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Vice-President urges speedy return of the land of farmers



Vice-President U Nyan Tun making address.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 7 March — Vice-President U Nyan Tun has urged authorities to step up efforts to return land confiscated by the previous government to their rightful owners.

He has urged the authorities concerned to step up efforts to give back the land to farmers temporarily, firstly to those who can show documents that prove

land ownership and help them getting legal certificates of landownership within a certain period of time in accordance with the rules and regulations.

In his speech at the meeting No 2/2014 of the central committee for land utilization on Friday, Vice-President U Nyan Tun has also given green light for local authorities to give land

back to farmers who are not able to show documents of landownership if the dignitaries recommend that the farmers were previous owner of the land.

The Ministry of Defence has already handed over a total of 54,255 acres, and said it would return an additional 154,892 acres to the farmers.

(See page 7)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar President Office Notification No (19/2014) 7th Waxing of Tabaung, 1375 ME 7 March, 2014 Commission formed to draft new bills

1. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker asked the government to draft two bills, namely a law on conversion and a law on balancing the increasing population. Both laws were suggested by monks and the general population and have been officially proposed by the President.
2. A commission was formed in order to draft the laws with the following members.

(a) U Tun Tun Oo	Chairman
Deputy Attorney-General, Attorney-General Office of the Union	
(b) U Win Myint	Vice-Chairman
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Immigration and Population	
(c) Dr Maung Maung Htay	Vice-Chairman
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Religious Affairs	
(d) U Sitt Aye	Member
Team leader, President's Legal Advisory Team	
(e) U Tin Win	Member
Ambassador (Retired)	
(f) Dr Toe Hla	Member
Professor (Retired), Historian	
(g) Daw Nanda Hmon	Member
Director-General, Historical Research Department	
(h) U Khaing Aung	Member
Director-General, Department for Propagation and Promotion of Sasana	

(See page 7)

ANNUAL NOVITIATION CEREMONIES BEGIN IN MYANMAR

As summer holidays have begun in Myanmar, young boys traditionally enter the Buddhist order for around a week to learn Buddha's teachings and meditation. It is custom across the country that families send their boys at the age of 8 to a monastery, usually during the summer holidays in March and April before the water festival. On March 7, a group of elementary school students in Khit-Aye Village, about 27 miles north of Nay Pyi Taw, were joined by their family members as they walked to the monastery dressed in traditional royal dresses.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE



Myanmar officials seek support for ICT sector at Mobile World Congress



NAY PYI TAW, 7 March—A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Communications and Information Technology U Myat Hein attended the 2014 Mobile World Congress Ministerial Program in Barcelona, Spain

from 24 to 27 February to discuss ways for Myanmar to receive aid from organizer GSMA and partners.

During the Mobile World Congress, the Union minister also met with officials from the World Bank and International Fi-

nance Corporation (IFC) to talk about assistance for the development of the ICT sector in Myanmar and the successful implementation of e-Government and mobile money.

In a bid to establish a broad support network, the

delegation also held a meeting in Spain on 25 February with Cherie Blair, wife of former British Prime Minister Tony Blair and chairperson of the Cherie Blair Foundation for Women, which invests in women entrepreneurs.

They discussed the creation of job opportunities for Myanmar women and support to be provided by the Cherie Blair Foundation. The foundation will create job opportunities for 30,000 Myanmar women through training given by telecommunication operators.

The London-based Cherie Blair Foundation for Women was established in 2008 and has been creating job opportunities for women across the globe, supporting women entrepreneurs and providing technical assistance.

The delegates finished their Europe trip with a stopover in Geneva, Switzerland on 28 February to hold discussions with Secretary-General Mr. Hamadoun I. Toure of International Telecommunication Union (ITU) on prospects of ITU contributions to the communications and ICT sectors in Myanmar.

MNA

Workshop on State Economic Enterprise opens

NAY PYI TAW, 7 March—Opening of Workshop on State Economic Enterprises, jointly organized by Ministry of Finance and World Bank, took place at Thingaha Hotel on Thursday morning, with an address by Union Finance Minister U Win Shein.

Financial management of state-owned enterprises for development of public financial management system in Myanmar and role of state-owned enterprises in State Budget will be discussed in comparing with international experience during the workshop. The

workshop is aimed at enhancing capacity of state-owned enterprises and facilitating policies which should be adopted by the State.

The two-day workshop was attended by Union Ministers U Hla Tun and Dr Kan Zaw, the deputy ministers, vice-governor of Central Bank of Myanmar, directors-general and managing directors, high ranking officials, scholars of Myanmar Development Resources Institute (MDRI), delegates of UMFCFI and senior officials.

MNA

Lewe Township Fire Services Department receives fire engine

NAY PYI TAW, 7 March—A fire engine was handed over on Thursday to Lewe Township Fire Brigade in Dekkhina District in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area by the Myanmar Fire Services Department under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

On the occasion, Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Myint Swe handed over the fire en-

gine to Lewe Township Fire Brigade through Lewe Township Administrator U Hla Shaung.

Lewe Township Fire Brigade has currently five fire engines including Thursday's vehicle. More than 1,020 auxiliary firefighters from the same townships have recently received new uniforms.

Zaw Myo Naing

Nielsen and MMRD announce Myanmar Joint Venture

YANGON, 7 March—Nielsen Holdings N.V. (NYSE:NLSN), a leading global provider of information and insights into what consumers watch and buy, and Myanmar Marketing Research & Development Co., Ltd (MMRD), the pioneer of research services in Myanmar with over 20 years of experience in the market, today announced a new joint venture collaboration, effective 1 March 2014.

Nielsen Holdings N.V. (NYSE:NLSN) is a global information and measurement company with leading market positions in marketing and consumer information, television and other media measurement, online intelligence and mobile measurement. Nielsen has a presence in approximately 100 countries, with headquarters in New York, USA, and Diemen,

the Netherlands. For more information, visit www.nielsen.com.

MMRD was established in 1992 and was Myanmar's first market research agency. It has 250 research professionals in 13 regional offices throughout the country, and has conducted over 400,000 door to door interviews and 3,000 qualitative research studies.

NLM

Drains cleared in Pyapon to prevent outbreak of diseases

PYAPON, 7 March—Pyapon Township in the delta area began clearing rubbish and silt on 5 March to ensure proper water flow at concrete drains and box culverts on 1st Street and at the corner of Natshinnaung Street.

Downtown streets in

Pyapon are flooded annually in April during the so called Tabung and Tagu period and have been posing health risks to local residents, with dengue fever and contaminated ground water some of the biggest problems.

Engineer U Tin Maung

Soe of Township DAC said public health can be improved substantially if the downtown streets are kept clean.

He said the head of Township DAC and other officials regularly inspect old drains and are currently constructing new drains and box culverts in the area.

Chan Tha



Pyapon Township Development Affairs Committee conducts clearing rubbish and silts in downtown streets in Pyapon for proper flow of water.—MNA



Low-cost SIM cards sold in Lanmadaw Tsp

YANGON, 7 March—More than 100 low-cost CDMA SIM cards were distributed at the Township Administration Office of Lanmadaw Township on 5 March.

Of 129 applicants in the township, only 126 could receive SIM cards

that were handed out at the discounted price of K 1,500 each. In Yangon, Myanmar Posts and Telecommunication-MPT has sold 130,000 CDMA SIM cards to citizens and 15,000 WCDMA SIM cards to pensioners for K 1,500. So far 250,000 CDMA and 50,000 GSM

low-cost cards have been sold nation-wide to citizens, with an additional 50,000 WCDMA given to pensioners for the same price. Myanmar has around 7.35 million mobile phone customers, with 3.75 million low-cost SIM card users.—Khin Hsaing

WORLD

Violent splinter group mars peace deal with Pakistan Taliban



A policeman cordons off the site of a bomb attack at the district court in Islamabad 3 March, 2014.

REUTERS

ISLAMABAD, 7 March — Pakistan's cities are unsafe from Islamist militant attacks due to their porous security, the country's defense minister said after suicide bombers and gunmen killed 11 people in an assault on a court in the capital earlier this week.

Carried out by a splinter group of the Pakistani Taliban, the attack will complicate the government's efforts to open peace talks as it destroyed trust on all sides, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif told *Reuters*.

"It is scary," Asif said in the wake of the worst at-

tack in Islamabad since the bombing of the Marriott Hotel in 2008.

Responsibility for Monday's attack was claimed by a group called Ahrar-ul-Hind, or "Liberators of India", that had splintered from the Pakistani Taliban just a month

earlier.

Coming a little over a week after the Pakistani Taliban announced a ceasefire to revive faltering peace talks with the Prime Minister Sharif's government, the attack may have succeeded in destroying chances for negotiation.

"Whatever little trust there was between the two parties, that trust has completely fizzled away," the defense minister said.

Frighteningly for Pakistan, investigators believe the leader of Ahrar-ul-Hind, Umar Qasmi, can draw support from other militant outfits, including several linked to al-Qaeda, that have wreaked bloody havoc in the country over the last decade.

The three fighters who carried out Monday's attack were armed with hand gre-

nades and automatic guns. Two died when they detonated suicide bombs, while a third escaped, officials say. Independent accounts say there were more gunmen.

It showed just how vulnerable the capital remains despite having almost as many security checkpoints as traffic lights.

Last month, the national crisis management cell of the interior ministry made a presentation before parliament in which it described Islamabad as extremely dangerous, with sleeper cells of various militants lurking in the capital. "Despite the fact that we have been fighting for the last many, many years now, we are ill-prepared to fight this war and to keep the major cities really safe," Asif said.—*Reuters*

Abe, Obama agree to closely cooperate over Ukraine

TOKYO, 7 March — Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and US President Barack Obama agreed Friday to closely cooperate in addressing the growing tension in Ukraine during their telephone talks.

Abe told Obama that he "supports Mr. Obama's efforts to improve the situation in Ukraine," and that Japan hopes for an early restoration of stability in Ukraine, the Japanese Foreign Ministry said following the 40-minute talks.

The United States on Thursday imposed its first sanctions on Russia for refusing to negotiate a resolution to the crisis

in the Russian-dominated Crimea region of Ukraine.

Japan has said it wants all parties concerned to behave with restraint, observe international laws and respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine.

Japan will actively consider extending financial assistance to Ukraine via the International Monetary Fund, Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida said Friday, as the country has moved closer to a potential breakup over the crisis in its Crimea region effectively controlled by Russia.

Kyodo News



Journalists make interviews in front of the building of the Crimean parliament in Simferopol, Crimea, Ukraine, on 6 March, 2014. The parliament in Ukraine's crisis-hit Autonomous Republic of Crimea on Thursday voted to become part of Russia. The parliament has also set a referendum on 16 March, which would ask whether the Crimea people would like to remain part of Ukraine or join Russia.

XINHUA

Japan to consider financial aid to Ukraine

TOKYO, 7 March — Japan will consider extending financial assistance to Ukraine via the International Monetary Fund, Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida said on Friday, as Russian troops have taken control of much of the Crimea region of Ukraine.

While suggesting possible aid for cash-strapped Ukraine, Kishida also expressed hope that Russia will hold "political talks" with Ukraine's new pro-Western government to defuse tensions over Crimea, a peninsula in Ukraine on the Black Sea.

"We hear an IMF mission is on the ground (in Ukraine). We think the

specific amount of (overall) fiscal assistance will be known after consultations between the IMF and Ukraine," Kishida told journalists. "We will watch developments and determine what kind of assistance and how much our country will extend," he said. "As for fiscal aid, we will give it active consideration." Asked if Japan would impose sanctions on Russia for use of its armed force in Ukraine, Kishida did not give a clear answer. "Our country will deal with the issue appropriately while closely monitoring the situation in Ukraine and the movements of other countries," he said.

Kyodo News

US envoy Kennedy urges Japan, S Korea to mend ties

TOKYO, 7 March — US Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy on Thursday called on Japan and South Korea to mend soured relations over a territorial dispute and different perceptions of history.

"I think that the two countries really should and will take a lead in this process, and the United States, being a close ally of both of them, is happy to help in any way that we can," Kennedy said in an interview aired by Japan's public broadcaster NHK.

Calling Japan and Korea "the two closest United States allies in the region," Kennedy said "these good relations are in everyone's interest."—*Kyodo News*

US House passes Ukraine aid bill

WASHINGTON, 7 March — The US House of Representatives on Thursday approved legislation that would allow the Obama administration to give Ukraine 1 billion US dollars of loan guarantees.

The bill was passed in a 385-23 vote. Before President Obama signed the bill into law, it needs to be cleared in the Senate next week.—*Xinhua*

Japan to provide tents for UN troops in South Sudan

TOKYO, 7 March — The Japanese government plans to provide tents for use by about 1,200 troops involved in a UN peacekeeping mission in South Sudan, government sources said on Thursday.

Japan will decide on providing the tents at no cost at a Cabinet meeting next Tuesday, to comply with a request from the United Nations.

It decided last December to increase military and police personnel by about 6,000 due to worsening security in the African country. Tents are not regarded as defence equipment whose export is restricted under Japan's so-called three arms embargo principles, the sources said.

Kyodo News



Masako Mori (L), Japan's state minister in charge of declining birthrate issues, and Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida (C) attend an event to encourage Japan's policy to promote female leadership, at the official residence of Colombian Ambassador to Japan Patricia Eugenia Cardenas Santamaria (R) in Tokyo on 6 March, 2014.

KYODO NEWS

Int'l conference pledges support to Libya, calls for stability

ROME, 7 March — The international community would join hands to help Libya realize political and security stability, while the country's warring factions need to make a serious effort toward national reconciliation, world diplomats said here on Thursday.

"Security and political stability are inter-dependent," Italian Foreign Minister Federica Mogherini told reporters on the margins of an international conference to discuss the Libyan crisis.

"Libya is not alone," she added, mentioning "concrete initiatives" on security and governance, which would be discussed in the coming weeks at another international meeting in Turkey. But Mogherini warned that it would be "very difficult" to get the projects rolling "if on the ground there are no

conditions for political stability and security." During the conference, diplomats also stressed the urgency of securing weapons and ammunition left over from the regime of former Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi to help bring more security to the country. "Those materials are a lethal legacy of the Gaddafi regime, and constitute a threat to the entire region," said German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier. He added that Germany and France are allocating several million euros for the weapons-securing project this year. Two-and-a-half years after the fall of the Gaddafi regime, Libya is still struggling to contain violence between rival forces, with Islamist militants gaining an ever-stronger grip on the south of the country.

Xinhua



British Prime Minister David Cameron speaks at a Press conference after EU-Ukraine head of states Summit at the EU headquarters in Brussels, capital of Belgium, on 6 March, 2014.—XINHUA

Gov't officially chooses Terada as chief justice of Supreme Court

TOKYO, 7 March — The government formally chose Supreme Court Justice Itsuro Terada on Friday as the successor to Chief Justice Hironobu Takesaki, who is retiring at the end of this month.

Terada, 66, will be the 18th chief justice and the first chief justice whose parent has also been in the top judicial position.

His father, Jiro Terada, was the nation's 10th chief justice.

Takesaki, 69, became chief justice in November 2008. His term was to run through July 7, but the government has said he is retiring sooner for health reasons.

Terada's term will run through January 2018.

Kyodo News

UNSG's message for International Women's Day 8 March 2014

This International Women's Day, we are highlighting the importance of achieving equality for women and girls not simply because it is a matter of fairness and fundamental human rights, but because progress in so many other areas depends on it.

Countries with more gender equality have better economic growth. Companies with more women leaders perform better. Peace agreements that include women are more durable. Parliaments with more women enact more legislation on key social issues such as health, education, anti-discrimination and child support.

The evidence is clear: equality for women means progress for all.

This simple truth must be central as we work to accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals by next year's deadline and craft an agenda for the years beyond 2015.

Important gains have been made in access to primary education for girls and political representation by women. But progress remains far too slow and uneven.

A baby girl born today will still face inequality and discrimination, no matter where her mother lives. We have a common obligation to ensure her right to live free from the violence that affects one in three women globally; to earn equal pay for equal work; to be free of the discrimination that prevents her from participating in the economy; to have an equal say in the decisions that affect her life; and to decide if and when she will have children, and how many she will have.

I have a message for every girl born today, and to every woman and girl on the planet: Realizing human rights and equality is not a dream, it is a duty of governments, the United Nations and every human being.

I also have a message for my fellow men and boys: play your part. All of us benefit when women and girls — your mothers, sisters, friends and colleagues — can reach their full potential.

Together, let us work for women's rights, empowerment and gender equality as we strive to eliminate poverty and promote sustainable development. Equality for women is progress for all!

UNIC/Yangon

US military vows to ensure "free flow of energy" from Mideast

WASHINGTON, 7 March — The US military's efforts in the Middle East are aimed to ensure the free flow of energy from the region and prevent weapons of mass destruction, a Pentagon official said.

Derek Chollet, the assistant secretary of defence for international security affairs, said on Thursday that in the region, the Pentagon will continue to thwart al-Qaeda and its

associated movements and confront external aggression directed at US allies.

The Pentagon is keenly focused on building the capacity of our partners to fight extremism and support US national security interests, Chollet said.

"We're working hard to sustain and enhance our military capabilities in the region," he said.

"As US military forces have withdrawn from

Iraq and Afghanistan, we are also addressing questions from regional partners about our intentions ... and commitments over the long term," Chollet said.

Currently, he said, US and allied forces have a military presence of more than 35,000 personnel in and around the Arabian Gulf. And in line with the Pentagon's recent release of the

Quadrennial Defence Review, the commitment will not wane, he said. So far, Chollet reported, the Iraqis have purchased from the United States about 250 million US dollars in key capabilities, such as Hellfire missiles, ground tanks, rockets, small arms and ammunition. "Those articles have either been delivered or expected to arrive in the next weeks," he said.—Xinhua

JICA assistance programme for Philippine police ends

MANILA, 7 March — The Japan International Cooperation Agency formally closed on Thursday its 34-year assistance program to the Philippine National Police, noting an increased capability of the latter in solving crimes mainly through a Japan-funded fingerprint identification project.

The assistance programme, which began in 1980, included the establishment of an automated fingerprint identification system, a firearms control and identification project and the exchanges of technical experts in forensic science, police administration and other specializations.

"Indeed, this programme has helped the Philippine National Police fast-track efforts to establish the identity of criminals,"

Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines Toshinao Urabe said in a speech during the closing ceremony at the national police headquarters in the Manila suburb Quezon City. Aside from the technical development, programme manager Takahiko Iiri said the programme also instilled professionalism and initiative in police investigators solving crimes.

With the conclusion of the programme, national police chief Alan Purisima announced a 10-point action plan to sustain the gains of Japan's assistance.

"Though the JICA programmes has been concluded, we assure you that we shall continue to maintain and nurture the many contributions you have given us," Purisima said in his speech.—Kyodo News



Pakistani people display placards during a protest against recent bomb attacks in eastern Pakistan's Lahore on 6 March, 2014. At least 11 people were killed and over 24 others injured in firing and twin suicide blasts by unknown militants in Pakistan's capital Islamabad on Monday morning, police said.—XINHUA

WORLD

Many businesses around Fukushima plant reopen but out of home town

FUKUSHIMA, (Japan), 7 March — Just over one in two businesses in municipalities around the disaster-stricken Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant have reopened, but less than one in five have been able to do so in their home towns, a commerce and industry group said on Friday.

The Fukushima Federation of Societies of Commerce and Industry checked the situations as of 20 February of 2,853 businesses from 13 cities, villages and towns within a roughly 30-kilometre radius of the plant, which suffered reactor meltdowns following the devastating earthquake and tsunami on 11 March, 2011.

Businesses have apparently found it difficult to return home even after almost three years since the nuclear meltdowns, as wide

swathes remain essentially off-limits, barring residents from coming home for resettlement.

Many of the reopened businesses are construction companies and gas stations that are directly or indirectly involved in work related to the atomic plant or quake reconstruction, according to the industry group. Conditions remain less conducive to supermarkets and other businesses handling groceries or daily necessities.

In Tomioka, from which all residents evacuated, a gas station and a hardware store have reopened. In Namie, a gas station has restarted operation.

None of the businesses reopened locally in Okuma and Futaba — the Pacific coastal towns that host Fukushima Daiichi, according to the group.

Kyodo News



South Korean President Park Geun Hye (bottom C) poses for photos during a military commissioning ceremony in Gyeryong, South Korea, on 6 March, 2014.—KYODO NEWS

Interpol reviewing Red Notice request by Ukraine for arrest of Victor Yanukovich

PARIS, 7 March — The international police agency Interpol said on Thursday that it has received a global alert request by Ukrainian authorities for the arrest of ousted Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich.

The request for an Interpol Red Notice, which charged Yanukovich for abuse of power and murder, was received on Wednesday and under assessment by Interpol to “determine

whether it conforms with the organization’s constitution and rules”, said the Lyon-based organization in a statement.

All member countries of Interpol had been informed of the ongoing review and no further comment would be made by the General Secretariat “until this review is complete and member countries have been informed of Interpol’s decision,” the statement added.

German striving to promote education for deaf and blind in N Korea



Robert Grund, a German dedicated to supporting deaf and blind people in North Korea, is pictured in Tokyo in February 2014.—KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 7 March — Robert Grund, a German dedicated to supporting deaf and blind people in North Korea, recently visited Japan to seek assistance in ensuring they receive vocational training and have

access to the same education as children who have no disabilities.

During visits to Tokyo, Osaka, and Nagoya, as well as Kanagawa and Gunma prefectures, Grund, who has been deaf since birth

and is liaison officer at the Pyongyang representative office of the World Federation of the Deaf, held meetings with deaf people and briefed them on the situation in North Korea. To his surprise, many volunteered to help. “I had imagined that Japanese people would not offer support,” Grund, 28, said in an interview in Tokyo, citing the negative sentiment in Japan about North Korea’s nuclear weapons and missile development and its abduction of Japanese nationals in the 1970s and 1980s.

He was speaking by sign language through Emi Kuwabara, a Japanese woman who has arranged his first visit to Japan. Kuwabara, 33, is a member of Together-Hamhung e.V, a Berlin-based nonprofit organization dedicated to

extending education and vocational training for the deaf and blind in North Korea.

“But after my presentation, many participants in the meetings said they would like to make donations and extend technical assistance such as training sign language interpreters and teaching the use of personal computers,” Grund said. “It was a nice surprise and I’m deeply grateful for the call of deaf Japanese for solidarity with deaf North Koreans.”

The purpose of the trip, he said, was to facilitate exchanges between deaf people in Japan and North Korea. Grund is now working on a cultural exchange project for the deaf in the two countries, which he hopes will take place this year in Pyongyang.

Kyodo News

Two dead in Venezuela violence as protests drag on

CARACAS, 7 March — A Venezuelan soldier and a motorcyclist died in a confused melee sparked by the opposition’s barricading of a Caracas street, officials said on Thursday, boosting the death toll from nearly a month of violence to 20.

Demonstrators have for weeks staged rallies and set up barricades to demand the resignation of President Nicolas Maduro, leading to clashes with security forces and government supporters.

Motorcycle drivers clearing a barricade in the middle-class neighbourhood of Los Ruices were attacked by residents from nearby buildings who threw rocks and later shot at them, National Guard Gen. Manuel Quevedo told Reuters.

The motorcyclist who was killed, Jose Cantillo, who was in his early

twenties, was shot in the neck, Quevedo said.

“Make no mistake, the National Guard and the armed forces are going to continue patrolling the streets to restore order,” he said in an interview at the scene of the events.

A second motorcycle driver was wounded and is in critical condition, President Maduro said in a televised broadcast.

Troops arrived in some 20 armored vehicles and used tear gas to disperse several hundred demonstrators, Reuters witnesses said.

Residents continued throwing rocks from above, but angry passers-by threw them back and attempted to force their way into buildings in an apparent attempt to find the assailants.

The troops used riot shields to shelter other soldiers from the rain of stones



Anti-government protesters erect a fiery barricade during clashes with police at Altamira square in Caracas on 6 March, 2014.—REUTERS

as they knocked down barricades and cleared debris including a car that demonstrators had burned in the morning, the witnesses said.

Maduro on Wednesday called on pro-government organizations including groups known as ‘colectivos,’ which opposition leaders describe as paramilitary groups, to help

keep order in the streets.

The demonstrations began as sporadic protests against chronic product shortages and inflation that reached 56 percent in 2013, but expanded into a nationwide movement after three people were killed after a 12 February march, unleashing the country’s worst unrest in a decade.

Reuters

Over 40,000 South Sudanese refugees arrive in Sudan

KHARTOUM, 7 March — The number of South Sudanese refugees arriving in Sudan has reached between 40,000 to 42,000, the UN humanitarian affairs office said on Thursday.

A weekly report released by the UN Office says that humanitarian organizations have provided assistance and food for the South Sudanese refugees in border areas between

Sudan and South Sudan.

South Sudan has been witnessing violence and armed clashes between government forces of President Salva Kiir Mayardit and rebels loyal to former Vice-President Riek Machar since December last year.

The UN High Commission for Refugees on Wednesday warned against a food crisis in South Su-

dan. It said that the crisis would aggravate, as the number of refugees depending on food assistance is estimated to reach about 3.2 million next June.

The commission estimated that about 739,000 people had been displaced within South Sudan as a result of the fighting there. More than 196,000 people have fled the country.

Xinhua

GE ends freebie dividends on executives' unvested stock

BOSTON, 7 March — General Electric Co said on Thursday it will stop paying its senior executives dividends on stock awards that have not yet vested, after investors urged the company to end the long-held perk.

The move, which affects only new stock awards and not old ones, comes amid growing scrutiny by shareholders of senior executive pay, which has been on the rise for years even as average Americans' salaries plateau.

The dividends can add up to millions of dollars for executives with long tenure. "The change is in

response to investor feedback," GE spokesman Seth Martin said. He declined to elaborate.

GE's policy change affects only stock awards granted this year and beyond, the company disclosed this week in its annual proxy statement.

That means some executives will continue to receive big dividend checks on stock awarded in previous years, but which has not vested. Vice Chairman Keith Sherin, for example, will continue to receive dividends over the next decade on 191,250 shares of restricted stock that he doesn't own, or which is

unvested, until his 65th birthday in 2023, according to GE disclosures.

GE had been paying dividends on unvested restricted stock for years. But the company was not able to say when the practice began.

While GE and other companies move away from paying dividends on unvested stock, Apple Inc is picking up where they left off, but with a twist. Executives at Apple accrue dividends on restricted stock, but don't get the payouts until shares vest, according to its latest proxy.

Reuters



General Electric Co acknowledged on Thursday that a cut in its top-tier credit rating was possible, but its chief financial officer said there was no "time bomb" hidden in its hefty finance arm.—REUTERS

The dawning of the age of genomic medicine, finally

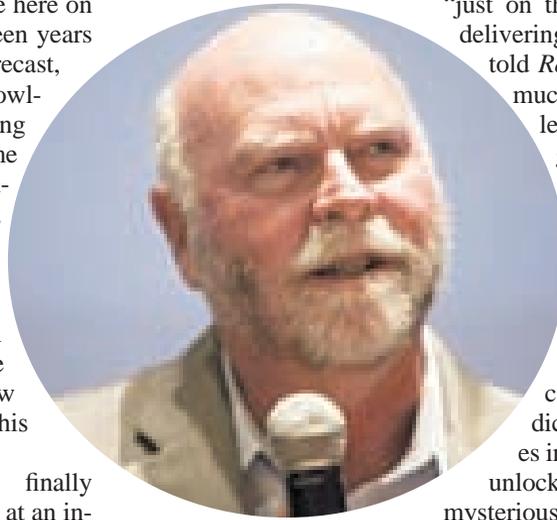
LA JOLLA, (California), 7 March — When President Bill Clinton announced in 2000 that Craig Venter and Dr Francis Collins of the National Human Genome Research Institute had succeeded in mapping the human genome, he solemnly declared that the discovery would "revolutionize" the treatment of virtually all human disease.

The expectation was that this single reference map of the 3 billion base pairs of DNA —the human genetic code —would quickly unlock the secrets of Alzheimer's, diabetes, cancer and other scourges of human health.

As it turns out, Clinton's forecast was not unlike President George Bush's "mission accomplished" speech in the early days of the Iraq war, said Dr Eric Topol of Scripps Translational Science Institute, which is running a meeting On the Future of

Genomic Medicine here on 6-7 March. Thirteen years after Clinton's forecast, even Venter acknowledges that mapping the human genome has had little clinical impact. "Yes, there's been progress, but we all would have hoped it would have been more rapid," he said in an interview in his offices this week.

But that is finally changing. "We are at an inflection point," said Collins, who now directs the National Institutes of Health. In a telephone interview, he said he never expected an "overnight, dramatic impact" from sequencing the human genome, in part because of cost. Recently, a combination of lower-cost sequencing technology and a growing list of wins in narrow corners of medicine are starting to show that



Craig Venter speaks during a symposium on "The Future of Genomic Medicine" at Scripps Seaside Forum in La Jolla, California on 6 March, 2014.—REUTERS

genomic medicine is on the verge of delivering on at least some of those early claims.

Recent advances in sequencing have been "pretty stunning" and genomics is

"just on the threshold" of delivering results, Venter told Reuters. Although much is left to be learned about the genome, scientists believe knowing a person's genetic code will lead to highly personalized treatments for cancer, better predictions for diseases in babies and help unlock the puzzle of mysterious genetic diseases that currently go undiagnosed and untreated.

Venter is staking his latest entrepreneurial venture on that expectation. Earlier this week, he announced formation of a new company, Human Longevity Inc., to undertake a massive project: sequencing 40,000 human genomes a year in a search for new therapies to preserve health and fight off diseases, in-

cluding cancer, heart disease and Alzheimer's. To do that, Human Longevity will use two HiSeq X Ten machines and has an option to buy three more. The sequencers, made by Illumina Inc., can map a single genome for as little as \$1,000.

Collins' government-funded Human Genome Project spent \$3 billion and took 13 years to sequence the human genome. Breaching the \$1,000 genome could prove to be a watershed. At that cost, said Illumina Chief Executive Jay Flatley, ambitious projects like Venter's are economically feasible and clinical results more achievable.

"We've still only scratched the surface of what the genome holds," he said. "What we need to do now is get hundreds of thousands to millions of genomes in databases with clinical information," he added.—Reuters

Bitcoin founder Nakamoto Japan-born California man

NEW YORK, 7 March —Satoshi Nakamoto, the elusive founder of the digital currency bitcoin, is a 64-year-old Japan-born US citizen living east of Los Angeles, claims an article published on Newsweek magazine's website on Thursday. The Associated Press reported, however, "The man Newsweek claims is the founder of bitcoin denied he had anything to do with the digital currency."

The Newsweek story relies on interviews with family members of a man born Satoshi Nakamoto in Beppu, Oita Prefecture, to argue that he is the one behind the storied digital currency. The man featured in the article, who changed his name to Dorian Prentice Satoshi Nakamoto in 1973, refused to speak to the writer about bitcoin, saying "I am no longer involved in that and I cannot discuss it." Based on an exclusive interview with Nakamoto, the AP reported he said he had never heard of bitcoin until his son told him he had been contacted by a Newsweek reporter three weeks ago.

A manifesto signed "Satoshi Nakamoto" published in 2008 with bitcoin's launch was previously the only clue to its founder's identity.

Even those who helped develop the system were unsure if the name was a pseudonym for a person or group. The Temple City, California man never told family members he was involved in bitcoin, according to the Newsweek piece.

Kyodo News

Disney overhauls troubled interactive unit, lays off 700

LOS ANGELES/SAN FRANCISCO, 7 March — Walt Disney overhauled its struggling interactive division in a sweeping reorganization that will reduce the number of video games

it develops and alter its advertising strategy to focus more on the fast-changing mobile market. As part of the revamp, Disney will lay off 700 employees, roughly one-quarter of the

interactive division, according to a person with knowledge of the layoffs. A Disney spokeswoman would not confirm the number.

Disney's games and online division has for years been a persistent money loser and a small but significant drag on a corporate empire that spans movie-making and television to cable network ESPN, theme parks and cruise lines. As with other major game publishing houses, Disney has been trying to keep up with rapidly shifting consumer preferences and an explosion in mobile gaming worldwide. In 2010, it bought mobile

game developer Playdom for over \$500 million, an acquisition that has yet to bear significant fruit.

"We are trying to consolidate things and focus largely on the mobile platform," the president of Disney Interactive, Jimmy Pitaro, said in an interview with Reuters. "The industry is moving very quickly in that direction and we're making that transition." Last year, Disney Interactive lost \$87 million as revenues rose 26 percent from 2012; the division has lost a total in recent years of more than \$1 billion.

In Disney's fiscal first quarter that ended on 28

December, the unit reported \$55 million in operating income.

Disney now plans to license most of its games to earn additional revenue, Pitaro said. It will continue to develop games and content for its "Infinity" platform, a combination video game and toy line; it has sold more than 3 million copies of the platform release.

That line, which echoes Activision Blizzard Inc's "Skylanders" product, is viewed as a pivotal element in Disney's effort to revive the interactive division.—Reuters



The entrance gate to The Walt Disney Co is pictured in Burbank, California on 5 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

NATIONAL

Vice-President urges speedy...

(from page 1)
Should any ownership disputes arise among farmers, the case should be settled in court, Vice-President U Nyan Tun said.

He also called on transparency regarding the issue.

Vice-President U Nyan Tun has urged authorities to deal with the 3,387 complaints received from farmers who said their land has been confiscated. The complaints

have been lodged with the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (the Union Parliament), with the number of cases reported to the central committee for land utilization, however, not known.

In accordance with its policy on settling land issues, the committee has also directed departments or organizations which took land to return it to the previous owners in accordance with existing rules and regulations.—MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing discusses...

(from page 16)
the agreement by both sides to adhere to three main “national causes”—non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, perpetuation of sovereignty.

He stressed the need for moving towards lasting peace, and upholding the “genuine Union spirit.”

The meeting was

also attended by other high-ranking officials, including Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win, KNU General-Secretary Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win, CEC members Saw Roger Khin, Pado Mahn Nyein Maung and Saw Tado Mu, and military and political adviser Saw Htoo Htoo Lay.—MNA

Director of Institute for International Cooperation of Hanns Seidel Foundation calls on Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker



Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa receives Director of Institute for International Cooperation of Hanns Seidel Foundation Dr. Susanne Luther.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 7 March—Director of Institute for International Cooperation of Hanns Seidel Foundation Dr. Susanne

Luther called on Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa at Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday afternoon.

At the call, they exchanged views on promoting cooperation between Myanmar and Hanns Seidel Foundation, functions of

Hanns Seidel Foundation, conducting workshops and providing assistance for the parliaments of Myanmar.

MNA

Holding first Women's Walk Race discussed

YANGON, 7 March—Second work coordination meeting for holding first ever Women's Walk was held at Sports and Physical Education Department at Kyaikkasan Sports Ground, here on 7 March.

The meeting was jointly organized by the Ministry of Sports and Mega

Lifesciences Ltd., (Ferrovit).

The Women's Walk's starting point is Tatapyu Bus Stop and its finishing line is People's Square. It will be held on 16 March aiming at removing anemia in women and taking part in nation building endeavours enthusiastically.

Principal of Sports and Physical Education Institute (Yangon) Director U Kyaw San Oo made an opening address. The responsible persons reported the duties they are going to discharge in the Women Walk.

A total length of the race is 5 kilometers.

MNA

Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club celebrates 25th Anniversary



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint greets those present at 25th Anniversary of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club.—MNA

YANGON, 7 March—Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club celebrated its 25th Anniversary at Summit Parkview Hotel in Yangon on Friday evening.

First, officials of the club read the messages sent by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung My-

int and Chairperson of Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law

and Tranquility Committee Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

Then, Chairman of the club U Aung Hla Tun made an opening speech and Secretary U Thitsar Hla Htwe read brief history of the club.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint said that the reporters are respectable persons and they realize political, economic and socio-circumstances of a country. Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club represents Myanmar people and members of the club are the diplomats for bilateral friendship, he added.

Next, Union Minister for Information U Aung Kyi delivered an address and the secretary of the club spoke words of thanks. Those present were served with dinner.—MNA

Commission formed...

(from page 1)

- (i) U Myint Kyaing Member
Director-General, Population Department
 - (j) U Myat Thu (Tekkatho Myat Thu) Member
Writer
 - (k) Dr Myint Htwe Member
Public Health Expert
 - (l) U Win Myint Secretary
Deputy Director-General, Attorney-General Office of the Union
3. Functions and duties of the commission are as follows:-
- (a) Appoint an official to collect suggestions from monks and the general population
 - (b) Research facts and figures needed for drafting the laws and hold meetings and seminars in a transparent way.
 - (c) Draft laws based on the following points:
 - (1) To draft laws that are in conformity with the Constitution, focusing on the existence of diverse beliefs and religions and strengthening national unity.
 - (2) To base the new laws on the principles of the existing laws.
 - (3) To apply the laws nationwide, bringing long-term benefits to the country and its people.
 - (d) Seek advice from persons and organizations who are experienced in relevant subjects.
4. The commission is to draft the laws using the following ways and means.
- (a) Drafting the laws after studying the laws of foreign countries and analyzing the points acceptable to Myanmar society.
 - (b) Drafting the laws that in accordance with Myanmar culture and traditions.
 - (c) Drafting the laws after gathering data and suggestions from monks, citizens and experts.
5. Funds needed for drafting laws will have to be provided by the President Office.
6. The commission has to present its two final drafts to the President not later than 30 June, 2014. The commission's task is completed when the two drafts are enacted as laws.

Sd/Thein Sein
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 8 March, 2014

Stop violence against women

Across the world, gender inequality prevails in almost all societies with women facing unfair treatment for being the weaker sex. Is gender inequality an issue in Myanmar?

Compared to their counterparts from many Asian countries, Myanmar women enjoy a greater degree of equality with men. But, a brief look into the parliament and government ministries will make it clear that Myanmar women just represent a small proportion in leadership and decision-making positions.

Traditionally, women have taken the back seat in Myanmar society until 2000s when the rising living expenses forced many women from their homes to the workplace to become earners themselves. Before this, male sex superiority was deeply entrenched in our society and both men and women took it as a normal thing. The time-honored maxim for housewives "Treat son as the master, treat husband as the Lord" explains well the traditional role of women.

It is however encouraging to see Myanmar women striving to break this age-old glass ceiling by holding a series of women's forum and dialogue over the past year. As women and girls constitute the half of the total population, they should and must have a much bigger say in decision-making process of the country.

While the scope of the focus of women's forums has broadened as Myanmar women's affairs organizations will reportedly team up for social security of women with disabilities, many cases of domestic violence are going unreported across Myanmar. Meanwhile, the number of reported rape cases has been on the increase though it is not clear whether such cases were subjected to blackout in the past.

The never-heard before cases of child rape and sexual abuses of children by their family members (incest) have come as an awful shock to Myanmar society. Since rape is a crime that often goes unreported because of a sense of shame, it is reasonable to assume that there may be many more cases of child rape happening unreported.

Meanwhile, the plight of female workers at garment and other factories seems to have been ignored for a rather long time. Being a labor-intensive business, garment factories create many jobs for female workers. Nonetheless, the pay they receive there is simply not enough to support their families and this has forced a large number of female workers from their workplace to massage parlors and KTV bars and even to prostitution.

Occasional crackdown on brothels and planned arrest of sex workers just won't solve this particular problem but the government needs to see the root causes.

Laws alone are not enough to protect women and girls from violence and sexual abuse, but it needs to encourage and empower more women to find a voice for themselves while making sure women at grass root level can earn a decent living.

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email wallace.tun@gmail.com with your name and title.

The Second Plenary Meeting of the Seventh State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders and the great grand Religious Title-Presentation Ceremony of 2014

The State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar comprising 300 members of the Sangha represents over five hundred thousand members of the Sangha residing in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. According to the fundamental principles which were passed and adopted by the very First Successful Congregation of the Sangha of All Orders of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in 1980, the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders shall hold its annual meeting at least once a year.

We all Buddhists throughout the Republic of the Union of Myanmar know that altogether seven Congregations of the Sangha of All Orders leading and contributing to the purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of the Buddha Sasana were successfully held by arrangements and supports of Buddhist people and Government of the Union of Myanmar in 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005 and 2010 respectively. In accordance with the objectives and guidelines laid down by these successful congregations of the Sangha of All Orders, the very first unity of the members of Sangha could be formed in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar within one hundred years.

We all Buddhists all over the world know that altogether six great Buddhist Councils (Synods) leading and contributing to the purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of the Buddha Sasana were convened after the noble demise of the Omniscient Gotama Buddha over 2557 years ago. The Fifth Great Buddhist Council was held in Myanmar in the year 2415 of the Buddhist Era (1871 CE) and attended by the 2400 Mahatheras (Chief monks), and the Sixth Great Buddhist Council was held in Myanmar in the year 2498 of the Buddhist Era (1954 CE) and attended by 2500 Mahatheras (Chief monks) from the Five Theravada Buddhist nations, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Sri Lanka and Myanmar. The Buddhist peoples from those Theravada Buddhist nations were greatly pleased and honoured for successfully holding the

Sixth Great Buddhist Council in the Buddhist world.

It was felt that without the unity of the Sangha, it was impossible to execute purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of the Buddha Sasana. As different schools and sects of the Sangha of All Orders appeared separately, they were not able to unitedly implement the noble task of purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of the Buddha Sasana. In reality all members of the Sangha and devotees want the everlasting unity of the Sangha of All Orders. They firmly believe that it only can be possible to purify, perpetuate, propagate and promote the Sasana by the unity of the Sangha. The Buddha, Himself urged the members of the Sangha to unite in order to carry out His Teachings.

In fact, the main objectives of holding the First

to establish the unity of the Sangha of All Orders so long as the Buddha Sasana exists. All the Buddhists firmly believe that without the unity of the Sangha, it is impossible to promote the Buddha Sasana. As an old saying goes, "Whenever religion is pure, the society prospers". The situation of the nation was well-developed and prosperous in those golden times when the members of the Sangha of Orders unanimously practiced the Vinaya Laws and fulfilled their religious duties.

The First, the Second, the Third, the Fourth, the Fifth, the Sixth and the Seventh Congregations of the Sangha of All Orders of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar successfully have rebuilt the unity of the Sangha of All Orders with the support of Buddhists and the Government since 1980. A single Sangha Organization could be formed

religious Affairs and authorities concerned.

We all Buddhists throughout the Republic of the Union of Myanmar are heartily pleased and honoured to be able to pay profound respect to the members of the Sangha present at the Second Plenary Meeting of the Seventh State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders.

The great grand Religious Title-Presentation Ceremony of 2014

In order to promote and flourish the three kinds of the Buddha Sasana, viz, (1) Pariyatti Sasana (learning the Buddha's teachings), (2) Patipatti Sasana (practical application of the Buddha's teachings), and (3) Pativedha Sasana (realization of the Buddha's teachings), the Republic of the Union of Myanmar issued Notification No 1/2014 on the 66th Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar which falls on the 4th January 2014, conferring Religious Titles on the 123 eminent Buddhist monks including 15 from abroad, nine elder nuns and 23 laypersons including two from abroad who distinctively carried out purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of the three kinds of the Buddha Sasana across the world.

The great grand ceremony for presenting religious titles will be held at the Sasana Maha Beikman (Great Sasana Centre) in the precinct of the Up-patasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw, the capital of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at 1:30 pm on the 15 March 2014 (Fullmoon day of Tabaung 1375 ME). All religious title recipients have already been invited to attend the great grand ceremony. It is further learnt that altogether 534 members of the Sangha, 9 elder nuns, 23 laypersons and others will be present on this auspicious occasion.

Besides, the auspicious ceremony for offering of provisions and various articles to 534 members of the Sangha and 9 elder nuns will be held on a large scale on the same day. All Buddhists, donors and well wishers are cordially invited to attend this auspicious ceremony for paying profound respect to the members of the Sangha and sharing merits of good deeds.

Ba Sein (Religious Affairs)

Great Buddhist Council (Synod) through the Sixth Great Buddhist Council (Synod) were to purify, perpetuate, propagate, promote and preserve the Buddha Sasana. Although altogether Six Great Buddhist Councils (Synods) were held, it was found that different schools and sects still appeared. They were not united and they parted from each other. Because of different schools and sects, many unlawful views (Adhammavadas) which were contrary to and incompatible with the Pitakas of the Theravada Buddha Sasana appeared. In reality, these unlawful views endangered true Buddhism.

Therefore, all the Buddhists felt worried about the situation of true Buddhism. They really want to purify, perpetuate, propagate and promote the Theravada Buddha Sasana. According to the history of Buddhism, it is learnt that the schisms and split of schools and sects usually occurred among the Monastic Orders whenever some members of the Sangha of Orders were in trouble through dispute and mutual misunderstanding.

To rebuild the unity and mutual understanding between different schools and sects of the Sangha Orders is deeply needed for the welfare and interest of the nation as well as for the Buddha Sasana. Altogether Six Great Buddhist Councils (Synods) were held

in the Union of Myanmar for the first time in one hundred years.

The Second Plenary Meeting of the Seventh State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders

In accordance with the prescribed terms of the Sangha Organizations of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Second Plenary Meeting of the Seventh State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders are fixed to be held at the Mahapasana Cave (Great Cave) on Kaba Aye Hillock, Yangon, from 8 to 10 March 2014. The meeting will be attended by 300 members of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders and 111 members of the State Sangha Ovadacariya (Patrons) representing all members of Sangha throughout the country.

The main objectives of the Second Plenary Meeting of the Seventh State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders are to strengthen more efforts for purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of Theravada Buddha Sasana throughout the world. It is further learnt that all necessary arrangements and requirements for holding the Second Plenary Meeting of the Seventh State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of All Orders have already been made by the Ministry of Reli-

NATIONAL

Farmland Law, infrastructure, mobile communication top parliamentary agenda

NAY PYI TAW, 7 March—The question-and-answer round on Friday at the People's Parliament session, Pyithu

Hluttaw, focused on the efficiency of the 2012 Farmland Law, with one parliamentarian urging the government to step up

support for farmers.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than, however, insisted that the law was effective and provided several benefits to farmers.

“Since January, 2013, certificates of farmland use have been issued to more than five million farmers,”

he said, adding that the certificate issuance process is ongoing. The certificate needs to be obtained in order to gain permission to cultivate farmland.

With the certificate, farmers have a wide range of rights, including the right to form joint ventures and to sell or lease land.

The Highway Law

was discussed at the National Parliament or Amyotha Hluttaw, with the upgrade of the Insein railway overpass one of the topics during the question-and-answer session.

Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Myint Thein elaborated on the proposed budgets for the construction of three overpasses including the Insein overpass in Yangon. He stressed, however, that the JICA-proposed Greater Yangon Strategic Urban Development Master Plan will have to be completed first before construction

on the three overpasses can begin. However, preliminary engineering works are underway as the green light has been given to the proposed budgets that will also be given additional funding.

Regarding a question about the possibility of mobile phone communication in the western part of Seikpyu Township, Magway Region, Deputy Minister for Communications and Information Technology U Thaug Tin vowed to build more towers and radio stations in the upcoming fiscal year.

MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs of US, British Military Attaché



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs of United States Ms Wendy Sherman.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 7 March—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received British Military Attaché to Myanmar Colonel Antony Stern at Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw

on Friday morning. They had a cordial discussion on further strengthening relations between the two armed forces and sending reciprocal excursion groups and trainees. Then, the Senior General received Under Secretary of State for

Political Affairs of United States Ms. Wendy Sherman at the same venue.

Both sides discussed matters on promoting ties between the two armed forces, defence services' role in marching multiparty democracy

in Myanmar, measures to be taken by Myanmar defence services under the leadership of the Union Government and Myanmar defence services' efforts for ending armed conflicts in cooperation with the people. Present at the calls were Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Thura Thet Swe, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Khin Aung Myint and Maj-Gen Mya Tun Oo of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army). Wife of the Senior General Daw Kyu Kyu Hla hosted a luncheon to wives of the chiefs of armed forces from ASEAN countries who attended 11th ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces Informal Meeting (ACDFIM) at Mount Pleasant Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on 6 March.

In the morning, the wives of the chiefs of armed forces from ASEAN countries visited Uppatasanti Pagoda and observed the white elephants. They also visited Myanmar Gems Museum.

Myawady

2014 Myanmar Agricultural Products & Equipment Exhibition opens

YANGON, 7 March—The 1st Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Rice and Paddy Growers and Producers Association and opening of 2014 Myanmar Agricultural Products & Equipment Exhibition took place at Myanmar Convention Center (MCC) in Mayangon Township in Yangon on 5 March.

Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint formally opened the exhibition. Then, the Union minister and party viewed round power tillers, combine harvester, rice mill and spare parts, fertilizers and pesticides, solar panel and machines.

In his speech at the 1st AGM of Myanmar Rice and Paddy Growers and Producers Association, the Union minister said that the government

had relaxed 8 percent of commercial tax on rice, beans and pulses, corn, edible oil crops and agricultural products. The government had allowed importation of fertilizer, pesticides and agricultural machinery for development of agricultural sector.

Growing of quality strains, construction of modern warehouse and rice mill are required to be able to export high-grade rice to abroad, he added.

Then, the report of executive committee and ongoing tasks of the association were read out and approved.

2014 Myanmar Agricultural Products & Equipment Exhibition, seminars and Miss Farmer Contest will be held till 8 March.—MNA

Set Top boxes distributed to social organizations, families in Yangon

YANGON, 7 March—DVB T2 Set Top Boxes on Friday were distributed by the Myanmar Radio and Television under the Ministry of Information to social organizations and households ranked at social level E in four districts in Yangon. The donation ceremony took place at the Yangon Region Government's Office on Pyay Road in Yangon with an address by Union Minister for information U Aung Kyi. The Union minister said that this contribution tended to meet the public interest and assist the government's drive to alleviate poverty.

At the event, a total of 52,035 Set Top boxes were handed over to 3682 social organizations and 48,353 poor households.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe said that DVB-T2 Set Top boxes were distributed to social organizations

of Yangon for the first time before the 27th SEA Games.

He pledged to donate more Set Top boxes to social organizations and households in Yangon.

Union Minister U Aung Kyi handed over the

Set Top boxes to officials.

TV channels such as MRTV, MITV, farmer channel, Hluttaw channel, national races, Myawady including MRTV-4, totaling 16 channels will be available with the use of the Set Top boxes.—MNA



Union Minister U Aung Kyi presents DVB-T2 Set Top Box.—MNA

Myanmar ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council Senior Officials' coord meeting held

NAY PYI TAW, 7 March—ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council Senior Officials' coordination meeting 2/2014 took place at Chatrium Hotel in Yangon on 4 March.

Secretary of Myanmar ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council Daw Nanda Hmon acted as chair of the meeting and made an opening speech. Climate change and natural disaster, promotion and protection for rights of migrant workers, protection of aged, women and children in ASEAN

framework, food security, health, education and youth entrepreneurship, poverty alleviation, announcement to be released by post 2015 and aims of ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council were the topics of the meeting.

The representatives from the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Rail Transport, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry and the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Secu-

rity took part in sector-wise discussions.

Confirmation of date and venue for 16th ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council Senior Officials' Meeting, 17th Senior Officials' Meeting, 11th ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council Ministerial Level Meeting and 12th ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council Ministerial Level Meeting to be held in April and September 2014 and proposals to be submitted to ASEAN Summit were discussed during the meeting.

MNA

Aung Zabu Pagoda gets sola light

NAY PYI TAW, 7 March—Aung Zabu Pagoda got sola light donated by staff family led by the Chief Editor of the Mirror Daily on 6 March morning.

The pagoda is situated at the head of Ywathitkon Village in the middle of shan Roma mountain ranges in Zeyathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw.

“We feel happy for this donation and praise to the wellwishers for the solar light donation,” said a resident.

Myint Than (Oxygen)

Work Coordination Meeting for holding Pahtamapyan held at Tatkon

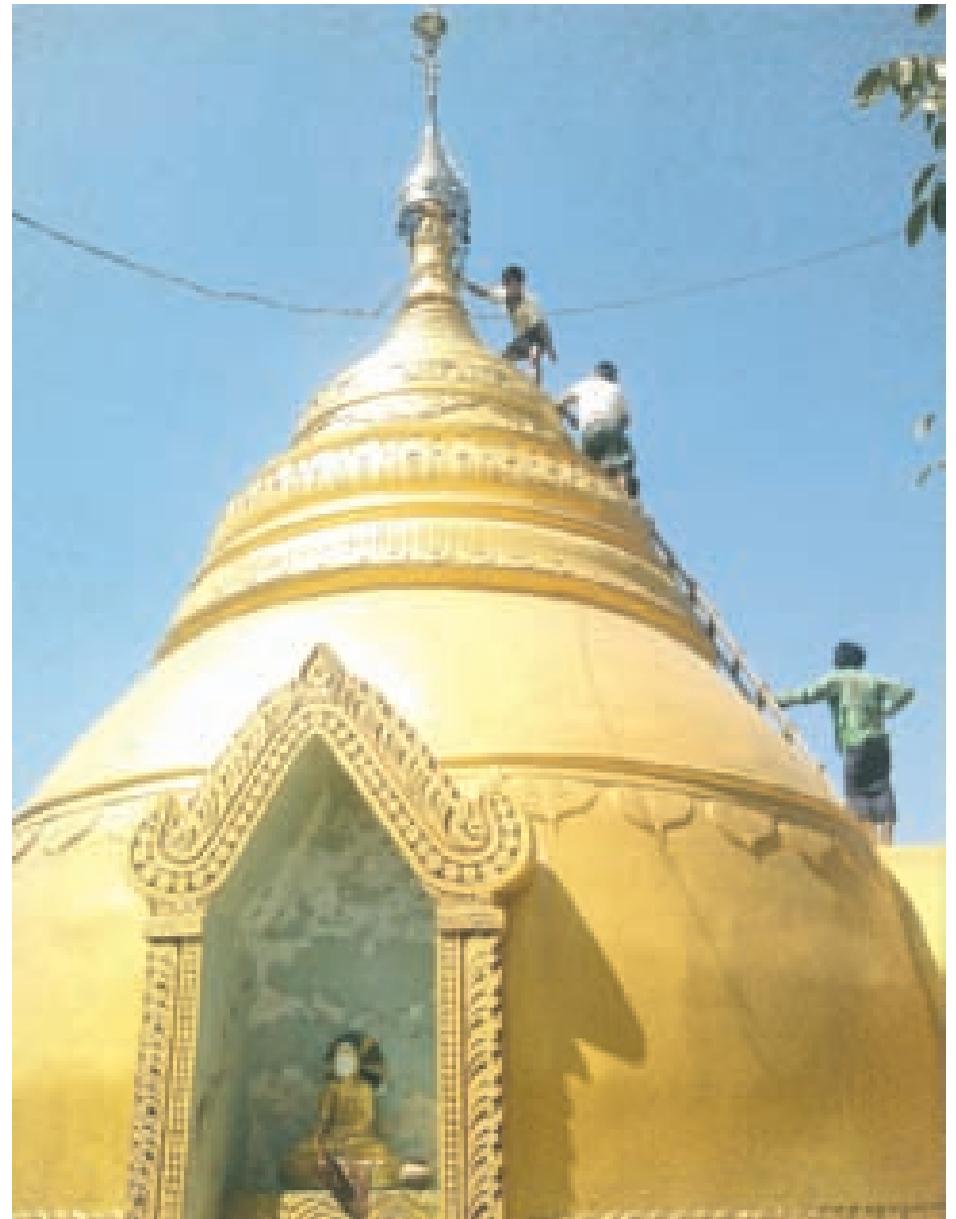
TATKON, 7 March—Work coordination meeting for successfully holding Pahtamapyan—a religious examination for Buddhist monks—was held at Myo Oo Pariyatti Monastery on 6 March.

Religious Affairs Department under the Ministry of Religious Affairs will be held from 3 to 9 April in Tatkon of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

At the meeting Weigyi Sayadaw U Ardeiksa gave an advice. Sayadaws, gov-

ernmental staff and township supportive committee members discussed candidate's convenience during the exam period. Monks from Tatkon, Pobathiri and Zeyathiri townships will sit for the exam.

Township IPRD



Muse to get one more village-to-village linking road

MUSE, 7 March — Muse Township Rural Area Development Department is constructed a road linking the villages of Nant-khut and Nant-pan in Shan State (North).

Rural Area Development Department has allocated the fund for construc-

tion of the one-mile long road.

The road would ensure easy access to Muse from villages around Muse.

Officials from Muse Township Rural Area Development Department inspected the worksite on 5 March.— *L Soe (IPRD)*

Bullock carts still useful for transporting goods between villages

MEIKTILA, 7 March — Bullock carts are still useful for transportation in rural areas in Meiktila Township. According to local people, villages prefer to use carts pulled by cows than motorcycles and vehicles to transport goods to village to village

as they want to down the transportation charge and the roads in rural areas are favourable for the carts.

Motorcycles and vehicles are seen on roads linking villages and towns in these days as a new form of transportation.

Chan Tha (Meiktila)



Population and census taking process instructor course opens

NAY PYI TAW, 7 March—District-level countrywide population and census taking process instructor course opened at the hall of Basic Education High School No. 9 in Zabuthiri Township, Dekkhi-

nathiri District, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 6 March with an address by the District Chairman of Census taking Committee. Seven trainers conduct a total of 87 trainees at the 5-day course.

Ko Gyi Kyaw

Inter-club golf tournament for year 2014 on 13 March

NAY PYI TAW, 7 March—Inter-club golf tournament for year 2014 will be held on a grand scale from March to November in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, PyinOoLwin, Mandalay and Bagan organized by Myanmar Golf Federation and Myanmar PGA. It was aimed at generating the professional golfers and developing the Myanmar Golf Sports.

The first leg of the tournament will start as of 13 March till 16 March at Royal Myanmar Golf Course in Nay Pyi Taw mainly sponsored by Ayeayawady Bank.

There are two categories and two classes—men's and women's professional-level event

and mature-level event (Handicap 0-12). Winners of the tournament will be awarded handsome prizes.

Golfers may register with K 20,000 at Royal Myanmar Golf Course in Nay Pyi Taw and Myanmar Golf Course in Yangon not later than at 3 p.m. on 10 March.

Anyone may attend the talks on sharing knowledge about the golf and clarification on the rules and disciplines of the tournament to conduct by the professionals of Myanmar PGA on 15 March. For further information, anyone may dial 09 51 77 956, 09 730 80 112, 09 420 017 835 and 09 2037 671.

Pho Thaw Zin

Black gram farmers in Kangyidaunt Township boost income

KANGYIDAUNT, 7 March—The farmers who planted black gram in Nyaunggon Village in Donzington Village-tract of Kangyidaunt Township have earned increased income. “I cultivated rainy paddy by using natural fertilizers and per acre yield is about 70-80 baskets. After rainy paddy cultivation, I ploughed the farmland to grow black gram. I cultivated 10 acres of black

gram and per acre yield are 10-12 baskets. I sold them to the brokers from Kangan and Dagongyi Villages and its price is K 1800-2000 for one basket of black gram. I earn around K 200,000 to K 300,000 per month and it is commercialized for me. Jobless locals are convenient for their livelihood by growing and mowing of black gram,” said Naw Htimu, a local Kayin national.—*Pathein Hla Kyi*



REGIONAL

Vietnam's HCM City's rich list to triple over next 10 years

HO CHI MINH CITY, 7 March — The number of ultra-high-net-worth individuals in Vietnam's southern economic hub Ho Chi Minh (HCM) City is expected to triple by 2023, from 90 to 246, the largest increase among more than 80 cities worldwide, according to global real estate company Knight Frank. State-run Radio Voice of Vietnam (VOV) quoted the company as reporting on Thursday, adding its report highlights the booming business environment in HCM City and that the city has become increasingly appealing to foreign investors.

According to the City's Department of Planning and Investment, HCM City attracted 477 new foreign direct investment (FDI) projects with a total registered investment capital of 1.05 billion US dollars in 2013, up 76.72 percent in value compared to the previous year.—Xinhua

Japan's tallest building Abeno Harukas fully opens in Osaka

OSAKA, 7 March — Japan's tallest skyscraper, the 300-metre tall Abeno Harukas, fully opened on Friday morning in Osaka, western Japan. The building, owned by railway operator Kintetsu Corp, was inaugurated with the cutting of a 3-kilometre-long tape encircling its 288-metre-high observation deck and a nearby shopping mall.

A flagship Kintetsu Department Store partially opened last June in the building. Its retail space of 100,000 square meters is the largest in the country. The skyscraper was built with investment of 130 billion yen and its gross floor area reaches 300,000 square metres across 60 stories above ground and five below.

Abeno Harukas took the tallest building mantle from Landmark Tower, a 296-meter high rise housing offices, shops and a hotel in Yokohama city. The observation deck "Harukas 300" on the 58th-60th floor of the building is the second-highest in Japan after Tokyo Skytree's deck located about 450 metres high. Visitors are able to see as far away as Kyoto and Kobe.

Kyodo News



Visitors view a painting at an exhibition showcasing artworks by female artists in Beijing, China, on 6 March, 2014. The exhibition, displaying creations by over 130 female artists nationwide, kicked off here on Thursday. —XINHUA

Thais defer decision on emergency after two hurt in shooting

BANGKOK, 7 March — Thai officials assessing whether to maintain a state of emergency, which business leaders want lifted, deferred their decision on Friday, hours after two people were wounded in a shooting at the site of anti-government protests.

The protests aimed at bringing down Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra have been going on for four months and are taking a toll on the economy, with consumer confidence at a 12-year low. Twenty-three people have been killed, most of them in shootings and grenade blasts, since late November.

The political uncertainty is unnerving consumers and the violence is scaring tourists away from Bangkok. Lower spending is hitting automakers, property firms and hotels in Southeast Asia's

second-biggest economy.

Surapong Techruvichit, president of the Thai Hotels Association, said the occupancy rate had plunged to 20 to 25 percent in Bangkok in January-February from 70 to 80 percent in the same months last year.

The end of the 60-day emergency, imposed in Bangkok on 22 January in a bid to contain the unrest, would be a good start for getting business back on its feet, he said.

"If it's lifted, I think we can get back the tourists within two weeks to a month," he told Reuters. "It won't be good just for the hotel industry but for all business."

But the head of the National Security Council said no decision had been reached and the situation would be assessed next week.

"We'll let our military and police intelligence units consider whether the emergency decree should continue or not," Paradorn Pattanathabutr told reporters. The protests are the latest bout of nearly a decade of political conflict that has set the Bangkok-based royalist establishment against the political machine of Yingluck's brother, former

premier Thaksin Shinawatra.

Former telecoms tycoon Thaksin was ousted in a 2006 coup and has been in self-imposed exile since 2008 to avoid a two-year jail term for a graft conviction he says was politically motivated. He is widely seen as the power behind Yingluck's government.

Reuters



Riot police officers stand guard as anti-government protesters gather during a rally outside the Ministry of Energy in Bangkok on 6 March, 2014.—REUTERS

UN expert hails agreements for electoral reform in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 7 March — The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia Surya P Subedi on Thursday greeted a five-point agreement reached by the two main political parties currently represented in Cambodia's Parliament to launch concrete electoral reforms. He further welcomed the lifting of a ban

on demonstration imposed on 4 January after two violent protests left four protesters dead and 21 others still detained.

"I welcome the agreements reached by the Joint Committee composed of members of the ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) and the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) to proceed,

among other things, on two concrete measures for electoral reform — to review the voter registry and to elaborate a draft law on the financing of political parties," he said in a statement released by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Office to Cambodia.

"I hope with cautious optimism that progress toward the remaining

unresolved issues would soon be made between the two parties," Subedi said.

Political row between the Prime Minister Hun Sen's ruling CPP and the Sam Rainsy's opposition CNRP has persisted since the July election results showed that the CPP won 68 parliamentary seats against 55 seats for the CNRP. —Xinhua

Light plane crashes in S Philippines, pilot hurt

DAVAO CITY, (Philippines), 7 March — One person was hurt when a light plane used for spraying pesticides crashed in southern Philippines on Friday morning, police said. The pilot, 47-year-old Helson Rivera, suffered minor injuries to his left elbow after the single-engine aircraft went down near houses at Visayan Village, Tagum City in Mindanao's Davao del Norte province around 6 am, provincial police chief Samuel Gadingan said.

The yellow and white plane of Mactan Aviation with tail number RP-3024 hired by banana giant Lapanday Corporation was on its way to conduct spraying runs when its engine apparently malfunctioned, causing it to crash at Macopa community, Gadingan said. Local resident Noemi Diaz said he saw the aircraft zoomed overhead and then heard a loud sound outside her father's house.—Xinhua

Constitution drafting process delayed in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 7 March — Nepal is yet to start the process of drafting a new constitution due to the dispute among parties about the rules of procedures of the Constituent Assembly (CA).

Nearly four months have passed since the country held its second CA election, but parties have not till Thursday finalized the rules of procedures of the constitution drafting process. Only the formulation of rules of procedures will pave the way for drafting a new constitution of the Himalayan country.

Major coalition partners Nepali Congress (NC) and CPN-UML are at odds over who, either the president or the CA chairman, should certify, authenticate and promulgate the new constitution. NC has said that president, as the head of the state, should get the authority. "As a head of the state, president should get such authority as per international practices," said NC Vice-president Ram Chandra Poudel at a public programme this week.

Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV BANGKACHAI VOY NO (126)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGKACHAI VOY NO (126) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.3.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WONGSAMUT OCEAN
SHIPPING CO LTD**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV MCP LARNACA VOY NO (029N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCP LARNACA VOY NO (029N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.3.2014 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 MOL (S'PORE) PTE LTD**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV SHAHR E KORD VOY NO (34)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SHAHR E KORD VOY NO (34) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.3.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S LAND & SEA LOGISTICS**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER**(16th Term Supply Tender)**

- Open Tenders are invited for the Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the supply of High Speed Diesel 1.645 M bbls ±10% and Jet A1 0.752 M bbls ±10%.
- Tender Closing Date : **2-4-2014** at (12:00) noon.
- Tender Opening Date : **2-4-2014** at (13:00) hrs,
- Delivery Time : 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015
- 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.
- Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender document officially from Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director
Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise

UN chief launches "Children, not soldiers" campaign

UNITED NATIONS, 7 March — The United Nations on Thursday launched its global campaign "Children, not soldiers" in order to prevent children from being recruited or used as soldiers in conflict areas.

In a message for this event, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said that although thousands of children have been released from armed groups, thousands more remain.

He asked all concerned governments, regional and non-governmental organizations to work with the United Nations to intensify efforts to meet the goal of zero use of children by any government forces by 2016.

Ban said that progress will help to fuel further success in reaching the many non-state actors that also continue to recruit children.

The United Nations has been long working very hard to translate it into reality the goal of zero use of children by any armed parties, including government forces and rebels, in conflict areas across the world.

More than 250,000 children under 18 are fighting in both government armies and armed opposition groups. Some children are kidnapped or forced to serve; others join up hoping to find food and shelter, help their families, or improve their lives.

More than 6,000 child soldiers may now be involved in the conflict in the Central African Republic (CAR), the United Nations said.

Because of their emotional and physical immaturity, children are easy to manipulate and can be drawn into violence that they are too young to resist or understand. Both boys and girls may be sent to the front line of combat or into minefields ahead of older troops.

Some have been used for suicide missions or forced to commit atrocities against their own families and neighbours. Others serve as porters, cooks, guards, servants, messengers, or spies. Many child soldiers, mostly girls, are also sexually abused.

Xinhua



Performers dance during the media preview of the Red Dress at the Lincoln Center in New York, on 6 March, 2014. The Red Dress presented the premiere in New York on Thursday. The Red Dress tells the love story of a young man and young woman from two rich families in an ancient town in southern China. Pulled apart by fate, this tale of loyalty, tradition and love is brought to astonishing life through grand spectacle and movement.

XINHUA

Syrian army advances amid new wave of explosions

DAMASCUS, 7 March — Syrian troops continued on Thursday their progress against rebels around a key contested town north of the capital Damascus as well as in central Syria, amid a fresh wave of explosions that have killed at least 17 people, Syria's media reported.

The Syrian troops on Thursday fully recaptured Rima Orchards on the outskirts of Yabroud, 80 km north of Damascus, as part of the army's wide-scale operation to secure the surroundings of Yabroud before storming the town, which reportedly houses 10,000 armed rebels.

After Rima Orchards, the military is poised to wrest back control over Flaita and Ras al-Ma'ara, also on the outskirts of Yabroud. It will then complete its imposed siege on that strategic town before storming it.

Yabroud is deemed as an important stronghold of armed rebels due to its location on the slope of the mountainous Qalamoun region and proximity to the Lebanese town of Earsal, where the rebels get weap-

ons and medical treatment.

Also, the town's rugged terrain and ancient caves give them shelter from government air raids.

Military experts said by recapturing Yabroud, the government forces can secure the international road connecting Damascus to the central province of Homs and some provinces on the Mediterranean coast. It could deter the flow of car bombs into neighboring Lebanon.

Kamel Saqer, a political expert, said that at the beginning of their military operation in Yabroud, the Syrian troops have focused on a strategy to control the surrounding hills. They used the overlooking hills as firing plateaus to target the depth of Yabroud and the caves that serve as main hideouts for the rebels.

Saqer said that the battle "is not easy," but "there is a clear and definite decision that Yabroud must go back under the control of the Syrian army." He thinks that achieving this goal is not going to be so close, but also not that far.

Saqer added that the Syrian army has elite forc-

es ready for ground incursion when the "zero hour" is determined.

Meanwhile, Amer al-Qalamouni, spokesman of the oppositional General Body of the Syrian Revolution, said that the strategic town of Yabroud on Thursday was subject to the "heaviest shelling" ever for the past three weeks of battles around it.

Al-Qalamouni said Yabroud was targeted by surface-to-surface missiles and was hit in ten air raids. But he spelled no details about casualties.

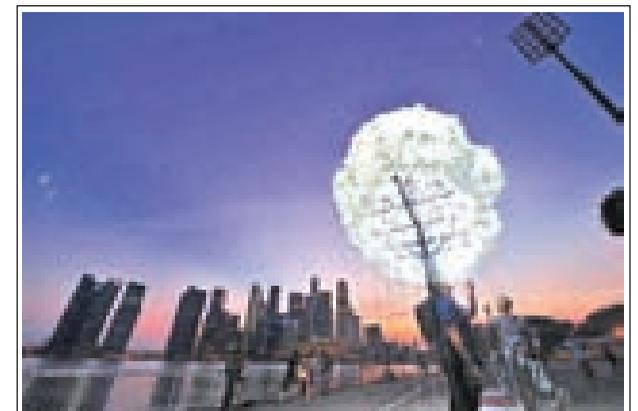
TV reports showed that Yabroud is empty of

civilians. About 10, 000 rebel fighters are housed there. While the Syrian forces were on offensives against the rebels, a fresh wave of explosions, mainly in Yabroud, occurred as the rebels' response to the army's advancement.

Two car bombs in the central provinces of Homs and Hama killed at least 17 people on Thursday.

Others were wounded by mortar attacks elsewhere, including in Abu Rummana neighboring Damascus. Embassies of Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UAE are located there.

Xinhua



People view an art installation of "I Light Marina Bay" during a preview in Singapore, on 6 March, 2014. The "I Light Marina Bay" festival is to be held in Singapore.—XINHUA

ENTERTAINMENT

'American Hustle,' 'Wolf of Wall Street' lead MTV Movie Awards nods

LOS ANGELES, 7 March — Crime caper "American Hustle" and financial greed tale "The Wolf of Wall Street" each landed eight nominations for the MTV Movie Awards on Thursday, edging out dystopian saga "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire" and comedy "We're the Millers." "Hustle" and "Wolf," which each went home from Sunday's Oscars empty handed, will have a shot at redemption at the unbuttoned MTV event that hands out golden, popcorn-shaped trophies in categories like best kiss and best fight scene.

The fan-voted awards will be hosted by comedian Conan O'Brien at the Nokia Theatre in downtown Los Angeles on 13 April and televised on MTV, a unit of Viacom Inc. "American Hustle" stars Amy Adams, Jennifer Lawrence and Bradley Cooper, who each picked up nominations in top acting categories while Adams and Christian Bale picked up a nod for best on-screen duo in the film.

Oscar best picture winner "12 Years a Slave" earned four nominations, while outer space thriller "Gravity" scored a single nod for Sandra Bullock as best actress, after winning seven Academy Awards, the most this year. Nominees for best movie, the only category in which voting will continue during the broadcast, include "12 Years a Slave," "American Hustle," fantasy film "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug," "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire" and "The Wolf of Wall Street." Matthew McConaughey and Jared Leto, who both won Oscars for their performances in AIDS drama "Dallas Buyers Club," earned nominations together for best on-screen duo and separately for best on-screen transformation. The annual awards, which honor hit movies that might have been overlooked by the Oscars and Golden Globes, serve as a lead-in to the summer movie season and will include preview clips from would-be summertime Hollywood blockbusters.—Reuters

Producer Riza Aziz (L-R), cast members Leonardo DiCaprio, Margot Robbie, Jonah Hill and producer Joey McFarland arrive for the UK Premiere of "The Wolf of Wall Street" at Leicester Square, in London on 9 Jan, 2014.

REUTERS



Angelina Jolie: Was moved by outpouring of support after surgery

LOS ANGELES, 7 March — Hollywood star Angelina Jolie, who underwent a preventive double mastectomy last year, says she was moved by the outpouring of support from her fans.

The 38-year-old actress opted for the surgery after testing positive for a faulty gene that can lead to cancer, a disease that killed her mother Marcheline Bertrand, reported People Magazine.

Jolie, who raises Maddox, Pax, Zahara, Shiloh, and twins Vivienne and Knox with fiance Brad Pitt, opted to go public with her

decision in a bid to raise more awareness about the disease.

"I'm great! I was very, very moved by all the support and kindness from so many people," she said. The actress says her family, especially her children help her see the funny side of life.

"Outside my home I can be somewhat serious," Jolie said. "We laugh and we play, and I'm light again, and I'm a kid again, and I'm loving and soft again because they've brought that back in my life," she added.—PTI

Angelina Jolie underwent a preventive double mastectomy last year. PTI



"Deaf composer" apologizes for misleading public

TOKYO, 7 March — The man once lauded as the "Japanese Beethoven" and subsequently accused of faking his deafness apologized on Friday for misleading his audience in his first public appearance since admitting over a month ago that he had employed a ghostwriter.

"I apologize for the great trouble I caused because of my lies," Mamoru Samuragochi, 50, said at a packed news conference in Tokyo.



Mamoru Samuragochi apologizes during a Press conference in Tokyo on 7 March, 2014, about a month after admitting he had employed a ghostwriter for years for a series of classical music works purported to have been composed by him. KYODO NEWS

While acknowledging that he has been able to hear occasionally in recent years, he asserted that he needs a sign language interpreter.

Best known for the classical piece "Hiroshima Symphony," or Symphony No 1, Samuragochi had drawn comparisons to the deaf German composer. But on 5 February, he said through his lawyer that he had employed a ghostwriter for years.

Kyodo News

Germany-Togo film festival to be held to reinforce cooperation

LOME, 7 March — Togolese capital is set to host a one-week Germany-Togo film festival between March 10-16, through the initiative

of Germany Embassy in Lome, a diplomatic source said on Wednesday.

The event will be organized in collaboration with the Cinema and

Audiovisual School, a private film production institute in the Togolese capital.

The film festival aims to reinforce the existing

cultural and friendly ties between Togo and Germany, dating back to 1884 after the signing of the protectorate treaty.

The organizers said

the festival will be used to promote German and Togolese films that depict realities of the two countries.

Xinhua

John Mayer: Katy Perry is extremely driven

LONDON, 7 March — Musician John Mayer thinks his ex-girlfriend Katy Perry is extremely driven about her career.

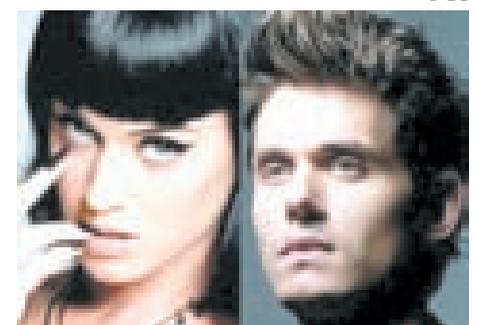
The Who You Love hitmaker, who split from the singer last month, also praised her work ethic, reported Contactmusic.

"It is a connection to the past, a reaction to fear of the unknown. They go back with a guy they don't like just because they know how to get to his bathroom in the dark," he said.

The 36-year-old star, who had an on-and-off relationship with Perry from 2012, went on to gush about the Dark Horse singer, who is in Sydney, Australia promoting her upcoming Prismatic world tour.

"She's extremely driven and extremely serious about doing great work," he added. Katy Perry, 29, was previously married to Russell Brand. The marriage ended after 14 months.

PTI



Kershaw, Ryu on course to open for Dodgers Down Under

NEW YORK, 7 March — Cy Young winner Clayton Kershaw and Ryu Hyu-jin of South Korea are set up to start the two season-opening games later this month in Australia, according to the official Major League Baseball website.

While the Dodgers have not officially announced their pitching plan, the National League team inserted prospect Zach Lee to start Friday's spring training game against Texas putting Kershaw and Ryu on track to launch the regular season. Los Angeles, who won the NL West last year with a 92-70 record, are kicking off the major league season against division rivals the Arizona Diamondbacks (81-81 in 2013) at the Sydney Crick-

et Ground on 22 and 23 March.

The 25-year-old Kershaw, who in the offseason signed a seven-year, \$215 million deal that was the richest ever given to a pitcher, has claimed the Cy Young award as top pitcher in the league twice in the last three years. The left-hander is likely to start



the first game, followed by Ryu.

Dodgers manager Don Mattingly would not confirm his plans, but he has told the pitchers their roles, according to mlb.com.

Ryu became the first Dodgers pitcher to hurl four innings this spring in his outing on Wednesday, and the Korean said he would be

ready to face Arizona in the Australia games. "I threw 55 pitches tonight and 75 next time, so in three weeks I'll be ready if called upon," said Ryu, who signed a six-year, \$36 million deal before the 2013 season with the Dodgers, who also paid a \$25.7 million posting fee to negotiate with him.

The left-hander rewarded the Dodgers with a strong 14-8 record with an earned run average of 3.00. Ryu said he was looking forward to seeing former Korean team mate Koo Dae-sung, who taught Ryu how to throw a changeup and will play for the Australian national team in exhibitions against the Dodgers and Diamondbacks prior to the season-opening series.—Reuters

Beckham pleases fans in Rio

RIO DE JANEIRO, 7 March

— Former England captain David Beckham posed for photographs and signed autographs with Brazilian fans after arriving in Rio de Janeiro for a fleeting promotional visit.

Beckham is expected to remain in Brazil until Sunday and his advisers have kept tight-lipped about the purpose of the trip.

Local media reported the 38-year-old will be a VIP guest during Saturday's Parade of Champions

Former England captain David Beckham



at Rio's Sambadrome, marking the climax of the annual Carnival celebrations.

Beckham was shadowed by local paparazzi who photographed him shirtless on his hotel balcony overlooking Ipanema beach in Rio's trendy south.

The former Manchester United, Real Madrid and LA Galaxy midfielder was last month unveiled as the owner of a new Major League Soccer franchise in Miami.—Xinhua

Broncos to release 12-time Pro Bowler Bailey

NEW YORK, 7 March — Twelve-time Pro Bowl cornerback Champ Bailey will be released by the Denver Broncos, according to a report on the National Football League website on Thursday.

Bailey, 35, met with Broncos general manager John Elway and head coach John Fox on Wednesday at

the team's headquarters and was told that the club was ready to move on without him, the website reported, citing a league source. There was no discussion about reworking the final \$10 million remaining on his contract, the player said.

"It was like, 'We're ready to move on.' That

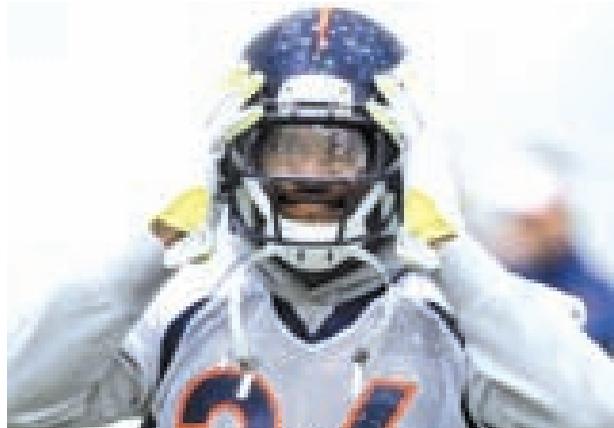
was that," Bailey said, according to the Denver Post. "A little surprising, but not really.

After all this time, it's tough when it ends." That means Bailey, who has intercepted 52 passes in his career, third most among active players, will hit the free-agent market for the first time. He is coming off an injury-hit season in which he appeared in five games, starting three.

Bailey played the last 10 seasons with the Broncos after his first five NFL seasons with the Washington Redskins and reached the Super Bowl for the first time last month, losing to the Seattle Seahawks.

The former first-round NFL Draft pick said he planned to continue his career. "I'm going to still play, absolutely," Bailey said. "I'm looking forward to it."

Reuters



Denver Broncos cornerback Champ Bailey adjusts his helmet during their practice session for the Super Bowl at the New York Jets Training Center in Florham Park, New Jersey on 31 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

Japanese Olympic Committee aims for 14 medals in 2016

TOKYO, 7 March — The Japanese Olympic Committee revealed on Thursday it is aiming to win 14 medals at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. "Japan has what it takes to win about that many medals," said Yuji Takada, who chairs the JOC's project on special measures for Rio de Janeiro.

The 14-medal target is twice the number Japan brought back from the 2012 London Olympics. For the 2020 Tokyo Games, the

JOC is setting a target of between 20 and 33 medals and third place in the medals table.

Takada, a JOC director, was taking part in a coaching conference in Tokyo that brought together development chiefs from each sports federation.

Attendants were told they would need to consider various issues that could affect athletes' performance in Rio, such as the extreme difference between midday and evening temperatures, and long

travel times. Information was also exchanged about concerns over safety, transportation and accommodations.

Takada said that in order to get local information and secure practice facilities it will be essential to coordinate with Brazil's sports bodies. "This is going to be completely different from previous Games," Takada said. "I am requesting special measures be taken so athletes can maintain their best condition."

Kyodo News

Japan to issue World Cup stamps

TOKYO, 7 March — Japan's postal service announced on Thursday that it will sell sheets of "FIFA World Cup Brazil 2014" stamps this year.

Three different sheets featuring images such as the tournament emblem and the World Cup trophy

Photo shows "FIFA World Cup Brazil 2014" stamps that Japan's postal service announced on 6 March, 2014, it will sell from May 12 through to the end of the year.—KYODO NEWS



will be on sale from May 12 through the end of the year.

Each sheet will include three 82 yen stamps. Kyodo News

McLaren to start season without title sponsor

WOKING, (England), 7 March — McLaren will start the Formula One season without a title sponsor but still expect to have one this year, group chief executive Ron Dennis said on Thursday. "Our cars will not feature a title sponsor at the first event," he told reporters at the McLaren factory ahead of the season-opener in Australia next week.

"But they will definitely feature a title sponsor some time at the next few races." McLaren were sponsored by mobile tele-

coms giant Vodafone until the end of last year. They had planned to reveal a new title partner in December but the appointed day came and went without any announcement. The team had their first season without a podium since 1980 last year, a failure that led to a management restructuring with former principal and minority shareholder Dennis reasserting himself. Dennis, 66, said the formal title of team principal had been scrapped and would not discuss the fate

of former incumbent Martin Whitmarsh, although he said they had been in touch and remained friends.

The group chief executive painted a bright financial future for the team, the second most successful in F1 history after Ferrari in terms of race wins and total titles, and compared McLaren to currently ailing Manchester United. Premier League champions United have been off form since the retirement of Alex Ferguson at the end of last season. "Inevitably when you



McLaren Automotive Executive Chairman Ron Dennis addresses the media at the official unveiling of the new MP4-12C road car at the McLaren Technology centre in Woking, southern England on 18 March, 2010.

REUTERS

have a run of poor results, people try and push the rate card down," he said of the sponsorship negotiations," said Dennis. "I won't accept that. I know what this company is and what it's grand prix team can achieve. And that requires the correct recognition when it comes to the commercial relationship with a principal sponsor."

"We are negotiating with several partners at the moment and I think it will happen sooner rather than later."

Reuters

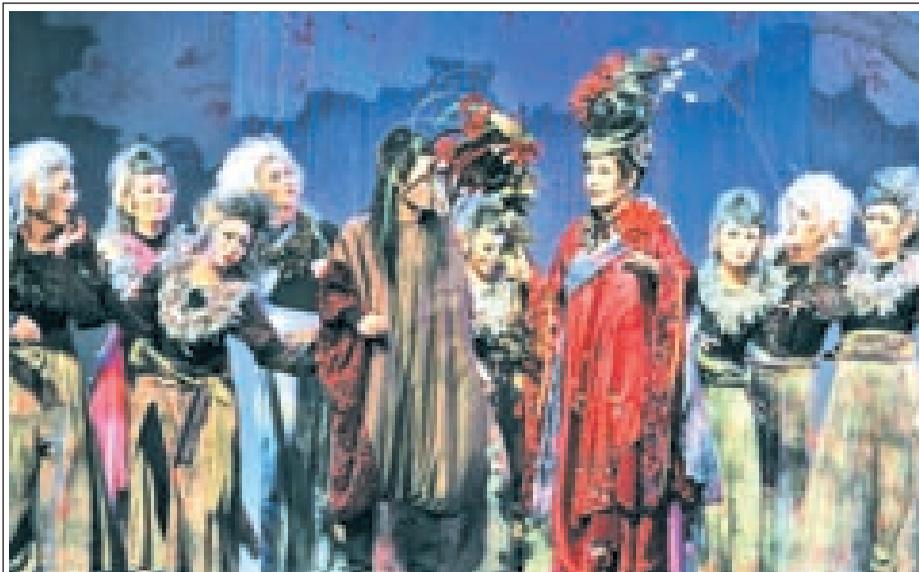
GENERAL

Smog won't hurt Beijing's Winter Olympics bid

BEIJING, 7 March — Beijing will take a series of measures to tackle its environmental problems and is confident they will not derail its bid to host the 2022 Winter Olympics, an official said on Thursday. Beijing has formulated 84 measures to deal with environmental issue and air pollution, said Li Shixiang, Beijing's executive vice mayor, at the ongoing annual session of the National People's Congress, the top legislature.

Beijing is expected to cut its current coal consumption by more than half to 10 million tonnes a year by 2017. It will also impose tough controls over industrial pollution and dust fall from construction sites, while reducing the number of newly added vehicles every year to 150,000, said Li. He said the Chinese capital will benefit from the experience of successfully holding the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Beijing and Zhangjiakou City in neighbouring Hebei Province will launch a joint bid to host the 2022 Winter Olympic Games, the Chinese Olympic Committee (COC) announced in early November 2013. Beijing will bid to stage the ice events while Zhangjiakou will seek hosting rights for snow sports, according to the COC. Beijing has been plagued by choking smog and it is a great concern for its chances of hosting the Winter Olympics.—Xinhua



Actors perform during a dress rehearsal of Gezai opera *I See You, Mr Fox*, in Taipei, southeast China's Taiwan, on 5 March, 2014. The opera tells a love story between a human being and a fox fairy, which will be staged in Taipei and Kaohsiung this month. Gezai opera is a popular folk art in southeast China's Fujian Province and Taiwan.—XINHUA

Weather, increased demand push global food prices to highest level in months

UNITED NATIONS, 7 March — Global food prices in February rose to their highest level since mid-2012 as a result of unfavorable weather and increased demand, the United Nations food agency reported on Thursday.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said its most recent Food Price Index, which measures the monthly change in international prices of a basket of 55 food commodities, including meat, dairy, sugar, and cereals, averaged 208.1 points. That is about 5.2 points, or 2.6 percent, higher than the slightly revised index for January.

"This month's increase follows a long period of declining food prices in general. But it's too early to say if this is a true reversal of the trend," said Concep-

cion Calpe, the FAO senior economist.

"The weather is probably a major force driving up prices for certain commodities like sugar or wheat, but brisk demand is also an important factor underpinning maize, dairy and oil prices," Calpe said.

The UN agency also noted a spike in wheat and corn prices which it attributed to recent developments in Ukraine, "though the February increase in the Index cannot be entirely attributed to those events."

Cereals averaged 195.8 points last month, up 6.8 points or 3.6 percent from the previous month.

With some winter wheat crops already developing, FAO's first forecast for world wheat production in 2014 stands at 704 million tonnes. This is a 1.7 percent drop from the 2013

record but still the second largest crop ever, according to the "Cereal Supply and Demand Brief."

The latest estimate for world cereal production for 2013 stands at a record 2.5 billion tonnes, an increase of 13 million from the February forecast and 9 percent more than the 2012 level. The rise is due to a significant revision in the estimates for Australia and also upward revisions to the figures for wheat and coarse grains in China, the FAO said.

Vegetable oils rose 9.2 points to an average of 197.8 points in February, amid concerns over unfavorable weather in Southeast Asia and South America, and buoyant demand worldwide, including demand for palm oil from biodiesel producers.

Xinhua

MYANMAR TV

(8-3-2014, Saturday)

- 6:00 am
- 1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 6:35 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
- 11:15 am
- 7. Music Heritage
- 12:00 pm
- 8. News/International News/Weather Report
- 2:40 pm
- 9. Business News
- 3:00 pm
- 10. News
- 3:15 pm
- 11. TV Drama Series
- 4:15 pm
- 12. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) Fourth Year (Law)
- 5:00 pm
- 13. News
- 5:15 pm
- 14. Documentary
- 6:00 pm
- 15. News/Weather Report
- 6:20 pm
- 16. MRTV's Youth Programme
- 7:00 pm
- 17. News
- 7:20 pm
- 18. Teleplay
- 8:35 pm
- 19. Business News
- 8:50 pm
- 20. Hit Songs of Stars
- 9:00 pm
- 21. News
- 22. Myanmar Series
- 23. Gitadagale Phwintbaohn

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(8-3-14 07:00am~ 9-3-14 07:00am) MST

- * Local News
- * Great Shwedagon - The Repository of Buddhist Scriptures And Archives
- * World News
- * Myanmar Masterclass: Still Life (Glass)
- * Local News
- * Kyaik Hmaw Wun Yele Pagoda Festival
- * Word News
- * Temple Stalls
- * Local News
- * Shrinking Footprints
- * World News
- * In The Studio: May Phyu Phyu
- * Local News
- * Flying Without Wings - My Great Limitless Adventure - Inlay Lake (Part-2)
- * World News
- * Green Grocer
- * Local News
- * The Land of Silver Mountains (Kayah State)
- * World News
- * Myanmar Movie Review "Be the Right Heir"
- * Local News
- * A Day Out With Sarah (Ep-3)
- * World News
- * Parents' Day
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Wedding Dresses
- * World News
- * In the Studio "Khin Su Shin"
- * Local News
- * Innovative Handiworks Based On The Art of Line Drawing
- * World News
- * Independent Filmmaker

Austrian minister calls for negotiated solution to Crimea crisis

VIENNA, 7 March — Austrian Economy Minister Reinhold Mitterlehner on Thursday called for a "reasonably negotiated solution" to the crisis in Ukraine's southern Crimea autonomous republic.

Russia's arguments on their actions concerning Ukraine must be listened to, and the dialogue must include the seizure of power in Kiev, he said in an interview with ORF's ZIB 2 program.

Another important issue was the 21 February agreement between

ousted Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich, Ukrainian opposition leaders, and the European Union (EU) mediators, which had failed, he said.

The mostly Russian-speaking Crimea became the epicenter of the ongoing crisis. Armed men carrying Russian navy flags took control of local parliament and government buildings and two airports in the Crimean capital of Simferopol after pro-Russian President Yanukovich was ousted on 22 February in what Russia called a coup.

Mitterlehner described the symbolic measures adopted at a special EU summit in Brussels Thursday as appropriate in dealing with Moscow, adding immediate sanctions would only trigger retaliation from Russia.

With regard to gas supply to Austria from Ukraine, Mitterlehner said even in a worst-case conflict between the EU and Russia, Austria has gas reserves for three months. Efforts are already under way to diversify gas sources, he added.

Xinhua



Japan's Kurumi Nara returns the ball to Allie Kuick of the United States in a first-round women's singles match at the BNP Paribas Open tennis competition in Indian Wells, California, on 5 March, 2014. Nara defeated Kuick 6-4, 6-0.

KYODO NEWS

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann receives US guests

NAY PYI TAW, 7 March—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received United States Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

Ms Wendy R. Sherman at the Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw here, on Friday evening.

At the meeting, they discussed amity and bilateral cooperation, and de-

velopment of democracy between the two countries.

Also present at the call were Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo, Commission mem-

ber Daw Aye Aye Mu and officials of Hluttaw office.

Ms Wendy R. Sherman was accompanied by US ambassador to Myanmar H.E Mr. Derek Mitchell.

MNA



Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann receives United States Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Ms Wendy R. Sherman.—MNA

Farmland Law, infrastructure, mobile communication top parliamentary agenda

News on page 9

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing discusses peace process with KNU leader



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing poses for documentary photo with Chairman of Karen National Union Saw Mutu Sae Po and party.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 7 March—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing

met a delegation led by Chairman of Karen National Union Saw Mutu Sae Po at Bayintnaung Yeiktha in

Nay Pyi Taw on Friday afternoon to discuss the ongoing peace process.

The Commander-in-

Chief elaborated on a confidential six-point “wish list” by the Defence Services and

(See page 7)

Government Subcommittees meet

NAY PYI TAW, 7 March—Union Ministers U Soe Thane, U Tin Naing Thein and U Hla Tun held talks with the deputy ministers and officials of government subcommittee in a work coordination meeting at the hall of Union Government Office on Friday morning.

At the meeting, the

Union Ministers called on the attendees to solve the problems the people are facing and fulfill their needs, adding that real-time implementation is needed in carrying out tasks.

After hearing the reports on the activities of the committees they coordinated the matters.

MNA

ASEAN condemns terrorist attack in Kunming, China

NAY PYI TAW, 7 March—The ASEAN member states extend their condolences to the Government of the People’s Republic of China, and to the families of the victims of the terrorist attack at the railway station on 1st March 2014, in Kunming, the People’s Republic of China.

ASEAN strongly con-

demns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

ASEAN renews its commitment to work with China to further intensify its cooperation to combat all forms of terrorism.

ASEAN supports the efforts of the Government of the People’s Republic of China to bring the perpetrators to justice.—MNA

By: Aye Min Soe

A shop selling organic fruits and vegetables will be set up outside Nay Pyi Taw’s model organic farm, the first of its kind, officials said.

“The shop is expected to be ready within two weeks and we will sell organic fruits and vegetables produced at the farm,” said Min Min Naing, an official of the farm.

It will be the first ever shop for organic produce in Nay Pyi Taw. The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is also planning to sell seedlings and seeds at a reasonable price at the farm, Min Min Naing said.

The 40-acre organic farm is set up in the 900-acre Sat Sat Yoe model farm belonging to the ministry with the aim of educating farmers across the country.

Farmers across the

county have visited the farm in groups, discussing the challenges they are facing with agricultural experts of the ministry.

During a recent visit to the farm, President U Thein Sein has called for the establishment of fruits and vegetable wholesale markets to kick start the export of Myanmar organic produce.

The president stressed the need for establishing “modern farms” in regions and states with favourable climate to produce “marketable” fruits and vegetables.

The cooperation between cooperatives and the private sector is playing an important role in packing and producing value-added products made from fruits and vegetables in order to penetrate the international market and make good profit, the president said.

Nay Pyi Taw to get first ever shop for organic fruits, vegetables

A farmer harvests chillies at organic farm in Nay Pyi Taw.

PHOTO AYE MIN SOE

