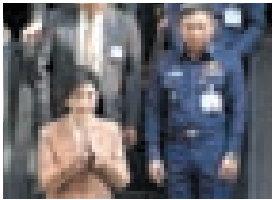


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## Scholarships to be awarded to outstanding students



*President U Thein Sein cordially greets faculty members at Myitkyina University.—MNA*

MYITKYINA, 17 March — The government will grant scholarships to outstanding students as part

of efforts to develop Myanmar’s human resources, said President U Thein Sein during a visit to Myit-

kyina University on Monday.

Meeting with faculty members and students, he

said human resources play an important role in carrying out reforms, and that the government is building

more educational facilities to invest into the youth. He also called on students to (See page 8)

## Hainggyigyun Bridge to be inaugurated soon

The government has decided to construct a new bridge that links Hainggyigyun with other regions, with the duty assigned to the Special Project Group (5) of Public Works under the Ministry of Construc-

tion. A feasibility study of the bridge was conducted in 2010 and construction works started on 5 June 2012.

The 870 feet long and 15 feet wide reinforced concrete type Hainggyigyun

Bridge was completed on 12 March 2014. The bridge is situated on Pathein-Thalutkhwa-Mawtinsoon Motor Road in Ayeyawady Region. The bridge’s water clearance area is 90 ft long and 20 ft high and it can

withstand 35 tons of load. The floor of the bridge was fully paved with timber logs for convenience of the vehicles and inauguration ceremony of the bridge will be held soon.

The residents of

Myanma Alinn 17-3-2014

Trs:KHS

*Byline: Kayan Soe Myint; Photo: Kyaw Moe Lwin*



## Buddha Pujaniya festival at Kyaikhtiywet Pagoda continues



KANMA, 17 March—A festival to mark the consecration of pagodas has kicked off at Kyaikhtiywet Pagoda on Shinma Hill in Kanma Township, Magway Region, with officials saying the celebration will run

through 18 March.

The compound has been packed with pilgrims since beginning of the festival as a new motorway in the area has led to easier access to the pagoda.

*Kyaw Zeya Win (IPRD)*

## Loilem residents get solar panels for electrification

LOILEM, 17 March—Zabuyit Pearl Co.Ltd presented 56 solar panels for electrification of Khaung Nwet Village in Loilem Township, on 13 March.

Officials said the Rural Development Department allotted K 9.8 million fund in 2013-14 FY to supply the village with solar pan-

els. Loilem Township is located in the southern part of Shan State, the largest state in the east of Myanmar. It shares border with China's Yunnan Province to the north and Thailand's Mae Hong Son, Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai provinces to the east.

*Moe Lwin Oo (Loilem)*

## Singu Township fire services department gets made-in China fire engine

SINGU, 17 March—The Ministry of Home Affairs provided the Singu Township Fire Services Department of Mandalay Region with a China-made Dongfeng fire engine.

The department has so

far operated with two-Dongfeng fire engines.

The government has allotted 25 fire Japan-made engines to Mandalay Region and said it will provide more fire engines.

*Win Maung (Singu)*



*A new fire engine seen at fire station in Singu Township of Mandalay Region.*

## Kanbawza Bank branch to open in Meiktila



*Photo shows KBZ Bank, the tallest building in Meiktila.*

MEIKTILA, 17 March—Kanbawza Bank will open a fifth bank branch in Meiktila, Mandalay Region, officials have said, with construction of the eight-storey

## New school building opens in Lashio Tsp

LASHIO, 17 March—A new school building opened in Loingu Village of Lashio Township in Northern Shan State on Sunday.

Almost 100 children from the village will be able to pursue their education there, officials said. Lashio Town-

ship Administrator U Maung Maung Lwin and Township Development Committee Secretary U Sai Zaw Min cut the ribbon to open the building, with the Lashio Township Administrator making the opening speech.

*Han Htay (IPRD)*

## Collapsed pavement at Meiktila Lake reconstructed

MEIKTILA, 17 March—The pavement at the southern part of Meiktila Lake which collapsed last year has been reconstructed, according to an engineer of Meiktila Township Development Affairs Committee.

The 80 ft long new

pavement is already in use, with residents relying on it to be able to access Meiktila Market.

The pavement collapsed in October 2013 during bad weather, officials said.

*Chan Tha (Meiktila)*



*Htilatha*



## WORLD

## Co-pilot spoke last words heard from missing Malaysian plane

KUALA LUMPUR, 17 March—The co-pilot of a missing Malaysian jetliner spoke the last words heard from the cockpit, the airline's chief executive said on Monday, as investigators consider suicide by the captain or first officer as one possible explanation for the disappearance.

No trace of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 has been found since it vanished on 8 March with 239 people aboard. Investigators are increasingly convinced it was diverted perhaps thousands of miles off course by someone with deep knowledge of the Boeing 777-200ER and commercial navigation.

A search unprecedented in its scale is now under way for the plane, covering a area stretching from the shores of the Caspian Sea in the north to deep in the southern Indian Ocean.

Airline chief executive Ahmad Jauhari Yahya also told a news conference that it was unclear exactly when one of the plane's automatic tracking systems had been disabled, appearing to contradict the weekend comments of government ministers. Suspicions of hijacking or sabotage had hardened further when officials said on Sunday that the last radio message from the plane - an informal "all right, good night"—was spoken after the system, known as "ACARS", was shut down.—Reuters

## Crimea asks to join Russia after Soviet-style vote

SIMFEROPOL, 17 March — Crimea formally applied to join Russia on Monday after its leaders declared a Soviet-style 97-percent vote in favor of quitting Ukraine in a referendum condemned as illegal by Kiev and the West that will trigger immediate sanctions.

European Union foreign ministers met in Brussels to decide on visa bans and asset freezes against Russian and Crimean officials held responsible for Moscow's military seizure of the southern Ukrainian region that is home to its Black Sea fleet. As state media in Russia carried a startling reminder of its

power to turn the



People stay on higher grounds in a tsunami safety zone after a magnitude 6.7 earthquake shook the region, in Iquique city, north of Santiago on 16 March, 2014.—REUTERS

## Iran pursuing banned items for nuclear, missile work: US official

DUBAI, 17 March — Iran has pursued a longstanding effort to buy banned components for its nuclear and missile programmes in recent months, a US official said on Sunday, a period when it struck an interim deal with major powers to limit its disputed atomic activity.

Vann Van Diepen, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Security and Non-Proliferation, said Iran was still "very actively" creating front companies and engaging in other activity to conceal procurements.

The reported supplies do not contravene last year's breakthrough agreement between Teheran and

six world powers to curb its most sensitive atomic activity in exchange for some limited easing of sanctions damaging its economy.

But such trade would breach a 2006 UN embargo banning the provision by any nation to Iran of materials related to its nuclear and missile development work. Western experts say such low-profile procurement efforts by Iran date back many years, perhaps decades in the case of its nuclear activity.

Asked if he had seen a change in Iranian procurement behavior in the past six to 12 months, a period that has seen a cautious thaw in US-Iranian relations after decades of hostility, Van Diepen replied:

"The short answer is no.

"They still continue very actively trying to procure items for their nuclear programme and missile programme and other programmes," he told Reuters in an interview.

"We continue to see them very actively setting up and operating through front companies, falsifying documentation, engaging in multiple levels of trans-shipment ... to put more apparent distance between where the item originally came from and where it is ultimately going."

Asked for reaction to the allegation, a senior Iranian official replied: "No comment".

Van Diepen did not say what sort of components

Iran had sought to obtain or which part of a government known for having competing hardline and moderate factions was responsible. In the past, Western officials said Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards and the Defence Ministry — both hotbeds of opposition to any rapprochement with the West — were believed to control clandestine nuclear procurement efforts.

Iran denies Western allegations that it has long sought covertly to develop the means to produce nuclear weapons, saying its uranium enrichment programme is solely a peaceful endeavor to yield electricity as well as isotopes for medical treatments.

Reuters

## Japan urges Russia not to annex Crimea after "illegal" vote

TOKYO, 17 March — Japan urged Russia on Monday not to annex Crimea and to protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, saying the region's weekend referendum was "illegal" despite an overwhelming majority vote in favour of joining Russia. "The referendum is not legally effective, and Japan does not accept the outcome," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters, arguing the event "goes against Ukraine's Constitution which stipulates that any potential change to its territory should be put to a national vote."

"We will strongly urge Russia to abide fully by international law, respect the sovereignty and territorial integration of Ukraine, and not to annex Crimea," he said as Tokyo's top spokesman. More than 95 percent of voters in the largely ethnic Russian region in southern Ukraine favoured seceding from Ukraine and joining Russia in Sunday's referendum.

Senior Japanese government officials also said Tokyo will continue to work with other Group of Seven countries in handling the crisis in Ukraine.

Japan has found itself in limbo between the West and Russia since the crisis emerged, given that Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has met Russian President Vladimir Putin five times over the past year to build a closer personal relationship.—Kyodo News



A woman hands out free newspapers with the headline "Crimea chooses Russia" on a street in Simferopol on 17 March, 2014.—REUTERS



*People walk past a messy vegetable stall in the conflict area in Lebanon's northern port city of Tripoli, on 16 March, 2014. The ongoing clashes that broke out on Thursday in Lebanon's troubled northern port city of Tripoli have caused at least 11 died and 68 injured till Saturday Evening.*  
XINHUA

## Israel reopens crossing with Gaza for fuel supplies

GAZA, 17 March — Israel reopened its commercial crossing with Gaza on Sunday after a three-day halt to allow fuel into the enclave, a Palestinian official said.

The official said that Israel has reopened the Kerem Shalom with Gaza and started to transfer cooking gas, gasoline and industrial fuel for Gaza's idle power plant.

The crossing was opened only one day after Hamas-run Energy Authority announced that Gaza's sole power plant has stopped working due to lack of fuel caused by closure of the terminal.

But the official said that Israel has barred transfer of other basic supplies and commodities.

Israel closed Kerem Shalom crossing on Thursday after Gaza militants fired a volley of rockets last week before a de-facto ceasefire was restored. The terminal is now the only entrance for basic supplies into Gaza, as Egypt has shut down hundreds of smuggling tunnels under its border with Gaza that were used to bring in fuel and other supplies. Israel regularly has shut down the crossing in response to rocket attacks from Gaza militants.—Xinhua

## US not to recognize Crimean referendum

WASHINGTON, 17 March — President Barack Obama said on Sunday the United States will not recognize the Crimean referendum, vowing to impose fresh sanctions on Russia.

In his talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin over the phone, the American leader said the vote in the Ukraine's autonomous republic violated the Ukrainian constitution and was conducted "under duress of Russian military intervention," the White House said in a readout of the conversation.

The plebiscite, in which 95.5 percent of voters were in favor of rejoining Russia as shown by the preliminary results, "would never be

recognized by the United States and the international community," Obama said.

He told Putin that "Russia's actions were in violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity and that, in coordination with our European partners, we are prepared to impose additional costs on Russia for its actions."

US Secretary of State John Kerry on Thursday threatened "a very serious series of steps" against Russia with the European Union as early as Monday depending on Russia's next moves.

Washington has canceled trade talks and military exchanges with Russia, and Obama has

authorized visa bans and assets freeze on some Russians and Ukrainians blamed for Moscow's military takeover of Crimea.

Putin told Obama, however, that Crimea's vote on Sunday fully complied with the international law, according to the Kremlin's readout of the phone talks. Putin told German Chancellor Angela Merkel earlier in the day over the phone that Russia would "respect the choice" of the Crimeans.

Obama stressed that "there remains a clear path" for resolving the crisis diplomatically, in a way "that addresses the interests of both Russia and the people of Ukraine."

Xinhua

## S Korea sees DPRK's missile launch as armed protest

SEOUL, 17 March — South Korea's Defence Ministry said on Monday that a volley of missile launches by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) was seen as an armed protest against the joint annual military drills between Seoul and Washington.

Defence Ministry spokesman Kim Min-seok told a routine press briefing that the DPRK fired off 25 rockets on Sunday evening toward waters off the east coast, saying that it was believed to be a show of force and an armed protest against the joint annual war games between South Korea and the United States.

The "Key Resolve" command post exercise, which began on 24 February, ended on 6 March, but the "Fool Eagle" field training exercise will last until 18 April despite the DPRK's earlier call for delay or cancellation of the drills, which Pyongyang has denounced as the rehearsal for a northward invasion.

Kim said that the rockets, launched on Sunday, were believed to be the FROG surface-to-surface missiles, noting the South Korean military had knowledge about trajectory of the missiles adopted by the DPRK a long time ago. The DPRK was known to have introduced the FROG missiles from the Soviet Union from the 1960s.—Xinhua

## Five terrorists killed while preparing car bomb in Yemen

ADEN, 17 March — Five suspected al-Qaeda militants were killed when their explosives-laden car they were building went off prematurely in Yemen's southeastern province of Shabwa on Sunday, a tribal chief told Xinhua. "About five terrorists were killed while trying to plant explosives and prepare a suicide car bomb to target and kill army forces in Shabwa province, but suddenly it exploded and killed themselves," the local tribal chief said on condition of anonymity.

A police source confirmed to Xinhua that "a team of investigators found the terrorists' bodies and the wreckage of their car inside a house in Haban region in Shabwa."—Xinhua

## New Thai "red shirt" leader may escalate fight to save PM

BANGKOK, 17 March — The new leader of Thailand's pro-government "red shirt" movement said on Monday that his supporters would take to the streets in support of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra if the elite or the courts dared try to oust her.

The red shirts have kept to the sidelines during the past 4-1/2 months of political unrest in Thailand, while anti-government protesters forced state offices to close and disrupted an election in February.

Any further threat to Yingluck could see their patience snap, warned Jatuporn Prompan, who became leader of the United Front for Democracy against Dictatorship (UDD), as the red shirts are formally known, at the weekend. Thousands of supporters attended the

rally in Ayutthaya north of Bangkok to witness the change of leadership.

"We're going to fight tooth and nail to defend this government but we will do so peacefully," Jatuporn told Reuters on Monday.

"Thailand's political crisis will not end with these street protests. This is about the Bangkok elite denying grassroots people the right to play a part in the democratic process. We can't let this go on."

The crisis pits protesters, mainly middle class Bangkok residents and southerners backed by the military and the establishment, against supporters of Yingluck and her brother, ousted former premier Thaksin Shinawatra, from the rural north and northeast. If the red shirts were to launch counter protests



*Thailand's Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra gestures as she leaves the Royal Thai Air Force Headquarters, after a defence meeting in Bangkok 4 March, 2014.*

REUTERS

it would risk escalating violence, and could further destabilize Yingluck's government.

Their restraint, howev-

er, could disappear, under the new leader.

Jatuporn helped organize the uprising against a previous government that

ended in a bloody military crackdown in May 2010, and supporters like his no-nonsense attitude.

Reuters



## WORLD

## Nigerian police launch manhunt for killers of 100 villagers

ABUJA, 17 March — Police authorities in Nigeria on Sunday ordered a manhunt for suspected killers of local people in villages across the north-western state of Kaduna, promising to bring the culprits to book.

About 100 people were reported killed late Friday and early on Saturday during an attack that spread across three villages in the southern part of the state. It was suspected to be a perpetration of local herdsmen who brandished sophisticated weapons and unleashed terror on the villagers. Kaduna State police spokesperson Aminu Lawan said security agents were on top of the situation and more policemen had been deployed to the affected areas. The police officers were tasked to ensure law and order in the areas, he added.

The attackers escaped through a community that shares boundary with the central state of Plateau, where more frequent attacks by herdsmen were reported recently, according to security agents.

Residents said the attackers, numbering 40 or more, killed more than 50 people in one of the villages. Many houses were also burnt, as the attackers went on rampage.—Xinhua



*Farmer Li Housheng (C) introduces his flight plan as he sits in his helicopter in Ganzhou Village of Baitang Township in Miluo City, central China's Hunan Province, on 14 March, 2014. Farmer Li Housheng, 52, has started making his twin-rotor helicopter since August 2013. The helicopter has an engine transplanted from an agricultural motorcycle with skeletons made of angle iron and stainless steel tubes. Each rotor is simply a welding of four steel plates. The helicopter's control system including accelerator, clutch and joystick comes from a motorcycle. The helicopter completed a flight test with the fuselage hopping by 40 centimetres from the ground, according to Li. The farmer are now trying to meliorate his helicopter to make his plane as well as his dream to fly higher.*

XINHUA

## In China, Michelle Obama to stay firmly in 'mom in chief' mode

WASHINGTON, 17 March — US first lady Michelle Obama is expected to steer clear of controversial issues such as human rights when she visits China this week but her trip could help advance a top item on her husband's foreign policy agenda: deepening Washington's ties with Beijing.

The week-long trip marks only the third foreign solo trip for Obama, who has cultivated a self-described "mom in chief" image, putting her energy into

raising her daughters Malia, 15, and Sasha, 12, and signature domestic policy issues such as combating childhood obesity.

She has joked that her motto during her husband's White House tenure has been to "do no harm." In keeping with that cautious approach, the White House said Obama's message on the trip will focus on cultural ties between the two countries and "the power and importance of education" for young people in both countries. But her trip,

which will be front-page news in China and closely parsed by media, will carry important symbolic value.

"There's no better surrogate for a president overseas than their spouse," said Anita McBride, who was chief of staff to former first lady Laura Bush. McBride said Obama's visit with Chinese first lady Peng Liyuan can send a powerful diplomatic message, even if what they discuss has little to do with pressing bilateral issues.

Reuters

## US accelerates delivery of weapons, ammunition to Iraq

BAGHDAD, 17 March — The United States continues to accelerate delivery of weapons and ammunition to Iraq, with nearly 100 Hellfire missiles and other armaments having been delivered this month, the US Embassy in Baghdad said on Sunday.

"Earlier this month, the United States delivered nearly 100 Hellfire missiles together with hundreds of thousands of rounds of ammunition and M4 rifles," the Embassy said in a statement. It said these deliveries addressed a critical assessment of needs conducted jointly by Iraq and US security experts, and were the latest in a series of deliveries bringing critical supplies to Iraq.

"On the security side, it is essential that Iraqi

Security Forces (ISF) are equipped with modern and effective weaponry given the serious threat the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) now poses to Iraq and the region," the US mission said.

According to the statement, since mid-January, more than 11 million rounds of ammunition, thousands of machine guns, sniper rifles, M16s and M4 rifles, thousands of flares, grenades and other weapons have been delivered to the ISF.

The Embassy said the United States "looks forward to working closely with Iraqi leaders and military commanders to determine and address additional critical equipment needs over the coming weeks."

Xinhua

## Singapore's export performance recovers in February

SINGAPORE, 17 March — Singapore non-oil domestic exports (NODX), a key gauge of the export performance of the small and highly open economy, rose by 9.1 percent on year in February, trade promotion agency International Enterprise Singapore said on Monday.

It was a huge recovery compared with the 3.3 percent decrease in the previous month, due to an increase in non-electronic NODX, which outweighed the contraction in electronic NODX. On a yearly basis, the electronic NODX

contracted by 3.7 percent in February, eased from the decline of 17.0 percent in January. On the other hand, the non-electronic NODX expanded by 15.4 percent during the same period, following the 3.5 percent increase in the previous month.

The NODX to all of the top 10 markets, except South Korea and China's Hong Kong, expanded in February. The top three contributors to the NODX expansion in February were China's mainland, China's Taiwan, and the United States.—Xinhua

## France curbs Paris car drivers to combat dangerous smog

PARIS, 17 March — France will introduce driving restrictions in Paris on Monday to tackle dangerous

pollution levels, the first such ban for twenty years as politicians try to get rid of health-threaten-

ing smog days before municipal elections.

Paris is more prone to smog than other

European capitals because of France's diesel subsidies and its high number of private car drivers. A week-long spell of unseasonably warm, sunny weather has recently exacerbated the problem. Under the scheme, drivers may only use their cars on alternate days, according to the odd or even numbers on their licence plates. Free public transport, including cycle and electric car-sharing schemes, was introduced last week as a visible haze hung over Paris streets.

"Our core objective is to ensure public safety because we want to end this pollution," Environment Minister Philippe Martin told a news conference on Sunday, warning that the air quality was likely to worsen on Monday.

Last week European Environment Agency (EEA) figures for Thursday showed there was 147 microgrammes of particulate matter (PM) per cubic metre of air in Paris - compared with 114 in Brussels, 104 in Amsterdam, 81 in Berlin and 79.7 in London.

Political opponents and car associations criticised the decision, saying it would be tough to police, and accused the Socialist government of conceding to pressure from its coalition Green partners ahead of local elections in late March. "This is impossible to enforce, stupid and an attempt to win votes," Pierre Chasseray, president of drivers' lobby 40 Millions d'Automobilistes, told French television and newspapers.—Reuters

## Four killed in suicide car bombing in eastern Lebanon

BEIRUT, 17 March — At least four people were killed and seven others wounded when a suicide bomber exploded his car on Sunday night in the Nabi Othman town in the Bekaa region in eastern Lebanon, the National News Agency reported.

According to the report, a car exploded near a gas station on the main road of Nabi Othman, killing four people and wounding seven others. Initial investigation showed that the explosives used in the suicide attack weigh around 20 kilograms.

Xinhua



*Vehicles run on the Champs-Élysées Avenue in Paris, France, on 16 March, 2014.*

XINHUA

## Vodafone agrees 7.2 billion euro deal to buy Ono

## Intercept says liver disease drug effective in trial



Vodafone branding is seen outside a retail store in London on 12 Nov, 2013.

REUTERS

LONDON, 17 March — Vodafone has agreed to buy Spain's largest cable operator Ono for 7.2 billion euros (\$10.03 billion), in the latest move by the British group to acquire fixed-line assets to rebuild

its European operations.

Vodafone said on Monday it expected to achieve cost and capital expenditure savings of approximately 240 million euros, before integration costs, by the fourth full

year after completion.

The deal for the private equity-owned group is Vodafone's third purchase of a European fixed-broadband asset in two years as the company seeks to improve its networks and

shore up its European businesses after they were hit by fierce competition, the recession and regulatory cuts.

Vodafone has launched a programme to invest in its networks, and acquire assets where necessary, after selling its US arm for \$130 billion last year.

A 7.2 billion-euro price tag implies a multiple of 10.4 times the group's operating free cash flow, broadly in line with recent deals in the European cable and telecoms sector.

"The combination of Vodafone and Ono creates a leading integrated communications provider in Spain and represents an attractive value creation opportunity for Vodafone," Vodafone Chief Executive Vittorio Colao said.

Reuters

NEW YORK, 17 March — Intercept Pharmaceuticals Inc said on Sunday its experimental liver disease drug was effective in a third late-stage clinical trial and that the results set the stage for the company to file for marketing approval.

The drug, obeticholic acid (OCA), is designed to treat primary biliary cirrhosis, a disease in which bile ducts in the liver become damaged, allowing harmful substances to build up and scar liver tissue.

Symptoms include dry eyes, fatigue, jaundice, pain in the abdomen, swollen feet and ankles, fatty deposits on the skin around eyes or in the creases of palms, soles, elbows and knees. It is thought to be an autoimmune disorder, in which the body's immune system mistakenly attacks its own cells.

The findings come

roughly two months after a clinical trial of the drug in patients with nonalcoholic steatohepatitis, a disease characterized by a build-up of fat in the liver, was halted early because the drug was working better than expected. The news sent the company's shares up 281 percent. The latest trial, known as POISE, indicates "that OCA clearly produced clinically meaningful improvements," said Professor Frederik Nevens, chairman of the department of hepatology at the University of Leuven in Belgium and the lead investigator on the trial.

Nevens said in a statement that a significant proportion of patients fail to be adequately helped by existing treatments and that new therapies are needed to prevent their disease from progressing to cirrhosis and liver failure.—Reuters

## Moscow stocks higher after Crimea votes to join Russia

MOSCOW, 17 March — Russian shares opened higher on Monday after Ukraine's Crimea region voted in favour of joining Russia, as local investors shrugged off threatened Western sanctions believing they would be largely symbolic.

At 0745 GMT the dollar-denominated RTS index .IRTS was up 1.4 percent at 1,078 points, while the ruble-denominated MICEX was up 1.3 percent at 1,254 points.

The indexes had opened up 2.4-2.5 percent before edging back.

Dmitry Ryzhkov, a trader at Renaissance Capital, said negative expectations linked to the vote had largely been priced in earlier as the market has been sliding for the last two weeks.

"For the time being there is nothing new: they carried out the referendum, they haven't yet announced sanctions. Simply for the time being, there are Russian investors who are buying in the belief that there is a bright future," he said.

"Let's wait for the opening of London and the (United) States," he added.

European Union foreign ministers are meeting later on Monday to discuss sanctions against Russia that are expected to

include asset freezes and visa bans on Russian officials accused of violating Ukraine's territorial integrity.

Some analysts said they had expected Russian assets to slide on uncertainty over the scale of measures the West will impose over the seizure of Crimea.

Others however believe that the market was due for a rebound after the sell-off over recent weeks and down-played the threat of Western sanctions.

"The referendum on 16 March passed peacefully. This fact could cheer investors who are looking at the strongly oversold Russian market," commented Zerich Capital analyst Oleg Dushin in a morning note.

"Of course there will be sanctions from the West, but for the time being they concern officials and not corporate assets. However, anything is possible in future," he wrote.

The ruble edged down slightly, weakening against the dollar but strengthening against the euro.

At 0745 GMT it was 0.1 percent weaker at 36.64 against the dollar and two kopecks stronger against the euro at 50.63.

The rouble was down 0.1 percent to 43.09 against a dollar-euro basket.

Reuters

## Toyota suspends India production as pay dispute drags

TOKYO, 17 March — Toyota Motor Corp's (7203.T) Indian unit has temporarily closed its two plants where some workers had stopped production lines to protest a delay in salary hikes after 10 months of negotiations.

The factories near Bangalore are Toyota Motor's only vehicle plants in the world's sixth-biggest auto market, where the Japanese manufacturer generates just a sliver of global sales.

Their closure raises the spectre of labour unrest at Indian car plants in recent years, including



The Toyota logo is seen at a dealership of Japan's Toyota Motor Corp in Brussels on 10 Oct, 2012.—REUTERS

a 2012 dispute at Suzuki Motor Corp (7269.T) unit Maruti Suzuki India Ltd (MRTI.NS). A riot left one

person dead and over 100 injured, and resulted in a \$250 million month-long production loss.

Reuters

## Riding with impaired drivers tied to riskier teen driving

NEW YORK, 17 March — Teens who've been in cars with impaired drivers may be more likely themselves to get behind the wheel drunk or drugged, a recent study suggests. And the more times they're driven around by an impaired driver, the more risky their own driving habits become.

While other studies have found ties between riding with impaired drivers and teen impaired driving risk, the new study surveyed about 2,500 US students each year between 10th and 12th grades to examine rates over time — not at just one point. "We were interest-

ed in both driving while intoxicated and riding with an intoxicated driver, because it's the combined of the two behaviors that reflects the true risk," Bruce Simons-Morton, one of the researchers, told Reuters Health.

"When you do that, you see a relatively high proportion — about 30 percent in our study — reported either driving while intoxicated or riding with an intoxicated driver within the last three years," he said.

Overall, between 12 percent and 14 percent of students each year reported impaired driving in the past month and 23 percent to 38

percent reported riding in cars with drunk or drugged drivers within the past year, the researchers wrote in Pediatrics.

Students were more likely to drive impaired if they had been in cars with impaired drivers after adjusting the numbers for the students' genders and drinking and drug habits, family income, and parental education and supervision.

Specifically, kids who reported riding with drunk or drugged drivers during one of the surveys were 10 times more likely to drive drunk or drugged than a kid who never reported riding

in cars with impaired drivers. That risk grew to 34 times greater when they reported riding in cars with impaired drivers on two surveys and 127 times greater if they reported riding in cars with drunk or drugged drivers on all three surveys.

"The magnitude of the association kind of gets one's attention," said Simons-Morton.

Simons-Morton is from the Health Behavior Branch of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, which is part of the National Institutes of Health, in Bethesda, Maryland.

Reuters



## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

## Impoverished Haiti manufacturing its own Android tablet

PORT-AU-PRINCE, 17 March — Better known for producing third-world poverty and political mayhem — as well as a world-class rum — the Western Hemisphere's least developed country has made a surprising entry into the high-tech world with its own Android tablet.

Sandwiched between textile factories in a Port-au-Prince industrial park next to a slum, a Haitian-founded company has begun manufacturing the low-cost tablet called Sûrtab, a made-up name using the French adjective “sûr,” meaning “sure,” to suggest reliability.

Unlike the factories next door where low-paid textile workers churn out cheap undergarments for the US market, Sûrtab workers are equipped with soldering irons, not sewing machines.

Dressed in sterile white work clothes, and a hair net, Sergine Brice is proud of her job. “I never imagined I could, one day, make a tablet by myself,” she said. Unemployed for a year after losing her position in a phone company, Brice, 22, was not sure she had the skills when she took the job after Sûrtab opened last year.

“When I arrived and realized the job deals with electronic components, I was wondering if I would be able to do it. But when I finished my first tablet



*Workers assemble Android-based tablets from imported components at the Surtab factory in the Sonapi Industrial Park of Port-au-Prince on 11 March, 2014.*

REUTERS

... I felt an immense pleasure,” she said. Her family and friends were skeptical. “None of them believed me,” she said. “Tablets made in Haiti? What are you talking about?” they told her.

“Haitians have in our minds the idea that nothing can be done in this country. I proved that yes, we Haitians have the capacity to do many things,” she said. “It’s not just Americans or Chinese. We’ve got what they’ve got, so we can do it too.” With \$200,000 in start-up funds from the US Agency for International Development (USAID), and using imported Asian

components, the factory produces three models all with 7-inch (18-cm) screens that run on Google Inc’s Android operation system. They range from a simple wifi tablet with 512 megabytes of RAM for about \$100, to a 3G model with 2-gigabytes of memory for \$285.

The small factory with 40 employees is a throwback to the 1970s and 1980s when Haiti had a thriving assembly industry, including computer boards, as well as baseballs for US professional teams.

Political turmoil, and a US economic embargo in the 1990s following a mili-

tary coup, put them out of business.

“A product such as Sûrtab shows that Haitians are not just destined for low-wage, low-skilled jobs,” said John Groarke, country director for USAID. “It’s the sort of high-skilled job that the country needs to work its way out of poverty.” Brice, who works an eight-hour shift, would not disclose her salary. Sûrtab employees receive a bonus for each tablet that successfully passes the quality control and the company says it pays two to three times the Haitian minimum wage of \$5 a day.—Reuters

## New maps show smallest planet Mercury is even smaller

CAPE CANAVERAL, 17 March — Detailed maps of Mercury’s cliffs and ditches show the solar system’s innermost and smallest planet Mercury has lost much more real estate due to cooling over four billion years than scientists thought, according to a report published on Sunday.

Cooling of Mercury’s massive iron core has pared about nine miles from the planet’s diameter, more than twice as much as previous estimates.

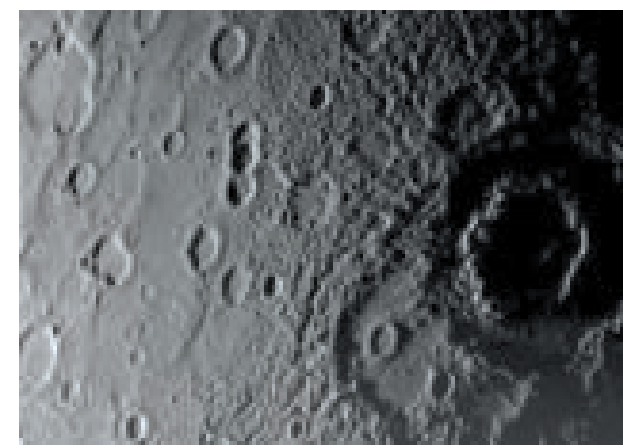
“When you look at the actual number, it’s really pityingly small, compared to the size of a planet. But it doesn’t need to change very much to have some effect,” said planetary scientist Paul Byrne, with

the Carnegie Institution’s Department of Terrestrial Magnetism.

Scientists studied more than 5,900 surface features, including cliff-like scarps and wrinkle ridges, to calculate how much Mercury has condensed.

Unlike Earth, which as several plates of crust, Mercury has just one rigid, rocky layer which bears telltale cliffs and chasms caused by global contraction.

The measurements, made with NASA’s Mercury-orbiting MESSENGER spacecraft, match computer model predictions, which scientists use to determine the planet’s inner composition, chemistry and structure.—Reuters



*A view of the planet Mercury’s rugged, cratered landscape is pictured in this Messenger Spacecraft image released by NASA on 16 Jan, 2008 and taken from a distance of about 18,000 kilometres (11,000 miles) on 14 Jan, 2008, about 56 minutes before the spacecraft’s closest encounter with Mercury. —REUTERS*

## Alibaba picks US for IPO; in talks with six banks for lead roles

HONG KONG, 17 March — Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Group Holding Ltd has decided to hold its long-awaited IPO in the United States and is in discussions with six banks

to underwrite the deal, in what is set to be the most high-profile public offering since Facebook Inc’s listing nearly two years ago.

Alibaba said in a statement on Sunday it had

decided to begin the US IPO process, ending months of speculation about where it would go public.

Separately, sources told Reuters that Aliba-

ba is in discussions with Citigroup, Credit Suisse, Deutsche Bank, Goldman Sachs Group, JP Morgan, and Morgan Stanley for lead underwriting roles.

Most of the six banks are to set to win the coveted role of joint global coordinator, added the sources, who were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

Analysts estimate the Hangzhou, China-based company has a value of at least \$140 billion, and the IPO proceeds could exceed \$15 billion, Reuters previously reported. The deal would be a huge coup for the six banks, as it would yield an estimated \$260 million in underwriting fees, assuming 1.75 percent commission, and catapult them in league table rankings.

Alibaba declined to comment on the banks working on the deal. The

banks mentioned in the report either declined comment or did not respond to Reuters’ requests for a comment.

“This will be a huge deal, bigger than what people were anticipating,” one person familiar with the process said, adding that the IPO was expected to be kicked off “very soon”.

Reuters reported on Saturday that Alibaba is planning a US IPO in the third quarter, with a filing of documents expected as early as April.

Alibaba, whose platforms handle more goods than eBay Inc and Amazon.com Inc combined, was founded in 1999 by former English teacher Jack Ma and 17 other people. It has grown from a startup in Ma’s apartment to a behemoth with offices around the world and more than 20,000 employees.

The listing will be closely watched by Alibaba’s two largest shareholders — Yahoo Inc, which owns 24 percent, and Japan’s Softbank Corp, which controls 37 percent. Alibaba’s founders and some senior managers jointly own about 13 percent of the company.

Yahoo has said it plans to trim its stake in Alibaba through the IPO. It initially invested in Alibaba in 2005. Alibaba’s decision to go to the United States is a blow to the Hong Kong stock exchange, which was initially the company’s preferred venue for the IPO.

Alibaba also said in a statement on its corporate news Web site it might consider extending its public status to Chinese capital markets in future in order for investors there to be able to share in its growth.

Reuters



*An employee walks past a logo of Alibaba Group at its headquarters on the outskirts of Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, in this 17 May, 2010 file photo. —REUTERS*

## PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 18 March, 2014

## New Myanmar in the making

BY Maung Maung Swe

After about five decades of autocratic rule, there is now a civilian administration democratically elected by the people. As Myanmar is passing through a transitional period with the aim of becoming a full-fledged democratic state, each and every citizen should contribute to the success of this process.

Today, wherever you go or whatever you see, you may notice that everything is changing for the better rapidly. But every changeover needs enough time and efforts. With the responsibili-

ties shared by the people from all walks of life, it is hoped that all changes we need to do will end in success before too long.

Here we should be well aware of the fact that every move has its own advantages and disadvantages. On the one hand a modern society is being built, but on the other hand, there is a risk that our culture and traditions, handed down by our forefathers, may vanish gradually influenced by foreign cultures. To keep up our age-old national heritage is our duty.

As the future of our country falls on the youth, they should be taken care offwell so they can take responsibilities for the state when they are grown-up. In establishing a modern and democratic state, we must prioritize the task of training the younger generation to be able to lead the nation in the future.

Peace comes first in building a state. That being so, our country can develop every sector based on it. Now the incumbent administration

has made peace with most of the ethnic armed groups which had taken up arms against the Tatmadaw for many years, all having their reasons. With the end of the war, peace and stability can pave the way for the foundation of a developed and democratic state.

Myanmar people have shown their courage, zeal, patience and efficiency throughout history whenever challenges and difficulties cropped up. Likewise, when we turn our country into a new democratic one, the aforementioned traits must be applied again in order to overcome hardships and pitfalls we may face during the changeover period. No doubt Myanmar will emerge soon standing tall in the family of nations, given united efforts of all national brethren.

## 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.

## Scholarships to be awarded to outstanding ...

(from page 1)

"cultivate" the Union Spirit and build a peaceful future for future generations.

As part of his tour, President U Thein Sein also visited Myitkyina

Hospital where he pledged an increase in funding to upgrade medical facilities and improve the training of medical staff across the country.

MNA

## Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits military hospital (Myitkyina)

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, who accompanied President U Thein Sein on the trip to Myitkyina, visited the Military Hospital (Myitkyina) on Monday.

The Senior General was reported by officials

on medical treatment and conditions of patients.

Next, the Senior General, together with Lt-Gen Myint Soe from the Commander-in-Chief Office, Chief of Staff (Air) Maj-Gen Lwin Oo and Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Tun Tun Naung, comforted the patients.—Myawady



President U Thein Sein giving encouragement to patients at Myitkyina General Hospital.

MNA

## ASEAN Film Festival-2014 kicks off

YANGON, 17 March—The opening of ASEAN Film Festival-2014 took place at the Traders Hotel in Yangon on 17 March.

In his opening speech, Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htway urged the ASEAN community to promote the film industry and to join hands in moving

forward to a peaceful and prosperous community.

Mr. Ky-Anh Nguyen, Assistant Director/Head of Culture and Information Division at ASEAN Secretary-General Office, highlighted in his speech that the film festival was of huge interest due to the variety of countries and cultures

shown. He continued that the film festival also stands as a bridge between ASEAN countries and the Myanmar people.

The movie "Kayan Beauty" was shown at Nay Pyi Taw Cinema as part of the opening of the film festival. The film festival lasts till 21<sup>st</sup> March.—MNA



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presents gifts to patients at the military hospital (Myitkyina).—MYAWADY



Opening of ASEAN Film Festival-2014 in progress at Traders Hotel in Yangon.—MNA



## LOCAL NEWS

## Proposal on increased power charges to be decided

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March—"Power charges will be increased on April 1 this year" said Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe at the 24<sup>th</sup> day session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on Monday.

Due to the financial difficulties, Myanmar's electric power sector has failed to meet the power demand of people, he added. The country's annual power consumption has increased by 15 percent. Investments by private companies in the power generation would

help facilitate more power generation in the short period of time. And it can meet summer power demands as well as enabling rapid development of industries.

Power charge is the major difficulty for private sector investments. The State would have to use K 12 billion under a new scheme. To cover the costs funded by the State, the power charges to be collected are K 35 (up to 100 units), K 40 (up to 200 units) and K 50 (above 200 units).

A 56.63 percent of people who consume the power up to 100 units will have to pay their power charges as per previous system. Power consumption of up to 500 units is 55.64 percent. Those who consume the power more than 5000 units are 6.98 percent, which is considered to have least impacts. Power charge for more than 200,000 units would amount to K 125. This proposal will be decided at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session to be held in March 19.—MNA

## Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw receives Israeli Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March—Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint received Israeli Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Hagay Moshe Behr at Hluttaw Complex on Monday.

At the call were Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein and officials from Hluttaw Office.

MNA



## Public Service Media Bill submitted to parliament



Union Minister for Information U Aung Kyi.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March — U Aung Kyi, the Union Minister for Information, has stressed the need to transform state-run media into public service media in Myanmar, saying the Public Service Media Bill has been submitted to parliament on Monday.

He put forward the Public Service Media Bill to Pyithu Hluttaw on Monday, saying that the ministry drafted the bill

with the assistance of UNESCO so that the bill can be in conformity with the Principles of Diversity of media pluralism.

Only public service media can help the country to ensure narrowing the "knowledge gap" among national people.

According to Union Minister U Aung Kyi, out of the country's literate population of 49 million, 43 million living mostly in rural areas cannot af-

ford to subscribe to newspapers.

Freedom of expression cannot develop without media pluralism, the minister said.

If the parliament approves Public Service Media, there will be media pluralism with public service media, state-owned media, joint-venture media, non-profit media and ethnic- and community-owned media in Myanmar.—MNA

## Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win on goodwill visit to Thailand

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March— At the invitation of Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Army General Prayut Chan-O-Cha, a Myanmar delegation led by Soe Win, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of De-

fence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) paid a goodwill visit to Thailand on 17 March.

The delegation included senior officers from the Ministry of Defence and their wives.—MNA

## Central Bank of Myanmar to release rules & regulations of Foreign Exchange Management Law soon



Vice-Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar Daw Khin Saw Oo.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March— The Central Bank of Myanmar is planning to release rules and regulations of the Foreign Exchange Management Law, said Daw Khin Saw Oo,

Vice-Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, at the parliament on Monday.

The private banks which have authorized dealers licenses can lend foreign currency in accordance with the law to those who are living in the country, she said. According to the vice-governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, the private banks which have an authorized dealers license can increase their foreign exchange capital, accepting savings made by depositors and borrowing foreign currency from local and foreign financial market.

She urged private



Amyotha Hluttaw Committee member Brig-Gen Kyaw Oo Lwin.—MNA

banks to ensure development of financial markets and keeping enough savings at their banks as part of efforts for lending foreign currency to their customers.—MNA

## MP, banking officials discuss financial sector development

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March—U Aung Thaung, Pyithu Hluttaw Banks and Monetary Development Committee Chairman, met with foreign bank experts to discuss financial sector

development on Monday.

U Aung Thaung discussed development of financial sector and further cooperation in banking services with Mr. Muneo Kurauchi, Senior Man-

aging Executive officer, BTMU Tokyo from the Banking of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, Ltd. Details of the discussion have not been revealed.

MNA



Vice-Senior General Soe Win being seen off at Nay Pyi Taw Airport before his departure for Thailand.—MYAWADY

## MoU on Sustainable Development of Mineral Resources in Myanmar signed with Finland

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March—The Ministry of Mines and the Department of Geology in Finland signed an MoU on Sustainable Development of Mineral Resources in Myanmar at the Ministry

of Mines on 17 March. The Memorandum of Understanding comes as the result of a visit by the president to Finland in 2013, when he visited the Department of Geology to discuss assistance for

Myanmar's mines sector. Following his visit, Minister for International Development Heidi Hautala travelled to Myanmar the same year to further discuss cooperation.

MNA

## Umbrella, diamond orb hoisted atop pagoda

TAUNGGYI, 17 March—A golden umbrella was hoisted atop Datuneikban Pagoda, built in Lemi Village of Yaksawk Township, southern Shan State on Saturday.

Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat of Shan State, State Minister for Security and Border Affairs

Col Aung Thu and State Minister for Planning and Economic U Aung Kyaw Nyunt hoisted a diamond orb atop the pagoda.

Wellwishers also fixed tiers of the golden umbrella. Later, they offered meals to the monks.—*State IPRD*

## MoU on joint research on technology signed

YANGON, 17 March—Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Association of Chartered Certified Association (ACCA) signed a MoU in Natmuk Township on Sunday, aimed at conducting joint research on technology, opening training courses, forums and conferences and modernizing technology.

Along other experts, Reza Ali, Head of Emerging Markets-Asia gave talks on financial affairs.

UMFCCI



Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat hoisting umbrella atop pagoda.



## Pa-O National Day celebrated

TAUNGGYI, 17 March—Pa-O National Day was observed at Dintheebwe ground in Kangyi Ward of Taunggyi on Saturday.

Officials read out a messages sent by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Py-

ithu Hluttaw speakers, and the Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw.

As part of the festivities, Pa-O, Shan, Dabu, Inn, Taungyoe and Kayan national cultural groups made some perfor-

mances.

Shan State government and wellwishers donated cash to the fund of the organizing committee of the Pa-O National Day.

State IPRD

## Low water level causes problems for water transportation at Chindwin



MONYWA, 17 March—The low water level of Chindwin River, a main artery in the north-west part of Myanmar, is causing concern as water transportation has become difficult.

“Especially in summer, vessels have to change their routes and schedules due to the low water level,

and navigation takes too much time,” said a local watercraft controller.

At the confluences in particular, the appearance of sandbanks has been causing problems, with officials highlighting the sections of Marlar-Lethtok, Shwetantit-Medawhla and Kwele have as very prob-

lematic.

With 691 miles, the Chindwin River is the third longest river in Myanmar. Vessels operate from the confluence of Chindwin and Ayeyawady Rivers to Hkamti during monsoon season and to Homalin in summer time.—*Myo Win Tun (Monywa)*

## Calcium carbonate production marketable in Dagon East Industrial Zone

YANGON, 17 March—Crown Calcium Carbonate factory in Dagon East Industrial Zone, eastern part of Yangon, is now producing calcium carbonate.

“To be able to manufacture the products, a plan has been adopted to establish a large factory.

On completion, the factory will distribute calcium carbonate to satisfy

not only local demand but start exporting,” said managing director of the factory U Thein Kyaw, adding that many jobs have been created.

Min Khant Soe

## Bullock-cart show in central Myanmar for globetrotters

TADAU, 17 March—Bullock-cart show has been annually held in rural areas in central Myanmar. A bullock-cart show was held at a noviation ceremony in Zeechaung Village, TadaU Township in Mandalay Region on 11 March.

The contestants from

Taungkan, Sagarinn, Kokkukan and Zeechaung Villages took part in the contest and the prize winners were presented with decent cash awards.

“I had competed in bullock-cart shows in Mandalay in commemoration of Independence Day and

Union Day in the past and I had been awarded many medals. The purpose of the show is aimed at strengthening friendship and amity between the villages and farmers,” said a farmer of the region.

Aung Kyaw Tun (Patheingyi)





## Rockets in Bekaa as Lebanon struggles to contain Syria spillover

AL-LABWA (Lebanon), 17 March—Two rockets struck a mainly Shi'ite town near Lebanon's border with Syria on Monday and security forces blew up a suspected car bomb as they struggled to contain sectarian violence fuelled by a Syrian army offensive across the frontier.

The rocket attack on Al-Labwa was the latest strike on a Shi'ite target inside Lebanon after Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's forces and their Lebanese allies Hezbollah recaptured the border town of Yabroud from Sunni Muslim rebels on Sunday.

The rebel defeat at Yabroud sent a stream of refugees and fighters across the border towards the Lebanese Bekaa Valley town of Arsal, and was followed hours later by a suicide car bombing against a local



*A Lebanese army soldier inspects the remains of a car which the army blew up, after it was suspected to have contained explosives, in east Bekaa on 17 March, 2014.*

REUTERS

stronghold of Shi'ite Hezbollah.

The border area has been steadily sucked into

Syria's nearly four-year-old conflict as Syrian troops and jets targeted rebel bases on the frontier

and suspected Syrian rebels fired rockets at Shi'ite towns to punish Hezbollah for supporting Assad.

But the rebel loss of Yabroud could exacerbate sectarian tensions across Lebanon and the flight of 2,000 defeated rebels - some of them into Lebanon - would further destabilize the already volatile Bekaa Valley. Prime Minister Tammam Salam met army chief General Jean Kahwaji on Monday and called on the military to "take all necessary measures to control the situation in Bekaa's border areas", a statement from his office said. When the two rockets struck Al-Labwa, a mainly Shi'ite town about five miles (eight km) west of the Sunni town of Arsal, gunmen took up positions on the street and others leapt into cars. Reuters journalists in the town heard sirens of emergency vehicles, but there were no immediate reports of casualties.—Reuters

## Serbian president pledges faster EU integration

BELGRADE, 17 March — Serbian President Tomislav Nikolic said that the new government will try to solve the Kosovo issue, establish "firmer cooperation with its traditional allies, Russia and China" and further advance towards EU.

"We will form a government that will continue the EU path with more stability and much faster," he said after casting his vote in the parliamentary elections in New Belgrade with his wife Dragica.

Nikolic said he believes that the new government will be formed shortly after the elections so that it could dedicate to achieving better life for Serbian people.

"Those that have the majority of votes will have to take the responsibility for those that voted against them," he said.

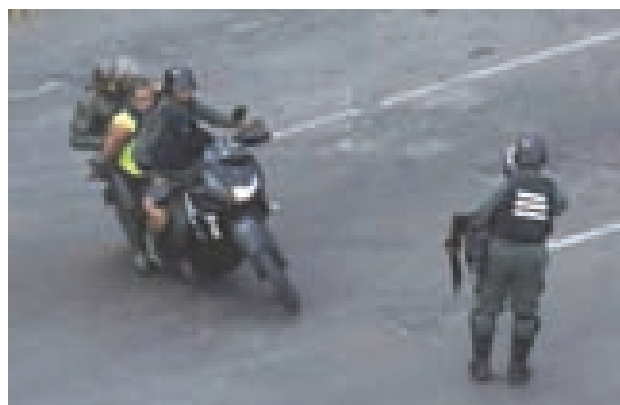
Meanwhile, deputy prime minister and the leader of the ruling Progressive party Aleksandar Vucic said that the new government will have to deal with painful reforms and fight against crime.

"It won't be easy but I hope we will find the strength," Vucic told journalists early morning after voting at New Belgrade where he came with his daughter.

He explained that Serbia needs reforms of fiscal policy and labor and privatization laws.

Xinhua

## Soldiers storm Venezuelan protesters' stronghold



*Members of the National Guard detain an anti-government protester during a protest against Nicolas Maduro's government at Altamira square in Caracas on 16 March, 2014.—REUTERS*

CARACAS, 17 March — Venezuelan troops stormed a Caracas square on Sunday to evict protesters who turned it into a stronghold during six weeks of demonstrations against President Nicolas Maduro.

National Guard soldiers fired tear gas and turned water cannons on hundreds of demonstrators who hurled rocks and some petrol bombs before abandoning Plaza Altamira, in affluent east Caracas, which has been the scene of daily clashes.

Some soldiers rode into the square on motorbikes, rounding up a dozen demonstrators, Reuters witnesses saw. One flashed a "V" for victory as he was driven away, another shouted "Help!"

The troops then began demolishing protesters' barricades, apparently carrying out Maduro's vow to retake the square.

"We are going to

carry on liberating spaces taken by the protesters," the 51-year-old successor to late leader Hugo Chavez said in a speech at a pro-government rally in a different part of Caracas on Sunday.

Militant opposition leaders and students have been urging Venezuelans onto the streets to protest issues ranging from crime and shortages of goods to the presence of Cuban advisers in Venezuela's army and other state institutions.

Earlier on Sunday, thousands marched towards the Carlota military air base in the latest daily demonstration against the socialist government.

The protests began in early February. "I spend five or six hours in a queue just to buy two packets of flour, or two bottles of cooking oil," said pensioner Pedro Perez, 64, in the opposition rally.

Reuters

## Kenyan police arrest three suspected poachers over rhino killing

NAIROBI, 17 March — Kenyan authorities are holding three suspected poachers in Nanyuki, northwest part of the East African nation, over the killing of rhino in Ol Pejeta, East Africa's largest black rhino sanctuary.

Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) Corporate Affairs Manager Paul Udoto confirmed on Sunday that three suspected poachers have been arrested and are being questioned over the killing of a black rhino in Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Laikipia on Saturday.

"The three will be arraigned in court once the investigations have been completed," Udoto said in a statement released in

Nairobi.

The Kenyan government has enhanced round-the-clock security at the national parks with plans to deploy more rangers to beef up wildlife security efforts to curb rising incidents of poaching across the nation. The deployment of more rangers by the KWS will help in scaling up efforts to salvage the remaining rhinos in Kenya.

The wildlife agency has also enhanced the round-the-clock surveillance at all Kenya's entry exit and entry points while sniffer dogs and their handlers have proved incorruptible and have once again outsmarted the smugglers.

Udoto said the KWS security teams across the country are on high alert following the killing of another rhino in Ngulia Sanctuary in Tsavo West the same day.

"Crucial leads are being pursued after a rhino carcass was found in a thicket with its horn hacked off and carried away," Udoto said. He said WS Director William Kiprono is in Lake Nakuru National Park meeting rangers to coordinate wildlife protection operations.

"An inter-agency security team that, includes police, has been mobilized to help in responding to the escalating security situation," he said.—Xinhua

## El Salvador court ratifies ruling-party presidential candidate's win

SAN SALVADOR, 17 March — El Salvador's electoral court on Sunday confirmed the victory of ruling-party candidate Salvador Sanchez Ceren in a presidential election a week earlier and threw out his rival's request to annul the tight contest.

The president of the court, Eugenio Chicas, said it determined that Ceren, from the leftist Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, won 50.11 percent of the votes while Norman Quijano of the right-wing Nationalist Republican Alliance (Arena) won 49.89 percent.

"Based on the results,

Salvador Sanchez Ceren and Oscar Samuel Ortiz are declared president and vice-president elect respectively, for the period from June 1 2014 to June 1 2019," Chicas said.

Quijano, a former mayor of San Salvador, had filed a claim to annul the election due to fraud.

The electoral court said there was not enough evidence to back that claim.

El Salvador's President Mauricio Funes said he will meet with Ceren on Monday to begin the handover process.

Arena separately on Friday brought an

injunction to the country's Supreme Court seeking a

recount of the vote.

Reuters



*Salvador Sanchez Ceren, the presidential candidate for the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), gives a speech to thousands of supporters gathered to celebrate their victory in the presidential election in San Salvador on 15 March, 2014.*

REUTERS



## S Korea to return remains of Chinese soldiers in late March

SEOUL, 17 March — South Korea's Defence Ministry said on Monday that it will return more than 400 sets of remains of Chinese volunteer soldiers killed in the 1950-53 Korean War later this month.

Officials from South Korea and China held a rite of placing the remains of 437 Chinese soldiers killed

during the three-year civil conflict between the two Koreas, into coffins as of 2 pm local time in the South Korean border city of Paju, according to the Defence Ministry.

The remains will be brought home by plane around 10 days after all the bodies are placed into coffins provided by the

Chinese government, the ministry said.

During an official visit to China late last year, South Korean President Park Geun-hye offered to return the remains of Chinese soldiers to China. The two countries agreed to bring them home before the traditional Tomb-Sweeping Day in early April.

On 19 December last year, South Korea started excavating the remains buried at a cemetery in the border city of Paju. The excavation work took around three months as the remains and relics should be washed and dried.

The Chinese People's Volunteers (CPV) were involved in the Korean

War from 25 October, 1950, about four months after the conflict broke out, as they tried to help the people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea resist US aggression. Tens of thousands of CPV soldiers died on the Korean Peninsula during the war.

Xinhua

## New Zealand, Indonesia expand cooperation in geothermal energy

WELLINGTON, 17 March — New Zealand has expanded its inroads into Indonesia's geothermal energy sector with the signing of an agreement on Monday to provide specialized geothermal training for Indonesian workers, New Zealand Economic Development Minister Steven Joyce said.

Joyce witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding between Auckland UniServices and the Indonesian Geothermal Association in Jakarta as part of a mission to promote New Zealand geothermal energy expertise in the Philippines and Indonesia.—Xinhua

## Suspected bomb found at subway station in Seoul

SEOUL, 17 March — The police came to a conclusion that a suspect object found at a subway station in South Korean capital Seoul was not a bomb, local media reported on Monday.

Yonhap News Agency reported earlier that the object was identified as explosive, but other media said later that it was not explosive, citing police officers.

A black, travelling bag was placed by an unidentified old man next to chairs in front of platform at the Gangnam-gu Office Station of Bundang Line.

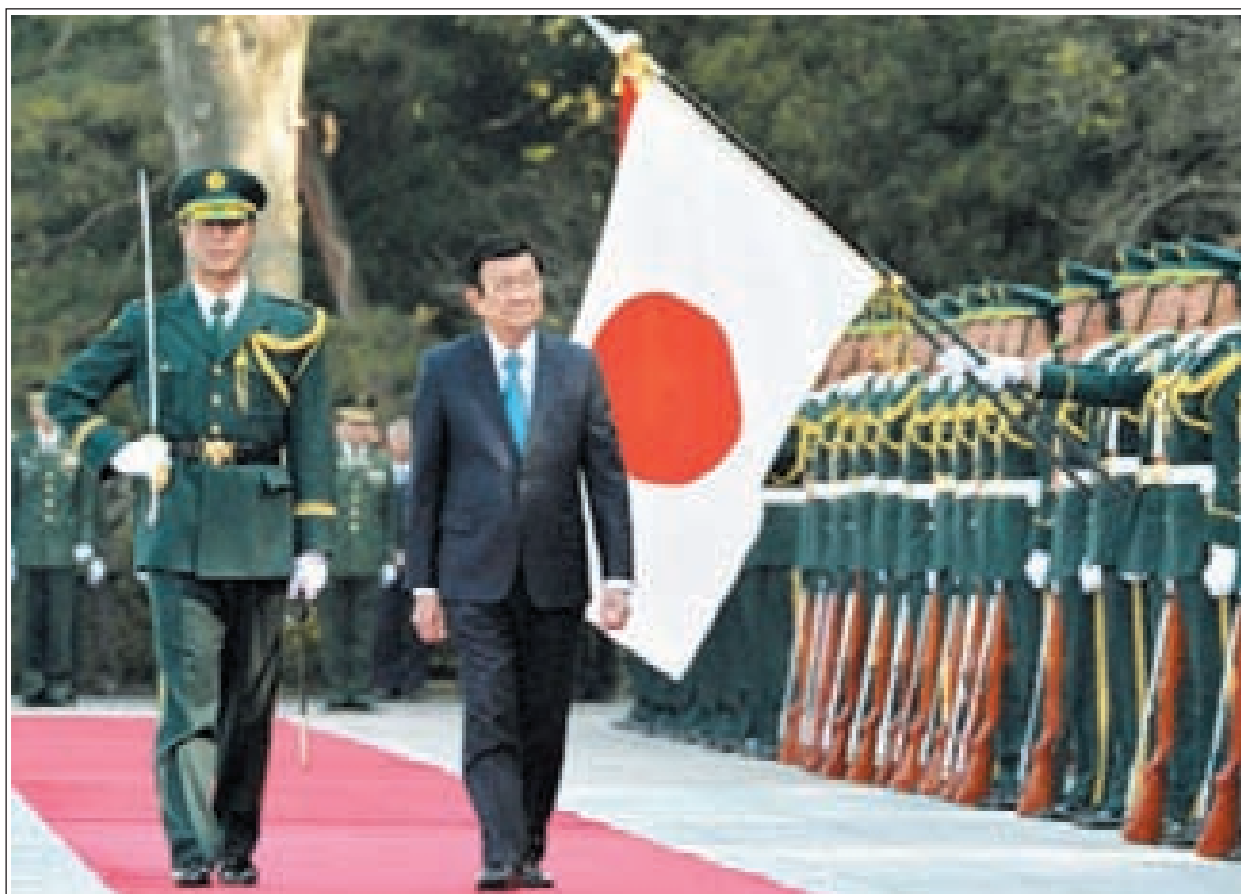
The KORAIL, the state-run subway operator, said in its Twitter account that subway trains passed by the station without stop as suspected explosive was reported to the police as of 2:05 pm.—Xinhua

## Brunei, Timor-Leste to boost cooperation

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 17 March — Brunei's Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah has said the three-day official visit by Timor-Leste's Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao to his country would pave the way for greater cooperation between both states, *The Brunei Times* reported on its website on Sunday.

"Brunei Darussalam looks forward to working with Timor Leste in the areas of education, tourism and energy for the benefit of our people and the region as a whole," His Majesty the Sultan said on Saturday night when he was delivering his speech during an official dinner hosted in honour of Timor Leste Prime Minister Gusmao and his delegation.

The people of Timor Leste can rest assured that Brunei supports its dream to become the 11th member state of ASEAN, His Majesty the Sultan said. In addition, Prime Minister Gusmao's commitment to further strengthening bilateral relations was valued by His Majesty and the prospect of setting up a Timor Leste Embassy in Bandar Seri Begawan was welcomed.—Xinhua



Vietnamese President Truong Tan Sang reviews an honour guard of Japan's Ground Self-Defence Force at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo on 17 March, 2014.—KYODO NEWS

## Japan, N Korea eye resuming formal talks soon

TOKYO, 17 March — Japan and North Korea are considering resuming in the near future formal negotiations involving senior officials of the two countries, a Japanese government official said on Monday. The two countries may agree to such an arrangement when Foreign Ministry officials from the two countries hold informal talks on the sidelines of a two-day meeting of

the two countries' Red Cross societies from Wednesday in Shenyang, northeastern China.

If realized, it would be the first official intergovernmental talks since Prime Minister Shinzo Abe returned to power in December 2012. The focus of the envisaged director general-level talks would be what North Korea will say about the issue of Pyongyang's

abduction of Japanese nationals in the 1970s and 1980s. The North has maintained that the issue has been settled. The parents of Megumi Yokota, who was abducted to North Korea in 1977 at age 13, met their granddaughter last week in Mongolia for the first time, raising hope that the two governments may advance the abduction issue.

Speaking to reporters

on Monday, Abe said, "I'm determined to do my best toward the full settlement of the abduction issue."

Junichi Ihara, director general of the Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau of the Foreign Ministry, would represent Japan at the negotiations, while North Korea would be represented by Song Il Ho, ambassador for talks to normalize relations with Japan.—Kyodo News

## Canceled Sri Lanka-India fishermen talk rescheduled for 25th March

COLOMBO, 17 March — According to local media, the canceled fishermen level talks Thursday between the Sri Lankan and Indian fishermen are to be held in Colombo on 25 March.

The Tamil Nadu State government has approved 25th March proposed by Sri Lanka government as the date of the second round of talks, which were scheduled to be held on 13th March, got postponed since Sri Lanka did not release all the Indian

fishermen and their boats detained in Sri Lanka before the talks as the Tamil Nadu government demanded. Sri Lanka released 116 fishermen and 26 boats on Wednesday and 24 fishermen and five boats on Thursday. Another 32 fishermen and eight boats were released on Friday.

The release of Indian fishermen came after a Tamil Nadu state government official's statement that the second round of talks between Sri Lanka and

India fishermen scheduled for 13 March in Colombo would take place only if Sri Lanka releases all the 177 Indian fishermen and their 44 boats currently in Sri Lankan custody. The Tamil Nadu government has also released 39 Sri Lankan fishermen and their boats. The scheduled meeting between the fishermen representatives and the officials of the two countries was an extension of a series of rounds of talks that began in January.—Xinhua



Cambodian Prince Norodom Ranariddh speaks to reporters in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 16 March, 2014. Norodom Ranariddh, son of late King Norodom Sihanouk, announced on Sunday that he has decided to re-enter politics by forming a new royal party to attend the 2018 general elections.—XINHUA



## ADVERTISEMENT &amp; GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE  
MV MOROTAI VOY NO (230)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO (230) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.3.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S CMA-CGM SHIPPING  
LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE  
MV NINOS VOY NO (1013)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NINOS VOY NO (1013) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.3.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING  
(MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE  
MV SEA DRAGON VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA DRAGON VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.3.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-3 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S SANG THAI SHIPPING  
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301191/2301178/2301177

## “Integrated logistics” project to promote Italian agri-food exports to China

BERGAMO, 17 March — Chinese logistics company Shanghai Haibo and Shanghai-based Qiaolab consulting firm have signed an agreement to create “the first Chinese hub in Italy,” aimed at improving exports of Italian agri-food products to China, *Xinhua* learned at the weekend.

The project, which also has the objective to import Chinese products to Italy in a second phase, was based on “integrated logistics” between the two countries to promote exchange in a high-potential sector, Qiaolab CEO Alberto Fattori said. The Italian hub will be located in the northern city of Bergamo.

Qiaolab will help select, based on quality standards, the Italian companies and provide them procedural, logistical and commercial assistance. Around 100 companies have been chosen so far out of 500 requests, a statement from Qiaolab said.—*Xinhua*



The photo taken on 14 March, 2014 shows the resettlement zone of Maobaling Village in Pingli County, northwest China's Shaanxi Province. Thanks to the village resettlement policy since 2011, over 30,000 people of Pingli County moved out from mountainous areas and settled down in 75 new residence zones.—XINHUA

Ministry of Energy  
Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise  
Invitation for Opened Tender (1/2014)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars (CIF Yangon).

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Qty	Remark
(1)	MPPE/MCY/CAP/T/4 (2013-2014)	New 7000 Imperial Gallons Capacity Rigid or Semi-Trailer Aircraft Refueller	2 Nos.	US\$
(2)	MPPE/MCY/CAP/T/5 (2013-2014)	Two-Stage Vertical Filter/Water Separator	4 Nos.	US\$
(3)	MPPE/MCY/CAP/T/6 (2013-2014)	400 IGPM Fuel Transfer Centrifugal Pump (Motor Driven) and 300/GPM Fuel Transfer Centrifugal Pump (Engine Driven)	2 Items (each 2 nos)	US\$
(4)	MPPE/MCY/CAP/T/7 (2013-2014)	Fire Fighting Angus Engine Driven Pump With Trailer Inductor	2 Sets	US\$
(5)	MPPE/MCY/T/2 (2013-2014)	Aviation Fuelling Equipment Spare Parts	75 Items	US\$

2. Tender Closing Date & Time - 8-4-2014, 12:00 Hrs

3. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 14-3-2014 during office hours and for further detail please contact Phone: 067-411487.

Planning Department  
Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise  
Ministry of Energy, No(6) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw

## Kenya's foreign exchange reserves swell to 6.24 bln USD

NAIROBI, 17 March — Kenya's foreign exchange reserves have surged to 6.24 billion US dollars enabling the shilling to remain stable against international currencies.

The reserves, measured as months of import cover, have been on steady rise since November last year,

where they had dropped to 5.82 billion dollars, according to a Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) report received on Sunday.

The 6.24 billion dollars foreign exchange reserves are equivalent to 4.35 months of imports cover. East African nation's minimum import cover is set at four months. In November when the reserves stood at 5.82 billion dollars, the import cover was placed at 4.08.

Since the beginning of January, the foreign exchange reserves have averaged 4.3 months of import cover, hitting the peak in the first week of March at 6.25 billion dollars, an equivalent of 4.36 months over on imports.

The rise in the import cover is an indication of success in CBK's efforts to accumulate foreign deposits to cushion the Shilling from the volatility of foreign currencies.

Decline in the reserves

below the set four months of import cover means that the apex bank will not effectively intervene in the forex market in cases when the Shilling is under threat due to speculative trading.

On the last day of trading last week, according to CBK, the Shilling recorded mixed performance against world and regional currencies.

“The Shilling weakened marginally against the US dollar (86.5), the Sterling Pound (144.6) and the euro (118.8) and strengthened against the Japanese yen (84),” noted CBK in the analysis.

In the East African region, the Kenya shilling weakened against the Uganda shilling (29.1) and strengthened against the Tanzania shilling (18). Against the Rwanda franc, the Kenya Shilling traded at an average of 8 as in the previous week.

*Xinhua*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE  
MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (372)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (372) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.3.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S EVER GREEN SHIPPING  
LINE

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

## INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER

(TENDER NO. 1 (T) MPE/CONDENSATE (1)/2014-2015)

1. Open Tender is invited for the Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the Conveyance of Yetagun Condensate 1.75 Mbbls (±5%) from Yetagun Marine Terminal Offshore to No.(1) Refinery (Thanlyin).
2. Tender Closing Date : 8.4.2014 at (12:00) noon.
3. Tender Opening Date : 8-4-2014 at (13:00) hrs.
4. Delivery Time : 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015
5. Tender Documents and details information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours commencing 20-3-2014 on payment of the Myanmar Kyat One Hundred Thousand (Kyat 100,000) per set.
6. Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender document officially from Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director  
Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise

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## Justin Bieber to stand trial on 5 May

WASHINGTON, 17 March — Teen idol Justin Bieber is to stand trial in Miami on 5 May in connection with an alleged drag racing incident, a judicial source said.

The date was set at a brief hearing before Judge William Altfeld at Miami-Dade County court where the rebellious 20-year-old was represented in absentia by his lawyers. Justin Bieber has pleaded not guilty to driving under the influence, resisting arrest and driving with an expired license after he was arrested in Miami Beach on 23 January for drag racing in a Lamborghini sports car.

On 10 March, a judge in Toronto set 14 April as the date for a preliminary hearing in a separate case in which the Canadian-born pop star is accused of assaulting a limousine driver.

Justin Bieber, whose



Justin Bieber exits from the Turner Guilford Knight Correctional Centre on 23 Jan in Miami.—PTI

hits include Baby and Boyfriend, has also come under investigation in Los Angeles for allegedly throwing eggs at a neighbour's

house.

Through his Twitter account, Justin Bieber has told fans he is currently hard at work on new music.

Last weekend he popped up at the South by Southwest (SXSW) festival in Austin, Texas, giving a surprise performance.—PTI

## Dvbbs, Borgeous and Tinie Tempah collaboration tops UK music charts

LONDON, 17 March — Canadian duo Dvbbs and Miami DJ Borgeous topped the British singles chart for the first time on Sunday, after their track "Tsunami (Jump)" featuring London

MC Tinie Tempah went straight in at number one, the Official Charts Company said. The single is a vocal mix version of Dvbbs and Borgeous instrumental track "Tsunami", which

topped charts in Belgium and the Netherlands last summer but failed to make an impact on the British charts at the time.

Last week's chart topper, Route 94's "My Love" featuring Jess Glynne, dropped a spot to number two, while Pharrell Williams' "Happy" was in third place, the Official Charts Company said.

In the album chart, Elbow secured their first British number one album with "The Take Off and Landing of Everything", while Paloma Faith was a new entry at number two with "A Perfect Contradiction". Pharrell Williams' "G I R L" was knocked off the top spot after just one week, slipping to number three.

Reuters



Singer Tinie Tempah arrives for the BRIT Awards, celebrating British pop music, at the O2 Arena in London 19 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

## New Zealand court fines US actor Chris Pine for drink driving

WELLINGTON, 17 March — US film actor and "Star Trek" star Chris Pine pleaded guilty in a New Zealand court to drink-driving and was fined and disqualified from driving for six months, media reported on Monday.

Pine, 33, was charged after a party in the small South Island town of Methven, about 90 km (55 miles) southeast of Christchurch, at the start of the month to celebrate the end of filming on "Z for Zachariah".

Police said Pine gave a positive breath test when he was stopped after 3 am

and a subsequent blood test showed an alcohol level of 113 micrograms. The legal limit in New Zealand is 80 micrograms. The actor's

lawyer had asked for him to be discharged without conviction because a conviction would hurt his career and would be out of proportion to the offence, the Stuff website reported.

Judge Joanna Maze said Pine would be treated like any other offender and banned him from driving for six months, fined him NZ\$400 (\$340) and ordered him to pay NZ\$93 in costs.

Reuters



Actor Chris Pine arrives at the 71st annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, California on 12 Jan 2014.—REUTERS

## Priyanka Chopra walks the ramp for Neeta Lulla at Lakme Fashion Week

MUMBAI, 17 March — Priyanka Chopra turned showstopper on 16 March for designer Neeta Lulla, who displayed her Indo-western collections at LFW Summer/Resort 2014.

Talking about Priyanka's attire, Neeta Lulla said, "Priyanka is wearing a kaftan which is very stylish and colorful. It was wonderful to have Priyanka as my muse. She carried it off really well. My collections had bright monochromatic colors with their tints inspired from the rain forest."

Neeta's collection was inspired by Aztec motifs with Indian badla work. Her fashion line was a mix of several colours

including cream, pink, purple, green among others with very simple silhouettes for summer.

Playing well with silk and satin, Neeta displayed her fashion line which was a blend of Indian and Western attire. Priyanka dazzled on the ramp donning off white kaftan with knee length cuts from both the sides.

Priyanka says she is always scared to walk the ramp. "Walking on the ramp scares me. I get very nervous and I am the happiest when it gets over. This outfit is very comfortable. Neeta is one of the iconic designers and it was wonderful to walk for her," she said.

PTI



Priyanka walking the ramp at LFW

## Kareena Kapoor: Saif doesn't like taking the ramp



Kareena Kapoor walking the ramp at the grand finale of Lakme Fashion Week. PTI

MUMBAI, 17 March — Actress Kareena Kapoor Khan, who is a regular feature as the show-stopper at fashion shows, has said that her husband, actor Saif Ali Khan, stays away from ramp walk as he does not like it much.

"He is now in Chandigarh. He is working. We (Saif and I) walked for

Manish once. He doesn't like taking the ramp too much. He is quite excited when I walk the ramp year after year," Kareena told PTI.

Kareena walked the ramp on 16 March as a show stopper for the grand finale of the Lakme Fashion Week. This time she walked for designer Rajesh

Pratap Singh.

"It is great that Lakme has chosen me as their brand ambassador. For the last five years, I've walked the ramp for them for the grand finale. It is synergy that is synonymous with Kareena now. I wait year after year for them to come with fantastic designers, this time they had Rajesh Pratap Singh," she said.

"It is great to walk the ramp as I am an actor and not a model. But it is one night in the year when I feel I am in Paris," she added.

Kareena said she does not feel nervous any longer while walking the ramp. "Whatever I do, I do with the utmost passion," she added.—PTI



## GENERAL



Illinois governor Pat Quinn waves at the spectators during the St Patrick's Day Parade at downtown Chicago, United States, on 15 March, 2014.—XINHUA

## Singapore's DBS to buy Societe Generale's Asian private banking business

SINGAPORE, 17 March — DBS Bank, one of Singapore-based three bank majors, announced on Monday that it has agreed to acquire Societe Generale's Asian private banking business for 220 million US dollars.

The purchase covers the Societe Generale's private banking business in Singapore and China's Hong Kong as well as selected parts of the French bank's trust business.

This represents approximately 1.75 percent of assets under management based on Societe Generale Private Banking Asia's assets under management of 12.6 billion US dollars as of the end of last year, the DBS bank said in a statement.

The DBS bank currently manages around 69

billion Singapore dollars (54.5 billion US dollars) of funds belonging to high net worth individuals as of 2013.

Local media Channel NewsAsia said the figure is slightly ahead of Oversea-Chinese Banking Corp's Bank of Singapore unit, so the purchase with Societe Generale will "make DBS the clear number one among Singapore's home-grown private banks."

Subject to legal and regulatory approvals, as well as certain customary closing conditions, the purchase is expected to be completed in the last quarter of 2014.

"The transaction will accelerate DBS' ambition of becoming a leading wealth manager in Asia, effectively increasing

DBS' high net worth assets under management by more than 20 percent," the DBS bank said in a statement.

Under the transaction, DBS' clients will get access to Societe Generale Private Banking's offering in Europe as well as products and services from the French bank's corporate and investment banking arm.

Meanwhile, the French bank's clients will also have access to DBS' Private Bank's offering in Asia.

DBS is a leading financial services group in Asia, with over 250 branches across 17 markets, mainly in three key Asian markets of Greater China, Southeast Asia and South Asia.

Xinhua

## Bangladesh's left-leaning parties protest power price hike

DHAKA, 17 March — Traffic came to halt for hours on Sunday in front of the national press club in central Dhaka as Bangladesh's left-leaning parties staged a demonstration protesting the power price hike. Hundreds of activists of the two left-leaning parties — Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) and Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) — staged the demonstration and took a move to lay siege to the energy ministry. Police foiled their scheduled programme as they marched towards the ministry to lay siege to it after staging the demonstration.

Police scuffled with protesters, but no serious injuries were reported. Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) on 13 March raised electricity prices by 6.96 percent with effect from 1 March.

Protesters said the hike would further instigate the food inflation which rose to 8.84 percent in February.

The country's opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) had earlier also staged demonstration protesting the power price escalation, saying this would bring misery for low income people and impact on the country's economy.

Sources said this was the fifth power price escalation at the retail level since Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League led government assumed in office in 2009.—Xinhua

### MYANMAR TV

(18-3-2014, Tuesday)

- 6:00 am
- 1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 6:20 am
- 2. Physical Exercise
- 7:00 am
- 3. News/Weather Report
- 8:30 am
- 4. India Drama Series
- 9:00 am
- 5. News/International News
- 9:40 am
- 6. Business News
- 10:00 am
- 7. News
- 11:15 am
- 8. Tamyethnar Takwetsar
- 12:00 pm
- 9. News/International News/Weather Report
- 12:25 pm
- 10. Myanmar Video
- 3:00 pm
- 11. News
- 3:30 pm
- 12. TV Drama Series
- 4:00 pm
- 13. News
- 4:35 pm
- 14. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - First Year (Myanmar)
- 5:00 pm
- 15. News
- 5:30 pm
- 16. India Drama Series
- 6:00 pm
- 17. News/Weather Report
- 6:40 pm
- 18. TV Drama Series
- 7:25 pm
- 19. TV Drama Series
- 8:00 pm
- 20. News/International News/Weather Report
- 8:50 pm
- 21. Hit Songs of Stars
- 9:00 pm
- 22. News
- 23. Alinka Wat Yi Music Troupe
- 23. TV Drama Series

### MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(18-3-14 07:00am~19-3-14 07:00am) MST

- \* Local News
- \* Travelling In Shan Mountain Ranges (Inle Phaungdaw Oo Pagoda Festival) (Part-2)
- \* World News
- \* Talented Musicians
- \* Local News
- \* The Man and The Elephant (Part-II)
- \* World News
- \* Dhamma School
- \* Local News
- \* In the Studio : JA SOM (THE MYTH)
- \* World News
- \* A Person with Faith
- \* Local News
- \* Myanmar Performing Arts- Puppet
- \* World News
- \* Tea Leaves
- \* Local News
- \* Tapestry: A Unique Combination of Painting and Craftsmanship
- \* World News
- \* Myanmar Masterclass: Portraiture
- \* Local News
- \* Taste Of Myanmar (Mandalay Noodle Salad)
- \* World News
- \* In The Studio (Win Lei Thu)
- \* Local News
- \* Journey To Unimaginable Spots (Ep-7) (1)
- \* World News
- \* Colonial Buildings and a New Yangon
- \* Local News
- \* Myanmar Social & Charitable Association (Ep-2)(Jivitadana Hospital)
- \* World News
- \* Brilliant Woman "Dr. Mya Thidar Sway Tin"

## Rosberg wins for Mercedes, Magnussen second

MELBOURNE, 17 March — Nico Rosberg celebrated a dominant win for Mercedes in the season-opening Australian Grand Prix on Sunday while Red Bull's home hero Daniel Ricciardo suffered the heartbreak of being stripped of his first podium hours after the finish.

Pole-sitter Lewis Hamilton and world champion Sebastian Vettel retired early on with reliability problems, the German's exit ending his record run of nine successive victories racked up for Red Bull since last August.

Rosberg, Hamilton's German team mate,

capitalized on a brilliant start from third on the grid to snatch the lead before the first turn and roar to the fourth win of his career.

"Brilliant stuff, what a car you've given me! What a car!" the German shouted over the team radio after crossing the line.

Ricciardo crossed the finish 24.5 seconds behind but his joy at becoming Australia's first driver to stand on the home podium was shattered more than five hours later when stewards disqualified the 24-year-old for a fuel flow irregularity.

That promoted McLaren's Danish rookie Kevin

Magnussen to second place, making the 21-year-old Formula One's most successful debutant since Canadian Jacques Villeneuve in Melbourne in 1996.

Magnussen's podium was also the first by a Dane in F1.

Team mate and 2009 world champion Jenson Button moved up to third with McLaren, who failed to finish in the top three all last season, leading the constructors' standings.

Rosberg, tipped to duel with team mate Hamilton for the championship, celebrated his first win since last year's British Grand



Mercedes Formula One driver Nico Rosberg of Germany drives during the Australian F1 Grand Prix at the Albert Park circuit in Melbourne on 16 March, 2014. REUTERS

Prix - when he was also the beneficiary of technical mishaps to Hamilton and Red Bull's Vettel.

"The car was just re-

ally, really quick today," he told reporters, looking forward with relish to the next race in Malaysia in two weeks.

"A really good engine, not much problem with fuel consumption. It just all worked perfectly."

Reuters

## Djokovic beats Federer in Indian Wells final



Novak Djokovic(R) of Serbia and Roger Federer

INDIAN WELLS, 17 March — Novak Djokovic beat his old rival Roger Federer 3-6, 6-3, 7-6(3) on Sunday to win a nailbiting BNP Paribas Open final at Indian Wells and capture his first title of 2014.

The Serbian overcame a shaky start when he dropped his opening service game, then survived a nervous finish when he failed to serve out the

match at the first attempt before finally sealing victory in the tiebreaker.

"Today was an incredible match," Djokovic said after being presented with the winner's crystal trophy.

"It was an incredibly difficult match. Roger is playing great and it's always a pleasure playing with him." The thrilling victory gave Djokovic his third championship in the

Californian desert tournament and lifted his career tally to 42 titles.

It was Federer's first loss in a final at Indian Wells after he had previously won a record four times.

But the 32-year-old showed he was anything but a spent force as he went toe to toe with the best hardcourt player in the world.—Reuters

## Pennetta beats injured Radwanska in Indian Wells final

INDIAN WELLS, 17 March — Italy's Flavia Pennetta captured the biggest title of her career on Sunday when she beat Poland's ailing Agnieszka Radwanska in the final of the BNP Paribas Open at Indian Wells.

As Radwanska struggled with a knee injury, Pennetta cruised to a 6-2, 6-1 victory in less than an hour and a quarter in the Californian desert.

Better known as a doubles player, Pennetta had contemplated retiring last year after tumbling down the world rankings, but the veteran Italian has rediscovered the fountain of youth.

She reached the semi-finals of last year's US Open and has now won one of the biggest events outside the four grand slams.

"Today was my day and I really enjoyed this moment," Pennetta said at the trophy presentation.

"After so many years of working hard, this is the best moment."

Radwanska went into the match as a slight

favourite but was unable to play near her best because of a knee injury that severely restricted her movement.

She called for a medical timeout early in the second set and struggled to control her emotions at the ceremony.

"I'm sorry I could run as much as I could," she sobbed.

"But I had a great week, it was my first final here. "It's disappointing to lose but Flavia was just playing too good today."

Reuters



Flavia Pennetta

## Liverpool crush United, Arsenal edge Spurs as race heats up

LONDON, 17 March — Two Steven Gerrard penalties and a Tomas Rosicky thunderbolt helped Liverpool and Arsenal claim precious derby wins on Sunday to crank up the pressure on Premier League leaders Chelsea.

Liverpool skipper Gerrard dispatched spot-kicks either side of half-time as the in-

form Merseysiders humbled bitter north-west rivals Manchester United 3-0 at Old Trafford.

He also thumped the post with a third penalty but Liverpool won at United for only the second time in nearly 10 years, Luis Suarez scoring his 25th league goal of the season to pile on the agony for the hosts who had Nemanja Vidic sent off.

Liverpool's win put the onus on Arsenal to respond and they did so at north London rivals

Tottenham Hotspur, although their grinding victory in bright spring sunshine was in marked contrast to Liverpool's stroll.

Rosicky's spectacular shot after 72 seconds proved enough to seal the points for Arsenal and move them alongside second-placed Liverpool

emerging as serious threats to end their 24-year title drought.

"I think we showed today that we are genuine contenders and we're going to fight till the end for this," Gerrard,

who was a goalpost away from becoming the first player to score a hat-trick of penalties in the Premier League, said. "This is one of the most difficult places to come to in the Premier League. So to come here and dominate from start to finish

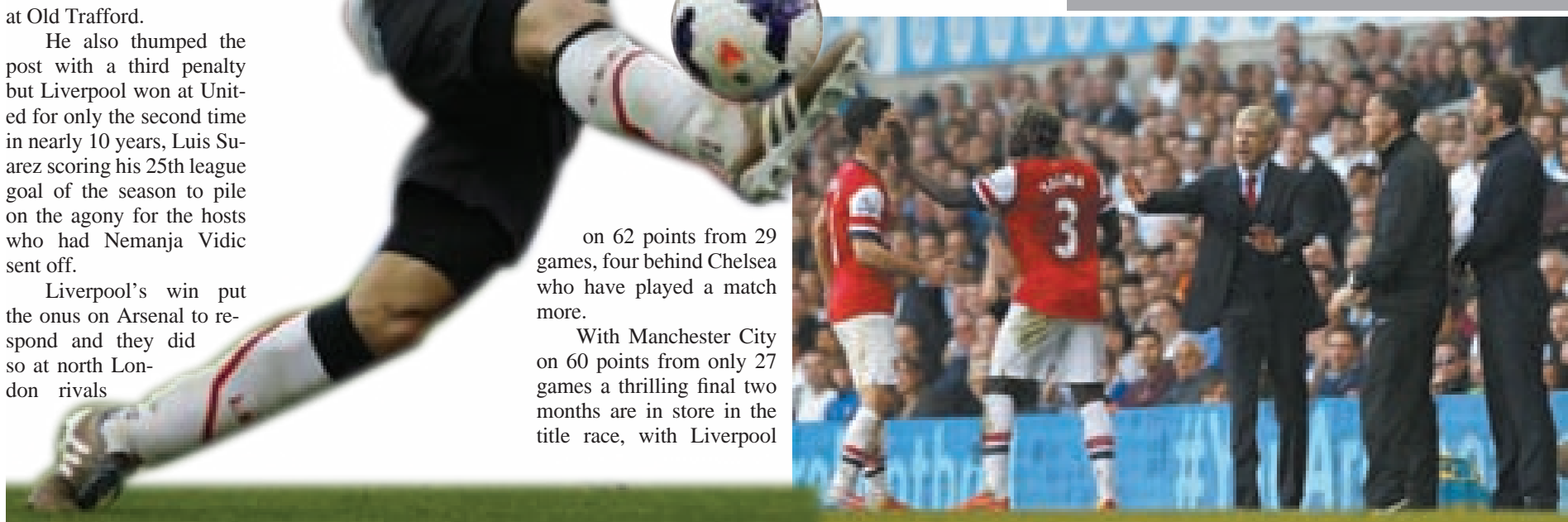
was great. We're still going away slightly disappointed that we didn't score more goals." Despite Rosicky's stunning early blast from 25 metres it was a laboured Arsenal display and they were forced to defend deep for most of the match as Tottenham dominated possession without creating too many chances.

Former Gunner Emmanuel Adebayor and Nacer Chadli both failed to

convert presentable chances after the break as Tottenham slumped to a defeat that virtually ends their hopes of challenging for a top-four place.

"Tottenham played very well," Wenger, who will mark his 1,000th game in charge of Arsenal next weekend, said. "We had an early lead and we were juggling between protecting the lead and finishing the game off.—Reuters

Liverpool's Luis Suarez stretches for the ball during their English Premier League soccer match against Manchester United at Old Trafford in Manchester northern England on 16 March, 2014.—REUTERS



on 62 points from 29 games, four behind Chelsea who have played a match more.

With Manchester City on 60 points from only 27 games a thrilling final two months are in store in the title race, with Liverpool