillion from its low on March 9, 2009, after the financial crisis. "The longer-term trend of the US equity indexes remains positive," but short-term indicators "remain overbought and are peaking as most indexes rally back to resistance at their 2014 highs," said Robert Sluymmer, an analyst at RBC Capital Markets, LLC in New York. Walt Disney Co (DIS.N) shares hit a record intraday high after reaching a deal with Dish Network (DISH.O) that lets the No. 2 satellite TV provider carry Dis-

ney-owned networks such as ABC and ESPN, and deliver the content outside of a traditional TV subscription. Disney shares rose 2.8 percent to close at \$81.71, after hitting an all-time intraday high of \$82.17. Qualcomm Inc (QCOM.O) rose 3.4 percent to end at \$76.11, off an all-time intraday high of \$76.79 reached on Tuesday. The world's biggest cellphone chip maker raised its stock-buyback authorization by \$5 billion to \$7.8 billion, and increased its cash dividend by 20 percent.

Shares of RadioShack Corp (RSH.N) plunged 17.3 percent to \$2.25. The struggling retailer said it would close up to 1,100 US stores after a huge drop in holiday sales. About 7.4 billion shares changed hands on US exchanges, slightly lower than the 7 billion average for the past month, according to data from BATS Global Markets. Advancers beat decliners by a ratio of about 5 to 1 on the New York Stock Exchange, while on the Nasdaq, more than four stocks rose for every one that fell.

Reuters

Japan to set clear rules for bitcoin trading

TOKYO, 5 March — The Japanese government has decided to define bitcoin as a non-currency market commodity, likening its trading to that of precious metals, a source close to the matter said on Wednesday. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's administration also plans to impose taxes on profits from bitcoin transactions, which have become increasingly common as a means of payment among Internet users across the globe, the source said.

The government has moved to clarify bitcoin trading rules following Friday's bankruptcy of major Tokyo-based bitcoin exchange Mt Gox, once the world's leading exchange for the virtual currency, which has dented confidence in virtual currencies and accelerated discussions about how to regulate their use.

The decision on the issue is scheduled to be approved at a Cabinet meeting possibly on Friday, the source said. The government is expected to define the bitcoin as a product that is not handled by banks and security houses, while expressing a view that the consumption tax will be levied on purchases of bitcoin and income tax will be imposed on profits from its sale.

While bitcoins have been traded online since 2009, Japan currently has no laws regulating the virtual currency. Mt. Gox filed last Friday for civil rehabilitation proceedings with the Tokyo District Court after abruptly shutting down all transactions earlier in the week.

Kyodo News

Yahoo to stop user access of services with Facebook, Google

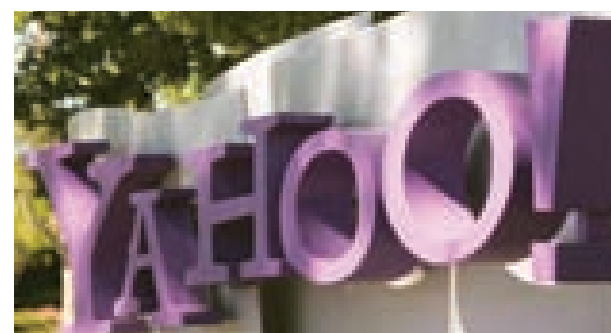
SAN FRANCISCO, 5 March — Yahoo Inc will stop letting consumers access its various online services, including Fantasy Sports and photo-sharing site Flickr, by signing-in with their Facebook Inc or Google Inc credentials. The change, which will be rolled out gradually according to a Yahoo spokeswoman, will require users to register for a Yahoo ID in order to use any of the Internet portal's services.

The move marks the latest change to Yahoo by

Chief Executive Marissa Mayer, who is striving to spark fresh interest in the company's Web products and to revive its stagnant revenue. "Yahoo is continually working on improving the user experience," the company said in a statement, noting that the new process "will allow us to offer the best personalized experience to everyone". The first Yahoo service to require the new sign-in process is Yahoo Sports Tourney Pick'Em, a service focused on the NCAA

college basketball tournament which begins later this month.

News of the change to Yahoo's Tourney Pick'Em sign-in process was first reported by the technology blog Betanews. Since Mayer took the reins in 2012, the company has rolled out new versions of many of its key products, including Yahoo Mail and Yahoo Finance. Last year, Yahoo announced a program to recycle inactive Yahoo user IDs, letting new users claim email addresses



The Yahoo logo is shown at the company's headquarters in Sunnyvale, California on 16 April, 2013.

REUTERS

that have not been used for more than 12 months.

In eliminating the Facebook and Google sign-in features, Mayer, a former Google executive, is effectively reversing a strategy that Yahoo adopted in 2010 and 2011

under then CEO Carol Bartz. The change to the Tourney Pick'Em sign-in process began on Monday, the Yahoo spokeswoman said, noting that users could still access other services with Google or Facebook IDs. —Reuters

Scientists develop long-acting drug to protect against AIDS



WASHINGTON, 5 March — A single injection of an experimental drug may someday protect people from infection with the

AIDS virus for up to three months, a US study said on Tuesday. The study, published in the US journal *Science*, showed that the

drug called GSK 744LA can protect macaque monkeys from repeated intra-rectal infections with the deadly SHIV, a hybrid between the human and monkey AIDS virus.

The efficacy and safety of the drug have not been tested in humans, but David Ho, whose team at the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center in New York led the study, told *Xinhua* the drug may be maintained at adequate level for about three of four

months in humans. "Therefore, we believe the drug should be given once every quarter," said Ho, noting that their results "give a big momentum boost to this HIV prevention effort."

In the new study, the researchers gave two injections of the drug to eight macaques and then "challenged" the animals by putting SHIV into their rectums once a week. They found none of the animals became infected after eight challenges. In a second ex-

periment, SHIV readily infected eight untreated control monkeys. This novel approach was based on the proven strategy of protecting people who do not have HIV but are at high risk for infection with antiretroviral pills known as oral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).

"It has been shown already that taking anti-HIV medications once a day ... could protect high-risk individuals from catching HIV. However, in such an approach, most persons

cannot follow the prescribed regimen with good compliance/adherence," said Ho. "With long-acting drug like 744LA, we take away this adherence problem, with the expectation that protection results would be better," he said. Robert Grant, a virologist at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), who was not involved in the study, believed that the new study "would be a game changer."

Xinhua

NATIONAL

Sustainable Post-2015 ASEAN Community needs collaborative discussions on security, defence matters



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing poses for documentary photo with C-in-Cs of ASEAN countries.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 5 March — Myanmar hosted the 11th ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces Informal Meeting (ACDFIM) at Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday. In his welcome speech,

11th ACDFIM's press conference held

NAY PYI TAW, 5 March — A press conference on the 11th ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces Informal Meeting (ACDFIM) was held at Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday.

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said at the conference that Chiefs of ASEAN Defence Forces recognized the fact that ongoing disputes and possible threats to security still threaten regional peace and stability. Participants to the meeting reaffirmed that a code of conduct to manage the South China Sea issue is an important prerequisite to ensuring regional peace and maritime security in the Sea.

He stressed the importance of cooperation among ASEAN armed forces based on the concept of co-ordination. He also stressed the need of defence cooperation for ensuring peaceful

and prosperous ASEAN Community.

As non-traditional security threats from natural disasters to terrorism still remain in the region, exchange of information, capacity-building, joint military drills and training are needed for ASEAN armed forces, he added.

The Senior General continued that those present at the meeting agreed to conduct ADMM Plus Expert Working Group in Malacca Strait and realize agreements and follow-up tasks laid down at the meeting.

He concluded his clarification, saying that a press release was signed and issued on Wednesday.

Next, the Senior General who chaired the 11th ACDFIM answered the questions raised by media persons. More than 40 journalists at home and abroad attended the press conference. — *Myawady*

Agriculture sector development discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 5 March — Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing held talks on establishment of mechanized farming and upgrade of irrigation system with delegations led by Mr. Lee Bong Hoon of Korea Rural Community Cooperation KRC of the Republic of Korea and Ambassador H.E Joan Boer of the Netherlands on Monday.

They observed fruit and vegetables at the booths marked the Peasants' Day. — *MNA*

Union Minister for Commerce receives Prime Minister of Bhutan

NAY PYI TAW, 5 March — Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint received Prime Minister of Bhutan Mr. Tshering Tobgay at Myat Mingala Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday.

At the meeting, they discussed bilateral cooperation in trade and investment, transport, education and tourism industry sectors. — *MNA*

Special meeting of senior officials' Committee for ASCC (SOCA) 2/2014 held

NAY PYI TAW, 5 March — Special meeting of the senior officials' Committee for ASCC (SOCA) was held at Chatrium Hotel in Yangon on Wednesday with an address by Daw Nanda Hmon, Director-General of Department of Historical Research and National Library under the

YANGON, 5 March — Shwegondine overpass was put into service between Kaba Aye Pagoda road and Shwegondine Junction in Bahan Township on Wednesday.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe made an opening speech.

Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint made clarification about construction of the overpass.

The Yangon Mayor and Region Minister for Transport U Aung Khin and Director U Tin Maung Win of Capital Development Ltd cut the ribbon to open the overpass.

The region chief min-

istry of Culture.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to the council's managements, prevention of climate change and natural disaster, improving and protection of the rights of migrant labours, social prevention in ASEAN framework, aged persons, wom-

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing who chaired the meeting recounted amity and friendship between Myanmar and neighbouring countries and countries in the region throughout the modern history. Myanmar has been playing an active role since after joining ASEAN in 1997.

He continued that sweeping reforms of the new government brought about by democratization process which was initiated by the then Tatmadaw government won political achievements in the country and international plaudits. Myanmar formed with different ethnic minorities is progressing towards a lasting peace.

Apart from joining hands with the government and national races, Defence Services has conducted

military engagements with armed forces of ASEAN countries and other world nations, seeing more progress. Myanmar's reform progress helped ASEAN enhance its image, he added.

The Commander-in-Chief stressed the importance of collaborative discussions on security and defence matters that are key to sustainable ASEAN community in the post-2015.

Next, the Senior General posed for documentary photos together with the Chiefs of Defence Forces of ASEAN countries.

Prior to the 11th ACDFIM, the Commander-in-Chief and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla hosted a welcome dinner to the Chiefs of Defence Forces of ASEAN countries at Thingaha Hotel on Tuesday evening. — *Myawady*

Japan shares knowledge about digital evidence

NAY PYI TAW, 5 March — A talk on digital evidence between the Office of the Supreme Court of the Union and Japan International Cooperation Agency-JICA took place at assembly hall of its office in Nay Pyi Taw on

Wednesday.

At the talks, Professor Mr. Kosuke YOKOMAKU of Training and Research Institute of Japan under the Ministry of Justice explained Japan's digital evidence law.

Altogether 40 officers from the Office of the Supreme Court of the Union attended the talks. — *MNA*

en and children protection, food security, health, education, poverty alleviation and goals of ASCC (SOCA).

The purpose of the meeting is to ensure dates and places to hold the 16th Senior Officials' Meeting of ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council, 17th

Senior Officials' Meeting, 11th and 12th Ministerial Meeting of ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council to be held in April and September.

Departmental heads and official of the council, delegates from the ASEAN countries attended the meeting. — *MNA*

Shwegondine overpass commissioned into service



ister unveiled the stone inscription of the overpass.

The construction of overpass started from 12

December, 2012 and finished 30 November, 2013.

The RC type overpass is 2059.55 feet long and

45.59 feet wide and its clearance is 18 feet high. It can withstand 60 tons per vehicle. — *MNA*

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 6 March, 2014

What are major challenges to transition?

Myanmar has been in the political transition for three years. When we are asked what the challenges of Myanmar's democracy, we are tongue-twisted then. It is not because we do not have any challenges, but we have many that we could not point out anything is

the most important issue to deal with. If there is an assumption that the religion is the thing that creates crisis in Myanmar, it is wrong. It is not the religion that creates violence.

The poorly fed and ill-educated people in one of the world's poorest countries are easily divisible. The people can be divided by race, by religion, by wealth, by privilege, etc.

The law enforcement mechanism alone is a quite big challenge. But it also is not the panacea.

We have to find the long-term solutions to challenges in our country's transition by promoting the education of the country while handling

the subtle situations wisely and smartly. The people has just come out of decades-long trauma of swallowing their feelings. It is the time that the nation itself and its people are searching for and restoring their lost identity.

The authority and those who have moral authority over the people should lead a smooth transition by educating the society rightfully, rather than creating tensions. The democratic transition is a long way to go. We need to find answers ourselves for the questions what are major challenges of our transition, which are the root causes, and how we can resolve them. Have we ever asked ourselves?

Coordination underway for construction of waste-to-energy plants in Yangon, Mandalay

NAY PYI TAW, 5 March — Regarding the construction of waste-to-energy plants in Hlinethaya and Dagon Myothit (North) townships in Yangon, Deputy Minister for Electric Power

U Aung Than Oo responded to a question at the 20th session of Amyotha Hluttaw on Wednesday that matters related to grid connection and purchase of electricity from the two tender-winning com-

panies—Chasson International Korea Company and Zeya & Association, Hyundai Rotem Company—are under discussion. He added that coordination between Mandalay City Development Committee and Organic Myanmar (Thailand) that won tender for power generation from waste is also taking place.

Next, representatives held discussions on the work progress report of Amyotha

Hluttaw Public Complaint and Petition Committee and the Hluttaw approved the report. Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint replied at the today's Pyithu Hluttaw session that Thanlwin Bridge (Phahsaung) will cost K 7194 million despite the previous estimated K 5427.75 million as no loans were obtained from the Exim Bank of China and it is scheduled to complete bridge construction in 2015.

In his response to the

two questions about electricity supply, Deputy Minister U Aung Than Oo said a feasibility study report is under consideration for the establishment of a power plant in Yebyu Township of Taninthayi Region and coordination is underway for acquisition of foreign loans for Mawlamyine-Ye-Dawei 230 KV power line project.

He continued that Mulasheedi hydropower project will be implemented

for electricity supply in the region instead of undertaking Htaka Creek hydropower project in Machanbaw Township. The new project with the generating capacity of 800 KW will be carried out under the Kachin Government's management.

Approval of Pyithu Hluttaw on the Bill amending the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law was sought at the today's session. — MNA

We support the seeking answer to maintaining friendly relations by respective countries: Senior General

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.—MNA

The Press Conference on the 11th ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces Formal Meeting was held at Thinhaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on 5 March 2014.

After the press conference, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior

General Min Aung Hlaing replied questions raised by journalists. In replying question on how you can discuss upon them: Defence Cooperation Toward Peaceful and Prosperous ASEAN Community in the previous meeting raised by the Myawady TV, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said that the Myanmar Armed Forces is fully cooperating with the ASEAN armed forces for realizing the theme. Towards this end, we are cooperating in maritime security, humanitarian and other non-traditional challenges such as drug smuggling, transborder

crimes and counter-tourism and regional disaster relief cooperation. In replying the question on how the Myanmar Armed Forces to cooperate in UN Peacemaking operation, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services said after the independence, the Myanmar Armed Forces was in the past in UN peacemaking mission. We have been trying to cooperate upon this mission. Unfortunately, our previous offer regarding the mission with preparations was cancelled. And in future, we will cooperate with UN for peace-making mission.

In replying question on military security and human

security raised by the MRTV-4, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services said that the ASEAN countries are cooperating in maritime and disaster relief operation as well as in the fight against the traditional and non-traditional threats such as cyber crimes and transnational crimes and we can promote the relations and cooperation among our ASEAN armed forces and we exchange visits between our armed forces to be able to cooperate in security tasks including maritime security.

There are non-traditional threats such as food security, health security, economic, social and political security, environmental security and personal security. The Myanmar Armed

Forces is hoping with not only human security but also with national and regional security based on view of our people. We also protect our people from non-traditional security threats. So, I would like to say in the security matter that people security is very important one. That is why I notice on that point.

In replying the question on South China Sea issue raised by the Myanmar News Agency of the News and Periodicals Enterprise, the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services said at today meeting we also discussed matters on the South China Sea issue and this is a very important issue for ASEAN member countries and China. The today joint statement includes the stance

of our armed forces and the stance of ASEAN. As code of conduct and also international law as to the South China Sea are very important for both sides, we firmly believed that the dispute in South China Sea will be solved peacefully. And we are welcoming upon that point. For Myanmar we support seeking answer to maintaining friendly relations by respective countries and also encourage peace and stability in the region. In the disputed area, any movement and process towards peace and stability is supported. The issue can be solved bilaterally and I mean the disputed country can solve peacefully.

Kyaw The Ein (MNA)

BIMSTEC Center for Weather and Climate would contribute to scientific research in weather prediction and climate modeling

The Press Conference on 3rd BIMSTEC Summit took place at Myanmar National convention Centre (MICC) in Nay Pyi Taw on 4-3-2014. After the press conference, the news team of Myanmar News Agency met with Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin and asked questions.

In replying the question on how much the BIMSTEC permanent secretariat could contribute to further cooperation among its countries as well as to Myanmar raised by the news team of Myanmar News Agency, Union Foreign Affairs Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin said that this question is rightly appropriate for a citizen of BIMSTEC member state to ask and to be

aware of. Before answering your question, I would like to apprise you briefly how the BIMSTEC functions its activities. Coordination among BIMSTEC member states for cooperation, considering possible processes, practical implementation and reviewing the implementation process has been undertaken so that these will be discussed at expert level meetings, preparatory meetings, senior official level, ministerial level and summit level meeting. By establishing a Secretariat exclusively, the cooperation among members countries will operate smoothly.

Amongst the functions of BIMSTEC Secretariat, the principal task is to facilitate and coordinate the imple-

mentation of the collaborative activities among BIMSTEC member states. In doing so, it will expedite in realizing the objectives of prosperity and growth among peoples of BIMSTEC inspired by all member states. That is why the establishment of a Secretariat will be beneficial to all BIMSTEC member states including Myanmar and their peoples.

In replying the question on the attitude of Myanmar toward the said-ineffectiveness of agricultural cooperation, the Union Minister said that it is true that Myanmar is the lead country for agricultural sector. There are plans for each and every member states to implement in the agriculture sector. These plans are prepared based on the geog-

raphy natural endowment and prospect of implementation by the member states. Implementation of any projects may require initial capital. The funding will be organized by the State, financial assistance from BIMSTEC members or from countries and organizations beyond the region. We do not impose any restrictions with regard to cooperation with States and organizations. We will continue our endeavours based on interest and ability to assist.

In replying question on the establishment of the BIMSTEC Centre for Weather and Climate, the Union Foreign Affairs Minister replied that BIMSTEC Center for Weather and Climate would be established in Noida, India very

soon. After establishing the said Centre, we could implement the scientific research in weather prediction and climate modeling. We could collect the database concerning with the regional climate. The BIMSTEC Centre for Weather and Climate would establish by the governing board, director, scientific advisory committee and secretariat. Governing board consists of one nominee from each BIMSTEC member countries for a three years term. The Chairperson of the board would be appointed for a one year term out of its member according to alphabetical rotation of the names of the member country. The Vice Chairperson shall be India national. A scientist from India will be

News team from MNA

Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin.—MNA

appointed as the first director of BIMSTEC Centre for Weather and Climate. The term of the director would be three years and could extend to two years. The Governing Board shall meet once a year. If required, special meeting could be convened. Young scientists from BIMSTEC member countries could work as Junior, Senior Research Fellows on short term (up to three years).

NATIONAL

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker receives Prime Minister of Bhutan

NAY PYI TAW, 5 March—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received a delegation led by Prime Minister of Bhutan H.E Tshering Tobgay at the Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday afternoon.

At the meeting, they discussed mutual cooperation between the two countries.

Also present at the call were Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Pyithu Hluttaw Committee members U Maung Maung Thein and U Hla Myint Oo, Secretary Daw Dwe Bu, Commission member Daw Aye Aye Mu, Myanmar ambassador to Bhutan U Hla Myint Swe and officials of the Hluttaw office.—MNA

Prime Minister of Bhutan H.E Tshering Tobgay signs visitors' book at the Hluttaw Building.

MNA



Korean Memorial Monument...

(from page 16)

and senior official-level meetings during our president's visit. South Korean government also granted aids and assistance to Myanmar through the Korean International Cooperation Agency, including assistance for establishing model villages in Hlegu and Phaunggyi.

Q: There are some objections against the agreement because the monument would be built in the compound of the Martyrs'

Mausoleum. Is it correct?

A: No. The monument would not be in the compound of the Martyrs' Mausoleum. It would be located at the east of the northern entrance to the Shwedagon Pagoda and between the car park and security building.

Q: How about the architectural design of the monument?

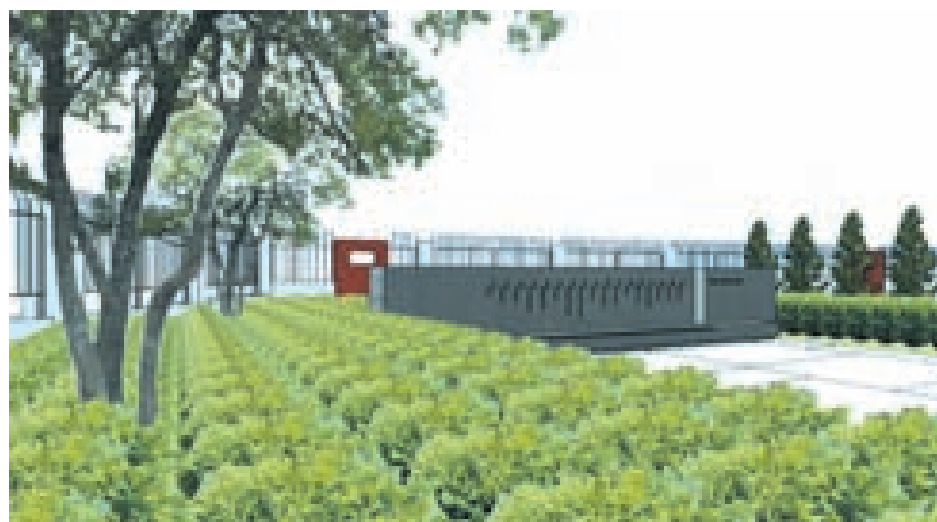
A: The monument is not a building. There is no pillar not roof, just a wall which is five feet high. The exact measurement of the

wall is: 1.5 metre in height; 9 metre in length and one metre in width. The names of the Korean victims would be inscribed on the wall.

Q: Is there any impacts from the monument on an annual Martyrs' Day ceremony?

A: Nothing. Because the location of the wall and the Martyrs' Mausoleum are very different. The wall would not cause deterrence to the scene of the martyrs' Mausoleum nor the annual Martyrs' Day ceremony.

MNA



Scale model of the site for the Korean Memorial Monument. —MNA

Notice issued by the National Census Committee

1. The national census would be launched on 30 March.
2. For the task of taking the national census, authorities concerned and organizations have make tours to national people across the country and clarified the task. Meanwhile, the National Census Committee has stepped up efforts for clarification of the national census through mass media such as newspapers, journals, radio and TV.
3. Some person from foreign countries who are not assigned duty by the government and have not received trainings for the national census conducted by the government made clarifications of the national census to some organizations in the country. Their clarification which are not perfect and language barriers and their false assumption, can cause misunderstanding and complication to the national census. Those wishing to raise queries about the national census may ask the respective region/state/district/township Immigration and National Registration Department, or may contact the following contact numbers where officials concerned are ready to answer the queries.

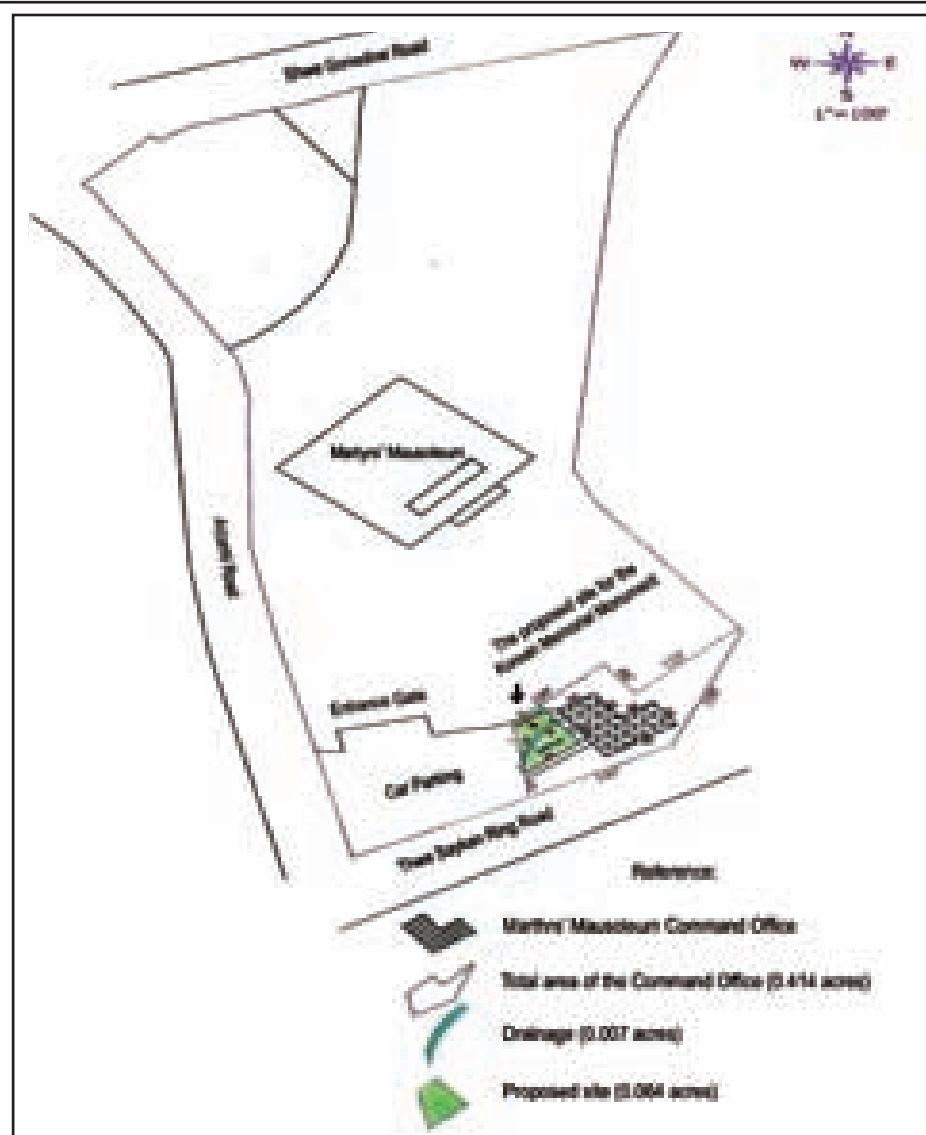
Director-General, Population Department - 067-431062

Directors, Population Department - 067-431067, 431339

Website: www.dop.gov.mm

Facebook: 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census

Central Census Committee



Map shows the proposed site for the Korean Memorial Monument.—MNA

MoU on regional development cooperation between Myanmar, ROK signed

NAY PYI TAW, 5 March— Myanmar and the Republic of Korea signed a MoU on regional development cooperation at the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development here on Wednesday.

Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr

Kan Zaw and ROK Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of the Republic of Korea H.E. Suh Seoung-hwan signed the MoU on cooperation in regional development of the two countries.

The MoU covered bilateral cooperation between the two countries in establishment of com-

prehensive development project in Myanmar and ROK, laying down environmental technology management policies, urban development strategies, land compensation system, environmental conservation planning projects and human resources development.

MNA

Arlain Nga Sint Pagoda needs to be renovated



MOHNYIN, 5 March—Plans are underway to renovate Arlain Nga Sint Pagoda in Semile Ywathit Village, Mohnyin Township of Kachin State.

The 100-year old Arlain Nga Sint Pagoda with fine architecture needs to be conserved because it is

one of the historic pagoda in Mohnyin Township.

It was built by the contribution of the local people.—*Tun Yi*

Free medical care provided in Tatkon



TATKON, 5 March—Free medical care was provided in Bayintnaung Ward, Tatkon Township on Wednesday.

Township assistant traditional medical practitioner Daw Thin Thin Moe and deputy assistant traditional medical practitioner Daw Hay Man Oo treated a total of 40 residents with traditional medicine at the Bayintnaung Ward Administrator's Office in the township.

Township IPRD

Establishment of Myeik Economic Zone under consideration

MYEIK, 5 March — Arrangements are being made for the establishment of Myeik Economic Zone on a plot that has a total area of more than 1100 acres, three-mile east of Myeik which is on the track to achieve its economic potentials, according to Myeik Future Development Col., Ltd.

The company said a proposal for establishment of Myeik Economic Zone had been submitted to authorities concerned. It is planned to collectively build Port Zone, Business Zone, Industrial Zone, Green Zone, Industrial

Zone and Residential Zone in the designated economic zone with a total area of three square miles as soon as possible.

The Myeik Economic Zone is aimed at turning

the Myeik into a centre of the business activities in the region and ensuring public convenience and smooth and speedy flow of commodities with least transport costs.

Moe Hein-Myeik



Goatskin thief arrested in Thazi

THAZI, 5 March—Goatskin worth K 331,200 was stolen in Ywamontha Village in Thazi Township on 28 February.

On 2 March, Ywamontha Villager U Khin Maung

Myint, 31, tracked stolen goatskin from U Maung Maung Khin from Zepauk Village in Thazi Township.

Therefore, Owner U

Khin Maung Myint opened a file against suspect Yarshit, 20, for the theft of goatskin at Thazi Police Station.—*NLM-018*

Narcotic tablets worth K 23 million seized in Tachilek Tsp

TACHILEK, 5 March—A combined team comprising members of Counter-narcotics Police Force No.30 searched a car, driven by Lawta, 35, son of U Kyalaw, in the presence of the

witnesses at Malyan checkpoint on 4 March.

They found 1 kg narcotic tablets worth K 23 million in the car.

The Tachilek Myoma Police Station lodged a

lawsuit against the suspect driver and the passenger under Section 15/19 (A)/21 of the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Maung Yin Kye

970 buffaloes and cows vaccinated in Mohnyin Tsp

MOHNYIN, 5 March—Assistance Director Dr Win Oo and members of Livestock Breeding and

Veterinary Department vaccinated 103 buffaloes and 867 cows totalling 970 from 13 villages in

Indawgyi of Mohnyin Township on the last day of February.

Tun Yi

Landslide-hit area in Mohnyin cleared

MOHNYIN, 5 March—Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Sai Tin Aung and Head of Mohnyin District Agriculture and Irrigation Department U Khin Maung Lwin looked

round a total of 45/50 acres of land covered by a layer of mud and sand after a landslide occurred in Pinhe Village near Chaung Chauk Creek in Mohnyin Township of Kachin State in the

last rainy season.

The landslide-hit area has been cleared with the development fund of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw K 92 million.

Tun Yi



3000 gallon of Illegal crude oil seized in Natmauk Tsp

NATMAUK, 5 March—Acting on a tip-off, a team led by SIP Tin Maung Tun checked a vehicle driven by Aung Zaw Moe, 41, son of U Maung Maung at Natmauk Township of Magway Region on 3 March.

They found that the suspect installed wrong number plate and copy of licence and loaded 3000 gallon of illegal crude oil without official's grant.

The Natmauk Myoma Police Station filed a lawsuit against the driver and

two bus conductors under the law.—*Hla Win (IPRD)*

New village library to be launched

NATMAUK, 5 March—A literary talks will be given at the opening ceremony of Bawa Ah Myin Library, Kalashin village, Natmauk Township, Magway Region on 21 March.

Writers Nay Win Myint, Khin Khin Htoo and Nyo Htun Lu will share the knowledge on the occasion.

The 26-feet long and 24-feet wide library was donated by U Bo Kyi Win and wife Daw Mar Mar Htay.—*Hla Win (IPRD)*

REGIONAL

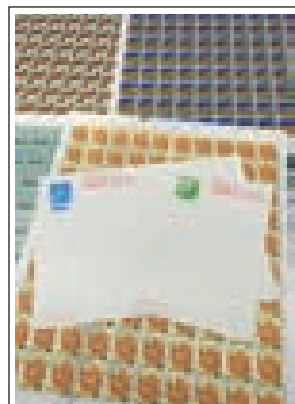
Pakistan to install CCTV cameras in all courts in capital

ISLAMABAD, 5 March — Pakistan's top court on Tuesday ordered installation of closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras in all courts in the capital Islamabad a day after gun and bomb attack on a local court killed 11 people.

A judge and five lawyers were among the dead in the brazen terror attack on the district court in Islamabad which also left two suicide bombers dead.

The Supreme Court directed to install CCTV cameras within 48 hours in Islamabad and the nearby garrison city of Rawalpindi. The three-member bench of the apex court headed by Chief Justice Tasadduq Hussain Jilani also ordered action against police officers who failed to quickly respond to the attack.

A lesser-known militant group "Ahrar-ul-Hind" has claimed responsibility for the attack.—Xinhua



Japan Post Co starts selling on 3 March, 2014, new postcards and stamps that reflect April's sales tax hike from 5% to 8%.

KYODO NEWS



Rahul Gandhi (L), India's ruling Congress party vice president and son of Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, waves to his supporters during a road show ahead of the 2014 general elections at Samuguri village in the northeastern Indian state of Assam on 26 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

India to kick off world's biggest election on 7 April

NEW DELHI, 5 March — India's mammoth parliamentary election will start on 7 April, authorities announced on Tuesday, kicking off a race that will pit charismatic Hindu nationalist leader Narendra Modi against the unpopu-

lar Nehru-Gandhi family's ruling Congress party.

Voting will be held in nine phases, staggered until 12 May to allow security forces to focus their strength during an exercise that, for decades after independence from Britain

in 1947, has often been marred by violence and ballot-rigging.

Counting of votes will begin on 16 May, Chief Election Commissioner VS Sampath told a news conference.

Reuters

Chinese humanitarian aid reaches Cambodian people in E province

KAMPONG CHAM, (Cambodia), 5 March — Cambodia on Wednesday continued distributing China-donated relief items to some 3,088 families, who are victims of last year's flood, HIV/ AIDS patients, disabled people and orphans.

Cambodian Red Cross president Bun Rany, the wife of Prime Minister Hun Sen, and Chinese Ambassador to Cambodia Bu Jian-guo handed over the items including rice, noodles, tins of sardines, clothes, mosquito nets, blankets,

and cash gift to those vulnerable families. The humanitarian goods are part of the 1 million US dollars donation from the Chinese government to Cambodia in October for people who have faced hardships due to severe flooding last year.

Bun Rany, on behalf of the Cambodian people, expressed gratitude to the government and people of China for providing humanitarian aid to Cambodia whenever the country faced difficulties from natural disasters.

She said 1 million US

dollars donated from China was used to buy 2,000 tones of milled rice for vulnerable people.

So far, about 580 tones have been donated to some 23,000 families in 11 provinces and distribution operations are still going on.

Ambassador Bu said China hoped that the relief items would help ease the hardships of those vulnerable people, promising that China would still continue assisting Cambodia in economic development and poverty reduction.

Xinhua

Cambodia needs to build human capital for ASEAN Community 2015

PHNOM PENH, 5 March — Cambodia needs to build qualified and competent human capital to prepare for competition when the ASEAN Economic Community becomes a reality at the end of 2015, Prime Minister Hun Sen said on Tuesday.

"The Cambodian government will focus its attention on strengthening education quality and technical vocational training that have yet to respond to and match market demand to ensure youth are worthy successors of the present generation and sustainable development of the country," he said during the 17th Government-Private Sector Forum at the capital's Peace Palace.

The premier said participation from the private sector was another important factor for Cambodia's preparedness for its membership in the ASEAN Economic Community 2015.

"Our pursuit of ASEAN Economic Community 2015 is comparable to boat racing that require paddlers at both the front end and rear end of the boat," the premier said. "Although the government, the rear-end

paddler, might have the responsibility of steering the boat, but inputs from the private sector at the front end of the boat are equally important for direction setting."

He said the government has desire to see greater participation from the private sector in dealing with challenges faced by Cambodia in the context of ASEAN Economic Community in 2015. Bretton Sciaroni, chairman of International Business Chamber of Cambodia, said ASEAN would be a region with free movement of goods, services, investment, skilled labor, and a freer flow of capital when it became a community.

"When the ASEAN Economic Community realizes, the bloc will become a single market and production base, making the region more dynamic and competitive," he said. "Therefore, it is crucial for Cambodia to prepare itself to make use of this regional economic integration."

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.—Xinhua

Cambodia considers giving visa for Japanese on airplane

PHNOM PENH, 5 March — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said on Tuesday his government wants to make it easier for Japanese travellers to visit Cambodia by introducing in-flight processing of tourist visas.

Speaking at a government forum with private sectors in Phnom Penh, Hun Sen said the original idea from the Japanese side is reasonable and could lead to an increased number of tourists from Japan.

The premier said he has ordered the tourism and immigration officials to study the idea together with representatives of the travel industry and the Japanese side.

For it to be possible, he said, whatever Japanese airline is involved, once direct flights between the two countries commence, would have to make one or two seats available for immigration officials on flights from Japan to Cambodia.

The same service could be applied to South Korean visitors in a later stage, he said.

A total of 4,210,165 foreign tourists visited Cambodia in 2013 against 3,584,307 in 2012, according to official data.

In 2013, Vietnamese topped arrivals with 854,104 visitors, followed by Chinese with 463,123 and South Koreans with 435,009. Japanese tourists placed sixth with 206,932.

Kyodo News



Animal-shaped chocolates are exhibited at a press conference on the 2014 International Bakery Show in Taipei, southeast China's Taiwan, on 4 March, 2014. The annual bakery show will be held from 13 to 16 March, showcasing bakery related products and food. XINHUA

Singapore experiences driest month since 1869

SINGAPORE, 5 March — The prolonged dry weather affecting Singapore since mid-January has set a new record for the driest month since 1869.

During February, there were only seven days of short showers that occurred between February 7 and 19, mainly in the western parts of Singapore.

Local TV Channel NewsAsia reported that the total rainfall across 64 rainfall stations ranged from 45 percent to 100 percent below the long-term average of 161.0 mm for February — about half of the stations, mostly in the southern and eastern areas, recorded total monthly rainfall below 10.0 mm.

Besides being the driest month ever, February was also the most windy month in the last 30 years. An average daily wind speed of 13.3 km/h was recorded in February.

The prolonged dry conditions have also set a new record for the lowest average daily relative humidity of 74.5 percent. The previous record low for February and any month of the year was 76.9 percent in February 1968, and 74.6 percent in June 2013 respectively.

Singapore National Environment Agency (NEA) said the last day of significant rainfall was on February 16, when between 0.2 and 29.0 mm was recorded in various parts of the island.

Since then, there has been little or no rainfall, with Singapore entering another dry spell on 17 February. This follows the 27-day long dry spell between 13 January and 8 February, 2014.—Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

Invitation for Prequalification (For Procurement of Cargo Handling Equipment)

1. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received a Loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency toward the cost of the Sub-Project for Expansion of Yangon Port in Thilawa Area (Phase-I) under Infrastructure Development in Thilawa Area (Phase-I). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this Loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract resulting from the bidding for which this prequalification is conducted.
2. The Myanmar Port Authority intends to prequalify contractors and/or firms for procurement of the following plants:
 - STS (Ship-to-Shore) Gantry Crane: 2 units
 - RTG (Rubber Tyre Gantry): 6 units
 - Reach Stacker: 3 units
 - Tractor & Chassis: 6 units
 - Forklift (3.5ton-lift): 2 units
3. It is expected that Invitation for Bids will be made in May.
4. Prequalification will be conducted through procedures in accordance with the applicable Guidelines for Procurement under Japanese ODA Loans, and is open to all Applicants from eligible source countries, as defined in the Loan Agreement.
5. Interested eligible Applicants may obtain further information from and inspect the Prequalification Documents at the office of *Myanmar Port Authority, No.10, Pansodan St. Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar* from on March 10-13, 2014 during Office Hour from 9:30 to 16:30.
6. A complete set of the Prequalification Documents may be purchased by interested Applicant(s) on the submission of a written Application to the address above and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of USD 500.00.
7. Applications for prequalification should be submitted in sealed envelopes, delivered to the address above by April 23, 2014 and be clearly marked "Application to Prequalify for the Package 2: Procurement of Cargo Handling Equipment, Sub-Project for Expansion of Yangon Port in Thilawa Area (Phase-I) under Infrastructure Development in Thilawa Area (Phase-I)".

U Kyaw Myint

Managing Director, Myanmar Port Authority
No, 10. Pansodan St. Kyauktada Township,
Yangon, Myanmar

Facsimile number: 95-1-246781. 391355



Female customers go shopping at a shopping mall in Yinchuan, capital of northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, on 5 March, 2014.

XINHUA

Australian GDP grows 0.8 percent in Q4: ABS

CANBERRA, 5 March — GDP, in seasonally adjusted volume terms, grew 0.8 percent in the December quarter 2013, the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) figures showed on Wednesday.

According to the figures, growth for the quarter was driven by a 0.6 percent contribution from net exports and a 0.5 percent contribution from final consumption expenditure. These increases were

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV AN ZE JIANG VOY NO (176)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV AN ZE JIANG VOY NO (176) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.3.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(5) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO SHIPPING CO LTD**
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (5/2014)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars and Myanmar Kyats.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-193(13-14)	70 Ton (4x4) Rough Terrain Mobile Crane	US\$
(2)	IFB-194(13-14)	Blow Out Preventers	US\$
(3)	IFB-195(13-14)	Spares for Annular Blow Out Preventer	US\$
(4)	IFB-196(13-14)	Spares for Stand Line Manifold	US\$
(5)	DMP/L-065(13-14)	8Kg & 2Kg Dry Chemical Powder Fire Extinguisher (ABCE)	KS

Tender Closing Date & Time - 31-3-2014, 16:30 Hr
Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 3rd March, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph: +95 67 - 411097/411206

EU injects 4.45 million Euros to support EAC regional integration

ARUSHA, 5 March — The European Union Delegation and East African Community (EAC) on Tuesday inked a financial agreement worth 4.45 million Euros to enhance regional integration processes.

The support, which is for the EAC regional integration support program 3 (RISP3) is a response to the challenges and needs expressed in the 4th EAC Development Strategy for the period 2011- 2016.

Speaking after signing the agreement, EU Delegation Head of Cooperation for Tanzania/EAC Eric Beaume said the 3rd generation Regional Integration

Support Program (RISP 3) aims at enhancing regional integration processes in the whole of Eastern and Southern Africa, as well as the Indian Ocean.

"Building on the lessons learnt during the implementation of previous similar projects, RISP 3 specifically addresses the challenges of the East African Community and provides concerted, tailor-made support to the EAC Secretariat, to other EAC organs and the 5 Partner States," the EU official said, adding that the program is part of a 20 million Euros package designed for COMESA, EAC, IGAD and IOC.—Xinhua

partially offset by a 0.3 percent decrease contributed by gross fixed capital formation. And the mining industry contributed 0.1 percent to GDP, as did the manufacturing, and rental, hiring and real estate in-

dustries.

In addition, the figures also showed that the December quarter saw the terms of trade increase 0.6 percent, and real gross domestic income increased 0.9 percent.—Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (J001R)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (J001R) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.3.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CMA CGM**
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER (16th Term Supply Tender)

1. Open Tenders are invited for the Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the supply of High Speed Diesel 1.645 Mbbls $\pm 10\%$ and Jet A1 0.752 Mbbls $\pm 10\%$.
2. Tender Closing Date : **2-4-2014** at (12:00) noon.
3. Tender Opening Date : **2-4-2014** at (13:00) hrs,
4. Delivery Time : 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015
5. Tender Documents and details information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours commencing 13-3-2014 on payment of the Myanmar Kyat One Hundred Thousand (Kyat 100,000) per set.
6. Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender document officially from Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director
Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise

More than half of disaster-hit fishing ports not yet fully recovered

TOKYO, 5 March — More than half of the fishing ports damaged in the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami disaster have yet to fully recover their functions, with the government aiming to complete their reconstruction by March 2016, the fisheries ministry said Wednesday.

As of the end of February, only 143 fishing ports, or 45 percent of a total of 319 ports in the seven disaster-hit prefectures, have had their fisheries equipment fully repaired, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

A Fisheries Agency official cited shortages of concrete and other building materials as the main reason for the delay in port reconstruction, combined with a steep rise in the prices of materials and labor costs.

As for the three hardest-damaged northeastern prefectures of Iwate,

Miyagi and Fukushima, 64 out of 108 ports have been fully reconstructed in Iwate.

But only 18 out of 142 ports in Miyagi and three out of 10 ports in Fukushima have been completely repaired, the ministry said.

The number of fishery operators, including individuals, in the three prefectures has almost halved to 5,658 as of November 2013 from 10,062 in 2008, the ministry added.

The four other prefectures are Hokkaido, Aomori, Ibaraki and Chiba.

Excluding Hokkaido, a total of 21,480 hectares of farm land were damaged by the disaster in the six other prefectures, of which 63 percent, or 13,470 hectares, had become available for farm production by the end of January this year.

The farm ministry said the figure will reach 70 percent, or 15,060 hectares, by this spring.

Kyodo News

ENTERTAINMENT

Miley Cyrus is harmless: John Legend

LOS ANGELES, 5 March — Singer-songwriter John Legend doesn't believe pop star Miley Cyrus deserves the criticism she has received with her raunchy performances. He says they are "harmless".

The 35-year-old feels critics are overacting when it comes to the Wrecking Ball singer, who gyrates and simulates sex acts during her Bangerz tour. Parents of her fans have even described her live shows as "soft porn".

"I think it's relatively harmless — she's not doing anything dangerous," contactmusic.com quoted Legend as saying.

"She's just making decisions about how she wants to portray herself sexually and physically. It's working for her at the moment," he added.

PTI



John says Miley isn't doing anything dangerous.



The money was collected from the celebrities during the show.—XINHUA

Oscars pizza delivery guy gets \$1,000 tip

BEIJING, 5 March — Pizza delivery guy Edgar Martirosyan had a good time on Sunday night. He got to deliver pizza to the Oscars and received a 1,000 dollar tip.

Edgar, the pizza owner, got the call to deliver pizza to Hollywood's Dolby Theatre for some writers during Sunday night's

Academy Awards. He was shocked when host DeGeneres led him to the stage in front of Hollywood actors and 43 million viewers at home.

Best Supporting Actor Jared Leto, Brad Pitt, Meryl Streep and the Jennifer Lawrence all indulged on a piece of the pie, but none of the multi-millionaire

nominees in the audience seemed to have any cash on them for a well-deserved tip.

Luckily, when Edgar was invited back onstage for an interview on The Ellen Show Monday, Ellen DeGeneres surprised Edgar with a 1,000 dollar tip for delivering pizza to the Oscars.—Xinhua

World War One, a hundred years on, entrenched on London stages

LONDON, 5 March — The centenary year of the start of World War One is being marked on the London stage as a bloodbath that wasted millions of lives and ended in failure, setting the world on the destructive path for World War Two. With "War Horse" — the internationally hailed play about a British army steed in the Great War — still playing in the West End, theatre-goers can now delve deeper into the conflict that killed some 10 million military personnel.

A slick and spirited revival of Joan Littlewood's dark-humored 1963 anti-war musical "Oh What a Lovely War" is on at the Theatre Royal in the east London borough of Stratford, where it created waves 50 years ago. Playwright

Peter Gill's "Versailles" dealing with the peace treaty that ended the 1914-18 war — but which in Gill's and many historians' view set the world on the road to the next one — opened last week at the bijou Donmar Warehouse venue. Both shows are thought provoking as well as entertaining, with director Terry Johnson's revival of Littlewood's groundbreaking piece having the edge in sheer entertainment.

The play was made into a movie by director Richard Attenborough in 1969, featuring a pantheon of British stage and screen stars. In the new London performance, a spirited troupe of 12 mostly young singers and actors, dressed much of the time in white clown suits rather than khaki because Littlewood abhorred the uniform,



Andy, a World War One Historical Association "14-18 en Somme" member dressed in a French vintage army uniform, stands at sunset after a ceremony at the military cemetery of Lamothe-Warfusee, Northern France, in this 10 Nov, 2013 file photo.

REUTERS

put on a mock "pierrot" musical review that was typical of seaside resorts in Britain at the time of the war. It starts in a light-hearted vein

with young men heading off to the front expecting to be back in a few months' time. But as the war drags on and on, and the casualty figures

— projected on a ticker-tape-style screen above the stage — spiral upwards, the humor gets progressively grimmer.—Reuters

161 years a misspelling: NY Times corrects story on 'Slave' subject

NEW YORK, 5 March — The New York Times on Tuesday corrected a 161-year-old story about Solomon Northup, whose memoir was the basis for the Academy Award-winning movie "12 Years a Slave." The 20 Jan, 1853, article, headlined "The Kidnapping Case," tells the story of Northup, a black man born free in the northern United States, who was kidnapped in Washington DC in 1841 and sold into slavery in Louisiana.

That article misspelled Northup's surname, referring to him as "Solomon Northrop," while its headline misspelled it as "Northrup," according to the correction, which followed Sunday's Oscars ceremony, where the film based on Northup's experience was

named Best Picture. The correction followed a series of Twitter posts from best-selling author Rebecca Skloot, whose tweets about the article contained their own typographical errors.

Skloot is the author "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" a bestseller in 2010. Lacks was a poor black Virginia tobacco farmer whose cancerous tumor cells were taken without her knowledge in 1951, and used to create an "immortal cell line" that proved key in developing the polio vaccine, gene mapping and other medical research breakthroughs.

On Monday, Skloot tweeted "Original 1953 NYTimes article on kidnapping of Solomon Northrup #12YearsASlave #history" and provided a link, which was later amended, or "fixed," as she noted in a

retweet. She then retweeted her first post, adding: "Uh, make that 1853," after a follower pointed out her error. Even as it corrected its own error, the Times noted that its original article on Northup had been billed as "a more complete and authentic record than has yet appeared."

The New York Times, long called the US "paper of record," is known for its thorough and precisely worded corrections. In 2012, the newspaper ran a correction acknowledging that it had misidentified a character from the children's show "My Little Pony" in a story about college students with Asperger's syndrome. "It is Twilight Sparkle, the nerdy intellectual, not Fluttershy, the kind animal lover," the correction noted.

Reuters

Oscars telecast audience revised up, highest in 14 years

LOS ANGELES, 5 March — The audience that tuned in to watch ABC's live telecast of the Oscars hosted by Ellen DeGeneres on Sunday was the show's highest in 14 years after ratings were upwardly revised. Nielsen ratings data on Tuesday showed that the audience for the telecast was 43.7 million, versus the 43 million reported on Monday, the highest since 2000 and 8 percent higher than last year.

The Oscars attract the biggest non-sports audience in the United States. Walt Disney Co's ABC network has signed on to broadcast the film industry's highest honors through 2020. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences kept producers Craig Zadan and Neil Meron for the second straight year, but swapped out Seth MacFarlane as host after his provocative



Winners of the Oscar Award Lupita Nyong'o, and Matthew McConaughey.

humor prompted harsh criticism.

Comic and daytime talk show host DeGeneres, who hosted in 2007 and is only the second woman to

emcee Hollywood's biggest night on her own, brought an easy breezy style to the Dolby Theatre, though she did poke the powerful people in the room.—Reuters

Injured Woods may not be ready for Doral title defence

DORAL, (Florida), 5 March — Tiger Woods's status for this week's WGC-Cadillac Championship remained uncertain on Tuesday as the reigning champion continued to receive treatment for a sore back. He cancelled his pre-tournament news conference and practice round on Tuesday but is due to meet with the media on Wednesday.

Woods, who has been paired with Masters champion Adam Scott and FedExCup winner Henrik Stenson for the opening two rounds at Doral, withdrew from Sunday's final round of the Honda Classic after 13 holes due to back spasms.

Woods, whose career tally of 14 majors is second to Jack Nicklaus, said in a statement after the Honda Classic that he would decide later if he could defend his WGC-Cadillac title. If Woods is unfit to play it would be a big setback ahead of the 10-13 April Masters at Augusta National, the year's first major. It would also leave world number two Scott a chance to bump Woods from the top of the world rankings with a win at Doral.

In 13 career starts at the WGC-Cadillac championship, Woods has seven wins, the last four on the famed Blue Monster course which underwent a

massive redesign following last year's win. "I'd say it's definitely a different Doral," said Briton Justin Rose, the 2012 WGC-Cadillac champion.

"A lot has clearly been done since last year." There's elements that you recognize but pretty much the shots, the lines and obviously the reads on the greens are all completely new."

With the world's top 50 players all teeing it up at the Blue Monster course there will be plenty to keep the expected large galleries entertained.

Another marquee grouping will feature Northern Irishman Rory McIlroy, who will be bidding to rebound from a

jarring playoff loss at the Honda Classic, 2009 Doral winner and fan favorite Phil Mickelson and in-form Australian Jason Day, winner of WGC-Accenture Match Play Championship.

At these events like the majors and WGC events, if you play well, you can move yourself up the rankings pretty quick," said Day.

"Winning the WGC Match Play, moving from 11 to 4, it was one of my goals to get into the top five this year and winning that event shot me up to number four." "I don't want to stop there. I just love playing in front of a lot of people on the big stage."

Reuters



Wembley Stadium to host Froch v Groves re-match

LONDON, 5 March — Wembley Stadium will host the re-match between WBA and IBF super-middleweight champion Carl Froch and George Groves on 31 May with promoters expecting to sell more tickets than for any post-World War Two fight in Britain. The fight will be the first staged at the new national stadium in North London, which re-opened in 2007 and seats 90,000.

"I think we have got the product to fill stadiums like this. When you get an opportunity to do so, you have to grab it with both hands," promoter Eddie Hearn told the BBC. "This is the ultimate, in my opinion - steeped in history - and this is the first fight at the new stadium. And what a fight." The two Britons first clashed at the Manchester Arena in November when Groves, 25, was controversially stopped by 36-year-old Froch in the ninth of 12 scheduled rounds.

Groves had floored Nottingham-based Froch in the opening round and was

ahead on the judges' cards when referee Howard Foster stepped in. "I don't want to fight in Nottingham. Nottingham's not big enough," Froch told Sky Sports news. "It only holds the best part of 30,000." "I am just so excited that I am going to give George Groves an absolute pasting in front of such a big crowd." The current highest attendance recorded at a British bout was 55,000 who watched local IBO

light-welterweight champion Ricky Hatton take on Mexican Juan Lazcano at the City of Manchester stadium in 2008.

The last fight at the old Wembley stadium was the WBC heavyweight title clash in 1995 between Britain's Frank Bruno and American Oliver McCall which the home favorite won on points to become champion at the fourth attempt.—Reuters



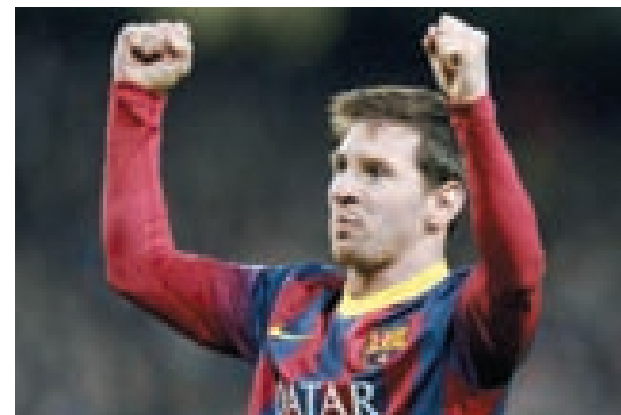
Britain's Carl "The Cobra" Froch holding the WBC super middleweights belt celebrates with wife Rachael Coardingly after defeating Germany's "King" Arthur Abraham in their WBC super middleweights title bout at boxing event of Super Six World Boxing Classic in Helsinki on 27 Nov, 2010. —REUTERS

Messi does not need World Cup for greatness

BUENOS AIRES, 5 March — Lionel Messi does not need a World Cup winners' medal to be considered among soccer's all-time greats, fellow Argentine Diego Maradona said on Tuesday. "Messi doesn't need to win the World Cup to be the best player in the world," Maradona, who inspired Argentina to the title in Mexico in 1986, told La Nacion. "If he did it would be great for Argentina, the fans and Lio, but (winning) a World Cup or not won't take away any of his achievements up to now to be among the greatest."

Twice World Cup winners Argentina face Romania in a friendly in Bucharest on Wednesday as they begin to crank up their preparations for this year's finals in Brazil.

Former captain and coach Maradona said everything appeared in place for Messi to shine although Argentina's task would be tough with hosts Brazil, title holders Spain and Germany among the sides to beat. Maradona said Messi had had a great World Cup in South Africa in 2010 despite not scoring any goals. The Argentina



Barcelona's Lionel Messi celebrates after scoring a penalty against Manchester City during their Champions League round of 16 first leg soccer match at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, northern England on 18 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

team coached by Maradona lost 4-0 to Germany in the quarter-finals.

"Messi had an exceptional World Cup with me... and no-one said so. (Was it) because he didn't score? He turned all the goalkeepers into stars," he said.

Maradona said he could not forget Messi's sobs when Argentina were eliminated. "I approached him and told him he'd have many World Cups to get revenge. I said it with all my heart. While the rest were thinking about our return (home) he was there, head bowed, crying."

Argentina are in Group F with Bosnia, Iran and Nigeria at the finals starting on 12 June. "There's Spain, Germany and there's Brazil with a tremendous defense. You think of Brazil's defence and six or seven names come to mind, you think of their attack and there's only Neymar," Maradona said. "For Lio it will be a test of character, to bring out all that crying he has in his heart. Brazil can be his great revenge," added Maradona, who will commentate on the tournament for a Venezuelan television programme.—Reuters



World Cup stadiums will be ready

RIO DE JANEIRO, 5 March — Football great Ronaldo tried to allay fears about ongoing construction delays to Brazil's World Cup stadiums.

Four of the country's 12 World Cup venues are yet to be ready despite a December 2013 deadline imposed by football's governing body FIFA.

Ronaldo, an official World Cup ambassador, said the venues have ample time to finish work and hold test events before the 12 June opener between Brazil and Croatia in Sao Paulo.

"I've been closely following the dedication and commitment of those who are working and now we are in the final stretch of preparations," Ronaldo told Argentine newspaper Clarin on Tuesday.

"The stadiums are beautiful. Between now and the World Cup several test events will be held. They will be fundamental for all involved so that adjustments can be made if needed."

Stadiums yet to be completed are Cuiaba's Arena Pantanal, Curitiba's Arena da Baixada, Sao Paulo's Itaquerao and Manaus' Arena da Amazonia. —Xinhua

Kogawa loses decision for interim WBA crown in Thailand

TOKYO, 5 March — Japan's Takuya Kogawa lost a close decision to Thai Yodmongkol Vor-saengthep on Tuesday in a bid for the interim WBA flyweight crown.

The judges gave the 2-0 decision to Yodmongkol in the 12-rounder in Thai's Nakhon Ratchasima.

"I was the weaker fighter," said the 28-year-old Kogawa. "I felt the pressure of fighting on the round. I felt that I wasn't able to win a decision in Thailand. I'm not thinking of retiring even though I lost," he said.

Kyodo News

GENERAL



Israeli soldiers take part in a military drill near Ashdod, southern seaport of Israel, on 4 March, 2014. Israeli Army operated the military drill simulating a large-scale ground invasion into a big city taking Ashdod as an illustration.—XINHUA

Roadside bomb kills three Pakistani soldiers as violence spirals

ISLAMABAD, 5 March — A roadside bomb killed at least three soldiers on Wednesday as militant violence spiralled across Pakistan despite the government's increasingly futile efforts to engage the Pakistani Taliban in peace negotiations.

On Monday, gunmen burst into a court killing at least 11 people in a rare suicide-bomb and gun attack in the heart of the Pakistani capital of Islamabad.

Security officials said three soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb near the northwestern town of Hangu. No one immediately claimed responsibility.

The Pakistani Taliban, who have declared a month-long ceasefire to pursue peace talks with the government, have tried to distance themselves from recent attacks but continuing violence shows they are not fully in control of all its various factions.

Reuters

Fiji's junta chief steps down from military ahead of elections

SYDNEY, 5 March — The leader of Fiji's military junta officially resigned his position in the armed forces on Wednesday ahead of national elections he is widely expected to win.

Comodore Voreqe "Frank" Bainimarama, who took power in a bloodless 2006 coup, announced earlier this year that he would resign as commander-in-chief in order to stand for the presidency in elections slated for September.

Ceremonies were being held in the capital, Suva, to commemorate the end of his nearly four-decade military career and the transfer of command to Land Force Commander Brigadier Mosese Tikoitoga, Australian and Fijian media reported.

Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop praised the an-

nouncement. Bishop visited Fiji last month and has made a thawing of icy relations between the two neighbors a priority.

Australia and New Zealand are Fiji's biggest aid donors.

"This is the latest in a series of positive developments in Fiji's election preparations, and its return to parliamentary democracy," Bishop said in a statement.

Fiji has suffered four coups and a bloody military mutiny since 1987, mainly as a result of tension between the majority indigenous Fijian population and an economically powerful, ethnic Indian minority.

Australia and New Zealand imposed tough sanctions on the regime in the wake of the 2006 coup, which contributed to a sharp deterioration of relations.—Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(6-3-2014, Thursday)

6:00 am

1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

6:15 am

2. Physical Exercise

7:00 am

3. News/Weather Report

8:30 am

4. India Drama Series

9:30 am

5. Teleplay

10:00 am

6. News

11:05 am

7. Sing & Enjoy

12:00 pm

8. News/International News/Weather Report

2:20 pm

9. Fine Arts-Bosom of Dramatic Performance

3:00 pm

10. News

3:15 pm

11. TV Drama Series

4:40 pm

12. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) Second Year (Myanmar)

5:00 pm

13. News

5:15 pm

14. The Mirror Images of The Musical Oldies

6:00 pm

15. News/Weather Report

6:20 pm

16. Approaching Science Discovery World

7:00 pm

17. News

7:25 pm

18. TV Drama Series

8:35 pm

19. Current Affairs

9:00 pm

20. News

21. Documentary

22. Clever

23. TV Drama Series

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(6-3-14 07:00am~
7-3-14 07:00am) MST

- * Local News
- * Hiker's Journey (Inlay Lake)(Ep-4)
- * World News
- * Tea Leaves
- * Local News
- * Mosaic Painting (Precious Stones & Gems)
- * World News
- * A Girl Guide
- * Local News
- * Exquisite Myanmar Silk
- * World News
- * Art Students: Their Dream
- * Local News
- * "Myanmar's Traditions and Culture" Myanmar Pottery
- * World News
- * Moving Meditation: Aikido
- * Local News
- * A Memorable Trip
- * World News
- * Myanmar Puppet
- * Local News
- * Those Who Never Give Up (Ep-2) Ko Myat Oo - Chairman of Baby Vita
- * World News
- * School for the Blind
- * Local News
- * Writer
- * World News
- * Guiding Star of Song Birds
- * Local News
- * A Day Life Of Kayan Padaung Tribe
- * World News
- * Sticky Shan Snack

Zac unconcerned by Kagawa and Honda's struggles

TOKYO, 5 March — Japan coach Alberto Zaccheroni insists Shinji Kagawa has no need to panic at his lack of playing time at Manchester United and also shrugged off concerns over the slow start Keisuke Honda has made to life in the Italian Serie A following his high-profile move to AC Milan. Kagawa and Honda will both feature in Wednesday's friendly against New Zealand — Japan's first game of the year and also the last before the squad is announced for the World Cup finals in Brazil — and Zaccheroni wants both players to use it as an opportunity to impress their respective club coaches.

"This (match) will

give the managers of both of their clubs an opportunity to scrutinize their performances and it is a chance for them to send their managers a message and also make a contribution to the (Japan) team," Zaccheroni told a Press conference on the eve of the match at Tokyo's National Stadium. Kagawa has been largely ignored by United coach David Moyes since Moyes took over from Alex Ferguson at Old Trafford, while Honda has yet to find his spark at AC Milan.

"Both Honda and Kagawa need to be patient and there is no need for them to panic," said Zaccheroni. "Manchester have changed manager and I

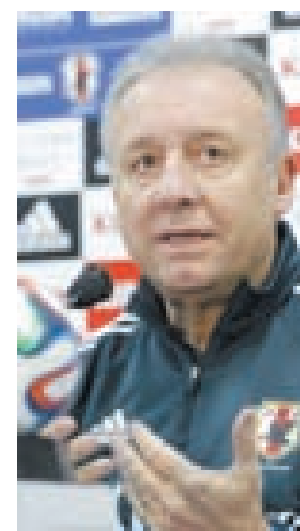
think the team is struggling a bit. It took (French great and current UEFA President Michel) Platini half a year to show what he was really capable of when he went to Italy. The coach has just changed at Milan too." Zaccheroni is also missing several key players for Wednesday's game. Regular captain Makoto Hasebe of Nuremberg faces a lengthy spell out after recently undergoing a second surgical procedure of the year on his right knee, Schalke defender Atsuto Uchida has a thigh injury and Cerezo Osaka striker Yoichiro Kakitani pulled out of the squad on Monday after coming down with a fever.

But Zaccheroni, who has not decided on a captain for Wednesday's game, said, "Some players missing out means that other players get a chance and I want them to show me how well they can play. I look at this as a positive. I want the players I have picked this time to show me how well they fit in." New Zealand failed to qualify for the World Cup after losing to Mexico in an intercontinental qualifying playoff.

"The makeup of the squad has changed quite considerably since losing to Mexico in November in the World Cup qualifiers. We have brought in some young players and

we are going to give those boys an opportunity in this game. We certainly will be looking to show a brave, possession-based brand of football," said New Zealand interim coach Neil Emblen. "But at the same time we are playing against a top-class team so we need to contain Japan and all the quality they bring going forward as well as we can." Japan and New Zealand were scheduled to play two years ago in late March, but the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami on 11 March led to the Kiwis pulling out. New Zealand was also devastated by an earthquake in Christchurch in February that year.

Kyodo News



Japan national men's soccer team coach Alberto Zaccheroni holds a press conference at National Stadium in Tokyo on 4 March, 2014, on the eve of a friendly against New Zealand.

KYODO NEWS

Reforms that need to be carried out at once should be done at once

National-level practical education reforms forum kicks off



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham greets attendees at national-level forum on practical education reforms.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 5 March — Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham called the national-level education forum to focus on establishing national education

policy and education law that can guarantee to producing the human resource needed for improvement of the education standard and to implementing practical

education reforms.

In his address at the national-level forum on practical education reforms in Nay Pyi Taw on 5 March, the vice-president

has urged experts from the education sector, for giving priority to the development of the literature of the national people during the discussion.

Plans were also adopted in February, 2012, to conduct a comprehensive education sector review (CESR).

Joined with foreign experts, Myanmar's education experts carried out a survey of the country's current education system and collected data from August, 2012, to March, 2013.

Besides, as part of efforts for improving the education system, the government held the forum on practical education reform on 7th October, 2013.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham quoted the speech of President U Thein Sein at the forum as saying that reforms that need to be carried out at once and advices should be sought from the people to lay down short-term and long-term plans.

The government also set up the committee for implementing the tasks for promoting the education system in October, 2012, and 18 working groups to participate in the reforms.

Ministry of Education and related ministries are currently carrying out the tasks for free education in primary and middle school level, posting five teachers at every primary school,

improving the efficiency of teachers and head of schools, expanding teachership training schools, reforming the curriculums at the basic education primary level.

Meanwhile, Ministry of Education is cooperating with foreign universities in research and academic sectors.

The vice-president also expressed his delight for actively participation all national people in the education reform.

During the form, the participants discussed the frameworks for economic and social reforms for the national development, a comprehensive education sector review and a practical education reform.

They also discussed the reforms that should be carried out in the kindergarten, primary, middle and higher education sectors, technology and vocational sector, informal education sector, community development sector, private education sector and the draft for the National Education Bill.

The forum continues on 6 March. The outcomes from the forum will be put forward to the Union Government and the parliament.—MNA

Coordination underway for construction of waste-to-energy plants in Yangon, Mandalay EP Deputy Minister said in Amyotha Hluttaw

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Korean Memorial Monument of the 1983 Martyrs' Mausoleum bombing shows sympathy of Myanmar to S-Korea

Seventeen from the Korean delegation died in the 1983 Martyrs' Mausoleum bombing in Yangon in 1983. South Korean government has reached agreement with Myanmar government to build a monument to the victims. Some objections against the agreement have arisen. Following the interview with U Thant Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, carried out by the Myanma News Agency.

Q: Please let us know about the agreement to

build the monument for the Korean victims of the 1983-Martyrs' Mausoleum bombing.

A: Korean government had requested Myanmar government for many years to build a monument for their victims who died in the blast at the Martyrs' Mausoleum at 10.25 am on 9 October, 1983. They paid the visit to Myanmar at the invitation of the then government.

In sympathy with the families of the victims, My-

anmar government signed the Memorandum of Understanding with the Korean government on 31 December, 2013, to build the monument. The agreement should be considered that we, Myanmar, the host, has expressed our sympathy to the families of the victims. It's very reasonable to allow them to build the monument.

The agreement would help the countries to ensure strengthening the friendship between the two peo-

ples and the two countries. Myanmar and South Korea established the diplomatic relations in 1975 and the friendship and cooperation between the two countries have improved, especially after 2011.

South Korean President Lee Myung-bak visited Myanmar in May, 2012, and he was the Korean President who visited Myanmar for the first time in 30 years. President U Thein Sein also paid a visit to South Korea in October, 2012. During



Deputy Minister
U Thant Kyaw.—MNA

the visit, the two countries reached the agreement to give aids for development and the fund for economic cooperation to Myanmar and to build Myanmar Development Institute (MDI) in Myanmar.

Besides, the two sides held the ministerial level (See page 9)

New six special stamps to mark census taking process

NAY PYI TAW, 5 March—As the gesture of hailing the census taking process of the Ministry of Immigration and Population, Myanma Posts and Telecommunications-MPT under the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, will sell new six kinds of special stamps worth K 100 each at Townships/Districts/States and Regions Post Offices as of 9:30 a.m on 10 March.

As a special programme, the stamps will be sealed at Nay Pyi Taw General Post Office, Yangon Post Office and Mandalay Post Office on that day.—MNA