

## Local dwellers displaced as land prices in Bagan soar



Photo shows part of Bagan where local residents are displaced due to skyrocketing land prices.

As the ancient city of Bagan is attracting more and more foreign tourists, the number of displaced dwellers is on the increase, making way for huge new infrastructure developments. The price of land has soared, and locals watch with anxiety the speed of construction projects everywhere.

"I sold my land with an area of seven acres in Bagan five years ago. Due to the price hike of property in recent years, it is impossible for me to buy my land back even if I won a K 150 million lottery prize. I have to stay here as a street

vendor in the neighborhood of Bagan as I cannot live anywhere close to my native land," said a man selling local products near Shwegugyi Pagoda. Businessmen are now investing heavily in order to profit from the tourism boom in the region, with locals often pressured to sell their land.

Hotels, motels, inns, guesthouses and restaurants have been built to accommodate the influx of globetrotters. Bagan, famed for its ancient temples and quiet rural life is now turning into a modern town, changing its face for

good. It is one of the main tourist attractions in Myanmar, earning the government a great deal of foreign currency.

Bagan is a culturally and religiously significant area in Myanmar, featuring awe-inspiring ancient edifices with unique architecture. What used to be a destination off the beaten path is now crowded with tour groups and backpackers, also prompting fears that the ancient buildings might in future deteriorate to the extent Cambodia's world famous Angkor Wat has.

Trs: YM

Byline: Ko Myo (Shwe Paukkan)

## U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration officials visit checkpoints in Tachilek



Delegation of Drug Enforcement Administration Yangon visits Tachilek.

MYINTMOH-TACHILEK

## President's wife calls for new law to protect women

NAY PYI TAW, 8 March—Marking International Women's Day in Nay Pyi Taw on Saturday, the wife of President U Thein Sein called for a law to guarantee the rights of women.

In her opening speech at the official celebrations,

Daw Khin Khin Win, patron of several women's affairs groups including the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, said the 2008 constitution enshrines equal rights for men and women.

She said the Myanmar Criminal Law, the Myan-

Women should be drafted to fully protect women's rights.

Myanmar does actively promote women's rights as part of the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals, she added.

She also called on Myanmar women to actively

Daw Khin

Khin Win,

patron of

several

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affairs

groups

shaking

hands

with

attendee.

MNA



NAY PYI TAW, 8 March—A delegation from the Yangon-based Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) of the United States of America went on an inspection tour of checkpoints in Tachilek District on Wednesday.

Accompanied by officials from Myanmar's Anti-Narcotics Task Force, the five-member DEA delegation led by John Whalen visited Maeyan checkpoint in Tachilek, Pasa village checkpoint on the bank of Mekong River, Wanpon International Inland Port and the Golden Triangle border area shared by Myanmar, Thailand and Laos.

The delegation members discussed counter-narcotics activities with officials in Tachilek, and inspected the border area between Myanmar and Thailand near Pakhar village.—Myintmoh-Tachilek

mar Reproductive Health Law, Myanmar Traditions and Customs Law have all helped to protect Myanmar women, but that a new bill in accordance with the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against

participate in the upcoming National Census which will begin on 30 March, 2014.

The United Nations theme for the 2014 International Women's Day is "Equality for women is progress for all."

MNA

## Unlicensed private hospital shut in Yangon

NAY PYI TAW, 8 March—The Central Body relating to Private Care Services under the Ministry of Health has been encouraging private health care services enabling them to participate in national health care system in accord with Private Health Care Services Law. The central body issued licenses to private health care services and is taking action against those who failed to abide by the law.

Central Body relating

to Private Care Services on 28-2-2014 revoked license of Shwe Padauk Hospital on Bayintnaung Street in Kamayut Township in Yangon Region in accord with Subsection (d), Section 26 of Private Health Care Services Law as it was not in conformity with Subsection (a), Section 19 of the law as it was found that foreigner physicians are giving medical treatment to patients at the hospital without license of Myanmar Medical Council.—MNA

## Young get more reading habits

TATKON, 8 March— Now is a summer holiday for the young especially for children of primary level to Grade X of high school level. Children frequented library of Information and Public Relations Department in Tatkon.

IPRD is trying its best to broaden the horizon of the people. Among these endeavours, raising the reading habits of the people is one of its tasks. Thanks to its effort, children turned their attention to library and on 7 March alone, nearly 100 children visited the library.—*District IPRD*



## New umbrella offered to Klatcha Pagoda in Kyaikto

KYAIKTO, 8 March— Under the aegis of member monks of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee and with the arrangement of Missionary Hermit U Aung, a golden umbrella to be hoisted atop historic Klatcha pagoda started its procession on 7 March in Kyaikto.

The pagoda is located in Kyundaw village tract in Kyaikto of Mon State about 112 miles far from Yangon. The renovation of the ancient pagoda will be made at a cost of 20 million Kyat. The last umbrella hoisting ceremony was held in 1993.

*U Khin Maung Myint*



## Summer Sports Training Courses opened in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 8 March—As the government is pursuing national development laying down firm objectives in political, economic and social affairs, raising the sports standard is no exemption said Deputy Minister for Sports U Thaug Htaik at the opening of summer sports training courses in Nay Pyi Taw on 7 March. Such kinds of sports as soccer, volleyball, Myanmar Traditional Martial Arts called *Thaing*, Karate, Taekwondo, Sepak Takraw, Wushu, Track and Field, and Cane ball called *Chinlone*, will be included in the courses to be run from 7 to 21 March.

*Sports and Physical Education Department*



Photo shows opening ceremony of summer sports training courses in Nay Pyi Taw.—SPORTS AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

## Indian Engineering Exhibition to take place from 13-15 March in Yangon

YANGON, 8 March— India's Engineering Export Promotion Council will showcase the country's rapid progress in the engineering sector at the Indian Engineering Exhibition INDEE in Yangon from March 13-15.

It is the first time the exhibit takes place in Myanmar, with organizers saying they want to provide a platform to Indian

exporters.

The event is jointly organized by the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) and will serve as a great source of inspiration to SME entrepreneurs in Myanmar, according to UMFCCI Vice-President Dr Maung Maung Lay.

A wide variety of products will be on display, including construction materials and engines.

"It is our company's first exhibition in Myanmar and we will display state-of-the-art equipment produced by top Indian companies," said Mr. B Sarkar, Executive Director of EEPC India.

The exhibit will take place at Tatmadaw Convention Hall in Yangon.

*Myat Sandi Thin Zaw*

## Certificate course in basic diplomatic skills concludes

YANGON, 8 March— The Graduation Ceremony of the Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills (32/2013) conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was held at Wunzinyarzar Hall on Friday morning, with a closing address delivered by Deputy Minister for Foreign

Affairs U Thant Kyaw.

The 12-week course comprises contemporary international affairs, holding and attending of international conferences, negotiation skills, international law, international economic relations, international etiquette, diplomatic and official

correspondence and communication skills, among others. It was attended by 153 trainees.

It was also learnt that the Simulation of Formal Banquet was held at the Park Royal Hotel as part of the curriculum of the certificate course in basic diplomatic skills in the presence of Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister U Thant Kyaw.

*MNA*

## Mohnyin conducts census training

MOHNYIN, 8 March— Sixty-six teachers from Mohnyin, Mogaung and Phakant in Kachin State received training on census taking from 6 to 11 March.

At the opening ceremony of the course, trainees were briefed on population and housing census taking process by district-level local authorities and Immigration officers. More course will be conducted at township-level.

*NLM-001*



**STIMULATE CITIZENS' SENSE OF PARTICIPATING IN CENSUS TAKING PROCESS:**

Myanmar is now in the transitional period. Census taking is one of the tools for achieving success in pursuing national development and the whole country is excited to participate in the process. Myingyan in Mandalay Region saw a billboard stimulating such a sense as authorities erected the billboard at five public places in the town on 7-3-2014.—U ZAW MIIN NAING (MYINGYAN)



WORLD

## Malaysia Airlines plane crashes in South China Sea with 239 people aboard

KUALA LUMPUR, 8 March — A Malaysia Airlines flight carrying 227 passengers and 12 crew crashed in the South China Sea on Saturday, Vietnamese state media said, quoting a senior naval official.

The Boeing 777-200ER flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing had been missing for hours when Vietnam's Tuoi Tre news quoted Admiral Ngo Van Phat as saying he had asked boats from an island off south Vietnam to rush to the crash site.

If the report is confirmed, it would mark the U.S.-built airliner's deadliest crash since entering service 19 years ago.

Malaysia Airlines had

yet to confirm that the aircraft had crashed. It said earlier in the day that no distress signal had been given and cited early speculation that the plane may have landed in Nanming in southern China.

Flight MH370, operating a Boeing 777-200ER aircraft, last had contact with air traffic controllers 120 nautical miles off the east coast of the Malaysian town of Kota Bharu, Malaysia Airlines chief executive Ahmad Jauhari Yahya said in a statement read to a news conference in Kuala Lumpur.

Malaysia and Vietnam were conducting a joint search and rescue, he said but gave no details. China has also sent two maritime rescue ships to the South



A woman (C), believed to be the relative of a passenger onboard Malaysia Airlines flight MH370, covers her face as she cries at the Beijing Capital International Airport in Beijing on 8 March, 2014.—REUTERS

China Sea to help in any rescue, state television said on one of its microblogs.

"We are extremely worried," Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told

reporters in Beijing before the Vietnamese report that the plane had crashed. "The news is very disturbing. We hope everyone on the plane is safe."

The flight left Kuala Lumpur at 12.21 am (1621 GMT Friday) but no trace had been found of the plane hours after it was due to land in the Chinese capital at 6.30

am (2230 GMT Friday) the same day.

"We deeply regret that we have lost all contacts with flight MH370," Jauhari said. Malaysia Airlines said people from at least 14 nationalities were among the 227 passengers - at least 152 Chinese, 38 Malaysians, seven Indonesians, six Australians, five Indians, four French and three Americans. Two infants were among the passengers.

If it is confirmed that the plane has crashed, the loss would mark the second fatal accident involving a Boeing 777 in less than a year and by far the worst since the jet entered service in 1995. An Asiana Airlines Boeing 777-200ER crash-landed in San Francisco in July 2013, killing three passengers and injuring more than 180.

Reuters

## Iran, world powers hold 'substantive and useful' nuclear talks

VIENNA, 8 March — Iran and six world powers held "substantive and useful" expert-level talks over Teheran's nuclear programme this week, they said on Friday, ahead of a new round of political negotiations later this month.

Seeking to build on an interim agreement reached late last year in Geneva, Iran and the major powers aim to hammer out a final settlement of the decade-old dispute over the Islamic Republic's atomic activities by late July. Both sides have made clear their political will to

reach a long-term accord and have scheduled a series of meetings in the coming months. But they also acknowledge that there are still big differences over the future scope of Iran's nuclear programme and that success is far from guaranteed.

The 5-7 March talks at the United Nations complex in Vienna, which ended around midday on Friday, were to prepare for the next meeting of chief negotiators due to start on 18 March, also in the Austrian capital. "The talks are very serious and substantive and

useful," the head of the Iranian delegation at the expert-level talks, senior Foreign Ministry official Hamid Baidinejad, told Iran's Fars news agency ahead of Friday's session.

He later told the official IRNA news agency that "the result will be conveyed to capitals" but gave no details. In Brussels, a spokeswoman for European Union foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton said: "I can confirm that the technical talks are over, they were substantive and useful."

Reuters



Japanese Emperor Akihito (L) and Empress Michiko (R) see Estonian President Toomas Hendrik Ilves and his wife Evelin off after their meeting at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo on 7 March, 2014. KYODO NEWS

## Nuclear society says inadequate safety steps led to Fukushima crisis

TOKYO, 8 March — Japan's nuclear academic society said on Saturday the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear complex withstood the impact of the huge earthquake in March 2011 but saw a disaster occur due to inadequate preparations against tsunami and severe accidents.

"We think safety functions were not particularly affected by the earthquake (before tsunami waves hit the plant)...the direct cause of the accident was insufficient measures to deal with tsunami, severe accidents and emergencies," an accident investigation panel of the Atomic Energy Society of Japan said in its report.

The report also said nuclear experts had failed to play their part to improve nuclear safety before the

Fukushima crisis, as they "locked themselves in their narrow field of expertise" and were not much aware of the risks associated with natural disasters.

"Tsunami issues were discussed by experts on tsunami, and not enough study was made on what kind of risks they could bring to nuclear power plants," the report said. The document follows four other nuclear accident investigation reports released from a Diet-appointed panel, Tokyo Electric Power Co., the operator of the Fukushima Daiichi plant, and others. Some controversial issues include whether the March 2011 earthquake could have damaged equipment necessary for ensuring safety and that a small-scale coolant loss may have occurred in

the plant's No 1 unit. But the academic society's panel denied that such a loss of coolant had occurred, based on its data analysis.

The panel is headed by Satoru Tanaka, a professor at the University of Tokyo. For analysis, the panel said it used data announced by the government and TEPCO as well as information included in other accident investigation panel reports.

In the Fukushima nuclear crisis, tsunami waves that followed a magnitude 9.0 earthquake flooded electrical equipment, leading to a loss of power sources as well as the key reactor cooling systems. The Nos. 1 to 3 reactors suffered meltdowns, making it the world's worst nuclear accident since the 1986 Chernobyl disaster.

Kyodo News

## Fukushima fighting concerns on local food 3 years after crisis

TOKYO, 8 March — The Fukushima prefectural government and local industry groups are still struggling with concerns over the safety of local food products as Japan is set to mark the third anniversary of the nuclear disaster following the massive earthquake and tsunami of 11 March, 2011.

A recent survey by an organization to support small businesses in the prefecture found that 30.2 percent of responding consumers in the Tokyo metropolitan area say they still do not buy food products from Fukushima, almost unchanged from 15 months before, despite government campaigns to promote Fukushima products.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has repeatedly stressed

the safety of food products from Fukushima, saying in his policy speech at the opening of an extraordinary Diet session last October that he "eats Fukushima rice every day." The results also showed 28.2 percent of respondents said they have changed their decision-making process when buying food since the nuclear accident, according to the Fukushima Federation of Societies of Commerce and Industry.

In the wake of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant accident, safety concerns on food bearing the name Fukushima have spread among customers. The survey was conducted in December last year via the Internet on 500 people living in Tokyo and its neighbouring Kana-

gawa, China and Saitama prefectures — Japan's most populous region.

"It seems to be difficult to alter the mindset of 30 percent of people who say they don't buy Fukushima food, as they are unlikely to make a purchase until they are sure the problems have been overcome," an official of the federation said.

"Some consumers who buy Fukushima sake for their own consumption do not choose it as a gift for others, fearing it would be inappropriate. That is one example of the damaging rumors," said Inokichi Shinjo, president of Suehiro Sake Co., in an event in Tokyo to promote Japanese rice wine from Fukushima.

Kyodo News

## US special forces sent to train Iraqi special forces in Jordan

WASHINGTON, 8 March — The United States recently sent a small number of special forces soldiers to Jordan to train with counterparts from Iraq and Jordan, a new step in the Obama administration's effort to help Baghdad stamp out a resurgent al-Qaeda threat, a US defence official said on Friday.

The US contingent was dispatched to take part in a training exchange with counterterrorism forces from Iraq and Jordan, allowing the administration to provide a modest new measure of support to Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki.

"The training will bolster skills in counterterrorism and special operations tactics, techniques and procedures," a US defence official said on condition of anonymity.

The training, which includes less than 100 elite soldiers from the three countries, began last weekend. It will continue through the end of April, although the Iraqi soldiers will only take part through the end of this month, the official said.

The new training complements stepped-up

sales of US weaponry to Maliki's government, and reflects increased concern among US officials about Iraq's security trajectory more than two years after all American troops departed.

Reuters was first to report in January that US officials were considering supporting training of elite

Iraqi forces in a third country.

In the past, US officials had said that they were considering training the Iraqi forces at a privately run special operations training center near Amman.

Jordan, grappling with the mounting impact of the grinding conflict in neighboring Syria, is one of the United States' closest allies in the Middle East.

The US response to mounting sectarian tensions and surging violence in Iraq has been limited by reluctance to further empower Maliki, a Shi'ite Muslim leader increasingly at odds with Iraqi Sunni Muslims, and a widespread desire to ensure US soldiers aren't involved in another Middle Eastern conflict.

Reuters



*Iraq's Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki speaks during an interview with Reuters in Baghdad on 12 Jan, 2014.*

REUTERS

## Japanese students visit US military academy, part of culture exchange

WEST POINT, (New York), 8 March — A group of Japanese university students on Thursday visited the US Military Academy at West Point, 70 kilometres north of Manhattan, to kick off a cultural programme to develop closer ties between the two countries.

"With the US pivot towards Asia (emphasizing) relationships with the countries in the region, including with our friend and ally Japan, (our department here wants) to increase cross-cultural communication and compassion towards other cultures," Ruth Beitler, professor of comparative politics, told

*Kyodo News.* "This is a great way to do that."

The students' visit is part of the Kakehashi Project, an initiative from the Japan Foundation and the Laurasian Institution to promote "deeper mutual understanding among the people of Japan and the United States."

In turn, the West Point group will send 23 cadets to Japan this summer on a 10-day trip. On the daylong visit, 23 students from the University of Tsukuba in Ibaraki Prefecture sat in on classes, toured the campus and made two presentations about Japanese culture to cadets there.

*Kyodo News*

## Latin American foreign ministers to discuss Venezuela unrest

QUITO, 8 March — Latin American foreign ministers will meet next week to discuss the unrest in Venezuela that has left at least 20 dead and convulsed the South American OPEC nation, diplomatic sources said on Friday.

The officials will gather on Tuesday at a meeting of the Union of South American Nations (Unasur) group of Latin American nations in Chile, where the leaders are congregating for the inauguration of President Michelle Bachelet. Ecuadorean President Rafael Correa said late on Thursday

that the bloc's presidents would meet. Diplomatic sources said, however, that foreign ministers would meet instead.

Venezuelan opposition sympathizers have been holding rowdy street protests for nearly a month to demand the resignation of President Nicolas Maduro. They accuse his government of using excessive force against demonstrators.

Maduro says the demonstrations are part of a Washington-backed plot to overthrow his government.

Reuters

## China to hold int'l conference on Afghanistan issue

BEIJING, 8 March — Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Saturday that China will hold the Foreign Ministerial Conference of the Istanbul Process on Afghanistan in August.

"We will send invitations to the Istanbul Process' 14 member states and 28 supporting parties," Wang told a Press conference on the sidelines of the annual session of the top legislature.

"We hope that through the process we can help the parties build consensus, work together to support efforts to complete the triple transitions, and encourage the situation in Afghanistan to move toward lasting peace," he added.

The first one to be held in China, the Fourth Foreign Ministerial Conference of the Istanbul Process on Afghanistan was slated for August in China's Tianjin. Wang paid an official visit to

Afghanistan in late February. He met with Afghan President Hamid Karzai, his Afghan counterpart Zarah Ahmad Osmani, and Rangin Dadfar Spanta, Karzai's national security advisor.

Wang said this year will be a crucial one for Afghanistan. The country will go through political, security and economic transitions all at the same time.

Of course it's mainly up to Afghan people to realize the triple transitions, but they cannot do without the help and support of international community, Wang added.

China is Afghanistan's biggest neighbour. Afghanistan's peace and stability has a direct bearing on security in China's western region. We hope to see a united, stable, growing and amicable Afghanistan, according to Wang.

Xinhua



*People look at the view from the observation deck of Japan's tallest skyscraper, the 300-metre Abeno Harukas, on 7 March, 2014, the day when it fully opened in Osaka, western Japan.—KYODO NEWS*

## Recreation

*The following is the reproduction of the Myanmar Hotel and Tourism Guide 2013. Please visit [www.tourismguide.com.mm](http://www.tourismguide.com.mm) for further information. — Ed*

### Horse Trail Riding

Every foreigner or local people can ride the horse for relaxing, sport and health in Yangon Equestrian & country club. It was formed in 1982 at Kyaikkasan Sport Complex, Tamway and making the horse riding training. A few local services also have arranged special trekking trip experiences by horse riding as "nature tour with adventures exposure."

Discover the wonderful horse-riding trails (indoor and outdoor) under the guidance of experience trainers.

1. Yangon Equestrian & Country Club, YKKO Riding Club (Hmaw Bi)

YKKO Riding Club (Hmaw Bi) – Htan Pin Kone Village- Pa Auk- Lawkatuhkhan Pagoda- Pan Tapwint Hill- Phu Gyi Dam

2. Nature's Life Equestrian & Country Club located at foot of the Yankin Hill in Mandalay Division, Pathein Gyi Tsp.

If you want to take outdoor trekking in Mandalay, there are two trails:

(a) Trails for 25 km Horse Riding Map- around Mandalay Hill

(b) Trails for 20 km Horse Riding Map- around Yankin Hill

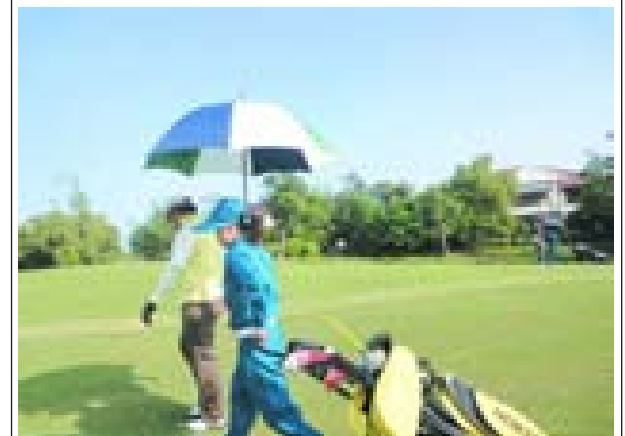
3. MO Riding Club (MRC) located at Htee-pu Village on the way of Mt. Popa and Pindaya-Kalaw Outdoor Trekking by Horse.

(a) Htee-pu Village – Mt. Popa (20 km), Htee-pu Village – Nga –tha-yauk village (23km), Htee-pu Village – Tuyin Hill (28 km)

(b) Pindaya Horse treks – Heho to Pindaya

(c) Kalaw Horse treks- Kalaw to Indein

(d) Aungban – Indein



### Golfing

Golf is one of the most popular sports of wealthy Myanmar citizens, and the country has scores of golf courses. Some, such as the Yangon Golf Club, were established during the colonial period, and others, such as the world-class Pun Hlaing Golf Club, have opened since 2000.

### Bicycling

Bicycle tours are becoming an increasingly popular way for tourists to enjoy the country's beautiful scenery and meet its friendly, hospitable people. Bicycle tours are limited mainly to central and upper Myanmar.

### Diving

Myanmar's long coastline has many fine sites for snorkelling or scuba-diving. The Myeik Archipelago is emerging as a major destination for live-aboard dive tours and there are also good dive sites off Ngwe Hsaung Beach. Some travel agencies can arrange dive training.

### Trekking

Most of the wildlife sanctuaries open to tourists are ideal for trekking. There are more than 40 wildlife sanctuaries throughout the country, of which 15 are open to tourists.

In addition, trekking tours are also available around Natma Taung, Chin State, Inlay Lake-Pindaya in Shan State, Kyaikhtiyo 'Golden Rock' Pagoda in Mon State and PyinOoLwin in Mandalay Region.

## German president offers apology for Nazi crimes during visit to Greece



*German President Joachim Gauck (2nd L) pays respects to the monument in memory for dozens of villagers massacred by German army troops in 1943, at the village of Ligiades in northwestern Greece, on 7 March, 2014. Gauck visited the site accompanied by Greek President Karolos Papoulias, a former partisan in his teens who comes from the nearby town of Ioannina. During his three-day visit to Greece, Gauck expressed deep guilt for Nazi atrocities during the 1941-44 occupation of Greece but stuck to the official German position that the issue of war reparations that Athens wants has been settled decades ago. —XINHUA*

ATHENS, 8 March — German President Joachim Gauck offered apology for the atrocities committed by Nazi troops in Greece on Friday at the end of a three-day visit to the country aiming to ease the anti-German sentiment over the handling of the economic crisis. “I would like to say what the perpetrators, but also those political responsible in the post-war period, did not want or were not able to say; what happened here was a brutal injustice. With a sense of shame and pain I am saying sorry to the families of victims,” Gauck said visiting the village of Ligiades in northeastern Greece with Greek President Karolos Papoulias.

At the site of a massacre which on 3 October,

1943 cost the lives of 93 innocent people — elderly and minors in their majority including several Jews — the German leader laid a wreath paying respects and addressed the locals.

“In such places, I feel a double shame, because people who grew up within the German civilization became killers. I feel shame because the democratic Germany who looked into the past with a critical eye learnt so little from the guilt regarding Greece,” Gauck said. Turning to his Greek counterpart he said: “I am deeply honoured that you came with me here. I am indebted to you. The fact that we can address the past together for me is one of the greatest achievements stemming from reconciliation.”—Xinhua

## ICC finds Katanga guilty of war crimes in DRC

THE HAGUE, 8 March — The trial chamber of the International Criminal Court (ICC) on Friday found Congolese ex-militia boss Germain Katanga guilty of four counts of war crimes and one count of crimes against humanity committed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

A sentence will be rendered later. For now, the trial chamber decided by majority that Katanga was responsible as an accessory to one crime against humanity (murder) and four war crimes (murder, attacking a civilian population, destruction of property and pillaging) committed on 24 February, 2003, in the village of Bogoro. Around 300 people were killed during the massacre. According to presiding judge Bruno Cotte, it had been established beyond reasonable doubt that Katanga had made a significant contribution to the commission of the crimes by the Ngiti militia in the second Congo war.—Xinhua

## Japan to give 100,000 euro to OSCE for sending mission to Ukraine

TOKYO, 8 March — Japan will give 100,000 euro, or 14 million yen, to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe toward the cost of sending a mission to Ukraine later this month, the Foreign Ministry said on Friday. It is the first time that Japan has extended assistance to Ukraine since the ouster of President Viktor Yanukovich in February led to a crisis over control of Crimea and other areas with large Russian populations, the ministry said.

The OSCE mission will operate in the eastern and southeastern parts of Ukraine, including the Crimea region effectively controlled by Russia, to safeguard human rights of ethnic minorities and promote dialogue between pro-Kiev and pro-Moscow residents, it said. Japan takes part in the Vienna-based, 56-member OSCE, as an observer.

Kyodo News

## Campaigner pleads guilty to role in vote-buying scandal

TOKYO, 8 March — A campaigner pleaded guilty on Friday for his role in illegally providing rewards to people who worked on a lawmaker’s December 2012 general election campaign.

Masahiko Okuda, 70, admitted to the charge in the first hearing of his trial at the Tokyo District Court, becoming the latest person to plead guilty in an election fraud scandal involving hospital chain Tokushukai.

Prosecutors said during the trial that Okuda was in charge of campaign activities in the Amami district in Kagoshima Prefecture and gave daily reports about the campaign to Tokushukai founder Torao Tokuda, 76. According to the indictment, Okuda, who headed the secretariat in one of the hospitals in the Tokushukai group, conspired with others to provide about 155 million yen in cash or airline tickets to employees of the Tokushukai group who helped Takeshi Tokuda campaign for the 2012 House of Representatives election in the Kagoshima No 2 constituency.

The indictment said Okuda is also suspected of receiving 50 million yen in vote-buying funds.

Michiyo Stern, 46, was among those with whom Okuda conspired.

Stern is the older sister of Tokuda, 42, for whom they were campaigning.

Takeshi Tokuda, the son of Torao Tokuda, gave up his seat in parliament in February.

Kyodo News

## US court rejects Justice Department’s request to keep phone records longer

WASHINGTON, 8 March — A US special court has rejected the Justice Department’s request to extend storage of classified National Security Agency (NSA) phone records beyond the current five-year legal limit, according to a court order released on Friday.

The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court said the Justice Department’s attempt to authorize keeping the records longer than the legal limit “is simply unpersuasive.”

The Justice Department has argued that it needs to preserve the records for a longer period of time as evidence in several pending lawsuits over the bulk data collection programme.

“The Court has not found any case law supporting the government’s broad assertion that its duty to preserve supersedes statutory or regulatory requirements,” Judge Reggie Walton of the special court wrote in his decision.—Xinhua



*Photos show Nobiru Station on the JR Senseki Line in Higashimatsushima, Miyagi Prefecture, on 14 March, 2011 (L), three days after the Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami, and on 3 March, 2014 (R). —KYODO NEWS*

## Winter Paralympics open in Sochi with lack of foreign dignitaries

SOCHI, (Russia), 8 March — An opening ceremony with a shortage of foreign dignitaries kicked off the Sochi Winter Paralympics on Friday, after several countries chose not to send official representatives to protest host Russia’s military incursion into neighbouring Ukraine.

The United States, Britain and Canada were among the countries that did not send government representatives. The Japanese government decided Thursday to send Yoshitaka Sakurada, a senior vice minister of education, culture, sports, science and technology.

In the 10-day event at

the Black Sea resort, 547 athletes from 45 nations will compete for 72 sets of medals across five sports.

The Ukraine team said it would take part in the Games after fears that it

would boycott the event in protest to Russia’s virtual military control of Crimea, but sent only one athlete to the athletes’ parade at the Fisht Olympic Stadium.

Kyodo News



*Valeriy Sushkevich, head of Ukraine’s Paralympic committee, announces at a Press conference in Sochi, Russia, on 7 March, 2014, the Ukraine will remain in the Winter Paralympics. —KYODO NEWS*

## Mexico telecoms regulator reins in Slim and his empire

MEXICO CITY, 8 March — Mexico's telecommunications watchdog on Friday slapped regulations on Carlos Slim's telephone company America Movil and two of his financial and industrial companies, as it seeks to rein in the multi-billionaire and boost competition.

Mexico is trying to open up its phone and TV industries following the passage last year of wide-ranging telecoms reform meant to claw back the vast market shares enjoyed by Mexico's media players.

America Movil controls about 80 percent of Mexico's fixed-line

business via its Telmex unit and some 70 percent of the mobile sector through its Telcel unit. Customers have long complained about high prices and shoddy service. As was widely expected, the Federal Telecommunications Institute (IFT) declared America Movil "dominant," meaning it has an outsized share of the market. It also banned the company from charging national roaming fees. The IFT also declared that Slim's bank Inbursa and conglomerate Grupo Carso were dominant in telecommunications because of their "economic interests" in America Movil.

"A group of economic interest is a concept used within the framework of competition ... It aims to identify all those who have the same commercial interest, and in this case they clearly form part of a group," said Gabriel Contreras, head of the IFT.

"The disincorporation of assets is not foreseen in these measures ... at this time," he added, saying that the regulations would in general be implemented in 30 days. America Movil said the regulator also imposed measures, including infrastructure sharing, regulation of interconnection fees and prohibited the company from acquiring

exclusive rights to broadcast in Mexico high profile events such as the soccer World Cup finals.

Last year, America Movil secured rights on all media platforms to broadcast the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. America Movil shares, which are down 15 percent so far this year compared with an 8.9 percent fall in Mexico's IPC index, were flat for most of the day, but closed 1.57 percent lower. Both Inbursa and Grupo Carso said they were analyzing the IFT's decision and would provide details on the steps they would take in response. Inbursa shares closed down 0.74 percent,



Mexican billionaire Carlos Slim speaks during the presentation of a digital platform, which was created in partnership with the Carlos Slim Foundation and online course platform Coursera, inside Soumaya museum in Mexico City on 29 Jan, 2014 file photo.

REUTERS

while Grupo Carso fell 0.91 percent. The rulings on Carso and Inbursa surprised many analysts, who took the action to mean that

the IFT, which was given tough new powers under the reform, was serious about going after Slim.

Reuters



HI Corp unveils a lifeboat that it says can save people from tsunami resulting from an earthquake at its plant in Aioi, Hyogo Prefecture, western Japan, on 5 March, 2014.—KYODO NEWS

## EU scientists say car coolant rejected by Daimler is safe

BRUSSELS, 8 March — EU scientists have found that the new car coolant at the centre of a dispute that has pitched regulators against Germany and its luxury carmaker Daimler does not pose any serious safety risks, the European Commission said on Friday.

The Commission, the EU executive, has launched legal proceedings against Germany over Daimler's refusal to stop using an old-style coolant that has global warming potential more than 1,000 times greater than that of carbon dioxide.

The suggested substitute, which has roughly the same impact as carbon dioxide, is the R1234yf coolant developed by US conglomerate Honeywell in partnership with Dupont. Daimler says that the substitute can emit a toxic gas when it burns, but its refusal to use the product has placed it in breach of an

EU law that requires new cars to use coolants with a global warming potential no more than 150 times that of carbon dioxide.

In what it described as "a confidence-building measure", the Commission asked the Joint Research Council (JRC), set up to provide impartial scientific advice for policymakers, to carry out a new assessment of R1234yf.

"There is no evidence of a serious risk in the use of this refrigerant in mobile

air-conditioning systems under normal and foreseeable conditions of use," the JRC concluded in its report published on Friday.

Daimler issued a statement saying that the research was "too restrictive". The carmaker said that its preferred option is to develop air-conditioning systems that use carbon dioxide as a refrigerant. Development of such a system, however, could take years.

Reuters



A C-class by Daimler AG is pictured before the company's annual news conference in Stuttgart on 6 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

## NASA selects 10 proposals for first twin astronaut study

WASHINGTON, 8 March — US space agency NASA said on Friday it has selected 10 proposals for an "unprecedented" twin astronaut study to understand better the effects of space microgravity on the human body. "NASA's Human Research Programme (HRP) will fund 10 short-term, first-of-its-kind

investigations into the molecular, physiological and psychological effects of spaceflight in a continuous effort to reduce the health impacts of human space exploration," the US space agency said in a statement.

"The National Space Biomedical Research Institute is partnering with HRP to provide genetic

counseling and assisting in the management of the research," it said. The selected investigations will occur during veteran astronaut Scott Kelly's yearlong spaceflight, the longest space mission ever assigned to a NASA astronaut, aboard the International Space Station beginning March 2015. His identical twin brother, retired astronaut Mark Kelly, will live out his normal life on Earth during Scott's one-year mission.

Scott, who flew two space shuttle flights and a six-month space station mission, will have a cumulative duration of 540 days in low-Earth orbit at the end of his one-year mission aboard the orbiting outpost. Mark, who flew four space shuttle flights, has a cumulative duration of 54 days in low-Earth orbit.—Xinhua



## Germany to invest proceeds from frequency sales in broadband

BERLIN, 8 March — German Infrastructure Minister Alexander Dobrindt said on Friday Berlin will invest the proceeds of planned sales of frequency bands to mobile telephone services in broadband infrastructure expansion.

Germany's right-left coalition government aims to have broadband of at least 50 megabits a second available across the country by 2018, up from a coverage level of 60 percent. For the upgrade an estimated 20 to 34 billion euros is necessary.

Reuters

## Extreme weather causes huge damage of trees in Britain

LONDON, 8 March — Extreme weather in last winter has caused huge damage of trees in Britain, while the country is also facing the biggest tree losses in the past 20 years, new research released on Friday showed. High winds and extreme weather throughout the winter have seen some places lose hundreds of trees, including many valued ancient trees, according to the research of National Trust.

Surveyed with gardeners, rangers and fosters across the country, the research said the losses of trees have been the greatest in more than two decades. The organization, which

cares for 25,000 hectares (61,776 acres) of woodland across England, Wales and Northern Ireland, said many of the lost trees were blown over rather than snapped off due to the saturated ground conditions.

The research showed the Killerton Estate in Devon has suffered some of the biggest losses, with more than 500 trees blown over by the storms, including 20 significant trees within the designed landscape. A few historically or regionally important trees have also been lost, such as a rare black walnut at Hatfield Forest, which was the largest in Essex.—Xinhua

## BUSINESS &amp; HEALTH

## Boeing reports wing cracks on 787 Dreamliners in production

NEW YORK, 8 March — Boeing Co said on Friday that “hairline cracks” had been discovered in the wings of about 40 787 Dreamliners that are in production, marking another setback for the company’s newest jet. The cracks have not been found on planes that are in use by airlines and therefore pose no safety risk, Boeing said, adding the problem also will not alter Boeing’s plans to deliver 110 787s this year.

However, Boeing said the cracks, which also occurred on the larger 787-9 model currently undergoing flight tests, could delay by a few weeks the date when airlines can take delivery of their new

planes.

The disclosure raised questions about repair costs and a possible minor increase in the weight of the plane, but did not seem to spell major trouble for Boeing, industry experts said. Wing-maker Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd notified Boeing in February of the problem, which arose after the Japanese company altered its manufacturing process. “We are discussing with Boeing how to deal with the problem,” a spokesman for Mitsubishi Heavy Industries in Tokyo said.

He was unable to comment on why the company changed the manufacturing process. Boeing, based in

Chicago, said it immediately notified customers of potential delays. It said none of the jets potentially affected by the problem has been delivered. “We are confident that the condition does not exist in the in-service fleet,” Boeing spokesman Doug Alder said.

The US regulator said it is aware of the situation. “The FAA will work with Boeing to ensure that the issues are corrected before the airplanes are delivered,” the Federal Aviation Administration said in a statement. Boeing shares fell 54 cents, or 0.4 percent, to \$128.00 in after-hours trading.

The cracks are the latest trouble for the



A 787 Dreamliner being built for India Air is pictured at South Carolina Boeing final assembly building in North Charleston, South Carolina on 19 Dec, 2013.

REUTERS

Dreamliner, a high-tech jet largely made of carbon-fiber composite that has been beset with so-called “teething issues” since

entering service in 2011, three years behind schedule. Last year, lithium-ion batteries overheated on two Dreamliners, prompting

regulators to ground the worldwide fleet for more than three months while Boeing redesigned the battery system. —Reuters

## Nurse numbers, education linked to patient death rate

NEW YORK, 8 March — Both the quality and quantity of nurses on a hospital staff have significant influence on the chances patients will die following even simple surgery, according to a large new study. Researchers found the proportion of staff nurses with a bachelor’s degree and the number of patients each nurse had to care for could add up to a difference of 30 percent or more in mortality rates for inpatients.

“If you go to a hospital in a developed country like the US or UK, you think you’d get equal care, but that’s really not the case,” said the study’s lead author, Linda Aiken, a professor of nursing and director of the Center for Health Outcomes and Policy Research at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

“Research suggests we haven’t really made any progress in decreasing deaths even though we’ve been spending lots of money on patient safety. We wanted to look at a potential solution, and we think that’s nursing,” she told Reuters Health.

Aiken and her team found that for every 10 percent increase in the number of staff nurses with a bachelor’s degree, there was a 7 percent lower risk of patient death within a month of being admitted to the hospital. On the other hand, boosting a nurse’s workload by one patient increased the likelihood of an inpatient dying within 30 days of admission by 7 percent. “These associations imply that patients in hospitals in which 60 percent of nurses had bachelor’s degrees and nurses cared for an average of six patients would have



almost 30 percent lower mortality than patients in hospitals in which only 30 percent of nurses had bachelor’s degrees and nurses cared for an average of eight patients,” Aiken and her colleagues write in *The Lancet*.

Their study used medical data on more than 422,000 patients over the age of 50 that had been collected between 2007 and 2009 as part of RN4CAST, an effort funded by the European Commission to gather information about

the nursing workforce from 488 hospitals in 12 European countries. Aiken’s team focused on 300 hospitals in nine European countries, including Ireland, Norway, Spain and Switzerland. The patients there had undergone common surgeries, such as an appendectomy, knee replacement surgery or gallbladder removal, which are not linked to a high risk of death but still require a stay in the hospital afterwards.

Reuters

## US trade official urges Japan’s “meaningful” opening of farm market

RICHMOND, (Virginia), 8 March — Senior US trade official Wendy Cutler urged Japan on Friday to remove tariffs on its sensitive agricultural produce in a way that is “meaningful” to both sides in negotiations for a Pacific free trade pact.

Cutler made the call that could be taken as a sign of flexibility, prioritizing US benefits over sticking to its demand Japan lift all tariffs in the sector, ahead of bilateral talks for the envisioned Trans-Pacific Partnership deal.

The United States will

“look to Japan to provide meaningful market access for our agricultural exports in the ranging sectors,” the acting deputy US trade representative said in a lecture in Richmond, Virginia.

“Right now we are focused on working with them (Japan) to craft a market access deal that provides meaningful market access,” Cutler told reporters after the lecture.

Cutler and Hiroshi Oe, Japan’s deputy chief TPP negotiator, will represent each country in the talks planned for Tuesday and Wednesday aimed at

bridging gaps over Japan’s plan to keep tariffs on sensitive farm produce as an exception in the TPP.

“Big gaps remain,” Cutler said in the lecture, referring to Japan’s tariffs on five agricultural product categories — rice, wheat, beef and pork, dairy products and sugar.

When Japan expressed its interest in joining the TPP, the United States was encouraged that Japan was seriously considering reforms in their agriculture sector to make it more competitive, Cutler said. But “Japanese negotiators

have been extremely cautious in moving forward,” she said.

Sharp differences between Japan and the United States over market access as well as automobile trade have been an obstacle to the early signing of a TPP that the USTR says would account for around 40 percent of global gross domestic product.

Japan, the United States and 10 other countries have struggled for the goal after missing the primary deadline at the end of last year.

Kyodo News

## New hemophilia drugs aim to simplify treatment

LOS ANGELES, 8 March — For 33-year-old video editor and hemophilia patient Travis Roop, being able to get life-saving infusions of a blood clotting agent every two weeks, instead of rushing to treat a bleeding episode, meant he could jog for the first time.

Roop was enrolled in a clinical trial testing a long-acting treatment for hemophilia B from Denmark’s Novo Nordisk.

The therapy is one of several new blood clotting agents in development that will help hemophilia patients cut by half, or more, the number of regular intravenous infusions they need to prevent traumatic bleeding in their daily lives.

“It was amazing actually. It was a life-changing experience,” said Roop, who lives in the Los Angeles area. “I always avoided trauma to my left ankle ...

With this, I knew it would take care of itself.”

People with hemophilia have a fault in a gene that regulates the body’s production of proteins called clotting factors. This can cause spontaneous bleeding as well as severe bleeding following injuries or surgery.

To avoid joint damage and other complications, patients with severe forms of the disease need regular infusions, lasting 30 minutes or more, of relatively short acting and very expensive clotting factors.

The number of infusions and their volume depends on the medical status of each patient and their body weight. Since the gene is carried on the X chromosome, hemophilia is almost entirely a disease of men. But women can pass the gene to their offspring.

Reuters



Hemophilia patient Travis Roop is shown during his 2012 visit to Zion National Park in Utah, in this photo released to Reuters on 26 Feb, 2014. For Roop, being able to get life-saving infusions of a blood clotting agent every two weeks, instead of rushing to treat a bleeding episode, meant he could jog for the first time.

REUTERS

## PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 9 March, 2014

## Enough Laws, no action to make rice exports profitable

Of all the rice produced in Myanmar, only 4 percent is of export quality. The government has scrapped the 8 percent commercial tax on export of agricultural produce including rice, but it has yet to support the modernization of rice mills. Many reforms have taken place to benefit the agricultural sector, but that has not led to much profit. The government has given green light to export unlimited amounts of rice to foreign countries, something that

was restricted in the past.

Import and production of fertilizer, pesticides and agricultural machinery are also exempted from commercial tax in order to develop the agricultural sector.

The country has seen an increase in rice exports since the new government carried out reforms. The export of rice and broken rice increased from 537,000 tons in the 2010-2011 Fiscal Year to 844,000 tons in the 2011-2012 FY, and stood at 1.45 million tons in the 2012-2013 FY.

But with only 4 percent high-quality rice, earnings from rice exports were lower than expected. If the country is really willing to improve the quality of rice, it must upgrade its existing rice mills, construct modern mills and modern garages, modern machinery to produce value-added products.

Construction of modern rice mills is playing an important role in improving the quality of rice to meet international standards.

However, those are challenges that cannot be

tackled solely by the private sector. It is very difficult to get short-term and long-term loans from banks to construct rice mills. The land price is much higher than the cost a mill, representing a great challenge to businessmen. A modern rice mill costs between K 100 million to K 500 million. Insufficient power supply is also a problem among many others.

It is impossible for private businessmen to tackle the challenges without a helping hand from the government. The government's policy should not be "NATO-no actions, talking only." The government's approach to developing the agricultural sector needs to be pragmatic, and improved quality of rice will be just one of the many benefits.

### 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.

## Tabaung Fullmoon Day commemorates the Buddha's Return to Kapilavatthu

Tabaung (March) is the last Month of Myanmar Lunar calendar. It is the month of transition between cold season [Heiman] and warm season [Geminan]. So in daytime at is warm and at night it is still chilly. Hence Myanmar old saying goes “နေ့ပူလို့ ညချမ်း၊ တခေါင်းလ သရမ်း” [Days are warm and nights are chilly, Tabaung is the month so unruly].

Tabaung is regarded as the Queen of all twelve months because it is the beginning of Myanmar spring time, ushering a new life. The entire natural surrounding bursts forth all its beauties and splendours—sky and clouds change their colours and designs, wood Lands put on all hues, foliage bears a variety of green, brooks float away fallen leaves of copper and gold. Lakes turn emerald green or sapphire blue cuckoos sing to herald summer, doves coo ceaselessly to prepare for their mating games. Sparrows are busy with repair and renovation of their nests in anticipation of the coming monsoon. Swarm of wasps and bees buzz around wild flowers while butterflies flutter away with the nectar they have gathered early. As the sun declines, dark blue mountains appear behind the veil of haze. There comes the smell of farm fire burning somewhere. At dusk sweat fragrance of seasonal flora is wafted by the gentle breeze. Nature's night life begins as the waxing Tabaung moon gradually climbs above tree-tops. Cacophony of cicada insects creates ceric atmosphere. It is as though their incessant sounds ac-

company the dainty movements of the ripples in the lakes. The whole nocturnal scene is caressed by the silvery moonbeams. Tabaung is poetic.

Originally spelt and pronounced Ta-paung, meaning the month in which all yearnings, longings, reminiscences, and fond memories emerge together. As the month is so beautiful and pleasant that one recalls one's sweet memories, one longs for or yearns for one's loved ones.

It is about poetic month Tabaung that Myanmar poets of all Myanmar historic periods had versified and have been versifying their short, medium and long epic poems, and compose romantic music and songs. It was about Tabaung that Saint monk Ashin Kaludayi composed his famous epic poem of 64 stanzas in Pali to request persuasively the Lord Buddha to take a long land journey on a foot path through the glades of the Himalayan ranges in spring-time to Kapilavatthu which was the Kingdom of his royal father King Sudhodana.

After renouncing his mundane life at the court, Prince Sidhartha became a recluse and wandered in the forest in quest of truth [Dhamma]. Having passed six years of practicing austerities he discovered the middle way by which he finally became enlightened and attained Buddha hood. During that long period of time, all his relatives, and people had not seen him nor heard of him. They all were longing to know where he was and to see him again they only got the news that Sidhartha was still alive and had become a great Rishi

[Hermit].

The living Buddha, at that time was residing in Weiluwun Vihara [monastery] in the city of Yazagyo [Rajagraha] and preaching his dhamma to the peoples of Anga and Mugadha kingdoms. Yazagyo was 60 yuzanas away from Kapilavatthu, [one yuza = 12.72 miles].

When the King know where abouts of his son, he sent one by one ten senior knights, each with ten thousand followers, an assignment of inviting the son Buddha to return home, as he, all relatives and the entire people were longing to see him after six years of his absence. All ten senior knights, each upon seeing the Buddha and after hearing his Dhamma, became Arahat Saint monk and never returned to Kapilavatthu, thereby forgetting their assigned duties.

King Sudhodana was disappointed with the failures of their assigned duties and almost gave up his hope of seeing his son again. He looked always dejected and sad. One day, a junior knight name Kaludayi who was also one of the birth mates of Prince Sidhartha, seeing his royal master's sad face, deign to ask what the cause of royal sadness was and offered his faithful service to the master King if he (Kaludayi) could remove that cause. The King explained him what had happened to the ten senior knights sent on missions to his son Buddha. Kaludayi promised the King that he would carry out the duty of inviting the Buddha to return to Kapilavatthu, no matter what happened to him, as he wanted to prove that he was the

King's faithful servant and true birth mate of the Buddha. Because of his insistent request the King sent him to the Buddha to invite.

Like other previous ten senior knights, Kaludayi also became Arahat Saint monk after he listened to the Buddha's dhamma. But he never forgot his assignment. He waited for appropriate time, proper place and favourable circumstances to invite the Buddha to return home. It was on the full-moon day of the month of Tabaung in the Maha Sakarrit year of 103 that Ashin Kaludayi carried out his assignment. He knew that appropriate time, proper place and favourable circumstances had arrived for it was a spring time, the Himalayan forest was the proper place and that the Buddha in restful jina was the favourable circumstances. So Ashin Kaludayi composed 64 stanzas of his epic poem in Pali gathas, extolling the pleasant natural landscape of the Himalayan Forests in spring time, persuasively inviting the Buddha to take a long land journey on the foot path through the glades to return to Kapilavatthu to see his royal father King Sodhodana and relatives.

Every word and every line of his epic poem paints the sky-scape, land-scape and aquatic-scape of nature in Tabaung Spring with his literary skill, poetic imagery rhymes and rhythms, saying that it was the right time and opportune moment to go to Kapilavatthu. Ashin Kaludayi chanted his poem within the hearing of the Lord Buddha.

Lord Buddha knew that Saint monk was carrying out his duty assignment he had

## Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja Sithu Dr Khin Maung Nyunt

received as junior knight, and that he was right in painting out that time, place and circumstances were most favourable to take a long journey on the foot path through the glades. So with twenty thousand disciple saint monks Lord Buddha set out on the first waning moon day of Tabaung in the Maha Sakarrit year 103. Between Yazagyo and Kapilavatthu was a distance of 60 yuzanas. The Buddha travelled one yuzana a day so it took him 60 days or two months to reach Kapilavatthu.

The beneficial results of Buddha's return to Kapilavatthu were contributing to the spread and flourish of Buddha Sasana.

To accommodate the Buddha and his 20 thousand disciple saint monks a big monastery named Nijarda yarma was built.

After listening and understanding the Buddha's teachings all Sakyar clans were freed of racial superiority complex and Paukhaya watha rain showered to welcome and praise them.

Lord Buddha narrated Vissandara Jataka with one thousand Pali of atlas to prove his successful perfection of giving. [dona parami]

The Buddha narrated Maha Dhammapala Jataka to his royal father King Sodhodana who later attained Arahalhood.

Buddha's foster mother Gotami became bhikhuni [woman monk] and later she attained from the Buddha a period of Bhikhuni Sasana.

The Buddha narrated to his former wife Jathodaya the jataka story "Sanda Keinayi".

Prince Nanda, the con-

sent of Princess Yanapada Kalayani entered monkhood.

One thousand Sakyar Princes entered monkhood.

Saint monk Ashin Kaludayi was awarded the highest renown for making all Sakyar relatives to respect and adore the Buddha as Exalted Teacher.

On the insistent requests of young son Yahu-la for patrimony from his father Gotama Buddha, the Buddha gave his patrimony by novitiating the young son in the monk order.

At the behalf of Saint monk Ashin Sariputara, the Buddha preached Buddha vamsa.

In Myanmar history and literature Kaludayi is epic poem of 64 stanzas was the most favourite and the best model for all writers and composers. To cite but a few are Shwe Set Taw Thwa Tawla by Shin Uta-ma Kyaw, Galtha chauk Sei Pyo by Shin Ohn Nyo of Inwa Period, Weithan-daya Zat Taw Gyi by Min-bu Sayadaw U Aubatha, Sone Natha Myaing Shar Pone Daw Gyi by Taung-dwin Gyi Saya Kyaw, let alone many other literary pieces.

Besides, Tabaung is the month for holding traditions festival of Sand Pagoda and the Tabaung Festival of Shwedagon Pagoda 103 Buddhist Era in Yangon. It was on the full-moon day of Tabaung that the two merchant brothers Taphusa and Balika enshrined in this Pagoda eight stands of sacred hair relics from the head of the Buddha they received on the fullmoon day of Kason (May) in that year 103 Buddhist Era.



**NATIONAL**

**Myanmar Marketing Forum 2014 took place**



Opening of the Myanmar Marketing Forum 2014 in progress at National Indoor Stadium in Yangon.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 8 March—Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint formally opened the Myanmar Marketing Forum 2014 on Saturday at National Indoor Stadium in Yangon.

In his speech, the Un-

ion Minister said that marketing is play an crucial role in the development of economic sector in Myanmar and the country's market is getting fine thanks to the government's reform processes.

He added that the

ASEAN economic community in 2015 is drawing near. If 2015 AEC emerges in Myanmar, the country will create the giant market so the entrepreneurs should attempt to export more quality products of the nation to the neighbouring

countries, he stressed.

The experts led by Professor Philip Kotler gave talks under the title of "Myanmar Marketing Forum" and Professor Dr Aung Tun Thet acted as an announcer at the forum.

MNA

**Union minister makes field trip in Ayeyawady Region, Rakhine State for rural development tasks**

NAY PYI TAW, 8 March—Farmlands in the region are damaged due to inundation and flood in rainy season yearly. Locals need to operate livestock breeding to increase their income. Rural areas will develop rapidly if locals participate in regional development task, said Union Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development U Ohn Myint at a meeting with local people in Tetseik Village, Yekyi Township of Ayeyawady

Region on 7 March.

The Union minister then arrived in Bayda Village in Gwa Township, Rakhine State where he together with Rakhine State Minister for Road Transportation U Hla Han made a field trip for rural development tasks.

He fulfilled requirements on construction and upgrading of inter-village roads and availability of water and solar panel in rural areas.

MNA

**Global Financial Markets and Treasury Business Seminar held**

YANGON, 8 March—Global Financial Markets and Treasury Business Seminar was held at the hall of Yangon Institute of Economics-YIE in Yangon on Saturday with an opening address by Asia and Oceania Division Joint General Manger Mr. Takuya Ito of MIZUHO Bank., Ltd.

Mr. Tetsuro Nonaka, Chief Representative of MIZUHO Bank., Ltd clarified the global financial markets and treasury business to the students and

faculty members of YIE.

This seminar will be continued at the same venue on 10 March.

The MIZUHO Bank Ltd is operating global financial market and treasury business in over 30 countries around the world.

The preliminary meeting of global financial markets and treasury business of MIZUHO Bank., Ltd took place at Sedona Hotel in Yangon on 7 March.

MNA

**Workshop on federalism held**

NAY PYI TAW, 8 March—A workshop on federalism organized by Hanns Seidel Foundation of Germany took place at Golden Palace Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on Saturday morning.

After the speeches of the Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Hla

Myint Oo and Dr Susanne Luther, the Director the Institute for Internal Cooperation of the Foundation, altogether 50 representatives from Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw and officials and experts of the Foundation participated in the discussion.

The workshop continues tomorrow.—MNA

**Myanmar named World Best Tourist Destination for 2014**

YANGON, 8 March—According to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, the European Union Council on Tourism and Trade has recently decided to present the Award for World Best Tourist Destination for 2014 to Myanmar.

The award is aimed at boosting Myanmar tourism and promote tourist attractions in the country which are famed for their unique cultural heritage not only in Asia but in the world. The letter sent by the EU Council to the ministry said Myanmar will be declared as Favorite Cultural Destination for 2014.

The World Best Tourist Destination Award is one of the highest accolades in the travel and tourism industry in the world. The award is chosen depending on ethics for tourism industry, safety of tourists and preservation of cultural heritages designated by the United Nations Tourism Division, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and European Union Council on Tourism and Trade. The presentation of World Best Tourist Destination Award started in 2007.

MNA

**Public announcement**

1. Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications announces that phone bills have not been paid by some landline phones users up until 28 February 2012.
2. It is hereby announced that unpaid bills at respective bill collecting counters must be paid no later than 23 March, 2014.
3. These landline phone services will be available again after old bills are settled.
4. Landlines will be cut off if no payment is made during the described period and further measures will be carried out in accordance with rules and regulations.
5. A list of landlines with phone bills that need to be settled is available on www.mcit.gov.mm of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications and at phone tax sections of MPT's Region/State Manager Offices. For further information, contact the following numbers.

**Contact numbers in regions and states**

1. Nay Pyi Taw	067 420052
2. Kachin State	074 22478
3. Kayah State	083 21061
4. Kayin State	058 22560
5. Chin State	070 21315
6. Sagaing Region	071 22214
7. Taninthayi Region	059 23632
8. Bago Region (East)	05221296
9. Bago Region (West)	05325024
10. Magway Region	063 26490
11. Mandalay Region	02 64644
12. Mon State	057 24234
13. Rakhine State	043 21153
14. Yangon Region	01 250777
15. Shan State (South)	081 2121564
16. Shan State (North)	082 25509
17. Shan State (East)	084 21163
18. Ayeyawady Region	042 24884
19. Yangon (Head Office)	
Auto phones	01 370703
	01 370708
	01 370416
GSM	01 246248
CDMA	01 254563
ADSL/E-mail	01 256139

Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications



Dr Susanne Luther, Director the Institute for Internal Cooperation of the Foundation takes part in the workshop.—MNA

## Union ministers discuss education reforms, bill

NAY PYI TAW, 8 March—Reforms of Myanmar's education system were discussed for a second day on March 6 by Union Ministers who are working on drafting a national education bill.

A wide range of related topics were discussed, including the standard of education in primary and

high schools as well as the development of schools in rural areas. Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo chaired the meeting, saying all points agreed on will be taken into consideration when drafting the bill.

Union Minister for Education Dr Daw Khin San Yi said that the draft

national education bill will be submitted to the parliaments, and if approved the Ministry of Education will implement the reform processes in 2014-2015 FY.

About 590 officials, experts and other parties concerned have taken part in discussions on how to reform the education system.—MNA



**RIGHT DOWN TO THE FIELDS:** Photo shows agriculturists making a field trip to the 3000-acre advanced farmland near Hotel Zone in Dekkhinathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw on 7 March and checking the quality of paddy field for development of agriculture sector and improving the lives of farmers.

KO POUK (OKKAMYE)

## Japan and Myanmar discuss cooperation in transport sector

NAY PYI TAW, 8 March—Officials from Japan and Myanmar met on Saturday in Yangon to discuss details of a Memorandum of Understanding signed in November

2012 on cooperation in developing the transport sector.

The seminar focused on river transport, with Union Minister U Nyan Tun Aung stressing that in

land water transport plays a vital role for commodity transportation. He said the outcome of the seminar would help the Ministry of Transport to draw a master plan for the development of the sector. The seminar was jointly organized by the Ministry and the Japan International Transport Institute (JITI).—MNA

## Stimulant tablets, arms worth K 337,500 seized in Tachilek Tsp



TACHILEK, 8 March—Police in Tachilek Township in Shan State searched a car on March 7 following a tipoff, seizing more than 100 stimulant tablets, a gun and ammunition worth K 337,500.

Officials said a team of the Tachilek Township Anti-Drug Squad and several witnesses met at a checkpoint, with police stopping a car driven by a man iden-

tified as Kyaboshe who was heading for Tachilek from Minehsa. They seized 135 WY brand pink stimulant tablets, a pistol and 42 bullets.

Tachilek Myoma Police Station has filed a lawsuit against the suspect under Section 15/ 19 (A), 22 (B) of the Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Myintmo (Tachilek)



Owner of Yegyi Myanmar Restaurant U Aung Myint Tun and wife Daw Aye Aye Lwin and family residing in Paunglaung Ward, Pyinmana Township offered K 12.5 million to Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tisa (Sasana Dhaja Dhammsariya) for construction of new three-storey building in Maha Dhammicayarma Ohntaw Pariyatti Sarthintaik in Ywakauk Ward, Pyinmana Township on 7 March.—Ko Ko YUPA

## Loans disbursed to illuminate villages in

### Kyaukse Tsp

KYAUKSE, 8 March—A ceremony to present over K 50 million to illuminate

### Groundnut growers meet losses

SINGU, 8 March—Insects disturbed cold season groundnut plantations in Singu in PynOoLwin District causing falling yield.

“In this cold season, farmers faced with losses in their work due to high costs and could fetch only low prices”, said a local people. However fallen the yield, farmers cultivate groundnuts to get food for their cows.

Lack of new technology and equipment is one of the hindrances for farmers. So they inspire to get knowledge on agricultural sector.

Win Maung (Singu)

Mine Pan Village tract in Kyaukse in Mandalay Region and meeting of cooperative societies aiming at achieving success in doing business was held on Friday in Kyaukse.

At the meeting, Director-General U Aung Phyu from the Cooperatives Department made clarification on activities of the department urging the cooperative members to work hand-in-

hand and replied to queries raised by members.

The Director-General presented K 50.3 million to officials for illuminating the village tract. In the past, only 105 households in the village tract can use electricity. Now, due to the further loan, remaining residents from over 400 households will soon be able to enjoy electricity.

Tun Tun Naing (Kyaukse)



## Shwepyi-Taunginn-Htonegyi village road under construction

SINGU, 8 March—Under the arrangement of the Mandalay Region government, Shwepyi-Taunginn-Htonegyi village road

in Singu Township in Mandalay Region is constructed for proper flow of commodity. The region government allotted K 80

million in 2012-2013 fiscal year and K 495.74 million in 2013-2014 fiscal year for building roads.

Win Maung



## Connecting road under construction in Pyinmana Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 8 March—Officials from Pyinmana Township on Friday inspected the construction of a road that will link villages in Pyinmana Township, Dekkhina District, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. Around of 6,000 people living in 1,147 houses will be benefit from the new road, which will also connect schools and health centers.

Zaw Min Lwin

## REGIONAL

## APEC, CICA meetings priorities for China's diplomacy this year

BEIJING, 8 March — China will host the CICA summit and the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting this year and both will be key priorities for China's diplomacy this year, Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Saturday.

"These two conferences focus on security and economic issues respectively, and both will be key priorities for China's diplomacy this year," Wang said at a Press conference held on the sidelines of the annual parliamentary session.

The Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) will be held in May in

Shanghai and the APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) Economic Leaders' Meeting will be held in November in Beijing.

According to Wang, CICA is an important security cooperation forum in Asia and APEC is a primary platform for discussing economic and trade cooperation in the Asia-Pacific.

"We will make the most of our role as a host country, put forward China's proposals, pool Asia's wisdom and work with participants to inject new momentum into these two mechanisms," said the minister.

At the CICA summit,

China hopes to advocate common security, cooperative security and comprehensive security, and bring into being a new Asia security concept to build a new Asia of peace, stability and cooperation, Wang said.

The APEC meeting will focus on the theme of "Shaping the future through Asia-Pacific partnership" this year, said Wang.

At the APEC meeting, China expects to make new outcomes in advancing Asia-Pacific economic integration, mapping a blueprint for connectivity, and promoting economic innovation and development, said Wang.—Xinhua



A stay-at-home girl paints a portrait for her teacher in Hefei, capital of east China's Anhui Province, on 7 March, 2014. To greet the International Women's Day on 8 March, a primary school in Hefei organized a painting activity on Friday, in which stay-at-home children painted portraits for the teachers that helped them a lot in their daily life when their parents as migrant workers were away.

XINHUA

## Thai premier faces more political pressure as protests continue

BANGKOK, 8 March — Thai caretaker Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra faced more political pressure on Friday when the Office of Ombudsman decided to forward a university professor's petition to nullify the general election to the Constitutional Court and another court ruled she must reinstate the chief of the National Security Council. The Ombudsman, which accepts complaints related to government agencies, announced its decision to forward the petition to the Constitutional Court to rule on the validity of the 2 February election.

University law lecturer Kittipong Kamoltham-mawong filed the complaint with the Ombudsman saying that because the election could not be held in 28 constituencies on 2 February it could have

violated the Constitution that indicates an election must be held on the same day across the country.

The lecturer also cited the changing of registration venues and the limited election campaign under a state of emergency as other possible reasons to rule the election invalid. The Constitutional Court is to meet soon to decide whether or not to accept the petition.

In a second blow Friday, the Supreme Administrative Court ruled Yingluck must reinstate former National Security Council chief Thawil Pliansri.

He was removed from office after Yingluck won election as prime minister.

The court said the order removing Thawil was unlawful and told the premier to reinstate him within 45 days. After becoming premier, Yingluck issued

an order moving Thawil to an inactive position and replaced him with a former police chief for several months before appointing Paradon Pattanathabutr as NSC chief.

Paradon is known as a strong supporter of Yingluck's older brother, ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

Yingluck has tried to reduce the political pressure in Bangkok by taking trips to the north and north-east provinces, but she returned to Bangkok on Friday to meet with military chiefs.

"I don't want to be the target or challenge people (in Bangkok), so I choose to perform my duty in other provinces, I do not abandon my work," she said on her return to the capital.

Local media, which has been rife with rumors

of a rift between her and the military chiefs, said Yingluck discussed a leadership reshuffle within the military. The meeting was not open to the press.

Elsewhere, the antigovernment protests in Bangkok led by former Deputy Prime Minister Suthep Thaugsuban continued to target government agencies and businesses involved with Yingluck's family.

The protesters also filed a petition to the Constitutional Court asking it to rule the government's caretaker status invalid 30 days after the election was held. The antigovernment protests began in November after the lower house of parliament passed an amnesty bill Yingluck's opponents said was aimed at benefiting her brother.

Kyodo News

## Indian president greets women on eve of International Women's Day

NEW DELHI, 8 March — Indian President Pranab Mukherjee on Friday extended greetings and good wishes to all women of this country on the eve of International Women's Day.

"On the occasion of the International Women's Day, I extend warm greetings and good wishes to women in all parts of our country. I thank them for their invaluable contribution in the making of our great nation," President Mukherjee said in a statement.

He added "Women in India have attained greatness through the ages — in political, academic and spiritual spheres. They enjoyed freedom and equal participation in public life in ancient India. Not only does the constitution grant equality to women, but also empowers the state to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favor of women."

The Indian president also asserted about the safety of women, saying "Women should be provided a safe, secure and congenial environment in which their talents can flower and they can contribute their full share in the building of our nation. On this International Women's Day, let us resolve to redouble our efforts for the protection and welfare of women." —Xinhua

## India says economy more stable, current account deficit to be contained below 40 bln USD

NEW DELHI, 8 March — India said on Friday that its economy "is more stable" than it was one-and-a-half years ago and the current account deficit (CAD) would be contained below 40 billion US dollars.

"The economy certainly is more stable today than what it was 18 months ago. That is reflected in the strengthening of the rupee, that is reflected in heightened interest of investors, both foreign direct investments and foreign institutional investors," Indian Finance Minister P Chidambaram told the media in the national capital.

He added "On the CAD, the budget speech says it will be contained below 45 billion US dollars. Today, 23 days before the end of the year, we can say confidently that the CAD will be contained at below say 40 billion US dollars."

The CAD, the excess of foreign exchange outflows over inflows, came down to 26.9 billion US dollars in the first half of fiscal year 2013-14 from 37.9 billion US dollars in the first half of 2012-13.

Xinhua

## Gov't to appoint 1st female chief for National Personnel Authority

TOKYO, 8 March — The government has decided to promote National Personnel Authority Commissioner Nahomi Ichimiya as the first woman to head the nation's personnel agency, government sources said on Saturday.

Ichimiya, 65, will replace Tsuneo Hara, 69, who will complete his term as president of the agency in April.—Kyodo News



Waitresses on high speed train take part in a serving amenity competition ahead of the International Women's Day in southwest China's Chongqing municipality, on 7 March, 2014. —XINHUA



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EEPC India will bring over 100 Indian engineering exporters to its 28th INDEE (India Engineering Exhibition) in Yangon, Myanmar from 13 to 15 March 2014.

INDEE Myanmar 2014 will provide a platform for discussing the possibilities of joint ventures and investments in infrastructure, agriculture, health care, power generation special solar power, mining, etc.

INDEE Myanmar 2014 will have Indian exhibitors from the following engineering sectors: Automotive components; Bicycle and parts; Electrical machinery and apparatus; Lifting and handling equipment and parts; Agricultural machinery and implements; Textile machinery and parts; Construction equipment and parts; Food processing machinery and parts; Steel rolling mills; Other general-purpose machinery and parts; Other special-purpose machinery and parts; Hand and cutting tools; Machine tools; Pumps and valves; Tableware, kitchen ware and domestic appliances; Non-ferrous metals and products thereof; Castings and forgings; and Basic metal products

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### Yemen names new ministers in limited cabinet reshuffle

SANAA, 8 March — Yemeni President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi on Friday appointed new oil minister, interior minister and chief of national intelligence in a limited cabinet reshuffle, local media reported.

Hadi appointed Khaled Bahah as minister of oil and minerals after the predecessor resigned last month. Former Interior Minister Abdulkadir Qahtan was replaced by Brigadier General Abdou Hussein al-Tarb, head of the security service.

Hadi also replaced the long-time chief of National Intelligence Brigadier General Ghaleb al-Kamish with Major General Jalal al-Rowaishan, undersecretary of Yemen's national security bureau. The former oil minister and interior minister were appointed as ambassadors. The limited cabinet reshuffle came after a 10-month national reconciliation dialogue that lasted from March last year to late January.—Xinhua



People take photos of flowers at the 2014 Hong Kong Flower Show in Victoria Park in Hong Kong, south China, on 7 March, 2014. The flower show will be held from on 7 to 16 March, exhibiting over 350,000 flowers.—XINHUA

### Saudi Arabia lists terrorist groups

RIYADH, 8 March — Saudi Arabia on Friday listed the Muslim Brotherhood of ousted former Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi and two Syrian jihadist groups, Al-Nusra Front and Daash, as terrorist organizations, local media reported.

It also slated the Shiite Houthi group fighting in north Yemen and a Hezbollah group in the Hijaz as terrorist groups.

The country's Interior

Ministry said that the list will be regularly updated to tackle terrorism inside the kingdom. TV reports said that Saudi Arabia also ordered nationals fighting abroad, including those in Syria, to return within 15 days, or face legal punishments.

Saudi King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud issued an order last month to imprison Saudis between three to 20 years who are

fighting abroad or belonging to a "terrorist group."

The order also covers members of local, regional and international "extreme religious and terrorist groups." Supporting such organizations or offering financial assistances will also incur imprisonment. Convicted military personnel in particular will be sentenced to up to 30 years. The order will come into force as of 9 March.—Xinhua

### S African police officers suspended over brutality scandal

CAPE TOWN, 8 March — Police officers who were allegedly involved in a brutality scandal have been suspended, authorities said on Friday.

The two officers were caught in a video showing them torturing a man on a street in Cape Town on Thursday. The video, captured by a bystander, went viral on the internet, sparking public outrage.

In the video, the officers tears off the clothes of an unarmed man, leaving him naked and vulnerable in public. Then the officers pushes, chokes, punches and kicks him in the groin repeatedly.

"I welcome the swift action of Western Cape Police Commissioner, General Arno Lamoer in suspending those officers involved," said Dan Plato, Western Cape MEC (member of executive council) of Community Safety.

"General Lamoer's immediate suspension of the SAPS (South African Police Service) officers and the opening of criminal charges against the officers

is commendable. It shows that this type of behavior will not be tolerated in the South African Police Service and has no place in a constitutional democracy," Plato said.

The Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID) will still need to do a full independent investigation into this matter, he said.

Plato encouraged the public to report any police wrongdoings. "The police are there to protect us, and if they fail to do so, we must speak up."

"What South Africa needs is a police service that is community oriented and accountable to the public. We live in a free and democratic society and the arrest of a citizen for filming an officer committing a crime can and must never be tolerated," Plato said.

Earlier, the opposition Democratic Alliance (DA) said people in South Africa "are tired in living in fear of both criminals and a hand full of thuggish police officers".

Xinhua

ENTERTAINMENT

## Sunny Leone: Would love to have babies

MUMBAI, 8 March — Indo-Canadian adult film star-turned-actress Sunny Leone, who is in her life's "best phase", says she would love to experi-

Sunny, who is married to Daniel Weber, says the choice of working post motherhood depends on an individual. "I am married now and maybe I

will have children and continue with my work even after that. We are in 2014. It's an individual experience and an individual decision (to work after having

married Weber in 2011. Sunny's tryst with the Indian entertainment industry started with the reality show Bigg Boss 5. It was during her stint on the show that she received her first Bollywood offer — the 2012 film Jism 2.

She says making a place here has been tough. "It is difficult because the industry is new for me. It's difficult because you don't know what is right and what is wrong. Are they the right people? Or are they going to take advantage of you? All these questions are always there, but you have to believe that your decision is the right one," Sunny said. "I feel business and entertainment are similar no matter wherever you work," said the actress, who will soon be seen in the horror film Ragini MMS 2. — PTI



Still of the film "Need for Speed".—XINHUA

## American film "Need for Speed" to hit Chinese screens

BEIJING, 8 March — 2014 American action film "Need for Speed" is set to hit Chinese screens on 14<sup>th</sup> March.

The film is directed by Scott Waugh and stars Aaron Paul, Dominic Cooper, Imogen Poots and Scott Waugh. It is an adaptation of the Need for Speed

series of video games by Electronic Arts.

The film tells the story of street racer Tobey Marshall (portrayed by Aaron Paul) who is released from prison for a crime that he didn't commit and tries to avenge the death of his friend Pete.

Xinhua



## Jared Leto on Jennifer's Oscar falls: Wonder if it's all an act



LOS ANGELES, 8 March — Oscar-winner Jared Leto says he is starting to wonder if actress Jennifer Lawrence's much hyped Oscar falls were a deliberate act. After her infamous tumble at last year's Oscars, the 23-year-old actress took everyone by surprise when she slipped again on the red carpet at the 86th Academy Awards, reported E!Online.

"You know, I'm starting to wonder if this is a bit of an act," Leto said. Leto, 42, who won the Best Supporting Actor for his role in Dallas Buyers Club said when Lawrence came onto the stage to present an award, she found him and his family laughing.

"She said, 'What are you laughing at?' But what she didn't know was that Ellen was on the side making motions like 'Don't fall, don't fall,' and my mom and my brother were all cracking up," he said. "I guess we don't have any manners. You can take them out of Louisiana but you can't take Louisiana out of them, right?," he added. — PTI

Jared said Jennifer asked him why he and his family were laughing.



NEW DELHI, 8 March — The King of Pop Michael Jackson allegedly fathered a lovechild according to the results of a DNA test, reports TMZ.com. Brandon Howard, a 31-year-old singer, is 99.9% likely to be MJ's illegitimate son and bears a striking resemblance to him.

Brandon was born in 1982, a year before MJ released his hit song Billie Jean, the theme of which is the singer disowning paternity of a child and which

contains the lyrics 'the kid is not my son.' Brandon's mother is gospel singer Miki Howard, nicknamed Billy, who knew MJ when he was alive.

Brandon Howard released a video on Facebook some days ago distancing himself from the DNA test and clarifying that he was making no claims on Michael Jackson's estate. Michael Jackson died in 2009 and was survived by sons Prince and Blanket and daughter Paris. —PTI



MJ is reportedly the father of a 31-year-old singer.

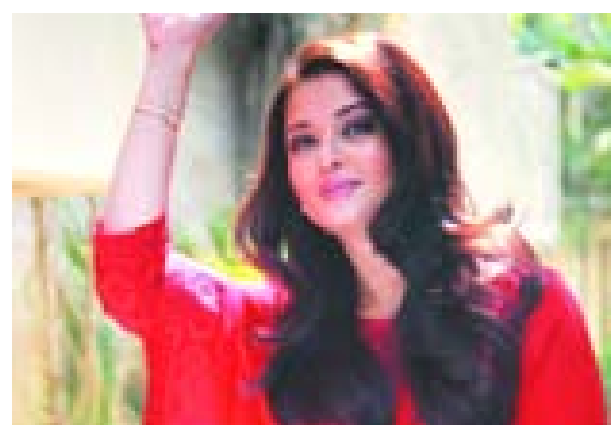
## Aishwarya Rai Bachchan most searched successful Indian woman on Google

NEW DELHI, 8 March — Bollywood actress Aishwarya Rai has topped the list of 20 most searched successful Indian women on Google followed by Vidya Balan and UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi, an official statement said.

Former Indian Police Service officer Kiran Bedi also features among the top ten, revealed a Google search trend result on

Friday. The list was revealed after a two-month analysis between January and February 2014. "On the occasion of Women's Day, Google search trends reveal who are the most searched 20 successful Indian women. Kiran Bedi is still among the top 10 most searched Indian women," a statement said.

"Two sportswomen (Saina Nehwal and boxer



MC Mary Kom), two authors (Arundhati Roy and Shobhaa De) and four politicians (J Jayalalithaa, Gandhi, Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee and BJP leader Sushma Swaraj), also made it to the top 20," the statement added.

The other names

include Nita Ambani, designer Ritu Kumar, actress Shabana Azmi, designer Neeta Lulla, filmmaker Meera Nair, producer Ekta Kapoor, PepsiCo chief Indra Nooyi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav's wife Dimple Yadav. — PTI

Ash is reportedly considering Bollywood scripts at the moment.

## Ukraine Paralympic chief says will quit Games if Russia invades



Ukraine's Paralympic chief, Valeriy Sushkevich, gestures during a news conference at Sochi Paralympic Winter Games Park, on 7 March, 2014.—REUTERS

SOCHI, (Russia), 8 March — Ukraine's Paralympic chief said on Friday his team would quit the Winter Paralympic Games if Russia invaded his home country, adding that he hoped the competition would be able to spread peace instead.

Russia is holding the Games in the Black Sea resort of Sochi at a time when it is being criticized for its actions in Ukraine's southern region of Crimea, where the West accuses Russia of seizing military and government institutions.

Moscow says the armed men in Crimea are members of local self-defence units while Putin says he has the right to send in troops to defend Russian compatriots but that so far he has seen no need to do so. "If there is an escalation of the conflict, intervention on the territory of our country, God forbid

the worst, we would not be able to stay here, we would go," Ukraine's Paralympic chief, Valeriy Sushkevich, told a news conference.

Many countries have cancelled plans to send government ministers and members of royal families to the Games because of events in Crimea, where the parliament has voted to join Russia and hold a referendum on its status on 16 March. Speaking hours before the opening ceremony, Sushkevich said he had a "calm and reserved" conversation with Putin. "I repeated my one request, the one and most important re-

quest, that before and during (the Games) there will be peace," he said, adding that the Russian leader answered that he would think about his words.

"The Ukrainian team, as well as hoping for good results, came with colossal hopes for peace, peace in our country, in Europe, in the world. I am sure .. that the majority is aware of the colossal danger to peace and the right of every person to have peace in the current situation." Putin later told International Paralympic Committee (IPC) president Philip Craven: "I very much hope the

Paralympics will help us reduce the degree of passions around Ukraine".

On Tuesday, Putin told a news conference that any boycott of the Paralympics over Ukraine would be "the height of cynicism". His spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, said that in Putin's meeting with Sushkevich on Thursday "there was discussion of the fact that a sports celebration — all the more so one like the Paralympic Games — cannot and must not be affected by ... the international agenda or politics," Interfax reported.

Reuters

### James Driscoll ties course record 63 to lead in Puerto Rico

CARY, (NC), 8 March — PGA Tour journeyman James Driscoll tied his own course record to earn a one-stroke lead after the second round of the \$3.5 million Puerto Rico Open on Friday. Driscoll had an eagle and seven birdies in a nine-under-par 63 on the Trump International course next to the Atlantic Ocean in Rio Grande, east of San Juan. "I had the putter going pretty hot today and I hit a bunch of shots pretty close too," the 36-year-old from Boston told reporters after signing for a 12-under 132 halfway total. PGA Tour rookie Chesson Hadley (65) moved into second place on 11-under, while fellow American Eric Axley (66) was alone on 10-under. New Zealander Danny Lee (68) was among a group of four players at nine-under, while first round leader Brian Stuard (71) slipped five strokes behind. A morning downpour that briefly stopped play left the course soft and at the mercy of the field, which averaged 70.23 strokes, more than a stroke better than on Thursday, despite brisk winds. Driscoll, who also shot 63 in 2011 to hold a share of the course record, is enjoying a solid season, sitting 67th on the FedEx Cup standings.

"I wasn't hitting it great off the tee but the irons were really solid, so that gave me a chance coming into these pins," he said. "The wind was blowing pretty hard out there this afternoon. From tee to green (this course) gives you a little room. If you play smart and manage your game, you don't have to hit perfect shots all day." Eighty players made the cut, which fell at one-under. —Reuters

### Four share midway lead as Blue Monster shows teeth

DORAL, (Florida), 8 March — American Hunter Mahan eagled his penultimate hole to grab a share of the halfway lead at the WGC-Cadillac Championship on Friday as the Blue Monster showed its true colors, with more than 100 golf balls ending up in the water. On a grueling day that some players described as a survival test, Mahan eagled the par five eighth in fading light for a second round of two-over 74 that left him tied for the lead with his compatriots Dustin Johnson (74), Patrick Reed (75) and Matt Kuchar (74) at one-under par.

Northern Irishmen Rory McIlroy (74) and Graeme McDowell (71), Italian Francesco Molinari (75) and Welshman Jamie Donaldson, who posted the low round of the day with a two-under 70, were all lurking one shot further back. "I felt stressed all day because I knew every shot had a big penalty written all over it, staring at bogey or worse I thought at a well struck shot," Mahan told reporters. "It was a really tough day."



Justin Rose lines up a putt on the 2nd green in the second round of the WGC-Cadillac Championship golf tournament at TPC Blue Monster at Trump National Doral.—REUTERS

There wasn't an easy shot out there and you know, you're going to have to find a way to make some putts.

"One of those rounds where it could go south pretty fast so you've got to grind it out and find a way to get a

number up there and get to the weekend." Long regarded as one of the PGA Tour's great layouts, the Blue Monster course underwent a massive \$251 million renovation that made it even more frightening and almost unplayable when the winds whipped across the sprawling layout on Friday. With most players arriving early to complete their rain-delayed opening rounds, exhausted golfers slumped off the course after a day of battling brutal winds and fatigue.

Only three players managed to break par during a wild second round that saw 113 balls find a watery grave while the average score was four-over 76. "It was just brutally difficult," said McDowell. "I don't think I've played in conditions this difficult in the US." It's an Open Championship day. It's a real Friday afternoon at St. Andrews in 2010 before they called it. "It was hard out there, really, really hard, and part of me feels ecstatic to be off the golf course right now." —Reuters

### Iwabuchi strike lifts Nadeshiko past Denmark in Algarve Cup

PARCHAL, (Portugal), 8 March — Mana Iwabuchi scored a first-half winner as women's world champions and London Olympic silver medalists Japan beat Denmark 1-0 at the Algarve Cup on Friday.

Coach Norio Sasaki made eight changes to the team that drew 1-1 with the United States in their opening game on Wednesday, and 20-year-old Iwabuchi seized her chance with a goal, capping a fine run into the box by smashing home two minutes before half-time. Denmark pressed for an equalizer but Nadeshiko Japan stood firm to pick up their first win.

"Space opened up and I just tried to smash the ball and am happy it went in," said Iwabuchi. "I am looking to score every time I play so I am relieved." Added coach Sasaki.

Kyodo News

### 'Everything is fine', Pistorius told guard after shooting girlfriend

PRETORIA, 8 March — Around 10 minutes after shooting dead his model girlfriend through a locked toilet door, South African track star Oscar Pistorius told a housing estate security guard "everything is fine", his murder trial heard on Friday.

Testifying on the fifth day of the trial at the Pretoria High Court, Pieter Baba, who was on guard duty the night Pistorius killed 29-year-old Reeva Steenkamp, said he received a call from the athlete at 3:21 am, around five

minutes after Steenkamp was shot. Pistorius was too upset to say anything on the call, Baba said, speaking in Afrikaans through an interpreter.

However, when Baba — concerned that something was wrong — called him back a few minutes later, Pistorius told him: "Security, everything is fine." Baba delivered the quote in English. The dramatic testimony from one of the first people on the scene capped a week of hearings in which several witnesses described hearing a woman's shouts

and screams before a volley of shots in the early hours of Valentine's Day last year.

Steenkamp died after being hit by three of four rounds fired by Pistorius from a 9 mm pistol through the door of a toilet cubicle in an upstairs bathroom in his luxury home in a Pretoria gated community.

The shooting stunned South Africa and millions of Pistorius supporters around the world. The 27-year-old — one of the most recognized men in world athletics — denies

murder, saying it was a tragic accident and that he mistook her for an intruder. If found guilty, he is likely to spend at least 25 years behind bars. —Reuters



Olympic and Paralympic track star Oscar Pistorius speaks to his uncle Arnold Pistorius during the fifth day of his trial for the murder of his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp at the North Gauteng High Court in Pretoria, on 7 March, 2014.—REUTERS

**GENERAL**

**Jordan urges intensified efforts to keep Mideast peace**

AMMAN, 8 March — Jordan's King Abdullah II on Friday called for more efforts from the international community to keep the Middle East peace, local media reported.

At a meeting with visiting US Secretary of State John Kerry, King Abdullah II expressed Jordan's concerns about developments of the ongoing Palestinian-Israeli peace talks. He urged all parties as well as the international community to achieve just and comprehensive peace in the region.

For his part, Kerry briefed the king on the latest visit of the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to Washington and his meeting with US President Barack Obama.

The US president is also expected to meet with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in March, as part of the US efforts to advance Palestinian-Israeli peace negotiations.

Kerry praised King Abdullah's continued efforts to boost peace, security and stability in the Middle East.

The US secretary of state arrived in Aqaba from the Italian capital Rome. Earlier he attended a conference on Libya and held meetings on the Ukraine crisis.—Xinhua



Visiting President of the French Senate Jean-Pierre Bel (L) poses for a photo with Croatian President Ivo Josipovic at the Presidential Palace in Zagreb, capital of Croatia, on 7 March, 2014. After Croatia, Bel is scheduled to visit Greece and Albania.—XINHUA

**Three killed in Cairo clashes, 48 wounded across Egypt**

CAIRO, 8 March — Three protesters were killed and dozens wounded as Muslim Brotherhood supporters and police clashed across Egypt on Friday, the health ministry and security sources said.

Security sources said two were killed in street battles with the police in the Cairo District of Alf Maskin and a third in the capital's Abbaseya. Protesters fired weapons and hurled petrol bombs at police who responded with tear gas, they said. The Interior Ministry said it had arrested 47 people it said were Brotherhood members during the violence, which broke out after Friday prayers. Four policemen suffered wounds from birdshot in the port city of Suez, it said. The health ministry said 48 people were wounded nationwide.

Police cars were burned by protesters in at least two Cairo districts.

Egypt has been in a state of turmoil since the army ousted Islamist President Mohamed Mursi last July after protests against his rule. The Brotherhood has

kept up its protests against Mursi's overthrow in spite of a severe crackdown on the movement that saw the group labeled a terrorist organization in December, hundreds of its supporters killed and thousands arrested.

Reuters



Supporters of Islamist President Mohamed Mursi, who was overthrown by the army after demonstrations against his rule last July, shout slogans during a protest in Om-ranya area, south of Cairo, on 7 March, 2014.—REUTERS



Firefighters extinguish the forest fire in Riau Province, Indonesia, on 7 March, 2014. The number of people having respiratory trouble scale up to over 30,000 at present from over 20,000 at mid of last month as thick smog has hit Riau of Sumatra island since February, official said on 4 March.—XINHUA

**MYANMAR TV**

(9-3-2014, Sunday)

- 6:00 am
- 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 6:25 am
- 2. Physical Exercise
- 7:00 am
- 3. News/Weather Report
- 8:30 am
- 4. Amazing World
- 9:30 am
- 5. (38) Phyar Mingalars
- 10:00 am
- 6. News
- 11:15 am
- 7. Gitadagale Phwintbarohn
- 12:00 pm
- 8. News/International News/Weather Report
- 2:35 pm
- 9. Musical Programme
- 3:00 pm
- 10. News
- 3:25 pm
- 11. Alinka Wat Yi Music Troupe
- 4:40 pm
- 12. 2014 University Entrance Examination (Economic)
- 5:00 pm
- 13. News
- 5:15 pm
- 14. Sing & Enjoy
- 6:00 pm
- 15. News/Weather Reoprt
- 6:20 pm
- 16. Cartoon Series
- 7:00 pm
- 17. News
- 7:15 pm
- 18. Weekly Entertainment
- 8:35 pm
- 19. Pyi Thu Ni Ti
- 8:50 pm
- 20. Hit Songs of Stars
- 9:00 pm
- 21. News
- 22. Tamyethnar Takwetsar
- 23. New Melody

**MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL**

(9-3-14 07:00am~ 10-3-14 07:00am) MST

- \* Local News
- \* A Trip to Mon State "Mawlamyine"
- \* World News
- \* Myanmar Masterclass: 3D
- \* Local News
- \* Crab Business (Part-II) Soft Shell Crab
- \* World News
- \* Tea
- \* Local News
- \* A Short Trip To Upper Myanmar (Sagaing, Kawlin)
- \* World News
- \* Myanmar Railways City Circular Train
- \* Local News
- \* The Stories of The Great Souls (Mar Mar Aye) (Ep-1)
- \* World News
- \* Image of the monks
- \* 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
- \* World 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

**Ohio couple found guilty of enslaving woman and child**

CLEVELAND, 8 March — An Ohio couple was convicted on Friday of holding captive a cognitively disabled woman and her young child, who were forced to eat dog food and threatened with a large snake, federal prosecutors said.

A jury found Jordie Callahan, 27 and Jessica Hunt, 32, guilty of engaging in labour trafficking, conspiracy and forced labour after a three-week trial in a Youngstown federal court. Prosecutors told jurors during the trial that Callahan threatened to kill the adult victim if she did not engage in sex acts with

him, clean the apartment, go to the store and care for the couple's numerous dogs and reptiles.

Prosecutors also said the victims were beaten, threatened with pit bulls and a 130-lb (60-kg) Burmese python, fed dog food and made to crawl on the floor while wearing a dog collar as they were being held captive in a room in the couple's Ashland apartment, some 85 miles north-east of Columbus.

"These defendants inflicted unspeakable cruelty upon this mother and her child," US Attorney Steven Dettelbach said. "This case provides another

stark reminder that human trafficking takes place all around us and that we need to be better neighbors to one another."

Callahan and Hunt were also convicted of injuring the woman on numerous occasions in order for her to obtain narcotic pain medication only to use it to satisfy their own drug habits, according to prosecutors. Authorities became aware of the situation after the victim was caught shoplifting in an attempt to be arrested and escape her capturers. Callahan and Hunt are scheduled to be sentenced in July.—Reuters

# Actions to be taken against illegal miners, businesses not abiding by laws: Vice-President



*Vice-President U Nyan Tun addresses work coordination meeting aimed at finding ways to reduce the impact of mining on the environment.—MNA*

NAY PYI TAW, 8 March—Vice-President U Nyan Tun has urged law enforcement bodies to take action against those who are exploring natural resources illegally and busi-

nesses which do not adhere to rules and regulations protecting the environment. In his address at a work coordination meeting aimed at finding ways to reduce the impact of mining

on the environment, he said “heavy machinery” is not allowed in mining but was being used nevertheless. He also said that there are reports about illegal mining along the rivers

and that oil explorers often do not carry out their business in accordance with the laws. The Vice-President urged ministries to review and amend the existing

laws related to environmental conservation to guarantee the protection of the environment, and called for strict enforcement of the rules and regulations. He also urged the regional

governments to implement the comprehensive environmental management system as part of efforts to limit the impact of mineral exploration on the environment.

## Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker explains new laws to locals in Letpadan



*Meeting between Speaker of Union Parliament Thura U Shwe Mann and locals in progress in Letpadan Township.—MNA*

NAY PYI TAW, 8 March — Thura U Shwe Mann, the Speaker of the Union Parliament, Pyidaungsu

Hluttaw, elaborated on new laws during a visit to Letpadan, Bago Division (west).

At a meeting with locals on Saturday, the

Speaker said the parliament reviewed, amended and enacted 84 laws in three years and is now discussing 60 new laws to protect the “interest of the people and fairness.”

Members of the parliament from 19 political parties are working together to achieve three objectives — unity of national people, national reconciliation and achieving peace in the country.

During the meeting, officials from the support committees for the development of Letpadan, Thayawady and Moenyoo townships explained their work. The Speaker also urged representatives of the support committees and local people to cooperate with the government.—MNA

### Slight earthquake jolts Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 8 March—A slight earthquake of magnitude 4.0 Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar about 5 miles northeast of Thabeikkyin about 66 miles north-northwest

of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at 15 hrs 52 min 14 sec MST today, announced the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

NLM

### Pyinmana man catches rare fish with arms and legs

PYINMANA, 8 March—A fish with arms and legs has been discovered by a man fishing in Ngalike creek near Nyaungbintha village in Pyinmana Township, Nay Pyi Taw on Friday morning.

The fish with no scales has a pair of ear-shaped gills. It is eight inches in

length and 1.5 inch in girth. It can swim in the water like other fish.

Now, the rare fish is being kept in an aquarium tank together with other pet fish at a house in Thayakon village in Zeyar Thiri Township.

Ko Myo Shwe Paukkan



*Photo shows rare fish with arms and legs.*

PHOTO: KO MYO SHWE PAUKKAN